

Embassy of the Czech Republic
Cultural Events 2009

December 9, 8 pm

Lions of Czech Film Series:

Who's Afraid of the Wolf? | Kdopak by se vlka bál

Little Terezka loves the fairy tale about Little Red Riding Hood, and lives happily with her mother and father. As is often the case both in fairy tales and in real life, one day something changes: Terezka doesn't know why her mother has suddenly started acting differently. She doesn't know who that new strange man is, and why he is suddenly in her life. She only knows that something is wrong. She asks, but the adults are speaking in a different language, all their own. This visually original film combines elements of a family film and a children's fairy tale, speaking about love and divorce of parents from a child's perspective. (2008, 90 min., in Czech with English subtitles, DIR: Maria Procházková)



Won the Golden Kingfisher Award at the Pilsen Film Festival (2009).

Avalon Theatre, 5612 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, DC 20015

Avalon Theatre Box Office: (202) 966-6000, Tickets: \$10 Adults; \$7.50 Children (11 and under), Seniors, Students with a college ID; and \$6.50 Avalon Members www.theavalon.org

November 12, 3-7 pm

Exhibition and Pre-Holiday Sale!

Czech Christmas Decorations & Engraved Glass

The European Trading Company will present a large collection of beautiful Czech handmade Christmas ornaments just in time for the holiday season. The ornaments come in all shapes and sizes, revealing the intricate craftsmanship of Czech artisans.

As a special treat this year, visiting Czech glass engraver Zdenek Tomecek will be available to personalize any purchases. An array of traditional and contemporary Czech glass will be on display.



Embassy of the Czech Republic, 3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008

Admission is free. Reservations can be made by calling czech_events@yahoo.com or 202/274-9105.

November 11, 8 pm

Lions of Czech Film Series: *The Plastic People of the Universe*

This documentary traces the life and times of the Czech underground band that became a symbol of the anti-Communist struggle of the seventies and eighties.

The film examines the band over three decades of activities. Although the Plastic People never defined themselves as a political ensemble, in the 1970s and 1980s, they were one of the symbols of resistance against the communist state power in Czechoslovakia. The arrest and imprisonment of the Plastics horrified the public and contributed to the origin of Charter 77 in the Czech Lands. The so-called third culture thus started to form around the band, a culture where the regime could not exercise its influence. (2001, 74 min., in Czech with English subtitles, DIR: Jana Chytilová)



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November 6

International Conference: Czechs and Balances: 1989-2009: Twenty Years of Czech Freedom and Democracy.

The Embassy presents the conference to celebrate and commemorate twenty years since the Velvet Revolution of November 1989. The event highlights not only this defining moment of modern Czech history, but also the successful path that the Czech Republic has taken in the last two decades, entering NATO ten years ago, and joining the EU five years ago.

The Embassy of the Czech Republic, 3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008

Admission is free. R.S.V.P. by November 4 to czech_events@yahoo.com or 202/274-9105.

November 5, 7:30 pm

Velvet Party and Concert: Psí vojáci

The music of Psí vojáci has its roots in the underground Czech music scene. Lead by singer / songwriter Filip Topol, the group performed for the first time in 1979 at Prague Jazz Days (the band members were hardly over 13). The group drew the attention of the Czechoslovakian secret police; therefore, the group could not perform officially. The band appeared only at private underground events. After the democratic changes in Czechoslovakia in 1989, Psí vojáci became a favorite band on the local club scene and at festivals. They toured throughout Europe, and at Eurorock in Belgium with Jesus and Mary Chain and in Belfort with the renowned Carlos Santana.

Embassy of the Czech Republic, 3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008.

Admission is free.

October 29, 6 pm

Kids Euro Festival: Gathering of Drummers | Slet Bubeníků

The Gathering of Drummers (Slet Bubeníků) was first introduced in the Czech Republic in 2002 and has taken place every year since then with the mission to create new original, multi-genre music. Well-known inventive drummers from all over the world are invited to participate in a one-week workshop to create unique music utilizing numerous drum sets and an array of percussion, eventually adding melodic instruments. The collaborative efforts of these energetic and talented drummers from a multitude of different backgrounds create music that is without a doubt packed with adrenaline and emotion, and built on the creative shared ingenuity of the drummers combined. Thanks to their huge success in the Czech Republic and positive reactions from both the audience and music critics, the Gathering of Drummers will perform for the first time within the Kids Euro Festival in Washington, DC.



The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Millennium Stage, 2700 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20566

Admission is free.

October 27, 7 pm

Lecture: Jiří Černý presents Czech Music of 68/89 (Lecture in CZECH only!)

Doyen of Czech music critics, Jiri Cerny, will present his first music program in Washington, DC. Cerny has been monitoring the music scene since the 1950s. Through his articles, club events, and radio programs, he has been presenting music to generations of Czech music lovers. At present, he regularly presents his own music programs on the radio station Praha, occasionally writes articles both about classical and popular music, and organizes club events with music called "Anti-discoteques."

The Embassy of the Czech Republic, 3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008

Admission: Free, registration required! RSVP: czech_events@yahoo.com or 202/274-9105 |

October 18, 1 pm and 2:30 pm
October 19, 10:15 am and 11:30 am (Schools only)
Kids Euro Festival: Theater Minor

As a part of the Kids Euro Festival, a festival that brings 100 free children's performances to the DC area, Czech puppet theater group Minor will perform their classic tale *The Prince Bruncvík and the Lion* in the Discovery Theatre. Toy theatre style puppetry is very special: the audience sees the fascinating detail of small puppets brilliantly lit in a darkened room. The experience goes far beyond an ordinary puppet show. Live music, magic swords, fantastic creatures, and of course brave heroes and adventurous princesses star in this enchanting folktale. For more information about Theater Minor, visit www.minor.cz.



The Kids Euro Festival is organized in cooperation with 27 EU embassies and more than a dozen major cultural institutions, under the leadership of the Embassy of France in Washington, DC.

Discovery Theatre, The S. Dillon Ripley Center, 3rd Sublevel, 1100 Jefferson Drive, SW, Washington, DC 20024
Admission is free, but tickets are required.
www.discoverytheatre.com

October 14, 8 pm
Lions of Czech Film: *Tobruk* | *Tobruk*

Set in North Africa during World War II, twenty-year-old Jiří Pospíchal signs up as a volunteer in the Czechoslovak army. His naive ideas about heroism are rawly confronted with the hell of the African desert, complicated relationships in his unit, and the ubiquitous threat of death. All this takes its cruel toll in the shape of his gradual loss of self respect and courage.



Won Czech Lions for Best Cinematography, Best Music, and Best Sound (2009).

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October 13, 7:30 pm
Classical Concert: Poetica Musica

Members of Poetica Musica—Czech violinist Petr Maceček, soprano Eleanor Valkenburg, and pianist Maria Antonia Garcia—will present a classical program consisting of Antonín Dvořák's *Sonatina in G Major*, Johannes Brahms's *Sonata No 2 in A Major*, Bohuslav Martinů's *Songs on One Page*, and Ludwig van Beethoven's the "*Kreutzer*" *Violin Sonata*.



Poetica Musica is a consortium of musicians who are currently Artists-in-Residence at Old Westbury Gardens on Long Island's North Shore. Individually or collectively, members have performed at prestigious venues throughout the U.S. and abroad. For more information about Poetica Musica, visit www.poeticamusica.com.

The Embassy of the Czech Republic, 3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008
Admission is \$20.

September 30, 7:30 pm

Film Screening and Book Presentation: *The Counterfeiters*

The Embassy of the Czech Republic is collaborating with the Austrian Cultural Forum to present the (English language) book launch of Adolf Burger's *The Devil's Workshop: A Memoir of the Nazi Counterfeiting Operation*, the true story of the largest counterfeiting operation in history, set-up by the Nazis in 1936. Publisher Michael Leventhal of Frontline Books UK will present the book as well as talk about the life of Mr. Burger.

In this extraordinary memoir, Mr. Burger describes his WWII experiences including the murder of his wife Gizela in Aushwitz, and his time as a prisoner in four concentration camps. He was working as a counterfeiter until his liberation from the Ebensee camp on May 5, 1945.

Counterfeiters | *Die Fälscher*



The film *The Counterfeiters*, based largely on Burger's memoirs, won the 2007 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. In the film, Jewish master forger Salomon Sorowitsch (Karl Markovics) must choose between abetting the Nazis and saving his own skin in this taut drama based on actual events during World War II. Assembled at a death camp, a group of printers, artists and chisellers is tasked with counterfeiting currencies to weaken Allied economies. But will Sorowitsch's conscience begin to gnaw at him as the war draws to a close? (2007, 98 min., in German with English subtitles, DIR: Stefan Ruzowitzky)

For more information on the film, visit: <http://www.sonyclassics.com/thecounterfeiters/main.html>.

RSVP to the Embassy of Austria via www.acfdc.org/events-registration or call (202) 895-6775

Embassy of Austria, 3524 International Court, NW, Washington, DC 20008-3022 | Admission is free.

September 10, 7 pm

Celebration of Czech Music!

Solo Piano Classical Concert: Child prodigy, Ms. Olivia Ly

Concert organized by the International Association for Musically Gifted Children in affiliation with the European Academy of Music and Art, Inc.

For the first time, child prodigy, thirteen-year-old Ms. Olivia Ly, will perform a solo piano concert at the Embassy of the Czech Republic. The concert program will consist of masterpieces of world-renowned Czech composers, such as Bedřich Smetana, Josef Suk, Leoš Janáček, Antonín Dvořák, among others.

Olivia Ly began her piano study from the age of 3, under Dr. Bella E. Oster, Professor of Piano Performance. Since then, she has demonstrated a large number of solo piano concerts including a Gala program at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, New York, and several embassies in Washington, DC. For four consecutive years (2004–2008), Olivia was Winner of the International Contest from the International Association for Musically Gifted Children, Inc. (IAMGC, Inc.), and received gold medals for best performances with pieces by Franz Liszt and Felix Mendelssohn.



Embassy of the Czech Republic, 3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008

Admission is free. For reservations, please e-mail czech_events@yahoo.com or call 202/274-9105.

September 9, 8 pm

Lions of Czech Film Series: *Elementary School* | *Obecná škola*

The film takes place in the first year after the war in an atmosphere of reborn freedom and new hope for the future. The story revolves around Eda and his relationship with the two authority figures in his life—his father and his teacher Igor Hnízdo. Using strict discipline and stories about his experiences in the war, Hnízdo manages to bring order to a classroom full of obnoxious children who sent their last teacher to the madhouse. Through stories of heroism, he earns their love and admiration. Hnízdo is also admired by women, whom he charmingly seduces, nearly destroying his teaching career. (1991, 100 min., in Czech with English subtitles, DIR: Jan Svěrák)



Won the Golden Kingfisher Award at the Pilsen Film Festival (1991), and nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film (1992).

Avalon Theatre, 5612 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, DC 20015

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August 20, 1 pm (Opening)

Exhibition and Workshop: *Through the Lens of the Secret Police*

The exhibition *Prague through the Lens of the Secret Police*, organized jointly by the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes and the Security Services Archive, features a selection of photographs and films taken by servicemen of the (communist) Secret Police's (StB) Surveillance Directorate between 1969–89, as well as complementary explanatory texts in both English and Czech. The exhibition premiere took place on April 7, 2009 at the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the European Union in Brussels. This is the first showing of the exhibition in the United States. www.ustrcr.cz

The exhibition will be on view for visitors at the Woodrow Wilson Center from August 20 to September 20, 10am to 4pm. The opening of the exhibition and presentation of the eponymous book will be introduced by **Pavel Zacek**, Director of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, and **Ladislav Bukovszky**, Director of the Security Services Archive, and **Jiri Ellinger** of the Czech Embassy in Washington, DC.



Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

www.wilsoncenter.org

August 12, 8 pm

Lions of Czech Film Series: *Grapes* | *Bobule*

Honza, a likeable and intelligent small-time con man, learns by chance that his Moravian grandfather is dying. The news wrestles Honza out of his normal routine, and he decides to make his sick grandfather's dream come true with the vacation of a lifetime. Grandfather, though, is afraid to leave his vineyard unattended, so Honza offers to watch it for him—not realizing the adventure that awaits. Added to the mix is his buddy Jirka, who is short on brains but fabulous at hustling women. Plus, Honza unexpectedly falls in love. This story filled with comic scenarios confirms the philosophy that if you don't know where you're going in life, it's best to go back to your roots. (2008, 90 min., in Czech with English subtitles, DIR: Tomáš Bařina)



Won the Golden Reel Award for Best Comedy (2009) at the Tiburon International Film Festival.

Avalon Theatre, 5612 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, DC 20015

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July 9, 7:30 pm

Concert: Jan Vodňanský

Jan Vodňanský wears many hats: Czech singer, poet, composer, song writer, actor, writer, and translator. During his one man show *Jak mi dupou králíci*, he will perform songs, poems, and stories in a program for both children and adults. Please note, the program will be performed in Czech only.

Embassy of the Czech Republic, 3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008

Admission is free



July 8, 8 pm

Lions of Czech Film Series: *Teddy Bear* | *Medvídek*

Jirka, Roman, and Ivan have been friends since school. They are now about 35 and, although they went into different fields, their friendship has lasted. They are married, working on their careers, and seemingly doing well. Jirka is a gallery owner, while his wife Vanda runs a less than lucrative coffee house. Roman is a successful gynecologist and has been married for years to Anna. Ivan is a Czech diplomat stationed in Rome with his wife Johana. The friends are so close that they assume there are no secrets between them. Will their friendship last when their secrets are revealed? (2007, 98 min., in Czech with English subtitles, DIR: Jan Hřebejk)



Nominated for a Czech Lion for Best Supporting Actress (2008)

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June 19, 7:30 pm

Czechomor | Cechomor

Czechomor has sold over 200,000 albums and won three Czech Music Academy Awards for their breakthrough album "Transformations." Through their music, they trace back Celtic echoes that are deeply rooted in the cultures of Bohemia and Moravia. The band's unique mélange of traditional folk mixed with Ottoman dissonance, Gypsy czardas, Napoleonic mustering dances and Celtic rhythms have succeeded in winning over young and old alike.



Embassy of the Czech Republic, 3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008

Admission: \$20 with reservations, \$25 without at the door. To make a reservation, please e-mail czech_events@yahoo.com or call 202.274.9105. Reserved tickets must be picked up by 7:20 pm on the day of the concert. Doors open at 7 pm.

June 10, 8 pm

Lions of Czech Film Series: *Lost Holiday* | *Ztracená dovolená*

In this engaging "detective documentary," a group of Czech filmmakers finds a suitcase with 22 rolls of undeveloped photo negatives on a highway in Sweden. They embark on a mission to discover the origins of the mysterious photos that depict six Asian men and offer few clues. (DIR. Lucie Králová, 2007, 85 min., in Czech with English subtitles)



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May 13, 8 pm

Lions of Czech Film Series: *Marbles* | *Kuličky* with guest Director Olga Dabrowská

Marbles is a fresh humorous film about women loving men and women loving themselves at the expense of men. The four short stories take place in various settings and heroines are women of different age.

It all starts on the playground among children. As time goes by, a feminine mechanism of manipulation begins to develop, transform, and ripen until it reaches the stage of perfection. Individual short stories take place at a techno party as well as in a Catholic parsonage and they conclude with the content domestic routine of two old people which cannot be disrupted by anything—not even death. The short stories about women of different ages and lifestyles put together a story of one complete human life which was, thanks to the manipulation of others, lived according to plan and at the same time wasted away. (DIR. Olga Dabrowská, 2008, 75 min., in Czech with English subtitles)

Avalon Theatre, 5612 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, DC 20015

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May 6, 7:30 pm

Magdalena Kožená

Magdalena Kožená, a Czech mezzo-soprano, was born in Brno, Czech Republic. She was awarded several major prizes in both the Czech Republic and internationally, culminating in the 6th International Mozart Competition in Salzburg in 1995. She is an exclusive artist with Deutsche Grammophon, and her first solo recital disc of Dvorák, Janáček, and Martinu won the Gramophone Solo Vocal Award, 2001. Magdalena Kožená is well established as a major concert and recital artist. In 2003, she was awarded the title of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government. Internationally acclaimed Czech artist Karel Košárek will accompany her on piano. www.kozena.cz



Embassy of Austria, 3524 International Court, NW, Washington, DC 20008-3027

Admission is \$45. For tickets, please call (202) 365-9064

www.acfdc.org

On Display: May 3-August 9, 2009

Jaromír Funke and the Amateur Avant-Garde

Jaromír Funke (1896-1945) was one of the foremost photographers of the 1920s and 1930s in Czechoslovakia. This year the National Gallery presents the first significant exhibition of Funke's work ever mounted outside of Europe. Jaromír Funke and the Amateur Avant-Garde includes 70 works by Funke and his leading contemporaries, among them Josef Sudek (1896-1976), one of the best-known Czech photographers worldwide, and Eugen Wiškovský (1888- 1964). The exhibition places Funke's career at the center of an important, if often overlooked, history of amateur modernism that developed quickly in central Europe from the very early 1920s with the creation of a nationwide network for serious camera enthusiasts in the newly-founded Czechoslovak Republic.

National Gallery of Art

Admission is free.

April 25, 7 pm, and April 26, 2 pm
The National Theatre Ballet

East Coast Premiere Tour. The National Theatre Ballet ensemble is comprised of the best dancers from the Czech Republic. Renowned choreographers Jirí Kylián and Petr Zuska have worked with the theater to present the following dynamic contemporary performances:



D.M.J. 1953 - 1977: The name of the ballet represents the initials of three great Czech composers, Antonín Dvořák, Bohuslav Martinu and Leoš Janáček. This work draws in the audience with its powerful combination of Czech music and impressive choreography.

Petite Mort: Jirí Kylián chose the slow parts of Mozart's most beautiful piano concertos. The work is driven more by symbolism than story line. Tenderness, fragility, aggression, sexuality, energy, silence, and vulnerability-all play a significant part.

Sinfonietta: This five-movement ballet has its own spirit, from folkloric moods to dream-like visions. The choreography is a brilliant consonance of dance and music, bringing to life an image of a world somewhere between abstraction and realism.

www.narodni-divadlo.cz

Sidney Harman Hall, Harman Center for the Arts, 610 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20004-2227
www.harmancenter.org

Receive 50% off regularly priced tickets (\$20-\$49) with discount code 6182, available [online](#) or by phone (202) 547-1122

April 19, 3 pm
Kinoautomat: *One Man and His House*

One Man and His House was the world's first interactive movie in which the audience decided the plot. The hit of Expo 67 in Montreal, Canada, it was enthusiastically received by both the general public and film critics. Now, 42 years later, the fully functional multimedia Kinoautomat project of film director Raduz Cincera (daughter of the inventor) has returned, restored and directed by Alena Cincerova.

The story *One Man and His House* is based on a character called Mr Novak, who finds himself caught up in situations that present moral dilemmas. Audience members will be able to alter the trajectory of the film at key points by voting on what they want to happen next.

TICKETS: \$10

Online: Tickets can be purchased online at: <http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase>

By phone: Call Tickets.com at (800) 955-5566, from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Monday through Sunday.

For more information visit: <http://www.filmfestdc.org>

Regal Cinemas Gallery Place, 701 7th St., NW, Washington, DC

April 8, 8 pm
Lions of Czech Film Series: *Little Girl Blue* | *Tajnosti*

Julie (played by Czech singer/violinist Iva Bittová), a translator, has just moved into a new house with her successful husband Richard and teenage daughter Cecilie. Their life is supposed to be that of the perfect happy family. When she hears that her favorite singer has died, Julie has the sudden realization that her life is not what she wants it to be. Acting on an impulse, she decides to buy a piano, and en route her life changes completely. Dir.: Alice Nellis, 2007, 93 minutes.



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April 3-May 18 (on exhibit), April 2, 6-8 pm (reception)
Behind the Velvet Curtain: Seven Women Artists From the Czech Republic

Featuring Czech Women Artists: Milena Dopitová, Erika Bornová, Katerina Vincourová, Lenka Klodová, Michaela Thelenová, Zdena Kolečková, Alena Kotzmannová

Behind the Velvet Curtain presents women artists who entered the Czech and international art scene in the last 15 years (all of them were born in the 1960s and 70s). The exhibition takes viewers into the marginalized zones of the former communist society where there is no place for addressing, without prejudice, female desire, sexuality, identity, maternity, or age. The exhibition is neither explicitly feminist, nor explicitly political but has, nevertheless, a strong social dimension. It aims-metaphorically-to undraw the velvet curtain and disclose complex relationships between men and women, "we" ("I") and "they" ("other"), inside and outside, center and periphery.

American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center, 4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016-8031

Admission is free. Please visit the AU Museum Web site for hours.

www.american.edu/museum

March 28, 10-4 pm

"Czech Kites" as part of the Smithsonian Kite Festival

For the first time, the Embassy will bring Czech kites from the Czech Republic for the annual Smithsonian Kite Festival. This colorful event is traditionally a part of the festivities at the National Cherry Blossom Festival on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Kite enthusiasts show off their stunt skills and compete for awards in over 36 categories. Top prizes are given for the Theme Award, People's Choice, Family Trophy, and Highest Overall Score. The Smithsonian Kite Festival is one of the most popular events in Washington, DC, and features kite fliers from around the world.



National Mall, between 4th and 7th Streets, NW, Washington, DC

Admission is free for the event.

www.kitefestival.org

March 26-28, 6 and 8:30 pm

Echoes of One World Film Screenings

Two screenings per night!

Goethe-Institut, 812 Seventh Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001-3718

Screenings are free and open to the public. Please make a reservation by calling (202) 274-9105 or e-mail

czech_events@yahoo.com

March 25, 8 pm (opening night!)

Echoes of One World Film Festival

About One World -Organized by the Czech NGO People in Need, One World takes place annually in Prague under the auspices of former president Václav Havel.

With over 130 documentaries from all over the world, it is among the largest human rights festivals in the world. With ten years of expertise, One World also became an established consultant and practical supporter of newly emerging human rights festivals around the world. In 2008, One World helped to create festivals in Austria, Romania, Bulgaria, and Kenya.



Opening Night Screening: *Gyumri*

Approximately 25,000 inhabitants of the Armenian town of Gyumri perished in a powerful earthquake on December 7, 1988. More than one-third of the victims were children. For nearly 20 years, the affected families have been linked in their attempt to come to terms with the loss of their children. Most of the newly born children bear the names of their deceased brothers and sisters, whom they have never seen. For some parents, the young children have become a sort of substitute for the dead ones. Frequent comparisons with their deceased siblings can evoke an uncomfortable feeling in some of the children. Nevertheless, they continue to believe that the souls of their brothers and sisters live on with them. www.oneworld.cz

The program in DC will feature highlights from the 2009 festival, with a special focus on Czech films, the 20th anniversary of the 1989 Velvet Revolution, and young African cinematography.

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March 24, 8 pm and 10 pm

Czech Jazz Nights at Blues Alley: P.J. Ryba and The Fish Men

For 20 years, bass player Pavel Ryba's extensive repertoire has mixed jazz, classical, pop, and rock, transforming classic standards to fit his own energetic music style. He has recorded seven albums, including *Morally Topless* and *Mind the Step*. International critics praise Ryba for his "technical finesse and melodic beauty." www.pjryba.com



Blues Alley, 1073 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20007

Admission is \$20. Please visit the Web site for ticket information.

www.bluesalley.com

March 19, 7 pm

Environmental Film Festival: *Peace with Seals*

Framed by two stories, this feature documentary deals with the concept of "human nature." The first story is about a seal named Gaston who, according to the Prague Zoo director, became "the most famous animal on earth" after he managed to reach Germany during a devastating flood. The second story took place 50 years earlier and tells the life story of a seal named Ulysses, caught in Sardinia by a Milan photojournalist who, in front of the cameras, tossed the animal into the famous Di Trevi fountain. Today there are urban nature reserves, aquariums instead of oceans, and seal hunting can be booked with a travel agent. Seals have become one of the most endangered mammals in Europe. Dir.: Miloslav Novák, 2007, 86 min.



Goethe-Institut, 812 Seventh Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001-3718

Admission is free. For reservations, please call (202) 274-9100, ext. 167 or e-mail czech_events@yahoo.com

March 18, 8 pm and 10 pm

Czech Jazz Nights at Blues Alley: Karel Ružicka, Jr.

Award winning saxophonist, composer, and producer Karel Ružicka, Jr. was born in Prague, Czech Republic. He began performing professionally at age 16 as a co-leader of a jazz quartet which won several international jazz competitions. He later went on to win Tenor and Alto Saxophonist of the Year (1998). After coming to the US, he started to lead his trio and quartet and also collaborated with the Brooklyn Sax Quartet, touring over 30 US cities in 2003. Additionally, his latest recording "Brooklyn Moods" (released in 2004) was nominated for Jazz Album of the Year in the Czech Golden Angel Awards. Ruzicka continues to perform and record with some of the most esteemed artists in the jazz music scene. www.karelruzickajr.com



Blues Alley, 1073 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20007

Admission is \$20. Please visit the Web site for ticket information.

www.bluesalley.com

March 11, 8 pm and 10 pm

Czech Jazz Nights at Blues Alley: Rudy Linka

Guitarist Rudy Linka has been voted as one of the ten best jazz guitarists by readers of the prestigious Down Beat Magazine. He has performed and recorded with jazz greats such as John Scofield, John Abercrombie, Red Mitchell and Bob Mintzer. His 14 CDs are on the labels Enja, Timeless, Universal and Sony/BMG. Rudy will present music from his latest CD called "Songs" on Sony/BMG with Paul Motian and Larry Grenadier.



Blues Alley, 1073 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20007

Admission is \$20. Please visit the Web site for ticket information.

www.bluesalley.com

March 1, 4:30 pm

New Masters of European Cinema: *The Karamazovs* | *Karamazovi* with guest director Petr Zelenka

Set in contemporary Poland, the issues of faith, immortality, and the redemption of man present themselves as powerful emotions of love, jealousy, and hatred play out on a makeshift stage of a dilapidated mill. In its portrayal of searching for God and attempts to prove and reject his/her existence, a line of reason emerges: if there is no God, everything is permitted. The film was the Czech film nomination for the Best Foreign Film Category of the Academy Awards (2008). A question and answer session with the director follows the screening.



The National Gallery of Art, East Building Auditorium, 4th Street at Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

Admission is free

www.nga.gov/programs/film

Feb. 19-Mar. 31 (on exhibit), Feb. 19, 7 pm (reception)

Bohemian Glass Artists

Enjoy the artistry of Czech glassmaking through the intricate work of Rony Plesl, Jirí Šuhájek, Jirí Kubelka, Richard Cermák and Lenka Cermáková.

The Geoffrey Diner Gallery (established in 1975) has been an avid presenter of contemporary Czech glass artists, introducing them to Design Miami 2007. The gallery's upcoming collection will feature the exquisite artistry of Czech glass artists Rony Plesl, Jirí Šuhájek, Jirí Kubelka, Richard Cermák and Lenka Cermáková. Among the most talented and innovative Czech artists today, these innovators are creating a new vision of the age-old tradition of glassmaking.



Geoffrey Diner Gallery, 1730 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009

Admission is free

Feb. 17, 8 pm and 10 pm

Czech Jazz Nights at Blues Alley: Ondrej Pivec Overseason Quartet

Young jazz Hammond organist Ondrej Pivec heads to DC to play songs from his album OVERSEASON. The album was recorded in New York where Pivec and his colleague Tomáš Hubzek met by a twist of fate Brooklyn-based, Canadian guitarist Jake Langley and tenor saxophonist Joel Frahm. The sound of the album is bursting with spontaneity as well as drive. Pivec's compositions, which make up the bulk of the disc's material, are full of melodic hooks and funky grooves. Check out this international jazz quartet as they unite in the Nation's capital. www.ondrejpivec.com



Blues Alley, 1073 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20007

Admission is \$20. Please visit the Web site for ticket information.

www.bluesalley.com

Feb. 11, 8 pm

Lions of Czech Film Series: *Václav*

Václav Vingl, the village loser, in his 40's bordering on autism, lives with his widowed mother on the outskirts of the village. He is seen by villagers as the local fool, nothing but a constant pain, but there is also a skeleton in the village closet concerning his father's death. Dir.: Jirí Vejdelek, 2007, 97 min.



Avalon Theatre, 5612 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, DC 20015

Avalon Theatre Box Office: (202) 966-6000 Tickets: \$10 Adults; \$7.50 Children (11 and under), Seniors, Students with a college ID; and \$6.50 Avalon Members www.theavalon.org

Feb. 6-Mar. 1 (on exhibit), Feb. 6, 6-8 pm (reception)
Mila Judge-Fürstová

Magical, mythical, and full of allure, Mila Judge-Fürstová creates art that draws viewers into their own fables and stories. A unique artist and printmaker who was born in the Czech Republic but now lives in Great Britain, her beautiful pieces are exhibited in public and private collections around the world, including that of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. In her work, Judge-Fürstová combines both the mythical and the historical with personal narratives revealing complex stories. The fascination that her work inspires is very much a product of the difficult to achieve synthesis of technical virtuosity and poetic spirit. What one takes from her work can be as profound as an encounter with another person.



Gallery 10, 1519 Connecticut Avenue, NW, # 201, Washington, DC 20036
Admission is free.

Feb. 5, 7 pm
FAMU at AU

Meet Dean of FAMU Pavel Jech, Director of International Programs Dr. Michal Bregant, and Czech film students who will give insight into the acclaimed film academy, talk about the award-winning directors/screenwriters who came out of the school, as well as discuss the possibility of studying at FAMU.

The evening will include samples of short films, perspectives on Czech vs. American filmmaking, and experiences of American students who participated in the study abroad at FAMU. Enjoy an evening with FAMU at AU.

American University, Wechsler Theatre 3rd Floor Mary Graydon Center, 4400 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, DC 20016

Jan. 14, 8 pm
Lions of Czech Film Series: *Night Owls* | *Deti noci*

Ofka, a young borderline misanthrope, observes the instability of her own life as if from a distance. She chooses to work night shifts at a convenience store owned by her brother-in-law instead of studying for a career. When her boyfriend jilts her and the store is robbed during her shift, Ofka gets a jolt in the direction of adulthood. She feels the earth gradually shifting beneath her feet-taking her closer to a place where she can hold on to those she loves.



Avalon Theatre, 5612 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, DC 20015

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