

THE EMBASSY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC IN COOPERATION WITH THE SLOVAK FILM INSTITUTE AND
14TH TALLINN BLACK NIGHTS FESTIVAL PRESENT THE
CZECHOSLOVAK NEW WAVE CINEMA FEATURING SLOVAK MOVIES:

THE SUN IN A NET

STEFAN UHER, 1962

ENGLISH
SUBTITLES
1H30'



THE SUN IN A NET IS A LYRICAL STORY ABOUT THE EMOTIONS ARISING AMONG TWO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO PRETEND CYNICISM AND REJECTION TOWARDS SOCIETY IN AN ATTEMPT TO HIDE THEIR INSECURITIES, LACK OF EXPERIENCE AND FEAR OF ADULT LIFE. IT IS THE VERY FIRST SLOVAK FILM TO TAKE ON THE THEME OF THE NATURAL DIFFERENCES OF VALUES AND SOCIAL LIFE IN URBAN AND RURAL SETTINGS. THE FILM IS CONSIDERED THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW WAVE IN SLOVAK AND CZECH CINEMA OF THE 1960s.

"THIS IS A FILM WHICH SHOWS THAT SLOVAK CINEMATOGRAPHY IS FOR THE FIRST TIME AND TO THE FULL SETTING OUT ON ITS OWN PATH, STOPPING TO TAKE OVER WITH ITS GOOD QUALITIES ALSO THE SETBACKS OF CZECH CINEMA, AND PROVIDING CHALLENGING INSPIRATION."
JAROSLAV BOCEK

SCREENINGS:

FRIDAY 25/11/2011 AT 17:00
CINAMON 5 TARTU

SUNDAY 28/11/2010 AT 14:00
ARTIS 2, TALLIN

CELEBRATION IN THE BOTANICAL GARDEN

ELO HAVETTA, 1969

ENGLISH
SUBTITLES
1H23'



A COLORFUL STORY BETWEEN FANTASY AND REALITY ABOUT THE NEED FOR MIRACLES IN LIFE. THE STORY IS COMPOSED AS A MOSAIC. ONE OF THE LEAD CHARACTERS IS MARIA, AN INN KEEPER; ALWAYS A BRIDE, NEVER A WIFE. THE LEAD MALE CHARACTER IS PIERRE, WHO DISTURBS THE PEACE OF THE SMALL VILLAGE AND TEACHES THE LOCALS HOW TO ENJOY LIFE. HAVETTA'S DEBUT WAS INSPIRED BY NAÏVE ART, FRENCH IMPRESSIONISM, AND SILENT SLAP-STICK AS WELL AS WESTERN SLOVAKIAN FOLK TRADITIONS.

SCREENINGS:

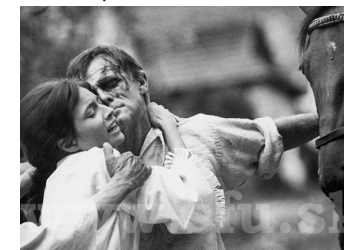
FRIDAY 26/11/2010 AT 18:30
ARTIS 2, TALLINN

TUESDAY 30/11/2010 AT 20:30
ARTIS 2, TALLINN

THE RETURN OF DRAGON

EDUARD GRECNER, 1967

ENGLISH
SUBTITLES,
1H24'



THIS IS A BALLAD ABOUT LOVE, HATE AND A SEARCH FOR A WAY OUT OF LONELINESS. IT IS A DRAMATIC STORY ABOUT A STRANGE POTTER, MARTIN LEPIŠ, NICKNAMED DRAGON, WHO IS SUSPECTED BY THE VILLAGERS AS THE CAUSE OF NATURAL DISASTERS HAPPENING TO THEM. HE LOST HIS WIFE, HIS HOME AND HIS FREEDOM DUE TO FALSE ACCUSATIONS. AFTER YEARS HE RETURNS TO HIS NATIVE VILLAGE BUT THE PAST CANNOT BE MENDED OR CHANGED. PUTTING HIS OWN LIFE TO RISK, HE SAVES A HERD OF SHEEP IN DANGER FROM FOREST FIRES HIGH UP IN THE HILLS. BUT NOT EVEN THIS HEROIC DEED HELPS TO RESTORE HIM TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

SCREENINGS:

TUESDAY 30/11/2010 AT 16:00
ARTIS 2, TALLIN

THURSDAY 2/12/2010
KOSMOS 2, TALLINN

THE PRIME OF LIFE

JURAJ JAKUBISKO, 1967

ENGLISH SUBTITLES, 1h30'

JURAJ, A SLOVAK ARTIST LIVING IN PRAGUE, TAKES STOCK OF HIS LIFE, REALIZING THAT HIS DAYS PASS WITHOUT PURPOSE. HE LIVES A CAREFREE LIFE. BUT NOW HE HAS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO WOMEN, BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE COUNTRY, AND BETWEEN CREATIVE WORK AND CRAFTSMANSHIP. HE HAS A PASSION FOR ART BUT HE ALSO NEEDS TO MAKE A LIVING. THROUGH HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH CLOSE PEOPLE, HE GROWS AWARE OF HIS POSITION AND THIS KNOWLEDGE HELPS HIM TO LIVE A MORE FULFILLING AND BETTER LIFE.



SCREENING:

SATURDAY 27/11/2010 AT 14:00

ARTIS 2, TALLIN

322

DUSAN HANAK, 1969, ENGLISH SUBTITLES, 1h32



A STORY OF A MAN THREATENED BY A FATAL ILLNESS EVALUATING HIS LIFE (THE NUMBER 322 STANDS FOR THE DIAGNOSES OF ONE KIND OF CANCER) HE UNDERSTANDS HIS DISEASE AS A FORM OF PUNISHMENT FOR HIS CRUEL DEEDS IN THE 1950s. IN THE FACE OF REALITY AND HIS EFFORTS TO CLEANSE HIMSELF HE HITS A BARRIER

OF INDIFFERENCE, LACK OF INTEREST, AND INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE SELFISHNESS. HE HAS TO FIND HIS OWN RECONCILIATION WITH HIS ILLNESS AND HIS PAST AND PRESENT LIFE. "

SCREENINGS:

THURSDAY 25/11/2010 AT 16:00

ARTIS 2, TALLINN

SATURDAY 4/12/2010 AT 15:00

KOSMOS 2, TALLINN

FILMS OF THE 1960's, THE MOST SUCCESSFUL DECADE IN THE HISTORY OF THE CZECH AND SLOVAK CINEMATOGRAPHY, WERE CAREFULLY HIDDEN IN THE 70's AND 80's. THERE WERE NO SCREENINGS IN CINEMAS OR ON TELEVISION; THEY WERE BANNED EVEN FOR STUDENTS OF FILM SCHOOLS.

THERE WERE SEVERAL REASONS WHY THE COMMUNIST REGIME WAS AFRAID OF THE TRANSFERENCE "FROM EYES TO EYES". TO BEGIN WITH, THE FILM PRODUCTION WAS VERY CLOSELY ATTACHED TO ALL POLITICAL TURMOIL – A DESPERATE ENDEAVOR TO FIND THE WAY OUT OF THE RIGID TOTALITARIAN REGIME AND REPLACE ITS FACE OF PROLETARIAN DICTATORSHIP WITH ONE OF HUMAN SOCIALISM. SUCH ATTEMPTS WERE CRUSHED BY SOVIET TANKS IN AUGUST 1968 AND THE FRONT LEADER OF THE MOVEMENT, ALEXANDER DUBCEK, BECAME JUST A SHADOW OF AN INCONVENIENT PAST.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE NEW WAVE CAME AS A RESULT OF POLITICAL "ICE MELTING", THESE FILMS WERE NOT POLITICAL IN THE DIRECT SENSE OF THE WORD. IF THERE WAS SOMETHING THAT CONNECTED ALL THE "YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN" (AS JOSEF ŠKVORECKÝ, THE EXILED CZECH WRITER, NAMED THEM) OF THE 60's, IT WAS THEIR REGARD FOR THE TRUTH, WHICH WAS THE CRUCIAL POINT IN EVERYTHING – THE ARTISTIC VIEWS OF THE DAY AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL ATTITUDES. THIS REGARD WAS SHOWN MOST CLEARLY IN MILOŠ FORMAN'S VISION OF THE WORLD AS A "CRUEL THEATRE"; THE LYRICAL NOSTALGIA OF IVAN PASSER, THE PHILOSOPHICAL MEDITATIONS OF EWALD SCHORM, THE VISUAL PROVOCATIONS OF JAN NEMEC, THE PLAYFULNESS OF JIRÍ MENZEL, AND THE UNMERCIFUL CRITICISM OF CURRENT MORALS BY VERA CHYTILOVÁ, WHERE AN UNRIVALED PINCH OF CZECH HUMOR FLAVORED EVERYTHING. ALL OF THESE AND THEIR COLLEAGUES CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ARTISTIC FORMS AND IDEAS, WHICH GAVE AN UNFORGETTABLE IMAGE OF CREATIVITY AND INDIVIDUALISM TO THE WHOLE DECADE.

THE SLOVAK PART OF THE NEW WAVE WAS IMPORTANT, ŠTEFAN UHER AND HIS SUN IN THE NET INSPIRED A NEW VIEW OF ARTISTIC FORMS, OPENED AND SHOWED THE WAY TO EXAMINING THE NEW LANGUAGE OF A NEW REALITY. SLOVAK FILM OF THIS ERA CLARIFIED THE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN BOTH NATIONS AS IT KEPT AN EVIDENT CLOSENESS TO THE RURAL VALUES, NATURE, REGIONAL CULTURES AND FOLKLORE VIEWED THROUGH THE PRISM OF MODERN ARTISTIC FORMS. REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH THE OLDER GENERATION – ŠTEFAN UHER, STANISLAV BARABÁŠ, MARTIN HOLLÝ – AND THE YOUNGER – JURAJ JAKUBISKO, ELO HAVETTA AND DUŠAN HANÁK – WERE GRADUATES OF FAMU (FILM AND TV SCHOOL OF ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS) IN PRAGUE, WHICH WAS THE ALMA MATER OF THE WHOLE MOVEMENT.

WATCHING THESE FILMS TODAY NOT ONLY OFFERS THE JOY BROUGHT BY ACCOMPLISHED ARTISTIC PIECES, BUT CAN ALSO BE VIEWED AS A LABORATORY OF SUCCESS.

VIERA LANGEROVÁ
FILM CRITIC

TICKETS AT EKK 50/60/75 ARE AVAILABLE AT
WWW.PILETILEVI.EE OR AT THE BOX OFFICE BEFORE THE SCREENING