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CZECH & SLOVAK FILM FESTIVAL



Media Release

The 2nd Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia (CaSFFA)'s dual openings roaringly successful!

Reminder of things still to come:

Jan Švankmajer retrospective begins today
Festival guests
Closing Night this Friday!

Melbourne, Wednesday 27 August 2014

The atmosphere was bubbly as guests arrived at the official opening of the 2nd Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia, held at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI), last Thursday, 21 August.

Patrons were offered a Green Fairy Absinth cocktail as they made their way into the screening of the impressive Opening Night film, *To See the Sea* (*Pojedeme k moři*, dir. Jiří Mádl, 2014), accompanied by the delightful Slovak short *Homo Ciris* (dir. Jana Mináriková, 2013).

CaSFFA's Artistic Director, **Cerise Howard**, commenced proceedings with a splendid opening address, acknowledging the festival's volunteers, sponsors and partners for their sterling dedication and staunch support in making this festival happen. **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** followed with speeches full of vibrant sentiments about the Czech and Slovak lands.

After the films, the party continued well into the night at the Optic Kitchen + Bar at ACMI. Festival-goers enjoyed gourmet nibbles and complimentary beverages as they were entertained by the fantastic musical trio Vardos.

A similar triumph was felt at the opening of the evocative [Scratching Surfaces](#) trio of exhibitions that took place the following evening, Friday, 22 August. Federation Square's beautiful Yarra Gallery was packed with happy people who enjoyed interacting with the many works on display.

The party continues with festival guests **Alexandra Strelková** (Director of the National Cinematographic Centre of the Slovak Film Institute) and **Adam Hradilek** (head of the Oral History Group at the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in Prague) arriving this week and with more superb films on offer, including both new and archival features.

And, of course, the [Jan Švankmajer retrospective](#) is set to kick off today, Wednesday, 27 August.

Tickets for the **Jan Švankmajer retrospective** are through the purchase of Melbourne Cinémathèque passes. A purchase of a Cinémathèque mini-pass today will provide 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 Full \$27 / Conc. \$22 - incredible value! Whereas 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.

On Friday, CaSFFA will close triumphantly with a screening of the critically acclaimed Slovakian political comedy-thriller, [Candidate \(Kandidát\)](#), which tells "a real story that never happened."

Attendees will be treated to a delicious Becherovka cocktail upon arrival and a fabulous party afterwards in Optic Kitchen + Bar at ACMI, where first drinks will be free, along with nibbles and live music from KGB (Klezmer-Gypsy-Balkan) from Central Victoria!



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.

Sincerely,

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

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Media Enquiries

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

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