CZECH CENTRE LONDON

Press release

The Czech Centre presents

30th Made in Prague Festival Unveils Exciting New Czech Releases in the UK

October - November 2026
Film venues: The Garden Cinema, Regent Street Cinema, BFI Southbank

The popular Made in Prague Festival returns for its jubilee edition with a vibrant celebration of Czech cinema, spanning its rich cinematic heritage and the most exciting work of a new generation of filmmakers—from the early films of Miloš Forman to bold new releases by today's award-winning directors.

This year's programme brings together two distinct strands. The first celebrates the extraordinary legacy of the **Czechoslovak New Wave**, with a retrospective at **The Garden Cinema** culminating in the UK premiere of Jaromil Jireš's digitally restored ***Valerie and Her Week of Wonders*** at **BFI Southbank**.
The second showcases a selection of acclaimed new Czech films, screening throughout November at The Garden Cinema and the festival's long-standing home, **Regent Street Cinema**. Enriched by live introductions and post-screening discussions with filmmakers, the festival offers audiences the chance to discover both landmark works and fresh voices shaping Czech cinema today. Highlights include the award-winning documentary ***Better Go Mad in the Wild***, Oscar-nominated ***Father***, and ***Changes***, the latest film from acclaimed director **David Ondříček**.



Clockwise from top left: *Little Thief; Better Go Mad in the Wild; Changes; Only Beautiful Things to Look At*

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30TH MADE IN PRAGUE FESTIVAL - FILM PROGRAMME

CONTEMPORARY CINEMA HIGHLIGHTS

The festival's contemporary strand opens at The Garden Cinema on 5 November with the London premiere of Miro Remo's visually striking documentary ***BETTER GO MAD IN THE WILD*.** Narrated by a slaughtered bull, the film follows 60-year-old twin brothers as they "booze, banter and bicker" in their remote home in the Šumava mountains. Blending humour and poetry with beautiful cinematography and touches of surrealism, Remo captures the maverick brothers' deep bond, unconventional way of life and defiance against the majestic backdrop of the natural world. **Winner of the Crystal Globe at the 2025 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival**, the film offers an authentic and tender portrait of brotherly love, companionship and the claustrophobia that intimacy can bring. The screening will be **followed by a Q&A with director Miro Remo**.

On 7 November, the festival moves to Regent Street Cinema for the UK premiere of ***LITTLE THIEF***, the feature debut from Sundance-winning director Ondřej Hudeček. The film follows Lupyn, a good-hearted small-time thief whose world is turned upside down by the Covid-19 pandemic. As businesses struggle and the usual rules of everyday life begin to unravel, Lupyn discovers an unlikely way to help those around him, but his well-meaning scheme soon becomes more complicated than he bargained for. Rich in local dialect, colourful characters and distinctive atmosphere, this wonderfully sharp "Covid Western" blends black comedy, crime and satire with wit and originality.
Followed by Q&A with director Ondřej Hudeček and actor Václav Neužil.

On 19 November, The Garden Cinema hosts the UK premiere of the highly anticipated period drama ***ONLY BEAUTIFUL THINGS TO LOOK AT*,** confronting a dark chapter in Czech and Slovak history: the Czechoslovak state's programme of forced sterilisation of Roma women. Set in the 1980s, the intimate drama stars acclaimed Czech actress Anna Geislerová (*Anthropoid; The Catcher Was a Spy; Caravan*) as a gynaecologist who routinely carries out the procedure in line with government-recommended quotas. Her perspective begins to shift when a friendship with a young nurse forces her to confront the systemic discrimination underpinning her everyday work. Combining intimate close-ups, powerful symbolism and a cast that includes non-professional actors, the film offers a quietly upsetting exploration of how inhumane systems can be sustained by ordinary people carrying out seemingly ordinary acts. **Winner of the FIPRESCI Award at the 2025 Karlovy Vary International Film Festiva**l, the film will be **followed by a Q&A with director Ivan Ostrochovský and actress Anna Geislerová.**

The Garden Cinema also hosts Tereza Nvotová's powerful drama ***FATHER*** on 24 November. Inspired by real events, the film explores a devastating tragedy that could happen to anyone. When a momentary lapse of memory leads to unimaginable consequences, a devoted father's life is shattered, confronting him with grief, guilt and the difficult path

towards acceptance. Tackling the phenomenon known as “Forgotten Child Syndrome”, Nvotová masterfully combines gripping suspense with an intensely human exploration of love, loss and forgiveness.
Following its premiere at Venice, *FATHER* won the **Golden Eye for Best Feature Film at the Zurich Film Festival**, as well as **Best Film and Best Screenplay at the Stockholm Film Festival** and was Slovakia’s official submission for the 2026 International Feature Film Oscar. The screening will be **followed by a Q&A with director Tereza Nvotová**.

The festival will conclude on 29 November at Regent Street Cinema with the **Made in Prague Festival Closing Gala**, featuring the UK screening of David Ondříček’s latest film, ***CHANGES*.** Building on the legacy of his cult comedy *Loners*, *CHANGES* brings together seven characters navigating life in contemporary Prague, each finding themselves at a crossroad and taking stock of their relationships, careers and personal ambitions. Featuring a star-studded cast, the film offers a fresh take on the familiar dilemmas of midlife, capturing the uncertainties, compromises and unexpected turns that emerge when we pause to reassess where life has taken us. The screening will be followed by a **Q&A with director David Ondříček**, **actor Jaroslav Plesl** and other members of the filmmaking team**,** offering audiences a chance to explore the film and its creation.
The evening will continue with an **afterparty featuring a DJ set by British synth-pop artist Rhumba Club**, who also created music for the film, bringing the festival to a celebratory close.

CZECHOSLOVAK NEW WAVE

The **Czech Centre** has partnered with **The Garden Cinema** to present a landmark season celebrating the **Czechoslovak New Wave**—a groundbreaking cinematic movement whose political edge, formal experimentation and creative freedom continue to resonate today.

The season culminates at **BFI Southbank** with the UK premiere of a digitally restored version of Jaromil Jireš’s darkly surreal ***Valerie and Her Week of Wonders*** (1970), introduced by writer Virginie Sélavy. The screening follows a specially curated retrospective at The Garden Cinema, bringing together some of the most distinctive and daring films of the New Wave era. The programme spans light-hearted gems such as Vojtěch Jasný’s enchanting *The Cassandra Cat* (1963) alongside the bold, subversive work of a younger generation of filmmakers.

Highlights include Věra Chytilová’s iconic *Daisies* (1966), Miloš Forman’s irreverent *The Firemen’s Ball* (1967) and Karel Kachyňa’s gripping thriller *The Ear* (1970)—films that pushed the boundaries of cinema and were subsequently banned by the communist authorities.

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ANIMATION

Continuing a much-loved festival tradition, Made in Prague presents a family-friendly animated feature, this year with ***TALES FROM THE MAGIC GARDEN***. Inspired by stories by beloved Czech author Arnošt Goldflam, this enchanting film is a warm and uplifting celebration of imagination, family and the healing power of storytelling. **Winner of the 2025 Czech Lion Award** for Best Animated Film and nominated for European Animated Feature Film at the European Film Awards, *Tales from the Magic Garden* promises a magical cinematic experience for audiences of all ages. Screens at the Czech Embassy cinema on Sunday, 15 November, followed by a children's art workshop.

PHOTOS can be downloaded HERE.
For PRESS QUERIES, screeners 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, visual art, music, 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/30thMadeInPragueFestival

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