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CZECH & SLOVAK FILM FESTIVAL



Media Release

**The 2nd Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia (CaSFFA)
opens tomorrow, Thursday 21 August!**

Introducing our festival guests

Melbourne, Wednesday 20 August 2014

Opening the 2nd Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) tomorrow, Thursday 21 August, will be two esteemed guests, **His Excellency, Dr Igor Bartho, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Australia**, and **Dr Milan Kantor OAM, the Honorary Consul-General of the Czech Republic in Melbourne**.

The Opening Night film is the superb ***To See the Sea*** (*Pojedeme k moři*, dir. Jiří Mádl, 2014). From 6.30pm, attendees will be treated to a Green Fairy Absinth cocktail upon arrival, *To See the Sea* and a party afterwards in the Optic Kitchen + Bar at ACMI, where they will soon enough find themselves dancing to frenetic live music from Vardos.

After Opening Night, CaSFFA will welcome **three key guests** to the festival.

Coming to Melbourne and Sydney:

Director of the National Cinematographic Centre of the the Slovak Film Institute, **Alexandra Strelková** will introduce screenings in Melbourne of the Czechoslovak New Wave classic ***Before Tonight is Over*** (*Kým sa skončí táto noc*, dir. Peter Solan, 1965) on Thursday 28 August and the excellent Closing Night film, the political comedy-thriller ***Candidate*** (*Kandidát*, dir. Jonáš Karásek, 2013) on Friday 29 August.

Alexandra Strelková will also introduce screenings of Slovak films in Sydney's Dendy Newtown cinemas and will participate on Friday 5 September in a co-production panel, alongside Slovak director Robert Kirchhoff and 2/3 of CaSFFA's Sydney team, IKSIMA Films' Silvia Panáková and Martina Vacková, to discuss contemporary Czech and Slovak filmmaking and international possibilities.

Adam Hradilek, the head of the Oral History Group at the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in Prague, will be in Australia in connection with the "**Prague through the Lens of The Secret Police**" exhibition, one of **three exhibitions** to be hosted in the Yarra Gallery, Federation Square in Melbourne from 21-28 August. "Prague through the Lens..." will then travel to the Conny Dietzschold Gallery in Sydney, where it will be exhibited from 2-7 September.

In Melbourne, Adam Hradilek will give a presentation before the screening of the paranoid historical thriller, **The Confidant** (*eŠteBák*, dir. Juraj Nvota, 2012) on Thursday 28 August. In Sydney, he'll launch "Prague through the Lens..." on Tuesday 2 September.

Coming to Sydney:

Slovakian director and producer **Robert Kirchhoff** will be in Sydney representing his controversial documentary **Normalization** (*Kauza Cervanová*, 2013). Eight years in the making and exploring the still-unresolved crime surrounding the brutal murder of a university student, the film will have audiences searching for answers to questions that can be posed at the Q&A following the Dendy Newtown screening on Friday 5 September. Robert Kirchhoff will also participate in the co-production panel that same day.

Melbourne tickets on sale now



Of course, it's very likely that several films in the program will catch the eye! CaSFFA's suggestion is that attendees see more, but pay less, by purchasing a **Festival Mini Pass**, listed on the luscious new ACMI website as a "**3 Session Pass**".

This pass will provide admission to any three sessions, excepting Opening and Closing Nights, and the Jan Švankmajer retrospective, which is a presentation with the [Melbourne Cinémathèque](#).

Tickets for the [Jan Švankmajer retrospective](#) are through the purchase of Cinémathèque passes. A purchase of a **Cinémathèque mini-pass** (as distinct from a 3 Session Pass) any time between now and August 27 provides admission to the next three consecutive Cinémathèque screenings – **covering all three of CaSFFA's Švankmajer nights**, on Wednesdays 27 August, 3 September and 10 September.

A [Cinémathèque mini-pass](#) is only Full \$27 / Conc. \$22 - incredible value! Whereas an [annual membership](#) allows the purchaser to enjoy a whole year of Wednesdays!

an [annual membership](#) allows the purchaser to enjoy a whole year of Wednesdays worth of superbly curated big screen riches, Czech, Slovak and otherwise, for only Full \$145 / Conc. \$125.

All tickets for Melbourne sessions of CaSFFA can be purchased online on the [ACMI website](#), over the phone (03 8663 2583) or at the ACMI box office.

More information on the 2014 program can be found on the fantastic, user-friendly [CaSFFA website](#) or amongst the pages of our official 2014 festival program, available to pick up from our festival venues and various inner city cafes, eateries, galleries, community centres and more.

The 2nd Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia (CaSFFA)

Melbourne: 21-29 August, ACMI Cinemas, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Federation Square and Yarra Gallery

Sydney: 2-7 September, Dendy Newtown, University of Technology, Sydney, and Conny Dietzschold Gallery

Theme: Resistance! Marking the 25th anniversary of the "Velvet Revolution", promoting non-violence and the fall of communism in Europe. Also celebrating the 80th birthday of renowned avant-garde, surrealist artist and filmmaker Jan Švankmajer.

Sincerely,

Cerise Howard, Artistic Director, and the CaSFFA Team, Melbourne: Brendan Black, Denisa Sehnalová, Lilliana Hajncl, Linda Studená, Lenka Hadravová, Carmen Reid, Dean McInerney, Jack Russo, Miriam Fletcher, Jana Ridillová, Rochelle Siemienowicz, Olivia Härşan, Sofie Ham

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Join us for news, photos and fun on our social networks. Hashtag #CaSFFA

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Media Enquiries

For more information about the festival, **to arrange for an interview with Artistic Director Cerise Howard, Alexandra Strelková or Adam Hradilek**, or to request screeners or other publicity materials, please contact:

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For more information about the festival in Sydney specifically, please contact:

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