

Press Release

Fresh Film Fest introduces the competition of first features: for example a film by the Polish actor Krzysztof Skonieczny and one of the best indie films of 2014

Prague – 21st August – The main competition section of the International Film Festival Fresh Film Fest called Fresh Generation will introduce six interesting and impressive first features that will compete for the jury prize with a financial reward 2000 EUR. The films of various genres come from Argentina, USA, Belgium, Germany, Poland and Greece.

“When selecting films, we search for authorial expression and thought and formal courage that will push the audience and plant images and questions that will remain in them for a long after the film ends,” explains Michal Hogenauer, the festival dramaturge. *“Each year we try to discover new names and also draw attention to filmmakers that had their premieres at more prestigious festivals but were pushed into the background due to the amount of other festival films,”* he continues. Each of the competing films is different – be it in style, the main hero or the expression – but together they work and complement each other. *“The connecting element is undoubtedly the young age of the directors who are in every case also screenwriters and the low budgets of all the films,”* concludes Hogenauer.

The Argentine film **Above, the Burning Sun** by **Luisina Anderson** and **Roberto Bernasconi** will take the audience to the vast regions of north-western Argentina that are rich in colours, customs, culture and weather. The film combines fiction with documentary and was shot collectively with the help of the Google Earth service without which, as the authors say, *“it would be impossible to plan a film with such a high level of details and such a low budget.”*

Trailer: <http://vimeo.com/83389271>

Premiered at Berlinale, the German comedy **Asta Upset** by **Max Linz**, comes to Prague. It is a political manifesto in the format of a feature film, a comical satire on today’s world of art, “left-wing” and “right-wing” culture industry. The film uses the aesthetics of theatre, commercials, videoart and sitcom and alludes to European theatre and cinema and festival manifestos.

Trailer: <http://vimeo.com/86009803>

Young Polish actor and music video director **Krzysztof Skonieczny**, known from the films by Andrzej Wajda and Agnieszka Holland, will bring his self-financed directorial debut **Hardkor Disko** to Fresh Film Fest. His longing for vengeance leads the mysterious Marcin to a modern and manifold city whose dark side full of drugs, parties and illegal car racing he discovers with adolescent Ola. The film builds on refined images, steely colours and strong musical motives.

Trailer: <http://vimeo.com/82242971>

The Greek film **Luton** by **Michalis Konstantatos** enters the competition with nominations for the British Film Institute Awards and screenings at film festivals in San Sebastian and Stockholm. It is a disturbing portrait of contemporary Greece captured in carefully composed images depicting the everyday emptiness of lives of several characters.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LFA-YYdUwk>

The main hero of the drama **Violet** by Belgian director **Bas Devos** is the fifteen-year-old Jesse who witnesses a crime. He tries to tell what he saw to the people around him but neither his parents nor his friends offer a refuge. The film is characterised by visual suspense, minimalistic sound design and composition isolation.

Trailer: <http://vimeo.com/85068938>

American director **Eliza Hittman** brings in her debut **It Felt Like Love** a sensitive and often a painful portrait of a fourteen-year-old girl on her way to adulthood and in search of her own sexuality. Unlike other coming-of-age dramas, the film focuses primarily on the uneasy and embarrassing moments of growing up that form the character and on the disillusion this process brings.

Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrqcUMN4s8E>

A number of the aforementioned authors will personally attend Fresh Film Fest: Polish actor and director **Krzysztof Skonieczny** will personally introduce his film, the German film **Asta Upset** will be presented by cinematographer **Carlos Andrés López**. *“And we will most likely welcome the director of the Greek film **Luton Michalis Konstantatos**,”* adds Radka Weiserová, director of the festival.

The **11th edition** of the International Film Festival Fresh Film Fest focusing on young authors will take place in Prague cinemas **Světozor**, **Bio Oko** and **Cinema 35 – The French Institute from 17th to 21st September 2014**. The main motto of the festival is **Brave New Worlds**; it was inspired by the literary classic by Aldous Huxley **Brave New World**. Fresh Film Fest will focus on how the development of new technologies influences film language and filmmaking methods. Apart from a thematic section, the festival will offer **international competitions, award-winning debut films from last year, homage to a distinctive filmmaker, experimental programme, distribution premieres, workshops, master classes, concerts and DJ sets**. More details of the programme will be gradually published at www.freshfilmfest.net.

More information, photographs etc.:

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