



2nd press release
January 19, 2010

The fifth Prague "shorts" will introduce the work of Jan Kounen, visit Spain, Russia and even Japan.

From **January 20 to 24, 2010** Prague's Světozor cinema will host the fifth **Prague Short Film Festival**, organized by the producers of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. As always, the festival's three competition and nine non-competition sections will present the best works created last year by young talented filmmakers around the world.

Twenty two films will compete for this year's Main Prize of 5,000 euros in the festival's **international competition**. Sixteen of the competing films come from Europe including the Czech representative, "**Saharan Sands**" by **Josef Tuka**, two from Oceania, one from South America, one from North America and two from Asia.

Yet again, the **Panorama** section will present films that scored at prestigious festivals, offering a glimpse of the diversity of short film production, tastes and preferences of the festival world. There will be the 2009 Oscar winner, "**Toyland**" by **Jochen Alexander Freydanken**, and the winner of the Palm d'Or at Cannes 2009, the Portuguese "**Arena**" by **Joao Salaviza**.

Even today's famous directors' first film budgets were very limited. The festival's traditional section, **First Service**, will this year show you how **Mike Leigh, Park Chan-wook, Krzysztof Zanussi, Todd Solondz** or **Marek Najbrt** did at the very beginning of their careers.

The program will continue with well-known **Lab – Experiment and New Directions** presenting twelve films made with the use of new technology and unorthodox methods. Digitally processed images, computer animation, innovative storytelling or reconfiguration of well-known film scenes are just a few of the methods that can take film well beyond the boundaries of the ordinary.

Another traditional section of the festival, **Check the Czechs**, will offer a brief review of today's Czech short film production. This year's section will present five films – one professionally produced and four made at Prague's FAMU. One of the student films, **Saharan Sands**, also represents the Czech Republic in the festival's international competition.

This year's retrospective will be dedicated to **Jan Kounen**, a Dutch working in France, and one of today's most innovative and daring European authors, a reputation he sealed with his 1997 feature debut "**Doberman**" or "**Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky**", which closed last year's Cannes. His original films from the 1990's, "**Gisele Kérosene**", "**Vibroboy**" and "**The Last Red Hood**" are an incredible mix of black humor and playful imagination. He made the last film of the retrospective, "**The Story of Panshin Beka**", in 2006 in the Amazonian rainforests of Peru.

Espanola will introduce a country with a long and rich film tradition and equally rich and breathtaking cinematographic present. In the past several years short film has become its important part and, thanks to the support of various regional institutions, this country produces over 300 short films every year. One of these institutions is **KIMUAK** that has been supporting Basque cinematography for over ten years. Our brief excursion into Spanish short film and our homage to this institution would not be complete without the most recent and very successful Spanish films "**The Spook House**", "**One too Many**" and "**7:35 in the Morning**", winners of multiple festival awards including two Oscar nominations. The most recent Spanish production will be represented by "**Metropolis Ferry**", "**The One in Charge**" and the winner of the 2009 Goya award "**She Lies**".

The destination of this year's overseas excursion is a country that many film fans know as the home of weird and sometimes very bizarre horror films, manga, samurai warriors or Godzilla. And even though the six Japanese films in the **Made in Japan** section, prepared in cooperation with the Tokyo Short Films Festival and Asia, draw on different traditions and genres, they still offer a hefty dose of weirdness, twisted view of everyday things and of course Yakuza.

Crush will introduce five brilliant and respected representatives of the young generation of Russian filmmakers that have been successfully working the festival circuit for the past several years with their films including Alexei German's "**Paper Soldier**", winner of the Silver Lion for direction and cinematography at the 2009 Venice Film Festival. Alexei German, jr., Ivan Vyrypajev, Boris Chlebnikov, Pjotr Buslov, and Kirill Serebrennikov all have made short films about love. These five short films bring a fresh view of love and life in today's Russia. "**Crush**" had its international premier in the Orizontti section of the 2009 Venice Film Festival.

The five films in **Footy Love** are all about football seen from the viewpoint of players, referees and fans. The section will also include a 1964 Czech classic, **Ivan Passer's "A Boring Afternoon"**, based on **Bohumil Hrabal's** story "**Pearls of the Deep**" (1965).

In the 1990's the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival started a tradition of festival trailers – scripted or animated short films made by the most respected Czech directors including **Jan Svěrák, David Ondříček, Jan Hřebejk, Petr Zelenka, Saša Gedeon, Jaroslav Brabec, Ivan Zachariáš** and others. The trailers have been an instant hit with the festival audiences. Each year, viewers eagerly await the next installment, and they have become original trademarks for each festival. The Prague Short Film Festival will offer the rare opportunity to see all KVIFF trailers from 1996 to 2009.

The festival winners will be selected by a jury comprising the producer and founder of the Short Shorts Film Festival and Asia **Keiko Takahashi** of Japan, American writer and director **Scott Sanders** who will also present his feature film "**Black Dynamite**", Icelandic actor **Tómas Lemarquis**, know to Czech audiences from the 2003 film "**Noi the Albino**", director and writer **Jitka Rudolfová**, whose feature debut, "**Zoufalci**", played in the cinemas last year, and journalist and writer **Tomáš Baldýnský**.

As every year, the audience will be able to select their fifth Prague Short Film Festival favorite by casting their vote using voting slips distributed before every screening. The **Audience Award** will be presented along the other festival awards at the January 23, 2010 official closing ceremony. The festival program will continue until January 24, 2010.

Ticket price: CZK 60 for one program block.

Tickets can be purchased at the Svetozor box office (Vodičkova, Praha 1)

See www.pragueshorts.com for more festival information and pictures in print quality.

Organizer:

Film Servis Festival Karlovy Vary
info@pragueshorts.com

Contact for journalists (accreditations, pictures, interviews):

Ivana Svítková
svitkova@pragueshorts.com
731 407 392