

Press Release

## **Fresh Film Fest to screen almost 100 films in Prague from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September**

**More than 20 current debuts, documentaries portraying digital revolution in cinema and the latest works by masters of film such as Raya Martin, Kelly Reichardt and Quentin Dupieux.**

Prague – 9<sup>th</sup> September – Over 90 feature and short films out of regular cinema distribution, interesting Czech and foreign personalities from the world from cinema and a number of accompanying events – all that will offer the programme of the 11<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival Fresh Film Fest. The festival focusing on young authors, first features and student films will take place from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September in Prague cinemas Světozor, Bio Oko, Cinema 35 – French Institute and also in Café Neustadt, La Loca Club and (A)VOID Floating Gallery.

Documentaries mapping the **influence of digital revolution and modern technologies on the work of prominent filmmakers** such as Danny Boyle, David Fincher, Martin Scorsese and Lars von Trier, mesmerizing films *Ruhr* and *Easy Rider 2012* by the **influential and visionary American director James Benning**, a unique documentary about one of the greatest filmmakers of our time called *Tarr Béla: I Used to Be a Filmmaker*, the entangled sci-fi *The Distance* by **Sergio Caballero**, the **co-founder of the electronic music festival Sónar in Barcelona**, films by **Richard Linklater** and **Michael Haneke**, distribution premieres of the latest document by **Benjamin Tuček** *Zoning Plan* and the crazy comedy by the French director and musician **Quentin Dupieux (Mr. Oizo)** *Wrong Cops* starring the singer Marilyn Manson, the British detective mini-series *Southcliffe*, the 2013 Cannes Film Festival FIPRESCI-award-winning revenge thriller *Blue Ruin*, the 2013 Rotterdam-Tiger-winning experimental film *Soldate Jeannette*, the psychedelic trip *How to Disappear Completely* by Philippine **Raya Martin**, the last part of the triptych about prostitution *Whore's Glory* by the documentarist Micheal Glawogger, **competitions of the most interesting international debuts** including the first feature by the Polish actor **Krzysztof Skonieczny** known from films of Andrzej Wajda and Agnieszka Holland and **one the best indie films of 2014** *It Felt Like Love*... this is only a small portion of the films the audiences will see at this year's Fresh Film Fest.

The festival visitors will have a chance to meet some of the authors during screenings and master classes. Guests of the festival include **Monika Willi**, the best editor of Michael Haneke and the documentarist Michael Glawogger, , the Rotterdam Tiger and Berlinale Special Mention winner, director **Pia Marais**, one of the most experienced and talented Swedish sound designers **Jan Alvermark**, the director **Matthias Maass** who mapped the experiences of the three most important cinematographers of the 1990's, the director, screenwriter, VFX designer and co-founder of the legendary British studio Blacknorth, **Kris Kelly**, the British director **Dom Rotheroe** who is thanks to his conception considered a predecessor to The Blair Witch Project, the Czech producer **Tomáš Hrubý**, the winner of the 2008 Jindřich Chalupský award graphic designer **Radim Labuda** from Slovakia and many more.

The **accompanying programme** (screenings of the film Gottland, lectures, cycling trip through Prague and party with DJs) is free of charge and takes place in Café Neustadt, La Loca Club and (A)VOID Floating Gallery. More information at: [www.freshfilmfest.net](http://www.freshfilmfest.net).

**Tickets** can be bought at the ticket offices of individual cinemas for 50 and 100 CZK, available is also a festival pass for the whole duration of the festival; regular price is 500 CZK and discounted is 350 CZK.

### Detailed information:

#### **Brave New Worlds**

This year's main section Brave New Worlds tries to capture how modern technology, new media and visual effects change film, cinema, film language, narration and society. *"Also this year we present to the public a not so famous filmmaker working outside the boundaries of mainstream, but whose work has influenced or still influences a number of renowned colleagues. It is the American director James Benning,"* says Michal Hogenauer, the festival dramaturge. The festival will screen two films by Benning: the documentary **Ruhr** full of disturbing images from German Ruhr and **Easy Rider 2012**, a remake of the film of the same name from 1969 by Dennis Hooper, in which Benning travels through the United States and captures image sceneries of the original locations. The documentary **Double Play: James Benning and Richard Linklater** portrays the creative relation of Benning and Linklater. Fresh Film Fest has chosen two films from the extensive and varied filmography of Richard Linklater: **A Scanner Darkly** and **Boyhood**. The documentary **Don't Try This at Home: From Dogma to Dogville** maps the MiniDV revolution in the independent cinema at the end of the 1990's. Director **Matthias Maass**, one of **this year's guests**, focuses on the experience of three prominent cinematographers of this era – Anthony Dod Mantle (e.g. The Celebration, Dogville) Benedict Neuenfels (e.g. A Map of the Heart, The Counterfeiters) and Robby Mueller whose **Breaking the Waves** (directed by Lars von Trier) and **My Brother Tom** (directed by **Dom Rotheroe** – festival guest) will be screened during the festival. Another documentary of this section called **Side by Side** will show Danny Boyle, David Fincher and Martin Scorsese debating with Keanu Reeves in a non-traditional role of a host about the digital revolution and its effect on their films. A virtual love story from Los Angeles of the near future and a possible answer on the topic of Brave New Worlds will offer Spinke Jonze in his film **Her**.

#### **Competitions - Fresh Generation, Confrontations, Theatre Optique**

The international juries will as usual award Fresh Film Fest films in several sections: **Fresh Generation** – main competition of live-action first features, **Confrontations** – competition of live-action and documentary student films and **Theatre Optique** – competition of student animations and new forms. *"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,"* says Michal Hogenauer, the festival dramaturge. This year the Fresh Generation section will introduce six interesting and impressive films of different genres from Argentina, USA, Belgium, Germany, Poland and Greece. For example **Hardkor Disko** by the Polish director Krzysztof Skonieczny known from films by Andrzej Wajda and Agnieszka Holland; one of the best indie films of 2014, the directional debut of the American director Eliza Hittman **It Felt Like Love**. Polish director and actor **Krzysztof Skonieczny** will personally present his film in Prague, the German film **Asta Upset** will be presented by its cinematographer **Carlos Andrés López** and the Greek film **Luton** by its producer **Yorgos Tsougiannis**.

## Bright Future

Section Bright Future offers a selection of first and second features that have won awards at prestigious foreign festivals. The festivalgoers can look forward to **Blue Ruin**, the 2013 Cannes FIPRESCI award-winning revenge thriller with an excellent camera, genre story and Tarantinoesque score, the lively document **12 O'clock Boys** suggesting what to do in Baltimore on a Sunday afternoon and the experimental film **Soldate Jeannette** that has won the Tiger at the 2013 Rotterdam Film Festival.

## Break Rules

Break Rules includes films by directors whose work can only hardly be categorized, who explore and destroy the boundaries of traditional dramaturgy, forms and genres. Films by Philippine **Raya Martin** remind psychedelic trips combining methods of experimental and documentary films. The festival will screen the last of his 19 films – **How to Disappear Completely** – a mysterious horror story about a girl who wants to disappear. Sci-fi **The Distance** is the second film by **Sergio Caballero**, the co-founder of the electronic music festival Sónar in Barcelona. **A Proletarian Winter's Tale** is an easy, playful, funny film full of unexpected twists about three young Georgians who have to clean a castle in Berlin, where a German arms manufacturer's art collection is being set up for an exhibition. The road-movie by **Fabian Altenried** **Oilfields Mines Hurricanes** written by 18 different writers was inspired by John Cage's centuries-long organ piece As Slow as Possible.

## Fresh Czech

This non-competition section will screen domestic interesting, daring and promising feature and documentary debuts along with premieres of films by more experienced authors that should not be forgotten. Fresh Czech will see the distribution premiere of the documentary **The Zoning Plan** by Benajmin Tuček, which maps the development of the original zoning plan of Prague created by Prague's former mayor Pavel Bém. A slightly different debut is the premiere of the second series of the Czech TV-series Circus Bukowsky by Jan Pachel. This section will also include **Places** by Radim Špaček, **Hany** by Michal Samir, **Krásno** by Ondřej Sokol, **Totally Talking** by Tomáš Pavlíček and **Show!** by Bohdan Bláhovec.

## Masters

The Masters section presents new films by famous and prominent filmmakers. **Kelly Reichardt** is a director known for her minimalistic and neo-realistic approach. Her last film **Night Moves** captures the preparations, realization and the effects of an eco-terrorist act with particular emphasis on the psychology of the participants and their relations. Another Fresh Film Fest distribution premiere is **Wrong Cops** by the French director and musician **Quentin Dupieux (Mr. Oizo)** with Marilyn Manson as an emo teenager. Dupieux makes films as expressive as his music – he uses a wide variety of gags, pranks and parodies. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take a look behind the scenes of the work of one of the greatest filmmakers of our time is provided by the unique documentary **Tarr Béla: I Used to Be a Filmmaker** made during the shot of his latest film *The Turin Horse*.

## Juries 2014

The juries of Fresh Film Fest are each year composed of prominent celebrities from the Czech and world cultural scene. This year our juries will include among others: the winner of 2007 Rotterdam Tiger Award, German director **Pia Marais**, who will present her films **At Ellen's Age** (premiered at Locarno 2010) and **Layla Fourie** (special mention at Berlinale 2013), one of the most experienced and talented Swedish sound designers **Jan Alvermark** (he worked with Roy Andersson and Anna Odell and will present the film **Involuntary** by Ruben Östlund and the live-action debut of documentarist Pirjo Honkasalo **Concrete Night**), **Monika Willi**, the best editor of Michael Haneke (she will present his film **Time of the Wolf**) and the documentarist Michael Glawogger (she will present his triptych about prostitution **Whore's Glory**), director, screenwriter, VFX designer and the co-founder of the original British animation and VFX studio Blacknorth **Kris Kelly** (he will lead a master class) and director **Dom Rotheroe** (he will present his films **My Brother Tom and Exhibit A...** that is considered as the predecessor of the cult film The Blair Witch Project). Czech and Slovak Republic will be represented by producer **Tomáš Hrubý** (he will present the film **Gottland**) and the winner of the 2008 Jindřich Chalupecký Award, graphic designer **Radim Labuda**.

#### **Selected Trailers:**

Side by side [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFGJY\\_NJwwg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFGJY_NJwwg)

Breaking the Waves <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmcnddpruXM>

My Brother Tom <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ku0drIICNiY>

Double Play <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apyldA1ZfKU>

Blue Ruin <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYpuju1NGdA>

12 O'clock Boys <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOMQY6k16TU>

How to Disappear Completely <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMuQ5enlukg>

The Distance <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXrt3C1q0A>

Circus Bukowsky <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d23JnXdNY7Q>

Night Moves [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_LnvGUvz354](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_LnvGUvz354)

Layla Fourie <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWmD6nui0z0>

Concrete Night <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjivYyQ1MnM>

Whore's Glory <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhgpTrgLYt4>

Exhibit A <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-le2XAMtgE>

Southcliffe <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qyi3yyBHNEw>

Hardkor Disko: <http://vimeo.com/82242971>

#### **Fresh Film Fest 2014**

17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014

Prague - Cinema Světozor, Bio Oko, Cinema 35 - French Institute, La Loca, Café Neustadt, (A)void Floating Gallery

#### ***More information, photographs etc.:***

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