

2010

WEDNESDAY

January 13, 8 pm

Guard No. 47  
Hlídač č. 47

WEDNESDAY

February 10, 8 pm

Fighter  
Bojovník

WEDNESDAY

March 10, 8 pm

Normal, The Dusseldorf Ripper  
Normal

WEDNESDAY

April 14, 8 pm

Dirty Soul  
Duše jako kaviár

WEDNESDAY

May 12, 8 pm

A Little Piece of Heaven  
Kousek nebe

WEDNESDAY

June 9, 8 pm

The Grapes 2  
2Bobule

Film screenings are produced by the  
Embassy of the Czech Republic

# LIONS OF CZECH FILM

The *Lions of Czech Film Series* provides the Washington, DC, community with an invaluable opportunity to view Czech films that are hits in Europe and have received numerous honors and awards at film festivals, including the prestigious Czech Lion Award, the Czech equivalent of an Academy Award.

Film screenings take place once a month, with six films scheduled from January through June 2010. All of the films have limited distribution in the United States.

Tickets for each show can be purchased at the Avalon Theatre's box office or online at [www.theavalon.org](http://www.theavalon.org).

**Admission:**

- \$10.50 Adults
- \$8.50 Students
- \$8.00 Seniors (62+)
- \$7.50 Children (12 and under)
- \$6.50 Avalon Members
- \$5.50 Seniors who are Avalon Members

To be added to the Czech Embassy's cultural mailing list, please e-mail [czech\\_events@yahoo.com](mailto:czech_events@yahoo.com).



# LIONS OF CZECH FILM



## AVALON THEATRE

5612 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20015  
[www.theavalon.org](http://www.theavalon.org)

Organized by the Avalon Theatre  
and the Embassy of the  
Czech Republic

2010

The series offers an invaluable  
opportunity to see the best  
of Czech cinema.



## Guard No. 47

Hlídač č. 47

January 13, 8 pm

2008, 108 min., in Czech with English subtitles  
DIR: Filip Renč

Railway guard Josef Douša returns from World War I hoping to forget all the horrors of his recent experiences. One day, he saves the life of a young man who is about to jump under a train. The man falls in love with Douša's wife and arouses her passion. Floundering between doubt and faith in his wife, Douša is hit by a bout of deafness. When his hearing returns, he does not admit it to anyone—not even his wife. This is the only way he can find out if his wife has been unfaithful to him. With extreme effort, he withstands the sufferings he must face when, as a “deaf” man, he has to listen to the caustic remarks made by people about him and his wife. The film is based on motifs from the novel by Josef Kopta, a 20th century Czech writer.

**Festivals and Awards (selection):** Won Czech Lions for Best Film Editing, Best Actor in a Leading Role, Best Actor in a Supporting Role (2008); Won the Audience Award and Best Actor/Actress Awards at the Finale Pilsen (2009); and many other awards.



## Fighter

Bojovník

February 10, 8 pm

1999, 91 min., in English only  
DIR: Amir Bar-Lev, Cinematographer: Gary Griffin

Fighter follows two men, Jan Weiner and former American University Professor Arnošt Lustig, survivors of Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia. What Director Bar-Lev first envisions as a historical documentary soon becomes the personal story of the battle between two very different men—one the bitter, angry fighter, the other, the wise and cynical philosopher—who have very different ways of dealing with memories of the Holocaust. As they retrace the steps of Weiner's escape from the Nazis, they regale one another with thrilling exploits, revisiting scenes of romance, humor, narrow escapes and life-or-death confrontations.

**Festivals and Awards (selection):** Won Best Documentary at the Galway Film Festival (2000); Garnered the Audience Award at the Hamptons International Film Festival (2000); Awarded Best Documentary at the Newport International Film Festival; Received a Special Jury Citation at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (2000).



## Normal, The Dusseldorf Ripper

Normal

March 10, 8 pm

2009, 95 min., in Czech with English subtitles  
DIR: Julius Ševčík

Set in pre-war Europe, 1931, an economic crisis has propelled society into chaos. Young ambitious lawyer Justus Wehner gets his first big case—the defense attorney for brutal serial killer Peter Kurten. Wehner is certain that Kurten suffers from a serious mental disorder and to prove this, he decides to sink deep into Kurten's past motivations and psyche. Suddenly, Kurten's beloved wife Marie arrives who still doesn't believe her husband could be a violent murderer. Kurten and Marie slowly begin to manipulate Wehner into participating in a final crime. Wehner will have to fight for victory in a difficult case and for his own soul.

**Festivals and Awards (selection):** Received the award for Best Director (Julius Ševčík) at the Shanghai International Film Festival (2003).



## Dirty Soul

Duše jako kaviár

April 14, 8 pm

2004, min., in Czech with English subtitles  
DIR: Milan Cieslar

This tragicomic mosaic of stories focuses on three siblings: Anna (16 yrs.), Jana (26 yrs.), and Vladimír (35 yrs.) Each of them is looking for the right person to come into their lives, but this merely leads to fumbling through life in a muddle while repeating the same past mistakes. Anna is far from her ideal of flashy beauty, and she struggles to be perfect as self doubts gnaw at her. In her naiveté, she gets caught by the same snares that trapped her sister. The elder girl tears through life in the fast lane—heading straight for her first divorce. None of them realizes just how similar their problems are to those of their mother and brother, a brother they as yet know nothing about.

**Festivals and Awards (selection):** Nominated for a Czech Lion for Best Screenplay.



## A Little Piece of Heaven

Kousek nebe

May 12, 8 pm

2005, 85 min., in Czech with English subtitles  
DIR: Petr Nikolaev

Set within the walls of a Communist prison of the 1950s, a tale unfolds of a young couple's fragile love. An angry young man, Luboš, always felt defiance toward everything around him. Eventually, this trait lands him in court. The verdict is clear and the punishment long and hard. In prison, Luboš is unable to tame his love of jazz or the eternally blazing flame of rebellion he carries inside. He meets Dana in prison. It's not a real meeting, more of an encounter of looks, a flying of sparks which leads to feelings of love. Their fellow prisoners hatch a small rebellion to help them fulfill their love—a love which has appeared in the wrong place at the wrong time.

**Festivals and Awards (selection):** Received five nominations for Czech Lions (2006) in the categories of Best Cinematography, Best Music, Best Screenplay, Best Sound, and Best Supporting Actor.



## The Grapes 2

2Bobule

June 9, 8 pm

2008, 90 min., in Czech with English subtitles  
DIR: Vlad Lanné

*The Grapes 2* is the story of two young men. One is trying to integrate himself into the world of winemaking after inheriting his grandfather's vineyard and wine cellar. The other has taken refuge at his friend's place after getting himself into trouble. Nothing goes as planned. They both have love problems. In a typical Moravian village, they attempt to keep the vineyard running and experience adventures which could cost them good wine, their women, and even life itself.

**Festivals and Awards (selection):** The film premiered at theaters in the Czech Republic on October 22, 2009.