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Prague Short Film Festival to Feature Films by Spike Jonze, Utopia-themed Films and Films for Children

The 7th Prague Short Film Festival organized by the team behind the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival will take place from **January 18 to January 22, 2012** at Prague's Svetozor cinema. Twenty films from fifteen countries will go head to head in the festival's **International Competition** for EUR 5,000 prize and two Special Jury Mentions. "This year's contestants were selected from over one thousand entries, most of them understandably from Europe, but distant countries including South Korea, Canada or Australia also have their representatives. We are happy that after a couple of years of absence the Czech Republic has a competitor in the International Competition – Ondřej Hudečka's *O-Ring*," said the festival's program director Karel Spěšný.

The festival will present contemporary scripted short films from Sweden, which are currently riding high on a wave of success, in **Sweden 2011. Sorry Curator – short films and videoart by German women directors** prepared in cooperation with the The International Women's Film Festival Dortmund/Cologne will present the best films screened at the festival since 2000.

This year will also feature **Utopia**, a thematic section with six films sketching what the world could become or already has become without anyone noticing. The section would obviously be incomplete without a post-apocalyptic vision of the world, this time served by Huho Lilja in the Swedish film *The Unliving*, a competitor from Berlin and European Film Academy nominee. The audience will also learn about a successful Finnish business venture involving Father Christmas in *Rare Exports Inc.* by Jalmari Helander or a moral tale from a dystopian future in *File Under Miscellaneous* by Jeff Barnaby where the natives are required to undergo gruesome surgery to fit into a society controlled by white people.

Fans of B-movies and nerve-racking horrors, trash and obscure films can look forward to **Brutal Relax Show**. "During a three-hour show moderated by actress Simona Babčáková, the audience will have the opportunity to vote live and choose the craziest film of the evening," said Spěšný.

This year's festival will also feature short films by Spike Jonze, author of a swath of music videos and feature films including *Being John Malkovich*, *Adaptation* or *Where the Wild Things Are*. "Three years ago, Spike Jonze took an unexpected turn and started making short films. The four he has made so far are very different from each other. In *We Were Once a Fairytale* he cooperated with the American rapper Kanye West and in *Scenes from the Suburbs* with the Grammy-winning band Arcade Fire. *I'm Here* portrays the lonely life of a robot in Los Angeles and in *Mourir Auprès de Toi* he brings to life book characters in a small bookshop," said the festival's programmer Radka Weiserová.

This year's newcomer, **Delicatessen**, will present short films from the treasury of short cinematography with milestone works created by today's famous directors including *The Flat* by Jan Švankmajer (1968) or *Dear Phone* by Peter Greenaway (1976). The section will feature form-altering films including the legendary *The Pier* by Chris Marker (1963), the inspiration for Terry Gilliam's famous *12 Mokeys* or *Un Chien Andalou* (1929) in which Luis Buñuel and Salvador Dalí laid the foundation of new understanding of film imagery. The five treats will be topped by a fictitious instruction film on work safety of the darkest kind, *Forklift Driver Klaus: The First Day on the Job* by Jörg Wagner and Stefaa Prehn (2000).

The second newcomer is **Small Big World**, a program designed for 9 to 11 years old children. The traditional section **Labo** will again focus on experimental film and include the work of the renowned Belgian director and visual artist Nicolas Provost, *Stardust*.

Check the Czechs will offer five Czech short films created last year, while **Panorama** will present the Oscar-winning *God of Love* by Luke Matheny, winner of the European Film Academy award *The Wholly Family* by Terry Gilliam or Cannes winner, *Cross Country* by Marina Vroda, and winner of the Golden Bear from Berlin, *Night Fishing* by Park Chan-wook and Park Chan-kyong.

The viewers will also have the opportunity to vote for their favorite film from any section, which will receive the Audience Award.

Ticket sales start on December 18, 2011 at Svetozor box office. Ticket price: CZK 70.

See www.pragueshorts.com for more up-to-date information.

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