

CZECH & SLOVAK FILM FESTIVAL



The Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia
(CaSFFA) announces...

Festival program highlights,
including the Opening and Closing Night films!

A gentle reminder of the CaSFFAN subscription
program and Christmas in July event [this Saturday!](#)

The 4th CaSFFA: 14-23 September
at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI),
Federation Square

Melbourne, Wednesday 20 July 2016 – We have so many new and exciting
announcements to share here at CaSFFA!

The CaSFFA team is delighted to provide you with a first glance at a few titles from
this year's program, including our incredibly exciting Opening and Closing Night
films.

But that's not all... the beautiful and hallucinatory medieval epic [Marketa Lazarová
premieres at the Queensland Film Festival](#) this Thursday 21 July before it comes to
#CaSFFA2016! CaSFFA Artistic Director Cerise Howard will be present to introduce
the screening.

Festival program highlights





The #CaSFFA2016 Opening Night film *The Noonday Witch* comes hot from the East of the West competition at Karlovy Vary. Jiří Sárdek's remarkable debut feature is an HBO Europe co-production and concerns a mother of a young girl who is forever promising her daughter that her husband will soon join them in the remote country house they've relocated to. And yet...

Full of glorious, sun-kissed cinematography, *The Noonday Witch* draws on Karel Jaromír Erben's famous folkloric ballad of the same name (in Czech, *Polednice*) to produce a cautionary fable of similar themes, atmospherics, and intensity to Jennifer Kent's superb recent Australian film, *The Babadook*. For *Essie Davis*, substitute the flame-haired Aňa Geislerová; for the *Babadook*, the great Daniela Kolářová, and for Adelaide, the gorgeous Czech countryside.



Renowned Czech writer-director Petr Zelenka's latest film *Lost in Munich* is the #CaSFFA2016 Closing Night film and is variously a bizarre political black comedy, a clever slice of speculative historical revisionism, and its own ingenious and hilarious making-of-itself within itself!

An elderly parrot, said to have been Édouard Daladier's, is stolen by Pavel, a Prague journalist down on his luck (Martin Myšička). With Pavel's help, the parrot starts giving scandalous press conferences in Daladier's voice, picking at scabs never fully healed after the French Prime Minister was a party to the despised 1938 Munich Agreement, which ceded Czechoslovakia's border regions to Hitler's Germany.

Hilarity ensues, and not just for history buffs – not least when someone in the cast develops an allergy to feathers...

A few other unmissable new titles...





The Cleaner: Tomáš (Noël Czuczor) holds down a peculiarly unglamorous job, but one well suited to his introverted and morbidly voyeuristic temperament: he's on call to a funeral service to clean up the homes of the recently departed, wherein he often conceals himself to observe the mourning of their nearest and dearest.

However, the day comes when he bears witness to something unsettling; he starts to fixate upon a particular household, leading him to break his personal code and make return visits, miring him deeper and deeper in an ethically murky and perhaps even dangerous situation. Director Peter Bebjak's gripping new film is a tense, brooding, low-lit psychological drama, toying with a range of generic conventions and shot beautifully by young hotshot cinematographer Martin Žiaran.



Some have called Schmitke, Štěpán Altrichter's enigmatic debut feature, "the Czech Twin Peaks", though the deadpan comedy of Roy Andersson is also an apt touchstone. Based on a short story by Tomáš Končinský entitled "Julius Schmitke Slipped through Death's Fingers Like an Awkward Seal", it stars renowned German actor Peter Kurth as hangdog engineer Julius Schmitke, a relic from a bygone age, who is sent from Germany to the Czech side of the Ore Mountains in order to fix a persistently noisy wind turbine.

But the more he heads out into the eerie, misty woods to investigate the problem, the more disoriented Schmitke becomes, yet the more strangely familiar this environment seems. But what has become of his verbose colleague? And why can he never get a straight answer from the locals?





With *The Seven Ravens*, Popular Czech director Alice Nellis has tried her hand at the fantasy genre with an adaptation of a beloved fairy tale collected and published variously by Božena Němcová, Pavol Dobšinský, and the Brothers Grimm, with tremendous results.

Seven sons of a baker enrage their mother with their mischievous behaviour. She lays a curse on them, turning all seven into ravens. Now, on the cusp of adulthood, only their youngest sister Bohdanka (the delightful Martha Issová) can transform her brothers back into human beings, but only through first making a pact with a witch and accomplishing certain supreme feats of self-sacrifice.

With its gorgeous cinematography and costumes, and beautiful fairy tale locations, *The Seven Ravens* is great fun for the whole family.

Special Christmas in July event this Saturday



A gentle reminder that CaSFFA will be hosting a special screening of the beautiful Czechoslovak/East German fairy tale film [Three Hazelnuts for Cinderella](#) (1973), directed by Václav Vorlíček, this Saturday 23 July at 1:45pm at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI). All ages welcome!

This classic film, aka *Tři oříšky pro Popelku* and *Drei Haselnüsse für Aschenbrödel*, is an essential staple of Christmas family viewing in the Czech and Slovak Republics, in Germany, and in many other European lands besides, and has been **NEWLY DIGITALLY RESTORED** by the National Film Archive in Prague. CaSFFA will be presenting it in cooperation with the [Goethe-Institut Australia](#).





For an authentic yuletide festive atmosphere, the ACMI Cafe & Bar will even be serving mulled wine for the occasion, and CaSFFA will have prizes of tickets to further fairy tale action at the festival in September for the best costumes, for young and old alike who feel like dressing up!

You can find [more information about the film, and buy tickets](#) on the CaSFFA website.

FREE TICKETS TO CINDERELLA - AND SO MUCH MORE! - FOR CaSFFANS!

Enjoy the perks of [being a CaSFFAN](#) courtesy of our wonderful festival partners!

Make your fan status official and you'll not only receive fantastic specials for #CaSFFA2016, including TWO FREE TICKETS to Three Hazelnuts for Cinderella, but also other CaSFFA tickets for the festival in September, Second Run DVD discounts, a Readings book store voucher, an ACMI Film Membership, and more! [BECOME A CaSFFAN HERE](#)

The 4th Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia

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

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.

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Media Enquiries

For more information about the festival, to arrange an interview with Artistic Director Cerise Howard, to request screeners or other publicity materials, please contact Olivia Hărășan: +61 415 881 472 or publicity@casffa.com.au

Contact Olivia Hargan, Tel: 415 881 472 or publicity@casffa.com.au

Sponsorship Enquiries

CaSFFA offers some attractive and targeted sponsorship opportunities, including advertising opportunities in our 2016 printed program. 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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