

# filmové listy

film letters

november 2003

30th anniversary  
the next year

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## Why?

The mission of the Summer film school remains the same, even after 40 years of regular meetings between Czech and Slovak film fans, organized with the aim to improve the professional standards of promoters and lecturers in film clubs. In the last decade, the undertaking opened to basically all film fans.

Over the years, the Summer film school (LFŠ) found its place among the key film (and, indeed, cultural in general) projects in this country. While the Carlsbad film festival promotes mainly contemporary cinema, people come to Uherské Hradiště to improve their knowledge of film art in general. This is why LFŠ differs from other film festivals. It would be hard to find a similar undertaking (in size and scope), not only in Europe, but globally. And, strange as it seems, even after the forty years, it remains independent and alternative, having been (logically) avoided and being (illogically) avoided by officials of Czech cultural and public life.

Numerous domestic and foreign authors come to LFŠ every year and they leave enthusiastic about the atmosphere and spirit they experienced. We have people coming from renowned cultural institutions and foreign embassies, but during the entire LFŠ history, we had only one official visit by the Czechoslovak film institute director (in 1984), Parliament chairman (1994) and twice by the minister of culture (1998 + 2003). However, this year's LFŠ was supported by the parliament for the first time, the minister of culture visited the festival opening, we saw a number of influential people coming and we firmly believe that this moral and financial help from state authorities will help us to continue in this much needed tradition. Jiří Králík, LFŠ director

## LFŠ (summer Film School) is not a festival

Over more than forty years of its existence, the summer film school became a widely known phenomenon. Most people know something about it, it lives in the memories of participants, but few people know basic facts. Let us do a little retrospect at the beginning of the anniversary "new school year".



photo Michal Stránský

### History

The tradition of LFŠ dates back to the 1960s when regular meetings of film club organizers with the aim to watch art movies began. The first summer seminar took place in 1964 in **Hořovice**, with only approximately 50 participants. This tradition then continued annually in several different places of the former Czechoslovakia, since 1974 under the new name Summer film school.

Initially a small undertaking for a close circle of connoisseurs (until 1992, there was maximum 40 screenings in one cinema within nine days), it grew to a huge film rally, the year 2003 saw 406 programs (film and non-film), 4236 accredited participants, and astounding 120 000 visitors.

In its long history, LFŠ took place in several locations in this country – in **Hořovice, Písek, Uherské Hradiště, Trutnov, Strážnice, Světla nad Sázavou** and **Jihlava**. Since 1992, its residence settled permanently in Uherské Hradiště, a town that tries to provide ideal conditions for its successful organization.

### Form

From the very beginning, promoters shaped LFŠ with film fans in mind – namely film club promoters, film scholars and critics, and the filmmakers in general. This is why it differs substantially from standard film undertakings and festivals.

In spite of enormous increase in the quantity and quality of programs, LFŠ

still follows its initial mission – help people interested in art movies to learn about prominent filmmakers and their works in full detail and complexity.

While in the past LFŠ focused exclusively on film, in the last five years it has been providing space for other arts as well. The promoters try to point out to mutually enriching relation between movies and other arts. In last few years, LFŠ people learned not only about films, but also about literature, theater, dance, opera, visual arts and poetry. Prominent artist of all kinds came to visit (e.g., **Otomar Krejča, Ctibor Turba, Jiří Stivín, Jarek Nohavica, Jiří Stránský, Antonín Přidal, Tvrdohlaví art group, Egon Bondy, Dagmar Pecková, Zbigniew Preisner, Jaroslav Krejčí, Vlastimil Harapes, Jindřich Štreit, Ludvík Vaculík, Miroslav Topinka, Lenka Reinerová, Peter Arnett** and others). LFŠ program thus features not only film screenings and discussions with filmmakers, but also accompanying performances – theater shows and concerts, exhibitions, workshops, etc.

LFŠ is still based on informality, genre diversity and "hard work ethic" from all participants. Long discussions with filmmakers are no exception. Most foreign and domestic guests say the atmosphere reminds them of the 1960s. Many of them consider LFŠ to be the friendliest film undertaking they have ever visited.

### Participants

In 1960s, approximately 100 people participated every year, but the numbers began to rise gradually in the next decade. When more than 250 people arrived, both the location and the name were changed (the first Summer Film School took place in 1974). Early 1980s saw the beginning of the era of successful LFŠ years in Uherské Hradiště (it

## Facts

- Its programming is comparable to other large film festivals.
- Its low budget (max. 6.5 million CZK) makes it different.
- There is no competition, as opposed to other film festivals.
- It does not focus solely on new films; 70–80 % of its program consists of older movies.
- In the past few years, the main topic has always been an art branch (such as literature, music, dance, visual arts ...).
- The second main topic focuses on crucial social phenomena (such as religion, mystification, erotica, country, humor...).
- Large portion of the program is domestic, including basically all new feature films, Czech and Slovak short films, TV and student films.



Minister of culture Pavel Dostál (left) and LFŠ director Jiří Králík in 1998.

attracted over 500 people in the years 1980–1984). The number of participants stabilized in late 1980s (promoters created a „defensive system“ against large crowds – only a limited number of people from each club were admitted). After 1989, fewer people went to the movie clubs, the enthusiasm for LFŠ weakened, partly due to the fact of losing its extraordinary exceptionality and “half-illegal” status (in late 1980s, **Václav Havel** participated, banned movies from 1960s were screened after decades of silence, quite daring articles appeared in the festival bulletin...). With hopes of attracting larger crowds, LFŠ moved to Uherské Hradiště in 1992, but the hope proved to be false – only 250 people came. This is why promoters changed the organization and the entire concept of LFŠ. In 1993, LFŠ resurfaced in totally changed form (more foreign films, first visit by a foreign celebrity – **Peter Greenaway**, openness for everyone) and it attracted over 500 people. In the years to come, the program was improved and expanded, attracting ever more people. Most contemporary participants are high-school and college students (about 80 percent are under 25 years of age), the rest being filmmakers and people who work with movies in one way or another (directors of cinemas and film clubs, people from TV, directors, etc.).

#### Eminent personages

Since the 1990s, the specific focus-on-the-job atmosphere of LFŠ attracts eminent foreign and domestic personalities. Among the people who visited LFŠ during the last decade were **Peter Greenaway**, **Lindsay Anderson**, **Jan Troell**, **Geoffrey Reggio**, **Julian Temple**, **Zbigniew Preisner**, **Terry Gilliam**, **Abbás Kiarostami**, **Filip Bajon**, **Grzegorz Królikiewicz**, **Michael Haneke**, **Masahiro Shinoda**, **Conrad Rooks**, **Jurij Norštejn**, **Vadim Jusov**, **Ildikó Enyedi**, **Werner Nekes**... In the past three years we welcomed **Catherine Breillat**, **Dušan Makavejev**, **Kristo Godina**, **Bato Čengić**, **Lordan Zafranović**, **Krsto Papić**, **Jos Stelling**, **Ebrahim Furuzesh**, **Paul Cox**, **Sergej Ovčarov**, **Harry Sinclair**, **Krzysztof Zanussi**, **Alain Robbe-Grillet**, **Lech Majewski**, **Piotr Dumala**...

Among the domestic (both, Czech and Slovak) movie legends we saw **Jiří Menzel**, **Jan Němec**, **Věra**

**Chytilová**, **Dušan Hanák**, **Vojtěch Jasný**, **Juraj Jakubisko**, **Jiří Krejčík**, **Jan Kačer**, **Hynek Bočan**, **Petr Weigl**, **Jaromil Jirěš**, **Miroslav Ondříček**, **Miroslav Šofr**, **Zdeněk Svěrák**, **Pavel Landovský**, **Boleslav Polívka**, **Jiří Suchý**, **Jan Schmidt**, **Karel Vachek**, **Jindřich Polák**, **Jan Klusák**, **Drahomíra Vihanová**, **Ivan Vojnár**, **Vlasta Chramostová**, **Radúz Činčera**, **Stanislav Milota**, **Otomar Krejča**, **Peter Solan**, **Martin Holý**, **Juraj Herz**, **Břetislav Pojar**, and the prominent young authors such as **Jan Svěrák**, **Jan Hřebejk**, **Tomáš Vorel**, **Saša Gedeon**, **Petr Zelenka**, **Igor Chaun**, **Alice Nellis**, **Vladimír Michálek**, **Pavel Koutecký**, **Miroslav Janek**, **Aurel Klimt**, **David Ondříček**, **Martin Šulík**, **Roman Vávra**, **Petr Václav**, **Radim Špaček**, **Zdeněk Tyc**, **Theodora Remundová** and others.

Among the guests invited to the next (30th) year of LFŠ are the Chinese director **Chang I-mou**, **Terry Jones**, **Terry Gilliam**, **Lasse Hälstrom**, **Jean-Pierre Léaud**, **Nikolaj Burljaev**, **Mohsen Makhmalbaf**, **Karel Kachyňa**, **Věra Šimková-Plívová**, **Juraj Herz**, **Vojtěch Jasný** and others.

#### Financing

As LFŠ grew in size, its budget has been increasing steadily. Until 1993, LFŠ promoters could do with participants fees and grants from the **Association of Czechoslovak film clubs** and from the **National film archive**. Since 1993, they had to turn to sponsors. In 1998 **CZECH TELECOM** became the principal sponsor, allowing LFŠ to “spread its wings” even wider. **Czech ministry of culture** and the **State cinematography support and development fund** contribute some money as well.

In the last five years, the participation of the **Municipality of Uherské Hradiště** in support of LFŠ increased substantially, we found a generous local sponsor – **Synot W company**, and in 2003 also **ČSOB bank**. The basic structure of income remains the same – one third is paid by participants’ fees, one third is sponsors’ money and the rest is paid by state institutions. The budget is undervalued and it is only thanks to enthusiastic promoters and the help of some other organizations that we make ends meet with 6.5 million CZK.

#### Promoters

Until 1992, the principal promoter was the **Association of Czechoslovak film clubs (AČFK)** and the **National film archive Prague**. Since 1993, most organizing is still done by AČFK, but the entire promoting is provided by **Městská kina Uherské Hradiště**. **Jiří Králík** was appointed the director of LFŠ in the same year. Five years later, AČFK signed a contract with **Uherské Hradiště Municipality and the town** became another promoter. Other organizations participate in preparation and promotion as well, such as **Association of Slovak film clubs** and **Slovak film institute Bratislava**.

#### Internet

The first LFŠ web page was created in 1998; in 2002 it became part of official AČFK web. Go to [www.artfilm.cz/lfs-2003](http://www.artfilm.cz/lfs-2003) for complete information regarding LFŠ between 1998 and 2003.

year	participants	films + short films	number of screenings	accompanying performances	number of cinemas
1992	250	50+15	50	4	1
1993	500	80+20	100	5	2
1994	650	120+30	140	7	2
1995	790	140+40	150	8	2
1996	1200	150+50	220	12	4
1997	1500	160+60	220	14	5
1998	2000	180+60	250	18	5
1999	2250	160+200	241	30	7
2000	2100	169+350	279	41	8
2001	3000	170+300	282	33	8
2002	4000	184+220	255	33	9
2003	4236	184+215	277	129	10

Last year, we introduced an important novelty – internet based accreditation. It provides on-line registration, accommodation booking, ticket booking and account credit info (registration of payment). This can be done at [lfs.uh.cz](http://lfs.uh.cz). **The summer school of digital video** (part of LFŠ program since 2001) has its own web page. Go to [www.lfs.cz](http://www.lfs.cz) to find all movies created at this workshop during the festival, as well as for on-line info (during the festival) regarding program, program changes and current affairs.

#### Publishing

Since the beginning, LFŠ has been providing its own printed materials, varying depending on the era they were created. In mid 1990s, the **Film letters (Filmové listy)** found its professional shape (you are holding its special edition in your hands now). For several years, the position of its editor in chief was held by the prominent film scholar **Jan Lukeš**, then by journalist **Pavel Vysloužil** and for the last two years, the staff was led

## Facts

■ A lot of space is devoted to retrospectives of two to three national cinematographies (e.g., Iranian, Dutch, Yugoslavian, Danish, Australian, New Zealand, etc.).

■ Careful attention is paid to visits of domestic and foreign film personalities.

■ For the second year, the promoters give the annual award of AČFK to both domestic and foreign film personalities.

■ Accompanying performances are numerous and of high quality, always relating to main LFŠ themes. The number of theater and musical shows, for example, could provide for a separate festival.

■ The size of the festival and the number of participants grow every year. In past few years, the number of screenings increased seven times, while the number of accredited participants increased fifteen times – see the following table:

by journalism student **Iva Baslarová**. The team creating the bulletin consists of several teams of Czech and Slovak college students (with majors mainly in film studies, media studies and journalism). Even in this respect LFŠ remains true to its “educational” mission, providing opportunities to new talents. During the last decade, publications related to main theme cycles are issued every year.



An important factor in LFŠ organization – enthusiastic collaborators.



Alain Robbe-Grillet

Dagmar Pecková



Laibach



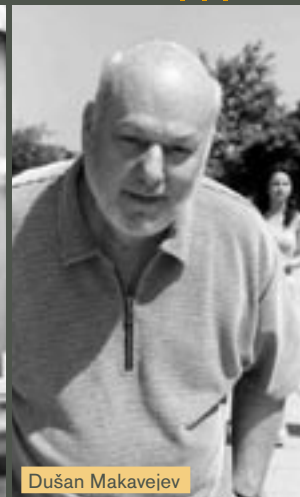
Vadim Jusov



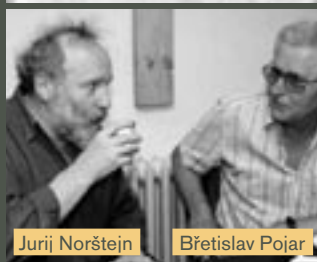
Abbás Kiarostami



Geoffrey Reggio



Dušan Makavejev



Jurij Norštein



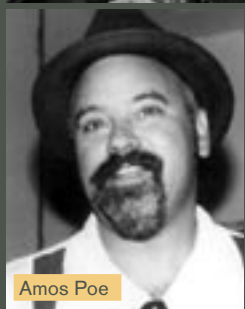
Břetislav Pojar



Jindřich Štreit



Bolek Polívka



Jiří Menzel



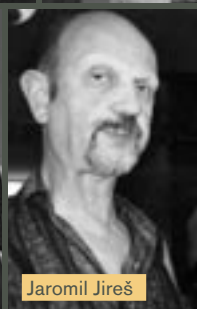
Amos Poe



Masahiro Shionoda



Ctibor Turba



Věra Chytilová



Jaromil Jireš



Lech Majewski



Peter Greenaway



Lindsay Anderson



Miloslav Ondříček



Jan Troell



Terry Gilliam



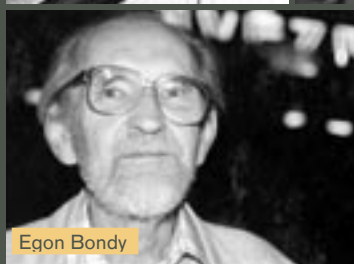
Ken Loach



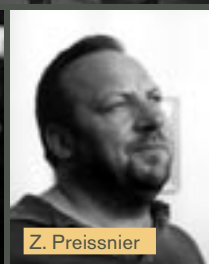
bratři Quayové



Julian Temple



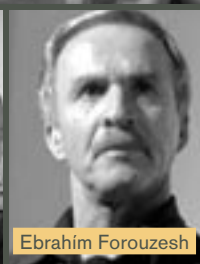
P. Landovský



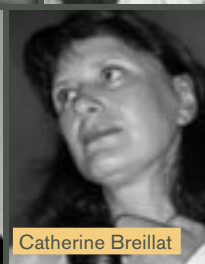
Egon Bondy



Z. Preissner



discussion of former Yugoslavian regisers



Ebrahim Forouzesh



Catherine Breillat

## Facts

■ LFŠ screenings (with the exception of some accompanying performances) are closed for the public (only accredited people are allowed entrance).

■ Since 1995, LFŠ has been providing shows for the general public mainly in open air cinemas and in the town squares.

■ Screenings have educational character, differing from other festivals. Almost each screening is preceded by a lecture and followed (if the author is present) by a discussion. LFŠ has no closed press conferences and talks with guests.

■ The line between viewers and guests is blurred – no screenings are for guests only.

Mostly young people and non-professionals participate in the organization, learning to organize a large and demanding film undertaking.

■ Young bulletin journalists are gathering experience as well.

■ Filmmaking workshop has been gaining momentum for the third year now – the participants may shoot their own films during LFŠ.

# Fan numbers flocking to LFŠ increase every year

Record-breaking numbers of film fans came to participate in the 29th year of Summer film festival in Uherské Hradiště – more than 4000 men and women were attracted by over 400 undertakings that took place during the „ten-day multicultural marathon“ at the end of July. These undertakings included numerous feature and short films, panel discussions, workshops, concerts, exhibitions and other attractions. The titles of the two topical cycles speak for themselves: Film and poet, Film and death.



P. Arnett, B. Maghsoudlou and L. Vaculík in panel discussion accompanying the thematic cycle Death as media product.

– the city park bower hosted everyday theater shows, painting workshops and cartoon screenings. „We nearly got rid of accreditation problems, internet-based registration system helped us to minimize the number of unreturned headphones,“ added Králík.

And so the principal topic to fret about during this year's Summer film school was the weather, spoiling open air screenings during the first few days. „I also feel bad about the lack of interest by Czech printed media. Public service media such as Czech TV and Czech Radio Brno paid more attention than ever, while the newspapers almost ignored us, disregarding the uniqueness of this undertaking and the fact that there were renowned writers to meet here this year,“ said Králík.

„The range and quality of the program were impressive and can only be compared to festivals in Karlovy Vary and Febiofest,“ said LFŠ director Jiří Králík. The themes chosen by promoters continued presenting individual art branches – in previous years, LFŠ participants were introduced to opera, literature, theater and visual arts. In other cycles, people learned about Mexican, experimental and contemporary Czech and Slovak cinematography. Among the celebrity guests were **Peter Arnett**, (US war journalist and Pulitzer Award winner), director **Krzysztof Zanussi**, and writer and director **Alain Robbe-Grillet**. Similar attention was paid to other guests such as filmmakers **P. Dumala**, **L. Majewski**, **M. Vardanov**, **B. Maghsoudlou**, **J. Krejčík**, **S. Milota**, **J. Herz**, **A. Kachlík**, **P. Landovský**, **V. Chramostová**, writers **L. Vaculík**, **E. Bondy**, **P. Zajíček**, **M. Topinka**, **L. Reinerová**, **P. Král**, **M. Dusbaba**,

**I. Vodseďálek**, **P. Šrut**, **I. M. Jirous**, **J. Kuběna**, **D. Vávra** or **I. Wernisch**. Accompanying concerts included shows by the Irish songwriter **Glenn Hansard**, ex-Frank Zappa guitarist **Ike Willis**, Mexican band **Los de Abajo**, the Slovak keyboard legend **Marian Varga**, Polish singer **Antonina Krzysyston**, **V. Merta**, **V. Mišík**, **F. Topol**, **J. Dědeček**, **J. Burian**, **J. Schmitzer**, and bands **DG 307**, **Hradišťan** and **Psí vojáci**. Photography exhibitions included such names as **M. Luskačová**, **D. Hochová** and **J. Štreit**, works of art were exhibited by **I. Vodseďálek**. Theater shows were presented by **Radim Vašínska theater company Orfeus**, **Na zábradlí Theatre**, **U Stolu Theatre Brno – CED**, **Miriam** and **Sklep**.

### Novelties and improvements

Numerous novelties were introduced for film art lovers this year, including added screening venues, such as the city park bower and Mariánské náměstí. Several dozen films had their opening nights in this country during the LFŠ. „We made a big leap forward with festival bulletins and printed materials in general, especially the catalog – it was more concise, nicer and luxuriously printed,“ said Králík. In addition to standard daily Film letters (Filmové listy), another daily dedicated to one of the main topics (poetry) was circulated on daily basis free of charge (Básnické listy). LFŠ organizers paid more attention to children



Krzysztof Zanussi at 2003 LFŠ.

### Next time focus on children and fairy tales

As usual, the most attractive and protected secret of this year's festival was the topics for the next, anniversary LFŠ. Jiří Králík revealed the mystery at the final screening in Hvězda cinema – filmgoers can look forward to Film and childhood and Film and fairy tale cycles. Featured international cinematography will be Chinese.

30<sup>th</sup> LFŠ will take place between July 23 and August 1, 2004. The list of guests increases every day. Among the invited are the Chinese director **Chang I-mou**, **Terry Jones**, **Terry Gilliam**, **Lasse Hälstrom**, **Jean-Pierre Léaud**, **Nikolaj Burijaev**, **Mohsen Makhmalbaf**, **Karel Kachyňa** and **Věra Šimková-Plívová**, **Juraj Herz**, **Vojtěch Jasný** and other personalities.



photo Tomáš Potočný

Poet Lenka Rainerová, one of 2003 LFŠ precious guests.

## 30<sup>th</sup> LFŠ

23. 7.–1. 8. 2004

Film and childhood

Film and fairy tale

Chinese film

30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LFŠ

[www.artfilm.cz/lfs-2004](http://www.artfilm.cz/lfs-2004)

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photo Jan Jakub Bartoš

Most LFŠ programs are crowded.