

CZECH-IN FILM FESTIVAL 2026 12th Edition: Cinema Facing Freedom

5, 9, 16–18, 21 and 23 October 2026 | Paris



For its **12th edition**, the Czech-In Film Festival places the question of freedom at the heart of its programme: *How can we remain free in the face of power, memory and the upheavals of the contemporary world?*

This year's edition is marked by a tribute to **Václav Havel**, playwright, dissident and President of Czechoslovakia and later the Czech Republic, whose **90th birthday** is being celebrated this year. One of the most influential figures in European culture and political life, Havel consistently defended a vision of freedom inseparable from responsibility, artistic creation and civic engagement.

"Havel on Screen" Retrospective

The retrospective **"Havel on Screen"** will feature six screenings and two events devoted to his life, work and legacy.

The programme will include **Citizen Havel**, directed by Pavel Koutecký and Miroslav Janek, filmed over more than thirteen years at close range during Havel's presidency; **Havel, Can You Hear Me?**, by Petr Jančárek, an intimate portrait of the final years of his life; and **Leaving**, Havel's only feature film, a reflection on the loss of power, dignity and personal responsibility.

A debate organised in partnership with the French cultural review **Esprit**, accompanied by a screening of **Václav Havel: A Life in Freedom**, will provide an opportunity to explore the continuing relevance of Havel's ideas and his legacy for contemporary Europe.

The programme will also include a conference devoted to **Barrandov Studios**, founded in the 1930s by the Havel family. Often described as the **"Hollywood of Central Europe"**, Barrandov is one of the major symbols of Czech cinema and its international reputation.

From Vojtěch Jasný to a New Generation of Filmmakers

The theme of freedom continues through a selection of heritage films and contemporary works.

In partnership with the **National Film Archive (NFA)** and the **La Rochelle International Film Festival**, Czech-In will present a restored version of **Desire (Touha)**, the first feature film by **Vojtěch Jasný**, a work that already foreshadows the humanism that would later become one of the defining characteristics of the Czechoslovak New Wave. His documentary **Why Havel?** will also be screened.

The festival will also pay tribute to **Vítězslava Kaprálová**, the young Czech composer whose remarkable life was cut short. A documentary dedicated to her life and work will be presented as part of a **ciné-concert at the Czech Centre in Paris**, featuring musicians from the **Jean-Philippe Rameau Conservatory**.

Contemporary Cinema Facing Power and Memory

These questions will be further explored through a selection of contemporary films.

Broken Voices examines mechanisms of domination and control that can hide behind the pursuit of artistic excellence. **Ashes (Popel)** explores the traces of the past in contemporary lives, while **Dead Language** brings questions of identity, culture and memory into focus through an unexpected encounter.

A New Generation of European Filmmakers

The festival's traditional **short film programme**, organised in partnership with **FAMU, VŠMU and KINETRACES**, will showcase a new generation of European filmmakers. Fiction, documentary, animation and experimental cinema will highlight the diversity of forms and concerns shaping Central European cinema today. The documentary **Madam President**, devoted to the presidential mandate of **Zuzana Čaputová**, returns to the programme following its success at the 2025 festival, where it received the **Golden Daisy for Best Film**.

This year again, **a professional jury will select, from among the films in the programme, the recipient of the award.**

The 2026 Jury

The jury brings together **Andrea Salajová**, Franco-Slovak writer, **Laurent Coulon**, former audiovisual attaché at the Embassy of France in Prague, **Bertrand Schmitt**, writer and filmmaker, **Garance Fromont**, PhD candidate and specialist in Czechoslovak cinema, and **Adrien Fondécave**, film programmer.

Czech-In Beyond the Festival

The festival will also continue beyond its main dates through a series of **satellite screenings and events**.

In January 2027, in partnership with **INALCO**, an event will be dedicated to **Anna Kareninová**, a major figure in literary and film translation between Czech and French. A documentary about her work will be followed by a discussion with the translator.

From restored classics to contemporary cinema, and from reflections on power and memory to questions of freedom and responsibility, the 12th edition of the Czech-In Film Festival reaffirms one of the festival's founding convictions: **cinema remains one of the privileged spaces in which a society can examine its past, understand its present and imagine its future.**

CZECH-IN FILM FESTIVAL – 12th EDITION

Main festival dates: 16–18 October 2026

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The full programme and practical information will be announced **during September 2026** on the Czech-In Film Festival website and social media channels.