

Opening Gala event a great success!

Closing Night announcements – this Sunday!

Other great films on in the meantime...

The 1st Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia (CaSFFA) was celebrated in exuberant fashion last night with an Opening Gala spectacular at the RMIT Capitol Theatre. Either side of the superb “totalitarian *film noir*” **In The Shadow**, 200 very merry patrons enjoyed the freely-flowing Becherovka, Budvar, Fox Creek Wines and delicious nibbles prepared by the CaSFFA team themselves, all to a bewitching soundtrack provided by Jim Knox behind the decks.

Artistic Director Cerise Howard's opening address often had the audience in stitches – even before she'd said anything – and major sponsor Holmesglen's David Benson was on hand to provide many a good reason for his fine institution's support for the inaugural CaSFFA.

The night prior, another terrific turnout had tremendously enjoyed CaSFFA's co-presentation with the Melbourne Cinémathèque of two masterpieces by the great Czech animator Jiří Trnka, billed with the revelatory **The Sun in a Net**, Slovak director Štefan Uher's harbinger of the Czechoslovak New Wave, presented in a magnificent 50th anniversary digital restoration.

More wonderful films lie ahead of another no doubt raucous party to close the festival!

Friday 6pm: **Private Universe** – Helena Třeštíková's extraordinary documentary portrait of a Czech family, spanning 37 years.

Friday 8.15pm: **Cosy Dens** – a classic Czech comedy from 1999 from the prolific Jan Hřebejk.

Saturday 3.30pm: **The Blue Tiger** – a charming film for all the family, ingeniously mixing live action and animation.

Saturday 5.45pm: **Alois Nebel** – a superb, wholly rotoscoped graphic novel adaptation, with the very scary 'pixillated' Slovakian short **The Last Bus** preceding it.

Saturday 8.15pm: **Identity Card** – a bittersweet coming-of-age comedy directed by Ondřej Trojan (*Želary*), spot-on with its '70s design and soundtrack.

Sunday 3.30pm: **The House** – the highly auspicious feature debut from Zuzana Liová, preceded by a stunning new short Slovakian puppet musical, **Stones**.

And on Sunday night, the multiple Czech Lion award-winner **Flower Buds** will screen at 7pm, only to be chased down by another party in the RMIT Capitol Theatre foyer, where the fabulous **Vardos** will have everyone dancing, perhaps in no small part abetted by the absinth cocktails being mixed by the festival team, the first one of which will be on the house...

Meanwhile, the fabulous career overview exhibition "Jiří Trnka - Serving Imagination" is open from 12-4 until Sunday at Gallery Domov, 511 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne.

The full CaSFFA program is in wide distribution around Melbourne and on the CaSFFA website. Tickets can be purchased online: www.casffa.com.au or at the RMIT Capitol Box office.

For more information visit www.casffa.com.au

Find CaSFFA on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or subscribe to CaSFFA's [e-newsletter](#).

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

To request screeners or other materials, or an interview with Artistic Director, Cerise Howard, please contact:

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