



DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM

Parléřova 17, 169 00 Prague 6

info@eurofilmfest.cz

eurofilmfest.cz



The Days of European Film will open with a tribute to the surrealist Salvador Dalí

Prague, 21 March 2024 – A diverse selection of films from all over Europe will be screened at the Days of European Film (DEF) from 4 April onwards. This year's 31st edition will open with Quentin Dupieux's successful comedy *Daaaaaaalí!*. In this eccentric film portrait of the world-famous painter Salvador Dalí, reality mixes with fantasy as the director serves the audience a story as original as the paintings of the surrealist master. It follows a journalist, Judith (Anaïs Demoustier), as she attempts to record an interview with the artist who makes increasingly bizarre demands. *"I don't have Dalí's genius. So, in all modesty, my film is an attempt to pay him the most crazy and free tribute possible,"* says the director Quentin Dupieux, who cast five actors (Gilles Lellouche, Edouard Baer, Jonathan Cohen, Pio Marmai, Didier Flamand) in the role of Salvador Dalí. Electronic musician Thomas Bangalter's (Daft Punk) music adds to the audience experience. The film premiered last year at the Venice International Film Festival. *"I was enthralled by Daaaaaaalí! from the very first shot. I am fascinated by Dupieux's playfulness and his sense of absurdity, but also by the dexterity with which he weaves the story on several levels, similarly to Christopher Nolan, for instance,"* says the festival's programmer Šimon Šafránek. The film's screening in Prague will be accompanied by a discussion from film publicist Aleš Stuchlý's Mental Hygiene series, and in Brno the film will be followed by a lecture revealing the fascinating world of the surrealist genius. *Daaaaaaalí!*, offered as a sneak preview at the festival, is distributed by Film Europe.

This year's Days of European Film Festival will showcase thirty recent films by renowned European directors, as well as ground-breaking debuts by up-and-coming filmmakers, most of which will be having their Czech premiere. These new releases garnered awards in Cannes, Venice and Karlovy Vary. The festival's programme will feature not only films but also various discussions, screenings for seniors and schools, seminars for film professionals and workshops for children. The main part of The Days of European Film will take place from 4 to 9 April in Prague's Světozor, Edison Filmhub Prague and Přítomnost cinemas, in Brno's Art cinema and in Ostrava's Minikino and then it will travel around the Czech Republic to dozens of other cinemas. The award ceremony will take place on 9 April. Tickets and programme are available at www.eurofilmfest.cz.

Young filmmakers disrupting the status quo

Featuring powerful debuts by young filmmakers, this year's main competition section of The Days of European Film, called **First Time**, presents six films. The director Mika Gustafson from Sweden will present **Paradise is Burning** in which Laura, a teenager in charge of her two younger sisters, clashes with the authority of social services. Debuting Hungarian director Katalin Moldovai's **Without Air** follows the story of a literature teacher who recommends to her students a story about the relationship between poets Arthur Rimbaud and Paul Verlaine, only to be accused by their parents of homosexual propaganda. **The King of Algiers**, another film in competition, is a gangster romance directed by Elias Belkeddar and starring French actors Reda Kateb and Benoît Magimel. The main character Omar is an old-fashioned gangster. After being expelled from France, he finds refuge in the city of Algiers, where he and a loyal friend hide out in a lavish villa with a suitcase full of cocaine. Another debut presented at DEF is by the Icelandic director Ninna Pálmadóttir with the Slovak cinematographer Dušan Husár (BANGER) behind the camera: **Solitude** tells the story of an unconventional friendship between an old man and a ten-year-old boy. **Superposition** by the Danish director Karoline Lyngbye paints the story of a family hoping to rediscover their energy to live and be with each other by moving to a remote lake cut off from civilization. **Family Time** by the Finnish director Tia Kouvo also focuses on family relationships, humorously depicting the Christmas reunion



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of three generations of one family.

Music takes centre stage

Documentary, live-action and animated films about music will feature in the **Film & Music** section, with its highlight being the highly anticipated film by Katia deVidas **Peter Doherty: Stranger in My Own Skin**. The English musician, poet and frontman of one of the most successful English bands of the 2000s, The Libertines, opens up about his demons and reminisces about his long battle with drug addiction. Fans of Pete Doherty can look forward to a special screening at Prague's Palác Akropolis where Doherty, together with the film's director, will be present in person and play a short gig. Also in this section, the Swiss-Portuguese film **Manga d'Terra**, a musical set in the suburbs of Lisbon, follows the story of a 20-year-old Cape Verdean named Rose who is trying to earn enough money in the Portuguese capital to provide for her two children. The Spanish director Fernando Trueba, who is credited for having discovered Penélope Cruz, nicknamed the "Madonna of Madrid", and who won an Oscar for Belle Époque (1992), co-wrote **They Shot the Piano Player**, an animated film that interweaves the history of the bossa nova genre with the socio-political events of the 1960s and 1970s in South American countries suffering under totalitarian regimes. In his fascinating, surreal film **A Tiger in Paradise** the Swedish director Mikel Cee Karlsson follows the musician José González while blurring the lines between fiction and documentary. **Animal** by Sofia Exarchou will immerse the audience into the work of animators at a Greek holiday resort. The Film & Music section will also feature the opening film **Daaaaaali!**.

Screen legends

The festival's **Panorama** section will, on the other hand, showcase films by experienced and award-winning directors. In his new documentary **Anselm**, the author of one of the most famous films of the 1980s, Wings of Desire, 78-year-old Wim Wenders portrays the neo-expressionist painter and sculptor Anselm Kiefer using the format of an essay rather than a classic biography. The Italian director Alice Rohrwacher, known to Czech and international audiences for her magical Cannes award-winning film Happy as Lazzaro, tells in her adventure comedy **La Chimera** the story of yet another of her bizarre characters – Arthur, a member of an Italian gang of grave robbers, who has the superpower of being able to locate ancient Etruscan treasures. The Panorama section will also feature the winning film of last year's Karlovy Vary IFF, **Blaga's Lesson**. Bulgarian director Stefan Komandarev's drama tells the story of a retired former teacher who falls for a phone scam and loses all her life savings – and then decides to take justice into her own hands. Instead of celebrating her wedding anniversary, the protagonist of Niclas Bendixen's **Rome** searches for the long-lost excitement of youth. **That They May Face the Rising Sun** by the Irish director Pat Collins is a lyrical adaptation of John McGahern's novel of the same name set in the Irish countryside of the 1980s, where it's not easy to fit in after years spent in the city. Do we, people living in the 21st century, believe in supernatural powers? The 15-year-old protagonist of Belgian director Fien Troch's **Holly** knows something about that as people around her start asking her for help after experiencing some tragic events. The festival will also feature the award-winning film **About Dry Grasses** by the Turkish





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director Nuri Bilge Ceylan about a village teacher hoping for a transfer to Istanbul. In German director Ilker Çatak's **The Teacher's Lounge** a novice maths teacher must learn to grapple with reality, while Romanian director Radu Jude's **Do Not Expect Too Much From The End of the World** offers a grotesque account of an era ruled by TikTok and savage capitalism. The historical drama **Kos**, directed by Pawel Maslon, takes the audience to Poland in 1794, where an uprising against the Russians is being prepared. And Dutch director Eny Sendijarević's film **Sweet Dreams** shows us what it was like to live on a sugar plantation somewhere in the East Indies at the end of Dutch colonial rule.

Tribute to Jessica Hausner

In the **Tribute** section, the festival will focus on the work of the Vienna-born screenwriter and director Jessica Hausner. She raised to fame thanks to her film **Lourdes**, starring famous French actresses Sylvie Testud and Léa Seydoux, which won an award at the 2009 Venice Film Festival. Her new film **Club Zero**, starring Mia Wasikowska in the main role, is a raw and very topical thriller about the destructive power of authority. Offered as a sneak preview at the festival, the film will be released by Aerofilms. The Days of European Film will screen two more films by Jessica Hausner: the bitter story of a teenage girl **Lovely Rita** (2001) and the mystery horror drama **Hotel** (2004) set in a remote Alpine hotel and the surrounding deep woods. Partnering with the educational platform Cinergy, the festival will also offer a masterclass led by Jessica Hausner. The partner of this section is the Creative Europe MEDIA Desk. The Desk represents the European Union programme, which supports European cinema and audiovisual industry, in the Czech Republic.

Ecology and nature

The Days of European Film's last section features films about ecology and humans' relationship with nature. The **Living Planet** section will present **Four Souls of Coyote**, Áaron Gauder's animated adventure film from the North American prairies, in which descendants of indigenous peoples meet at a sacred site to confront greedy oilmen, or **Fashion Reimagined**, a British documentary by Becky Hutner, which follows the fashion designer Amy Powney as she designs her collections in line with sustainable fashion principles and with the environment in mind. Another film in this section, a satirical take on human greed and naivety, takes the audience to the steppes of Ukraine's Kherson region, where a young biologist trying to protect marmots witnesses a crime. **The Editorial Office**, directed by Roman Bondarchuk, is a Ukrainian-German-Slovak-Czech co-production. **The Last Spark of Hope**, a futuristic film by the Polish director Piotr Biedroń, presents a vision of an Earth that is devastated and almost uninhabited as a result of climate wars. The youngest viewers will surely enjoy Kateřina Karhánková and Alexandra Májová's animated film **Hungry Bear Tales: To the Pole!**. The Living Planet section was created thanks to the support of the European Union, which, like us, is committed to preserving the healthy future of our planet.

The Days of European Film – accompanying events

Film and music fans can look forward to not only meeting the director Jessica Hausner, whose





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retrospective is screened at the festival, but also Peter Doherty and Katia deVidas, the director of **Peter Doherty: Stranger in My Own Skin**. Four instalments of Aleš Stuchlý's Mental Hygiene series will take place to accompany the screenings of **Blaga's Lessons**, **Daaaaaalí!**, **Paradise is Burning** and **About Dry Grasses** in Edison Filmhub. The screening of **Fashion Reimagined** in Prague will be followed by an interview with the renowned Czech fashion designer Jiří Kalfař. The Q&A promises to be an inspiring insight into the future of fashion based on a responsible attitude towards the environment and animal protection. The cinematographer Dušan Husár will be present for the screening of **Solitude** in Světozor where the traveller Veronika Jiříčková will also show her pictures from her trip around Iceland on a kick scooter. Dagmar Sedláčková, one of the producers, will present the film **The Editorial Office**. During the festival weekend, children can take part in animation workshops in Prague's Světozor and Přítomnost cinemas.

The screening of **Daaaaaalí!** in Brno's Art cinema will be accompanied by a Q&A with TIC Gallery curator and university lecturer Marika Kupková, and the film **The Teacher's Lounge** will be followed by a Q&A on occupational burnout with psychologists Kateřina Ingrová and Peter Zach.

In Ostrava's Minikino, the painter and university lecturer Daniel Balabán will provide an expert introduction to the film about **Anselm Kiefer** and the screening of **Blaga's Lessons** will be followed by a Q&A including practical advice on how to fight off scammers.

The **accompanying programme** will also feature screenings for seniors, elementary schools and high schools.

Festival awards

For three years now DEF has been awarding prizes in several competitive categories. The members of the jury of the **main competition section** featuring debuts are the actress Ester Geislerová, the CEO of the arthouse distributor Aerofilms Ivo Andrlé and the producer Jakub Jíra. DEF will also select **the best music film** of this year's edition with the Finnish director and screenwriter, and winner of last year's DEF competition, Einari Paakkanen, the musician David Žbirka and the Slovak singer Alžbeta Ferencová, known as Zea, as members of the jury. The award itself was designed by Zdeněk Vacek. Then there is the **LUX Audience Award** presented by the European Parliament and the European Film Academy. Viewers can rate the films online until 14 April 2024 at luxaward.eu/cs/ and win a trip to the award ceremony in Brussels.

The main part of The Days of European Film will take place from 4 to 9 April in Prague's Světozor, Edison Filmhub Prague and Přítomnost cinemas, in Brno's Art cinema and in Ostrava's Minikino.

In regions, the festival will take place from 10 to 14 April in cinemas in Boskovice (Panorama), Červený Kostelec (Kino Luník), Havířov (Kino Centrum), Hradec Králové (Bio Centra), Jablonec nad Nisou (Kino Junior), Šumperk (Kino Oko), Vrchlabí (Kino Střelnice), Vyškov (Kino Sokolský dům) and Znojmo (Kino Svět).





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The Days of European Film – section and film overview

First Time

Best Debut Competition

Young filmmakers are disrupting the status quo and demanding to have their say. They are having their feature films screened in cinemas for the first time. The best European debut competition features a selection of powerful and inspiring European debuts made in the past year.

Without Air, dir. Katalin Moldovai (2023, Hungary)

The King of Algiers, dir. Elias Belkeddar (2023, France)

Paradise is Burning, dir. Mika Gustafson (2023, Sweden / Italy / Denmark)

Solitude, dir. Ninna Pálmadóttir (2023, Iceland / Slovakia)

Superposition, dir. Karoline Lyngbye (2023, Denmark)

Family Time, dir. Tia Kouvo (2023, Finland / Sweden)

Film & Music

Competition Section

The Film & Music competition section highlights the power of two artistic disciplines and their ability to speak to human emotions and passions around the world. Images, tones and melodies set the rhythm for a section focused on the avant-garde, documentaries and live-action films in which music takes centre stage.

Animal, dir. Sofia Exarchou (2023, Greece / Austria / Romania / Cyprus / Bulgaria)

Daaaaaál!, dir. Quentin Dupieux (2023, France)

Manga d'Terra, dir. Basil da Cunha (2023, Portugal / Switzerland)

Peter Doherty: Stranger in My Own Skin, dir. Katia de Vidas (2023, UK)

A Tiger in Paradise, dir. Mikel Cee Karlsson (2023, Sweden)

They Shot the Piano Player, dir. Fernando Trueba, Javier Mariscal (2023, Spain / France / The Netherlands)

Panorama

A selection of the best from 2023

Directed by master filmmakers and featuring exceptional personalities of European cinema, these course-setting films have won awards at renowned festivals. Panorama showcases a selection of the best and most important films of current European cinema.

That They May Face the Rising Sun, dir. Pat Collins (2023, Ireland / UK)

Anselm, dir. Wim Wenders (2023, Germany)

Blaga's Lesson, dir. Stefan Komandarev (2023, Bulgaria / Germany)

Holly, dir. Fien Troch (2023, Luxembourg / Belgium / the Netherlands)

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- La Chimera**, dir. Alice Rohrwacher (2023, Italy / France / Switzerland)
- Kos**, dir. Pawel Maslona (2023, Poland)
- Do Not Expect Too Much From The End of the World**, dir. Radu Jude (2023, Romania / France / Luxembourg / Croatia)
- The Teacher's Lounge**, dir. Ilker Çatak (2023, Germany)
- Sweet Dreams**, dir. Ena Sendijarević (2023, the Netherlands / Indonesia / Sweden)
- About Dry Grasses**, dir. Nuri Bilge Ceylan (2023, Turkey / France / Germany / Sweden)
- Rome**, dir. Niclas Bendixen (2023, Italy / Sweden / Denmark)

Tribute: Jessica Hausner Retrospective of the festival's special guest

Director and screenwriter Jessica Hausner is one of today's most acclaimed Austrian filmmakers. Her films regularly appear at the Cannes and Venice festivals. The retrospective, featuring the premiere of her most recent film *Club Zero*, shows that Hausner increasingly employs image and sound stylization as well as her distinctive, extremely dry humour.

- Club Zero**, dir. Jessica Hausner (2023, Austria / UK / Germany / France / Denmark)
- Hotel**, dir. Jessica Hausner (2004, Austria / Germany)
- Lovely Rita**, dir. Jessica Hausner (2001, Austria / Germany)
- Lourdes**, dir. Jessica Hausner (2009, Austria / France / Germany)

Living Planet We care

There's just one, it's beautiful and still brimming with life. We all know that it is worth caring for and looking after. How does the increasingly topical theme of humans' relationship with nature and the environment feature in filmmakers' work? This selection offers films with an eco undertone for the whole family.

- Four Souls of Coyote**, dir. Áron Gauder (2023, Hungary)
- Fashion Reimagined**, dir. Becky Hutner (2022, UK)
- Hungry Bear Tales: To the Pole!**, dir. Kateřina Karhánková, Alexandra Májová (2023, Czech Republic)
- The Last Spark of Hope**, dir. Piotr Biedroń (2022, Poland)
- The Editorial Office**, dir. Roman Bondarchuk (2024, Ukraine, Germany, Slovakia, Czech Republic)

Links:

- Web: www.dnyevropskehofilmu.cz
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Contact for journalists:

Silvie Marková

SMART Communication

M: +420 604 748 699

E: markova@s-m-art.com

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