



CZECH THE NEWS – SLC & Denver

Miloš Zeman Elected New President of the Czech Republic



President Miloš Zeman

The Czech Republic held the first direct presidential elections in its history this winter, in contrast to previous elections that were determined by a parliamentary majority vote. Almost two-thirds of Czech nationals (61.3%) cast initial votes on January 11-12, and nominated former Prime Minister Miloš Zeman and current Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg as run-off candidates, with a narrow result of 24.2% and 23.4%, respectively. The two final contenders were elected from a total of nine eligible candidates.

The second, determining vote on January 25-26, 2013 elected Mr. Miloš Zeman as the new President of the Czech Republic, with 55% of the popular vote. He was inaugurated on March 8 of 2013.

While Mr. Schwarzenberg received much of the young, urban vote especially in Prague, Mr. Zeman dominated the countryside and elderly voters. Almost 60% of eligible Czech voters turned out for the final round of the presidential election, with about 2.7 million (54.8%) voting for Zeman and over 2.2 million (45.2%) voting for Schwarzenberg. The term of the President is five years.

Mr. Zeman is the former Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, a position he held from 1998-2002. Currently, he is only the third president in Czech history, and the first to be directly elected by the Czech people. Before his presidential bid, Mr. Zeman was a member of the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of Czech Parliament, and held the Speaker position from 1996-1998. In the 1990s Mr. Zeman led the Czech Social Democratic Party before founding the Citizen's Rights Party in 2009 (Strana Práv Občanů – Zemanovci; SPOZ).

Dear Friends in the Salt Lake City and Denver,

I hope you all had a good start into 2013! We have experienced a wonderful exercise of democracy during the first direct presidential elections in our history. Former Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Milos Zeman was elected the new Czech President and was inaugurated on March 8, 2013. It is delightful to see so many Czechs living abroad interested in Czech affairs.

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**CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE
CZECH REPUBLIC IN LOS ANGELES**

Phone 310.473.0889

10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100,
Los Angeles, CA 90024

www.mzv.cz/losangeles

**To subscribe to our newsletter, please contact
us at losangeles@embassy.mzv.cz**

Dear Friends in the SLC & Denver

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I am happy to report that the annual Czech film festival will continue under a new name this April and May – “Czech That Film presented by Staropramen”. This time the Czech Consulate will cooperate with the Denver and Salt Lake Film Societies.

The movies will be screened at Broadway Centre Cinemas in Salt Lake City and at Sie FilmCenter in Denver. I also look forward to continue to work with the Czech Honorary Consuls Jonathon Tichy in Salt Lake City and Robert Erben in Boulder. They can provide you with a lot of assistance in case you need to contact Czech authorities.

I am also excited to report that the second edition of our popular Petrof Concert Series continues this year. The opening concert of this spectacular music series happened on February 18, 2013, when famous Czech violinist Jaroslav Svěcený, with his talented daughter Julia, performed several works of Bach, Mozart and Bleriot as well as an original violin fantasy called Strings for New York, written by Svěcený. Highly regarded Czech singer Jana Fabiánová will return to the Petrof Series in April and others will follow. After last year's exciting show I very much look forward to her performance.

We already have had a very busy January this year, starting with the successful Opening of the Trnka exhibit. The exhibition runs until the middle of April, so please, do not hesitate to visit the Front Gallery here at the Consulate. We also experienced a fantastic screening of the famous Czech movie Václav, which was followed by a stimulating discussion with one of the leading actors from the film, Jan Budař who recently performed in Denver as well.

It has been two years since my family and I arrived in Los Angeles. I would like to thank you again for your open arms and support. I am just in the middle of my four-year-term and I hope that the second half will be as fantastic as the first one. To get more information about our events, please, visit our website, Facebook page, or follow us on Twitter.

*Michal Sedláček
Consul General*

Czech-founded Business Rapidly Expands

Czech-American businessman John “Jan” Vanhara recently earned the distinction of having created the fastest growing private company in Los Angeles, according to the Los Angeles Business Journal.

Vanhara came to the United States in 1999 to sell software during the dot-com boom. In 2001 he started IncParadise, which helps business incorporate in Nevada and in 2007 he moved to Los Angeles to set up XYZ Bikes. After the financial crisis hit and sales slowed, he used XYZ's warehouse space and set up Shipito.

His Eastbiz Corporation, which runs mail and package forwarding business “Shipito.com”, has rapidly expanded since 2007 to four warehouses in Los Angeles, Oregon and Hong Kong. The company's service acts as an international intermediary, receiving ordered goods from US-based businesses and shipping them abroad.

Shipito.com maintains headquarters in Torrance, CA and processes an average of over 50,000 packages a month. Over three years has experienced a whooping 2,046% product growth rate. Inc. Magazine recently named the company “Number 1 in Logistics and Transportation“ in 2011. For more information on the company and its service, visit www.shipito.com.



Czech-American entrepreneur John Vanhara

“Czech Filmfest Returns to United States”

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic and the Czech Center in Prague are excited to officially announce the 2nd annual Czech film festival: “Czech That Film 2013 presented by Staropramen.” 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.

This series builds on a very successful tradition of screening modern Czech films all across the United States. Premiering this year first in Salt Lake City in April, the festival will continue to tour through Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco, Chicago, Portland, Phoenix, Denver, Washington D.C. before concluding in Seattle in July.

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.

Young Czech director Zdeněk Jiráský will present his winner of the 2011 Czech Lion for Best Film, “Flower Buds,” which will kick off the series in Salt Lake City on April 24, 2013.

Filmmaker David Ondříček, who was recently listed by the popular entertainment magazine Variety as one of the top “10 Directors to Watch,” will in Denver 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 April 24 in Salt Lake City and in Denver on May 31, 2013. A total of 12 films will be screened, coast-to-coast, throughout the festival.

The screenings in SLC will take place at the Broadway Centre Cinemas, located at 111 E Broadway, Salt Lake City, UT 84111. The screenings in Denver will take place at the Sie FilmCenter, located at 2510 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80206. All showings will have English subtitles.

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, shipping company shipito.com, and Czech Tourism are also generously supporting the festival. Special thanks to the Honorary Consulates of the Czech Republic in Boulder (Robert Erben) and in Salt Lake City (Jonathon Tichy and his colleague Owen Fuller from Fit Marketing), the Salt Lake Film Society (Tori Baker), and the Denver Film Society (Brit Whitney).

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!



SLC		Denver	
Flower Buds	Wed, April 24, 7:00 p.m.	Alois Nebel	Wed, May 29, 7:00 p.m.
In the Shadow	Wed, April 24, 9:30 p.m.	Innocence	Wed, May 29, 9:30 p.m.
Perfect Days	Thu, April 25, noon	Gypsy	Thu, May 30, 7:00 p.m.
Alois Nebel	Thu, April 25, 4:00 p.m.	Made in Ash	Thu, May 30, 9:30 p.m.
The House	Thu, April 25, 7:00 p.m.	In the Shadow	Fri, May 31, 7:00 p.m.
Innocence	Thu, April 25, 9:30 p.m.		

Forman Honored with DGA Lifetime Achievement Award

The Directors Guild of America (DGA) honored critically acclaimed Czech director Miloš Forman with the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award on February 2, 2013. This recognition cements Forman's status as one of the greatest contributors to international directing and cinema. His *One Flew Over A Cuckoo's Nest* (1975) was the second of only three films to ever win the Big Five major Academy Awards, which include Best Picture, Director, Screenplay, Actor in Lead Role, and Actress in Lead Role.

"It is a tremendous privilege to present the DGA Lifetime Achievement Award for feature film to one of the greatest filmmakers of our time, Miloš Forman," said DGA President Taylor Hackford. "No matter what subject or genre he tackles, Miloš finds the universality of the human experience in every story, allowing us – his rapt audience – to recognize ourselves within the struggle for free expression and self-determination that Miloš so aptly portrays on the silver screen."

Forman has directed multiple Academy Award-winning and nominated films, including "The Fireman's Ball" (1967), "Amadeus" (1984), and "The People vs. Larry Flynt" (1996), and has seen exceptional success at many international film festivals.

In its 76-year history, the DGA has distributed the Lifetime Achievement Award only 33 times, and to international film legends such as Frank Capra (1959), Alfred Hitchcock (1968), Orson Welles (1985), Billy Wilder (1985), Akira Kurosawa (1992), Stanley Kubrick (1997), and Martin Scorsese (2003) – among few others. The DGA presented the award at the 65th Annual DGA Awards Dinner on February 2, 2013, in Los Angeles.



Czech filmmaker Miloš Forman

Variety announces 10 Directors to Watch – Czech director David Ondříček

Popular entertainment-trade magazine Variety recently listed Czech director David Ondříček ("In the Shadows," 2012; "Loners," 2000) as one of the top ten directors to watch in 2013. Ondříček has been nominated for multiple Czech Lion awards, and his recently successful "In the Shadows" has received a total of 9 Czech Lions, including the 2012 Best Czech Feature Film. The dark film noir comments on the oppressive political system of the communist authorities in 1950s Czechoslovakia. His diverse work – including comedy, romance, and documentary films – has also been decorated at many international film festivals. The recognition from Variety follows the legacy of his father, Miroslav Ondříček, who as part of famed director Miloš Forman's production team was Oscar-nominated as cinematographer for "Ragtime" (1981) and "Amadeus" (1984). "My father taught me that you have to make films very realistic," Ondříček says. "It's my mantra: Don't make any artificial things." Ondříček plans to continue filmmaking with inspiration from his father and Forman, and hopes to continue shooting in Europe for a new, meaningful project.



Director David Ondříček

Czech Tourism opens new 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 pre-opening party at the Aquatic Center in Newport Beach. Moreover, we will host additional 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.

Also, 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 our Country offers. 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.



Vojtěch Kačerovský, Director
CzechTourism LA

Petrof Concert Series 2013

The much anticipated second year of annual Czech music series called “Petrof Concert Series 2013” was launch 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 will be a performance of popular Czech singer Jana Fabiánová. Her performance will include the best from the Czech and Slovak musicals and the best chansons. The concert will take place on April 7, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at the residence of Consul General in Los Angeles.

The Petrof Concert Series 2013 will also feature internationally acclaimed Czech concert artist Pavel Kohout. Mr. Kohout will perform on his American concert tour with his colleague exceptional soprano Jennifer Paulino on April 28, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. They 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. Furthermore, he will perform at Stanford University on May, 1, 2013.

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.



Jaroslav Svěcený and his daughter Julie

Art by Jiří Trnka Exhibited at the Consulate

An exhibition to celebrate the life and work of Czech illustrator, puppeteer, and director Jiří Trnka (1912-1969), continues to be shown in the lobby of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles. Honoring the 100th anniversary of his death, the art exhibit, titled “Serving the Imagination,” will run for only a short time until the middle of April.

Trnka’s work focused on precise, elegant designs in print and graphic art. Many classic Czech children’s stories feature his unique style, and he is known for his illustrations in books by the Brothers Grimm, Shakespeare, Lewis Carroll, and many more. He spent many years refining his passion and ultimately began producing films for an adult audience.

His reputation as an expert animator earned him the distinction of being referred to as the “Walt Disney of Eastern Europe” by biographers. In the early to mid-20th century, Trnka became one of the most celebrated Czech graphic artists of all time and in 1968 won the Hans Christian Andersen Award for his unparalleled illustrating.

In January the Czech Consulate also hosted the screening of three of Trnka’s greatest short films: the cartoon “Zasadil dědek řepu” (Grandpa Planted a Beet, 1945); short film “Vášeň” (Passion, 1962); and his last short “Ruka” (Hand, 1965).



Opening night of Jiří Trnka’s Exhibition

Consul General Meets with Mayor of San Diego

The Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles, Michal Sedláček, officially met with recently elected Mayor Bob Filner of San Diego on Friday, December 20, 2012. The discussion was dedicated to improving bilateral trade and to strengthening economic cooperation between the Czech Republic and California. Clean-tech energy, an essential development for modern and competitive businesses, was an important focus. The Mayor and Consul General later exchanged ideas on the importance of integrating cultural ties, especially with the large Czech population in the area. Czech compatriots in San Diego maintain the House of Czech & Slovak Republics as well as two Czech language schools with growing classes and programs. The meeting in San Diego was an indication of the successful US-Czech relations the two countries continue to enjoy.



Consul General Michal Sedláček and Mayor Bob Filner

News from Salt Lake City

The year 2013 is off to an exciting start for the Czech community and the Honorary Consulate in Salt Lake City. Several well-known winter sports athletes from the Czech Republic have been in Utah this winter competing in various disciplines, including skier Nikola Sudova who participated in the World Cup Freestyle Finals competition in Park City, Utah, and long-track speed skater Karolina Erbanova who competed in the Long Track World Championships in Salt Lake City. The local Czech community has turned out in force to cheer all of our Czech athletes on – and we have more competitions on the calendar.

On the cultural front, the award-winning Utah Symphony will be performing a much-anticipated concert of Dvorak classics under the direction of world-renowned conductor Vladimir Kulenic this spring www.utahsymphony.org. And later in the year the Czech community is planning on holding a traditional Czech ball (“ples”).

Also, the Bohemian Brewery and Grill, the most popular brew pub and restaurant in the Salt Lake City metro area, continues to collect major international awards for its line of excellent Czech beers. At the International Beer Competition in Denver, the Bohemian recently won four medals, including gold in both the Amber Category and the Pilsner Category and silver for “Best in Show”. There really is no better traditional Czech beer brewed anywhere in the United States.

So whether it is world-class skiing, touring one of our seven national parks and monuments, visiting the Sundance Film Festival, or catching a Utah Jazz basketball game – You are always welcome in Salt Lake City! Just stop by the Bohemian during your stay and say “hi!”

Jonathon Tichy, Honorary Consul

News from Colorado

Greetings from Colorado from the Honorary Consulate based in Boulder. 2013 promises to be an exciting and action packed year for the Czech community in Colorado. Although our world class skiing is coming to an end for the season, our cultural events are just beginning.

Here in Boulder we are very excited for the grand opening of Bohemian Biergarten. It is located at 217 13th Street, Boulder, CO 80302. The owner, Zdenek, can be reached at 720-328-8328 or zdenekbbg@gmail.com. This is a Czech-owned and operated biergarten that promises good food, beer and music. Last word was it will be opening at the beginning of April, 2013.

Coming in May, Czech That Film Festival will offer new Czech pictures to local Czech audience, including the screening of the critically acclaimed film, *Ve Stínu* (In the Shadow) directed by David Ondříček. Films will be shown in Czech with English subtitles on May 29th, 30th and 31st with a reception with the director following the last screening on the 31st. These promises to be a well received and attended event in the Czech community and is sponsored by Molson Coors who recently acquired Staropramen.

Also coming in September will be Jiří Menzel, the Czech film and theater director, actor and screenwriter. Perhaps Mr. Menzel is best known for his Academy Award for Best Foreign Film for the feature film *Closely Watched Trains*. He was again nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film in 1986 for *My Sweet Little Village*. Mr. Menzel is scheduled to be in Denver for a screening of one of his films on September 21st.

We are still working on bringing additional Czech films after the rousing success last year of the Denver Film Society which screened approximately eight Czech films last summer. Virtually every showing was sold out. Please stay tuned for more information this summer.

A special one-man show by Jan Budař attracted many local Czechs to Union-Brasserie in Lakewood on March 15, 2013. Budař, extremely popular actor starring in a number of award winning films, hosted the Czech version of the Oscars recently and also has a band. He performed solo with songs from his band on his keyboard and guitar and told comical stories (veselé historky) in between.

This is just a taste of what’s coming up this year but stay tuned for further events. In the meantime, enjoy all the beauty that Colorado has to offer!

Robert Erben, Honorary Consul

Upcoming Cultural Events

April 2013	May 2013
<p>April 24, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. – Czech That Film Presented by Staropramen - Opening reception & Screening of the film “Flower Buds”</p> <p>at Broadway Centre Cinemas, Salt Lake City</p>	<p>May 24 & 25 - Dvorak & Brahms Abravanel Hall, Salt Lake City</p> <p>(For tickets please visit www.concertboom.com/saltlakecity/2013)</p>
<p>April 24 & 25 – Czech That Film Presented by Staropramen at Broadway Center Cinemas, Salt Lake City</p>	<p>May 29-31 - Czech That Film Presented by Staropramen at Sie FilmCenter, Denver</p>
<p>April 27, 2013 at 2:30 p.m. - Smetana: The Moldau, Dvořák: Symphony No. 6 Boettcher Concert Hall 1000 14th St. #15, Denver, CO 80202 (For tickets please visit www.tix.com)</p>	<p>May 31, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. – Closing night of the Czech That Film Presented by Staropramen & Screening of the film “In The Shadow” at Sie FilmCenter, Denver</p>

Consulate General of the Czech Republic
10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100
Los Angeles, CA 90024

