

PRESS RELEASE

May 5, 2022

This year's Golden Slipper Award will be awarded by the Zlín Film Festival to Pavel Zedníček and Karel Heřmánek

Prague – The largest and oldest film festival for children and youth in the world returns to its original spot in the calendar. It will start in three weeks in Zlín and will present 276 films from 49 countries. The Golden Slipper will be awarded this year by the organizers at the beginning of the festival to Pavel Zedníček and at the end to Karel Heřmánek. The 62nd Zlín Film Festival will take place from May 26 to June 1, 2022 and will open with the world premiere of the feature-length animated film *Journey to Yourland*.

After two non-standard years, when the Zlín Film Festival was held "live" in September, it's returning to its traditional spring term in the festival calendar. *"We are glad that we can finally offer the festival again during the period our audiences are used to, and that we will again celebrate Children's Day during it,"* said the President of Zlín Film Festival Čestmír Vančura, adding that, looking back, he considers it almost a miracle that the festival's continuous run was not interrupted during the Covid period.

The 62nd Zlín Film Festival is presenting a total of **276 films** from **49 countries of the world**. Festival audiences will once again have the unique opportunity of seeing the world of children and adolescents through films from traditional and less common film locales, such as Bangladesh, Chile, Tunisia, Vietnam, India, and many others. *"Although only seven months have passed since the selection of films for the previous festival, which was held exceptionally in September, we have managed to compile a very good program with many premieres. This is quite complicated with regard to the children's film sector,"* said artistic director Markéta Pášmová, assessing the preparation of the film program.

The morning opening film of the festival will be a feature-length animated 3D film *Journey to Yourland*, which was created in Czech-Slovak-Belgian co-production. In Zlín, it will be presented to moviegoers in its world premiere and distribution preview on Thursday, May 26 at 10 am with a large delegation of filmmakers and actors. Significant voices were lent to the main characters by Jan Cina, Jan Vondráček, Klára Issová, Martin Myšička, and Václav Neužil.

As part of the evening opening, audiences can look forward to the German film *The Path*. It captures the exciting story of a little boy wandering through the mountains from France

to Spain to get to America to escape the war. *"The makers of the film weren't thinking about the current geopolitical situation today when they originally came up with the topic of immigrating to escape a war,"* Markéta Pášmová added.

In connection with this year's celebration of the 700-year-anniversary of the first written mention of Zlín, the festival will also highlight important personalities associated with this city. Together with music publicist Pavel Klusák, the organizers will commemorate 100 years since the birth of film music composer Zdeněk Liška through the film **Music Zdeněk Liška** with a discussion. The premiere will also feature a TV documentary about the Zlín native Petr Nikl, **The Solstices of Petr Nikl**, with his participation.

The Zlín Film Festival will screen the first preview of the animated family film **Where is Anne Frank?**. The film is an adaptation of the internationally popular classic *Diary of Anne Frank* and carries an important message for young people. In its world premiere and distribution premiere, the festival will also offer a Czech-Slovak fairy tale **The Cursed Cave**.

For this year's festival jury, the Czech Republic has invited, e.g., actress Jitka Čvančarová, director and producer Tereza Kopáčová, and director Adéla Komrzý.

The dramaturges have decided to give the Golden Slipper award for extraordinary contribution to cinema for children and youth to two outstanding actors at the 62nd year of the ZFF. As part of the festival's opening ceremony on Thursday, May 26, one will be taken by actor, entertainer, and moderator Pavel Zedníček, who grew up in Zlín. *"I was very pleased. Not only because the Golden Slipper is Zlín-based, but also because I graduated from the Secondary Industrial Leather School, so shoemaking is not foreign to me. And I'm supposed to accept a shoe. And a golden one to boot,"* responded Pavel Zedníček to the question about his feelings upon hearing of the proposal for the award.

During the closing gala ceremony on Wednesday, June 1, actor and director of the Theatre Without Handrails, Karel Heřmánek, will also receive a Golden Slipper. He has had several distinctive roles in fairytale films for children, e.g., *The Seven Ravens*, *The Forgetful Warlock*, *Krakonos and the Skiers*, and perhaps his most famous is as the legendary figure of Lucifer in the fairytale *Give the Devil His Due*. *"I like Zlín mainly thanks to the successful hosting of our Theater Without Handrails. It is a beautiful cultural city with a deep tradition. After the award that awaits me, I will like it even more,"* Karel Heřmánek responded to the information about the award.

The theme of the festival this year is the festival itself. *"We want to strongly emphasize face to face communication with a particular focus on the younger population and invite people to turn off their monitors, limit e-communication on their social network sites, and go to the cinema, to a concert, or to experience some other activity,"* explains Executive Director Jarmila Záhorová. The film and supporting programs will again offer a number of



opportunities to spend some free time together. At traditional locations, visitors will be able to meet with film, theater, exhibitions, concerts, workshops, and creative studios. This year, the organizers are preparing a special zone for "teenagers" who can look forward to films intended for them, to youtubers, virtual reality, an evening party in the courtyard of the chateau, an arena for e-sports in front of the chateau, and many other activities. *"We want to offer teenagers the opportunity to actively spend their free time in a 'chill' atmosphere, as they say. There is also a special collection of TOP TEEN TEN, or 10 films that you should not miss if you are... a teenager,"* explains Jarmila Záhrová and mentioned other events from the supporting program: *"Of course, there will also be traditional events, such as the annual Clapperboard Salon auction, the MONET+ Zlin Festival Half Marathon, and Painting on the Pavement. But the concert by the band Čechomor, the theatre performance of the ART Theatre Without Handrails starring Karl Heřmánek, and the premiere of a digitized version of the The Incredibly Sad Princess, which Václav Neckář will be presenting in Zlín, is definitely worth attention."*

The organizers of the festival will offer current topics through workshops for schools and the public as part of the Children Without Borders conference block. Among other things, they will answer questions about how pre-school and younger schoolchildren perceive periods associated with rapid changes in the world, how easy it is to have "radical" opinions on innocent topics, how disinformation affects us, how to recognize them, how to defend them, and others.

The 62nd Zlín Film Festival will take place in Zlín from May 26 to June 1, 2022.

The complete film and supporting program is available at www.zlinfest.cz and during the festival in the Zlinfest festival application.

You can find out more at www.zlinfest.cz.

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THE ZLÍN FILM FESTIVAL – International Film Festival for Children and Youth is the oldest and, currently, largest film festival of its kind in the world. Its prestige increases every year not only in the Czech Republic, but also abroad. This is evidenced by the number of invitations and the participation of ZFF representatives to sit in the juries of international festivals in Russia, Latvia, Germany, Poland, Greece, India, and other countries of the world, plus the enormous amount of interest in the festival's film dramaturgy.

The festival received an important award at the end of 2019 in Tokyo, Japan at the KINEKO International Children's Film Festival, where it won the KINEKO HONORARY AWARD for its contribution to cinematography for children and youth.

The festival's mission is to present international film productions for children and teenagers, to make them accessible to the child audiences, and offer a high-quality alternative to commonly available audiovisual content. An important aspect of the festival is to educate young audiences through the medium of film, expand their awareness of the outside world, and develop their aesthetic, social, and moral feelings. The aim of the program is to systematically contribute to the development of Czech cinema for children and youth. The organizer of the festival is the company FILMFEST, s.r.o..

OPENING FILM – JOURNEY TO YOURLAND

The festival will open with the international premiere of the Slovak-Czech-Belgian 3D animated film *Journey to Yourland* by director Peter Budinský and producers Peter Badač and Barbara Budinská. This ambitious feature film with a budget of 94 million crowns went through film forums at festivals in Croatia, Switzerland, Germany, and France and was worked on by more than fifteen artists and animators from all over Europe, from Ireland to the Czech Republic. The film tells the story of 10-year-old Riki, his cheeky new friend Emma, and the monkey Tidling, who set out on an adventurous journey to Yourland to save their own lives and the entire fantasy world. Significant voices were lent to the main characters by Jan Cina, Jan Vondráček, Klára Issová, Martin Myšička, and Václav Neužil. *Journey to Yourland* stands out for its elaborate artistic style with detailed backgrounds evoking an epic video game feeling, which is quite appealing to young audiences looking for something more than “children's” animation.

Synopsis

Far beyond the boundaries of children's playgrounds, there is an amazing world of fantasy – Yourland. Monkeys and ravens speak the human language here and through golden deserts walk incredible machines that operate in perfect harmony with nature. Ten-year-old Riki escapes to Yourland from his home in the real world because he picks up a signal emitted by a mysterious glowing pebble. This stone source of great power that everyone wants to possess is hidden in Riki's heart. Who can Riki share this secret with? With his new cheeky friend Emma? With the monkey general Tidling? With Metalman, the mighty robot and the advisor to the President of Yourland, or the captain of the steamship? Riki's adventurous quest to save not only his own life, but the entire fantasy world can begin.



LIST OF DISTRIBUTION PREMIERS:

Journey to Yourland / world premiere
Slovakia, Czech Republic, Belgium, 2022

The Enchanted Cave / world premiere
Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, 2022

Where is Anne Frank? / distribution preview
Belgium, France, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, 2021

Moonbound / distribution preview
Austria, Germany, 2021

Pil's Adventures / distribution preview
France, 2021

The Websters Movie / distribution preview
Czech Republic, Slovakia, 2022

Morning Glow / premiere of the 3rd episode of the miniseries
Czech Republic, 2022

The Incredibly Sad Princess / restored premiere
Czechoslovakia, 1968

STARS ON THE WALK OF FAME

During the 62nd festival, two more stars will be unveiled in Zlín on the Walk of Fame. The history of this joint project of the Drop of Hope Endowment Fund and the Zlín Film Festival dates back to 2006. This year, the names of actors **Barbora Seidlová** and **Jan Šťastný** will appear on stone tiles in front of the Grand Cinema. *"Jan Šťastný, as a Zlín native, stood in front of the camera for the first time at the age of thirteen in Zlín,"* explains ZFF Executive Director Jarmila Záhorová, adding: *"For Barbora Seidlová, the role of Princess Zubejda in the fairytale film Lotrando and Zubejda by Karl Smyczek was fateful for her at the age of fifteen."*

YOUNG STARS

For several years now, the Zlín Film Festival has also focused on interesting young actors. This year's Young Stars coming to Zlín will be **Brigita Cmuntová** and **Jan Nedbal**. *"Both are talented actors and audiences may have seen them in several films or series. Our choice of Brigita was influenced, among other things, by her role in the co-production film City on the River by producer Julietta Sichel, which we will present this year at the festival,"* Markéta Pášmová says, adding that *"Jan Nedbal will present a co-production film at the festival by director Peter Bebjak, The Auschwitz Report, where he plays a prisoner in a concentration camp, and then also the latest film by Tomáš Hodan, The Last Race".*

OTHER PERSONALITIES OF THE 62ND ZFF

Jitka Čvančarová

Eliška Balzerová

Veronika Freimanová

Jana Švandová

Pavel Nový

Václav Neužil

Klára Issová

Kryštof Bartoš

Simona Lewandovská

Vojtěch Vodochodský

Lukáš Hejlík

Kristýna Janáčková

Lenka Krobotová

Ester Geislerová

Oskar Hes

Josef Trojan

David Novotný

Jitka Schneiderová

Jiří Dvořák

Arnošt Goldflam

Vladimír Polívka

Bára Fišerová

Kristýna Podzimková

Pavla Gajdošíková

Jana Kolesárová

Petra Nesvačilová

Martin Dejdar

Jan Čenský



62nd International Film Festival for Children and Youth

26/5 – 1/6/2022

Dana Morávková

Roman Vojtek



OVERVIEW OF EVENTS OF ZLÍN INDUSTRY DAYS 2022

Kids Kino Lab / International Screenwriting Workshop

May 28 - June 1, 2022

FRIDAY, MAY 27

FILMTALENT Pitching Forum

10 am - 3 pm / Congress Centre, Small Hall

FILMTALENT Talks

3:30 pm - 5 pm / Congress Centre, Small Hall

***Proud Princess in color* – presentation of the upcoming project**

6 pm - 7:30 pm / Congress Centre, small hall

SATURDAY, MAY 28

Contemporary Czech literature for children and youth as a source for film themes

10:30 am - 12 pm / Congress Centre, Small Hall

Central European Children's Film CoProduction Forum

2 pm - 6 pm / Congress Centre, Small Hall

SUNDAY, MAY 29

Cutting School for Cinema 2022 / International conference on film and audiovisual education

Topic: Legally and Easily - Film in School Education

9 am - 4 pm / Congress Centre, Small Hall

Festival Community – open meeting of representatives of film festivals from abroad and from the Czech Republic.

5 pm - 7 pm / Congress Centre, Small Hall

JURIES OF THE 62ND ZFF**International Jury for Feature Film for Children**

Jitka Čvančarová	CZ	actress
Tamara Bos	Netherlands	screenwriter
Kenneth Kainz	Denmark	director

International Jury for Feature Film for Adolescents and Young Adults

Tereza Kopáčová	CZ	director and producer
Jonathan Murray	UK	film theorist, publicist and lecturer
Rodrigo Litorriaga	France	director and producer

International Jury for Short Animated Films for Children

Arba Hatashi	Kosovo	festival director
Filip Pošivač	CZ	director, animator and illustrator
Corinne Destombes	France	film distributor

ECFA International Jury for Feature Documentary Film for Young Audiences

Kateřina Hager	CZ	director
Teresa Lima	Portugal	festival dramaturge
Alicia McGivern	Ireland	film education expert

International Expert Jury for the Zlín Dog Student Film Competition

Martin Smatana	Slovakia	director, animator and artist
Adéla Komrží	CZ	director
Mano Khalil	Switzerland	director and producer

International Ecumenical Jury

Barbora Cihelkova	CZ	journalist
Adriana Răcășan	Romania	producer
Katrin Rudolph	Germany	pastor, theologian and historian



The organizer of the Zlín Film Festival, FILMFEST, s.r.o., would also like to thank all of our partners and supporters, who were absolutely crucial for making it possible for the 62nd festival to happen.

Co-organizer:

Statutory city of Zlín

General partner:

Kovárna VIVA a.s.

General Media Partner:

Czech Television

Financial support

Ministry of Culture

Zlín Region

Czech Film Fund

Creative Europe- MEDIA

Main partners

ŠKODA AUTO a.s.

Zlaté jablko, a.s.

GOLDEN APPLE CINEMA, a.s.

Main media partners

Czech Radio

Total Film

VLTAVA LABE MEDIA a.s. (Daily)

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Drop of Hope Endowment Fund

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