

PRESS RELEASE

# SUMMARY OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE CZECH-IN FESTIVAL



The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Czech-In Festival successfully concluded at the Cinéma Saint-André des Arts in Paris, offering spectators five days of cinematic exploration centered around Czech and Central European culture. This year, the festival highlighted exceptional works and hosted numerous guests, reinforcing its role as a vital platform for cinematic dialogue between France and the Czech Republic. Organized under the distinguished patronage of Mr. Martin Baxa, the Czech Minister of Culture, and H.E. Jaroslav Kurfürst, Czech Ambassador to France, the festival drew a large audience and garnered strong interest. This year, the film selection was also made in collaboration with FITES, the Czech Film and Television Union.

## Petite Marguerite d'Or Award – *Photophobia*

The Petite Marguerite d'Or Award, inspired by the innovative spirit of Czech filmmaker Věra Chytilová, was awarded this year to *Photophobia*, directed by Ivan Ostrochovský and Pavol Pekarčík, a co-production between Slovakia, Ukraine, and the Czech Republic. This film deeply moved the jury with its poignant depiction of children's lives amid the war in Ukraine, capturing their resilience and ability to preserve innocence amidst turmoil. *Photophobia* explores the underground subway as a shelter where children live and play, while also reflecting the harsh realities of the surrounding conflict. The jury was particularly moved by the psychological depth of the film and its sensitive portrayal of the children's perspectives.

## Honorary Award – Ester Krumbachová

The Honorary Award was presented to the film *The Murder of Mr. Devil* by Ester Krumbachová, in tribute to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth. A defining figure in Czech cinema, Krumbachová is celebrated for her visionary approach and enduring influence, marked by unique independence and critical thought. This award expresses our deep gratitude for her creative contributions and her essential role in Czech and international cinema.

## Professional Meeting: A Catalyst for Franco-Czech Co-productions

One of the highlights of this edition was the Professional Meeting held on October 18 at the Czech Embassy in Paris. This event brought together producers, directors, and key players in the audiovisual industry to discuss co-production opportunities between France, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia.

The session began with a presentation of the Prague Audiovisual Fund, highlighting funding options for international projects, a crucial lever for Czech productions aiming for an international audience. The meeting continued with Ariel Schweitzer, a film critic and historian, leading a presentation of six promising co-production projects:

1. *Antonie*, directed by Rozalie Kohoutova, co-produced by Punk Film and Kolam Productions, represented by Martina Kloblochova, Olga Prud'homme Farges, and Joel Farges.
2. *Opération Monaco* by Dušan Trančík, produced by Kolam Productions, presented by Olga Prud'homme Farges and Joel Farges.
3. *Panna Sofia* by Václav Kadrnka, co-produced by Talweg and Sirius Film, with Julie Meigniez and co-screenwriter Lenka Cívade Horňáková.
4. *Histoire d'une femme qui créa un photographe*, a documentary by Christian Paigneau on Slovak photographer Martin Martinček, produced by Talweg Production and presented by Julie Meigniez.
5. *Une nuit à l'usine*, a Franco-Czech-Slovak documentary by Romain Beaumont and Andrea Salajova, co-produced by Sirius Film, introduced by co-screenwriter Lenka Cívade Horňáková.
6. *Étoile du Nord*, an animated documentary co-produced by Les Films du Cygne and Houseboot, represented by producer Alexandre Charlet.

This meeting emphasized the importance of the 1968 bilateral co-production agreement between France and the Czechoslovakia. Revitalizing this agreement is essential to encourage new co-productions, crucial for countries with lower audiovisual production volumes, such as the Czech Republic.

## Satellite Screenings through the End of the Year

Three special screenings are also planned before the end of the year:

- *Leaving* by Václav Havel: November 20 at 5:00 PM, Sorbonne Malherbes
- *Chimeras* by Švankmajer: December 2 at 6:30 PM, INALCO
- *Ernest Denis, Forgotten Founder*: December 7, Auditorium of the Hôtel de Ville de Paris

PROGRAM



Discover the complete program and more information at:

[czech-in-film-festival.fr](http://czech-in-film-festival.fr)