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## MEDIA ALERT



## New Lions Roar into Town!

### *Czech Films at the Avalon Theatre*

The Embassy of the Czech Republic will feature six additional award-winning films as part of the *Lions of Czech Film Series* at the Avalon Theatre beginning on January 14, 2009. From a coming of age story, to unrequited love, manipulation, and a journey to uncover truth, these movies present some of the best cinema of Czech directors. All of the films are in Czech with English subtitles.

#### The schedule of films includes:

<b>NIGHT OWLS   DĚTI NOCI</b> (DIR. Michaela Pavlátová, 2008, 88 minutes)	January 14, 2009, 8 pm
<b>VÁCLAV</b> (DIR. Jiří Vejdělek, 2007, 97 minutes)	February 11, 2009, 8 pm
<b>ECHOES OF ONE WORLD FILM FESTIVAL</b> (Opening night! Czech documentary screening of <i>Gyumri</i> )	March 25, 2009, 8 pm
<b>LITTLE GIRL BLUE   TAJNOSTI</b> (DIR. Alice Nellis, 2007, 93 minutes)	April 8, 2009, 8 pm
<b>MARBLES   KULIČKY</b> (DIR. Olga Dabrowská, 2008, 75 minutes)	May 13, 2009, 8 pm
<b>LOST HOLIDAY   ZTRACENÁ DOVOLENÁ</b> (DIR. Lucie Králová, 2007, 84 minutes)	June 10, 2009, 8 pm

The Embassy of the Czech Republic has partnered for the last two years with the Avalon Theatre to present the *Lions of Czech Film Series*. This film series gives the Washington, DC, community an opportunity to view Czech films that are popular hits in Europe and have received numerous honors and awards at film festivals. Most of the films have received the prestigious Czech Lion Award, the Czech equivalent of an Academy Award. All of the films have limited distribution in the United States. The *Lions of Czech Film Series* offers an invaluable opportunity to see the best of Czech cinema in the Nation's capital.

The Avalon Theatre is located at 5612 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20015. Tickets may be purchased at the box office 30 minutes before the start of the show. Tickets are \$10 (Adults); \$7.50 (Children 11 and under, Seniors, and Students with a college ID); and \$6.50 (Avalon Members). Advance sales of tickets may be made at the box office only. For more information, call the box office at: (202) 966-3464, or to hear general information about films playing at the Avalon, call (202) 966-6000.

## NIGHT OWLS | DĚTI NOCI

January 14, 2009, 8 pm

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(DIR. Michaela Pavlátová, 2008, 88 minutes)



*A film about love, the tenderness of friendship, and hope...*

After her boyfriend unexpectedly breaks up with her because he has been dating her best friend, 19-year-old Ofka wonders what really matters in life. Blanketed in her own problems, she is blind to the love her closest male friend Ubr has for her. Ofka works night shifts at a 24-hour convenience store in modern-day Prague, which brings her in contact with many unique characters who, like her, are awake when the rest of the city sleeps. Even these odd experiences do not seem to move her in any way until one night when the shop is robbed. This assault shakes Ofka out of her self-absorbed lethargy and makes her take a fresh look at the world around her.

### **AWARDS:**

2008 Won Best Actor Award (Jiří Mádľ) at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

2008 Won Best Actress (Martha Isovoř) at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

2008 Nominated for a Crystal Globe (Michaela Pavlátová) at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

2008 Nominated for the Grand Prize at the Cottbus Film Festival of Young East European Cinema

## VÁCLAV

February 11, 2009, 8 pm

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(DIR. Jiří Vejdělek, 2007, 97 minutes)



Václav Vingl, the “village loser,” lives with his widowed mother on the outskirts of town. He gets no mercy from his brother František either. According to him, Václav should be put into an institution. Ever since their childhood, he competes with Václav for the attention of their mother, and now it seems even his mistress Lida finds attraction in the wild, but charmingly innocent Václav. The villagers see Václav as the local fool, nothing but a constant pain, but there is also a skeleton in the closet concerning his father’s death.

### **AWARDS:**

2008 Nominated for a Czech Lion for Best Screenplay (Jiří Vejdělek and Marek Epstein)

2008 Won Golden Cup for Best Screenplay at the Shanghai International Film Festival

2008 Won Golden Cup for Best Actress (Emília Vášřyovř) at the Shanghai International Film Festival

## ECHOES OF ONE WORLD FILM FESTIVAL

March 25, 2009, 8 pm

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(Opening night! Czech documentary screening of *Gyumri*)

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.

Screening over 130 international documentaries, it is among the largest human rights festivals. With 10 years of expertise, One World also became an established consultant and practical supporter of newly emerging human rights festivals globally. In 2008, One World helped to create festivals in Austria, Romania, Bulgaria, and Kenya. [www.oneworld.cz](http://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.

### **OPENING NIGHT SCREENING: *Gyumri* by Director Jana Ševčřikovř**

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.

**AWARDS:**

2008 Won the CULT Award for Best Documentary Film at the Rome International Film Festival

**LITTLE GIRL BLUE | TAJNOSTI****April 8, 2009, 8 pm****(DIR. Alice Nellis, 2007, 93 minutes)**

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Julie, a translator, has just moved into a new house with her successful husband Richard and teenage daughter Cecílie. 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 impulse, she decides to buy a piano, and en route her life changes completely. First, however, she has to resolve her past and present if she is to start the new life she desires.

In this film about the various shapes of love, the role of Julie is an acting comeback for the world-renowned singer and violin player Iva Bittová.

**AWARDS:**

2008 Golden Kingfisher for Best Feature at the 21<sup>st</sup> Finale Festival in Plzeň, Czech Republic

2008 Czech Lion Award for Best Cinematography (Ramunas Greicius)

2008 Czech Lion Award for Best Film

2008 Czech Critics' Award

2008 Bronze Rosa Camuna at the Bergamo Film Meeting

**MARBLES | KULIČKY****May 13, 2009, 8 pm****(DIR. Olga Dabrowská, 2008, 75 minutes)**

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*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.

**LOST HOLIDAY | ZTRACENÁ DOVOLENÁ****June 10, 2009, 8 pm****(DIR. Lucie Králová, 2007, 84 minutes)**

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Czech tourist Lada found a suitcase containing 22 rolls of undeveloped film in a Swedish dumpster. When developed, the negatives produced 756 fascinating snapshots of six unknown Chinese tourists. The film crew search for those people according their lost photos in a world where every fourth person is Chinese. At the end of the journey tracing the unknown Asians footsteps, the story becomes a part of the Chinese TV industry viewed by more than 300 million Chinese. This documentary detective story is about travel, photos, and identity in an interconnected world, about memory and the importance of treasuring images, and

about Czech, Europeans, and the Chinese.

**AWARDS/ OFFICIAL SELECTIONS:**

2007 SilverDocs

2007 Official Selection for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

2008 Official Selection for the Milano Film Festival