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63<sup>rd</sup> International Film Festival for Children and Youth

## PRESS RELEASE

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### The Opening of the 63rd Zlín Film Festival Will Fall on Children's Day This Year

Zlín – Organizers of the oldest and largest film festival for children and youth in the world have presented this year's theme and the planned form of its 63rd year. In its program, the festival will once again focus on connecting generations, as well as on the celebration of Czechoslovak animation and Scandinavian web series for young people. The Zlín Film Festival will take place from Thursday June 1st to Wednesday June 7th, 2023.

This year, the sixty-third year of the film festival will bring the residents and visitors of the city of Zlín a varied film program from various corners of the world and a number of accompanying activities aimed at strengthening and developing relationships between parents, children, and grandparents. *“Our aim is to showcase the best of world productions for children and young people and to offer an alternative to commonly available audiovisual content. At the same time, we want to educate, raise awareness of the world around us, and open and subsequently discuss current topics,”* said Čestmír Vančura, President of the Zlín Film Festival.

The form of this year's festival has already been indicated by the festival title sequence from the workshop of Michal Baránek and Zdeněk Macháček, who is also the author of this visual. Its musical accompaniment was created by Filip Vojtěch with a modern remix of the original fanfare that has accompanied the Zlín festival for decades. *“The festival will be colorful, playful, multilayered. The festival wants to interest and further attract the young generation of teens to the festival events,”* outlined the Executive Director of the ZFF Jarmila Záhorová and added that, among other things, a special video for teachers with Jan Čenský has been created as part of the preparations. *“We believe that with its help teachers and their students will enjoy the cinema even more during the festival.”*

In its film program, the festival will also offer competitive films in its traditional categories, in which filmmakers can submit their films until March 1. In addition, the festival's dramaturges have recently returned from the Berlin film market, where they had the opportunity to get acquainted with the latest the world film market has to offer. *“The Berlinale is always an important source for us to select films and we are glad that we've managed to catch interesting titles again this year. In addition, we have the opportunity there to meet a number of film professionals and personalities, exchange experiences and, of course, personally invite them to our festival,”* explained the artistic director of the festival Markéta Pášmová and now mentioned a part of the non-competitive film program. *“For the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Břetislav Pojar, we are preparing a section devoted to world-renowned Czechoslovak animation. We will also recall the works of Miroslav Štěpánek, Jiří Trnka, Zdeněk Miler, Jiří Brdečka, and Vlasta Pospíšilová.”* The festival will focus on the theme of animation in the film, supporting, and professional programs. Special lecturer introductions with examples of various types of animation are also being prepared for this.



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The dramaturgy of the festival also wants to respond to the trend in the area of series for teenagers within a newly created section for European web series for young audiences. *"This year we are starting with a pilot year focused on Scandinavian productions and every day of the festival we will present one series with a theme reflecting current issues of adolescents: identity, immigration, coming out, bullying and more,"* detailed Markéta Pášmová.

An integral part of the festival program is the Clapperboard Salon, whose 26th year will begin on March 7 with a vernissage at the Hybernia Theatre in Prague. From Prague, it will go to Liberec-Vratislav, Mladá Boleslav, Olomouc, Brno, and Zlín, where it will culminate in a traditional auction on Sunday, June 4 at the Zlín Congress Centre. Through the FILMTALENT ZLÍN Endowment Fund, the proceeds of the auction go to talented filmmakers. *"Proof that this money is being spent meaningfully is in the success of supported films not only in the Czech Republic, but also abroad. One example for all, eight films supported by us have been nominated for this year's Czech Lion film award,"* added Markéta Pášmová.

Another significant supporting event is the 8th annual Festival MONET+ Zlín Half Marathon 2023, which is the largest traditional running event in the Zlín Region. It starts on Sunday, May 29 at 10 a.m. from the Congress Centre. *"We would like to have more than 2000 runners at the start this year,"* said Jarmila Záhorová and added that at 3 p.m., the main race will be followed by the RPB family run, which this year has the new title partner of RBP, a health insurance company.

As in previous years, in addition to traditional screenings of competition and other films, the festival will also include a rich supporting program at a number of places in Zlín, which will provide entertainment, education, and opportunities for the whole family to spend meaningful free time together. *"We are glad to be celebrating the beautiful 100th anniversary of the first of broadcasting of Czech Radio this year in Zlín. And Czech Television, or its ČT:D station, will also be celebrating. For 10 years it has been providing joy to children not only through the TV screen, but also at the festival at the ČT House,"* said Jarmila Záhorová.

For the seventh time, the festival will officially close with Mikulov Echoes of the Zlín Film Festival. They are scheduled to take place this year from June 13 to 15, 2023.

**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 a number of invitations and the participation of ZFF representatives to sit in the juries of international festivals in Latvia, Germany, Poland, Greece, India, and other countries of the world and 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 organizer of the festival is the company FILMFEST, s.r.o., which in addition to the film festival itself is also the founder of the FILMTALENT ZLÍN Endowment Fund, operates the Zlín Fest Screen platform, manages the permanent exhibition of Zlín film under the name of the Cabinet of Film History at the Film Studios. Last year, FILMFEST also organized the first year of the Zlín Film Weekend. It regularly organizes urban film camps and, as part of the film festival, it also organizes the Festival Half Marathon MONET+ Zlín, events for partners, and other activities and projects.



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You can find out more at [www.zlifest.cz](http://www.zlifest.cz).

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