

CZECH FILM WEEK

16. 8. - 18. 9. 2015

"The cinema is an invention without any future."

Louis Lumière

Dear friends of cinema and of Czech cinema in particular,

As a movie buff I am delighted that Louis Lumière, while surely a visionary, was wrong in his prediction. Not only that movies have a vibrant present and a promising future, filmmaking also has a long past already. And since this year is a year of anniversaries, we decided to celebrate some of them, bringing not only the newest and best Czech films, but also some classics that might be old but never grow old.

The famous Karlovy Vary International Film Festival just held its 50th edition and so we are presenting a selection of films that screened and premiered there this year, as well as films made in 1965. Incidentally, the Israel Museum is also celebrating its 50th, so this is yet another reason to recall the memorable year 1965 together.

The fact that we can freely present Czech films to Israeli audiences would not have been possible without the playwright, dissident and later President, Vaclav Havel. This year we are also commemorating the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries 25 years ago with a number of events dedicated to Havel. However, he himself said he would not have achieved what he achieved without his wife Olga, so we brought a wonderful documentary about her.

And as always, you can look forward to a our guests who will talk with you about their films after the screenings. This year we invited Judit Bardos (lead actress from Fair Play), Jarmila Polákova (producer of a documentary Olga) and Pierre Pe'er Friedmann (translator of Czech literature who translated The Cremator recently published in Hebrew). I sincerely hope you will enjoy our selection and the movies.

Before I finish, I want to say thank you – to the filmmakers, who give us the delight of their art, to you, our audiences, for coming to see the films in such large numbers, and last but not least, to all the people, organizations and institutions that help us, and particularly the Israeli cinematheques with which we have such a special friendship.

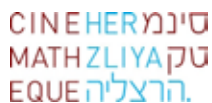
So now it is time to turn off the lights, turn on the projector and immerse ourselves into the movie world.

Enjoy!

Lukas Pribyl
Director of Czech Centre Tel Aviv



Velvyslanectví České republiky
Embassy of the Czech Republic



| FILM | TLV | JLM | HAIFA | HERZLIYA | HOLON |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| FAIR PLAY | 16.8. 21:15 | 17.8. 21:00 | 19.8. 19:00 | 20.8. 20:30 | 4.9. 19:00 |
| NOWHERE IN MORAVIA | 20.8. 21:30 | 18.8. 18:30 | 26.8. 21:15 | 21.8. 21:30 | 18.9. 19:00 |
| CLOWNWISE | 18.8. 18:30 | 22.8. 16:30 | 24.8. 21:00 | 28.8. 21:30 | 11.9. 19:00 |
| OLGA | 17.8. 19:00 | 24.8. 21:00 | 20.8. 19:00 | 26.8. 19:00 | 17.9. 18:00 |
| FILM SPA | 24.8. 18:00 | 19.8. 19:00 | 16.8. 19:00 | 26.8. 20:45 | 9.9. 18:00 |
| LOVES OF A BLONDE | 19.8. 19:00 | 26.8. 19:00 | 30.8. 19:00 | 29.8. 18:00 | 7.9. 20:30 |
| THE SHOP ON MAIN STREET | 25.8. 21:00 | 23.8. 20:45 | 31.8. 18:30 | 27.8. 20:30 | 10.9. 18:00 |
| THE CREMATOR | 22.8. 20:30 | 21.8. 14:00 | 17.8. 21:00 | - | 16.9. 20:30 |

FAIR PLAY

Directed by: Andrea Sedlackova

Cast: Judit Bárdos, Vlastina Svátková, Anna Geislerová

Year: 2014

Language: Czech

Subtitles: English, Hebrew

Runtime: 100 min

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|-----------|-------|-------|
| Tel Aviv | 16.8. | 21:15 |
| Jerusalem | 17.8. | 21:00 |
| Hofa | 19.8. | 19:00 |
| Herzliya | 20.8. | 20:30 |
| Holon | 4.9. | 19:00 |
| Sderot | 8.9. | TBD |

Czechoslovakia, the gray 1980s. Teenage Anna is a top sprinter and her trainer thinks she can go all the way to the Olympics. Her mother is also pinning her hopes on Anna's success, seeing it as an opportunity for her daughter to live in the free world beyond the Iron Curtain. This vision is so strong that she willingly supports the doping program the communist regime is testing on her daughter – although her health will clearly suffer. Unfolding gradually, Fair Play may be a tale of fiction but it shines a light on historically-based demands made by the regime, and when they concerned a loved one it was difficult to ignore them. In addition to her powerful, unromanticized evocation of the era that avoids becoming an ostentatious stream of period props, the director succeeds in putting forward a universal story of adolescent fragility without resorting to melodrama. Although ostensibly about sports, this film presents a depiction of relationships and their complications.



NOWHERE IN MORAVIA

Directed by: Miroslav Krobot

Cast: Tatiana Vilhelmová, Lenka Krobotová, Johana Tesarová

Year: 2014

Language: Czech

Subtitles: English, Hebrew

Runtime: 102 min

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|-----------|--------|-------|
| Tel Aviv | 20. 8. | 21:30 |
| Jerusalem | 18. 8. | 18:30 |
| Haifa | 26. 8. | 21:15 |
| Herzliya | 21. 8. | 21:30 |
| Holon | 18. 9. | 19:00 |
| Sderot | 10. 9. | TBD |

When she's not serving regulars in a pub in a sleepy northern Moravian village, thirtysomething Maruna spends time with indecisive mayor Jura, soft-hearted outsider Olin and philandering roofer Kódl. Or she fights with her domineering mother, who is more inclined towards sister Jaruna, the one who gets the chance to leave this godforsaken place. Lightened with a touch of black humor, Krobot's laconic village drama develops from a superb script, whose authors drew on their familiarity with the people and the region that made their protagonists who they are. Particularly today, when the word "waiting" is perceived entirely negatively, Krobot's heroes, quite happy to continue living a fairly humdrum existence, might appear to have come from another planet. A powerful element of the film, gradually and carefully built into the plot, is the human respect which Krobot, aided by leading Czech actors, is able to convey to his audience. Somewhere in Moravia betrays a certain affinity with the work of the Czech literary classics, the Mrštík brothers, and with the absurd dramas of the 1960s.



CLOWNWISE

Directed by: Viktor Tauš

Cast: Didier Flamand, Oldřich Kaiser, Jiří Lábus, Kati Outinen, Julie Ferrier, Eva Jeníčková

Year: 2013

Language: Czech

Subtitles: English, Hebrew

Runtime: 124 min

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|-----------|--------|-------|
| Tel Aviv | 18. 8. | 18:30 |
| Jerusalem | 22. 8. | 16:30 |
| Haifa | 24. 8. | 21:00 |
| Herzliya | 28. 8. | 21:30 |
| Holon | 11. 9. | 19:00 |

Life has proved challenging for three individuals who were once part of a famous trio of clowns. Thirty years previously, Oskar, Max and Viktor came together as the celebrated troupe Busters, yet despite their popularity with audiences, they ended up going their separate ways. Oskar has now returned after three decades in emigration, but mutual accusations still hang in the air. Perhaps the "guilty party" is something beyond a mere failure to surmount the obstacles life plans for us all. Wrongs of the past can't be concealed behind a red clown nose. The film resourcefully distinguishes the protagonists' different temperaments and also reflects their individuality in its depiction of the environments they inhabit. The sorrow of human relationships is betrayed in the personalities of three clowns who are perhaps given their last chance to shake off old injustices. This sensitive picture adopts a candid approach to the heroes' advancing age and to the trivialities in their lives, and shows understanding in exposing their fragility. It also demonstrates that life is more often a horror show than light-hearted slapstick.



OLGA

Directed by: Miroslav Janek
Producer: Jarmila Poláková
Year: 2014
Language: Czech
Subtitles: English, Hebrew
Runtime: 87 min

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|-----------|--------|-------|
| Tel Aviv | 17. 8. | 19:00 |
| Jerusalem | 24. 8. | 21:00 |
| Haifa | 20. 8. | 19:00 |
| Herzliya | 26. 8. | 19:00 |
| Holon | 17. 8. | 18:00 |

After the huge success of Citizen Havel, renowned documentarist Miroslav Janek took up the reigns of both director and DOP and launched into a portrait of former First Lady Olga Havlová. The film bearing the subtitle A report on the observation of a subject who refused to talk and did just what she wanted is not, and doesn't attempt to be, an exhaustive depiction of the life of Olga Havlová featuring a chronological sequence of events and precise biographical data. Filmmaker Janek instead allows previously unreleased archive footage and photographs to speak freely for themselves, placing emphasis on capturing the spirit of the period and aspects of Havlová's life that were out of the political limelight. Witty recollections from friends and acquaintances are here intriguingly interwoven with excerpts from files the secret police kept on Havlová. This highly original film, skilfully edited by veteran Tonička Janková, offers a portrait of an exceptional individual who would have turned 81 on 11 July this year. And Ms. Havlová would certainly have been pleased with the result: objective, gently, humorous, sincere and, above all, understated.



FILM SPA

Directed by: Miroslav Janek
Producer: Ondřej Zima
Year: 2015
Language: Czech
Subtitles: English, Hebrew
Runtime: 79 min

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|-----------|--------|-------|
| Tel Aviv | 24. 8. | 18:00 |
| Jerusalem | 19. 8. | 19:00 |
| Haifa | 16. 8. | 19:00 |
| Herzliya | 26. 8. | 20:45 |
| Holon | 9. 9. | 18:00 |

This film presents the history of one of the world's oldest film festivals, the Karlovy Vary IFF, which is only now marking its 50th edition due to the upheavals of the previous century. We return to 1946, the year the festival was launched in Mariánské Lázně as a non-competitive event whose film screenings were also held in Karlovy Vary. When the festival moved permanently to Vary it incorporated a feature film competition. From 1957 to 1968 coverage of the festival (which was forced to alternate with the Moscow IFF beginning in 1959) was provided by the outstanding on-site broadcasts known as "Moments," hosted by Miroslav Horníček. Czech TV archives provided further footage of the fluctuating fortunes of a festival that was finally resurrected in 1994 with the arrival of its current management who made it what it is today – one of the most respected film festivals in Europe. The film is interwoven with interviews with former colleagues, contemporaries and historians.



LOVES OF A BLONDE

Directed by: Miloš Forman

Cast: Hana Brejchová, Vladimír Pucholt, Vladimír Mensík, Milada Jezková, Josef Sebánek

Year: 1965

Language: Czech

Subtitles: Hebrew

Runtime: 88 min

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|-----------|--------|-------|
| Tel Aviv | 19. 8. | 19:00 |
| Jerusalem | 26. 8. | 19:00 |
| Haifa | 30. 8. | 19:00 |
| Herzliya | 29. 8. | 18:00 |
| Holon | 7. 9. | 20:30 |
| Sderot | 9. 9. | TBD |

Out in the Czech countryside, a shoe factory owner petitions the People's Army to station a division of soldiers in his town, where the women outnumber the men sixteen to one. The arrival of the troops is greeted with great excitement, but the girls in the town are disappointed to see that the men are older reservists, and not the strapping young men they'd envisioned. Still, when a band plays at the local pub, the girls show up to be ogled by the older men, many of whom are married. A trio of reservists sends a bottle of wine to Andula, Marie, and Jana, and the girls argue over whether or not to acknowledge the gesture. But Andula catches the eye of the comparatively dashing young pianist, Milda... A tender and humorous look at Andula's journey, from the first pangs of romance to its inevitable disappointments. The film was nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, drew a lot of attention to the Czech New Wave, and jumpstarted the international filmmaking career of director Milos Forman



THE SHOP ON THE MAIN STREET

Directed by: Ján Kadár, Elmar Klos

Cast: Ida Kamínska, Jozef Kroner, Hana Slivková

Year: 1965

Language: Slovak

Subtitles: Hebrew

Runtime: 128 min

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|-----------|--------|-------|
| Tel Aviv | 24. 8. | 21:00 |
| Jerusalem | 23. 8. | 20:45 |
| Haifa | 31. 8. | 18:30 |
| Herzliya | 27. 8. | 20:30 |
| Holon | 10. 9. | 18:00 |
| Sderot | 17. 9. | TBD |

Set in a small town in Slovakia during World War II, *The Shop on Main Street* is a poignant story that focuses on an individual's responsibility to fight prejudice and oppression. A law prohibiting Jews from owning businesses provides the opportunity for Tono, a hapless carpenter, to take possession of a button shop formerly run by Rozálie Lautmanová, an elderly, deaf Jewish woman. Their relationship grows from one of begrudging tolerance to a gentle, protective love. The movie's emphasis on serious moral, ethical, and social concerns, its juxtaposition of comedy with tragedy, and its utilization of fantastic or surreal elements mark it as a cornerstone of the movement known as the Czech New Wave. It was the first film from Eastern Europe to be awarded an Oscar. Although shown in Europe in 1965, the film was released in Los Angeles the following year, making it eligible for nominations in other categories in the 1966 Academy Awards; Kamínska was then nominated as best actress for her sensitive performance.



THE CREMATOR

Directed by: Juraj Herz

Cast: Rudolf Hrusínský, Vlasta Chramostová, Jana Stehnová

Year: 1969

Language: Czech

Subtitles: Hebrew

Runtime: 128 min

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|-----------|--------|-------|
| Tel Aviv | 22. 8. | 20:30 |
| Jerusalem | 21. 8. | 14:00 |
| Haifa | 17. 8. | 21:00 |
| Holon | 16. 9. | 20:30 |

The story is set in 1930s Prague, where the cremator Karel Kopfrkingl lives and works. The story combines features from black comedy and horror. It is often recognized as a follower of German Expressionist film and also as an example of the Czechoslovak New Wave. The film was banned after its premiere in 1969, and remained in the vault until the collapse of the communist system in Czechoslovakia in 1989. Film is based on a novel by Ladislav Fuks that was recently translated to Hebrew. The screenplay was written by Herz and Fuks. The film was selected as the Czechoslovakian entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 42nd Academy Awards, but was not accepted as a nominee. In 1972, it won the Festival de Cine de Sitges Best Film award, where it also received awards for its star Rudolf Hrusínský and cinematographer Stanislav Milota. Well praised from movie critics, The Cremator is considered to be one of the best movies ever made in Czechoslovakia as well as a prominent cult film.

