



CaSFFA announces 2018 festival theme at VIP event held at Foreigner Brewing Co.

The theme: "SPRING".

Plus! A Věra Chytilová retrospective

**& the return of Pavel Kohout,
in partnership with the City of Melbourne,
for another film & Grand Organ spectacular
at the Melbourne Town Hall!**

Melbourne, Thursday 22 March 2018

Last Friday the Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia shone a light on its 2018 program theme at a VIP event held at Foreigner Brewing Co. in Brunswick, amid fine company and plentiful good cheer, gourmet sausages, delirious raffling and ever so many delicious brews.

It was a night of announcements from new CaSFFA President Linda Studená and MC (Michael Caine?) Victor Griss, including the wonderful news of generous sponsorship from our hosts Peter Denison and the team at Foreigner Brewing Co. for a third successive year – hurrah!





CaSFFA President Linda Studená starts spreading the news
Photo: Pavel Šindelař



He was only supposed to blow the bloody doors off.
Instead MC Victor Griss kept raffling off beautiful film posters like a man possessed by great beer
Photo: Pavel Šindelař

Then CaSFFA's stalwart Artistic Director Cerise Howard proudly revealed the 2018 festival theme:

"Spring"

In Cerise's words:

"Our 6th festival will be programmed according to a theme of "Spring", referencing new beginnings and acknowledging the 50 year anniversary of the "Prague Spring", the 100 year anniversary of the establishment of Czechoslovakia and the 25 year anniversary of the "Velvet Divorce", out of which peacefully emerged two bold new countries: Czechia and Slovakia.

"Furthermore... as a springtime festival in Melbourne and Canberra, CaSFFA will celebrate the urban legend of the Prague Spring-Man, "Pérák", a fearless fighter against fascism and, with a major retrospective, the legendary Czech filmmaker Věra Chytilová, whose masterpieces *Daisies* and *Fruit of Paradise* rank amongst the most emblematic films of the Prague Spring.

"We'll further tap into this year's theme to celebrate all that which bubbles up in the effervescent spa town of Karlovy Vary, host to the Czech Republic's A-

list international film festival."



Daisies (Sedmikrásky, dir. Věra Chytilová, 1966), screening at #CaSFFA2018

As always, CaSFFA will present the very latest and greatest in contemporary Czech and Slovak film, as well as restored classic and cult cinema gems through partnerships with the Slovak Film Institute and the National Film Archive in Prague.

As a prelude to this year's festivals in Melbourne and Canberra, CaSFFA will make another bold incursion into Brisbane from July 20-29, partnering with the [Queensland Film Festival](#) and the [Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art](#) to co-present an unforgettable **Věra Chytilová retrospective** in the Australian Cinémathèque at QAGOMA!

This will be the same wonderful selection that Melbourne audiences will enjoy at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) on September 12, 19 and 26 (three successive Wednesdays) when, in collaboration with longtime CaSFFA partners **The Melbourne Cinémathèque** and the National Film Archive in Prague, CaSFFA will screen "[Original Sins: Resistance and Feminism in the Avant-Garde Cinema of Věra Chytilová](#)": 8 legendary Věra Chytilová films (6 features and 2 shorts), many of which will also make their way to Canberra's National Film and Sound Archive and its beautiful Arc Cinema in October.





Traps (Pasti, Pasti, Pastičky, dir. Věra Chytilová, 1998), screening at #CaSFFA2018

And then came the news that Cerise had most been relishing delivering: #CaSFFA2018 will see the return to Melbourne of organist extraordinaire [Pavel Kohout](#)!

Yes, save the date: on **Sunday 16 September** CaSFFA will partner once again with the City of Melbourne to let Pavel loose on the Grand Organ in the Melbourne Town Hall for another amazing organ recital and live film score!

This year's choice of film remains a closely guarded secret for now... But stay tuned!



Pavel Kohout in his element in 2015 at the Grand Organ console
Photo: Patrik Nemes Photography





The queue around the Melbourne Town Hall for our previous Pavel Kohout event in 2015.
Suffice it to say that it went gangbusters!
Photo: Patrik Nemes Photography

It was a great night, last Friday, chewing the fat with friends old and new. Many pilsners and kranskies were wolfed down and there was plenty of joking and rejoicing as our VIPs went into a half-hourly raffle draw for ever more delightful film posters.

Our thanks to all who attended and once again a very big thank you to our staunch friends at Foreigner!



Various members of the CaSFFA team on Friday night.
Merriment abounded. And how!
Photo: Pavel Šindelař





Peter Denison (Foreigner Brewing Co.) adds to his vintage poster collection, courtesy of a gesture of appreciation from the CaSFFA team – this year's gift is a poster for *Obchod na korze*, aka *The Shop on Main Street*
 Photo: Pavel Šindelař

The 6th Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia

Melbourne: September 12-26, Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI), Federation Square, and the Melbourne Town Hall

Canberra: October 17-20, National Film and Sound Archive of Australia

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Join us for news, photos and fun on our social networks. Hashtag **#CaSFFA2018**

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Sponsorship enquiries

CaSFFA offers many attractive and targeted sponsorship opportunities, including advertising opportunities in our 2018 printed program. To obtain a copy of our sponsorship package or find out more, please contact **Marcel Mihulka** on marcel@casffa.com.au.

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Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australasia Inc., PO Box 1356, Collingwood, VIC 3066, Australia

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