



Embassy of the Czech Republic  
in Ottawa

**Film Adventurer Karel Zeman** (2015) is a biographical film that looks back at the life, work and significance of a genius of world cinema. Featuring interviews with contemporary filmmakers, including Tim Burton and Terry Gilliam, we discover why his films are still relevant and in many ways unsurpassed. Today's film students attempt to recreate several famous trick scenes from his films.

Director: Tomáš Hodan | Screenplay: Tomáš Hodan, Ludmila Zemanová, Ondřej Beránek | Producer: Ondřej Beránek | Cast: Terry Gilliam, Tim Burton, Paul Wells, Ludmila Zemanová, Boris Masník, Koji Yamamura, etc. | Punk Film, Česká televize, Prokoup Productions

**Karel Zeman** was born in Ostroměř in northern Bohemia. He started his professional career in advertising at the film studios of the global Czech shoe company Bata (whose headquarters were moved to Canada during World War II). *Journey to the Beginning of Time* released in 1955 became Zeman's breakthrough film, his first to combine live action, animation and puppetry. Three years later, *Invention for Destruction* saw him achieve world-wide fame. The film was immediately sold to 72 countries and became the most successful Czech film of all time. It was shown in 96 theatres in New York alone. Zeman continued to develop his highly successful combination of different film techniques in *The Fabulous Baron Munchausen* and the two Jules Verne adaptations that followed. Since the 1970s, motivated by his love for children and the desire to create films specially for them, Karel Zeman returned to making strictly animated films. He passed away on April 5, 1989.

**Ludmila Zemanová** is an internationally acclaimed filmmaker, author and illustrator, Karel Zeman's daughter and close associate, co-creator of several of his films. She worked on major motion pictures as a designer and assistant director. Later, she created her own short animated films for Czech television and illustrated children's books. In the early 1980s, she immigrated to Canada. She taught at Emily Carr College in Vancouver, and created animated shorts for Sesame Street. Together with her husband, she was invited to create a short film for the National Film Board of Canada. The film, *Lord of the Sky*, was short-listed for an Oscar nomination and received numerous awards around the world. The success of the film led her back to her love of children's books. She wrote and illustrated the *Gilgamesh* trilogy, *The First Red Maple Leaf*, and the *Sindbad* trilogy, all published in Canada by Tundra Books. In 2009 she collaborated with her daughter Linda, creating a picture book based on her film *Lord of the Sky*. Later they co-authored her father's biography *The Magical World of Karel Zeman*, published by Albatros in the Czech Republic. Together, they have also been a major driving force behind the creation and success of the Karel Zeman Museum in Prague.

More information & updates:

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