

# CZECH THE NEWS PORTLAND & SEATTLE



„Fair Play“ directed by Andrea Sedláčková

## Czech That Film Festival Back in Portland and Seattle!

Great news for all fans of Czech cinema! The Czech That Film festival has returned to the United States this spring! Back for its fourth year, the selection of influential and emerging voices in Czech cinema will be presented in Portland (May 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>) and Seattle (July 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>).

The festival is going to kick off in Portland, on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Whitsell Auditorium in the Portland Art Museum (1219 SW Park Avenue, Portland, OR 97205) with screening of the Czech drama “Fair Play” directed by Andrea Sedláčková. This is her latest feature, which has been selected as the Czech entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 87<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards. Q&A sessions with the director will complement the screening. Ms Sedláčková will also introduce her documentary “Václav Havel – A Life in Freedom” (May 9<sup>th</sup>), describing the life of former Czech president Václav Havel. Both films will also be presented in Seattle in July of 2015.

The program includes the directorial debut of the popular Czech actor Jiří Mádľ “To See the Sea” (May 9<sup>th</sup>), whose drama lets us into the world of a ten-year-old boy shaken by a family secret. Mr. Mádľ will present this film in person in Seattle on July 7, 2015, and will be available for questions and answers.

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### Dear Friends in Portland and Seattle,

*I hope you are having good start to the new year. This will be the last few months before my family and I leave for the Czech Republic after concluding my mission to Los Angeles. My wife Veronica, my children and I had a wonderful time here in America, however, we are looking forward to returning home, probably this summer, after four years in the United States.*

*We are all excited that the annual Czech That Film Festival has finally arrived after its launch in Los Angeles. This showcase of the best what current Czech cinema has to offer, will travel to 18 cities across the United States. What an incredible number for a film festival, which is only 4 years old! This event has grown from its modest beginnings with just a handful of guests in attendance into the largest showcase of Czech culture in the United States.*

*I cannot wait to welcome the successful Czech director Andrea Sedláčková to Portland. She will present her latest feature, “Fair Play” which will kick-off the festival at the Portland Art Museum on Friday, May 8, 2015. Her second movie, a documentary about Václav Havel, will be screened as part of the “unveiling celebration” of Václav Havel’s Place the next day. Andrea will be available at both screenings for a question and answer session.*

*I am also glad that the well-known Czech actor Jiří Mádľ will return to Pacific Northwest. He will present in person his directorial debut “To Sea The Sea” in Seattle on July 7, 2015. “Krásno”, a comedy with Czech star Karel Roden, “Icing”, directed by Jan Hřebejk and “Clownwise” starring Oldřich Kaiser and Jiří Lábus will be also screened at the festival in both cities.*

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

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*I am looking forward to return to Portland after two years. It is a great honor for the Czech Republic that Václav Havel's Place will be erected on the campus of Lewis and Clark College. I would like to thank on this occasion professor Štěpánek Šimek and Honorary Consul Marie Amicci who played a key role in securing this location and organizing the unveiling ceremony.*

*In May, we will celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II and the liberation of Western Bohemia by American armed forces. On this occasion, the Consulate will organize a special exhibit about liberation of Pilsen, my hometown, by Americans. The opening of the exhibit will take place on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> and will be followed by a screening of the beautiful Czech film "Dark Blue World".*

*We are also excited that the annual conference of Czech schools will take place in Los Angeles this June. More than 30 delegates are expected to come to Southern California from all over the United States. Minister of Education, Mr. Marcel Chládek and the Czech Ambassador to the US, Mr. Petr Gandalovič confirmed their presence. The attendees will have an opportunity to learn about various grants offered by the Czech Government to support education and teaching Czech language abroad, and get recommendations on how to raise funds for Czech schools here in the U.S.*

*I am also happy to welcome the newest addition to our staff in Los Angeles Tomáš Loniček, the new deputy consul. He permanently replaced Tomáš Kára who left last summer.*

*I look forward to seeing you at the Czech That Film festival and our other cultural events. For more information, please, check and like our Facebook page or visit our website: [www.mzv.cz/losangeles](http://www.mzv.cz/losangeles) for more details.*

*Michal Sedláček, Consul General*



*Famous Czech Actor Karel Roden in „Krásno“*

## Czech That Film Festival is Coming Back!

*Cont' from page 1*

The program in both cities contains also of the unrivalled Czech comedy/drama "Clownwise", directed by the promising director/producer Viktor Tauš and the veteran Czech screenwriter Petr Jarchovský, and "The Icing", a story following a not so perfect wedding by recognized director Jan Hřebejk, during which the moviegoers are sure to have some laugh.

The end of the festival in Portland will be put by the dark comedy "Krásno" (May 11<sup>th</sup>) directed by Ondřej Sokol and centered around two childhood friends solving a family mystery.

All films will be shown with English subtitles. Besides Portland and Seattle, the festival will visit: Cedar Rapids, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Little Rock, Minneapolis, New York City, Oklahoma City, Phoenix, San Juan, Salt Lake City, Washington D.C.

The festival in Portland is organized by the Northwest Film Center with support of the Honorary Consulate in Portland Marie Amicci. While the Center For Czech Education And Culture alongside with the Honorary Consulate in Seattle prepare the Seattle's leg of the festival with SIFF as its partner. The program of the festival in Seattle will be determined soon.

We would like to thank Ed Halla from EYELEVEL, CzechTourism and Honorary Consul Wayne Jehlik for their generous financial support.

**For more information about the festival, please see:**  
[www.czechthatfilm.com](http://www.czechthatfilm.com) or  
<https://www.facebook.com/CzechFilmFestInTheUS>

### FESTIVAL PROGRAM

Portland	
Fair Play	Friday, May 8 at 7 p.m.
Václav Havel A Life in Freedom	Saturday, May 9 at 4:30 p.m.
To See the Sea	Saturday, May 9 at 7 p.m.
Clownwise	Sunday, May 10 at 4:30 p.m.
Icing	Sunday, May 10 at 7 p.m.
Seattle	
To See the Sea	Tuesday, July 7
further program to be determined	

# Unveiling of the Václav Havel's Place at Lewis and Clark University

The Embassy of the Czech Republic and Lewis & Clark College in Portland cordially invite you to celebrate and commemorate legacy of one of the biggest figures of Czech history, former president, philosopher and writer Václav Havel (1936 – 2011). **On Saturday, May 9, 2015, former Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg, as an Honored Guest of the university, alongside with the Czech Ambassador to the United States Petr Gandalovič and the Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles Michal Sedláček, will unveil the Václav Havel's place at the Fir Acres Theatre on the Lewis & Clark campus (0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Road, MSC 54, Portland, OR 97219).**

As one of the most influential political and humanitarian thinkers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Václav Havel and his legacy are still being remembered all over the world. Project Václav Havel's Place started in 2013 based the initiative of Ambassador Gandalovič, when the first Havel's Place was installed on the grounds of Georgetown University in Washington DC. Bořek Šípek, the head architect and friend of Václav Havel, designed the authentic installation of two metal chairs with a table around Linden tree. Nowadays, the Havel's place is located in several countries such as the Czech Republic, USA, Ireland, Spain and Italy. The modest and creative design of the installation represents a place to meet for a dialogue, where a common truth is supposed to be found, despite personal or political differences and opinions.

**The ceremony in Portland will be launched at 6:00 p.m.** and will include remarks by Minister Schwarzenberg and Ambassador Gandalovič. The atmosphere of the unveiling will be underlined by a performance of Czech children's choir Skřivánek.

After the memorial unveiling, students of Lewis & Clark University will perform selected scenes and excerpts from Václav Havel's works, to commemorate and celebrate also established dramatic and philosophical works of the former president.

A table discussion will close the ceremonial. Speakers such as Minister Schwarzenberg, Ambassador Gandalovič, History Professor Březina and Theater Professor Kemp, will discuss points about Václav Havel, prepared by Professor of Theatre and Department Chair Štěpán Šimek.

The memorial is free but the registration is needed by April 28, 2015 at <http://college.lclark.edu/live/forms/764-the-vaclav-havel-place>. For more information on the project, please visit Václav Havel library website <http://www.vaclavhavel-library.org/en/havelsplace>.



*„Václav Havel Place“, photo of Václav Havel Library © Studio Šípek*



*Václav Havel © Václav Havel Library*



*Václav Havel © Václav Havel Library*

## First NEWs of 2015 from Portland

With the arrival of spring, the Honorary Consulate in Portland is preparing for several exciting events coming to Oregon. The most significant one is the visit of the Honorable Karel Schwarzenberg -the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, also the 7<sup>th</sup> Prince of the famous Schwarzenberg Family, and a recipient of the European Human Right Prize. Mr. Schwarzenberg will come to unveil the Vaclav Havel Place at Lewis and Clark University. Joining him will be the Ambassador of the Czech Republic Petr Gandalovič, and Consul General, Michal Sedláček. There will be a short program of performing arts under the direction of Professor Štěpán Šimek of Lewis and Clark, and an instrumental presentation of an ancient choral, “Svatý Václave,” that will be sung by the Czech children’s choir of Portland, The Larks, directed by Julie O’Donnovan. Several local officials will also be present. The Vaclav Havel Place will consist of an artistically created wooden bench carved in the Czech lands, a plaque, and a Czech national tree - the linden tree. The location of the memorial place is on the beautifully landscaped premises of the Performing Arts at Lewis and Clark University.

Another event in May will be the annual Czech That Film Festival at the Portland Art Museum’s NW Film Center. The festival will open with the movie *Fair Play*. The director of the film, Andrea Sedlackova, will be present at the opening night’s reception to discuss her movie. *Fair Play* was selected as the Czech entry for the Best Foreign Language Oscar at the 87th Academy Awards. Mr. Vojtech Kacerovsky of Czech Tourism, the sponsor of the reception, will be also present. Other films at the festival include: *Life According to Vaclav Havel* by Andrea Sedlackova, *To See the Sea* by Jiri Madl, *Clownwise* by Viktor Taus, *Zakazane Uvolneni* by Jan Hrebejk, and Ondrej Sokol’s *Krasno*.

On the business horizon, the Bohemia Hop Company from the Czech Republic presented at the Craft Brewers Conference in Portland during April. Mr. Michálek from the Economic Section of the Czech Embassy also participated.

Oregon celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of the leading Czech classical composers, Tomas Svoboda. Mr. Svoboda made his home in Portland after his family left Czechoslovakia in search of freedom. He became accomplished not only in America, but throughout the world. The fine quality of several hundreds of individual music pieces written by him, and around 1300 known performances of his work around the world speak volumes of his talent. He composed his first opus at age nine, and was admitted to the Prague Conservatory as its youngest student. The concert celebration, performed in his honor at Marylhurst University, included three of his recent quartets, beautifully choreographed dance, the singing of the Czech children’s choir, The Larks, and a handmade present from the Czech School of Portland.

Children of the Czech School of Portland welcomed spring by creating the puppet “Morana,” the old symbol of winter. According to the tradition, they ceremoniously threw it into the river to signify the end of winter in anticipation of spring. They are also participating in the Andersen Night Celebration. It involves reading fairy tales and sleeping overnight at the school, then waking up to a wonderful breakfast, and continuing with their school lessons the next day. They are excited about this annual activity.

As one can see, Oregon is truly busy showcasing Czech activities and culture this time of the year.

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

## Classes of Czech Language in Seattle

Do you need to improve or just practice your Czech? In that case, conversation with other native Czech speakers will definitely help! The Center for Czech Education and Culture organizes a series of “Czech Table” sessions, to help you out.

Every second Tuesday of each new month, you can meet up with other native Czech speakers as well as local Czech language students, and expand your knowledge of Czech language. The nearest two-hour informal settings will take place on April 14, May 12 and June 9 at Thai 65, 4214 University Wayne NE from 5:00 till 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please feel free to contact [Jaroslava Soldanova](#).

## INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL

The International Children's Friendship Festival (ICFF) came back in Seattle. The volunteer-run cultural event, annually organized by the Turkish American Cultural Association of Washington (TACA WA). The festival took place in the Seattle Center's Fisher Pavillon (305 Harrison St, Seattle, Washington 98109) on April 11-12, 2015.

And for the first time, the Center for Czech Education and Culture (CCEC) hosted the Czech Republic table at this year's ICFF! CCEC created 1-hour volunteer time slots, hence with help of all these volunteers involved it achieved great success!

The festival has been a great chance to unite children from all over the world and get to know each other's cultures and ethnic heritages. The program included various stage performances full of music, ballet or folk dances, exhibits and a forum. With Czech Radost Folk Ensemble included. This year's topic was “well-being” in all aspects of life – mental, physical and emotional.



*Radost Folk Ensemble at the Children's Friendship Festival*

## Czech School of Portland

Happy Spring from the Czech School of Portland in Oregon! We are so excited that the traditional winter rainy season is finally stepping back and allowing spring sunny days to take over. In fact, we were so impatient that we said good bye to winter and welcomed spring already at the end of February. In one of our afterschool “School by Play” programs our children made a scary figure of Morana (Slavic symbol of winter), learnt songs and rhymes affiliated with the tradition and symbolically threw Morana in the water.

March was a very busy month. Our school registered for the Night with Andersen, an international fairy tale sleepover event organized by the **Association of Children's Libraries of SKIP**. The school building turned into a magical land inhabited by traditional Czech bogeyman characters – vodnik, bludicka, cert a carodejnice. The children loved the reading as well as the scavenger hunt part of the whole night. No wonder. They could stay up past their usual bed time and, since they found a hidden treasure, they could have chocolate and candy as the second dinner course.

During the Easter Celebration children from CSP performed several spring songs and so far, this was their best performance ever! Big kudos to our volunteer moms who diligently practiced with the kids after the class for over two months. Their hard work definitely paid off. Our website is currently under construction but the pictures and videos from this event will be posted soon.

International Day of Children is our last big happening in this school year and it is approaching fast. Again, we will be partnering with the Polish and Hungarian Saturday Schools and celebrate our children together. We are going to have a fancy ball dance event for our children where they will learn one typical dance from each of the nations, discover more about different cultural customs and traditions, and surely will have a lot of fun.

Our school is celebrating its 3rd birthday this month. Despite the fact we have only been around for such a short period of time, the school has become an integral and important part of Czech cultural life in Portland and surrounding areas. We are very grateful for all the material as well as non-material support we have been provided with, and we are hopeful the school will continue thriving and growing.

*Jana Hakova, Czech School of Portland*

# NEWS from Washington State

Spring seems to have arrived early in Seattle this year, and the local community is hard at work on several exciting events and activities.

As always, we are working with SIFF and the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles to return the **Czech That Film series return to Seattle**. The Seattle screenings are currently scheduled for July 10-12, **with a special early Opening Night event on Tuesday, July 7**. Czech That Film again features an outstanding lineup of films, and I look forward to sharing the final program and showtimes soon.

Starting **March 13 and running through June 7, the Bellevue Arts Museum is also bringing Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection to the Seattle area**. In reaction to being described as an "unparalleled serpent" by Saddam Hussein's press, Madeleine Albright—then U.S. ambassador to the U.N.—wore a golden snake brooch to her next meeting with Iraqi officials. This symbolic act of adornment led to a career-long relationship between Albright's political views and her jewelry. Showcasing over 200 pins from her personal collection, the exhibition highlights jewelry's ability to communicate in a nonverbal yet powerfully articulate way—diplomacy through pins.

On March 15, at the North Seattle Community College, the Seattle Symphonic Band presented a free concert at 7pm, featuring a few traditional Czech polkas, as well as a suite by Gustav Holst, a short piece by Vaughn Williams and a modern work by Eric Whitacre. The polkas were lively, and the free evening had made for a nice early spring evening treat!

I am also thrilled to report that we are hard at work on creating a Czech School for the Seattle area. Our very dedicated committee has been meeting regularly and is making progress on identifying a location for the school, discussing classes, working on the budget, identifying teachers – all the things that will make a local Czech School a success! The group is targeting an official opening in the fall for the school year, with the possibility of an informal start in the spring. I will undoubtedly have more information to share soon, and look forward to seeing the first group of classes start!

I am, 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!

*Wayne Jehlik*

*Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic to Washington*



*Madeleine Albright Pin Collection at the Seattle Bellevue Arts Museum*



*Honorary Consul Wayne Jehlik and his wife (in the middle) at the Children's Festival*

## Introduction of New Deputy Consul General

We are pleased to announce arrival of the new Consul, Mr. Tomáš Loniček, at our Consulate General in Los Angeles, who will serve as Deputy Consul General and who permanently, replaced Tomáš Kára who left last summer.

Mr. Tomáš Loniček has previously served as Consul in various Embassies and Consulates of the Czech Republic around the world: Brasília and Sao Paulo (Brazil), Madrid (Spain), Rabat (Morocco), Tunis (Tunisia) and most recently in Hanoi (Vietnam) from where he was transferred directly to Los Angeles.

His vast experience and knowledge of consular issues will certainly be a great benefit to our Consulate over the next four years as well as to all our clients, applicants and, of course, to the whole Czech community living within our consular district.

Mr. Tomáš Loniček is married to his wife Helena and his hobbies include gun shooting, hunting, cooking and minigolf.

As he has already settled down, please, do not hesitate to contact him at (310) 473-0889 ext. 226 or [losangeles@embassy.mzv.cz](mailto:losangeles@embassy.mzv.cz)



## Compatriot Events in The Czech Republic Under The Patronage Of The Ministry Of Foreign Affairs of The Czech Republic in 2015

On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, the Consulate General in Los Angeles would like to invite you to traditional compatriot events in the Czech Republic, supported by the Special Commissioner for Czechs Living Abroad JUDr. Karel Kühnl. All the 2015 events are focused on maintenance and spreading Czech traditions and language.

**The annual Conference of Czech School Without Borders (CSWB)** will take place in the Tuscany Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague on **August 3 – 7, 2015**. The conference will be focused on a concept of our mother language maintenance abroad, as an instrument of cultural and historical heritage preservation. ([www.csbh.cz](http://www.csbh.cz))

Two sessions of the favorite **summer camp**, organized for the kids from Czech schools abroad, will be held on **July 12 – 17, 2015** (for 6-12 year-olds) and **July 17 – 22, 2015** (for 6-15 year-olds). ([www.csbh.cz](http://www.csbh.cz))

**The summer camp for older kids, including Czech language classes** (for 12-17 year-olds), is planned on **July 17 - August 1, 2015**. Organized by civic association Seven Rays ([www.sevenrays.cz](http://www.sevenrays.cz)), the camp will take place in Pohoda Pension in Jizera Mountains. Please note that applications must be submitted to the end of March to [info@sevenrays.cz](mailto:info@sevenrays.cz)!

Seven Rays alongside with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organizes the 9<sup>th</sup> year of **International Compatriotic Festival on September 9 – 13, 2015**. (Applications are available at [www.krajanskyfestival.eu](http://www.krajanskyfestival.eu).)

Information about learning programs and courses organized within the Programme to Support the Czech Cultural Heritage Abroad is available on [www.dzs.cz](http://www.dzs.cz).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will keep on supporting the activities of our compatriots abroad in order to spread the Czech traditions and language.

All Czechs living abroad are cordially invited and welcomed!

## May 2015

<p>May 2, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. – Fundraising Dinner of Czech School of Portland</p> <p>Further information at <a href="http://www.czechschoolportland.org">http://www.czechschoolportland.org</a></p>	<p>May 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. – Unveiling of Václav Havel's Place at the Fir Acres Theatre on the Lewis &amp; Clark campus</p> <p>(0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Road, MSC 54, Portland, OR 97219)</p> <p>Registration required at <a href="http://college.lclark.edu/live/forms/764-the-vaclav-havel-place">http://college.lclark.edu/live/forms/764-the-vaclav-havel-place</a></p>
<p>May 8, 2015 - Czech That Film Festival <i>FAIR PLAY at 7:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>(1219 SW Park Avenue, Portland, OR 97205)</p> <p>Tickets at <a href="http://nwfilm.org">nwfilm.org</a></p>	<p>May 10, 2015 - Czech That Film Festival <i>CLOWNWISE at 4:30 p.m.</i> <i>ICING at 7:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>(1219 SW Park Avenue, Portland, OR 97205)</p> <p>Tickets at <a href="http://nwfilm.org">nwfilm.org</a></p>
<p>May 9, 2015 - Czech That Film Festival <i>VÁCLAV HAVEL'S LIFE at 4:30 p.m.</i> <i>TO SEE THE SEA at 7:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>(1219 SW Park Avenue, Portland, OR 97205)</p> <p>Tickets at <a href="http://nwfilm.org">nwfilm.org</a></p>	<p>May 11, 2015 - Czech That Film Festival <i>KRÁSNO at 7:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>(1219 SW Park Avenue, Portland, OR 97205)</p> <p>Tickets at <a href="http://nwfilm.org">nwfilm.org</a></p>
<h2>June 2015</h2>	
<p>March 13 through June 7, 2015 - "Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection" at the Bellevue Arts Museum</p> <p>(510 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004)</p>	<p>June 9, 2015 at from 5:00 till 7:00 p.m. – Czech Language Class at Thai 65</p> <p>(4214 University Wayne NE, Seattle)</p>

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