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**CZECH
& SLOVAK
FILM FESTIVAL**



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FILM
FESTIVAL
2018**



**SPRING
TO ACTION**

**MELBOURNE
12 - 26 SEP**

**CANBERRA
18 - 21 OCT**

The Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia (CaSFFA) announces...

**Our full 2018 program with theme of "Spring"
now available online and in print**

Tickets are on sale!

Melbourne, Monday 3 September 2018

The 6th Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia (CaSFFA) announces this year's full program and theme of "Spring", referencing new beginnings and acknowledging the 50 year anniversary of the "Prague Spring", the centenary 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.

The CaSFFA 2018 trailer: [view on YouTube](#)

The festival opens with our opening night gala screening of [***The Hastrman \(2018\)***](#), a wonderful debut film from renowned jazz singer and actor Ondřej Havelka and one of the most invigorating fractured fairy tales in many a long year – in this handsome adaptation of the celebrated novel of the same name by Miloš Urban.

The Hastrman trailer: view on YouTube

Note that while the trailer doesn't have English subtitles, the film assuredly will!

Our closing night event commemorates the late, lamented Miloš Forman with a screening of [***The Firemen's Ball \(1967\)***](#), a hilarious satire skewering committee authority, and the last film Forman shot in his native country before exiling himself to the United States and multiple Oscar glories. And how better to pay tribute, than to show the digital restoration of this hilarious film, and to host our very own firemen's ball?

This year we are delighted to return to the Melbourne Town Hall for a special event screening, in partnership with the City of Melbourne, the National Film Archive in Prague and the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Canberra, of [***Ecstasy \(1933\)***](#), the film that made a star of the young Hedy Kiesler, later known the world over as Hedy Lamarr, the glamorous Hollywood star and brilliant inventor. The free event will feature CaSFFA 2015 guest **Pavel Kohout** who will live score the film utilising the Melbourne Town Hall Grand Organ, and also perform works by Johann Sebastian Bach and Bedřich Smetana.

Moreover, we have our annual partnership with **The Melbourne Cinémathèque**, co-presenting this year's major retrospective of the legendary, groundbreaking Czech filmmaker [***Věra Chytilová***](#). Dubbed "the first lady of Czech film", the famously combative director will forever rank amongst cinema's most uncompromising and protean iconoclasts. Her masterpieces [***Daisies \(1966\)***](#) and [***Fruit of Paradise \(1969\)***](#) rank among the films most emblematic of the freedoms afforded artists by the Prague Spring and will screen alongside several lesser-seen films across a three week program.

Further tapping into this year's theme, CaSFFA 2018 also celebrates all that bubbles up in the effervescent spa town of Karlovy Vary, host to the Czech Republic's renowned A-list international film festival. [***Film Spa \(2015\)***](#) is a tremendously entertaining and insightful documentary on the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (KVIFF), made to celebrate its belated 50th edition in 2015. Attendees to this screening will be able to indulge in their own small piece of the spa town with a complimentary bottle of Mattoni mineral water!

Film Spa trailer: view on YouTube

Fresh imports from this year's KVIFF showing at CaSFFA include a Friday night double bill of [***Bear with Us \(2018\)***](#), a lovely ensemble comedy that was a hit with critics and the public alike, in which a fragmented family return to their weekend cottage one last time, screening alongside [***Domestique \(2018\)***](#), an extraordinary KVIFF Main Competition title and a masterly, minimalist chamber drama of constantly ratcheting intensity and corporeal anxiety...

Domestique trailer: view on YouTube

Regular festival-goers will also take note of the KVIFF's irreverent, star-studded "jingles" that will provide a prelude to every CaSFFA 2018 session – a different one every time, just as if you were really in Karlovy Vary!

In a year in which momentous anniversaries abound, we are screening a range of archival titles that emerged from the Czechoslovak New Wave including [***322 \(1969\)***](#), a semi-documentary of late 1960s society which tied for the Grand Prix at the 1969 Mannheim Film Festival; [***Celebration in the Botanical Garden \(1969\)***](#), in which a wanderer inspires a riotous bacchanale in a village in the Little Carpathians, and the digital restoration of [***All My Good Countrymen \(1968\)***](#), a Best Director winner at Cannes in 1969, which charts more than a decade of post-WWII life in a Moravian village.

We will also screen a package of [**three brilliant documentaries**](#) that pay tribute to the key events of 1918 and 1968, including the essential [***Oratorio for Prague***](#) – presented by CaSFFA to commemorate the centenary of the late Heda Zika. These screenings will be complemented by our [**1918 – 1968 digital exhibition**](#) that offers comprehensive insights into the key personalities, events and many beginnings and endings that shaped

personality, events and their beginning and change and impact on Czechoslovakia between 1918 and 1968.

Oratorio for Prague trailer: view on YouTube

Other program highlights include ***The Oddsockeaters (2016)***, where rival gangs of colourful creatures who make socks disappear wreak family-friendly havoc in Prague, and ***Out (2017)***, an absurdist odyssey across Eastern Europe about a middle-aged man seeking better prospects abroad. This is in addition to ***Barefoot (2017)***, a charming comedic drama set during the final days of WWII and the final film of Oscar winner Jan Svěrák's "Czech Quartet", and ***Backstage (2018)***, Andrea Sedláčková's latest film with thrilling dance sequences and streetwear fashions.

Barefoot trailer: view on YouTube

Not to forget ***"I Expected the Worst"***, showcasing photos of the events of August 1968 taken by longtime friend of CaSFFA, Pavel Šindelař, and ***Themes and Variations***, this year's selection of vintage film posters complementing the film program. All of this year's exhibitions will be found on-site at ACMI.

Finally, we have joined forces again with the Consulate of Hungary in Melbourne to present a sidebar of four of the latest and greatest Hungarian films. Once more, admission to these films will be free upon redemption of any CaSFFA general admission ticket

CASFFA general admission ticket.

Márta Mészáros' latest **[Aurora Borealis \(2017\)](#)** sees familial and national traumas unearthed when a daughter rushes to her mother's bedside. **[Budapest Noir \(2017\)](#)** is a film noir transplanted to the Hungarian capital circa 1936, adapting Vilmos Kondor's novel, while **[The Citizen \(2016\)](#)** narrates a compassionate, complicated, contemporary love story involving an African refugee in Budapest. And to conclude, key episodes of a life story span the 1900s, four generations of family oddballs and 27 moves of house in **[Mom and Other Loonies in the Family \(2015\)](#)**.

Budapest Noir trailer: [view on Vimeo](#)

So **spring to action!** and bring in this new season with our biggest, boldest and most exciting festival to date!

For the full program and to purchase tickets please visit www.casffa.com.au

Media Enquiries

For more information about the festival, to arrange an interview with Artistic Director Cerise Howard, or to request screeners or other publicity materials, please contact Damon Branecki | +61 477 050 711 | damon@casffa.com.au

The 6th Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia

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

Canberra: October 18-21, Arc Cinema, National Film and Sound Archive of Australia

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