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CZECH & SLOVAK FILM FESTIVAL



Festival News

The 4th Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia (CaSFFA) wraps up on a victorious note in Melbourne... and Canberra!

Select highlights of a fabulous 4th festival

A big thank you to our Premium Sponsor, Foreigner Brewing, festival guests Shaun Tan, Bernard Caleo and Gracia & Louise, and to all of our other fabulous partners, supporters, CaSFFANs and friends!





"Although [one of] the newest and one of the smallest film festivals in Melbourne, the artistic director Cerise Howard and her great team of volunteers [have again curated] a thoughtful program that is really interesting and truly diverse. Certainly it eclipses all the homogenous, interchangeable mainstream products from the major European festivals and on a film-by-film basis this is a much more satisfying experience."

- Nick Matteo, [Film Buff's Forecast](#), 3RRR 102.7FM

Melbourne, Tuesday 25 October 2016 - Just over a month ago, the 4th CaSFFA wrapped up in Melbourne with a tremendously awesome Closing Night celebration! Patrons received delectable Becherovka shots ahead of the screening of the hilarious political comedy *Lost in Munich (Ztraceni v Mnichově)*, which was preceded by a brief introduction from the Slovak Honorary Consul to Victoria, Mrs Eugenia Mocnay.

After the film, the festivities continued in the ACMI Café and Bar, where patrons enjoyed more drinks along with gourmet nibbles, as vibrant and impossibly charismatic musical trio the Transylvanian Gypsy Kings kept the celebratory vibes flowing until the midnight hour.

The next morning, the all-volunteer run CaSFFA team were back in focus, preparing furiously for the inaugural Canberra leg of #CaSFFA2016, which let us just say, was a great success! A good portion of our team road-tripped up to Canberra to represent what we believe to be one of the most sophisticated festivals in Australia - and what better place to host such a high calibre festival than the prestigious National Film & Sound Archive (NFSA)!





Let's quickly highlight a few of this year's notable achievements.

Several firsts:

- CaSFFA extended to **Canberra** (and we'll be back in 2017, folks!)
- Earlier in the year CaSFFA partnered with the **Queensland Film Festival** for a screening of *Marketa Lazarova* to make inroads into Brisbane as well!
- The festival in Canberra was opened by a government minister: the Australian Capital Territory's **Minister for the Arts, Dr Chris Bourke** (whose speech was soon followed by speeches from **His Excellency Dr Igor Bartho**, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic in Canberra, and **Mr Miroslav Píša**, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Canberra)
- A **video intro** from a filmmaker: **Eduard Grečner** addressed the audience before his classic New Wave film *Dragon's Return*, notably with his son Samuel present in the cinema
- A **panel discussion** after a screening: **Shaun Tan, Bernard Caleo and Cerise Howard** discussed the meeting points of comics and film after *Who Wants to Kill Jessie?*
- **Workshops**: with **Bernard Caleo** and with **Gracia & Louise**
- Inauguration of the **CaSFFA blog**, with contributions by CaSFFA team members, AFCA critics & guest writer Alexandra Heller-Nicholas
- Inauguration of a **Best Feature Film prize**: awarded to *Eva Nova* by AFCA critics **Tom Clift, Hayley Inch** and **Glenn Dunks**

Overall, our programming was on point this year with its theme of "**Text and Texture**", inspired by Melbourne (2008) and Prague's (2014) shared status as "**UNESCO Cities of Literature**" and showcased pristine new restorations and numerous underseen classics courtesy of the National Film Archive in Prague and Slovak Film Institute in Bratislava projected across the wonderful screens of ACMI and, in Canberra, the NFSA's Arc Cinema.

On Saturday 17 September we were very privileged to have as festival guests the Academy Award-winning filmmaker, artist and author, Shaun Tan, and the enigmatic maker, editor, publisher, teacher and performer of comic books, Bernard Caleo, who contributed their thoughts on comics and films in a panel held right after a screening of Václav Vorlíček's 1966 sci-fi comedy *Who Wants to Kill Jessie?*

Of the latest films, audiences especially flocked to screenings of *Tiger Theory* and *The Seven Ravens*, while larger crowds still turned out for each installment of the program **Despatches from the Radical Literary Czechoslovak Cinema of the '60s** that screened on Wednesdays 14 and 21 in partnership with the Melbourne Cinémathèque. We felt over the moon when the screening of František Vlácil's beautiful medieval epic *Marketa Lazarova* drew our biggest ever audience for a single session at ACMI (291!)



And... lest we forget! - it is thanks to *your* ongoing support and interest that we have been able to make CaSFFA happen once again this year. We cannot thank you enough for your contribution towards our festival, and here's throwing an especially warm welcome to our new CaSFFANs!

But Enough About Us... Now for a Little Bit about You!

A whopping 49.4% of you submitted surveys to us! From your kind (and overwhelmingly positive) feedback, we have learnt that you are...

Czech 22%
Slovak 11%
Australian 54%
Other 13%

Male 43%
Female 55%
Other 2%

under 18 2%
18-24 5%
25-34 27%
35-44 25%
45-54 14%
55+ 27%

64% of you had attended CaSFFA before, while 36% were newbies - welcome!

We at CaSFFA are all looking forward to returning in 2017 to wow you with an even more impressive program... Stay tuned!

Upcoming Czech and Slovak cultural events

JARMARK / JARMOK Traditional Czech & Slovak Fair 2016



**JARMARK /
 JARMOK**

**TRADITIONAL CZECH &
 SLOVAK FAIR**

12 NOVEMBER '16

FROM 11AM TO 4PM

**SUMAVA PEKSA PARK, 46 LOCKS
 WAY, BELGRAVE SOUTH**



The team at our Cultural Partners **VodaFest** would like to warmly invite you to their inaugural **JARMARK / JARMOK** Traditional Czech & Slovak Fair 2016, which will be held from **11am - 4pm on Saturday 12 November 2016** at **Sumava Peksa Park, [46 Locks Way, Belgrave South](#)**, Victoria.

Entry: FREE (however, there is a PARKING fee \$5 per car)

In their words:

We hope everyone has fun and finds something little to taste, buy or take home. Besides hand made craft and art pieces, jewelry, advent wreaths and Christmas decorations, you will be able to take home potted herbs, hand made soaps, candles, jams or nice little gifts. The lovers of books will be able to make many pre-loved titles their own.

No JARMARK/JARMOK would be complete without beautiful food and drinks. The Czech and Slovak ones, of course!

You can look forward to some wonderful savoury creations that will make your mouth water, such as "langose", "utopence", "precliky", "korbaciky" , or sweet delights such as "laskonky", "venecky", "Tatranky", "piskoty", "spalky" and lots of other famous treats. If you have no idea what we are talking about, come and try these staples of the Czech and Slovak cuisine. We bet you will be converted for good!

There will be beer, wine and spirits and also various non-alcoholic beverages for the kids and designated drivers! The Foreigner Brewing Co. is making their debut with their locally brewed lager. Lovers of authentic Czech beer will have to stop at "Krcma" and choose from a few labels, served straight or as a "rezane pivo", half-light-half-dark-cut. If you are not a beer drinker, you can try some Josef Chromy wines, white, red or mulled as "svarak".

For the first time you will be able to get your hands on the well known mineral waters from Karlovy Vary such as Mattoni, Magnesia or Aquila and taste the delicious KITL cordial.

Folkloric atmosphere is an important part of the event. Our stall holders will be dressing up for fun and we encourage you to do the same! Besides a dress up, you will be able to make your juggling balls and try juggling, get your faced painted, decorate a gingerbread or learn to weave a paper basket, all whilst enjoying the tones of the music from various regions of the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

We have also invited The Czech 'Domazlice Bagpipe Music' from Southern Bohemia to help create the authentic JARMARK/JARMOK feel. The billygoat bagpipes, which we saw at VodaFest 2015 for the first time, are very different from the Scottish ones, so come along and check this amazing musical instrument out.

The 4th Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia

Melbourne: September 14-23, Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI), Federation Square

Canberra: October 7-9, National Film & Sound Archive (NFSA), McCoy Circuit

Sincerely,

Cerise Howard, Artistic Director, and the CaSFFA team: Linda Studená, Denisa Cross, Lilliana Hajncl, Lenka Hadravová, Carmen Reid, Jack Russo, Miriam Fletcher, Olivia Hărășan, Ioana-Lucia Demczuk, Victor Griss, Eleanor Colla, Mia Falstein-Rush and Timothy Taliana.

Socialize

Join us for news, photos and fun on our social networks. Hashtag #CaSFFA

Facebook: [Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia](#)

Twitter: [@CaSFFA](#)

Instagram: [@CaSFFA](#)

Media Enquiries

For more information about the festival please contact Olivia Hărășan: +61 415 881 472 or publicity@casffa.com.au

Sponsorship Enquiries

CaSFFA offers some attractive and targeted sponsorship opportunities. To obtain a copy of our sponsorship package or find out more, please contact Victor Griss on victor@casffa.com.au.

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