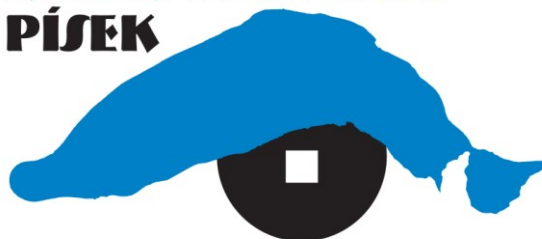


**FESTIVAL NAD ŘEKOU
RIVER FILM FEST
PÍSEK**



**Final Report RFF 2010
Písek 30. 7. - 5. 8. 2010
(25. 8. 2010)**



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WHAT THE PRESS SAID:

„Písek Festival successfully disturbs.“

Lidové noviny, 6. 8. 2010

„Písek festival has found its public – a demanding and perceptive audience comprising young people from all over the republic as well as professionals from the film industry – all grateful for the opportunity to meet in the peaceful atmosphere of this south Bohemian town ...“

Synchron č. 4/2010 – Bi-monthly magazine published by the Czech Film and TV Union FITES

„Legends of Polish Cinema in Písek.“

Písecký deník, 7. 8. 2010



„Our situation was incomparable to yours, after 1956 we had more freedom, both physically and mentally. We did not have a Husák. That was not our doing but the regime was simply so rigid, our communist were more careful, in fact they were too scared to stick out their horns. Whenever I used to meet my dear friends Milos Forman, Ivan Passer and A. J. Liehm in the USA I felt privileged because I had my passport in my hand while they had to stay put in the USA even if they did not want to.“

Krzysztof Zanussi in an interview with Veronika Bednářová, Pátek, Lidové noviny 13. 8. 2010-08-28

„River Film Fest has set itself some really ambitious goals. This year's edition tested the organising team of young people who deserve our greatest admiration and thanks for a job professionally well done; similar accolades go out to everyone at the local city council and at the Culture Centre.“

Synchron č. 4/2010 – Bi-monthly magazine published by the Czech Film and TV Union FITES

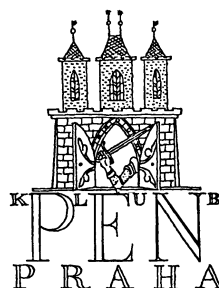
„A jewel forgotten in Písek, virtually unknown – for the time-being. But its creators are polishing it with great enthusiasm and its brilliance is beginning to attract more and more visitors. River Film Fest is underway in Písek and is of the highest quality.“

Czech Radio REGINA, 2. 8. 2010

INTRODUCTION

The second edition of the multi genre River Film Fest (www.festivalnadrekou.cz) took place from 30. 7. to 5. 8. 2010 in the south Bohemian city of Písek.

The event was held under the auspices of former president Václav Havel and the Czech PEN club as well as the ministers for Foreign Affairs, Education, Regional Development, the Governor of South Bohemia Jiří Zimola and the Mayor of Písek Miroslav Sládek.



Last year's inaugural edition had already indicated that a new festival tradition in Písek was in the making. The organisers felt a great sense of commitment to the General Partner, ČEZ NPP Temelín, and the Main Partner, the Royal City of Písek as well as all the other supporting institutes and sponsors. A major motivation for the organisers was the keen interest demonstrated by the audience. Whereas the number of accredited visitors this year showed a slight decline (from 1850 to 1730) in comparison with 2009 it is apparent that the festival has already in its second year established a stable audience base. This year it was obvious that fewer individuals could be seen strolling along the Písek Riviera but that more people could be found in the cinemas, demonstrating that the festival is attracting visitors whose main aim in coming is to see quality films. The slight drop in numbers reflects this year's general trend at most summer festivals and in the case of RFF was accentuated by the late announcement of the event.



The Opening Ceremony FNR 2010

The festival management reported a significant change: on March 4th the former artistic director of the festival, Jiří Králík, left the festival. For the time being the post has been taken over by the festival president, Michael Havas, who has overseen the 2010 programme concept developed by the festival dramaturges: Belle Époque, A History of French Cinema, The Polish Cinema of Moral Anxiety and Diagnosis by Time. Štěpán Hulík has been appointed Programme Coordinator.

RFF was organised by Heart of Europe Media Ltd.; the actual production was coordinated by Markéta Havas.

Admittedly, this second edition of River Film Fest was not without its difficulties. The organisers were taken aback by the fact that this year neither the Ministry of Culture nor the State Fund for the Support and Development of Czech Cinema contributed financially to the event, in spite of the fact that both institutions had together provided roughly a third of the 2009 budget. As a result the decision to go ahead was made at the last possible moment. The fact that River Film Fest 2010 turned out to be a highly successful event provides irrefutable proof of the organisers' professional approach and justifies the trust shown by those institutions and partners who did offer their generous support.

Understandably, this on-going uncertainty affected some production areas, notably PR. The delay caused by late decisions (financial crisis, pre-election atmosphere) meant that the festival could not be publicised in the media until towards the end of May. 10 weeks lead-up time is an extremely short period for such a major event and precludes the possibility of media barter deals to the extent that would otherwise have been possible. Nevertheless, the media visibility achieved in such an extremely short period augurs well for the future and underlines the PR potential of River Film Fest.

In comparison with 2009 the festival organisation demonstrated a dramatic improvement even despite financial and temporal limits. There was not a single case of any scheduled event being dropped from the programme. The technical quality of all screenings and off events was of a very high standard. It is true to say that a major characteristic of this second edition of RFF was its high level of professionalism. Newspaper reviews, emails and Face Book entries testify to this important aspect and it is precisely this positive feedback which indicates that RFF is gradually establishing its place in the sun within the Czech cultural landscape.

ACCREDITATION BY THE CZECH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The year 2010 is a milestone in the history of Czech education by virtue of the fact that the Ministry of Education (albeit with an almost unbelievable delay in comparison to the more developed European countries) has finally included film and audiovisual education into the official secondary school curriculum. On April 28th RFF became the very first film festival in the Czech Republic to achieve official accreditation valid thru 2013 “to conduct educational programmes and grant diplomas for the completion of a cycle of seminars on audiovisual education”; RFF was also authorised “to carry out educational programmes aimed at further educating pedagogues”. This accreditation is valid till 2016.

Like the first swallows of summer two episodes from the famous BBC series “CONNECTIONS” by James Burke appeared on this year’s programme as a precursor to this new educational aspect of RFF. James Burke is considered in the Anglo-American world as one of the founders of contextual education. Both screenings



Dr. Hans Gerd Koch

generated extraordinary interest and James Burke, who considers Bohemia as the cradle of the British Industrial Revolution, has confirmed his participation at RFF 2011. His visit promises to be a unique event: Písek and RFF participants will be among the first in the world to witness a personal presentation of James Burke’s KNOWLEDGE WEB – an intuitive network connecting 2 500 historic individuals (scientists, inventors, philosophers, artists etc.) and offering 35 000 individual “expeditions” into the realms of context. Burke’s KNOWLEDGE WEB is a prime example of SCOLA LUDENS (learning by playing) and will help users to discover, for example, how Napoleon influenced the development of the computer, how medieval mining in Bohemia inspired Pasqual to invent the barometer or how the construction of the Panama Canal led to the invention of the fridge. Burke’s KNOWLEDGE WEB will be placed on-line in 2012. This means that its Písek premiere will be a very special occasion.

We would also like to draw attention to the generous offer by Dr. Hans Gerd Koch, an international expert on the works of Franz Kafka, who in an enthusiastic response to next year’s themes (in particular “God” and “From Caligari to Hitler”) has kindly offered to help us establish a co-operation between Písek’s Film Academy of Miroslav Ondříček and the Film School in Ludwigsburg.

As organisers we consider these educational possibilities a major priority for 2011.



ORGANISATION:

Principle organiser is Heart of Europe Media Ltd. CEO is RFF president Michael Havas. Principle festival co-ordinator is Markéta Havas.

FESTIVAL MANAGEMENT:

FESTIVAL PRESIDENT AND PRODUCER - Michael Havas

FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATOR, PRODUCER - Markéta Havasová

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR – Ivana Nováková

PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR – Štěpán Hulík

PR – Markéta Zámyslická

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION – Jan Dvořák

IT SUPPORT, INFORMATION SYSTEMS - Petr Velebný

HEAD OF ACCREDITATION, MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT – Alexandra Lánská

HEAD OF GUEST SERVICE – Daniel Vališ

DRAMATURGES:

All films and Off Events are divided into several programme cycles where each cycle has its guarantor:

THE POLISH CINEMA OF MORAL ANXIETY - Pavla Bergmannová, Galina Kopaněva

A HISTORY OF FRENCH CINEMA – Tereza Brdečková

THE JARA CIMRMAN PHENOMENON – Martin Gross

BELLE EPOQUE – Michael Havas, Martin Jiroušek

THEATRE – Vladimír Hulec, Lucie Němečková

DIAGNOSIS BY TIME – Jan Lukeš, Ivana Lukešová

CONCERTS – Ivo Pospíšil

EXHIBITIONS - Jindřich Štreit

PERSONALITIES AND ANNIVERSARIES – combined

VISEGRAD CORNER – combined

SPECIAL SCREENINGS – combined

PRODUCTION:

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION – Jan Dvořák

IT SUPPORT, INFORMATION SYSTEMS - Petr Velebný

DISPATCHER, TECHNICAL SCENARIO – Stanislav Solar

LOCAL PR - Jiří Střelka

PRINT STORAGE – David Trávníček

DIRECTOR, PÍSEK CULTURE CENTRE – Ctirad Havel

PRODUCER, PÍSEK CULTURE CENTRE – Karel Průcha

CHIEF TECHNICIAN, PÍSEK CULTURE CENTRE – Jan Bajer

IT, PÍSEK CULTURE CENTRE – Tomáš Řeřábek, Josef Snášel

TECHNICIANS, PÍSEK CULTURE CENTRE – Jan Neděla, Ladislav Marek, Roman Vachule

DTP, PÍSEK CULTURE CENTRE – Josef Zemek

SERVICES – Aleš Havel

ACCOUNTANT, PÍSEK CULTURE CENTRE – Milan Urban

ASSISTENTS TO THE FINANCIAL DIRECTOR – Lucie Zelená, Vojta Novák

INSPECTOR – Oliver Bláha

TECHNICAL PR – Dominik Dabrowski

KINOTECHNIKA – Zbyněk Holub

KINOTECHNIKA PROJECTIONIST – Václav Stříbrný

KINEMATOGRAF SCREENING CARAVAN OF THE ČADÍK BROTHERS – Josef Čadík

SPECIAL SCREENINGS, RARE FILMS, HISTORIC POSTERS – Milan Wolf

INTERPRETING EQUIPMENT – Pavel Jíra

LARGE CAPACITY COPIER – Miroslav Kos
TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATOR – Viktor Frank
PRINT SHIPPING (International) – Martin Melichar
INTERSHIPPING – Tomáš Budín
DRIVERS – Ondřej Němec, Michaela Hertlíková, Ondřej Kutíš, Matouš Novák, Dominik Impseil
TRANSFERS, PRINT PREPARATION FOR SCREENINGS – Jaroslav Kupec
PROJECTIONISTS – Martin Hanzal, Milan Wolf, Martin Pospíšil, Vladimír Matajs
Jan Hanza, Josef Nezbeda, Václav Stříbrný
TRANSLATIONS AND INTERPRETING CO-ORDINATED BY – Jan Prachař
TRANSLATIONS – Jan Prachař, Tereza Brdečková, Jiří Dědeček, Vavřinec Havlíček, Eva Novotná, Pavel Peč, Simona Richterová, Irena Srkalová, Jan Vaňo, Amalaine Diabová, Jan Lalič, Jana Kopecká, Michael Havas
INTRODUCTIONS AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS CO-ORDINATED BY – Magda Španihelová
INTRODUCTIONS – Pavla Bergmannová, Tereza Brdečková, Jiří Dědeček, Martin Jiroušek, Jan Lukeš, Aleš Matějka, Marie Mravcová, Michael Málek, Vladimír Tupáček, Michal Procházka, Tereza Hříbová
OFF EVENTS – Adéla Schickerová
EXHIBITIONS – Jindřich Štreit, Marek Škarpa and Petr Kurečka

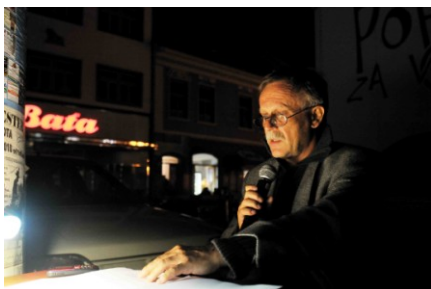
PUBLICITY:

PR, MEDIA, DTP, FACEBOOK – Markéta Zámyslická
FESTIVAL DESIGN – Joska Skalník
PRESS CO-ORDINATOR – Gabriela Koulová
WEB (Concept, content) – Michael Havas
WEB (Technical design) – Petr Velebný
WEB (Program) Jan Rieger
WEB (Graphics) – Petra Drbalová
FESTIVAL TEASER (Author) – Michael Havas
FESTIVAL TEASER (Producer) – Lukáš Skalník (EALLIN ANIMATION)
FESTIVAL TEASER (Director) – Janek Růžička
FESTIVAL TEASER (Animation) – David Sukup
FESTIVAL TEASER (Quantel design) – Jan Černý
FESTIVAL TEASER (Sound Design) – Karel Zámečník
DESIGN + MANUFACTURE OF MIROSLAV ONDŘÍČEK AWARDS – Boris Nosek
IN-HOUSE NEWS SERVICE – Petr Velebný
CATALOGUE (Editor) – Lukáš Skupa
CATALOGUE (Authors) – Pavla Bergmannová, David Crystal, Petra Forstová, Tereza Frodlová, Michael Havas, Vladimír Hulec, Štěpán Hulík, Martin Jiroušek, Ondřej Kaláb, Lenka Křestánová, Jan Lukeš, Lukáš Skupa, Markéta Zámyslická
CATALOGUE (Translations) – Kristína Fialová, Štěpán Hulík, Nela Kovalčíková, Lenka Křivánková, Antonín Zita
CATALOGUE (Graphic design) - Joska Skalník, Martin Straka
CATALOGUE (Layout) – Martin Straka
DAILY NEWSLETTER (Chief Editor) - Lukáš Skupa
DAILY NEWSLETTER (Editors) – Tereza Frodlová, Petr Lukeš, Veronika Havlová, Lenka Marešová, Kateřina Měšťánová
DAILY NEWSLETTER (Graphic design) – Jaroslav Beneš
FILM CLIPS – Tereza Adámková, Jan Široký, Marek Urban
PHOTOGRAPHERS – Petr Kurečka a Marek Škarpa, Jan Karásek, Marek Smejkal

ACCREDITATION + GUEST SERVICE

HEAD OF ACCREDITATION - Alexandra Lánská
ACCREDITATION – Magda Kotálová, Vláďa Koutník, Petra Marešová, Aneta Jedličková, Bára Vinopalová, Jana Hávová
HEAD OF GUEST SERVICE – Daniel Vališ
GUEST SERVICE – David Havas, Alexandra Monhartová, Beata Greneche, Edita Marholtová
ACCREDITATION SYSTEM VALENTINA – Marek Bláha

EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMME CYCLES



Jiří Dědeček interpreting a film on the Grand Square

This second edition of RFF definitely proved the viability of the festival's programme concept. RFF comprises 4 basic chapters: a) a thematic period (in 2009 it was The World of Josef K. – Franz Kafka's influence on world culture – this year the organisers focussed on the dichotomy between the "technical optimism" of Belle Époque and the darker aspects of this period); b) an overview of a particular national cinema (in 2009 Argentina, this year France); c) a detailed probe focussing on one specific aspect of a given national cinema (in 2009 The Czechoslovak New Wave, this year The Polish Cinema of Moral Anxiety) and d) a newcomer to the programme: **Diagnosis by Time**, where dramaturge Jan Lukeš plans each year to monitor how Czechs and Slovaks have processed and continue to process their respective and combined histories and pasts by means of film.

Belle Epoque

This programme cycle presented 22 full-length features which irrespective of their countries of origin focus on Belle Époque – in other words, the period between 1870 and 1914. Martin Jiroušek and Michael Havas put Art Nouveau to the test to see if this was



"Secrets of a Soul"



"Oh What a Lovely War!"

simply an era of carefree dreaming, aesthetic magic and ingenious inventions, the sole purpose of which was to gratify Man's thirst for pleasure; or was it a moment in history where scientific and technological progress unobtrusively began to spin out of control and turn against Mankind? The carefree image of Belle Époque was represented by films like "Those Wonderful Camera Cranks" (Jiří Menzel) or "Around the World in 80 Days" (Michael Anderson) while the darker aspects were illustrated by "Secrets of a Soul" (the first feature film inspired by Sigmund Freud, directed by G. W. Pabst) or by "Oh What a Lovely War" (Richard Attenborough). Among the true festival gems was the 1913 film "Der Andere" (The Other One), which not so long ago was considered to have been lost and which in its time deeply influenced Franz Kafka.



Michael Havas,
BE Dramaturge



Martin Jiroušek,
BE Dramaturge

A History of French Cinema



Tereza Brdečková,
French Film Dramaturge

Dramaturge Tereza Brdečková selected 25 full-length features for this programme cycle, covering more than a century of French cinema. With few exceptions she succeeded in avoiding notoriously famous titles and instead managed to present famous directors by means of lesser known films or films which have remained virtually unscreened in our country. Participants had the opportunity of viewing technically unblemished 35mm prints of gems such as “The Silence of the Sea” (Jean-Pierre Melville), “The Wild Child” (Francoise Truffaut) or “The Lovers” (Louis Malle). The personal introductions to individual films by cinema experts were of an extremely high standard. Apart from those presented by Tereza Brdečková herself or by the highly respected literary expert Marie Mravcová some of these introductions were presented by outstanding film-makers. Several films were introduced by internationally renowned DOP Jaromír Šofr, who explained how French cinema had such an influence on his own work. Non-French speakers could add another facet to their experience: the outstanding simultaneous interpreting by Czech poet, songwriter/singer and president of Czech PEN Club, Jiří Dědeček.



“The Wild Child”

The Polish Cinema of Moral Anxiety



Galina Kopaněva
Receiving the
Miroslav Ondříček
Award

This programme chapter, conceived by Pavla Bergmannová and Galina Kopaněvá, presented 25 full-length features from Poland’s most famous era of national cinema: the so-called Polish Cinema of Moral Anxiety (1976-1981). Thanks to the personal presence of 6 outstanding film-makers from this period - Krzysztof Zanussi, Ryszard Bugajski, Jerzy Domaradzki, Janusz Zaorski, Piotr Andrejew and Tomasz Żygadło – this cycle was the single most significant section of this year’s RFF. This was partly thanks to the informal atmosphere which characterised the Polish film-makers visit in Písek, their personal presence at the screenings and the live and inspirational discussions which took place after each film. A highly moving moment was the presentation of this year’s Miroslav Ondříček Awards to the Polish Film of Moral Anxiety. The award was presented in collective recognition of the entire



“The Moth”



Michael Havas and Pavla Bergmannová who
together with Galina Kopaněva prepared the
cycle „The Polish Film of Moral Anxiety“

generation of film-makers who contributed to this movement. The Portyč auditorium was packed tight as the 6 film directors received their award to a standing ovation. The organisers were very surprised to hear from the film-makers themselves that this was in fact the first time that their work had been recognised as a whole. According to their own words not even in Poland



“The Big Race”

had they ever been recognised as an entire group. Another powerful and very human moment worth mentioning is the fact that three of the directors, who had studied together at the film school in Łódź, met in Písek at RFF for the first time in 30 years! Destiny had driven them during the 1980’s to the far corners of the earth. A highly important occasion was the panel discussion devoted to the Polish Cinema of Moral Anxiety, chaired by FAMU Professor Jan Bernard and where the Polish film-makers were joined by their Slovak companion-in-arms, Dušan Trančík. A word-by-word transcript of this discussion will appear in SYNCHRON, the official bi-monthly magazine published by FITES, the Czech Union of Film and



Jan Lukeš,
Diagnosis by Time

This is RFF'S new programme chapter. Dramaturge Jan Lukeš selected a dozen films to illustrate how the pathology of an entire nation correlates with the illness of the individual. This programme chapter, which will continue next year, reflects the spiritual condition of both society and the individual in the course of time. This year this programme cycle provided a Czecho-Slovak parallel to the Polish Cinema of Moral Anxiety and confronted films shot in different periods such as Josef Zachar's "Psychodrama" and Drahomíra Vihanová's "The Pilgrimage of Students Peter and Jacob" (which at the time of its release in 2000 was completely misunderstood) or Jitka Rudolfová's "Dreamers". A memorable occasion was the visit by director Antonín Kachlík who came to Písek to explain why he had



"The Return of the Prodigal Son"

made one of the most infamously servile propaganda films of the period of "normalisation" called "The Twenty Ninth". This title, and its juxtaposition with other more ethical films, aptly illustrates the purpose behind "Diagnosis by Time": RFF hopes to familiarise young people with various periods of Czech, Slovak and Czechoslovak history (such as Husák's normalisation) and thereby increase their awareness of the history of the nation they belong to.

Personalities and Anniversaries

This section recalled for example the 200th anniversary of the birth of the poet Karel Hynek Mácha, author of "May" (via František Vlácil's film "The Magician"), the 100th anniversary of Mark Twain's death ("Gentlemen, Boys" dir. Věra Plivová-Šimková) as well as other Czech film makers who this year celebrated milestone anniversaries: Elmar Klos ("The Defendant", 1964) or Karel Zeman ("On the Comet", 1970).

Visegrad Corner

80 full-length features as well as a presentation of Czech and Slovak film schools hailed from Visegrad. Several important new films were screened: the Polish film „The Dark House”, the Slovak documentary film „Erotic nation” or „The Moon Inside You” as well as the latest Czech films such as „Eye Above Prague”, „Czech Peace” or „Kooky”. All Czech films were presented by a delegation of the filmmakers involved and audiences were able to indulge in post-screening discussions with directors, DOPs, actors and producers.

Special Screenings

Among the ten titles offered in this chapter several films stand out in particular: "Eva, Eva" – a virtually unknown film by Juraj Jakubisko which was introduced personally to the festival audience by the lead actress Eva Sitteová. Eva Sitteová emigrated to Australia during the 1980s. Two remarkable and highly original films, were personally introduced by author-director Ctibor Turba, the former world famous mime artist who now prefers to speak through the medium of film: "Haydn" and "Hobit". Apart from their high artistic quality both films represent Turba's conscious farewell to the world of theatre. A perhaps unexpected success at the festival was the screening of "Ripples of Loss", an international award-winning series on mining accidents in South Africa. "Ripples of Loss" was written and directed by Robert James who came to Písek to explain how commissioned films can at the same time be works of art and can, measurably, save real human lives. A major highlight was the screening of two episodes of James Burke's famous 1978 BBC series "Connections", mentioned earlier in this report. The audience response to these ground-breaking films which helped introduce a worldwide audience to "contextual education" augurs well for next year's planned visit to RFF by James Burke himself.

OFF EVENTS

Concerts



Lenka Dusilová



Ivan Hlas

These took place in the Altánek or pavilion in Palacký Park near the Culture Centre. The choice of this location was a stroke of genius: the musicians could be seen and heard from far and wide and as the acoustic sound waves of these “open to the public” performances radiated throughout the park passers-by could stop by and enjoy the music and lyrics. Dramaturgically, some of the performers were famous Czech protest singers and were thus linked to both the Polish Cinema of Moral Anxiety and Diagnosis by Time: Vladimír Merta, Jiří Dědeček and Ivan Hlas. Lenka Dusilová, a former “Singer of the Year” winner is



Tea Jav Ivo

an independent musician, Natalia Kryžne is a Russian singer who performs Jacques Brel songs while the band Bek Ofis is an up-and-coming local success story. Music could also be heard on the Island in the middle of the Otava River where every evening Tea Jay Ivo, alias Ivo Pospíšil, co-founder of the band GARÁŽ and the internationally renowned Prague club RADOST, prepared a thematic DJ celebration. Each appearance was devoted to a different music genre, ranging from Latino thru rock ‘n roll, Punk and reggae.

Open Air Screenings



A popular feature of RFF is the open air screenings on the Grand Square and in the Exhibition grounds. The Grand Square screenings, in front of the historic Town Hall building, are attracting more and more viewers who sit on benches on cobble stones to watch a film per night, free of charge. Titles are selected with the traditional “Man in the Street” in mind and this year ranged from classics such as “The Moon over the River” to new titles such as “Czech Peace” or “Dreamers”. The mere fact that square was packed for both classics and brand new films suggests that RFF is gradually infiltrating the hearts of the local Písek population and becoming a “not to be missed” event.

Theatre



Because of financial cutbacks and the ensuing late launch of RFF the organisers decided on one single theatre performance: a performance with a capital P: the Jara Cimrman Theatre came to town with its latest play, “Czech Heaven”. This was the first-time ever that this famous ensemble has appeared at any of the local summer festivals. The response of the packed Main Hall in the Culture Centre was extremely enthusiastic. The organisers firmly believe in increased financial support from their partners. This would enable the return of the ANPU tent which at RFF 2009 offered outstanding performances every night.

Dance



The organisers were at first dismayed by the city council’s decision to close the new bridge across Otava River for repairs as this prevented RFF from repeating last year’s resounding Milonga success on Central Europe’s oldest stone bridge. This (at first sight) deficiency led however to an exciting new discovery as this year’s Milonga (dancing Tango under clear starry skies!) spun off to a dazzling start in the Sladovna courtyard. The unique atmosphere of courtyard fountain, intimate tables-for-two and the sensual repertoire of Bona Fide acted like a magnet on a large audience which immersed itself in the magic ambience of South America. It would seem that RFF’s milonga has found a place to stay.

Exhibitions



Members of the Jára Cimrman Theatre – opening ceremony of the JC exhibition, Prácheňské Museum



Vladimír Birgus and Jindřich Štreit

RFF presented several exhibitions: festival participants and general public alike thronged to the opening ceremony of “Global Traveller and Inventor Jára Cimrman”, mounted in the Prácheňské Museum in association with the Jára Cimrman Theatre. The exhibition was opened by members of the troupe, headed by famous Czech author and actor, Zdeněk Svěrák. Michael Havas presented the group with another collective Miroslav Ondříček Award in commemoration of the cultural, witty and moral support Jára Cimrman provided the nation during the depressing years of “normalisation”. The unique phenomenon that goes by the name of Jára Cimrman incorporates the intrinsic message of RFF: perceiving film as a synthesis of all other forms of art.

Another successful exhibition was “Behold, it turns!” by artist Boris Nosek, whose ceramic masterpieces provided RFF with a tangible solution to the Miroslav Ondříček Awards. 4 ceramic decorative plates each containing grains of sand (Písek) were presented to the Polish Cinema of Moral Anxiety, the Jára Cimrman Theatre, Galina Kopaněva and Jaroslav Kupec.



Boris Nosek with the awards he created for RFF

Jindřich Štreit and Vladimír Birgus opened an exhibition of photographs by Polish students studying at the Silesian University’s Institute of Creative Photography. These works provided an excellent correlative to the themes of the Polish Cinema of Moral Anxiety.



Milan Wolf

Film buff and “collecteur passionné” Milan Wolf exhibited a selection of rare posters from the first two decades of the 20th century. These were displayed in the foyer of Portyč Kino and included the famous King Kong poster, considered by experts to be the most outstanding film poster of all time. Originals sell for 100 000 USD.



Authors: Petr Kurečka, Marek Škarpa and Ester Kočíková
Opening ceremony Metamorphosis

A major exhibition was set up on the Riviera leading from the Culture Centre towards the Old Stone Bridge: Petr Kurečka and Marek Škarpa, under the evocative name METAMORPHOSIS, set up their large-format photographs of guests from last year’s RFF. They had spent most of last year’s festival photographing various personalities in costumes and with props and in the most bizarre situations. Next year’s participants will discover a similar exhibition in the same location. METAMORPHOSIS is now scheduled as a regular RFF event and will over the years produce a unique photo archive.

Variations on this theme were visible at another exhibition by the same duo: 12 famous local actresses and stars from Czech show business had volunteered to dress up as famous men. This collection

of photographs provided the content for a charity calendar for Chantal Poullain’s ARCHA foundation. Chantal, the Czech Republic’s most famous French actress, inaugurated the exhibition herself. The calendar was voted Calendar of the Year for 2009.

Workshops and Panel Discussions



Apart from the already mentioned discussion on the Polish Cinema of Moral Anxiety another very important panel discussion took place at this year's RFF: "What next with Czech TV?". As the title suggests this discussion dealt with the worrying situation in Czech TV, the country's only public broadcaster. The discussion



was chaired by Jan Gogola and among the

panel members were Ivo Mathé (former

intendant of Czech TV and Vice President

of the EBU); FITES (The Czech Union of Film and TV artists) members

Kristina Vlachová and Ivan Biel, Chairman of the Association of Directors

and Scriptwriters Petr Kaňka, scriptwriter Miroslav Sovják and the author of

the screenplay to the film "Kajínek", Marek Dobeš. The only person from

Czech TV to accept RFF's invitation to this discussion was the intrepid Václav Kvasnička. Of the 15 invited ČT

individuals no other member came. The discussion lasted for over 2 hours and as could be expected

addressed many fundamental issues. A surprising element was the large number of young people who took

an active part in the discussion and raised pertinent issues. A word-for-word transcript of this panel

discussion will appear in the next issue of SYNCHRON, FITES' official bi-monthly magazine.

STATISTICS

Festival Programmes	232
Events open to the General Public	62
Full-length Feature Films	139
Short Films	53
Composite Events	16
Concerts	8
Theatre and Dance	8
Exhibitions	6
Workshops and Panel Discussions	2
Accredited Participants	1 792
Guests	401
Crew	149
Press	71

Number of Individual Viewings **22 000**

Nationalities present: Australia , Austria, England, France, Germany, Hungary, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, USA

THE MIROSLAV ONDŘÍČEK AWARD

The annual Miroslav Ondříček Award was presented at RFF 2010 to the following laureates: collectively to The Polish Cinema of Moral Anxiety and the Jára Cimrman Theatre; further to the renowned film critic, journalist and pedagogue, Galina Kopaněva and the projectionist Jaroslav Kupec. This year Mr Kupec celebrated his 60th year in the projectionist's cabin and the organisers thought the award was well-earned.



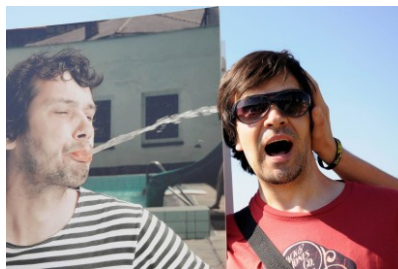
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AT RFF 2010 (DAY BY DAY)

Friday, 30. 7.

- Accreditation began in the morning and the first screening took place at 14:30: Krzysztof Kieslovweki's famous film „Camera Buff“, which also opened the festival programme chapter “The Polish Cinema of Moral Anxiety”.
- At precisely 19h, on the Písek Riviera (the embankment in front of the Culture Centre and next to the Otava River) Ester Kočíčková declared Petr Kurečka's and Marek Škarpa's exhibition Metamorphosis Písek 2009 open.
- The band Bek Ofis performed its concert in the Altán Pavillion in Palacky Park.
- Tea Jay Ivo began his daily expedition into the realms of music. Opening night was reserved for French and Latin music.
- At 23h participants were given the unique opportunity to view the classic silent movie „Nosferatu“ at its original screening speed (16 f.p.s.) and enjoy the live music accompaniment.



Ester Kočíčková opening the Metamorphosis exhibition



Pavel Liška (photo) and one of the authors – Marek Škarpa



Bek Ofis relaxing on the Island after their concert

Saturday, 31. 7.

- At 11:00 Krzysztof Zanussi's “Camouflage” is screened in the main hall of the Culture Centre. After the film, director Zanussi talks to the audience. As usual, discussions with him provide a wealth of information and are very human.
- At 14:30 the latest films by students from FAMU's documentary faculty are shown. The screening room is full and the two FAMU representatives, Jaroslav Kratochvíl and Tomáš Weinreb, have their hands full to answer all the questions.
- At 17:30 the Opening Ceremony begins in Kino Portyč. Jaroslav Dušek sparkles with wit, Chantal Poullain warms people's hearts with her French chansons and 6 Polish directors receive the Miroslav Ondříček Award in collective recognition of the Polish Cinema of Moral Anxiety. The entire auditorium gives them a standing ovation.
- Now it is Martin Jiroušek's turn to open his famous bag of midnight tricks and invites participants on a “Voyage to the Colourful Planet of Méliès”. There will be another five such special nocturnal séances with Jiroušek at the helm – some slightly horrifying, others obscure but all of them beautiful.
- In the Altán Pavillion Jiří Dědeček strums his acoustic guitar and introduces an open-air audience to his latest album. During Normalisation he was famous for songs like: “No mushrooms growing ...”; his new album is about marital infidelity, cancer, prostitutes and “the rain falling into our Campari.”
- A late night screening follows with “Secrets of a Soul” by that great giant of German silent movies, G. W. Pabst. Again, live accompaniment by Mr Johan of Johan Band.



Krzysztof Zanussi



Jaroslav Dušek and Tomáš Dušek



Chantal Poullain



Michael Havas



Jaroslav Dušek



The delegation of Polish film directors



Květa Fialová,
Proměny 2010



Petr Kurečka, Chantal Poullain
and Marek Škarpa



Jiří Dědeček

Sunday, 1. 8.

- At 11:00 on Sunday participants attend a screening of a rare and recently discovered 1909 newsreel: "The Aeroplanes at Brescia". The film records an air pageant witnessed by Franz Kafka who then published one of his first articles, describing this event. The programme is introduced by Hans Gerd Koch, a leading German expert on the life and works of Franz Kafka. The Czech version of Kafka's text is read by the well-known actress Daniela Bakerová.
- Simultaneously, in the hall next door, Václav Kadrnka presents snippets from his new film "80 Letters" and explains to his audience the ins and outs of independent film-making in the Czech Republic.
- To cap it all, at the same moment across the river in Kino Portyč Tomasz Zygodlo introduces his masterpiece "The Moth".
- Prácheňské Museum provides the venue for another important event: ambassadors from the Jára Cimrman Theatre have come to open an exhibition featuring the inventions of the long-forgotten Belle Époque genius Jára Cimrman. They are presented with this year's second Miroslav Ondříček Award, also in collective recognition of the "humanity and gentle humour they provided during normalisation" and for their long-term dedication to the preservation of the Czech language.
- A few hours later at 19:00 the curtains go up in the main hall of the Culture Centre on the latest Jára Cimrman production: Czech Heaven. Every seat is taken. The performance ends in a standing ovation.
- Another late night screening accompanied by live music. Mr Macháček has joined Mr. Johan and they create a haunting acoustic backdrop to Stuart Paton's 1916 version of "20 000 Leagues under the Sea".



Hans Gerd Koch and Daniela Bakerová



Polish directors



M. Havas and Boris Nosek presenting members of the JC Theatre, headed by Zdeněk Svěrák, with the MO award



The Jára Cimrman Theatre – Czech Heaven

Monday, 2.8.

- It's good to rise with a song on your lips. At 8:30 in Kino Portyč they are screening the French musical by Jacques Demy, "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg".
- 11:00 in the same cinema sees a screening of the famous and in its time scandalous film "The Lovers" by Louis Malle. The film is introduced by internationally renowned Czech DOP Jaromír Šofr who tells his audience why this film was so important for him during his formative years. History per se and individual destiny intertwine.
- Simultaneously, in the Culture Centre, a panel discussion on the Polish Cinema of Moral Anxiety unfolds. P. Andrejew, T. Zygałło, J. Domaradzki, R. Bugajski and J. Zaorski involve the audience in a discussion on the problems of censorship, the impact of exile and the inspiration they received from the Czechoslovak New Wave. The Polish delegation is joined by the Slovak director Dušan Trančík.
- The British film maker Robert James introduces his series „Ripples of Loss“. Somewhat taken aback by the size of his audience, he demonstrates how commissioned instructional films can still be a work of art.
- At 14:30 one of the world's most famous of modern mimes, Ctibor Turba, presents his two films „Haydn“ and „Hobit“.
- Lenka Dusilová presents her acoustic concert in the Altán Pavilion.
- Another lovely day in Písek comes to a close with a screening of the famous "The Student of Prague" (1913). Mr Johan and Mr Macháček provide another imaginative and sensitive musical accompaniment.



The discussion on the Polish Film of Moral Anxiety led by the delegation of Polish directors attracted a large audience at RFF.



Ctibor Turba



Vladimír Birgus, Jindřich Štreit and Jan Lukeš



Lenka Dusilová and the atmosphere in Palacký Park

Tuesday, 3. 8.

- Doubtlessly, the most important event of this morning is the panel discussion “What next with Czech TV?” The Puppet Screening Room is bursting at the seams.
- 14:30: Kristina Vlachová presents her documentary film „Jan Palach’s Message“.
- Czechoslovak-Australian actress Eva Sitteová presents Juraj Jakubisko’s virtually unknown film, “Eva, Eva”. “Virtually unknown”, because after her emigration in the 1980’s the film was banned by the communist censors. Emigration was illegal so if an actor or actress vanished abroad, films in which he or she had acted were withdrawn from circulation.
- Štefan Uher’s famous film „The Organ“ is presented by the actress Hana Maciuchová. This was one of her first leading roles.
- The screening of „The Defendant“ is presented by Elmar Kloss jr., who takes the opportunity to commemorate his father.
- The general public is in for a treat with an open-air screening on the Grand Square of “The Horseman on the Roof”. Sitting at a small table with a lamp is Jiří Dědeček, engrossed in his simultaneous translation.
- Ivan Hlas holds his acoustic concert in the Altán Pavilion.



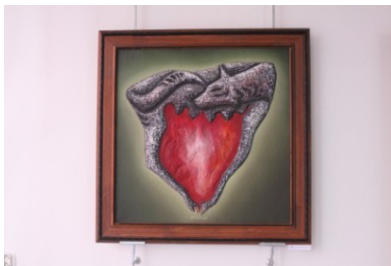
Kristina Vlachová



Panel discussion: "What next with Czech TV?"



Boris Nosek



Painting by Boris Nosek



Ivan Hlas



The Altán atmosphere in Palacký Park

Wednesday, 4. 8.

- The screening of „Eye Above Prague“ is presented by the famous singer Pavel Bobek, who continues in discussion with the audience long after the film has stopped running. Before becoming a singer he had studied architecture with Jan Kaplický, the architect of the “octopus” library, which forms the subject of this film.
- Director Antonín Kachlík comes personally to introduce his normalisation opus “Twenty Ninth” and makes a valiant attempt to explain why he, director of some truly great works, agreed to make one of the most servile films shot during communism.
- The second edition of RFF draws to a close in Kino Portýč. Jiří Dědeček acts as MC, welcoming the Mayor of Písek, Mr. Miroslav Sládek. Two more Miroslav Ondříček Awards are presented: to Galina Kopaněva for her life-long commitment to film criticism and teaching; as well as to Jaroslav Kupec who has been working as a projectionist since 1950! How many films has HE seen?! It was an honour for RFF to present an award to one of the “invisible” members of the team.
- In the course of summing up RFF 2010 festival president Michael Havas announces the themes for 2011:
 1. **“God”**
 2. **“A history of Greek Cinema”** – including retrospectives of the works of Mihalis Kakogiannis and Theo Angelopoulos
 3. **“From Caligari to Hitler”** - German films of the Weimar Republic from the end of World War I to the rise to power of Adolf Hitler.
 4. **“Diagnosis by Time”**
- Greek director Georgis Agathonikiadis presented a world premiere of his new film “Bitter Snow” – a precursor for next year’s programme.
- Director Vít Klusák discusses his latest film “Czech Peace” with an appreciative audience. The lively discussion continues on into the cinema foyer.
- Vladimír Merta closes a week of fine acoustic concerts in the Altán Pavilion.



Pavel Bobek



Antonín Kachlík



Jiří Dědeček



Starosta Pisku Miroslav Sládek
and Michael Havas



Galina Kopaněva and Michael Havas



Jaroslav Kupec



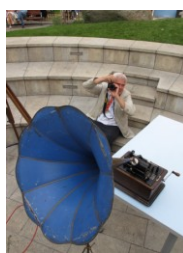
Milonga time on the Sladovna courtyard



Vladimír Merta, Altán pavilion, Palacký park

Thursday, 5. 8. – Closing Day

- Personality of the Day on the last day of the festival is director Drahomíra Vihanová. She arrives in Písek a few days after her 80th birthday, utterly disarming the audience with her spontaneity, wit and charm.
- In the Sladovna courtyard Milan Wolf treats his audience to a “Magic Hour with Mr Edison’s Phonograph”, playing cylinder after cylinder of music and song on this 1898 original piece. Milan Wolf is one of Europe’s greatest collectors of films, cameras, projectors, posters and other memorabilia. Finally, he demonstrates how Mr Křiženecký cranked the 1902 Ernemann camera which he used when shooting the first-ever Czech film: “Riding a Prague Tram”.
- RFF’s review of French cinema closes with Arnaud Desplechin’s “A Christmas Tale”.
- Agnieszka Holland’s “Provincial Actors” closes RFF’s programme chapter on The Polish Cinema of Moral Anxiety.



PRAGUE ECHOES OF RIVER FILM FEST 2010

Best of Fest, Municipal Baths 7. - 11. 8. 2010

A week of Prague Echoes took place after the festival in the open air cinema located in the Municipal Baths on the banks of the Moldau River near Malá strana. 6 films were screened, representing all RFF programme cycles: Andrzej Wajda's "Man of Marble", which stood at the beginning of the Polish Cinema of Moral Anxiety; Oldřich Lipský's "The Straw Hat" and Juraj Herz's "The Kerosene Lamps" representing Belle Époque; "Pierre le fou" and "The Horseman on the Roof" from A History of French Cinema, and finally the Polish film "The Dark House" representing Visegrad Corner.

CONCLUSION



Major improvements in the production and overall organisation of RFF were gratifying not only for the organisers but more importantly for the participants and those familiar with summer festivals. An unprecedented number of congratulatory emails, Face Book messages and SMSs bear testimony to this achievement.

However, the organisers have no intention of sitting on their laurels. With an eye to the future, the team is well aware of the need to launch the PR campaign as early as possible and to establish closer co-operation with the media.

This goes hand in hand with the need to secure long-term agreements with major partners and to increase the modest budget. In comparison with this year's 7 million CZK budget, ANIFEST in Teplice operates on an 18 million CZK budget while Summer Film School in Uherské Hradiště boasts a budget in the vicinity of 15 million CZK.

One of the immediate benefits which would be achieved by raising the budget would be the international PR impact of RFF – in particular with regard to the RFF website and all publications. Taking by way of example 500 pages which would have to be translated into English for starters this would represent about 125 000 CZK. This sum represents roughly the annual school fees for two international students at FAMO, the Film Academy of Miroslav Ondříček.

In the light of this year's feedback and positive results we are convinced that River Film Fest can quickly become one of the most significant socio-cultural events in South Bohemia and an invaluable tool for international tourism in the region. RFF has the potential to help attract a larger number of international students for Písek's FAMO. Every international filmmaker who comes to RFF will take back to his home country the knowledge of the existence of FAMO. It would be a shame not to transform this potential into reality.

Michael Havas
President
River Film Fest
CEO
Heart of Europe Media s.r.o.

Markéta Havasová
Main Co-ordinator
River Film Fest
CEO
Heart of Europe Media s.r.o.

Kontakt:

marketa.havasova@festivalnadrekou.cz

Not even the best of festivals could take place without generous partner support. Particularly during the current period of economic crisis we appreciate their commitment and vision; we would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank them all sincerely: the old ones for their loyalty, the new ones for their courage! We trust that this year's festival has fulfilled their expectations.

**FESTIVAL NAD ŘEKOU
RIVER FILM FEST
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