

Admission Free !

RSVP required (information below)

Locations:

Embassy of Hungary 2950 Spring of Freedom Street NW, Washington, DC 20008 RSVP: <u>rsvp.was@mfa.gov.hu</u> with "Kontroll" in the subject line.

Embassy of the Slovak Republic 3523 International Court, NW Washington, DC 20008 RSVP: <u>rsvp.washington@mzv.sk</u> with "Mosquitoes" in the subject line.

Embassy of the Czech Republic 3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW Washington, DC 20008 RSVP: czech events@yahoo.com with "Kawasaki" in the subject line.

Embassy of the Republic of Poland 2640 16th Street, NW Washington, DC 20009 RSVP: <u>washington.culture@msz.gov.pl</u> with "The Mole" in the subject line.



The Embassies of Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia present the

3rd Annual V4 Film Series

Washington, DC | March 25–April 15, 2014

Invitation:

It is our great pleasure to present the V4 Film Series, which is now in its third year. This year's theme is *Societies in Motion*. The film series showcases films portraying the rapid social changes in Central European countries following the fall of the Iron Curtain and how these V4 countries deal with the ghosts of their communist past. The films reflect on liberty, love, heroes, secrets, high hopes, illusions and delusions. Each screening begins with a short introduction by an Embassy representative who will explain key cultural and historical elements of the film.

Visegrad Four (V4):

The Visegrad Group, also known as the Visegrad Four or simply V4, is a group of four Central European countries – Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia – created in 1991. These countries have always been part of a single civilization that shares cultural and intellectual values and common roots, which they wish to preserve and further strengthen. The group's activities aim at fostering stability in the region, presenting common ideas at various international fora, and encouraging optimum cooperation with each other as well as with other countries. Hungary currently holds the rotating presidency of the V4.

2014 FILM SCREENINGS:

March 25, 7 pm: Kontroll – Embassy of Hungary

April 1, 7 pm: *Mosquitoes' Tango (Tango s komármi)* – Embassy of the Slovak Republic April 8, 7 pm: *Kawasaki's Rose (Kawasakiho růže)* – Embassy of the Czech Republic April 15, 7 pm: *The Mole (Kret)* – Embassy of the Republic of Poland



HUNGARY | March 25, 7 pm Kontroll

DIR: Nimród Antal, 2003, 105 min, Hungarian with English subtitles

"So unique and memorable that it sits alongside classic first features like Sexy Beast, Reservoir Dogs and Shallow Grave. Kontroll is just such a movie." ~Edward Douglas comingsoon.net

Synopsis: A tale about a strange young man, Bulcsú, the fellow metro ticket inspectors on his team, all without exception likeable characters, a rival ticket inspection team, and racing along the tracks... And a tale about love. The film, which was Antal's debut, won numerous awards, including the Award of the Youth at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival and the Golden Hugo (main prize) at the Chicago International Film Festival, as well as a European Film Award nomination for Best Director.

About the Director: Nimród Antal was born in Los Angeles, California of Hungarian ancestry in 1973. He moved to Hungary in 1991 to study at the Hungarian Film Academy. In 2005, he moved back to his hometown of Los Angeles to pursue success in Hollywood. Antal's first American feature film, *Vacancy* (2007), starred Kate Beckinsale and Luke Wilson. He also made *Armored* (2009), *Predators* (2010), and *Metallica: Through the Never* (2013).

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SLOVAKIA | April 1, 7 pm

Mosquitoes' Tango (Tango s komármi)

DIR: Miloslav Luther, 2009, 97 min., in Slovak with English subtitles

Synopsis: Two emigrants return to Slovakia for a brief visit after spending many years abroad. Karol needs a divorce because he wants to remarry. Worried that Karol might fail in his intentions, his well-to-do fiancée Lucia hires a second-rate actor, Rudo, to keep an eye on him.

Their mission gets complicated after they arrive in Bratislava. The tango is a unique expression of human emotion—it embodies passion, tension, conflict as well as harmony of the two sexes, irritation and pain—like a bite of a mosquito, which persistently demands the drop of blood to survive.

About the Director: Miloslav Luther graduated from the Film and Television Academy of the Performing Arts (FAMU), where he studied feature film direction. He has participated on the creation of numerous movies, TV series as well as TV films, for which he was awarded numerous prizes, e.g.: Prix Europe Berlin, Critic award for direction at the IFF Shanghai, Silver nymph and prize for direction Cino del Duca at the IFF Monte Carlo, International jury prize at the MFF Karlovy Vary.

Location: Embassy of the Slovak Republic, 3523 International Court NW Washington, DC 20008 RSVP: rsvp.washington@mzv.sk with "Mosquitoes" in the subject line.



CZECH REPUBLIC | April 8, 7 pm

Kawasaki's Rose (Kawasakiho růže) – Q&A with the director in person DIR: Jan Hřebejk, 2009, 100 min., in Czech with English subtitles

"Kawasaki's Rose peels away layers to reveal even deeper ones. This intricate, powerful, unsettling film brings us into a world of profound moral complexities." ~ Los Angeles Times

Synopsis: Psychiatrist Pavel Josek is due to receive a state honor for his courageous work as a dissident. He is loved by his wife and adored by his daughter Lucie. During the filming of a television documentary about his life, it comes to light that at the beginning of the 1970s, under pressure from the secret police, he played a part in discrediting a former friend, who was ultimately forced to emigrate. The family drama sheds light on the practices employed by the secret police to discredit its opponents. The film was the Czech Republic's entry for the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar and won the Ecumenical Award in the Panorama Section at the Berlin IFF. Preview the film: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0U-pSTOZjhE (in Czech)

About the Director: Jan Hřebejk has made a name for himself amongst the top Czech and international directors. His film *Divided We Fall* (2000) won five Czech Lion Awards and was nominated for an Oscar. At the Karlovy Vary IFF 2013, he won the coveted award for best director and was nominated for the Crystal Globe. Some of his successful films include *Cosy Dens* (1999), *Up and Down* (2004), *Beauty in Trouble* (2006), among many others. He has received over 20 international awards for his films.

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POLAND | April 15, 7 pm

The Mole (Kret) DIR.: Rafael Lewandowski, 2010, 108 min., Polish with English subtitles

Synopsis: Pawel (Borys Szyc) in his early thirties, makes a living with his father Zygmunt (Marian Dziędziel) importing second-hand clothing from France to Poland. On his way back from one of

regular "business trips", Pawel is shocked to discover his father's photo on the cover of a Polish tabloid newspaper with the accusation that he was a secret informer called THE MOLE by the communist regime. All his life, Pawel had known his father as a genuine hero of the struggle against totalitarianism and a recognized member of the "Solidarnosc" labor movement of the 80s. Suddenly he begins to doubt. Little by little, their relationships are undermined by the ghosts of the past... Preview the film here.

About the Director: Rafael Lewandowski was born in 1969. His mother is French, his father is Polish. As a teenager, he directed amateur films, before beginning to study cinema and working as an assistant on numerous productions. In 1996, he received a degree in Directing from La fémis in Paris. He is both a director and screenwriter. After writing and directing several short films, he began working on documentaries. He has also made films about the performing arts. His films have been selected and awarded prizes at many international festivals including the Cinema du Réel, New Directors/New Films at the MOMA, Amascultura, the Warsaw Jewish Film Festival, Doc Review, One World, and the Bradford Film Festival. <u>The Mole</u> is his feature debut.

Location: Embassy of the Republic of Poland, 2640 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009 RSVP: <u>washington.culture@msz.gov.pl</u> with "The Mole" in the subject line.