

CZECH THE NEWS - SF



Czech Films Return to San Francisco – Come Czech Them Out !

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic is excited to officially announce the 2nd annual Czech film festival: “Czech That Film presented by Staropramen” beginning in San Francisco on May 31, 2013. Conceived in 2012, the Czech film series is dedicated to raising the profile of new Czech films by attracting interest and celebrating Czech cinema at an international level.

Here in San Francisco, the program was organized by the Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles in cooperation with Roxie Theater and Czech Honorary Consul General in San Francisco/Silicon Valley Richard Pivnicka and builds on a very successful tradition of screening popular Czech films all across the United States. A total of 12 films will tour Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, Washington, DC, San Francisco, Chicago, Portland, Seattle, Phoenix, Denver, and New York City.

San Francisco	
Flower Buds	May 31, 7:00 p.m.
Perfect Days	June 1, 7:00 p.m.
Signal	June 2, 7:00 p.m.
The House	June 3, 7:00 p.m.
In the Shadow	June 4, 7:00 p.m.

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All shows will take place at the Roxie Theater (3117 16th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103), and have English subtitles.

Dear Friends in Southland

I am excited to confirm announcement that the annual Czech film festival will return to California and other west coast cities this May and June under its new name – “Czech That Film presented by Staropramen”. The Czech Consulates cooperate with the Roxie Theater in San Francisco Mission district again. Together, we will present five new Czech films at the Roxie Theater, starting on May 31, 2013 with the screening of the successful film Flower Buds, which by the way will be also screened in Campbell (San Jose) on April 30, 2013.

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CZECH THAT FILM

presented by STAROPRAMEN

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Not only is the program a great chance to witness the best new pictures Czech cinema has to offer – including several winners of the Oscars of the Czech Republic, the Czech Lion – but it is also an opportunity to personally meet well-established Czech directors. Numerous question & answer sessions during the festival will give audiences behind the scenes access to filmmakers, as well as insider information about the film creation process.

2011 Czech Lion for Best Film, “Flower Buds,” will kick-off the program in San Francisco on May 31, 2013. This successful film will also be screened as a preview in Campbell (San Jose) in presence of its director Zdeněk Jiráský. Filmmaker David Ondříček, who was recently listed by the popular entertainment magazine *Variety* as one of the top “10 Directors to Watch,” will personally introduce “In the Shadow.” His film, winner of nine prestigious Czech Lions and the Czech entry for the Best Foreign Language Oscar in 2013, will be screened on June 4. The closing reception at West of Pecos Restaurant and Q&A with Ondříček will be the last event in San Francisco, before the festival continues its US tour.

Czech That Film 2013 is a growing effort, and relies heavily on sponsors, contributors, and volunteers. We would like to thank all the organizations involved in the process, especially Staropramen for sponsoring the entire festival. Milk & Honey Films, Prague Studios, ELMA (European Languages and Movies in America), Czech shipping company shipito.com, BayCzech, Czechtech and Czech Tourism also contributed generously to the program. Special thanks to the Czech Honorary Consul General Richard Pivnicka in San Francisco and to Mike Keegan of Roxie Theater for their invaluable help organizing the events in San Francisco.

For more information on Czech That Film 2013, including the list and details of screenings, how to become a sponsor or volunteer, director biographies, and the previous festival archive, please visit our dedicated website at: www.czechthatfilm.com

We look forward to seeing everyone at the many special events, and enjoy the show!



Marika Šoposká & Kateřina Jandáčková in the film „Flower Buds“



Vojta Dyk & Kryštof Hádek in the film „Signal“



Directors David Ondříček & Zdeněk Jiráský



Sponsored by

Dear Friends in Southland

Cont'd from page 1

It took a lot of work from everybody here at the Consulate to bring you this exciting program. I hope you will find it stimulating, both from a cinematic as well as a storytelling point of view. Director David Ondříček, recently named among the Top Ten Directors to Watch by Variety, will come to San Francisco for the Closing Night of the festival on June 4th, 2013, and personally present his film "In the Shadow," which won an incredible nine Czech Lions this March. Please, find a detailed program on the previous page. I look forward to seeing you all at the screenings at the beautiful Roxie Theater.

I am also happy that the second edition of our popular Petrof Concert Series had such a fantastic start in February when famous Czech violinist Jaroslav Svěcený, with his talented daughter Julia, performed several works of Bach, Mozart, and Bleriot. Exceptional Czech singer Jana Fabianová returned to the Petrof Series on April 7th with a fantastic concert of the best from well-known Czech and Slovak musicals and chansons. I also very much look forward to performance of famous Czech pianist Pavel Kohout, who will perform on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 8 p.m. at the Memorial Church at Stanford University.

Last month, the Czech Tourism office in Orange County, which serves all the Western United States, officially opened and begun to promote travel to the Czech Republic. We at the Consulate look forward to this important cooperation. If you know of anybody interested in visiting our beautiful homeland, please feel free to direct them to the Czech Tourism office and its friendly director Vojtěch Kačerovský.

I also would like to congratulate Bishop Peter Esterka on the Golden anniversary of his priesthood and on the Gratias Agit Award. The celebrations in Yorba Linda, San Francisco and San Diego were very inspirational and all the visitors were appreciative of the work and service that Bishop Esterka did for the Czech community in California. I wish him good health and I would like to thank him for all those years he served mass in the Czech language for his countrymen here. To get more information about our events, please visit our website www.mzv.cz/losangeles and Facebook page.

Michal Sedláček



Bennewitz String Quartet in Los Gatos

The renowned Bennewitz Quartet, founded by young musicians at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague in 1998, and named after the famous Czech violinist and teacher Antonin Bennewitz (1833-1926), is today one of the leading Czech chamber music ensembles. In 2005 the Bennewitz Quartet was the gold medal winner at the International Chamber Music Competition in Osaka which was followed by a tour of Japan.

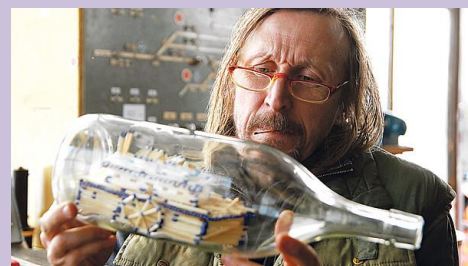
This successful Czech Quartet will perform on April 19, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. in Saint Luke's Episcopal Church (20 University Avenue, Los Gatos). Please come to support popular Czech musicians.

For Tickets/info please visit www.SunsetConcerts.org; or 408-354-4560.

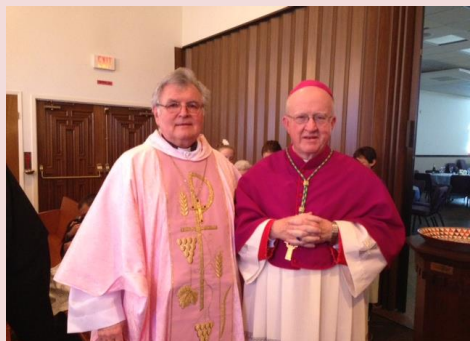


Screening of the Czech Film „Flower Buds“ in presence of director Zdeněk Jiráský in Campbell (San Jose)

On Tuesday, April 30, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., the award winning movie „Flower Buds“ will be screened in San Jose area organized by local Czech organization BayCzech. This character-driven story takes us through the trials of an ordinary family, each with their own personal hopes and ambitions. The film won 4 Czech Lions in 2011, including Best Film and Best Director. The screening will be followed by Q&A with director Zdeněk Jiráský and will take place at the Camera 7 Cinemas, Pruneyard (1875 S. Bascom Avenue, Campbell, CA). For more information and tickets, please visit www.bayczech.com or call 408 621 4921.



Bishop Esterka celebrates 50th anniversary of his ordination



Bishop Peter Esterka (left) and Bishop Kevin Vann

Czech Catholic bishop Peter Esterka, long time resident of Orange County, celebrated a special mass on the occasion of the 50th golden anniversary of his ordination. This ceremonial service took place in the Catholic John Paul II Center in Yorba Linda on Sunday, March 10, 2013 and was attended by Bishop Kevin Vann (pictured with Father Esterka) bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Orange. Golden Anniversary of Ordination also took place at Star of the Sea Church in San Francisco on March 17, 2013.

Before the Mass in San Francisco, two wonderful chocolate cakes were presented at the Hall, dedicated by the members of the mission. This time the Mass was enhanced by several altar servers dressed in red cassocks. The young ones also participated in the liturgy by singing.

"I remember very well the day of March 9, 1963, when I was ordained" Bishop Esterka explained during the Mass and continued "I was the only Czech with many Irishmen and Italians present during the ordination in Rome, so I felt a little bit alone. None of my relatives were in the audience during that special occasion."

Peter Esterka was born and grew up in Dolní Bojanovice near Hodonín. He escaped to Austria because of Communist prosecution in 1957. He studied in Rome and was ordained in the Basilica of St. John Lateran. He came to the United States the same year, in 1963, on his first mission to Texas. However, after three years he went back to Rome to study for a doctorate degree.

"When I returned to the US, I started teaching at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota, and stayed there for many years," Bishop explained again.

Bishop Esterka served also as a chaplain in the US Air Force. "When later on, there was an opportunity to come to California, I did not hesitate. I love the community here; they are very active and supportive. I can't complain!" the Bishop underlined.

A favorite of many local Czechs and Slovaks, Bishop Esterka served for many years as bishop for all Czech Catholics in North America, Western Europe, and Australia. He resigned formally at the occasion of his 75th birthday, in accordance with Catholic custom.

The Czech Catholic Bishops Conference designated Bishop Václav Malý as the new Bishop for Czechs in Western Europe, while Bishop Esterka was asked to temporarily continue performing his service to North America and Australia while ministering to the local Czech community in California. "I am very happy that now after 50 years I can celebrate my ordination here in California, where a very nice and large Czech Catholic community has been created," the cheerful Bishop Esterka concluded with a toast.

For his life-long devoted service to Czechs abroad, Bishop Esterka will receive the Gratias Agit Award by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic this year. The award ceremony will take place in Prague in June of 2013.



Bishop Peter Esterka

Pavel Kohout, Czech Organist performs at Stanford

The second year of annual Czech music series called "Petrof Concert Series 2013" will continue with a concert featuring internationally acclaimed Czech organist Pavel Kohout, who will perform on his American concert tour at Memorial Church, Stanford University on Wednesday, May, 1, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. He will present music of famous world composers such as J.S. Bach, C.P.E. Bach, D. Buxtehude and F. A. Hugn.

Pavel Kohout graduated from the Prague Conservatory and the Music Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague under the guidance of Jaroslav Tůma. Kohout regularly appears as a concert organist and pianist. He has also performed on international music festivals and prestigious concert series throughout the world.

Stanford's concert will be preceded by his performance in Los Angeles on April 28, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. at the Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church. Mr. Pavel Kohout and American Soprano Jennifer Paulino will present a great choice of Czech and world music, including famous Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, meditative Debussy's 1st Arabesque and music of Czech composers like Antonín Dvořák or Jaroslav Ježek.

The Petrof Concert Series 2013 was launched on February 18, 2013 with a fantastic concert of the prominent Czech violin virtuoso Jaroslav Svěcený and his talented daughter Julia. They performed at the residence of Consul General Michal Sedláček pieces for two violins (Bach, Mozart, Leclair and Bériot). They have also introduced Svěcený's original compositions. The performance was very well received and highly successful, with over sixty guests in attendance.

The next event from Petrof Concert Series 2013 was a performance of popular Czech singer Jana Fabiánová. Her performance included the best from the Czech and Slovak musicals and the best chansons. The concert took place on April 7, 2013 at the residence of Consul General in Los Angeles.

Throughout 2013 the Petrof Concert Series will bring you with gracious support of the Petrof Pianos USA and the Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) even more musical events of both classical and modern music.



Pavel Kohout



Jana Fabiánová



Jaroslav Svěcený and his daughter Julie

News From the Honorary Consul General in San Francisco

On March 28th, George Gascón, San Francisco City and County District Attorney and Richard Pivnicka, Honorary Consul General of the Czech Republic, signed a Memorandum of Understanding, which acknowledges and strengthens the relationship between the two respective offices and confirms that they will work together to provide coordinated assistance to crime victims, regardless of the victims' citizenship status, with a special focus on assisting victims of human trafficking, hate crimes and domestic violence.

The Agreement is the first of its kind in the country and part of District Attorney Gascón's initiative to reach out and provide support to immigrant communities through foreign consulates. The Honorary Czech Consulate General became the third consulate to sign such an agreement in San Francisco, following the Consulate General of Mexico and the Philippine Consulate General.

During the signing ceremony, which was televised on KTVU, District Attorney Gascón commented that he was grateful for the partnership established with the Honorary Czech Consulate General in an effort his office is making to prosecute crimes and ensure justice. In a press release that followed the event, he was further quoted as saying that, "Working with foreign consulates to ensure the safety of multi-national victims is essential to preserving the sanctity of San Francisco." During a KQED radio interview held at the conclusion of the ceremony, Honorary Consul General Pivnicka encouraged other Consulates in the city to also sign a Memorandum with the District Attorney's office.



MOU Signing

Czech School in San Francisco

Kid's Day in San Francisco Bay Area

Parents in cooperation with the Czech School in California are going to celebrate Kid's Day on Saturday, June 1. There will be a games, prizes and food. Families with the youngest as well as with school children are welcome to join this popular celebration.

For more information and registration form please visit: www.CzechSchoolofCalifornia.com. (Information about the Kid's Day will be available on the website in the second half of May).

International Competition for Czech speaking children

The Czech School in California is proud to announce an international competition called Český Honza that brings a unique opportunity to compete with Czech speaking children from all over the world. The competition is focusing on children living abroad. However, each year one Czech school in the Czech Republic joins the project. Czech School in California is a part of the competition as well. However, even children that are not attending Czech school classes are welcome to join the competition. Children from the age of 6 to 18 years old can compete on-line within the competition in following categories: Creative Writing, Art and the Personality of Český Honza. The winners of each category will win valuable prizes and their artistic pieces will become a part of the Český Honza's Exhibition in 2013. For more information about the project: www.CeskyHonza.com.

Experience the Czech Republic through its cuisine

On March 19th, 2013 the Czech School of California hosted its first Traditional Czech Cuisine event that was a unique opportunity to come together, network with the Czech community and enjoy fabulous entertainment by students of the School. Around 60 guests tasted over thirty delicious, traditional Czech foods – including soups, main courses, and a vast variety of desserts! The event was a great success and we are already much anticipating the second year of annual event of Traditional Czech Cuisine.



Traditional Czech cuisine event

Czech Tourism Opens an Office on West Coast

Hello from the new office of the Czech Tourist Authority – CzechTourism in Southern California

I am proud to announce that we have successfully established the second office of the Czech Tourist Authority in the United States, our very own Czech Tourism in Los Angeles. In addition to our New York office on Madison Avenue, there is now a new, local spot based in Orange County.

We are here to promote travel to the beautiful Czech Republic, and show our American hosts all the important historical Czech landmarks that have been preserved over the centuries. On Saturday, March 23, 2013 the Czech Tourism launched opening party at the Aquatic Center in Newport Beach.

Moreover, we will host the official opening ceremony on June 18, 2013 in Los Angeles with the General Director of Czech Tourism, Mr. Rostislav Vondruška, who will come exceptionally for this special occasion. Please, join us, everybody is invited.

One of our main goals is to help our Travel Trade partners create new and exciting products that involve all the activities, culture, stories, and beauties the Czech Republic has to offer. This partnership offers exclusive networking with international businesses.

You can meet with us soon at the upcoming 2013 Czech Film Festival, “Czech That Film presented by Staropramen,” organized by the Czech Consulate in Los Angeles. We are proud to support this program and many other exciting activities in the US, including the Czech School in Orange County, educational Cultural Workshops like The-Newport-Beach-Cross-Cultural-club and others.

And we have only just started! I look forward to meeting any professionals looking for information and support, as well as travel enthusiasts who plan to visit our unique homeland.

Please feel free to contact us at
losangeles@czechtourism.com with any comments or questions.
www.czechtourism.cz

Vojtěch Kačerovský



Vojtěch Kačerovský, Director CzechTourism LA

Sokol Walk on April 19

Sokol San Francisco invites you for their spring lunch and walk on April 19, 2013. Everybody will meet at the popular El Torito restaurant at San Leandro Marina. Wonderful location, great food and easy walks around the bay shore.

For more information visit Sokol San Francisco website: www.sokolsf.org or contact Mrs. Jara Dusatko at jmdusatko@gmail.com



Screening of the film Nicky's Family in Orinda

The film „Nicky's Family“ is based on an inspirational true story of the „British Schindler“ Sir Nicholas Winton who organized the rescue of 669 Czech and Slovak children just before the outbreak of World War II from Prague. This documentary by director Matěj Mináč has earned rave reviews from audiences and critics around the world, winning over 29 awards, including 13 audience awards from different film festivals in the United States.

The screening will be held on Sunday, April 28, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. at Orinda Library Theater, (26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA)

For more information please call: 925-254-8260



Upcoming Cultural Events

April 2013	May 2013	June 2013
<p>April 19, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. – The Bennewitz String Quartet from Prague, Saint Luke's Episcopal Church (20 University Avenue, Los Gatos, CA)</p> <p>Tickets/Info: www.sunsetconcerts.org</p>	<p>May 1, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. – Concert with Pavel Kohout, organist and pianist Memorial Church, Stanford University</p> <p>Admission free</p>	<p>June 1, 2013, 7:00 p.m. – Screening of the film "Perfect Days"</p> <p>Roxie Theater</p>
<p>April 27, 2013 at 2:30 p.m. – 2013 Spring Feast, Orinda Community Center (28 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA)</p> <p>RSVP: californiaczechslovak@yahoo.com or ph.: 925-285-1317</p>	<p>May 31, 2013, 7:00 p.m. – Screening of the film "Flower Buds"</p> <p>Roxie Theater (3117 16th Street, San Francisco, CA)</p> <p>Tickets/Info: www.roxie.com</p>	<p>June 2, 2013, 7:00 p.m. – Screening of the film "Signal"</p> <p>Roxie Theater</p>
<p>April 28, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. – Screening of the film "Nicky's Family", Orinda Library Theater (26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA)</p> <p>Tickets (\$5) at the door only!</p>		<p>June 3, 2013, 7:00 p.m. – Screening of the film "The House"</p> <p>Roxie Theater</p>
<p>April 30, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. Screening of the film "Flower Buds" followed by Q&A with the director Z. Jiráský Camera 7 Cinemas, Pruneyard (1875 Bascom Avenue, Campbell, CA) Tickets/info: www.bavczech.com</p>		<p>June 4, 2013, 7:00 p.m. – Closing Nigh of the Festival with Screening of the film "In the Shadow" followed by Q&A with the director D. Ondříček</p> <p>Roxie Theater</p>

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