

CZECH THE NEWS PORTLAND & SEATTLE



„To See the Sea“ directed by Jiří Mádl

Czech That Film Festival Ready to Be Launched in Seattle!

After months of preparations, all fans of Czech cinema can finally visit Czech That Film festival in Seattle (July 7th-12th)! Back for its fourth year, the selection of influential and emerging voices in the Czech cinema is set and will be screened at SIFF Film Center.

The festival is going to kick off on July 7th, 2015 at the **SIFF Film Center** (305 Harrison Street, Seattle Center Campus) with screening of the directorial debut of the popular Czech actor Jiří Mádl “To See the Sea”. He introduces a life of 12-year-old boy, who uses camera to document his world.

Jiří Mádl has already accomplished a significant acting career. His breakthrough role was in the movie Snowboarders in 2004, his most prominent performance was displayed in the 2008 film Night Owls, for which he received the Best Actor Award at the 2008 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Mádl has been passionate about learning foreign languages, having studied at several institutions, including English at the British Council, Italian at the Instituto Italiano di Cultura, and German at the Goethe Institute in Berlin. Now 27, Jiri wrote and directed his first feature film “To See the Sea”.

Last year, Jiří Mádl was guest of the Czech That Film Festival in Portland and now he returns to Pacific Northwest where fans of Czech Cinema will have a unique opportunity to be present at the Q&A session with him after the screening.

Cont' on page 2

Dear Friends in Portland and Seattle,

It was not just the beautiful trees blossoming, so similar to what Prague looks like in spring, which turned Portland into a Czech city in early May. Several Czech officials visited Oregon in the second weekend of May and the Václav Havel’s place was unveiled at the Lewis and Clark College under patronage of professor Simek.

The Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Czech Parliament and former Czech Foreign Minister Karl Schwarzenberg and the Czech Ambassador to the United States Petr Gandalovič came to Portland to participate in this special celebration of former Czech President. They also met the Mayor of Portland Charlie Hales and discussed with him economic, trade and cultural cooperation between Portland and the Czech Republic. During their three day stay in Oregon, they also visited the Czech-American firm EYELEVEL and held several business meetings with local companies interested in doing business in the Czech Republic.

On Saturday, Chairman Schwarzenberg and Ambassador Gandalovič participated in the graduation ceremony of the Lewis & Clark College and later unveiled Vaclav Havel’s place on the campus of the university. The special ceremony was well attended by invited guests, including the president of the Lewis & Clark College Barry Glassner and many local Czech compatriots. Many thanks to professor Štěpán Šimek, who brought this memorial to Portland, and Honorary Consul Marie Amicci for her continuous support of all Czech activities in Oregon.

Cont' on page 2

INDEX

- Introduction by the Consul General.....1, 2**
- Czech That Film in Seattle.....1, 2**
- Václav Havel’s Place in Portland Unveiled.....3**
- NEWs from Washington State.....4**
- Message of Portland Honorary Consul.....5**
- EYELEVEL Story.....6**
- Czech School in Portland.....7**



Consul General Sedláček at the Czech That Film opening in Portland with director Andrea Sedláčková

Cont' from page 1

What a fantastic event we held at Portland Art Museum. The annual Czech That Film Festival was a great success. Every screening was well attended during the second weekend of May. Many of you came out to meet director Andrea Sedláčková in person, watch her films "Fair Play" and "Vaclav Havel" and to attend the follow-up reception.

I cannot wait for these popular films to be also screened in Seattle. The well-known Czech actor Jiří Mádl, who made a splash in Portland last year, will return to Pacific Northwest this year again. His directorial debut "To See The Sea" will open the Czech That Film festival in Seattle on July 7, 2015!

This showcase of the best what the current Czech cinema has to offer will travel to 18 cities across the United States. An incredible and fantastic number for a film festival which is just 4 years old! From the modest beginnings four years ago with just a handful of guests in attendance, this event grew into the largest showcase of Czech culture in the US.

The fourth annual conference of Czech schools from all over United States took place in Los Angeles this month. It was wonderful to see so many volunteers trying to help Czech kids to learn Czech language. And even more exciting to me is a fact that Czech school in Seattle is going to be open this September. Language is the best connection to motherland even if you live a continent away. I am glad that the Czech School in Portland continues in their efforts to teach Czech, one of the most difficult languages in the world. I would like to thank Jana Háková, the new director of the school, for all her hard work.

I look forward to seeing you at the Czech That Film festival in Seattle. For more information, please, check and like our Facebook page or visit our website: www.mzv.cz/losangeles for more details.

Michal Sedláček, Consul General



„Clownwise“ of Viktor Tauš

Czech That Film Festival is Coming Back!

Cont' from page 1

The festival program will also include Czech entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 87th Academy Awards "Fair Play" directed by Andrea Sedláčková and her documentary "Václav Havel – A Life in Freedom" (both July 10th).

Moreover, you can enjoy the unrivalled Czech comedy/drama "Clownwise" (July 12th), directed by the director/producer Viktor Tauš; an other great feature of well-recognized director Jan Hřebejk "The Icing" (July 11th), a story following a not so perfect wedding, during which the moviegoers are sure to have some laugh.

Another film worth seeing is the dark comedy "Krásno" (July 11th) directed by Ondřej Sokol and centered around two childhood friends solving a family mystery, while featuring famous Czech actor Karel Roden.

The festival has already been a great success in Portland where lovers of Czech cinema had a chance to meet in person director Andrea Sedláčková as well as former Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg. The Czech Ambassador to the US Petr Gandalovič and the Czech Consul General of Los Angeles Michal Sedláček also came to support the festival during the second weekend of May.

The festival in Seattle is organized by the SIFF Cinema with support of the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Seattle, Mr. Wayne Jehlik.

For more information about the festival, please visit:

www.czechthatfilm.com or

<https://www.facebook.com/CzechFilmFestInTheUSA>

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

Seattle	
To See the Sea	Tuesday, July 7 at 7 p.m. (with Q&A)
Fair Play	Friday, July 10 at 7 p.m.
Václav Havel A Life in Freedom	Friday, July 10 at 10 p.m.
Krásno	Saturday, July 11 at 7 p.m.
Icing	Saturday, July 11 at 9:30 p.m.
Clownwise	Sunday, July 12 at 2 p.m.
To See the Sea	Sunday, July 12 at 4:30 p.m. (encore)

Václav Havel's Place Unveiled at Lewis and Clark University in Portland

On Saturday, May 9, 2015, former Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs and current Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee Karel Schwarzenberg, as an Honored Guest of the university, alongside with the Czech Ambassador to the United States Petr Gandalovič, unveiled the Václav Havel's place at the Fir Acres Theatre on the Lewis & Clark College campus in Portland, Oregon.

The ceremonial was preceded by the screening of Director Andrea Sedláčková's documentary "*Life According to Václav Havel*" which was also a part of the *Czech That Film Festival* in Portland. Its director Sedláčková stayed for Q&A session moderated by the Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles Michal Sedláček.

The official ceremony started at 6:30 p.m. at Lewis & Clark College with several speeches delivered, including remarks by the Minister Schwarzenberg, President of the C&L College Barry Glassner, Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovič, Professor Štěpán Šimek and the local Czech Honorary Consul Marie Amicci.

The unveiling was accompanied by a small concert of Czech children's choir Skřivánek and spectacular performance of local L&C College students presenting several Havel's plays at Fir Acres Theatre under leadership of Czech Professor Štěpán Šimek who was very instrumental and decisive force behind bringing the Havel's memorial to Lewis & Clark College.

The entire chain of ceremonial events was very well-attended and undoubtedly will be remembered for long time while authentic installation of two metal chairs with a table around a Linden tree designed by Czech architect Bořek Šípek will carry Václav Havel's legacy for generations.



Václav Havel © Václav Havel Library



Václav Havel's Place Unveiling



Karel Schwarzenber, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and close friend of Václav Havel



Distinguished speakers of the unveiling (left) and Skřivánek Choir (right).

NEWS from the Czech Honorary Consul in Washington State

Spring seems to be turning into summer already in Seattle this year, and I hope the season is treating everyone well so far. In Seattle, I can safely say that the nice weather finds us still hard at work on several exciting events and activities.

As usual, we are thrilled to work with SIFF and the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles to bring the fourth annual Czech That Film series to Seattle. The Seattle screenings will include a special pre-festival screening with director Jiří Mádľ on hand for a pre-screening reception and introduction, with the film being followed by a Q&A session. We are also fortunate to be able to include Andrea Sedlácková's Václav Havel – A Life in Freedom as part of the program. Czech That Film will screen at the SIFF Film Center (305 Harrison St., Seattle Center Campus) and, as always, features an outstanding lineup of films.

I am also continually impressed by and appreciative of all of the hard work and dedication being put forth by the Czech School of Seattle committee. The Czech School is on target to begin classes in Seattle in September of this year, and pre-enrollment has already exceeded expectations! Two of the committee members also took a trip down to Los Angeles to attend the Czech School Conference there on June 6-7, and returned to Seattle with a wealth of information, advice and enthusiasm to share with the rest of the team here.

Saturday, May 30 also saw the first ever Open House and Children's Day Celebration for the Czech School. The event, held at the Stroum Jewish Community Center of Greater Seattle, introduced parents and kids to the Center, the Czech School and its hard-working committee, and also provided the first opportunity for pre-enrollment in the school and gave the local community an opportunity to put their support behind this new project. More importantly, however, it gave the kids a chance to get together, have a few lessons with the teacher and to enjoy the sunshine and each other! All-in-all, it was a great day, and a success enjoyed by everyone.

We are, of course, working on additional activities and events, and I have no doubt that yet others will arise in the near future, and I look forward to reporting on those in the next newsletter. In the meantime, I again extend my deepest thanks to all that attended and supported our events and activities last year, and I look forward to seeing everyone at an upcoming event – and I wish you all a great summer!

Wayne Jehlik
Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Seattle



*Open House and
Children's Day
Celebration for the
Czech School*



From the Desk of the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Portland



Honorary Consul Marie Amicci welcoming guests at the Opening Night of Czech That Film



From left: Mayor Hales, Honorary Consul Amicci, Minister Schwarzenberg and Ambassador Gandalovič



„Skřivánek“ choir with all ceremony's distinguished guests.

It was an ideal day. The flowers were blooming and the weather was perfect for such an important event. Everyone was talking about President Vaclav Havel and his contributions to the world. It was a joyful occasion and a great honor to unveil his memorial, an artistic bench with a linden tree, where people can discuss events, philosophy, and share ideas as Václav Havel would. We were honored to have Minister Karel Schwarzenberg join us for the unveiling of the memorial at Lewis and Clark College.

Minister Schwarzenberg, knew Václav Havel on a personal and professional level. He shared with us stories, reminding us of Havel's gifts to the world. His words impassioned the audience, which admired Mr. Schwarzenberg's profound yet humorous comments. An especially touching moment was when Minister Schwarzenberg sang along with the children's choir, Skřivánci, the ancient choral "Svatý Václave." Mr. Schwarzenberg was accompanied by Ambassador Petr Gandalovič, who initiated the Havel Memorial in the USA. Lewis and Clark College not only landscaped the Václav Havel Place Memorial with Czech flowers and plants, but also flew the Czech flag and sang the Czech national anthem during their commencement ceremony. The reception and discussion panel that followed the unveiling was well attended, not only by the Czech community (some dressed in national costumes), but also by the general public. Mr. Schwarzenberg, Professor Březina, and two members of the L&C faculty were part of the discussion which was moderated by Professor Šimek. The students' performances of Havel's vignettes were a huge success and commanded a standing ovation.

Part of the celebration was the annual "Czech That Film Festival" at the Portland Art Museum, featuring a documentary on Václav Havel. Minister Schwarzenberg and the movie director, Andrea Sedláčková answered questions of the audience.

Ambassador Gandalovič and the Czech delegation made a visit to some local companies, including Precision Castparts, FEI, Eyelevel, as well as visiting Mayor Charlie Hales in Portland City Hall. Mayor Hales presented Mr. Schwarzenberg and Ambassador Gandalovič with a tie featuring the newest pedestrian bridge of Portland. Both minister Schwarzenberg and Ambassador Gandalovič expressed their love of Oregon, and wished they could have stayed longer.

*Marie Amicci
Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Oregon*

EyeLevel - Success Story of Czech Living Abroad



Ed Halla, CEO of EyeLevel in Portland

Ed Halla, born in the Czech Republic, belongs to the most successful Czech compatriots living in the United States. Adept at international business, Ed Halla joined EYELEVEL in 2007, helping to launch its international expansion by opening U.S. office in Portland, Oregon. Ed has successfully tackled the niche market of integrated retail marketing and helped grow EYELEVEL into one of the world's leading experts in retail brand experiences.

Today, the company includes a network of offices across the globe (USA Czech Republic, U.K., Netherlands, Brazil, China, Australia and Russia). EYELEVEL US with offices in Portland and NYC currently employ about 50 employees and up to 70 temp assembly staff workers. Ed has also led successful acquisition of EYELEVEL by InnerWorkings company out of Chicago in 2013.

EYELEVEL focuses on integrated solutions delivering higher traffic, bigger sales and stronger brand preference. Instead of developing the experiences separately, they design, produce and implement physical store environments and seamlessly connect them with digital brand experiences.

Ed has worked with some of the world's most recognized brands in creating unique retail solutions, including adidas, Nike, VF corporation, Calvin Klein, Diesel, GAP, Ted Baker London, L'Oreal, Luxottica, Apple, Dyson and others.

Ed has a Theater Degree from JAMU and a master's degree in Economics (major in Financing) from TU VSB. He is multilingual and a foreign film buff who enjoys photography, literature, and traveling the globe. His hobbies also include running marathons and nutrition. He is married with two kids and resides in Portland, Oregon.



EYELEVEL's insight and approach to innovations create inspiring, engaging and personalized brand experiences across every channel.

„United States is great place to live and do business. Moreover West Coast of the US is one of the most exciting places in the world right now. Majority of innovations that we use daily from the computers, smart phones, airplanes, clothes and shoes to the way we drink coffee, drive cars (electric ones:) and search and order online comes from the West Coast.

The area attracts the biggest talent in the world. The people living here do pay attention to the quality of their lifestyles, they are into the environment, organic food and physical activity/exercise. All that ultimately leads the corporations into more sustainable practices and changes the world again.

It is true privilege to be part of it...“

ED HALLA

Is Wishing You Happy Summer

Almost there!!! Summer break is knocking on the door and we are already thinking about the next year. Classes will stop but the work around the school, it just never ends. Next year we are planning to open two pre-school classes (parent-child group for 1 – 3 and pre-K for 3- 5) and three classes for kids ages 6 to 10. Our loyal intermediate adult class will also be re-opened. All of our amazing teachers – Lenka Cimburkova, Marta Pereyo, Lucka Panther, Jaruska Jurczakova and Frank Klatil – have decided to continue working with us and we are very grateful for that. Their job is demanding, unpredictable and often might feel undervalued, but we hope they see (at least sometimes) how crucial their contribution of time and effort is to the Czech community in Portland area, and especially to our children. We are also proud to announce that our teaching staff will grow next year. Our parent-child group will be led by Leona Salewsky who has got years and years of experience in teaching. **Welcome, Leona!**

In the past three months cultural life in Portland flourished. Our school had a dear guest in April. Kašpárek Pimprle visited the classrooms and joined us for the Easter Celebration. The kids enjoyed the interruption from regular classes and drew him a picture of Portland. We were happy to host him even though there was not enough time to show him around as he only stopped by briefly and his journey continued to Chicago.

Soon after we parted with Pimprle, another group of guests arrived to Portland. The delegation of the Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovič, Czech Parliament Representative Karel Schwarzenberg and Czech Consul General from Los Angeles Michal Sedláček came to observe installation of Václav Havel's Place at the Lewis and Clark University. At the same time the Czech That Film festival launched in the Portland Art Museum. With five great movies Czech culture was again nicely represented.

Last social event of a busy school year was the International Children's Day Ball that the CSP organized as a part of the Visegrad Group PDX. The CSP was responsible for making/bringing deserts and our parents once again did not let us down. Thanks a lot for all the goodies! In the Hollywood Glam theme the children from the Czech, Polish and Hungarian Saturday schools danced, sang and took pictures on the red carpet. Most importantly, they had a lot of fun as they were celebrated as our stars and celebrities.

After the last year's disappointment caused by rainy weather (very surprising in Portland) Kooky is finally coming back! As a part of the Movies in the Park series the CSP presents ...**Kuky se vrací! Screening of the movie has been scheduled on July 23, 2015 in Grant Park in Northeast Portland.** Please join us and enjoy the summer!

Jana Háková
President of the Czech School in Portland



Easter Celebration with „Kašpárek“

July 2015

July 7, 2015 – Czech That Film Festival

TO SEE THE SEA at 7:00 p.m.

(SIFF Film Center, 305 Harrison Street, Seattle Center Campus)

Tickets available at the box office or online at siff.net

July 12, 2015 - Czech That Film Festival

CLOWNWISE at 2:00 p.m.

TO SEE THE SEA at 4:30 p.m.

(SIFF Film Center, 305 Harrison Street, Seattle Center Campus)

Tickets available at the box office or online at siff.net

July 10, 2015 - Czech That Film Festival

FAIR PLAY at 7:00 p.m.

VÁCLAV HAVEL at 10:00 p.m.

(SIFF Film Center, 305 Harrison Street, Seattle Center Campus)

Tickets available at the box office or online at siff.net

July 23, 2015 – Screening of “Kuky se vrací” at Grant Park in Northeast Portland

For further information contact Czech School of Portland at info@czechschoolportland.org

July 11, 2015 - Czech That Film Festival

KRÁSNO at 7:00 p.m.

ICING at 9:30 p.m.

(SIFF Film Center, 305 Harrison Street, Seattle Center Campus)

Tickets available at the box office or online at siff.net

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

**10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100
Los Angeles, CA, 90024-4879**

**Phone: (310) 473-0889 Fax: (310) 473-9813
www.mzv.cz/losangeles**