

CZECH THE NEWS – LOS ANGELES



Director Andrea Sedláčková (in black second from the left) with leading actresses of “Fair Play” at Karlovy Vary Film Festival

Dear Friends in Southland,

The long wait is over. The annual Czech That Film Festival finally arrived and we are all excited. 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 in the Silent Theater in Hollywood with just a handful of guests in attendance, into the largest showcase of Czech culture in the United States.

I am looking forward to welcome the successful Czech director Andrea Sedláčková back to Los Angeles. She will present her latest feature, “Fair Play” which will kick-off the festival on the campus of the University of Southern California on Friday, March 27, 2015. Her second movie, a documentary about Václav Havel, will be screened at the Consulate in Westwood on March 25, 2015, at 7pm as a sneak preview for the festival. Andrea will be available at both screenings for a question and answer session.

The second highlight of the festival will be screening of the best Czech film in years, “Burning Bush”, directed by Oscar nominated Polish director, Agnieszka Holland who studied at FAMU, the famous Czech film school in Prague, in 1969 and experienced the Russian invasion and its aftermath at first hand. Other included films are “Krásno”, a comedy with Czech star Karel Roden, and “To See The Sea”, a directorial debut of popular Czech actor Jiří Mádě. The festival in LA will conclude on March 31, 2015 with the “Icing”, directed by a well-known director Jan Hřebejk who attended the festival in Los Angeles last year.

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Czech That Film Festival Welcomes Director Andrea Sedláčková!

As a part of **Opening Night of the Czech That Film festival**, director Andrea Sedláčková will present “**Fair Play**” on **March 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. on the campus of the University of Southern California** (Norris Cinema Theatre, 3507 Trousdale Parkway, Los Angeles, CA 90007). This special screening will be also followed by Q&A session with the director and a small reception on the campus with Czech beer.

Andrea Sedláčková studied screenwriting and dramaturgy at Prague’s Film Academy (1986-89) and continued with editing and directing at prestigious La Fémis in Paris (1990-93) after emigrating to France in 1989. Inspired by her student years, Andrea adapted and directed the TV film “*My Father and Other Men*” (2003).

Over the last decade, she has become one of the leading directors and screenwriters in the Czech Republic and France. Her directing work features a wide range of film genres such as documentaries (“*Life According to Václav Havel*”, 2014; “*What Did You Do in November*”, 1994), TV series (“*Bachelors*”, 1997) and of course features (“*Fair Play*”, 2014; “*Victims and Murderers*”, 2000). As an editor, Andrea was nominated for the César Award for her work on the French movie “*Welcome*” (2009).

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Consul General Sedláček at Sokol's Spring Social

What a fantastic start we had to the popular Petrof Concert Series, which we organize in cooperation with Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU)! This year's series began with a beautiful concert by the best Czech harp player, Kateřina Englichová, who received a standing ovation from the full house. The next concert of the series will be a performance by a local Czech-American violinist, Johanna Krejčí, and will take place at my residence in Los Angeles on Sunday, April 26th. I am also looking forward to a concert by Czech-Argentinian pianist, Fabio Banegas, on May 17th.

We commemorated a great Czech writer, Bohumil Hrabal, with a unique exhibit about his life and works. The opening of the exhibit on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, included a screening of Menzel's film „I served the King of England.“ Please come to check out the exhibit at the Front Gallery of the Consulate, it will be on display till the end of April.

In May, we will celebrate the 70th 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 6th and will be followed by a screening of the beautiful Czech film “Dark Blue World”, by a famous Czech director Jan Svěrák.

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 United States. I would like to thank Sokol LA and the Czech School of Los Angeles for helping to organize this conference.

I am also happy to welcome the newest addition to our staff in Los Angeles Tomáš Loniček, the new 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 for more details.

Michal Sedláček, Consul General

Czech That Film Festival Opening Night in Los Angeles!

We are happy to announce the launch of the fourth year of the Czech That Film festival, the touring display of Czech cinema, on **Friday, March 27th** (7:00 pm). The ceremonial evening will take place at the **USC Norris Cinema Theatre** (3507 Trousdale Parkaway, Los Angeles, CA 90007), on the campus of the University of Southern California, significant partner of the festival.

The Opening Night will take off by screening of “**Fair Play**”, a film by established Czech director **Andrea Sedláčková**. We are delighted to announce that Mrs. Sedláčková will participate in the Opening Night and will be available for a Q&A session afterwards. **A reception with a Czech beer will conclude the festival night.**

The festival will continue in the next days with screening of movies “**Krásno**” (March 28th at 6pm), “**Burning Bush**” (March 29th at 4pm), “**To See The Sea**” (March 30th at 7pm) and “**Icing**” (March 31st at 7pm).

Tickets for the Opening Night are complimentary, yet RSVP is required at cinema.usc.edu/CzechThatFilm. For more information about the festival please visit www.czechthatfilm.com.

PROGRAM

Fair Play	Friday, March 27 at 7p.m.
Krásno	Saturday, March 28 at 6 p.m.
Burning Bush	Sunday, March 29 at 4 p.m.
To See the Sea	Monday, March 30 at 7 p.m.
Icing	Tuesday, March 31 at 7 p.m.



Andrea's Sedláčková's feature “Fair Play”

Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the End of WWII

Although World War II ended 70 years ago, we should never forget the events that changed our modern history. Commemorating the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII is an opportunity to remember moments of relief and joy related to the victory. The Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles is delighted to present an extraordinary photography exhibition reminiscing the war as well as its conclusion.

Exactly 70 years after the liberation of Plzeň (Pilsen) and other West Bohemian towns by American Armed Forces led by General George S. Patton, **we are honored to introduce the exhibition “Story of James Duncan”**, representing unrivalled photo report of the event so important not just for the Czech Republic, but also for lasting friendship between American and Czech people. **The exhibition will be launched at the Czech Consulate on Wednesday, May 6th at 6pm and will be followed by 7pm screening of Czech war drama “Tmavomodrý svět” (“Dark blue World”) directed by Jan Svěrák.**

Without any doubts, the photo exhibit represents a unique memory of the liberation as well as a rare piece of art. Pilsen was liberalized on May 6, 1945 with arrival of the American army. All the pictures retain the authenticity of WWII, as former US army sergeant James H. Duncan, a man directly confronting the event, took them personally. The camera, booty from a German captive, helped document the successful movement of the allied armies from Germany up to the Czech Republic. James H. Duncan, who entered Pilsen only as a 19-year-old, was able to transmit his memories into pictures alongside with fighting. More than 300 pictures, capturing moments before, during and after the liberation, tell a story of men, who were not only soldiers - liberators but also became friends of the locals. By looking at the large-format photographs, you can transfer yourself for a while to the past and imagine how the life during the war was.

The exhibition will provide you with a wide range of emotions: from fear and horror while looking at the pictures of tanks, weapons, liberators fighting against the enemies and destroyed towns; to emotion and happiness of the locals over the victory and peace. **The unique collection of photographs will be on display till the end of June 2015 at the Front Gallery of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles (10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024).**



“James Duncan’s Story“ – Spring 1945 Through the Eyes of a War Veteran



It meant more than freedom, it meant friendship between Americans and Czechs

And Petrof Concert Series Go On in April and May!

The popular Petrof Concert Series had a fantastic start last month and will successfully continue its long-lasting tradition during the whole year.

Next chance to experience peaceful Sunday moment of classical music will be given to the audience **on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. with a concert of Johana Krejčí (violin) and Wendy Prober (piano)**. On the occasion of the birthday anniversary of Czech composer Vítězslava Kaprálová, performers will jointly present her work together with violin-piano sonata of world-known composer Leoš Janáček.

Later in May, we will welcome talented Czech-Argentinian piano player Fabio Banegas **on Sunday, May 17, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at residence of Czech Consul General**. Even though this is the second year of Fabio performing at our Petrof Series, this time he will present pieces by Czech composer Jan Dusík, several works by Argentinian composer Jose Bottiroli and a magnificent piece by a well-known Czech composer Josef Suk.

This year's season was inaugurated by Kateřina Englichová, a well-known and successful Czech harpist, on Sunday, March 1, 2015 at the residence of the Czech Consul General in Los Angeles. She presented harp solos by G. F. Händel, B. Britten, J. Fischer, L. Sluka and Trneček/Smetana and introduced a unique performance of one of the most difficult instrument ever played – the harp. She received standing ovation from the full house. The concert was followed by tasting of organic wines produced by Czech winemaker Martin Pohl, owner of **Beaver Creek Vineyards**, who served his products in person. These unique new wines are also available in Whole Foods Market.

We hereby thank to our partners and sponsors for making these special series happen - the Society of Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles and Petrof Pianos USA Company.



Violinist Johana Krejčí



Pianist Wendy Prober



Pianist Fabio Banegas



Harpist Kateřina Englichová at the Czech Residence

The Annual Conference of Czech Schools in North America in Los Angeles

We are proud to announce, that **the Annual Conference of Czech Schools in North America**, will take place this year **in Los Angeles on June 5 – 7, 2015**.

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic will be honored to introduce distinguished speakers such as H.E. Marcel Chládek, Minister of Education of the Czech Republic, H.E. Petr Gandalovič, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States, and Lucie Slavíková-Boucher, director of Czech School without Borders, along with other representatives.

The program will include panel discussions related to various grants offered by the Czech Government to support education and teaching Czech language abroad, and recommendations on how to raise funds for Czech schools here in the United States. Developments in teaching techniques as well as presentations of all Czech Schools in North America are also part of the program.

The Conference is jointly organized by the Czech Consulate and the Czech School of Los Angeles and supported by the American Sokol in LA. We wish to express them many thanks for their help.

Four Year Anniversary of Ceska Skola West Coast in Orange County

This year, Česká Škola West Coast in Orange County celebrated the 4th anniversary since its foundation. We feel very excited and proud that we can offer activities and classes also for adults living in Orange County, and have possibility to hold them in central location in Orange. Parents from Riverside and L.A. Counties are able to send their children with easier traffic **on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. to Lincoln Baptist Church in Orange**, where Pastor Jiří Novák himself started to teach our adult students as well. If we find enough funds to support the artistic side oriented language class, we would like to host our summer camp in Costa Mesa again. We know that there is a great interest not only for learning foreign languages in Orange County, but also a huge opportunity for other students to join us even if they don't speak Czech.

We are grateful that our Czech community has come alive and even though a lot of families live far away. Parents dedicate their time and commute to make sure our Czech minority language class will continue. In case you would like to extend the hand and support the children language and art classes in OC by sending a donation, you may visit our website www.cswc.us. In conclusion, we all know that the Czech is a pretty difficult language to learn. So, why don't you give your kids a chance to develop their language skills that they can take with them to a college or use them on the University transcript? It might even give them an extra edge in hunting for a dream job. With their creative minds, the choices will be limitless. **To reach out, you may also contact Prof. Petra Petry at ceskaskola.ca@gmail.com**

Czech Easter Celebration Hosted by Czech School of Los Angeles



You, your family, and your friends are cordially invited to attend the annual Czech Easter Celebration organized by the Czech School of Los Angeles **on Saturday, April 4, 2015, from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Czech school (2950 Overland Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90064)**.

Traditionally carried program will include egg painting and raffle, while everybody is responsible for bringing along and sharing with others Easter (and non-Easter) refreshments.

Admission \$5.00

For further information please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Vladimíra Anderson at vladkaanderson@yahoo.com

So do not hesitate to join-in!

Film Incentives in the Czech Republic

Filmmaking is without any doubt a process considered as a huge undertaking. The Czech Republic has been an attractive destination offering beautiful sceneries and architecture, low costs and high-quality film infrastructure, which attracted filmmakers of major movie hits such as Mission Impossible, Casino Royale and The Chronicles of Narnia. And not only that! To ease the burden of the budgeting, the Czech Republic provides filmmakers with various types of film incentives.

The Media and Audio-Visual Department of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic administrates the Czech Film Industry Support Programme (FISP), which offers rebates up to 20% on production costs. The rebate is available for wide range of projects: feature, TV, animation, documentary films and episodic TV, and you can apply at any time during the year!

The budget available for incentives available reaches this year almost CZK 800m (approx. USD 32m). Do not hesitate and take a chance to take advantages of the Czech Republic while making your project financially efficient. Ludmila Claussova, Head of the Czech Film Commission, will come to Los Angeles to introduce the Czech incentives in person to the Hollywood film community in April.

More information about the program and application is available on websites of the Czech Film Commission (filmcommission.cz) and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic (mkcr.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)

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)

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), 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!

Seven Rays alongside with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organizes the 9th year of **International Compatriotic Festival on September 9 – 13, 2015**. (Applications are available at 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.

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!

Introduction of New Consul



We are pleased to announce arrival of the new Consul, Mr. Tomáš Loniček, at our Consulate General in Los Angeles.

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

Josef Suk's „Fantasy“ Performed by LA Philharmonics

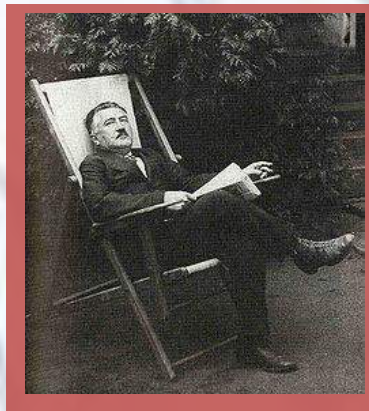
The Consulate General of the Czech Republic is proud to promote the upcoming performance of Josef Suk's "Fantasy" at the world-famous Walt Disney Concert Hall in April 2015!

This exquisite piece of one of the best contemporary Czech composers will be part of the tour of LA Philharmonic's principal concertmaster Martin Chalifour who will be soloist in Suk's brilliant and rarely heard fantasy-concerto.

Suk's musical style started off with a very heavy emphasis on what he experienced during his time with teacher and respected composer Antonín [Dvořák](#). Known as one of Dvořák's favorite students, Suk became very close to Dvořák. Underlying this was Dvořák's respect for Suk, and the same respect can be recognized in the fact that Suk later married Dvořák's daughter, Otýlie. Suk was considered to be one of the leading composers in Czech Modernism.

The performances will be on April 17 at 8:00 p.m., April 18th at 2:00 p.m. and April 19th at 2:00 p.m. at Walt Disney Concert Hall (111 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012).

For tickets and more information, visit http://www.laphil.com/tickets/brahms039-fourth/2015-04-17?utm_source=Cultural&utm_campaign=BrahmsFourth



Josef Suk (left and above)

April 2015	May 2015	June 2015
<p>April 4, 2015, from 12:00 pm until 4:00 pm – Czech Easter Celebration of the Czech School of Los Angeles</p> <p>(2950 Overland Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90064)</p> <p>Admission \$5.00 RSVP at vladkaanderson@yahoo.com</p>	<p>May 6, 2015 from 6:00 – Exhibition Opening of “<i>Story of James Duncan</i>” followed by the screening of “<i>Dark blue World</i>”</p> <p>(10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024)</p> <p>RSVP at rsvp.czechconsulate@gmail.com</p>	<p>June 1, 2015 – Kids Day of the Czech School of Los Angeles at the beach</p> <p>further information at vladkaanderson@yahoo.com</p>
<p>April 17-19, 2015 - Josef Suk’s „Fantasy“ at the world-famous Walt Disney Concert Hall</p> <p>(111 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012)</p> <p>Tickets at www.laphil.com</p>	<p>May 17, 2015 at 4:00 pm – Piano concert of Fabio Banegas at the residence of Czech Consul General</p> <p>by invitation only</p>	<p>June 5-7, 2015 – The Annual Conference of Czech Schools in North America hosted by the Consulate General of the Czech Republic</p> <p>by invitation only</p>
<p>April 26, 2015 at 4:00 pm – Violin-piano concert of Johana Krejčí and Wendy Prober at the residence of Czech Consul General</p> <p>by invitation only</p>	<p>May 20, 2015 at 7:00 pm – Screening of “<i>Tobruk</i>” at the Czech Consulate</p> <p>(10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024)</p> <p>RSVP at rsvp.czechconsulate@gmail.com</p>	<p>June 24, 2015 at 7:00 pm – Screening of “<i>Clownwise</i>” at the Czech Consulate</p> <p>(10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024)</p> <p>RSVP at rsvp.czechconsulate@gmail.com</p>

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