

Film in the Heart of Europe
German Czech Film Relations in the 20th Century

CineFest is organized by:



in Cooperation with:



FILMPROGRAMME

Hamburg, 17 – 25 November 2007

in Metropolis Cinema,

Dammtorstr. 30a, 20354 Hamburg, Tel.: +49-(0)40-34 23 53, Fax: +49-(0)40-354090

www.metropoliskino.de, info@kinemathek-hamburg

Saturday, 17 November

19.00 Opening Gala with shortfilm-programme

With guests and award presentation

Das heilige Prag

D 1929. Director: Hans Cürlis.

Historical sightseeing tour of Prague in classic film style.

Hochzeit im Korallenmeer

D(CS) 1944. Director: Horst von Möllendorff. 11 min

Charming animated film of Disney-Quality from the Pragfilm AG studio.

Pérák a SS

CS 1946. Director: Jiří Trnka, Jiří Brdečka. 14 min

Animated antifascism: a chimney sweep conquers the SS.

Die Ohrfeige

BRD 1971-74, Director: Mischa Gallé. 40 min

May 1945, a manor in Iglau, Bohemia. The owner, a widow of an SS-Officer, and her eleven-year old son prepare to flee from the fast approaching Red Army. An old Czech couple who work for them reluctantly help conceal Nazi signs in the cellar. Upset with their reluctance, the mother nevertheless begins to treat them more nicely. She tells her son to forget about all of the values he has learned which provokes him to go to the other extreme.

Sunday, 18 November

Join us at 2 p.m. for complimentary cake and coffee

14.30 Die verkaufte Braut

D 1932. Director: Max Ophüls. 77 min

Enterprising matchmaker Kezal wants to match the mayor's daughter Marie with the rich farmer's son Wenzel. Both of them, however, have already fallen in love with someone else. Marie has fallen for Hans, a postman, Wenzel for Esmaralda, a circus-dancer. Kezal fears for his bonus for the match and causes trouble: he prevents Esmaralda's performance and makes Marie believe that Hans has „sold“ her. In the meantime a bear breaks loose at the circus and within the ensuing chaos, the right people are brought together.

16.30 Der junge Graf

D 1935. Director: Carl Lamač. 91 min

Young Billy and her father make their living as artists. They are aristocrats, but the old Graf Prießnitz disowned his son, Billy's father, when he eloped with a „circus girl“. Since Billy cannot bear the poverty any more, she writes to the grandfather. The Graf agrees to meet with Billy, but when a servant notices that Billy is a woman, he tells her she has to disguise herself as a man to have a chance with the grandfather. To give some education to the ill-bred "grandson", the Graf hires Flint as a teacher. Billy falls immediately in love with the teacher. When professor Dodereit visits with his beautiful daughter Marianne, jealousy wins over: Billy puts on a dress and seduces Flint. When Billy realises that she, as the grandson, is supposed to get engaged with Marianne, the situation becomes even more chaotic.

18.30 Transport z ráje

CS 1962. Director: Zbyněk Brynych. 93 min, OV, Engl. subtitles

1944: While the Nazi propaganda film THERESIENSTADT is being made, the SS-General Knecht inspects the German »showpiece« concentration camp: He wants to prepare for the visit of a delegation from the International Red Cross. He is content with the work of camp leader Holler – until he notices an anti-Nazi poster. Immediately he orders the transport of 4000 inmates to the extermination camp Birkenau. Senior SS-Officer Herz is supposed to work together with the »Judenrat« (Jewish council) to determine who will be transported, but council chairman Löwenbach refuses to cooperate. When Herz discovers the prisoner Fiala as one of the originators of the poster, he shoots at him. Fiala can flee for the time being, but there is no escape from Theresienstadt.

Guest: Arnošt Lustig

21.00 Das Schloß

BRD 1967/68. Director: Rudolf Noelte. 88 min

Surveyor K. takes on a new job for a mysterious castle, which is controlled by puzzling officials. He can neither find entry into the castle nor does he gain ground in a small village at the foot of the castle. The villagers seem to mistrust him. Only Frieda, who runs a local pub, loves him but she leaves him, refusing to tolerate his obsession with the castle. In the end he is finally allowed admission into the castle – but before he can reach his goal, he dies.

Guests: Kafka-Expert Markéta Mališová und Kameramann Wolfgang Treu

Monday, 19 November

17.00 Die goldene Stadt

D 1941/42. Director: Veit Harlan. 110 min

Anna, a farmer's daughter, lives with her father in a manor near the river Vltava where, long ago, her mother drowned herself in the swamp. Anna is supposed to marry farm hand Thomas and to stay on the farm. But she dreams of visiting the »golden« capital, where her mother came from. Indeed she travels to Prague and meets her cousin Toni, who seduces her and gets her pregnant. He is only interested in the family property and when Annas father disowns her because of her betrayal, Toni leaves her. Because her father has remarried, even a rueful return to the farm is no option for the disappointed and desperate Anna, so she follows her mother's path into the swamp.

Introduction: Karl Griep

19.15 Ach, du fröhliche...

DDR 1961/62. Director: Günter Reisch. 95 min

Christmas 1961, a few months after the building of the Berlin Wall: Lörke, a labor director always loyal to the East-German state and party, wants to have a peaceful celebration with his family. But the harmony is disturbed by his daughter Anne and her friend Thomas. They have secretly gotten engaged and she's expecting a child. That not being enough, Thomas turns out to be a Dissident and thereby offends Lörke deeply. Inflamed with rage, Lörke leaves the Christmas party – and ventures into the life and political perspective of his future son-in-law, so that after his return they are able to have a conciliatory talk.

With friendly support of Icestorm Entertainment

Guest: Günter Reisch

21.30 Vyšší princip

CS 1960. Director: Jiří Krejčík. 105 min, OV, Engl. subtitles

1942, in a Bohemian town, shortly after the assassination of Reich Protector Heydrich: While Professor Málek is teaching a Latin lesson, the Gestapo arrests three high school seniors, because they have »defaced« a picture of Heydrich in a newspaper. When the teacher, who sees the world with high-minded, »classical« ideals, finds out that the students are to be executed, he decides to act. He refuses to sign an apologetic letter prepared by a colleague who collaborates with the Nazis and rather pleads for the release of the students. But the pleas are in vain and they are executed. In frustration, Málek declares in front of the student body that from the standpoint of the »higher principle« the assassination of a tyrant is acceptable.

Introduction: Tereza Dvorakova

Tuesday, 20 November

17.00 Takový je život

CS 1929/30. Director: Carl Junghans. 70 min

The tragedy of a family, set in the impoverished bourgeoisie of Prague: The husband, a coal heaver, loses his job. He starts drinking excessively and spending his time with a lively waitress. The daughter, a manicurist, has to deal with the flirtations and propositions of rich men. After discovering that she's pregnant with her boyfriend's child, she decides to have an abortion. The mother works as a washer-woman, working her fingers to the bone for her family while closing her eyes to the misery of their lives. When she is seriously scalded by boiling water from a falling washbasin, it brings her to wits end. Her death is followed by her funeral – such is life.

Introduction: Thomas Tode

18.45 Král Velichovek (Der König von Velichovsky)

CS 2005/06. Director: Jan Šikl. 52 min, OV, German subtitles

This compilation of private amateur films from the 1930s and 1940s tells about rich squire Karl Seisser, who lived in Velichovsky in the Sudetes area. He successfully farmed fields and forests, raised horses and owned an autocar, with which he made trips to Berlin as well as to Prague. Seisser lived luxuriously, with his wife and daughters Lili, Ria and Edith. Lili married a Czech dentist, Ria a German civil servant and Edith a German general. The status of the family – Czech and German – was never a problem. Until the end of the war.

With friendly support of TaurusMedia, Unterföhring

Zu Gast: Jan Šikl

20.30 Der Mädchenkrieg

BRD 1976/77. Director: Alf Brustellin, Bernhard Sinkel. 143 min

In 1936 merchant Sellmann and his three daughters Christine, Sophie and Katharina move from Germany to Prague, where he takes a position as director of the Bohemian state bank. A new life begins for the three young women. The film follows their life for ten years against a background of German occupation and World War II. Christine marries Czech factory owner Jan Amery, stays a successful business woman even after their marriage fails and collaborates with the Nazis. Sophie studies singing and is adored by a young musician, but she is secretly in love with her brother-in-law Jan and runs away to a cloister to avoid this love. Katharina falls for a communist resistance fighter and follows him into the underground.

A presentation by TaurusMedia, Unterföhring

Guest: Bernhard Sinkel

Wednesday, 21 November

17.00 Schicksal am Strom

D (CS) 1942-44. Director: Heinz Paul. 78 min

Boatman Karl Rubach is the proud owner of an aged barge – and on his way on the Elbe river from Germany to Prague with express goods. But when the boiler of the »Eger« bursts, he has to rely on the help of his young competitor. Captain Stahlschmidt tows the »Eger«, but only because he is interested in Rubach's attractive daughter Marianne. He even offers to help Rubach financially on the condition that Marianne marries him. The father accepts the proposal, not knowing that Marianne and his ship's mate Jürg have fallen in love. Jürg leaves the barge and a heavy hearted Marianne submits to her father's wish. During a party celebrating their engagement, singer Ira Corelli, who Stahlschmidt had also promised to marry, turns up unexpectedly.

Introduction: Evelyn Hampicke

Conference-Opening with Guests

19.00 Adelheid

CS 1969. Director: František Vlácil. 99 min, OV, Engl. Subtitles

Viktor Chotovicky, who has fought as a lieutenant in the Royal Air Force against the Germans, returns in Summer 1945 to his homeland, where he is assigned the management of a confiscated manor in the village Černý potok close to the border. Its owner, the Nazi Heidenmann, awaits his process in prison, while his daughter Adelheid now has to work for the Czech. When Viktor gets sick with an upset stomach and Adelheid has to take care of him, the two draw closer and spend the night together. The next morning Adelheid finds out that her father has been executed and attempts to break ties with Viktor. When Viktor gets attacked by her brother, who was thought to be missing, Adelheid starts hitting her lover, too...

Introduction: Tereza Dvorakova

Thursday, 22 November

17.00 Schweik's New Adventures

GB 1943. Director: Karel Lamač. 90 min, OV

Based on a satirical pamphlet by popular Czech writer Jaroslav Hasek (»Schweik against the Gestapo«), the film tells about the adventurous and odd travels of the »good soldier« under the German occupation. At the center of the slapstick-like story – which is given a serious background by an introduction from exiled Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk – is a secret mission Schweik has to achieve: He becomes a servant in the home of the head of the Gestapo in Prague to get hold of a playing card which secretly reveals the positions of German ammunition depots.

Introduction: Ivan Klimes

19.00 Der Mädchenhirt

D 1919. Director: Karl Grune. ca. 70 min

Prague Police commissioner Duschnitz is the illegitimate father of Jaroslav Chrapot, a young man, who has been lured by easy money and fancy clothes to the wrong side of the tracks. Jaroslav, nicknamed „the jaunty Jarda“, spends his time with perky girls and shady guys on Kampa island and makes a living as a pimp. He even goes as far as setting up his girlfriend Bethka with a customer to support his extravagant life. One day Ilonka, a dancer who has fallen in love with him, gives him a precious cigarette-case. Soon thereafter, during a raid the police recognise the cigarette-case as stolen. At the police interrogation, commissioner Duschnitz recognises the suspect as his lost son. When Jarda gets sick, the girls no longer want to have anything to do with him. In a desperate search for money he breaks into his father's apartment, only to be caught...

Music: Stefan Goreiski (Akkordeon)

21.00 Němá barikáda

CS 1948/49. Director: Otakar Vávra. 128 min, OV, Engl. Subtitles

Prague just before the end of the war. The hope of liberation can be felt on the streets and in streetcar No. 12. Suddenly shots are fired near the Troja bridge resulting in both injuries and deaths. The passengers immediately work together and build a barricade in front of the bridge. On the other side of the river German soldiers have taken position. Under the leadership of locksmith Hosek the barricade fighters prepare for the deciding battle. Among them is a lieutenant of the Czech army, an Interbrigadist who has fought in Spain, a policeman, a coal-worker, a baker, a Polish survivor of Auschwitz, and Hosek's son Pepik. Indeed the motley group is able to successfully hold back the Germans, while they await the arrival of the Red Army.

Introduction: Hans-Joachim Schlegel

Friday, 23 November

17.00 Ein Anlaß zum Sprechen

BRD 1965. Director: Haro Senft. 107 min, DVD

A documentary film about the famous FAMU, the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. It shows the Czech film scene of the mid 1960s and gives an impression of the political climate just before »Prague Spring«. The film uses film clips as well as interviews with directors, cinematographers and authors. In this way it introduces the different departments as well as giving insight into teaching methods and discussions between both film students and critics.

Introduction: Ivan Klimes

19.00 Hilde, das Dienstmädchen

DDR 1985/86. Director: Günther Rucker, Jürgen Brauer. 97 min

In 1938 Hilde arrives in Reichenberg (Liberec), a small Bohemian town near the border. It is inhabited mostly by Germans and is a special target of the Henlein-Nazis, who are eager to see it's »annexation« into the Reich. Hilde works as a maid for a German carpenter, but she wants to meet her lover Erich again, who works in the resistance movement. They meet at hidden places, such as a mountain hut and other lonely spots. They are secretly watched by Peter, the pubescent son of the carpenter. Hilde's love is in direct conflict with the rules of the underground: Erich has to be alone, he is not allowed to confide in Hilde. Eventually he obeys orders and parts with her. Hilde turns to the ardent boy and initiates him into the secrets of love.

Introduction: Elke Schieber

21.15 Das Haus in der Karpfengasse

BRD 1963-65. Director: Kurt Hoffmann. 108 min

The film follows the fate of inhabitants of a house in the Jewish quarter of Prague after the German invasion in 1939. Among them an old widow, who has disowned her son, who insists that she should come with him to Brasil. The owners of a paper business are driven into ruin by German competitors and the occupators. Another merchant family successfully emigrates to Palestine, while their neighbours cannot get over their losses. A young student joins a resistance group, but she gets discovered. Only landlord Glaser, who is of German origin, seems to profit from the new situation.

Introduction: Christoph Fuchs

Saturday, 24 November

17.00 Double programme

Crisis

US/CS 1938/39. Director: Herbert Kline, Hanuš Burger. 60 min, Engl. OV

Schicksalswende

D 1938/39. Director: Johannes Häußler, Walter Scheunemann. 30 min

One topic, two documentaries: the Sudeten crisis 1938, its prehistory and aftermath from both the Czech and Nazi point of view. Contrasting and converging film propaganda.

Introduction: Pavel Zeman

19.00 Jahrgang 21 / Rocník 21

DDR/CS 1957. Director: Václav Gajer. ca. 97 min

At the outbreak of World War II, Czech student Honzík, whose father was deported to the concentration camp Buchenwald, and German nurse Käthe both are 18 years old. Honzík is a forced labourer in the German city Stralsund where he has to clear bomb sites. During a march through the destroyed city – disregarding the orders of his superior – he saves a boy out of the debris and gets badly injured. In the overcrowded hospital Germans are given priority. But Käthe looks after the young Czech. Between her and Honzík a delicate love grows. But their love is forbidden and informers are everywhere.

Introduction: Ralf Schenk

21.00 Mamitschka

BRD 1955. Director: Rolf Thiele. 95 min

The Nawratils, a family of nine, have been expelled from the Bohemian town of Budweis and had to spend some time in a refugee camp. On their way to move into a flat in photographer Samhaber's house, the resolute »Mamitschka« picks up a coloured boy, who has been deserted by his mother. The clan turns out to be vivacious: son Frantek doesn't much care for regular work, daughter Rosa dreams of a career as a movie star. When the father loses his job in a factory, son Poldi coincidentally wins 75.000 Marks betting on soccer games. The money has a bad influence on the unstable Nawratil kids. Only when two of them die in a motorcycle accident, does the family wake up from the rush of being wealthy – to finally set out on a voyage to find a new home in America...

Introduction: Stefan Zwicker

Sunday, 25 November

13.00 Drei Haselnüsse für Aschenbrödel

DDR/CS 1972/73. Director: Václav Vorlíček. 86 min

Aschenbrödel (Cinderella) lives in her deceased father's manor with her stepmother and her stepsister; both treat her like a servant maid. One day she meets a prince in the forest – and she falls for him. When coachman Vinzek gives her three hazelnuts which have magical powers, she is able to meet the prince again. Disguised as a hunter, she impresses him as a good shooter. She also visits the ball incognito, where the prince is supposed to choose a bride: When Aschenbrödel enters the hall in her beautiful dress, he immediately falls in love with her. Yet he is left only with her shoe, which she loses on the stairs when running away. With the shoe and a wish to see her again, the prince searches for the enchanting girl.

With friendly support of Märchen-Stiftung Walter Kahn, Volkach

15.00 Die Stunde der Versuchung

D 1936. Director: Paul Wegener. 75 min

Lawyer Dr. Leuttern is so occupied with his job that he neglects his young wife Irene. But finally one day they manage to have a night out at the opera together. In the neighbouring box is MacNorris, a man-about-town who very openly flirts with Irene. During the opera Leuttern gets called to privy councillor Rüdiger, whose wife Alice has fled from a sanatorium. Letters confirm that she had an affair with MacNorris for years. In the meantime MacNorris has persuaded the lonely Irene to visit a bar. Being tipsy she even follows him to his apartment, where he flirtatiously cuddles up to her – until a shot is fired and he collapses...

Einführung: Evelyn Hampicke, Berlin.

17.00 Das Gäßchen zum Paradies

CS/D 1936. Director: Mac Frič. 75 min

Tobias Haslinger is a poor dog-catcher who lives on a lane named "To Paradise". Boys who hang around on the street hate him and repeatedly try to free the dogs. One of these boys is Peter, who is then put into an orphanage by his heartless foster father. Haslinger catches Peter's dog and when Peter escapes from the orphanage, he also finds a place to stay with Haslinger. The lonesome man becomes fond of the cheeky boy and together they go through thick and thin – until they finally are taken in by a rich family.

Guest: Peter Bosse

19.00 Der Student von Prag

D 1926. Director: Henrik Galeen, Co-Regie: Hanns Heinz Ewers. ca. 100 min

Prague 1820: Balduin, a student, sells his mirror image to the mysterious profiteer Scapinelli. Henceforth he lives his life in the lap of luxury and wins the heart of countess Margit. When her fiancée, Baron Waldis-Schwarzenberg, finds out about this, he challenges Balduin to a duel. Balduin promises Margit and her father that he will spare his opponent's life, but his mirror image takes his place in the duel and kills the Baron. Balduin's friends, including Margit, turn away from him. In despair he shoots at his image in the mirror – and, murderously hit in the heart, sinks to the floor.

With friendly support of Deutsch-Tschechische Gesellschaft Hamburg

Introduction and Music: Marie-Lusie Bolte (Klavier)

21.30 Musíme si pomáhat (Divided we fall)

CS 1999. Director: Jan Hřebejk. 120 min, OV, Engl. Subtitles

A small Czech town in 1943: Josef and Marie Cizek are occasionally visited by Sudeten German Horst. Horst is a messenger under the Nazis and has a crush on Marie. When David Wiener, an escaped Jew from the concentration camp, asks the Cizeks for help, Josef reluctantly hides David, whose father once was the employer of Josef and Horst, in the pantry, where they also stack smoked pork. Again and again Horst's sudden visits endanger their lives. To avoid being forced to provide quarters for a Nazi, Marie claims to be pregnant. Horst demands proof of this, and because Josef is unable to father children, it's David's turn...

Cine-Forum

Talks with experts

19 – 21 November 2007 in Metropolis Cinema

2 – 4 pm, free entry.

Complementary cake and coffee.

Monday, 19 November

Digi-Restau-ralisierung

The effects of digitalisation on film restoration

Tuesday, 20 November

On the Road Again

Showing films in unusual places

Wednesday, 21 November

Lost & Found

The search for lost films

CineFest - Internationales Festival des deutschen Film-Erbes

c/o CineGraph e.V.

Schillerstr. 43

22767 Hamburg

Tel.: +49-(0)40-352194 / Fax: +49-(0)40-345864

email: info@cinifest.de

www.cinifest.de