CZECH CENTRE LONDON

Press release

The Czech Centre presents

29TH MADE IN PRAGUE FESTIVAL

31 October – 30 November 2025
Film venues: BFI IMAX, BFI Player, ICA, Regent Street Cinema, The Garden Cinema



The acclaimed Made in Prague Festival is back for its 29th year, showcasing the finest Czech films to London audiences. Partnering with some of the city's most prestigious silver screens, the festival offers UK premieres ranging from celebrated contemporary dramas to captivating documentaries and a delightful, animated feature suitable for all ages.

‚We're thrilled to bring to the UK audiences an outstanding line-up of contemporary Czech cinema, fresh from top international festivals including Cannes, Berlinale, Toronto and Karlovy Vary. Among the highlights, the UK premiere of Waves will be presented by its director, rising star Jiří Mádl; the acclaimed Caravan will be introduced by leading actress Anna Geislerová; and a moving documentary about photographer Libuše Jarcovjáková — shown as part of the V&A symposium on moving images — will round off our film programme at the ICA.' Přemysl Pela, Director of the Czech Centre

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29TH MADE IN PRAGUE FESTIVAL - FILM PROGRAMME

CONTEMPORARY CINEMA HIGHLIGHTS

The festival's film programme opens with the long-anticipated UK premiere of Jiří Mádl's historical drama ***WAVES*** screening at BFI IMAX on Saturday 9 November.
Winner of Satellite Award for Best Foreign Language Film and the most watched film in Czech cinemas last year, *Waves* tells the true story of the Czechoslovak Radio journalists who risked everything to deliver independent news and keep their broadcast alive during the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. Blending dynamic cinematography, compelling performances and a masterful mix of archival footage and fiction, this is not just a gripping political drama, but also a powerful reminder that free speech is worth fighting for.
Followed by Q&A with director Jiří Mádl and lead actress Tatiana Pauhofová.



Clockwise from top left: *Caravan; Waves; I'm Not Everything I Want to Be; Actress*

On Saturday 15 November, the festival presents the UK premiere of Zuzana Kirchnerová's acclaimed feature directorial debut ***CARAVAN***, screened at the beautiful Regent Street Cinema straight from its well-received international premiere at the Cannes Festival earlier this year. An intimate road drama, *Caravan* follows a burned-out mother Ester, played by Czech actress Anna Geislerová (& Sons, Anthropoid), as she embarks on an Italian road trip with her intellectually disabled son, David. Based on Kirchnerová's personal experience as a parent, the film is an authentically poignant exploration of the complexities of motherhood, adolescence, and societal perception of disability, portrayed with humour and tenderness. **Followed by Q&A with director Zuzana Kirchnerová and actress Anna Geislerová.**

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Closing off the festival's trio of critically praised contemporary features will be the screening of ***GIRL AMERICA*** at The Garden Cinema on Tuesday 18 November. Telling the story of an orphaned girl in totalitarian Czechoslovakia, and mixing raw realism with surreal imagery, director Viktor Tauš crafts a vivid and emotionally charged journey of resilience and hope – an exceptional film in the tradition of Czech auteur cinema.
Followed by Q&A with director Viktor Tauš.

DOCUMENTARIES

Kicking off the festival documentaries on Saturday 22 November at the Regent Street Cinema will be the UK premiere of ***ACTRESS***, an unconventional portrait of Iva Janžurová - one of Czech Republic's greatest screen and stage icons. Directed by Janžurová's daughter Theodora Remundová, this intimate insight into a life lived entirely in the spotlight features playful re-enactments, behind-the-scenes moments, and rare archive footage, revealing the passion, resilience, and joy that have made Janžurová a national treasure.
Followed by Q&A with actress Iva Janžurová and director Theodora Remundová.
ACTRESS will be preceded by the screening of ***OIL LAMPS***, Juraj Herz's 1971 tale of love, desire, and decay, starring Iva Janžurová as a spirited young woman whose hunger for happiness leads her into a disastrous marriage with her cousin. A rare chance to experience this powerful Czech classic with Janžurová in attendance.

On Tuesday 25 November, The Garden Cinema will host Peter Kerekeš's light-hearted hybrid documentary ***WISHING ON A STAR***. The film follows Neapolitan astrologer Luciana as she sends five of her clients on 'birthday trips' to destinations around the world to symbolically rebirth themselves and find happiness. Radiating with warmth, wit, and wanderlust, this docudrama reveals how a change of sky – and a leap of faith – might just change your life**. Followed by Q&A with screenwriter and producer Erica Barbiani.**

Moving to the ICA on 30 November, the festival presents ***I'M NOT EVERYTHING I WANT TO BE*** by Czech filmmaker Klára Tasovská. Premiered in Berlinale's Panorama section and chosen as Czech Republic's entry for Oscars, this inventive film explores identity, freedom and inner defiance through the life of Czech photographer Libuše Jarcovjáková. Created from Jarcovjáková's private diaries and thousands of analogue photographs, it offers an insight into Czechoslovakia's 1980s underground movement as well as Jarcovjáková's dramatic escape to West Berlin. A deeply inspiring work **followed by Q&A with Libuše Jarcovjáková.**

Complementing the documentary programme will be a short doc ***ALONE TOGETHER*** by Chihyu Lin, shown at the Regent Street Cinema on Saturday 7 November as part of the 6th edition of the European Film Festival ***In Short, Europe*** titled *Breaking Boundaries.*
Blending fiction and documentary, the film explores borders of all kinds through an unexpected bond sparking between an Asian millennial and an elderly Czech woman,

inviting audiences to question divisions and open their hearts.

FAMILY FILM

In keeping with tradition, the Made in Prague Festival also features an animated family film, followed by a themed art workshop for children. This year, young audiences will enjoy Kristina Dufková's ***LIVING LARGE*** — a hilarious coming-of-age comedy celebrating friendship, music, a love of food, and the quest for happiness. Screens at the Czech Embassy Cinema on Sunday 16 November.
Winner of Contrechamp Jury Award at the 2024 Annecy International Animation Festival and Best Film nominee at the European Film Awards.

BFI PLAYER

For audiences unable to attend cinema screenings and live Q&As, the Made in Prague Festival has once again partnered with the BFI Player to introduce three Czech classics as part of the **3 You Must See** programme, available to watch for free 1 – 30 November.
All three films selected for this year's programme are classics that remain strikingly relevant today: Hugo Haas's ***WHITE DISEASE*** (1937), adapted from Karel Čapek's anti-war play, is a chilling warning against fascism. Jindřich's Polák's ***RIDERS OF THE SKY*** (1968) salutes Czechoslovak RAF airmen on the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII; and Jaroslav Papoušek's iconic comedy ***ECCE HOMO HOMOLKA*** (1969) – wildly considered the final gem of the Czechoslovak New Wave – offers a timeless portrait of family, materialism, and human folly.

For PRESS QUERIES, IMAGES and INTERVIEW REQUESTS contact Veronika Blues:
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The Made in Prague Festival is a vibrant celebration of contemporary Czech culture showcasing film, music, visual art, theatre, and literature.
Organised by the Czech Centre annually since 1997, it serves as a bridge, transcending borders, and bringing diverse and captivating Czech cultural encounters to audiences in London and across the country. #MadeInPragueFestival

Full festival programme: https://bit.ly/29thMadeInPragueFestival

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