PRESS RELEASE

CZECH-IN FILM FESTIVAL 2026

Winners of the 12th Edition Announced

Paris, 20 October 2026

The 12th edition of the Czech-In Film Festival, dedicated to Czech and Central European cinema and centred this year on the theme of freedom, announces the awards presented by its two juries: the professional jury and the student jury.

PROFESSIONAL JURY AWARDS

Grand Prix: *Popel* (*Cendres*), directed by Oier Plaza

Awarded unanimously, the Grand Prix recognises a documentary of remarkable historical rigour and emotional depth, exploring memory, mourning and the courage to resist oblivion. The jury particularly praised the restraint of the storytelling, the quality of the cinematography and the power of the animated sequences.

Special Mention: *Dead Language*, directed by Oded Ben Nun and Mihal Brezis

The jury recognised the subtle direction, the quality of the cinematography and the nuanced characterisation. It also highlighted the importance of this co-production between Israel, the Czech Republic and Poland, which fosters dialogue and mutual understanding.

Special Mention: *Kaprálová*, directed by Petr Záruba

This documentary about Czech composer and conductor Vítězslava Kaprálová impressed the jury with its sensitive use of archival material and its ability to bring the past into dialogue with the present, helping to rediscover an artist who has long been overlooked.

STUDENT JURY AWARDS

Petite Marguerite d'or: *Broken Voices*, directed by Ondřej Provazník

The student jury rewarded the subtle storytelling, the compelling performances of the two young actresses and the tension running through this film about human relationships, jealousy and empathy.

Best Cinematography: *Primus le robot*, directed by Max Delagrave

The award recognises the film's distinctive visual style, its poetic yet oppressive atmosphere, its precise use of light and its singular visual choices.

Best Screenplay: *Chlieb náš každodenný* (*Liquid Bread*), directed by Alica Bednáriková

The jury praised the nuanced portrayal of a dysfunctional family, the quality of the humour and the skilful narrative structure.

Student Jury Favourite: *I Died in Irpin* (2024), directed by Anastasia Falileieva

This autobiographical short film moved the jury with its powerful and intimate portrayal of the first hours of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The jury also praised the expressive strength of the animation, which conveys violence without ever concealing it.

CINEMA AS A SPACE FOR MEMORY, FREEDOM AND DIALOGUE

Through these awards, the Czech-In Film Festival reaffirms its commitment to the diversity of Central and Eastern European cinema, showcasing distinctive films that explore our history, our societies and our relationship with the world.

The 12th edition of the Czech-In Film Festival continues in Paris **until 23 October 2026**. On Wednesday, 21 October, the Saint-André-des-Arts cinema will host screenings of *Pourquoi Havel ?* and *Désir*, directed by **Vojtěch Jasný**. On Friday, 23 October, a discussion on Václav Havel's legacy for Europe will be followed by a screening of Andrea Sedláčková's documentary *Václav Havel: Une vie en liberté* at the Hôtel de Ville de Paris auditorium.

CZECH-IN FILM FESTIVAL 12th EDITION

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Programme and further information:
https://czech-in-film-festival.fr/festival-26/

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