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Up And Down
Horem pádem

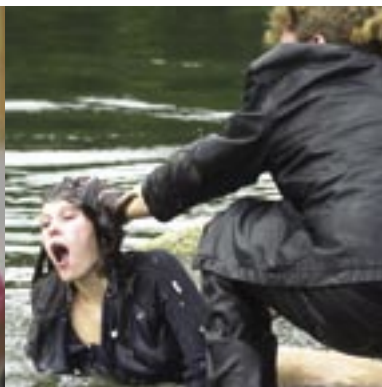
Two refugee smugglers find a two-month old child left in their car after a job. They sell the forgotten Indian boy to the childless Miluška, who wants to have a child. Her husband František, however, is a football hooligan and a racist... Forty-years old Hana works in a refugee aid center. Her much older partner Otakar collapses while lecturing at the university. Their eighteen-years-old daughter learns by accident that Otakar never divorced his first wife, Věra with whom he has a son, Martin... The stories mostly take place in present-day Prague. Intertwined tragicomic stories of losing and finding of loves, friendship, families, parents and children. A dramatic tale of altruism and xenophobia, about our fear of the unknown and the feeling of being threatened that awakens the demon of racism hidden in every one of us. A picture of the current existential feeling of central Europeans, who were isolated in the past by the Iron Curtain and whose insular incubator has been shattered before their eyes and turned into the global village. Above all else, the intimate story of a few ordinary people, who after a long period of silence, separation and lies, look for and find the strength and courage to find their way to one another, to forgiveness and reconciliation, and their own private way out of chaos...

107'
35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 2004, Co-production Total HelpArt T.H.A.
director: Jan Hřebejk



Bolero

A thriller inspired by actual events which took place in the 1980s. At a luxurious cabin owned by their parents, a twisted group of young men threw an erotic party where they got off on overpowering pre-selected young women and forcing them to participate in group sex. Neither of the victims brought charges out of fear and shame. One day the young men abducted a pretty student named Marika from a university club. But she didn't want to keep quiet about the humiliation she had suffered and so they sentenced her to death. They drew lots in her presence to decide which of them would become her murderers. At dawn they took the unfortunate Marika to a shallow lake and ruthlessly drown her in the hope that her body would never be discovered. In their minds many of the perpetrators transformed the victims of the tragedy into the culprits. A witness present at their erotic get-together was frightened into silence. They stopped meeting each other. On the basis of circumstantial evidence the father of one of the youths discovered his son's guilt, nevertheless he helped him cover his tracks. Despite a thorough investigation, it was not until several years later that the police discovered evidence linking this horrific crime to the perpetrators. Then their parents fought tooth and nail to ensure that the truth would not come out - without the slightest compassion for the victims, motivated only by their selfish need to protect their boys and their precious social standing. Drawn from true-life events which shocked the Czechoslovak nation a generation ago, this psychological



film, is a harsh statement about monstrous forms of egotism, license, cynicism, and cruelty.
100'
35mm, English subtitles, m/e track
© 2004, Co-production Diamant Film Praha
director: F. A. Brabec



A Little Piece of Heaven
Kousek nebe

There is no place on the world where might not find love. A love story - a fleeting encounter between two young people who met at the wrong time at the wrong place. The story takes place in the 1950s in a communist prison compound in Czechoslovakia. Luboš, the hero of the film, happens to meet Dana and he falls in love with her. Dana reciprocates his feelings and their love affair is all the more breathtaking the more impossible it becomes for it to be fulfilled in this setting. Luboš's imprisonment is further embittered by the physical and mental torture inflicted on him by the warden who cannot forget that the young man had witnessed his humiliation. To get him out of the sight of this sadistic jailer, Luboš's prison mates manage to get him transferred into a squad of roofers. Thanks to his friends, the boy's prison stay becomes a little more bearable in spite of the cruelty he must suffer. Despite the horrendously limiting circumstances, the ever-present persecution and death, thanks to his fellow prisoners the lovers are able to consummate their love at least once... This story is more than a political statement. It is primarily a love story that shows how love and youth find their own way to fulfillment, however dramatic the circumstances.

85'
35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 2005, Co-production Luxor
director: Petr Nikolaev



The New Breed
Sametoví vrazi

A psychological murder mystery about crime, love and betrayal... The film is based on a true event, the most notorious case of stark violence that took place since November 1989. They were the so-called Orlik Murders perpetrated during the first half of the 1990s, where the victims were found at the bottom of the Orlik dam lake in Bohemia.

The main protagonists of the film are three business partners who are after big money and perpetrate four premeditated murders. Divers brought up the bodies of two out of the four victims from the lake. The third victim died after being delivered a parcel that exploded, and the last victim was shot right there in the house...

It was actually a much more extensive case, but in his film the director mainly aims at unraveling the murderers' motives. The story makes a thrilling and exciting film and also uncovers a broader range of connected facts.

The events that became the story of this film are fascinating and shocking. They show exceptional cruelty and an absolute absence of any moral values on the part of the murderers.

137'

35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 2005

director: Jiří Svoboda



Bonds of Blood
Krev zmizelého

A stirring drama that follows the tragic fate of a mother and later that of her daughter during the fateful flow of history in Europe from the beginning of the Second World War until the year 1961.

The story begins in the early days of the war with a love story between Arno von Lieven, a Baltic aristocrat, and Helga, a Czech girl who is a member of a German hospital staff in the Sudetenland. Arno had fled from the Soviet threat and took part in the Finnish war as a volunteer. He fought against the Russians alongside his Finnish comrades and is injured in one of the battles. Saved as if by miracle, he is brought to the German hospital where Helga is working. Helga helps him back to life. They fall in love but their short love story has a tragic end with Arno's voluntary death. However, a new life is to be born from their love...

After the war Helga and her daughter Dorli are persecuted and finally moved out of their homeland. They find refuge with a former owner of a sanatorium, a Jew who survived concentration camp and lost all his family. He provides them with a safe, modest living for a while. But fate is merciless.

Dorli is a teenager when, together with her Greek friend, she tries to escape to the Baltic to find her father's family. Their attempt fails. Dorli is imprisoned and Helga, who would give her all for her child's freedom, gives herself up to the mercies of the police. In order to save her mother who is now dying in prison, Dorli is forced to collaborate with the communist secret police, who are primarily interested in her inheritance in Germany, stemming from the family

of her deceased father. Helga dies after being released from prison. Dorli leaves Czechoslovakia, she leaves Europe... and settles in Belgian Congo. But even here her fate overtakes her...

126'

35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 2005, Co-production Happy Celluloid

director: Milan Cieslar



Lovers and Murderers
Milenci a vrazi

They commit murder because they love. They love enough to murder. The film story takes place in the 1970s and 1980s in North Bohemia. The central setting is a house somewhere in the town of Ústí nad Labem that belongs to the Kotex factory.

The house serves as a boarding house for men and women. Also living here are the Graf factory manager, the young married couple named Tušl who fight by fair means and foul for their dreamed-of rabbit-pen of an apartment in a pre-produced panel high-rise, Alex the cynic who rapes his sister Madda practically in sight of all the house inmates, and a gang of mechanics. All the relationships are hopelessly intermixed; violence, bestiality and hatred rule over all else. One of the main protagonists of the film and yet another inmate of this house is the ambitious Borek Trojan, who is having a love affair with the overly ladylike wife of manager Graf. However, his love for the much older Zita doesn't last long and falling into the drugs and alcohol trap, she ends up in an asylum for the insane. Her son Roman falls hopelessly in love with Madda, the beautiful but restless girl who finally drives him over the edge and makes him murder her brother.

The film is a dynamic collage of human fates, unraveling in fast rhythm, but in all not lacking a humorous, detached attitude.

108'

35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 2004, Co-production Arva

director: Viktor Polesný



Autumn Spring

Babí léto

A tragicomic story of a youthful seventy-five-year-old man, an eternal dreamer and joker who behaves very differently from his beloved yet worrying wife: he refuses to reconcile himself to living as an old man resignedly preparing himself for death. Instead, he has chosen to live life as a never-ending challenge, and thus each new day brings a wonderful opportunity for new adventure. His faithful friend from the operetta helps him inject a bit of theater into his world and in this way to fulfill his longtime dreams. Just as convincingly our hero manages to enact various roles: as a ticket inspector, a mountain climber, a philanthropist, and as an emeritus member of the Metropolitan Opera who decides to buy a palace. In a number of richly comic situations full of both gentle and black humor he daily defends his carefree and independent ways to his wife, and amply demonstrates the ART OF LIVING.

Festival Award: Roxanne T. Mueller Award – International Film Festival Cleveland 2002 • Audience Choice Award: Best of Fest Feature – St. Louis International Film Festival 2002 • Prize for the best foreign film – US. Comedy Arts Festival, Aspen 2003

97'

35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 2001, Co-production BUC-FILM, BKP FILM

director: Vladimír Michálek



Bored in Brno

Nuda v Brně

A comedy where anything can happen 'when it's for the first time.' In spite of its title, you won't be bored...
Two young and backward people – Standa and Olinka – meet at an athletics championship. Because they don't live in the same town they write each other every day. After a year of letters, Olinka writes: "Standa, come this Saturday for dinner, and you can sleep over if you'd like to." They invest great hope into the upcoming meeting, and the chance of spending the night together greatly excites our two heroes. That's because it's the 'first time' for both of them. A number of friends and relatives advise them how to go about it, and stories of other couples' longing for love and sex start to unfold. Brother Jarda teaches Standa to put on a condom and together they investigate an anatomy book. Female neighbors in her apartment building offer Olinka advice – each, of course, according to her own experience. Everything is going according to plan until Olinka's mother unexpectedly returns home. Olinka handles the situation in an original way and, despite all obstacles, achieves her desired goal in the end...
This comedy, full of tasteful wit about sex and erotica, is not only about how women and men love. Above all else, it is a touching tale of the desire for love...

Festival Awards: Grand Prix Award for Best Film & Prize for Best Actress (Kateřina Holánová) – International Film Festival Bratislava 2003

103'

35mm, English subtitles, b & w, m/e track, © 2003, Co-production První veřejnoprávní

director: Vladimír Morávek



Cosy Dens

Pelišky

A family retro-comedy for all ages set at the end of the sixties about everyday family fun and hardship, about the drama inherent in relationships and differing opinions, about sorrow – but also finally, about the awakening of first love. This is a gently poetic and humorous story of the fate of aging parents, maturing teens and younger children. The actual plot of the film takes place in villa, in which two families, the Šebeks and Krauses, live side by side. Mr. Šebek, a simple-minded, good-natured officer by profession is a supporter of the ruling political regime. In contrast, Mr. Kraus, a former resistance fighter with bitter war experiences is his staunch adversary. In the end, each member of both families must live out his own story in his own 'cosy dens' until the Soviet invasion of August 1968 violently disturbs their world.

Festival Awards: Golden Grape (Main Prize) – Lubuskie Lato Filmowe, Lagow 2000 • Special Mention & FIPRESCI Prize – International Film Festival Karlovy Vary 1999 • Golden Afrodite (Main Prize) & Special Mention of Film Critique – Int. Film Festival Varna 2003

116'

35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 1999, Co-production Total HelpArt T.H.A

director: Jan Hřebejk



The Damned

Zatracení

This film was inspired by the story of two young men arrested, convicted, and imprisoned in Asia for attempting to smuggle heroin and other hard drugs. On the one hand, the film testifies to how the cruel vagaries of fate can affect anyone who is thinking about making 'easy' money running drugs. On the other, and above all it serves as a powerful warning to today's younger generation. It is certainly worth mentioning that The Damned is the first film ever made on the subject of drugs in Thailand with official government approval. Our fictionalized story begins at an airport somewhere in Southeast Asia where Patrik Lovický, returning home to the Czech Republic with his stepbrother Tomáš, is being arrested.

From that moment on two parallel plots unfold. The first follows Patrik Lovický's cruel fate after his arrest, and his persistent efforts to clear himself with the help of the Czech consul general. As viewers, we witness a touching meeting with his mother: she has flown over to speak with him – if only for a few moments... We come to fully understand his utter desperation after being sentenced to life in prison, and with fascination we follow his struggle to survive in Bonwong, an extremely rough prison.

The second storyline focuses on Tomáš upon his return to the Czech Republic. Only after arriving home does Tomáš learn that Patrik has been arrested for smuggling four kilos of heroin. With the help of a video that Patrik shot on his trip and which his stepbrother accidentally discovers after flying in to Prague airport, Tomáš tries to retrace the

events leading to Patrik's arrest and to find the actual culprit. But the tale recorded on the videocassette is full of ambiguities. Maybe things are a bit different than they at first seemed...

Festival Awards: Special Mention – International Film Festival of Crimi Films, Moscow 2003

98'

35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 2002, Co-production Whisconti and Holiday Films

director: Dan Svátek



Divided We Fall

Musíme si pomáhat

The dramatic story of a hero against his will. A black comedy about the ability of fear and necessity to turn common people into heroes. The story is set in a small Czech town occupied by the German Army during the last years of WWII. One day a childless Czech couple named Josef and Marie come across their former neighbor, a Jew who has managed to escape imprisonment in a Nazi camp. Although desperately fearful of taking on such a potentially dangerous responsibility, they decide to offer David refuge in their home. This is the beginning of a dramatic fight for survival that forever connects their fates. Heroism and collaboration, generosity and cowardice intermingle, making it difficult – if not impossible – to pass judgement. This film is the latest work of Jan Hřebejk, the director of the highly successful family comedy Cosy Dens.

Festival Awards: Air Canada People's Choice Award – International Film Festival, Vancouver 2000 • FIPRESCI Prize – FilmFestival of East European Films, Cottbus 2000 • Audience Award – International Film Festival, Portland 2001 • Prix UIP Award – International Film Festival, Sydney 2001 • Silver Grape – Lubuskie Lato Filmowe, Lagow 2001 • Nomination for the Best Foreign Language Film Award category – Annual Academy Awards 2001

117'

35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 2000, Co-production Total HelpArt T.H.A.

director: Jan Hřebejk



I Thank You for Each New Morning

Díky za každé nové ráno

Screenwriter Halina Pawlovská sets this autobiographic comedy in the period between the 1968 Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia and the post-Velvet Revolution 'taste of freedom'. One prominent plot line centers on family problems involving the ridiculous figure of the comically despotic Ukrainian father. The heroine gently and humorously pulls significant social events into the plot and analyzes them from her personal perspective.

Festival Award: Silver Georgius for the Best Direction – Moscow International Film Festival

100'

35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 1994, Co-production Česká filmová společnost, KF a.s.

director: Milan Steindler



Pupendo

Pupendo is an infantile ritual performed by small children. A metal coin is used for this little bit of torture, where no real danger exists, to cause a bit of pain and then the mark left on the stomach is bragged about...

The plot of this bittersweet comedy, the latest creation from the team which brought you the successful *Cosy Dens* and *Divided We Fall*, centers around the rather unusual ritual which lent its name to the film. This time around the action is set in that Orwellian year, 1984, at a time when life is slipping through the fingers of the generation most affected by the Soviet occupation of 1968.

Pupendo's main character is sculptor Bedřich Mára who lives with his ceramicist wife Alena in a small apartment in Prague. Years ago for political reasons he was forced out of a job as head of a studio at the Academy of Art. He is not allowed to exhibit and has thus been relegated to the sidelines of interest and lucrative commissions. He often contemplates life with a fishing rod in his hands... Comrade Míla Břečka's family stands in sharp contrast to Bedřich's. Míla, the principal of an elementary school, and his ambitious wife Magda, Bedřich's former student at the academy, successfully cooperate with the Communist regime. Like many others, those in the family circle judge Míla, but their rather cowardly behavior has helped him to get ahead.

A group of adolescents lends plot support to the generation of parents. These teenage kids have their own opinions about their parents' attitudes and aspirations: they don't believe in change for the

better and don't expect much from their parents efforts. They spend time dreaming of escaping their everyday lives, but their desires focus above all on a trip to the seaside. In the end, our heroes do make it to a 'sea' of sorts. It hardly matters that the season is already over and that it's only Central Europe's substitute - Lake Balaton - sprawled out on the endless Hungarian puszta.

116'

35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 2003, Co-production Total HelpArt T.H.A.

director: Jan Hřebejk



Seducer

Musím tě svést

Inspired by true life events, this satirical comedy focuses on an unusual love triangle as it unfolds in the highest political circles.

The film's main character, the successful politician Martina, devotes all her time to her career. She anxiously protects her private life and hides her crumbling marriage from sensation-seeking journalists. Her husband, Karel, who stays at home keeping house and raising their daughter, has long wanted to divorce her. But Martina stubbornly refuses because she knows that it would spell disaster for her political career. So Karel comes up with a diabolical plot to force his wife's hand: he asks his longtime friend Ota, an inveterate skirt chaser, to seduce Martina. Karel plans on secretly filming his wife's infidelity and then using the evidence against her. From that moment on these three less-than-perfect characters begin manipulating each other, getting sucked into lies and hypocrisy along the way. In the end, the situation gets completely out of control and not only are they caught out by each others manipulations but by their own shenanigans as well.

90'

35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 2002, Co-production Vision Production

director: Andrea Sedláčková



Small Town

Městečko

A biting comedy about the advent of capitalism to the Czech Republic after the fall of Communism in 1989, and how it caught the inhabitants of one small town completely by surprise.

This mosaic of stories focuses on lesser heroes as they wrestle the recent changes in the social system with varying degrees of success. The first private businesses start cropping up, as do the first get-rich-quick schemes. The small town does its duty by the restitution process, bringing happiness and riches to some and envy and hatred to others. The remorseless nature of private enterprise under the capitalist system entails more than a few unpleasant surprises for many a green entrepreneur accustomed to conditions under the old regime. In many cases, initial lofty illusions about the big world of the wealthy transform into a struggle to earn enough to put bread on the table. But the political changes also offer many unexpected joys. Thanks to the fact that the Independent Erotic Initiative has carried the town's first post-revolution elections, the locals can finally revel in the 'gifts' brought by their newfound freedom and experience what the former regime denied them: a grandiose striptease held at the local gym... Variety Critics' Choice IFF Karlovy Vary 2003

99'

35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 2003, Co-production S PRO ALFA FILM

director: Jan Kraus



The Spring of Life

Pramen života

Far from battlefields of World War II, the story of this powerful film focuses on the bizarre SS operation known as Lebensborn. The aim of this program was to select the healthiest and most beautiful young men and women in all the occupied territories in order to breed racially pure children into the so-called 'master race'. The makers of the film start with the very beginnings of this process, the selection and preparation of girls for the arrival of the most handsome SS officers, and continue through to end, to the decadent party which was to make mothers of them all. The main character, a Czech girl named Gretchen, survives this incredible experience and is the only one who manages to extract a small bit of personal revenge.

Festival Awards: Special Mention – FilmFestival Festival of East European Films, Cottbus 2000 • City of Laon Award & Special Mention – Laon International Film Festival for Young People, Laon 2001 • Golden Dolphin (Golfinho de Prata): The Best Actress – Troia International Film Festival, Troia 2001 • The Camério Best Screenplay & The Camério Best Full Length & The CIFEJ Award – Carrousel international du film de Rimouski 2001 • The CineStar: the best youth film awarded by a jury of young film enthusiasts – International Children's Film Festival 'Schlingel', Chemnitz 2001

107'

35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 2000, Co-production Happy Celluloid

director: Milan Cieslar



The Wild Bees

Divoké včely

A bittersweet film about the difficult life of young people living in a forgotten corner of Moravia, Czech Republic. A tale of those who, while they have dreams and desires, lack the strength or circumstances to fulfill them.

The protagonists of the film face poverty, unemployment, feelings of isolation, as well as longings for love, harsh humor, and the zest for living, drinking, and enjoying themselves under any circumstances. We are first introduced to Kája, a shy, young forest worker unable to communicate with others, who lives a village of dilapidated houses. He behaves somewhat awkwardly, whether at work in the company of imbibing forest workers, or at home under the thumb of his resolute grandmother and father, the village's self-appointed philosopher. But no one suspects how much he would give to win Bozhka's heart. She works at a mobile market and goes out with the local playboy, Ladá, a dissolute Michael Jackson fan. Kája doesn't seem to have a chance. He doesn't realize, however, that her relationship with Ladá is far from being as idyllic as it seems at first glance. More and more, Bozhka becomes aware of her need for the kind of true feelings that the immature Ladá is simply incapable of offering her. But above all she dreads ending up like her girlfriend Jana: Rather than stay alone as a single mother, Jana agreed to marry Staňa, a pathetic gambler who feels content to waste all the money she earns each day at her mobile market (while also taking care of the baby). Unexpectedly, the father of her child, Kája's older brother Petr, shows up in town.

They don't know he's dropped out of school and he returns as a somewhat intriguing stranger. One of the heroes' only possibilities to escape their daily boredom is the yearly Fireman's Ball. Here, their destinies come together and the web of hidden longing and aversion is uncovered. Will everything be different in the morning?

Festival Awards: VPRO Tiger Award – Film Festival Rotterdam, 2002 I SKYY Prize – San Francisco Film Festival, 2002 • The Pearl of the world & The best international actress Tatiana Vilhelmová & FIPRESCI Award – Kinotavr Sochi, 2002 • Forum Main Prize – Inter. Film Forum Arsenals, Riga 2002 • Special Mention – Warsaw International Film Festival, 2002 • Main Prize – FilmFestival Cottbus, 2002 • Special Mention – Premiers Plans Festival d'Angers, 2003 • Special Mention & The best actress Tatiana Vilhelmová & Student Jury Award – Inter. Film Festival Valenciennes, 2003

94'

35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 2001, Co-production CINEART TV Prague

director: Bohdan Sláma



Zelary

Želary

The strong dramatic story about a fatal love born of the common will to survive. The time is the 1940s, when Bohemia and Moravia were occupied by the Germans. Eliska, a young nurse at a city hospital, is involved in the resistance movement. The resistance group is discovered, hunted by the Gestapo and Eliska's life is threatened. The patient of the hospital, Joza, whose life Eliska saved by giving her blood for Joza's transfusion, hides her in his mountain cottage. Eliska is forced to take a new identity and all at once become a new woman: Hana, the wife of a mountain man. Her new home is the wild mountain village where time stopped one hundred and fifty years ago... Zelary is the story of an extraordinary relationship, of fear, misgivings, suspicion and of the love that forms out of antagonism between the modern, educated girl Eliska and the barbaric, salt of the earth man with the soul of a child, Joza. This story of a clash between two different worlds and two different people takes place in a God-forsaken part of Europe surrounded by the storm of war.

Festival Awards: People Choice Award – Sydney International Film Festival 2004 • The Best Musical Score – Karachi International Film Festival 2004 • Nomination for the Best Foreign Language Film Award Category – Annual Academy Awards 2003

150'

35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 2003, Co-production Total HelpArt T.H.A., Barrandov Studio, Dor Film (Austria), ALEF Film & Media Group (Slovak Republic)

director: Ondřej Trojan



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In Nomine Patris

The truth about the miracle of Čihošť will never come to light – all the more opportunity for filmmakers to apply their imagination. The drama from the 1950s is set in an isolated village in the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands. The local policeman is writing his regular required report, and as he does not want to hurt anyone by mentioning minor offences, he decides instead to mention the miracle that occurred in church, when the crucifix moved during the last sermon. He has no idea of what this will bring about. The secret policeman who comes to investigate the case accuses the priest of having stage-managed the alleged miracle himself in order to boost the power of the church against the state, and he decides to get a confession out of him at any cost. Moreover he instructs a successful young film director to shoot a 'true' documentary film about the event. There is no refusing, and so the young film director decides to get the unwanted task over with as soon as possible. But on arriving at the village he finds so much obscurity, so many discrepancies surrounding the event that he cannot make the film. He would like to resolve this odd mystery and come up with an honest piece of filmmaker's work, but under the supervision of the State Police his work becomes more and more of a politically manipulated pamphlet.

97'

videotape, m/e track, © 2005

director: Jaromír Polišenský



Lessons in Dance and Love Hodina tance a lásky

A drama based on the novel by Pavel Kohout, set during the Second World War at Theresienstadt concentration camp, during a single day. Young Christine Kleinburger, daughter of the fort commander, arrives from bombed Berlin to join her parents. Christine is a 'true' German girl, brought up to blind faith in Hitler's ideology; she is full of clichés and empty phrases but doesn't really know anything about life or the war. At Theresienstadt Fort, in the close vicinity of the concentration camp, Christine comes to face some real-life scenes. Her parents' world of the harmony, peace and security of home, as well as the black-and-white world of good and evil seen as yet only as mediated by their 'wise' teachers, are in danger of being shattered.

106'

videotape, m/e track, © 2003

director: Viktor Polesný



Hour of Truth Hodina pravdy

Quite a topical story about a television talk show host whose moral and professional qualities undergo an unexpected test. Peter Probošt is the host of a popular talk show, in which he regularly asks very direct questions of top personalities, people in the public eye. He always prepares carefully for each session and his questions know no taboo. The public has the right to know about any kind of moral slip or failure, however unimportant or long forgotten, on the part of their political representatives or outstanding citizens. But – how does he himself behave when invited to sit in the 'hot chair'? When he must pass the same kind of character test in front of his audiences? Moreover, when he is faced by a woman he is entranced and obsessed with, a woman who believes in the same moral principles and also has that absolute respect for the unvarnished truth?

Festival Awards: Professional Jury's Prize for the best screenplay & Audience Jury's Prize for the best TV film – RITV Reims 2002

78'

videotape, m/e track, © 2001

director: Jitka Němcová



The Black Miss, Miss Black Černá slečna slečna Černá

A black comedy about life and about dying, where grief gives way to humour, emotion to wisdom – but life and its unpredictable situations wins above all.

The story begins with three old bachelors who decide to buy a grave in a country cemetery – for one of the threesome. They choose a grave decorated with a black sculpture of a woman. They decide to make a promise to this statue – the 'Black Lady' – that she would be the only woman in their bachelor lives. However, their fine plans are suddenly endangered when a local family expresses interest in purchasing this grave. In order to be able to hold on to their claim the three friends decide that one of them would marry a seriously ill old lady, who has but days to live. After her death they would bury her in 'their' grave, which would thus 'legalize' the situation for them. However, the dying woman is still very vital despite her sickness and she sees through their plan immediately. Being a thoroughly practical soul, she does not mind. But life is much more complicated and fate mixes the cards capriciously.

72'

videotape, © 2003

director: Petr Nikolaev



The Gentleman Companion Společník

A romantic comedy set in contemporary times, when – by way of exception – it isn't the poor and honest girl who strikes gold, but a poor and not quite honest male music teacher.

Mikuláš Mysliveček teaches violin playing at a music school. As a teacher he is paid a desperately low salary, and so he makes an extra penny by playing at a nightclub in the evenings. But he still doesn't make enough. He has a very dominating girl-friend who wants them to get married, an eccentric father whose antics aren't cut short neither by his age, nor by the rules of the old folks' home where he is living; and last but not least, Mikuláš has a big dog. The man is so kind-hearted that he tends to be used by others. When his dog – his best friend – causes yet another expensive accident, Mikuláš is really broke. The only solution he can see is to become a paid companion to rich ladies. But will this really be the best solution?

87'

videotape, © 2003

director: Miroslav Sobota



Breathless City Město bez dechu

A dramatic story set in present days, something of a political thriller.

In a perfectly prepared operation an Environment Protection group kidnaps a Prague city bus with five passengers and a driver. They send a statement to the media that they would be holding the hostages until the Cabinet and House of Commons meet their demand concerning a change in the currently discussed Amendment on the Environment. Developments last for two drama-laden days. However, basic questions make their way into the foreground: Is it possible to enforce a generally beneficial demand through terrorist means? And is it possible to give in to pressure to save human lives?

98'

videotape, m/e track, © 2003

director: Ivan Pokorný



Death of a Pedophile Smrt pedofila

A psychological crime story set in contemporary days.

One night a murder attempt is made in a prison for men. The victim is a young teacher, sentenced for the death of his pupil. During the course of the story we find out how this tragic occurrence had come about, and what had brought the teacher into this company, branded as a child murderer – surely the worst of human misdeeds. Simultaneously we follow interrogations at the prison, which are to reveal whether the unfinished act of murder had been just one more 'lesson' dealt out by his prison mates, or if someone else stood behind it.

84'

videotape, m/e track, © 2003

director: Ivan Pokorný



Sink or Swim
Hop nebo trop

The story of a group of thirty-somethings who are too old for juvenile games and seemingly too young to enter the adult world. After her divorce, Bára Dušková must work and take care of her kids alone. Ten-year-old Ondráš has little affection for P. E. or, for that matter, any other activity involving movement, and his older sister Marcelka is in the throes of adolescent insolence. So Bára decides that the kids need to get involved in sports. And she signs them up for a ski camp offered at her work and organized by a colleague, an architect named Mikuláš. She herself wants to go along to prevent Mikuláš from being too hard on them, so she signs up as the trip's nurse. A group of Mikuláš' friends decide to sleep at the company cabin (without paying) and Bára unexpectedly and against her will gets embroiled in their affairs. At first her maturity and responsibility drive them crazy but eventually the group accepts her. Bára and her kids then spend many exceptionally pleasant days in their company

4× 75'
videotape, m/e track, © 2004
director: Jiří Chlumský

Guardian of Souls
Strážce duší

A series of detective stories where realistic old mysteries are linked with contemporary criminal cases. Our guides through all the parts are the author, who is fascinated by the unsolved mysteries of the past, and a student who has extra-sensory abilities. And of course the Guardian of Souls.

76'42"
8× 52'
videotape, © 2004
directors: Juraj Deák, Dušan Klein,
Pavel Jandourek, Roman Motyčka,
Ivo Macharáček



Town Square Náměstíčko

The series of individual stories about the ordinary and extraordinary joys and sorrows of everyday living in a small Czech town is a riveting mosaic of destinies linked through the setting of the Town Square and two characteristic personalities – the lady in the newspaper booth and a former inspector.

10× 52'

videotape, m/e track, © 2004,
Co-production Bull Film

director: Jaroslav Hanuš



Cops and Robbers Četnické humoresky

This television series takes place during the first Czechoslovak Republic (1918–1939). The stories make use of the historical existence of an investigative constabulary unit (the precursors of today's detectives) and its actual cases. At the time, the constables were a key organization, helping to investigate and solve criminal activities in mainly the countryside and small towns. The lead characters in the series are constables from the Brno investigative unit who solve crime as part of their everyday experience – from tragic and violent felonies to banal and even slightly humorous cases of petty thievery and other wrongdoing. Each episode usually features a serious case and one seemingly less important. At the same time we are given a peek into the private lives of the officers in the investigative unit and thus get to know something about their joys and cares, their loves and desires.

26× cca 80'

videotape, m/e track, © 2000–2003

director: Antonín Moskalyk

New episodes in production



Hospital at the End of the City Twenty Years on Nemocnice na kraji města po dvaceti letech

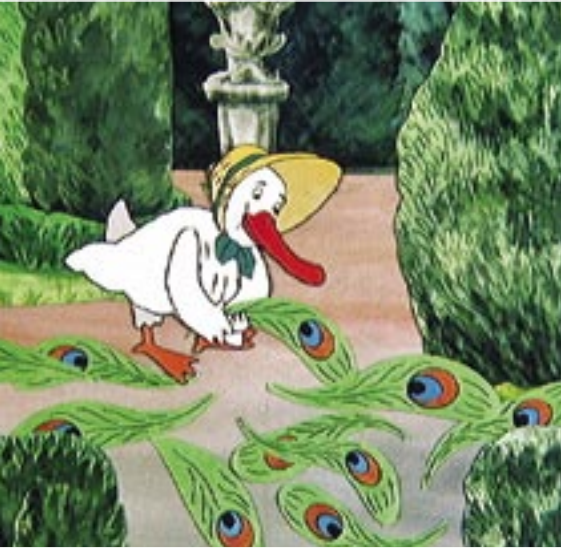
The heroes and heroines of Dietl's famous serial are back, let us see how life has treated them. This serial follows up on the two previous serials about doctors and their patients, produced twenty years ago. The present story is based on the passing of time and the natural aging of the characters, the changed political and social conditions in the Czech Republic. The children born in the first two serials have grown up. The main characters take stock of their lives, come to terms with the generation problem, with latent racism, with crises brought about by new phenomena of the post-communist economy. The members of the young generation seek their right partners in love and their right niches in life.

13× 57'

videotape, m/e track, © 2003,
Co-production Media Consulting

director: Hynek Bočan





ANIMATION WITHOUT NARRATION FOR CHILDREN

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Babbie and Bertie
Bambulka a Bazilínek

A series without narration featuring the combined technique of cartoon and puppet animation. Before going to sleep, little Babbie drinks from a cup with a rose painted on it. The moment she falls asleep, little Bertie the dragon pops out of the flower, wakes Babbie up and carries her away. Each night after an exciting adventure, Babbie slips back into her bed and happily drops back to sleep.

7x 7'

35mm, © 1993

artist: Eva Natus-Šalamounová



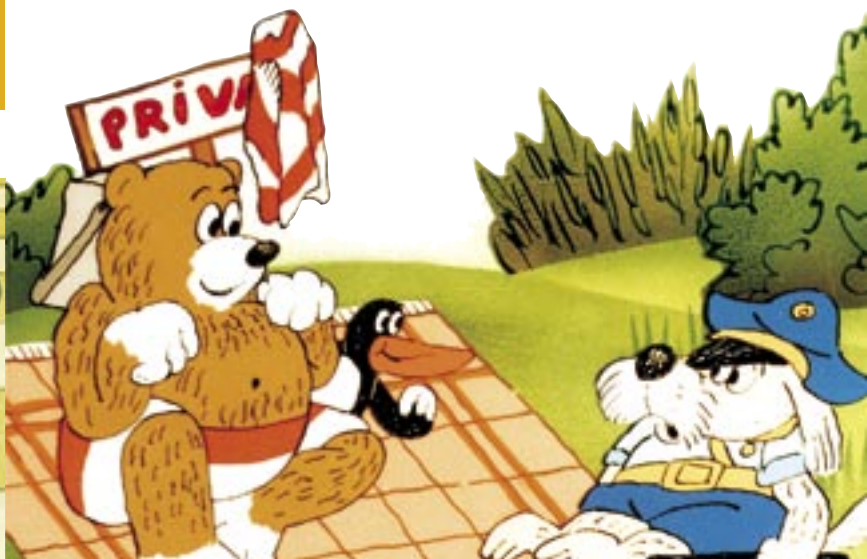
Bon Appetit, Your Lordship
Dobré chutnání, vaše lordstvo

An animated series for young children, featuring a lordly dog and the cat and mouse servants who must prepare his daily meal. As lunch must be ready at twelve sharp, the cat and mouse face great trouble and often have to improvise. After all, catching a trout, milking a goat or picking plums are no easy tasks. Please note: This series is without narration but has a few short title-links which need to be dubbed.

7x 7'

35mm, © 1996

artist: Václav Mergl



Bugo and Picola
Bugo a Pikola

A cartoon animation series featuring Bugo the bear, Picola the penguin and their adventures with a travelling circus. Whenever the caravan stops, they set out to explore. Once, however, their curiosity gets the better of them and Bugo and Picola end up on board an ocean liner, unsure if they'll be able to get back to the safety of their circus caravan.

7x 7'

35mm, © 1998, Co-production Kabel Plus

artist: Jaromír Gal



The Doings of the Hippopotamus Family
Jak to chodí u hrochů

An original series of puppet cartoons about a hippopotamus grandfather and grandson, and their little adventures. Human children could envy them for their imaginative games and ideas that bring fun to their happy days.

13×5'30"

35mm, © 2000

artist: Jan Balej



Kanga, Roo and Dingo the Dog
Klok, Kloček a pes Dingo

An animated series for children without narration that focuses on a rather odd but happy little family consisting of big Kanga, little Roo and a parrot. Their adversary, Dingo the dog, causes a lot of trouble through his many attempts to steal Roo. But the kangaroos are smart and they always defeat silly, greedy Dingo.

7×6'

35mm, © 1994-1995

artist: Ilja Novák



Theresa in Trouble or Hopkin Intervenes
Terezka v nesnázích aneb Hopkin zasahuje

Theresa is a good little girl who has wild dreams. And sometimes in these dreams she tends to act a bit naughty, just like any child. Luckily though, when she gets in a fix her strong and clever, true friend, Hopkin the Jumping-Jack, gladly helps Theresa out of whatever trouble she might be in.

13×8'

35mm, m/e track, © 1990-1995

artist: Josef Lamka





Amina
Pučálkovic Amina

The Czech actor Jindřich Plachta wrote a charming little book about an enchanting puppy who turns out not to be a puppy at all – but a young giraffe. This strange creature, whom they find in the street is given the name Amina, and Amina brings about many a funny situation in Counsellor Pučálka's family. Rosie makes a lasting pact of friendship with Amina and sees to it that the swiftly growing giraffe becomes a fully-fledged family member.

11× 8'

videotape, m/e track, © 2004

artist: Milan Lesniak



Stripey the Slumber Elf
O Kanafáskovi

Animated series about the friendship of a little boy Jonas and a Slumber Elf called Stripey, who looks like a fluffy duvet in a striped gingham cover. Dreamspun Castle is the seat of the Dream Wizard and the home of his subjects, Slumber Elves who help children fall asleep when their bed-time comes. Stripey, the most able among them, is chosen to deal with Jonas, who always thinks of all sorts of excuses why he cannot sleep. But Stripey does not feel like sleeping either. Every evening they play together, after which Jonas is fast asleep in a jiffy and has the sweetest of dreams.

7× 7'

videotape, m/e track, © 2004,
Co-production Krátký Film Praha

artist: Galina Miklinová



Into the Fairy Tale
Do pohádky

In this animated series Honzik and his friend Jurasek the dog lead a group of children into the fairy tale world. Our heroes decide to liberate the princess who had been carried off by an evil dragon. On their journey they meet a giant, a magician, a water goblin and many other fairy tale characters. They find out that although things are occasionally different than in books, what is still valid is that courage and friendship win against all evil.

13× 7'

videotape, m/e track, © 2003

artist: Pavel Koutský



From the Diary of a Third-grade Pupil, or Edudant and Francimore Z deníku žáka III. B aneb Edudant a Francimor

An animated serial about Edudant and Francimore, sons of the witch and herb doctor Frumpyhex. The boys enjoy helping their mother with her witchcraft, which gives them an opportunity to learn many a trick. They love entertaining their classmates with them and are ever willing to lend a helping hand. Everything doesn't always quite work out, but when the worst comes to the worst there is always their witch-mummy Frumpyhex to turn to.

The serial is based on a book by the popular Czech humourist Karel Poláček.

13×7'

videotape, m/e track, © 2003

artist: Vratislav Hlavatý



Mathylda Matylda

A series of originally cut cartoons about an arrogant duck who loves to give everyone advice, but then watches the results in amazement. She's a kind-hearted duck, however, and so would gladly set right what she has spoiled. Mathylda is always prepared to give further good advice to any and all living creatures.

26×7'

35mm, m/e track, © 1999, 2000, 2002, Co-production ANIMA

artist: Eva Sýkorová-Pekárková



The Wonderful Show Báječná show

The animated series is based on La Fontaine's fables. The generally known and less well known fables full of life's truths and experience are set into the attractive world of a great TV show. The entertainer is a duckbilled platypus who explains the meaning of the different fables in an amusing form comprehensible for children.

Some melodious songs enhance this film, created in a combination of classical cell animation and plasticine puppets with computer models and special effects.

In these modern times even adults will enjoy being reminded of the traditional wisdom presented in the old fables.

73' or 8×8'

videotape, m/e track, © 2001, 2003, Co-production QQ Studio Ostrava and Mr. A-Z Production

artist: Josef Quis





The Adventures of the Bee Teddies

Příběhy včelích medvídků

Stories about two little bumblebees who live in a cottage under the heather. They are as naughty as any other little boys, making trouble for their mother and all the insects in the meadow. The gently portrayed, child-like puppets with their simple, witty dialogues and lyrics remind us of a picture books for little kids.

20×9'

35mm, m/e track, © 1984, 1994

artist: Ivo Houf



The Enchanted Bell

O kouzelném zvonu

Short animated film by the young talented director A. Klímt and the well-known designer M. Velišek. After years, the authors have restored back to life the technique of the relief puppet. The inhabitants of a small town receive from Tibet as a gift an enchanted bell whose harmonic chimes have the power of awakening their kind-heartedness. The enchanted bell stirs up great interest. The director of a circus tries to steal it, but it is soldiers of a foreign army who eventually steal the bell and recast it into a gun which they take to the east. A forgotten circus elephant and little Susan succeed in bringing the gun back, recast it into the bell again and return it to its original place in the church on the rock over the little town. For their heroic deed they are appropriately awarded by the grateful inhabitants. This is a fairy tale for viewers from 5 to 105, told in a lively and humorous way.

Festival Awards: Children's jury prize for TV films International Animated Film Festival Annency, 1999 | Special Mention of the Jury for the Short Film Cinema Jove Valencia, 1999 | Poznan Goats to Martin Velišek ALEKINO, Poznan, 2000

15'

35mm, m/e track, © 1998,
Co-production FAMU, Krátký Film Praha

artist: Martin Velišek



Friends of Mr. Touch'n'go

Kamarádi pana Semtamřuka

Charles and Betty are friends of a crazy inventor – Mr. Touch'n'go. In spite of the fact that Betty is in a wheelchair, she does same things and makes the same mischief as other children. In each episode we are treated to the unusual adventures of the inventor and his friends.

7×7'

videotape, m/e track,
© AAA Studio 1999

artists: Dagmar Doubková,
Jan Tománek



Follow the Plum Fragrance

Putování za švestkovou vůní

An animated series about a little dwarf who, after escaping from a silly, mean spirited goose, leaves his story-book life in an attempt to discover a true friend. In the real and often tough world he meets several candidates, but human evil creates all kinds of obstacles. In the end, however, the little dwarf manages to find happiness.

13×7'

35mm, m/e track, © 1998,
Co-production Krátký Film Praha

artist: Dagmar Berková



Hazelnette Lískulka

Friendly Hazelnette is a vivacious, inquisitive and courageous little girl born from a hazelnut. On her way through life she visits a great variety of places (forest, meadow, underworld, human world, fairy tale land, undersea kingdom etc.) and makes many friends along the way.

13× 7'

35mm, m/e track, © Fedor Gál,
Krátký Film Praha, 1998

artist: Vlasta Baránková



A-hunting We Will Go Halali

A series of cell animation cartoons for children, about Ferdinand Bullseye the hunter and his faithful dog Samson. They set out on distant adventures to win hunting trophies, but the animals are far too clever – master and dog return home empty-handed every time. But that doesn't prevent them from planning ever new expeditions.

7× 7'

35mm, m/e track, English version,
© 1996, Co-production ANI Film

artist: Pavel Koutský



Journey to the Sunset Land Pouť do krajiny soumraku

A Red-Indian tale of times long past about the Sun Mother who did not like people and wanted to destroy them by her blazing heat. To defend themselves, people send a water serpent and a rattlesnake to kill her. But the impatient rattlesnake stings by mistake the Sun Mother's daughter. The grief-stricken mother retires to her dwelling place, and the world grows dark. The desperate people first try in vain to bring the daughter back to the world from the Sunset Land. Then they send the most beautiful girls and young men to comfort the Sun Mother and divert her by dance and music. Finally they succeed: they make the Sun Mother laugh, and light spreads all over the world once again.

6'

35mm, m/e track, © 2001,
Co-production VŠUP

artist: Lucie Kovářová



Mach and Šebestová's Summer Holidays Mach a Šebestová na prázdninách

The animated series about two school-children is full of funny and unusual stories that bring a smile to every face. Mach and Šebestová were once given a magic telephone receiver which brings them many an adventure. They have a wonderful summer vacation with their dog Jonathan – turning Grandpa into Tarzan, helping a painter study with Leonardo da Vinci, punishing a greedy woman, causing a nice little boy to disappear and actually fulfilling a life-long dream for an old lady.

13× 7'

35mm, m/e track, © 1997,
Co-production Krátký Film Praha

artist: Adolf Born



Magic Tales
Čarodějné pohádky

A cartoon series inspired by the charming tales of Josef Štefan Kubín (writer of tales for children and prose for adults based on Czech folklore; 1864–1965). Once upon a time, there was a father who had seven children – six sons and one daughter. He sent them, one by one, out into the wide world to acquire experience; and they all distinguished themselves, each in a different way. His eldest son married the smart fairy Amelia, who then helped his brothers and sister.

7×8'

35mm, m/e track, © 2002, Co-production Krátký Film Praha
artist: Tomáš Paul



Milk the Imp
O raráši Mlíkovi

Cut animation series about a young boy whose friendship with a forest imp helps him to overcome the intrigues of an evil witch. A village boy, Kuba, gets lost deep in the forest, home of nymphs, wild woodmen, and other remarkable fairy-tale creatures, including a witch who harms people in any way she can. Kuba rescues Milk, a forest imp who refused to serve the hag, and together they set to battling against her scheming. It's not easy, but none of her spells can stop Kuba and Milk who don't give up until a devil carries the hag off to hell. But the old hag does not give up even after she ends up in hell. She is contriving to marry Belzebub, the King of Hell, become the Devil Queen and destroy everything nice and good on Earth.

13×8'

35mm, m/e track, © 1999, 2001, Co-production Krátký Film Praha
artist: Milada Sukdoláková



Muffie and Muffles
Štuclinka a Zachumlánek

Cut animation series about two forgotten children who take care of a snow-covered cottage, abandoned by a sick gaffer. The gaffer and Muffie live in a cottage by the woods. The gaffer was used to keeping his strength up by eating toast and garlic, but a bad year came and the garlic didn't amount to much. The gaffer becomes ill and must go to the hospital, and Muffie must take charge of the house. It is a good thing that she's got her bosom friend Muffles to help out in any way he can. In fact, he's the first to notice a small green leaf poking up through the gaffer's garlic bed. Last year's forgotten cloves are sprouting and that means that the gaffer will soon be better and return home.

10×7'

35mm, m/e track, © 1999
artist: Antonín Stoják



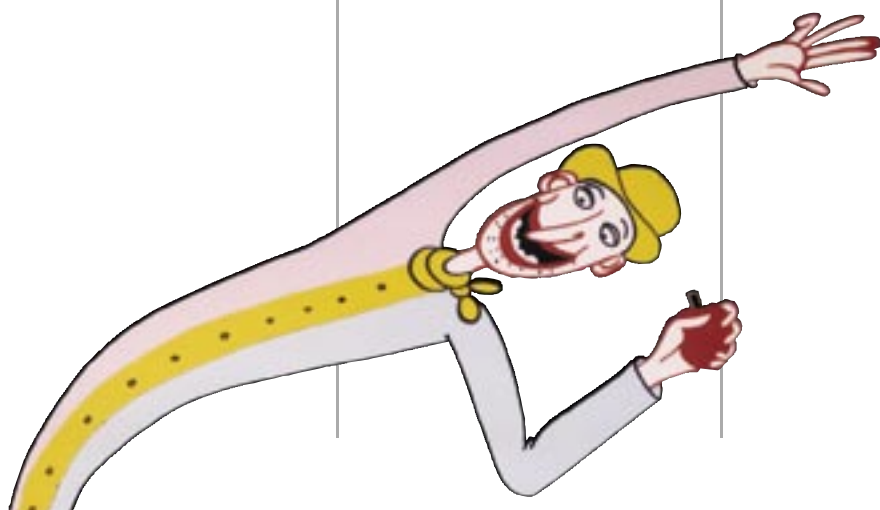
Mumps
Příušnice

An animated program about everything that happens during a month of vacation before little six-year-old Maria goes to first grade. Memories of childhood illness mix with those of moving to a new apartment, getting to know mother's new partner, and, above all, waiting for the arrival of a new sibling.

Festival Awards: 1st Prize in category Animation – Prix Danube 1999

8'

35mm, © 1998, Co-production FAMU
artist: Mária Procházková





Nils and the Wild Geese
Nils a divoké husy

An animated series based on the book by Swedish Nobel Prize winning author Selma Lagerlöf about a little boy who is learning to understand nature, animals and people – and in the process learns to understand himself. An elf turns young Nils into a dwarf because he mistreats animals and humans. Nils travels on the back of a boastful gander who joins other wild geese flying north to Lapland. During his travels Nils faces various dramatic situations and realizes how difficult it is for little creatures who are dependent on others for help.

7×8'

35mm, m/e track, © 1998,
Co-production Krátký Film Praha
artist: Jitka Walterová



Oshtrozock
Oštrozok

The series tells the story of a famous writer and animal lover Mr. Lorence, whose household is increased by a most fantastic creature one day. Till then Mr. Lorence's family had consisted of his housekeeper Mathylda, his bodyguard Frigo the dog, Liza the cat and Marianna the mastiff. Suddenly this Oshtrozock Sharpalicus turns up – it was born as an idea in Mr. Lorence's mind. But the idea got stuck in his head and oh dear, how it plagued him until the witch brought it out! Oshtrozock looks like many creatures jumbled together, alike none other. It has the magic power to help animals and people live together with affection and kindness.

7×8'

35mm, m/e track, © 2002
artist: Helena Dušková



Razzokheil the Elf
O skřítku Racochejlovi

This series about an elf comes from the workshop of Czech artist Zdeněk Smetana, the creator of such popular 'bedtime story' cartoons as Stories from the Moss and Fern and Reedy. Razzokheil is a busy-body of an elf who lives in a hat-cottage in the dense forest. His meddling often gets him into trouble, but there are always plenty of friends around to lend a helping hand.

26×8'

35mm, m/e track, © 1997, 1999,
Co-production Danone
artist: Zdeněk Smetana



Sophie, the ZOO Manager
Žofka ředitelkou ZOO

A joyful cell-animation series for children about animals with human characteristics. Sophie the monkey works as manager of the zoo and must face all kinds of problems. Zbyněk the tapir, Mr. Wolf and Jirka the sloth need help, while the Gorillas, Ostriches and Mr. Fox need to be taught a lesson. With the help of the other zoo animals Sophie always knows what to do.

7×7'

35mm, m/e track, © 1996,
Co-production Krátký Film Praha
artist: Adolf Born





Spooks and Goblins
Bubáci a hastrmani

A cut animated series taken from Josef Lada's popular children's book about unfrightening ghosts whose main purpose in the world is to play with children. In and around the village of Syslov, ghosts live in uncommon harmony with the local inhabitants and their children. Josef Lada endowed his ghosts with the character traits of ordinary country people, and regards the troubles and joys of both people and ghosts with the same loving humor.

20x 8'

35mm, m/e track, © 1999-2000, 2002

artist: Josef Lada



Toronto Tom

Merry tales of tomcat Toronto Tom who has come from Canada to catch fish in Bohemia. The main hero of the story is tomcat Tom who lives in Toronto but has numerous cat relatives in Bohemia, in the town of Kittyville. When he receives a tempting telegram: "Tom, come, they're biting!", he takes off on a journey to Bohemia where he immediately sets into fishing and catching mice with the other cats. The results of the hunt are always nil, and Tom or one of the others always ends up the loser. But Tom, never one to give up, tirelessly supplies the others with energy and advice.

13x 7'

35mm, m/e track, © 1999, 2000

artist: Marie Satrapová



We Three Pals from the Band
My tři braši od muziky

Alois and Emil, two Czech musicians, are preparing to set out into the world and Theresa the pig would be glad to accompany them on their musical wanderings. Because she's a pig with a good heart, the moon gives her a bit of its magic power, and Alois and Emil teach her to play. And so the three pals take their music from town to town, experiencing more than one fairy-tale adventure along the way.

20x 7'

35mm, m/e track, © 1999, 2003

artist: Stanislav Duda



Yaya and Paya
Jája a Pája

A puppet series for pre-schoolers. Brothers Paya and Yaya are two good village boys who are alone in the world with the exception of kind old Lebeda. The boys were taught hard lessons at a tender age and know that in order to receive they must also give. But their neighbor Mr. Meanie is a miser who often tricks the boys in order to cheat them. Fortunately, wise old Lebeda intervenes to help Yaya and Paya out-fox old Meanie.

26x 8'

35mm, m/e track, © 1986-1987, 1995-1996, Co-production aiF

artist: Jan Tippmann



Friction
Fester nebo fikce

An existential biography of a mad scientist from Green Bay, Wisconsin who has written many dangerous books and whose works have recently affected the political order.

Festival Awards: Gold Medal Experimental Films Category – Education Channel’s Ninth Annual Independents’ Film & Video Festival, 2002 • Festival Grand Prize and Special Jury Prize – Dahlenega International Film Festival, 2002 • 1st Prize in the category of Experimental Films – International Film Festival of Fine Arts, Szolnok, Hungary 2002 • Gold Medal – San Francisco Indie Festival 2002

40'
videotape, 3D computer animation, English, German, Japanese versions, m/e track, © 2001, Co-production Complex Communications
director: Robert Ellmann



Pictographs
Piktogramy

A stylized animation documentary – a poetic picture collage about one day in a large city. One of those days when nothing much happens to us and yet that day forms an indivisible part of our existence. It's about our very dreams consisting of the chance pictures and fragments of the lives we pass, unknowing... It is an inner realm in the stage setting of the real world.

10'
35mm, © 2000, Co-production BIONAUT, SAF
artist: Mária Procházková



A Prague Nocturn or the Closet
Pražské nokturno aneb komora

An animated film for adults which takes a peek into the human soul. The hero enters a dark closet and looks around. There he sees various figures symbolizing different aspects of relationships (self-interest, misunderstandings, the yearning for love, the emotional void, etc.) and witnesses their interaction. This film is about making decisions and the need to take a positive step in the face of negative circumstances – humans simply cannot avoid being touched by events.

7'
35mm, © 1998, Co-production Tereza Kučerová
artist: Tereza Kučerová



The Fall
Pád

A bizarre, even absurd puppet film full of black humor that will completely shock you while making you laugh. It presents a day on a gray Moscow street during which life and death are treated rather cavalierly – passersby watch with their own personal interest while an old man hangs onto the edge of a roof. In the meantime, the mishap of several old hags and an unfortunate tomcat create a situation typical for the Russian imagination and literature of the between-war period, the difficult time in which it was written.

Festival Awards: Golden Danzante (Main Prize) & Don Quijote Award & Special Mention – Festival de Cine de Huesca, 2000 • Prize Laboratorio Mediterraneo – Alpe Adria Cinema, Italy, 2000

15'

35mm, © 1999, Co-production FAMU, Krátký Film Praha

artist: Petr Poš



Bloodthirsty Hugo, an Eastern
Eastern krvavý Hugo

The film animation technique of pixilation was used in this short comedy. The notorious criminal Bloodthirsty Hugo has broken out of prison again. He is an arsonist, has no respect for old people and absolutely no maiden in the region is safe with him on the loose. In order to catch him his pursuers set a trap with irresistible bait: a lovely maiden bending over her washing by a stream.

Festival Awards: 1st Prize – Cergy Pontoise, Paris 1998 • Finalist for Student Oscar Prize 1998

6'

35mm, © 1997, Co-production FAMU

artist: Aurel Klimt



... Forever and Ever
... až na věky

This Academy Award nominated film from director and artist Michaela Pavlátová and documentarist Pavel Koutecký combines live-action shots with various artistic approaches and animation techniques. Scenes of a wedding transform into images revealing the ups and downs of married life, and where a loving relationship can lead.

Festival Awards: Prize of Best Animated Film – Tampere International Short Film Festival 1998 | Grand Prix in TV Special category – Ottawa International Animation Festival 1998

15'

35mm, © 1998, Co-production Krátký Film Praha

artists: Michaela Pavlátová, Jan Tippmann



Repete

Three couples – one red, one green and one blue – following a routine, but long to break free of the pattern... We are all part of a mechanism that determines our lives. We are bored by our everyday activities but feel secure in our routines. We long for something new but lack the courage to make it happen. When change finally does come, we turn it into a new routine.

Festival Awards:
1995 Golden Bear in Berlin, Germany • Prix Spécial du Jury, Annecy, France • Grand Prix Montevideo, Uruguay • Prize of the Audiences, Hamburg, Germany • Prize of the International Film Critic, Leipzig, Germany • Prize of the Audiences, Augsburg, Germany • Prize of the Audiences, Brussels, Belgium • Prize of the Jury, Stuttgart, Germany • Prize of the Jury, Villa Do Conde, Portugal • Kristián – Film Critics Prize • Trilobit – Film Television Prize – FITES
1996 Grand Prize of Hiroshima • Prize of the Jury, Stuttgart • Prix FIPRESCI, Rio de Janeiro
1997 Best Animation, Tampere, Finland

9'

35mm, © Krátký Film Praha, 1995

artist: Michaela Pavlátová



Thoughts
Myšlenky

The story of a boy who, while playing with a tape recorder, discovers a way of reading other people's thoughts. When he investigates his parents' minds he realizes that their heads are cluttered with all sorts of things, though neither spends much time thinking about him. As compensation, he is happy to find a girl thinking about him, someone who may even think him worthwhile.

8'

35mm, © 1990

artist: Jindřich Kovařík



Fables from the Garden
Bajky ze zahrady

A short animation fable in which animals take on human characteristics. In this case not very complimentary for humankind. The events that take place under the blades of grass and flowers of an ordinary garden seem to reflect the very image of human behaviour.

9'

35mm, © 1999, Co-production ANIfilm

artist: Galina Miklínová



Mister Jaryn
Pan Jaryn

A series of cell animation blackouts without narration for adults. Mr. Jaryn, a man in his best years, resolves ordinary and extraordinary situations in a very characteristic way. He thus gets into situations too funny for words, situations that manage to surprise even... Mister Jaryn.

10x30"

videotape, © Nykl Film 1995

artist: Jiří Nykl



Uaa
Uáá

An animated film without narration for all ages about what happens when a young married couple have their first child. Baby is treated to all the loving care recommended by modern parenting theories, but he decides to create his own rules. The question is, of course, which side will win out in the end.

11'

35mm, © 1992

artist: Dagmar Doubková



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The Barley Boy

O Ječmínkovi

A television fairy-tale based on the theme of a Hanah region fable about king Ječmínek.

A young squire, Jan, is in love with the miller's daughter, Marina, and she reciprocates his love. But the evil fairie Plevelice does not like this, as she has been thinking of having the squire for herself. A messenger disturbs the wedding of Jan and Marina with the news that Jan has been appointed as the new margrave of Moravia. Jan must defend the land against the Turks. At this time, Plevelice comes to Jan and promises to help him in his struggle against the enemy – in exchange for a single sacrifice. Jan agrees, not suspecting that he has now come under the power of an evil fairy. While he is away at war, Marina reigns over the land. She is fair and aids wherever she can. Jan beats the Turks and returns home. No one welcomes him, however, because everyone is working. Jan becomes angry, puts executioners to work, raise taxes, invites his

friends from the war to the chateau and, lastly, even expels Marina, despite the fact that she is carrying his child. Marina gives birth to a baby boy in a field. She gives him the name Ječmínek ('Little Barley'). Two good fairies take Marina and the child under their protection. They give Ječmínek a magic mantle. Life for the people gets worse and worse under Jan's rule. A rumor spreads among them of good king Ječmínek; that he is able to be invisible, has a good heart and punishes the dishonest. Ječmínek longs for his father and sets out for the chateau. Plevelice tries to prevent the meeting by snatching Ječmínek away. But, just as in every fairy-tale, good prevails over evil.

61'

videotape, m/e track, © 2003

director: Milan Cieslar



Malvina

The whimsical story of Malvina, a disobedient fairy who is banished from Queen Harabundie's community after she pulls an especially dirty trick. A young lieutenant named Arthur finds the forlorn Malvina, and the two of them seem to have more than just something in common. But Arthur's mother refuses to have her in the house, so the lieutenant asks his kindly old uncle, Prof. Christopher, if he'll put the pretty fairy up – and put up with her. Malvina continues to use her magic powers whenever she feels wronged, or when she wishes to please or help her new friends. She creates so much confusion, however, that things get completely out of hand. But love is the strongest magic of all, something even the fairy queen must respect when conjuring up a curse.

58'

videotape, m/e track, © 2003

director: Miroslav Balajka



The Devil Knows Why

Čert ví proč

King Dobromil is a good and just monarch. But he spent more time away from his kingdom, waging wars, than on the throne and so the rule of the land fell into the hands of his greedy Minister who has an interesting pact with the Devil. He was to bring the king to rack and ruin and then to hell and in return the Minister would mount the throne himself. The powers of hell gradually seep into the land and honourable people decide to flee. Princess Annie spends all her time with Apolena, a wise though somewhat scatter-brained old herb woman, who believes that the kingdom would be rescued by an as yet unknown saviour. But the only new arrival is Philip, an inconspicuous and merry young man who became the cook in the royal kitchens. Nobody knows that he is the prince of the neighbouring land, which has already been conquered by Hell. Things go from bad to worse and the unhappy King Dobromil finally signs his soul away to the devil. Everything seems to be lost. But in the end Philip manages to save the land from Hell through his courage, wit and his true love of Annie. Because real, selfless love overcomes all obstacles - even the plots of Hell.

100'

35mm, m/e track, © 2003,
Co-production VERBASCUM s.r.o.

director: Roman Vávra





Apple Maiden Jabloňová panna

A deep and dark forest hides the ruins of a house and the secrets of the family which once inhabited it. The father lived happily there with his son and daughter until he brought home a new wife, a cruel and vicious woman who is, in reality, a witch. She destroys the house and changes the children in apples hanging on a tree. Everything would have remained in this terrible state if chance had not led a young prince to lose his way in the forest and discover the apple maiden. Based on a classic fairy tale, the film was shot on location at several beautiful Czech castles.

48'

videotape, m/e track, © 2000

director: Milan Cieslar



The Bride with the Big Feet Nevěsta s velkýma nohama

An adventure tale of chivalric romance, based on the legend about King Pippin the Short and Bertha, Princess of Hungary. King Pippin is a wise ruler and courageous warrior, the best knight in the land. Unfortunately he is somewhat short in stature and is therefore not very lucky with the ladies. So he decides to bring in a Princess from a foreign land. Princess Bertha has a beautiful figure, she is lovely and clever, but her feet don't exactly correspond to the conception of a noblewoman's tiny foot. That is surely no obstacle and the wedding preparations can begin. We find that much more important things can arise to spoil the outlook for a happy marriage for the king and princess. Things like treachery, envy and the lust for power on the part of people neither born to rule nor endowed with spiritual greatness. There are even individuals who'll use murder as a tool to achieve their own ends. But a short stature or big feet can be useful at times and can sometimes help unveil treason. And then evil can be punished and life enjoyed with those who have bravely and selflessly helped good to win through.

75'

videotape, m/e track, © 2002

director: Viktor Polesný



The Emperor and the Drummer Císař a tambor

A story based on legends about Emperor Joseph II. Like him, fairy-tale Emperor Maximilian slips out of his castle in disguise in order to learn about the lives of his subjects. On one of his secret excursions he meets a drummer returning from the wars. They become friends and have many adventures together, even facing up to a gang of robbers. They are, however, harmed more by the stupidity and treachery of humans who nearly bring them to the scaffold. This thrilling story reflects friendship, humor and love, and, as in every good fairy-tale, even the gloomiest prospects turn out well.

70'

35mm, m/e track, © 1998

director: Václav Křístek



Ernestine the Fairy
O více Arnoštce

Amusing fairy tale about the little fairy Ernestine, who breaks with buoyant elegance and gentle charm all the rules of 'fairy-like' behaviour – as if she were not a fairy at all... Though the King of the Fairy Mead tries his best to keep Ernestine's lineage top secret, her love for an earthly prince finally brings her to the arms of her true parents.

51'

videotape, m/e track, © 2001

director: Dušan Klein

Gillian and the Wildradish Vixen
Vohnice a Kiliján

A humorous tale about the power of true love which withstands all adversities, surmounts all obstacles presented by all sorts of bans – and defeats all kinds of 'hoodoos'. The WILDRADISH VIXEN is a flower in one sense, and a forest fairy in another, who lives in a world of magic creatures governed by the Silver Hata. Silver Hata has lost trust in people's goodness and in the power of love. Therefore she employs all sorts of magic to frustrate the Wildradish Vixen's love for Prince Gillian. Nor does Queen Filomena fancy the idea that her son should fall in love with a forest fairy... well you have to admit that a fairy can hardly be expected to make the right kind of wife for the successor to the throne? What the prince needs is a rich wife! But Gillian is determined never to give up his fairy sweetheart... In the end even the callous Silver Hata comes to understand that true and faithful love does exist in the human world and is able to overpower all sorts of magic.

63'

videotape, m/e track, © 2001

directors: Věra Šimková-Plívová,
Drahuše Králová

The Golden Princess
Zlatá princezna

A fairy tale about many different forms of love and the power of forgiveness, containing a message which is very 'up-to-date' and surprisingly relevant for the world of today: being different does not mean being inferior or worse than others.

57'

videotape, m/e track, © 2001

director: Moris Issa



Lace for the Wedding O svatební krajce

A romantic fairy-tale about a naughty princess who stopped being followed by strokes of bad luck only when she comprehended that she alone could decide on her future, on her fate. Since the death of her parents, Princess Svatava and her sister Lada are in the loving care of their grandmother, the Queen. But Svatava repays her grandmother's kindness by being mean, quarrelsome and giving her nothing but trouble. After one of the countless quarrels Svatava runs away. Svatava's Fate appears to the Queen with assurances that the Princess is all right for the time being, but that her future fate depended on her behaviour. Svatava roams around the country, and she brings bad luck with her wherever she stops. She arrives in the kingdom of a young king who is just about to choose a wife. But he is only willing to marry the girl who is capable of making bobbin lace identical to that worn by his mother on her wedding gown. Svatava appears before the king, who wants to punish her strictly for all the damage she has caused. At last Svatava realises that she would have to try and set things right herself. She begs the king for permission to stay and work at the castle. She even learns to make bobbin lace and the piece of lace she produces is the loveliest, moreover it is identical to the pattern they want. So all that remains now is to tell of a happy end.

80'

videotape, m/e track, © 2003

director: Jiří Chlumský



Miraculous Swords Zázračné meče

An adventurous fairy-tale comedy abounding with heroic duels, intrigue and love, an independent sequel to the story When the Swords are Ringing. Young King Valentin ascends the throne when his father decides to retire. But ambitious Count Meron longs for power and the royal throne; he tries to poison Valentin and manages to put the blame on Peter, the king's best friend. The young queen knows nothing of this, as she and her sister are travelling to their father's bedside. The journey is quite dangerous as highwaymen are at rampage in the forests. The old king temporarily appoints treacherous Count Meron to act on behalf of his sick son. It is all going from bad to worse, but luckily there is also Maruna the good witch, and the magic swords. And then – we're in a fairy-tale. So evil is justly punished, good is rewarded and all lovers find a happy end.

63'

videotape, m/e track, © 2002

director: Miroslav Sobota



A Royal Promise Královský slib

A romantic fairy-tale where the royal promise is a law and love can overcome any obstacle. It was during a raging battle many years ago that a king promised his dying friend to take the latter's daughter into his family one day. The young prince has now come of age and the time has come for the king to keep his promise – he celebrates the engagement of his son with the daughter of the faithful friend who had saved his life. The princess arrives at the splendid celebration and the two young people soon fall in love – but each falls in love with someone else. How can this complicated situation be resolved? The king is wise but hardheaded and refuses to break his word. But the princess is wise and witty, and as she lets true love lead her, she finds the right way.

90'

35mm, m/e track, © 2001

director: Kryštof Hanzlík





Ruffiano and Sweeteeth
Lotrando a Zubejda

A comedy for the whole family full of funny misunderstandings, humor and love, from the screenwriter of Kolya, 1997's Oscar for Best Foreign Film. Deep in the forest lives Ruffiano, and old bandit too busy robbing to take notice of his son. He sends young Ruffiano to school at a monastery, but on his deathbed makes the youngster promise to continue with the family business. When put to the test, young Ruffiano finds he is no ruffian – but in the process a woodcutter teaches him how to fell trees. In the meantime, a Sultan is searching for a doctor to cure his ailing daughter, Sweeteeth. Mistakenly, young Ruffiano and the woodcutter come to the Sultan's palace and manage to cure the Princess – with sunshine, fresh air and, most importantly, with love.

100'

35mm, English subtitles, m/e track, © 1997, Co-production Mirage Production Service

director: Karel Smyczek

The Taste of Love
Jak chutná láska

A romantic comedy fairy-tale about the Princess who dreamed about great and passionate love but did not know how to be loving. Princess Lucy is a sweet and tender girl but all her suitors end up in the castle dungeon. She only finds the knight of her dreams in romantic novels and she tries to cast herself into the mould of their ethereal heroines. So she refuses to eat, causing worry to her father and their faithful servants. The young cook is in love with her and finally he and the King show the Princess that hunger is the best cook and that the best meal is one enjoyed after a hard day's work. And that a grand passion need not always have a tragic end.

65'

videotape, m/e track, © 2002

director: Jana Semschová

When the Swords Are Ringing
Zvonící meče

A romantic fairy tale full of duels, intrigue, and danger – but of love and laughter as well. The evil and vengeful Prince Gaston cannot reconcile himself to the fact that his older brother has inherited the crown and the government of the country. And so with the substantial help of an evil witch he hatches a vile plot to revenge himself on the three people who, in his final bid for victory, prevented him from seizing the royal crown. These three are his nephew Valentin – the future king, his wife Alexandra, and the brave knight Křištof – Alexandra and her father's great friend. The prince does not hesitate to use any means necessary, and for a long time it seems that he will succeed in carrying out his abominable plans. But love is stronger than envy, and when the good witch Maruna adds the final helping touch everything in the end turns out well.

62'

videotape, m/e track, © 2000

director: Miroslav Sobota



Aliens in Colorado Veřelci v Coloradu

Amusing present-day story; the chief characters are three children who have set off on an adventurous holiday trip.

Rick, Pete and Jane secretly 'Akeep an eye' (or 'spy on', if you prefer) on their elder brothers who have set out on a trip to Colorado. Little Rick believes that he will reach the 'real' Colorado, and meet 'the Aliens'. What really happens is not all that fantastic but quite thrilling nevertheless. The children free their older pals from subservience to a village gang; they will help to catch thieves who have been burgling a local shop, and become the 'local heroes' and leaders in all subsequent holiday adventures.

Festival Awards: The Prize of the Children's Jury & Special Mention & The Audience Prize – International Film Festival for Children, Chemnitz 2002

60'

videotape, m/e track, © 2001

director: Karel Janák



An Ark for Voyta Archa pro Voytu

A story set in present times, about a family with a Down-syndrome child. Little Voyta's parents decided to bring him home from the institution, despite his problem. They want him to lead as much of a normal life as possible, the way healthy children do. But the task is not a simple one, neither for them nor for Voyta's sister Anna. The twelve-year-old girl learns to handle her feelings towards her brother and also her friends' reactions to the child that is 'different'.

60'

35mm, m/e track, © 2001

director: Monika Elšíková



Arthur, Merlin and the Prchliks

Artuš, Merlin a Prchlíci

Arthur is the Prchlik family darling Dalmatian and village pet. Grandma Prchlik is somewhat muddle-headed and lets a stray dog in by mistake. This Merlin is the spitting image of Arthur, just as beautiful but much naughtier. The neighbors soon lose track of which dog is which and many hilarious situations arise to plague the adults and delight the children.

76'

35mm, m/e track, © 1995,
Co-production Filmové Ateliéry
Zlín, AB Barrandov

directors: Věra Šimková-Plíková,
Drahuše Králová



Kidnapped Home
Únos domů

A children film in which the words love, friendship, and family still haven't lost their meaning. After the tragic death of his parents, thirteen-year-old Libor lives with his wealthy aunt and uncle. They're a career-minded couple who try to use their affluent lifestyle as compensation for a lack of love and time. But their very wealth attracts a pair of amateur kidnapers. In a flash Libor is violently pulled from the luxury of nouveau riche Prague – with its fancy houses, snobbish dinner parties, chauffeurs, and private schools – to the terror of fighting for his life. Thus begins a miserable adventure that deprives him of everything, even his name. But then out of nowhere Libor finds himself part of a family that seems to understand him and is able to provide the love he so greatly needs but would never have dared hope for.

100'

35mm, m/e track, © 2002,
Co-production Mediarex Movie
director: Ivan Pokorný



The Ring
Kruh

The story of a young girl whose accident takes her out of the spotlight she enjoyed as a star gymnast and brings her among the outsiders sentenced to life in a wheelchair. Fanny is ten, and she is the star of her sports gymnastics team. She is the best; she realizes this and behaves accordingly among her classmates. This hits her back in the form of envy and estrangement and Fanny gets to be ever lonelier. She lives only with her father; her mother has remarried and is expecting a baby with her new partner. And so Fanny makes up for her loneliness with her sports success. All the harder is it for her to come to terms with the results of her tragic accident that has definitely put an end to her sports career and leaves her tied to a wheelchair. However, just when it would seem that she has lost all meaning in life Fanny discovers new values and starts to comprehend the power of love and friendship – to realize that they are values we must know how to give and also receive.

Festival Awards: The Best Film Award & The Best Young Actress Award & The Best Man Supporting Role Award – International Children's Film Festival 'Artek' 2002
• The Best Direction (feature film category) – Golden Knight, Riazan 2002

72'

35mm, m/e track, © 2001
directors: Věra Šimková-Plívová,
Drahomíra Králová



Daddy
Taťka

A television film set in contemporary days about the problems faced by today's children that often form their whole future lives. Filip is thirteen. He lives in a small town with his divorced mother, her new husband and their small daughter. His gang of friends kill time any way available to them – spraying graffiti on gravestones, piercing the tyres of the Austrian tourists' cars. Sometimes he torments his younger schoolmate to make himself seem important. Filip's own father has spent a few years in prison and has just been released. Filip isn't interested in spending time with his jailbird father and the latter's efforts to participate in his upbringing are unpalatable for the boy and his mother. However, his biological father would like to make friends with him and it is due to his Dad that Filip finds new horizons, learns about new values and his own family's past. When the boy learns the circumstances of his father's imprisonment – that his former partner and friend had got him into trouble, Filip insists on justice being meted out with the naive faith of his thirteen years. There too his Dad tries to explain to him without any grand words that simple, radical steps and the longing for revenge resolve nothing. Filip is forced to unravel the complicated knot of events he had brought about – the effort involved would be the determining factor in his further relationship with his Dad, his mother, her second husband, his gang of pals and all the other boys and girls.

67'

videotape, m/e track, © 2003
director: Jiří Vanýsek



Cubbies Méd'ové

The story of three abandoned bear cubs and the photographer who takes them under his wing to help them find a new mother and teach them all they need to know about life.

Early in spring, when lumberjacks are removing wood from the clearings, the sound of chain saws frightens a mother bear. Sadly, she leaves her three very small cubs in their den beneath a fallen tree, and if someone doesn't take charge of them they are sure to die. Luckily, a photographer finds them, loads them into his backpack and takes them home with him. Bringing up bear cubs is no easy matter and, on top of that, the three brothers are not the most hardworking students: they sometimes even fall asleep during their lessons. But they learn very quickly in their own bear way, and on journeys taken with their 'mommy' photographer they quickly discover the world around them and learn the art of being bears.

16× 7'

videotape, m/e track, © 2001,
narration o.s., Co-production
Václav Chaloupek

director: Václav Chaloupek



Cubbies II. A Story for Annie Méd'ové II. Povídání pro Aničku

A free-standing sequel to the 'Teddy-bear Stories' created by script-writer and film director Václav Chaloupek. This time the heroes are two bear cubs named Honzík and Eliška. As is typical for all young creatures, they throw themselves into exploring the beauties of life with all too much zest – sometimes resulting in quite a head-ache for the adults. Our bear cubs wander through the picturesque landscapes of Bohemia and enjoy many an adventure.

13× 7'

videotape, m/e track, © 2004

director: Václav Chaloupek



Little Brothers Bráškové

This is another of the successful serials that introduce children to the wonders of nature and nature's creatures. Little Vašek is spending his summer holidays in a forester's lodge amidst endless woods and forests. One day he finds a box on the threshold and in it two puppies that look somewhat like German sheep dogs. Vašek's father, a professional photographer, is willing to take them in, and so Vašek becomes a nurse and coach to the two little orphans. The pups are doing well, they are growing fast and soon the sweet little balls of fluff become leggy rascals whose games and battles look like serious fights and hunts. Vašek is ever more convinced that the two little dogs he is looking after are in fact wolves. This is finally confirmed by the vet. When the holidays come to an end, Vašek will have to leave the wolves at the forester's, and how sad that makes him. He spent the most wonderful summer holiday ever with his pups. He can't stop thinking of 'his wolves' even in faraway Africa, where his father has taken him on a photography safari. On his return he could hardly recognize his darlings, but they recognized him all right and welcomed him back like a long-lost friend.

7× 8'

videotape, m/e track, © 2003,
narration o.s.

director: Václav Chaloupek



The Otter Baby
Vydrýsek

A thirteen-part serial about the first year of a young otter, a story about the yearning for freedom and life in the natural world. The story is set on Czech rivers, ponds and dam lakes. The main protagonist is the river otter, an endangered species. Although protected by law, it is often caught illegally by fishermen and hunters.

13x8'

videotape, m/e track, © 2002, narration o.s., Co-production Západočeská energetika

director: Václav Chaloupek



Boys from the Castle
Kluci ze zámku

The story of little pheasant chicks born in a castle courtyard. Under the able care of baby sitter Hedvabnicka the hen and Ciperka the dachshund, the pheasants grow big and strong, and successfully escape the hunting wiles of Kudla the marten. And before they become full-grown pheasants they have enough animal-packed adventures to satisfy every young viewer.

7x7'

videotape, m/e track, © 2000, narration o.s., Co-production TV Aura

director: Václav Chaloupek



Our Striped Friends
Pruhovaní kamarádi

A serial for children filmed in a real forest with real live animals. The heroes are two young wild piggies born in Sunny Glade in spring. Courageous Boldie and tiny Ladybird explore the woods around them, learning all that real wild boar have to know. They make friends with Joe, a young stripey badger, and together they set out on an expedition and meet other forest animals. They encounter a large watch-dog at the forester's lodge and actually come into contact with humans as well. During the summer we see the piggies grow and mature, and before the onset of winter they go to Sunny Glade to see Joe one more time.

10x7'

videotape, m/e track, © 1998, narration o.s., Co-production TV Aura

director: Václav Chaloupek



The Little Rover
Tuláček

This series created for young children was filmed in a real forest setting. The hero is a fox cub, The Little Rover, and this is the story of how he grows up. One day he finds himself alone, without his mother or siblings. Roaming around the forest all alone he meets many animals, including large eagle owls and a herd of wild boar. He witnesses the hatching of young pheasants, a grouse fight and hears the sad song of a large deaf grouse. Nearly a grown fox by now, The Little Rover is lucky to escape his greatest enemy, the lynx. He also pays a visit to a forester's back yard, but finally, as a young adult fox, returns to where he was born that spring.

7x7'

videotape, m/e track, © 1997, narration o.s., Co-production TV Aura

director: Václav Chaloupek



Love Lost

O ztracené lásce

Though unloved and scorned, the girl sets out on a struggle against evil in order to free a prince held in prison, although her fate puts the hardest obstacles in her way. She often finds herself in mortal danger both in the human world and in the realm of fairy tales while sacrificing herself for others. In the end she finds out that 'her prince' has always been nearby. The real-life story is interwoven with uncommon fairy tale elements and fantasy figures. The fairy tale characters and the factual background create genuine artistic scenery, an integral part of the final form of the story.

9× 52'

videotape, m/e track, © 2002

director: Viktor Polesný

The Seven of Spades Ranch

Ranč U Zelené sedmy

An average city family living in a high-rise apartment building suddenly inherits a large farm. Now we can do without store-bought food, cries the mother joyfully. The sons, aged six and twelve, are ecstatic when they imagine all the animals they'll be able to have, and their father is carried away by visions of the beauty of country living. Only the grandmother, a sharp old lady confined to a wheelchair, conceives of such a move with trepidation. How the various family members face the joys and horrors of rural life forms the humorous basis of this family series.

42× 26' or 21× 52'

videotape, m/e track, © 1998,
1999, 2000, Co-production
Filmové Ateliéry Zlín

director: Miroslav Balajka



In Alaska with My Brother
S bráchou na Aljašce

An acted documentary film about two ten-year-old Czech boys travelling up the North River in the virgin landscapes of Alaska.

North River

The Log Cabin at Lake Taylor
- 1st prize in the category Documentaries on Tourism – TOUR FILM – Karlovy Vary

In the Footsteps of the Gold-diggers

3×57'

videotape, © 2001, 2003,
Co-production Ladislav Moulis

director: Ladislav Moulis



The Children's Encyclopedia of the World
Dětská encyklopedie světa

This educational series brings children closer to the world around them in a simple and exciting way. Using a wide variety of locations around our planet, the series introduces them to natural phenomena, common and unusual objects and materials, as well as to people and their religions. At the same time it teaches them to accept such diversity with understanding and tolerance.

42×5'

videotape, m/e track (22-42),
© 2000–2002, Co-production
CMC World Connection

director: Lukáš Hendrych



Little Building Blocks
Kostičky

An encyclopedia for pre-school children with the aim to stimulate child receptivity. With the help of a clown, animation and marionettes, children's eyes, ears and souls are opened. The little building blocks serve to build up a big pyramid of knowledge. The programme shows why and how the world around us is made.

58×10'

videotape, © 1994–2000

director: Ivan Láta



World Geography: Pacific Islands

Zeměpis světa: Příběhy ostrovních říší Pacifiku

This children's geography series reveals exciting geographical particularities of Pacific ocean Islands.

Each episode describes and explains one geographical phenomenon specific to its region – monsoon rains, volcanic activity, life on coral reefs, and many others – and shows, using local inhabitants as a concrete example, how nature influences and determines human life. Specifically chosen protagonists help children not only to discover amazing island nature and its particularities, but also become acquainted with and experience a close relationship between humans and nature not yet marked by technology and civilization.

10×18'

videotape, ©1998, Co-production
EPICENTRUM

director: Petr Jančárek



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Etiquette An Encyclopedia on Good Manners

Etiketa

This cycle gives us some basic orientation in the rules of social behaviour on all levels – from everyday activities to special events.

The parts are independent of each other.

43×10'

videotape, m/e track, © 2004,
Co-production FreeCom Agency

directors: Radim Špaček, Pavel Marek



Franta – Everywhere, Elsewhere

Franta – všude, jinde

A documentary film about František Mertl, the Czech painter and sculptor who lives in France. He is known abroad under the surname Franta. He studied at the School of Arts and Crafts in Brno and then at the Academy of Art in Prague. In 1960 he settled permanently in the south of France, where he came under the direct influence of Picasso and Chagal, his work was actually shown at their exhibitions. During the abstract period his leading theme was the human body – subjects he often handled with brutal techniques. The African and American influence became very vivid at this time too, sometimes violently colourful, at other times seen in a range of black-and-white tones. František Mertl, or Franta, became one of the personalities of the so-called 'new figuration' in France, and like František Kupka and Josef Šima he too is considered to be an artist simultaneously French and Czech. His work is represented in several dozens of the leading world museums and art galleries.

45'

videotape, m/e track, French version, © 2004

director: Karel Fuksa



Santini

The partially acted documentary program tells us of the life and work of master-builder Jan Blažej Santini, who lived in the Czech Lands during the first half of the 18th century. Typical for his buildings are their monumentality, daring construction, unique of design and also the unusual emphasis of the architecture through light as a creative source. Santini became famous as a leading representative of the Bohemian Baroque. The Baroque conception of space and substance, unifying the spiritual and material aspects of the world, are superlatively expressed in his peak works – the pilgrimage church of St. Jan of Nepomuky on Zelená Hora in Žďar on the Sázava, which is on the UNESCO Heritage list, and the church of the Ascension of the Holy Virgin in Sedlec near Kutná Hora. The documentary film aims to show us Santini's work, which belongs to the most valuable of the Czech cultural heritage and also helps us comprehend his life, so strongly influenced by mysticism, artistic humility and the striving for perfection.

44'

videotape, © 2001,
Co-production 1. SIGNUM

director: Miroslav Dvořáček





Alfons Mucha in the Municipal House

Alfons Mucha v Obecním domě

The Municipal House, built between 1905 and 1912, is one of the most important buildings of the Prague Secession. One of the central ceremonial rooms is the circular Mayor's Hall. The author of its decoration – the ceiling and wall paintings, stained glass, designs for the curtains, mascarons and ornamental panels – was the renowned Czech painter Alfons Mucha. He created – on the themes of Slavonic concord, the historical roots of the Czech nation, and a desire for national sovereignty – a moving work imbued with symbolism and mystery.

15'

videotape, m/e track,
© The Municipal House 2002

director: Alena Hynková



Joža Uprka – Colours and Songs

Joža Uprka – Barvy a písně

The documentary 'Joža Uprka – Colours and Songs' tells us about the life and art of the Moravian painter Joža Uprka. His art is based on the traditions of the national style and clearly belongs to the turn of the 19th and 20th century. In the late 19th century he brought new life to his paintings with the Impressionist technique. The depicted scenes showing life in the Moravian and Slovak country, presented in a style between the Romantic and Art Nouveau decorativism, have also become of ethnographical importance. The girls wearing the folk costume of Moravian Slovakia who form the central motif of one of his most famous paintings 'The St. Anthony Fair', also remained the dominating motif in his work till the end of Uprka's life.

The narrated life story of this strikingly characteristic painter is interspersed with a series of Moravian folk songs. In many cases their texts are directly connected to Uprka's paintings and in the documentary film they are mixed into identical live situations in provincial life.

37'

videotape, © 2002, Co-production
Vítězslav Kopriva – agency MARS

director: Petr Ryšavý



Masterpieces in the Czech Collections

Mistrovská díla z českých sbírek

The series of documentary portraits of paintings in Czech galleries, depositories and private collections is devoted to works now in the Czech Republic. Each episode first introduces the work of art, the explication of the subjects and motifs being presented by various techniques. The second part of the programme is devoted to the artist, the times and setting in which the work was created. The titles of episodes are for example Marc Chagall – Woman Rider, Jan Zrzavý – Cleopatra, Rembrandt van Rijn – A Scholar in his Study, Albrecht Dürer – The Rosary Celebration, Josef Mánes – Josephine, Petrus Paulus Rubens – Head of Medusa, Pablo Picasso – Sitting Female Nude, Standing Woman, Václav Brožík – Master Jan Hus in front of the Council in Constance.

32×9'

videotape, m/e track, © 2001–2002

directors: Blažena Hončarivová,
Zdeněk Gawlík, Aleš Lowák, Vít
Hájek, Daniela Gébová and others



The Metamorphoses of Bohumil Eliáš

Metamorfózy Bohumila Eliáše

The documentary program about Bohumil Eliáš presents his work in all its forms. Eliáš creates glass sculptures but has also made a name for himself as a painter and sculptor. His admirable talent is ablaze with ideas and he creates works of art well worthy of admiration. The program catches the artist as a mature man who guides us through his life from his early attempts right up to his peak period. Bohumil Eliáš has inscribed his name into the hearts of admirers in the Czech Republic as well as on all the continents where his glass, paintings and sculptures were placed on show.

19'

videotape, m/e track, English version, © Jaroslav Vašíček 2000

director: Jaroslav Vašíček



The Rainbows in Pavel Hlava's Glass

Duha ve skle Petra Hlavy

The documentary film about the glass artist Pavel Hlava acquaints the viewer with his life story and particularly his artistic growth. Pavel Hlava belongs among the most important Czech glass artists, he devotes all of his artistic life to creating glass sculptures. As a mature man and artist he presents a lifetime of work in the program – from his early works right up to the peak creations of the renowned artist he has now become. His work has brought him high acclaim in the Czech Republic and even more so abroad – in the United States of America and in Japan.

18'

videotape, m/e track, English version, Japanese version, © Jaroslav Vašíček 1999

director: Jaroslav Vašíček



Ten Centuries of Architecture

Deset století architektury

This documentary series presents the architectural heritage of the Czech and Moravian territories – from Romanesque rotundas and gothic castles right up to Prague's controversial modern-style buildings. The series presents each preserved architectural gem as an artifact able to offer information about the life of the contemporary society. Leading Czech film directors have accepted these assignments.

234×15'

videotape, m/e track, © 1997–2001, Co-production DaDa

directors: M. Kubala, P. Hykš, J. Šilhaň



The Undersea World of the Philippines

Podmořský svět Filipín

A travelogue about the Philippines, the second largest archipelago in the world. Our documentary film describes the area around the Busuanga and Koron Islands. Visually the most interesting are the under-water shots of the coral reefs and the creatures whose habitat this part of the world is. Bare-gilled slugs are among the most beautiful undersea invertebrates. Their brightly coloured bodies and graceful movements are much to be admired. The undersea camera caught their beauty together with that of the squids, sepias, starfish and sea urchins. What the Indian Ocean also has to offer divers is exploring one of the largest shipwreck cemeteries dating back to the Second World War. A barracuda two metres long found a hideaway in one of the Japanese ships that were sunk here. This predator, but also the wonders of diving in the freshwater Barracuda Lake with its unique thermo-climate, are just some of the things you can see in the documentary film.

52'

Videotape, m/e track, English version, © 2004 AKQUA MOVIE
director: Naďa Kverková

Tales From The South Seas

Příběhy z jižních moří

If we turn the pages of a Tahiti telephone directory we find whole paragraphs of typically Czech surnames. Is that just coincidence? All these names? Why? It brought about the origin of our documentary cycle, in which we tried to answer these questions. We'll find out about Milan Rastislav Štefánik's sojourn and his observatory in Tahiti, and about the New Slovakia project. On the other hand Miloš Rivňáč is a name we are probably hearing for the first time, and we find that it was he who initiated the arrival of Czechs in the South Seas. We shall also travel to the distant Marquise Archipelago, where there is a Czech Valley. But primarily we shall learn about the fates of courageous people who set out from Czechoslovakia to find their fortune right on the other side of the globe.

11×18'

Videotape, m/e track, © 2004,
Co-production Martin Kratochvíl -
STUDIO BUDIKOV

director: Jiří Tesař

Czech Himalayan Adventures

České himálajské dobrodružství

This documentary series is devoted to the history of the conquests of the 14 Himalayan summits by Czech mountaineers. The Czech Republic has thus become one of the few countries whose climbers ascended to the 8000m peaks of all of these mountains. The filmmakers managed to collect many unique film shots and photographs, and to acquire the personal testimonials of the mountaineers and their often unbelievable stories experienced in the setting of the world's highest mountains.

Festival Awards: 2004 International Festival of Outdoor Films Ostrava - 2nd prize in the category Rock Climbing and Mountain Films
2003 International Rock Climbing Film Festival Teplice nad Metují - 1st prize

7×55'

videotape, © 2003

director: Zdeněk Gawlik





Travelmania Cestomanie

A series about countries, people, journeys and travelling. The documentary cycle Travelmania consists of programmes that are more than mere classical travelogues. Various countries and places on our planet are presented in an entertaining manner. For example we find out how Buddhism affects the lives of Thailand's inhabitants, what life is like on Cyprus, the island of love, for a handful of Czech and Slovak women who married and settled there many years ago, or how the Irish live at Valentia Island, the furthestmost point of Ireland and the European Union. It is a cycle of discovery – we are often shown the beauty, historic sights and contemporary life of near, far and exotic spots on our planet in quite unusual ways.

182×28'

videotape, m/e track, © 1999–2004,
Co-production Febio Film

directors: Roman Vávra, Tereza
Kopáčová, Fero Fenič, Jan Piroh,
Viliam Poltikovič and others



In Search of Wine Putování za vínem

The makers of this television documentary series acquaint viewers with the most renowned vine-growing regions in the world and their wines. A new classification of viniculture regions and their wines was compiled in Europe in the 1990s and this documentary series became one of the first film projects catching this change and it also brings a review of the new rules for marking the regions. In the first fifteen parts viewers can see and hear about the wine regions of France and viniculture in Bohemia and Moravia, in the next fifteen parts they will learn about the most famous regions of Austria, Portugal and Italy. One guide takes the viewer through all the parts of this series, but the filmmakers mainly give word to the vine growers and experts in the various viniculture regions. The third part of the 'world encyclopedia of wine', should acquaint the viewer with viniculture in Spain, Germany, Chile, Argentina and New Zealand.

46×27'

videotape, m/e track, © 1999,
2002–2003, Co-production Kabel
Plus Sport, Rubikon

director: Jaroslav Hykl

New episodes in production



A Gourmet's History Labužnický dějepis

Series on the previously unexplored history of legendary culinary specialties from Europe and the Americas. The film-makers visited a number of places inseparably connected to the history of gastronomy to find out the 'where, why and how' of ingredients and recipes of both legendary dishes and everyday meals which have gone down in cooking history. But don't expect to be able to take down complicated recipes; instead you'll discover the true importance of Tirolean speck, where the best Brittany oysters are harvested, and how the American hamburger came into being.

25×15'

videotape, m/e track, © 1999,
2000, Co-production Vogelsberg
International

director: Karel Kopš



Via Imperialis

This series bears the name of the organization which co-operated with Czech TV on its production. Its parts, together forming a self-contained whole, narrate the history of selected architectural monuments – castles, châteaux and monasteries – on the territory of today's Austria. The past of each of them is linked in one way or another with the lives of members of the ruling Habsburg-Lorraine family. Each part can be broadcast separately; each is introduced by an explanation of the mission of the Via imperialis association, with a reminder of the relation of the monuments presented to Bohemia, Moravia or Silesia.

5×29'

videotape, m/e track, © 2000

director: Karel Fuksa





No Regrets

Ničeho nelituji

The documentary film showing family life in Bohemia and Moravia in the early 21st century originated through the linking up of two separate films: The Standard, and No Regrets.

The documentary titled The Standard is a psychological investigation of a family that consists of a grandmother, her divorced daughter and the granddaughter, who is about to be married. The three women set out on a trip to the Bohemian Paradise region, where they all used to live. An unexpected outburst of long pent-up anger over family injustices occurs here.

The documentary film No Regrets depicts the genuineness of a countrywoman who always managed to come to terms with her adverse fate, be it her unhappy marriage or her physical handicap.

Festival Award: Jury Panel's Prize at the International Film Festival Karlovy Vary 2004

83'

35mm, m/e track, © 2003,
Co-production Jiří Ptáček, FAMU
Film School

director: Theodora Remundová



Hamsa, I Am

Hamsa, já jsem

To be blind is a handicap. To be a talented musician is a gift. Miroslav Janek, director of the internationally successful documentary The Unseen, has here created an intimate dialogue with several strong personalities through which (in a series of daily encounters) he succeeds in showing a vivid picture of life in a community of blind conservatory students. The film is surprising for its humorous and non-sentimental rendering of people most of us approach with shyness. Its gentle pace makes it a pleasure to watch as we share in their aspirations and dreams.

59'

35mm, © 1999

director: Miroslav Janek



The Unseen

Nespatřené

This documentary film on blind children is a sensitive guest for our common values of life and enables us to glance at the secluded world of the blind.

In this documentary we can see spontaneous unexpected interest of the blind children in photography, the way they take photos as well as the results of their work. Above all, the film shows the importance of this activity for the children. It captures their life in the boarding school, their contact with nature, lots of interviews and other interaction with surrounding world and thus tries to get us tuned to their intensive, rich and fulfilled life. Even though it is difficult and demanding they bear their fate quietly and often much better than we do.

Festival Awards: Ex aequo The best documentary & Prize of Ecumenical Jury - International Film Festival Karlovy Vary 1997 • Ex aequo Golden Dove in category Documentary & Don Quixote Prize (FICC) & MDR Film Prize & Prize of the Youth Jury of Leipzig - International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film 1997 • Main Prize in category The best international documentary film - International Festival of Documentary Films 'It's All True', Sao Paulo 1998

53'

16mm, © 1996

director: Miroslav Janek



Women at the Turn of the Millennium

Ženy na přelomu tisíciletí

The theme of the whole documentary cycle is that of several women and their singular fates. The individual parts introduce women who are in their zenith and are enjoying success and fame, and women who are down and out among the dregs of society; women in enviable, in seemingly ordinary and in pitiable situations. The documentaries were made by the time-collection method with shooting taking place during a period of five years.

Trapped

the fate of drug-addict Katka

Forte and Piano

a portrait of Dagmar Pecková, foremost Czech mezzo-soprano

Bára B. (live)

a portrait of Bára Basiková, Czech pop singer

Ecstasy without Risk 1/2

a documentary about Prague prostitutes, members of the Ecstasy without Risk Association

Ecstasy without Risk 2/2

a documentary about Prague prostitutes, members of the Ecstasy without Risk Association

To be a Romany

a documentary on the life of Jarmila Balázová, a Romany girl

To be a Romany

a documentary on the life of Vojta Lavička, musician and Romany activist

Never Give in and you'll Win

the story of a mother who surmounted her cruel fate



Nurses

the lives of three student nurses

I am a Woman-oriented Woman

the subject is lesbian love, the search for identity and the process of coming to terms with being a lesbian

Festival Awards: Special Mention – International Film Festival Karlovy Vary 2001 (Trapped)

10×55'

videotape (1st part Trapped – 35mm), © 2001–2002,
Co-production Studio Čas

director: Helena Třeštková



Masks, Jesters, Demons

Masky, šašci, démoni

In the past, festivities and ceremonies in which masks played an important role were part of life in the Czech countryside all the year round. It is wonderful and hardly believable, but some of these ceremonies involving the winter solstice and the spring equinox are still very much alive in the country, even these days. It is a totally spontaneous and absolutely authentic phenomenon, no folkloristic or ethnographical reconstruction. Impulses from modern civilization are mixed into the archaic customs. The masks are very attractive and many have been treasured in families for many generations. Thus we find this great folk theatre presented in the streets, the inhabitants of the whole villages being the actors. The documentary was made by the film shot collection method during the years 2000–2001.

52'

videotape, m/e track, © 2001

director: Rudolf Adler



Prophets and Poets. Chapters from the Calendar

Proroci a básníci. Kapitoly z kalendáře

This film follows the fortunes and destinies of several people who frequent Prague's Konvikt Café (October 1998 through January 2000). We meet colorful and weird Prague characters – a poet, a university professor and his theories, a street sweeper, an astrologist, a transvestite... and even an ordinary couple living in a small town. Their reflections, sometimes more, sometimes less articulate, and even their silences create a kaleidoscope of the past year 'under the spell of occasional moments' and momentous occasions. Every human being, even one who seems plainest, is special, a creator of both ordinary and extraordinary days. And who are we to determine what is ordinary and what is not?

88'

35mm, © 2000, Co-production
Asociace Film & Sociologie, Gambit
Film

director: Ivan Vojnár



Hitler, Stalin and I Hitler, Stalin a já

Heda Margolius-Kovaly's fate is a story that sounds stranger than fiction.

Heda Blochová was born in Prague into the Jewish family of the cofounder of the well-known Koh-i-noor factory. She married Rudolf Margolius, a lawyer. Soon after the wedding the young couple and the whole Margolius family were deported to the ghetto in Lodz. After spending a couple of years there, they were all taken to Oswiecim concentration camp. There the family was parted. Heda was lucky enough to be taken to a labour camp after a few months and was finally made to join the Death March. She managed to escape the guards and thus saved her life. However, her fight for survival continued. Heda roamed around Prague, where none of her former 'friends' were willing to put her up. Only her optimistic and active nature helped her survive these disappointments.

Festival Awards: Special Commendation (Adult Education Category) – Japan Prize, Tokyo 2002

56'

videotape, © 2001, Co-production Helena Třeštková

director: Helena Třeštková



Millions of Human Eyes Milióny lidských očí

The documentary film about Juri Gagarin was made at the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the first manned space flight. The film was shot in Moscow, City Gagarino and 'Zvezdnoj Gorodok' ('Star City') and features interviews with members of Juri Gagarin's family, his friends and fellow astronauts. There are also pictures of the places of his early youth.

The film was included in the new Czech TV series called 'Premature Deaths', a cycle of twenty documentaries about renowned personalities from the Czech Republic and elsewhere.

52'

videotape, m/e track, © 2001, Co-production The World Circle Foundation

director: Mykola Hejko



A Story about a Bad Dream O zlém snu

An unusual semi-documentary touching on the themes of the Holocaust, war, and human will and bravery manifest under difficult circumstances. For children 12 and older.

The film brings to life the authentic diary of a 13-year-old girl named Eva who was the only member of her family to survive the hell of the Holocaust. Using Eva's straightforward words (in addition to archive materials, authentic drawings, and supplementary dramatized scenes), the film tells an incredibly moving story. For reasons Eva could barely understand, she had to leave her beloved home for a concentration camp, and then lost her mother during a final death march. She herself was saved only at the last moment by villagers who risked their own lives to save her.

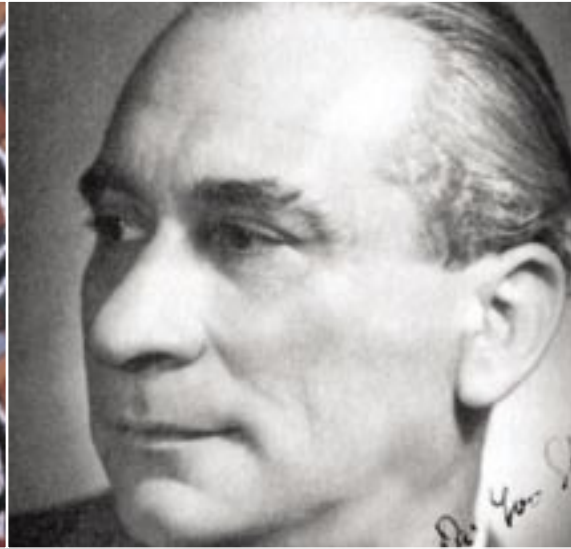
Thanks to its simplicity, the film is able to explain – both to children and adults who are not yet familiar with this dark episode in our history – the essential nature of the Holocaust and its true meaning.

Festival Awards: The Japan Foundation President's Prize – Japan Prize, Tokyo 2000

49'

videotape, m/e track, © 2000, Co-production K2

director: Pavel Štingl



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Leoš Janáček: Jenůfa

Leoš Janáček: Její pastorkyňa

A recording of the premiere of a new production of Leoš Janáček's most famous opera, presented at the Janáček Opera, Brno in cooperation with the State Opera, Vienna.

The opera is set in a Moravian village in the early 20th century, and presents the dramatic story of lovely Jenůfa, her foster mother Kostelníčka and her step-brothers Števa and Laco – a story about jealousy, pride, guilt, punishment and the final victory of love.

The production is directed by David Pountney the famous opera stage director, with Anja Silja in the role of Kostelníčka.

123'

videotape, © 2004

director: Tomáš Šimerda

Concerts from the Senate

Koncerty ze senátu

Chamber music from the Wallenstein Palace, Prague

CONCERT No. 1

Prague Chamber Orchestra

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – overture to the Marriage of Figaro – 4'30"
Antonín Dvořák – Czech Suite – 23'

CONCERT No. 2

Czech Clarinet Quartet

Andrea Gabrieli – Ricercar del nono tono (arrangement by L. Boura) – 3'
Karel Ružička – Sweet Wood (4th movement) – 12'
Luděk BOURA, Jindřich Pavliš, Vojtěch Nýdl, Petr Valášek – Fine Meditation – 5'
Erwin Schulhof – Esquisses de Jazz (arrangement by J. Pavliš) – Rag – 2'10"
Blues – 1'50", Charleston – 1'15"
Dave Brubeck – Rondo a la Turka (arrangement ČKK) – 4'15"

CONCERT No. 3

Jitka Hosprová – viola and Denisa Veškrnová – guitar

Georg Philippe Telemann – Sonata in A minor – 8'15" (Largo, Allegro)
Sylvie Bodorová – Gila Rome – Meditations for Solo Viola – 5'50"
Sylvie Bodorová – Gypsy Ballad for Solo Guitar – 9'30"
Fritz Kreisler – Sicilienne – 2'50", Rigaudon – 1'20"

CONCERT No. 4

Czech Chamber Orchestra. Violin solo Bohuslav Matoušek and Jana Vlachová, Zuzana Růžičková – harpsichord

Johann Sebastian Bach – Concerto in D minor for two violins BWV 1043 – 1st movement, Vivace – 4'
Leoš Janáček – Suite for String Orchestra – Andante – 4'
Leoš Janáček – Suite for String Orchestra – Andante con motto – 4'
Petr I. Tchaikovsky – Serenade – Finale, Tema russo – 7'35"

CONCERT No. 5

Harpichordist

Monika Knoblochová

Johann Sebastian Bach – Capriccio in B major 'For the Departure of my Beloved Brother' – 10'10"
Michal Kocourek – French Suite (selection from parts 2–3) – 13'35"

CONCERT No. 6

Roman Janál – baritone, Karel Košárek piano accompaniment

Karel Bendl – Gypsy Melodies – 8'23"
Vítězslav Novák – Gypsy Melodies op. 14 – 6'30"
Antonia Dvořák – Gypsy Melodies op. 55 – 11'52"

CONCERT No. 7

Prague Guitar Quartet

Johann C. Demantius – Dances – 4'30"
Joaquín Rodrigo – Two Andalusian Miniatures – 4'30"
Serge Prokofiev – 2 pieces from Romeo and Juliet – 8'30"
Leo Brower – Cuban Landscape with Rain – 6'
Štěpán Rak – Finale – 5'

CONCERT No. 8

Pianist

Victor Emanuel Monteton

Ludwig van Beethoven – Sonata quasi una fantasia in C sharp minor op. 27
'Moonlight Sonata' – Adagio sostenuto – 6'
Serge Rachmaninov
– Prelude in C sharp minor op. 3 no. 2 – 3'55"
– Prelude in G sharp minor op. 32 no. 12 – 2'40"
– Prelude in G minor op. 23 no. 5 – 3'45"
Franz Schubert/Ferenc Liszt – King of the Spirits – 3'45"

CONCERT No. 9

Martinů Trio

Antonín Dvořák – Trio in B major, op. 21 – Allegro molto – 10'50"
– Adagio molto e mesto – 8'50"
– Allegretto scherzando – 7'20"
– Finale. Allegro vivace – 6'30"

CONCERT No. 10

Ars Instrumentalis

Jan Dismas Zelenka – Sonata no. 5 in F major Allegro – Adagio – Allegro 16'15"
Zdeněk Lukáš – Ricordo – 7'
Georg Phillip Telemann – Quartet in D minor – Andante – Vivace – 7'

CONCERT No. 11

The Stamic Quartet

Franz Schubert – Quartet Movement in C minor – 6'30"
Leoš Janáček – String Quartet no. 2 Intimate Letters – 23'30"

CONCERT No. 12

Václav Hudeček – violin, Petr Adamec – piano

Antonín Dvořák – Sonatina for violin and piano, op. 100 – 19'20"
Antonín Dvořák – Romantic Piece No. 1 in B major – 4'
Antonín Dvořák – Romantic Piece No. 3 in B major – 4'

CONCERT No. 13

Gutta Musicae

Carols of Mediaeval Europe – 7'
The Oldest Christmas Carols – 8'
Carols of the European Nations – 5'

Concerts from the Senate 2004

Chamber concerts from the Main Hall of Prague's Wallenstein Palace

CONCERT No. 14

Compositions by Johannese Brahms and the jazz pianist Emil Viklický played by the Adamus trio

J. Adamus – oboe and French horn, J. Adamusová – violin and K. Novotná – piano

Johannes Brahms – Trio in E sharp major for violin, French horn and piano, op. 40 – 22'23"
Emil Viklický – Tauromaquia – Bullfights – 9'

CONCERT No. 15

Compositions by Astor Piazzola, Jiří Teml a Václav Riedlbauch played by the Martinů Ensemble

Miroslav Matějka – flute, R. Preislerová – violin, B. Zajmi – violoncello and D. Wiesner – piano

Astor Piazzolla

– Meditango – 5'33"
– Adios Nonino – 2'59"

Jiří Teml – Partita for flute, violin, violoncello and piano – 13'45"
Václav Riedlbauch – Legend for flute, violin, violoncello, and piano – 5'08"

CONCERT No. 16

Compositions by Bedřich Smetana a Josef Suk played by the Smetana Trio

J. Nováková – violin, J. Páleníček – violoncello and J. Čechová – piano

Josef Suk – Elegy, op. 23 – 5'15"
Bedřich Smetana – Piano Trio in G minor, op. 15 – 27'19"

CONCERT No. 17

Pianist Radoslav Kvapil presenting compositions by Antonín Dvořák

Antonín Dvořák – Humoresques, op. 101 – 14'52"
Antonín Dvořák – Poetic Mood, op. 85 – On Svata Hora – 3'16"
Poetic Mood, op. 85 – Spring – 3'10"
Poetic Mood, op. 85 – At the Old Castle – 3'36"
Poetic Mood, op. 85 – Dance of the Goblins – 2'42"
Poetic Mood, op. 85 – Baccanale – 4'39"

CONCERT No. 18

Compositions by Johann Sebastian Bach presented by violinist Hana Kotková

Partita no. 2 for solo violin, BWV 1004 – I. – All... – 7'26"
Partita no. 2 for solo violin, BWV 1004 – II. – Co... – 3'57"
Partita no. 2 for solo violin, BWV 1004 – III. – s... – 4'22"
Partita no. 2 for solo violin, BWV 1004 – IV. – Giga – 4'03"
Partita no. 2 for solo violin, BWV 1004 – V. – Cia – 15'42"

18× 38'

videotape, © 2003, 2004

directors: Adam Rezek, Stanislav Vaněk



Greek Passion Plays Řecké pašije

Bohuslav Martinů composed his opera Greek Passion Plays between 1956 and 1959. The story, based on Kazantzakis' novel, Christ Re-crucified, draws on the tradition of performing Easter plays. A shepherd named Manolios is to portray Christ, but not everyone is pleased with his blatantly Christian urge to help a group of refugees whose village has been raided by Turks. He gradually comes into conflict with Grigoris, a greedy local priest determined to set the village against him. In spite of his virtuous nature, Manolios is eventually killed by his fellow villagers.

The opera is sung in English, based on an excellent recording conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras. The impressive outdoor scenes were filmed on the Adriatic Sea.

93'

videotape, © 1999, Co-production RTV SLO Slovenia, HRT Croatia, RKM Czech Republic

director: Tomáš Šimerda

Sister Paskalina Sestra Paskalina

After the TV adaptation of 'Mariken of Nimegue', Czech Television presents the adaptation of another part of this opera cycle. 'Sister Paskalina' is not only the fourth part but it is, in a way, the natural copingstone of this quite unconventional and interesting work of Bohuslav Martinů (1890–1959).

62'

videotape, © 2002

director: Jaroslav Hovorka

Voice of the Forest Hlas lesa

The one-act radio opera composed in 1935 by Bohuslav Martinů is a ballad with a happy end, the love story of a village girl. However, this plane of the libretto is only one layer of the poetic work. The fairy-tale grows into a metaphor, we feel a strong surrealist inspiration and perceive human naivety to be an expression of subconscious yearning, and the balladic story a dream. The film production aims at expressing all these layers through the form of a poetic collage.

38'

videotape, © 2001, Co-production Supraphon

director: Jiří Nekvasil



The Polish Jew
Polský žid

The subject of the opera *The Polish Jew* composed by Karel Weis (1862–1944) is the French folk play of the same title written in 1869 by the Alsatian playwrights Emil Erckmann and Alexander Chatrian. The basic story is the personal tragedy of the main hero, who has memories of events long past come back to him on his daughter's wedding day. At the time he had robbed and murdered a Polish Jew who had spent the night at his inn. His conscience finally makes him confess and he dies. At the time of its premiere a hundred years ago, the opera by Karel Weis evoked a storm of ovation and the *Polish Jew* was staged in many theatres abroad within an unbelievably short time. In 1921 the *Polish Jew* was also presented at New York's Metropolitan Opera, making it the second Czech opera to be played on this stage after the *Bartered Bride*. In spite of its grand international acclaim, the opera finally fell into oblivion. However, its renewed premiere has brought many a surprise – mainly that this is an opera of extremely high qualities, which definitely deserves attention and can stand even the strict criteria of present-day strong competition.

108'
videotape, © 2001
director: Jiří Nekvasil



Golem

Golem – the dance theatre performance from the workshop of the outstanding Czech choreographer Pavel Šmok with music composed by Zbyněk Matějů brings alive the old Prague legend about the man of clay created by Rabbi Löw. This magic figure, called the Golem, was to have protected Prague's Jewish community from the frequent pogroms of the times. The ballet offers a very simple and human solution to this legend, working with equally simple means, highlighting the imaginative, expressive yet totally modern music, the excellent choreography with its drama and comedy elements – as well as the actual story of the adapted legend. Moreover, the widest scope for creativity is given to the Prague Chamber Ballet and its soloists.

47'
videotape, © 2002, Co-production Jiří Opěla – Real
director: Radovan Urban



The Prague Chamber Ballet
Pražský komorní balet

The purpose of this programme is to show where *The Prague Chamber Ballet* is now and where it aims at, and to present the choreographic work of Pavel Šmok as well as his pupils and successors – Petr Zuska and Libor Vaculík. Each of them briefly presents his program in the follows extracts.

Small Gallows
15'38"
Music: Spiritual quintet
Zuska's choreography is pleasant from the artistic point of view, sculpture-like and extremely sensitive. It ideally matches the stylisation and adaptation of the Moravian folk song interpreted by the Spiritual quintet. The content of the choreography could be characterized by these words:
... Man is composed not of one or two, but of tens and hundreds of personalities, destinies, lives...

Wild Dove
18'46"
Music: Antonín Dvořák
The *Wild Dove* is a well-known ballad of K. J. Erben, it inspired A. Dvořák to compose a symphonic poem in the year 1896. One woman, who had poisoned her husband to marry a young suitor, feels cruel remorse and commits suicide.

Slavonic Duets
24'06"
Music: Antonín Dvořák
Selections from *Slavonic Dances* op. 46 and *Moravian Duets* op. 32 and 38.
89'
videotape, © 2001, Co-production Jiří Opěla – Real
director: Jaroslav Hovorka



Georg Friedrich Händel
The Messiah
 Mesiáš

A performance of one of this composer's most famous oratorios given at the monumental baroque Church of the Holy Virgin's Name in Brno.

70'

videotape, © 2000

director: Tomáš Šimerda



Prague Mass
 Pražská mše

Created for the occasion of the Millennium, the film depicts Prague during the four seasons of the year, in its characteristic mystic aura. The vivid picture and music combination allows us to discover our spiritual roots as well as the message inherent to the city of Prague. The music is based on the Celebratory Jazz Mass of Karel Růžička, which constitutes a coherent, (self-contained) whole composed of ten parts: Introit, Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Contemplation, Sanctus, Agnus Dei, Celebration Blues, Hosanna, and Our Father. The mass holds out hope for the new millennium, and is an appeal to the humankind to search for its own roots and the key to stability on our planet. It was also performed in 1998 at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia. The artistic music documentary 'Prague Mass' breathes the spirit of Christianity and accentuates the majesty of Prague – that genius loci reflecting the history of past generations and the people living at the turn of the new millennium.

56'

videotape, © 2001, Co-production Miloš Zábanský film

director: Miloš Zábanský



J. S. Bach: Magnificat
Jan Dismas Zelenka:
Missa Gratis Agimus Tibi

A concert held at the Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Brno. A grandiose Bach composition comparable in its results to a baroque opera, and a mass by the great and yet to be fully appreciated Czech composer J. D. Zelenka.

70'

videotape, © 2000

director: Tomáš Šimerda



Concert in the Old Town Square
 Koncert ze Staroměstského náměstí

The Prague Symphony Orchestra and Serge Baudo, its new chief conductor, decided on Prague's Old Town Square as the venue of the opening concert for the coming winter season – a venue of such beauty that it naturally attracts great numbers of tourists. The concert held on 4th September 2002 included shorter compositions by Dvořák (Carnival), Bizet (a selection from Carmen), Smetana (three dances from The Bartered Bride), Chambrier (Rhapsody España) and Josef Suk (A Game of Swans and Peacocks).

61'

videotape, © 2002

director: Stanislav Vaněk



Meeting with Music under the Guidance of Zdeněk Mahler

Hudební toulky se Zdeňkem Mahlerem

A music documentary cycle through which we are guided by Dr. Zdeněk Mahler, the charismatic and knowledgeable narrator who takes us into the world of music history and – particularly – to the places in Prague that are immortalized by the work of the great music masters of world renown. We shall be exploring the Prague of Mozart, Smetana and also the Prague of Gustav Mahler and we shall hear about how deeply this city influenced the composers' lives and their music.

6×14'

videotape, © 2003

director: Radovan Urban



Meeting with Music under the Guidance of Ladislav Smoljak

Hudební toulky s Ladislavem Smoljakem

A music documentary series in which our guide, as an enthusiastic tourist, takes us in the footsteps of the great music-makers of the past. He seeks them at Czech Castles and Chateaux, reminding us in an endearing way of various historical facts about famous people and the places where they provably stayed. The programme gives us musical excerpts from their work.

6×14'

videotape, © 2003, Co-production Agency Prague Cherry

director: Antonín Vomáčka



Karel Ančerl – A Belated Portrait

Karel Ančerl – Opožděný portrét

A documentary film about an outstanding Czech conductor of the 20th century.

The filmmakers' aim was to find and interview as many of Karel Ančerl's contemporaries as possible, with the aim of compiling a complete and telling picture his life. From his childhood – remembered by his junior school classmate; through his early youth spent at Voskovec and Werich's Liberated Theatre, to the years of Nazi persecution and concentration camps, up to the highly successful period of his life when, as chief conductor, he brought laurels and world fame to the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. Karel Ančerl spent the last five years of his life in Canada, where he emigrated in 1968.

57'

videotape, © 2004

director: Jaroslav Hovorka



Between Heaven and Earth
Mezi nebem a zemí

A documentary film about Zdeněk Mácal, the present chief conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra.

Zdeněk Mácal, the present chief conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra has worked with this ensemble before, in 1966. At the time they presented Bohuslav Martinů's First Symphony at a concert held within the International Music Festival Prague Spring. He then went on tour abroad with the ensemble, and they also recorded gramophone discs together. In 1968, after the Soviet occupation, Zdeněk Mácal emigrated; since then he has conducted over 160 orchestras abroad. His return to his native land again came in connection with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, which he conducted in 1996 and 1997. In his new position of chief conductor, Mácal conducted the Czech Philharmonic during the first tour of the season in Germany (Weimar, Wiesbaden) and Italy (Merano) in August 2003. The documentary catches an over-all look at this outstanding personality of contemporary Czech music.

58'

Videotape, © 2003, Co-production MAX-TV AND FILM PRODUCTION

director: Jan Mudra



Antonín Dvořák – A European?
Antonín Dvořák – Evropan?

What kind of man was he? What were the times like? What did he achieve? How did the world receive him and how did he see the surrounding world? Quite a different person suddenly emerges within the context of these questions to the man who had been presented to us to date. An energetic person, a knowledgeable manager who knew his price, a composer, conductor, teacher – but also a kind, cultured and yet modest man. He belonged to Europe and the whole world and yet his roots remained forever in the land of his birth. The new documentary film about Antonín Dvořák presents the great composer in the context of the 19th century and the European musical and social scene of the day.

57'
videotape, m/e track, © 2001
director: Maxmilián Petřík



Searching for Janáček
Hledání Janáčka

The documentary film presents the life and work of Leoš Janáček in a monographic review. The script mixes the author's essay with a dramatic web of monologues, with dialogues spoken by actors who enter the story from our contemporary days. Like their historical examples the characters do not age, and yet they carry the fateful motifs without destroying their veracity. They also enter the story as narrators, thus achieving the estrangement effects needed for the documentary genre. Moreover, the structure of the work is enhanced by personal testimonials voiced by actors and musicians on several basic questions such as love and fidelity, death, or the mission of the artist and his work.

Festival Awards: Special Mention – Int. TV Festival Golden Prague, 2003
57'
videotape, m/e track, © 2002
director: Petr Kaňka



Ivan Moravec

This documentary by director Jan Mudra reveals the life story, opinions, but mostly the art of one of the greatest and, worldwide, most famous contemporary Czech pianists – Ivan Moravec.

57'
videotape, m/e track, © 2002
director: Jan Mudra



Strange Young Lady
Divná slečinka

A documentary portrait of an interesting creative personality, original composer, violinist and singer. Iva Bittová began as an actress but she soon set forth on the course of soloist. She created her own characteristic style with violin and voice, based on the roots of folk music. She is very popular, not only in the Czech Republic but also in Holland, Belgium, France and other countries.

57'
videotape, m/e track, © 2002
director: Rudolf Chudoba

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