

# CZECH THE NEWS - LOS ANGELES



Consul General Sedláček is bid farewell to by Mrs. Lida Sandera, President of SVU LA, and Mrs. Lilian Roter, President of Sokol LA

## Welcome New Consul General Mr. Pavol Šepelák



We would like to introduce our new Consul General, Mr. Pavol Šepelák. Mr. Šepelák was born in Michalovce on December 21, 1957. He completed his undergraduate degree in economics, specializing in foreign trade, at the University of Bratislava in the 1970s and received his postgraduate degree in diplomatic services from Oxford University, Pembroke College.

Mr. Šepelák began his career in public service as an officer in the Department of International Cooperation of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague. Then, from late 1980s, Mr. Šepelák served as the Secretary of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in New York. He also worked with the World Trade Organization for 6 years representing the Czech Republic. Over the past 15 years Mr. Šepelák has served as the Czech Republic's Ambassador to Luxembourg, Pakistan, Latvia and the United Nations' Security Council's Department of Middle East and North Africa.

Mr. Šepelák is married with two adult children. He speaks three foreign languages: English, French, and Russian. Mr. Šepelák has received multiple awards during his foreign service career including the Grand Cross of the Grand Ducky of Luxembourg.

We will welcome Mr. Šepelák in person during the National Day Reception at the Consul General residence on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Šepelák will officially resume his duties at the Consulate on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Dear Friends in Southland,

*It is time to say good-bye. You are reading these lines from me for the last time. After four years of wonderful time in California, I will conclude my duties here in Los Angeles by the end of October. I will be forever grateful for the privilege to serve here on the West Coast and to meet so many wonderful people. I hope we will remain friends even after I return back to my homeland.*

*However, life goes on and the Consulate is getting ready for a transition. No major changes in the Consulate operation are envisioned at this time. The new Consul General Pavol Šepelák had previously served as the Czech Ambassador to Luxembourg, Latvia and Pakistan, and will bring his experience and some new fresh ideas from Europe to Los Angeles.*

*I look forward to visiting San Diego during the annual celebration of the Czech National Day and meeting all local Czechs on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at noon. The program in the international village in Balboa Park promises to be the great entertainment for several hours and will conclude on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> with an hour-long presentation starting at 2pm. Children will certainly enjoy a performance by theater Viola that will take place in San Diego on October 16, 2015 and in Los Angeles on October 17, 2015*

*The fall cultural season offers several highlights which should not be missed by anyone. In addition of the tour of Viola Theater, a renowned Czech Jaroslav Svěcený, with pianist Václav Mácha, will return to Los Angeles for a concert on Sunday, November 1, 2015.*

Cont' on page 2

### INDEX

<b>Introduction by the Consul General.....</b>	<b>1, 2</b>
<b>Welcoming New Consul General.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Czech School Los Angeles Hosts Viola Theatre.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Czech Music in Los Angeles Area.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Czech Oscar's Entry "Home Care".....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>R. JELINEK Distillery .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Czech StartUps in California.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Tribute to Arnošt Lustig.....</b>	<b>7</b>





Consul General Michal Sedláček bidding farewell at Jana Fabiánová's

## World Press Photo Winner Jana Ašenbrennerová Exhibits at the Czech Consulate's Front Gallery



Cont' from page 1

Another Czech violinist Ivan Ženatý, with pianist Sandra Shapiro, will perform *Idyllwild near Palm Springs* and at Cal State Northridge on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. I would like to thank Jana Fabiánová for a wonderful concert at my residence. Everybody enjoyed her presentation from various musicals.

I am excited that after one year of preparations, a special tribute to the famous Czech writer and my friend, the late Arnošt Lustig will take place in Los Angeles in the first week of November. Several screenings of films based on Lustig's novels as well as public lectures and discussions are being organized with important partners in Los Angeles such as Museum of Tolerance, UCLA and WME agency in Beverly Hills. The daughter, Eva Lustigova will also be present.

Several Czech startups, along with Czech officials from the Ministry of Trade and CzechInvest came to Silicon Valley in September to participate in Tech Crunch Disrupt, a popular three-day convention and a major event in the tech world, and to introduce themselves to angel investor and venture capital firms in the Bay area. Several of these Czech startups later traveled to Los Angeles for business opportunities here in Southland.

I will keep my fingers crossed for the Czech movie "Home Care" which competes for Oscar and Golden Globe Awards in 2016. The movie's director Slávek Horák came to Los Angeles recently and presented his film in front of Academy members, who vote in the Oscar competition.

I would like to thank all of you for your warm welcome when I first arrived to California, and your help during my stay in Los Angeles. A special thank you belongs to Lida Sandera, the president of SVU Los Angeles, and Lillian Roter, the president of Sokol Los Angeles, for all the support of the Czech Republic and the Czech culture and education received from them personally as well as from their respective organizations.

My family already departed for the Czech Republic, and it is also time for me to say good-bye. Before I leave, however, I hope to see you all at our cultural events or at other occasions. To get more information, please, visit our website and like our Facebook page.

Michal Sedláček, Consul General

Specializing in social documentary and praised by many experts and critics, a Czech photojournalist, Jana Ašenbrennerová, opened an exhibition of her work on **Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 6 PM at the Front Gallery of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles** (10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024).

In 2003, after studying directing at the Film Academy of Miroslav Ondříček in Písek, she relocated to the United States to continue her education at San Francisco State University. In collaboration with nonprofit organizations, Jana documents humanitarian efforts in Africa and Asia, and most recently in Democratic Republic of Congo. She dedicates most of her time to her own independent projects and freelances for Reuters. She is an award winning photographer, winner of 2014 World Press Photo and a series of Czech Press Photos (2010, 2012, 2013).

Jana Ašenbrennerová attended the opening of the exhibition, which was followed by a screening of successful Czech comedy "Firemen Ball" directed by famous Czech director, Miloš Forman.

**Jana Ašenbrennerová's exhibit will continue to be on display at the Czech Consulate Office in Los Angeles until the end of October. Please visit during the office's visiting hours Monday through Friday 9:30am-12:30pm.**



Jana Ašenbrennerová with Consul General Sedláček at the exhibition opening

## Czech School of Los Angeles to Host Theatre Viola

Young theater fans in Los Angeles will have a special opportunity **on Saturday, October 17, 2015. Between 1:30pm and 4:30pm**, the VIOLA Company will hold a performance at the theater located at 11555 National Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064.

Prague actors are arriving to Los Angeles to present the popular play, *Endele Vendele*, which began its success with previous performances throughout Europe during the project, Czech Schools Without Borders.

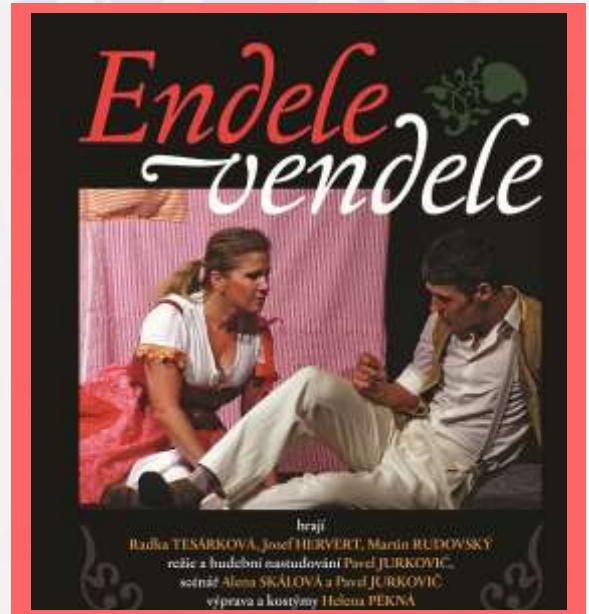
Actors will tour around the United States, including Los Angeles, San Diego, Chicago, New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, and Washington DC. **The entrance fee is \$5 for CSLA members and \$10 for non-members.**

*Endele Vendele* is a famous play by prominent Czech conductor and writer, Pavel Jurkovič. The work combines a mixture of Czech rhymes, songs, and poems which encourages active

All family members are welcome to join, as refreshments and entertainment for adults are also included. The event will be combined with a screening of a Czech film for adults. Attendees will also have the opportunity to purchase traditional home-made Czech goulash at the event.

**For further information visit [http://ucla.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_diFFrUrcLgWoRsF](http://ucla.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_diFFrUrcLgWoRsF)**

**For tickets reservation please contact Czech School of Los Angeles at [vladkanderson@yahoo.com](mailto:vladkanderson@yahoo.com)**



## House of Czech and Slovak Republics Celebrates 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Czech Consul General would cordially like to extend the invitation to its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Lawn Program hosted by the House of Czech and Slovak Republics. This **annual event will take place on Saturday October 17 (12-3pm) and Sunday October 18 (2-3:30pm) at the House of Pacific Relations stage located in Balboa Park.**

Each day will present a different cultural experience for attendees. On Saturday afternoon, guitarists Jiri Svoboda and Jeff Pekárek, accordionist Anna Hradský, and bluegrass/ folk band Poe St. Band will perform. On Sunday afternoon, a variety of Czech and Slovak dances will be performed. Throughout both days' events, traditional foods, such as sausage with Kapusta and pastries, will be provided.



*Annual Lawn Programs of the House of Czech and Slovak Republics are very popular and well attended.*

The House of Czech and Slovak Republics was established in 1936 to serve as a meeting place for those who want to celebrate their Czech and Slovak Heritage or to learn more about these cultures. Each week, members take turn hosting cultural gatherings, with samples of Czech and Slovak pastries and coffee offered. At these meetings, cultural artifacts are displayed and hosts answer any questions attendees may have about either republic. People interested in joining do not need to know either language to become a member.

If you would like more information about this non-profit organization, please visit their website at <http://houseofczechandslovakrepublics.org/>.



# Czech Violinist Svěčený and Ženatý

## Return to Los Angeles

With the successful performance of Jana Fabiánová, also known as Yanna Fabian, on October 4<sup>th</sup> with the large number of attendees, the Petrof Concert Series is in full swing. Her program at Consul General's residence included songs from the famous Broadway musicals such as Chicago, Producers etc. and was enriched by a recital from the Jiri Suchy's poems, the well-known Czech actor, writer, songwriter and co-founder of the famous Prague theaters Semafor and Na Zábradlí.

The next concert of the music series will be held **on Sunday November 1, 2015, at 4 pm at the Consul General's residence**, where you may listen to one of the most significant contemporary Czech violinists and a prominent figure of the Czech musical stage, Jaroslav Svěčený, who will be accompanied by great Czech pianist Václav Mácha. In addition to global recognition, **Jaroslav Svěčený** currently has 46 albums and is famous for popularizing violin playing for audiences of all ages. **Václav Mácha** learned to play the piano when he was six years old, and at the age of fifteen, he became the youngest student of the Faculty of Music of the Academy of Performing Arts. He has received rewards and praise at international competitions. He has also given numerous recitals at the largest concert venues in Prague (when he was fifteen years old, he gave a solo recital at the Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum) and other cities throughout the Czech Republic, across Europe, and the USA, Canada, Mexico, Turkey, and Asia. This dynamic duo will present music of such a great figures as *Ludwig van Beethoven, Antonín Dvořák, Astor Piazzolla and Bedřich Smetana*.

The day before, **on October 31st at 7:30pm, Ivan Ženatý** will perform a concert **at California State University Northridge** (Cypress Recital Hall, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330). Music critics, audiences and fellow musicians have recently been calling Ivan Ženatý one of the most important European violinists. Ivan Ženatý is appearing repeatedly as a guest artist with famed ensembles internationally as well as with all of the orchestras in his home land - the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, the Prague Symphony Orchestra and the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra. He is famous for his taste, style and captivating tone. He has over 40 albums which include the complete works of Telemann, Bach, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Schulhoff, Dvořák and Grieg. *If you would like more information, please visit the website: <http://www.csun.edu/mike-curb-arts-media-communication/events>.*

In case you will not be able to make it up north, **Ivan Ženatý** will have one more performance prior to that **on October 29<sup>th</sup> at Idyllwild**, near Palm Springs.

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



Jaroslav  
Svěčený



Ivan  
Ženatý



Concert of Jana  
Fabiánová at the  
residence of Consul  
General

# Annual Heritage Event of Sokol Los Angeles

You, your family, and your friends are cordially invited to attend the Annual Heritage Event of Sokol Los Angeles. The event is organized in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of American Sokol, founded in 1862 in Bohemia by Dr. Miroslav Tyrš.

On Sunday, October 25th, 2015 from 11:00am until 3:30pm at Knollwood Country Club, you will have a chance to experience traditional folklore festivity full of dancing, singing and good Czech cuisine.



Annual display of traditional hand-made „kroj“

Attendees will be entertained by music of *Now and Then* band and special program by *Karička* Czechoslovak Folklore Group from San Diego.

Admission is \$30 for Members, \$45 for Non-members and \$15 discounted price if you wear your *kroj*. Children 12 and under receive free special child's meal. For further information please call 818-996-3887 or 805-964-8488.

## Home Care Competes for Oscar and Golden Globe

Czech Republic's drama *Home Care* ("Domáci péče"), directorial debut of Slávek Horák, was selected as the entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 88<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards as well as the Czech candidate for the Best Foreign Film at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Golden Globes Awards.

With popular Czech actors Bolek Polivka and Alena Mihulova in leading roles, *Home Care* was recently listed by the popular entertainment magazine *Variety* as one of the top 10 candidates for the Best Foreign Language Oscar and will compete with another 80 contenders in this category. *Home Care* will be presented in Los Angeles during the Czech That Film festival next year.



(left) Film Director Slávek Horák; (below) Leading actors Alena Mihulová and Bolek Polivka



Karlovy Vary IFF Best Actress winner (Alena Mihulová), narrated with humor and sarcastic wit, tells a story of a home care nurse who puts everyone's needs above her own, learning that this attitude is not just selfless but also self-destructive. A touching film, set in Southern Moravian village, courageously incorporates visual and verbal slap-stick in making its case for life – ostensibly in the face of death – and vivaciously drives this message to audience. „*I chose to play the journey of self-discovery with a very particular local twist; drama and comedy always balancing each other. This specific approach enriches the emotional experience – and this was my vision, to communicate subtly, yet directly “from heart to heart”, even if the film risked bordering on the naive. After all, it is a story of a good-hearted, simple character getting to know herself late in life, so a certain bittersweet kindness and my fondness for these characters were absolutely crucial for finding a true feel for this film,*“ said the director Slávek Horák.

Slávek Horák, born on Januar 12, 1975, in Zlín, has been a successful commercial director so far in his career. *Home Care* is his debut as a fiction feature director. The filmmaker's other major credit is as 2<sup>nd</sup> assistant director in Jan Svěrák's *Kolya*.

***The Oscar nominations will be announced on January 14, 2016. The 88<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards will take place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood on February 28, 2016. Fingers crossed!***



## Czech Startups Exhibiting at Tech Crunch Disrupt 2015

From September 21-23, the Tech Crunch Disrupt event took place in San Francisco. Several talented Czech startups introduced themselves to investors and entrepreneurs.

Each company has a unique idea they bring to the table. **SynergyKit** assists users in reducing the time and costs of developing cloud mobile, desktop, and web applications. **Corinth** develops immersive education apps and tools to allow teachers to bring 3-D experiences into the classroom. **Oscar Tech** has generated a remotely managed tablet app to provide easier communication between seniors and family. **Mailytics** analyzes your emails according to content in order to make delivery and evaluation faster. **PPC Bee** developed automation for pay per click (PPC) product campaigns so the user would earn bigger profits and get a higher return for PPC.

Similarly to last year's event, these young Czech companies marketed themselves during the popular three-day convention on innovation and modern technology. Their stay in San Francisco was organized and supported by the Czech government agency CzechInvest and by the Czech ICT Alliance. Companies were also supported by a personal attendance of representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, Mr. Matejka from the CzechInvest Headquarters in Prague and Czech Consul General in Los Angeles, Mr. Michal Sedlacek.

In addition to the other companies, Czech startup **SRTV**, a one-stop mobile app development shop working with top-tier startups from Y-Combinator, participated in the first SEC2SV conference (Startups from Europe Come to Silicon Valley).

Four Czech startups presented themselves to angel investors and venture capitalists during the Demo Day in coordination with other Visegrad countries.



## Czech Liquor Company R. JELINEK in California

Famous Czech liquor company R. JELINEK has opened a new representation in California, bringing its much-loved products such as the famous kosher Slivovitz closer to Czechs and Americans alike on the west coast. Along with expanding its business, the company has sent managing partner and executive director Zdenek (Zack) Chromy to the United States in order to expand its production in the US markets.

R. JELINEK was established in 1894 and has been exporting to the US since 1934, the year prohibition ended. Of the forty different countries that R. JELINEK exports to, the United States is in the top five in terms of sales. Products of the company can be found in thirty states, mainly on the east coast. This new office is a part of a push to expand the company's market to include the west coast.

As a part of this expansion, R. JELINEK recently competed in the Los Angeles International Spirits Competition and won the silver medal for its Bohemia Honey Brandy and bronze medal for its Bohemia Plum Flavored Vodka.

Mr. Chromy is part of the R. JELINEK distillery since 1998 and since 2004 holds the post of Vice-Chairman.

If you would like more information about the company, please visit their website at <http://www.rjelinek.us/>

If you have any questions or would like to contact someone from the company, please contact

**Zdenek (Zack) Chromy**  
**Cell: (714) 331-9572**  
**Email: [chromy@rjelinek.cz](mailto:chromy@rjelinek.cz)**



*Zdenek Chromy (above) as a new representative for R. Jelinek Distillery in California.*



# In Memory of Arnošt Lustig

The Czech Consulate would like to cordially invite you to join us in commemorating Arnošt Lustig, a renowned Czech author and Holocaust survivor.

Mr. Lustig was born in 1926 in Prague and lived through many of tumultuous events in Europe, including World War II and the Prague Spring. Because of his political views after the 1968 Soviet Invasion, he was forced into political exile with his family. First to Israel, and then to the former Yugoslavia and finally they settled here in the United States. Besides writing his acclaimed novels such as *“Lovely Green Eyes”*, *“Collette”* and *“Unloved”*, Mr. Lustig also taught literature at American University in Washington DC.

Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Lustig was a Lifetime Achievement Award Laureate of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, recipient of the Franz Kafka prize, B’nai B’rith Award, and the American Jewish National Awards. He was regarded by the Literary Review of London as “the best living Czech author whose works call for the Nobel and all other literary prizes”.

To commemorate Arnošt Lustig’s many works, the Czech Consulate in Los Angeles will present a unique series of film and literary programs in November. The first event will be an opening for Sondra Hersh’s special collection *“Virtues”*, followed by a screening of Eva Lustigova’s documentary, *“Slza”*. This documentary premiered at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival in 2012, and interviews her father, Arnošt Lustig, along with several other Czech figures. The exhibition and screening will be hosted, **November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm** at the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles.

The second program will be a screening of *“Diamonds of the Night”*, directed by Jan Němec. The movie tells a story of two young men escaping from a train to a concentration camp, and their journey through unknown terrain. After the film showing, there will be a short reading and discussion with Eva Lustigova, Arnošt Lustig’s daughter. The event will take place on **Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm at UCLA, 121 Dodd Hall**.

**On November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**, there will be a screening of *“Dita Saxova”*, a movie directed by Antonín Moskalyk and based on Arnošt Lustig’s novel. The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with the authors’ daughters, Eva Lustigova, and Pavlina Moskalykova. The evening hosted by WME in Beverly Hills includes small reception.

The tribute to Arnošt Lustig in Los Angeles, will conclude with the fantastic highlight. The Museum of Tolerance will present *“Prayer for Katerina Horovitzova”*, as a part of their annual commemoration of the infamous Kristellnacht. The film based on one of the author’s finest novels is a psychological thriller about a group of wealthy Jews, waiting to be exchanged for important Nazi POW. The discussion will follow and will include a panel moderated by Liebe Geft, Director of the Museum of Tolerance, Eva Lustigova, daughter of the Arnošt Lustig, and Ivan Passer, Czech director and close friend of belated Arnošt Lustig. This event will take place on **November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** and will be preceded by an opening of an exhibition memorializing Kristallnacht (Night of the Broken Glass) of 1938.



*Arnošt Lustig with his daughter Eva*



October 2015	November 2015
<p><b>Entire month of October - Exhibition of Jana Ašenbrennerová</b></p> <p>(10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024)</p> <p><b>Please visit during the office's visiting hours Monday through Friday 9:30am-12:30pm.</b></p>	<p><b>November 1, 2015 at 6:00 PM – Concert of Jaroslav Svěcený and Václav Mácha at the residence of Czech Consul General</b></p> <p><b>by invitation only</b></p>
<p><b>October 17, 2015 at 1:30 PM – Performance of Viola Theatre from Prague of “Endele Vendele” at the National Blvd.</b></p> <p>(11555 National Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064)</p> <p><b>Tickets at <a href="http://ucla.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_diFFrUrcLgWoRsF">ucla.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_diFFrUrcLgWoRsF</a> or contact <a href="mailto:vladkanderson@yahoo.com">vladkanderson@yahoo.com</a></b></p>	<p><b>November 3, 2015 at 6:30pm– exhibition of Sandra Hersch's “Virtues” and screening of Eva Lustigova's “Slza” at the Czech Consulate</b></p> <p>(10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024)</p> <p><b>RSVP and more information at <a href="mailto:rsvp.czechconsulate@gmail.com">rsvp.czechconsulate@gmail.com</a></b></p>
<p><b>October 17-18, 2015 – Annual Lawn Program of the House of Czech and Slovak Republics in Balboa Park</b></p> <p>(The international cottages are located in the vicinity of Park Blvd. and President's Way in Balboa Park. Free parking is available in the Park.)</p> <p><b>For further info please contact our V.P. Daniele Laman at <a href="mailto:dglaman@cox.net">dglaman@cox.net</a></b></p>	<p><b>November 4, 2015 at 5pm – Film screening <i>Diamonds of the Night</i> at UCLA</b></p> <p><b>(UCLA, 121 Dodd Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095)</b></p> <p><b>RSVP at <a href="http://ucla.in/1PgHKgX">http://ucla.in/1PgHKgX</a></b></p>
<p><b>October 25, 2015 at 11:00 am– Annual Heritage Event of Sokol Los Angeles at Knollwood Country Club</b></p> <p>(12024 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills)</p> <p><b>For more information please call 818-996-3887 or 805-964-8488</b></p>	<p><b>November 5, 2015 at 7pm– Film screening of <i>Dita Saxova</i> in Beverly Hills</b></p> <p><b>by invitation only</b></p>
<p><b>October 31, 2015 at 7:30pm – Concert of Ivan Zenaty at California State University</b></p> <p>(Cypress Recital Hall, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330)</p> <p><b>For more information and tickets visit: <a href="http://www.csun.edu/mike-curb-arts-media-communication/events">http://www.csun.edu/mike-curb-arts-media-communication/events</a></b></p>	<p><b>November 9, 2015 at 6:30pm– Film Screening of <i>Prayer for Katerina Horovitzova</i>, discussion panel at the Museum of Tolerance</b></p> <p>(9786 Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90035)</p> <p><b>RSVP and more information at <a href="mailto:rsvp.czechconsulate@gmail.com">rsvp.czechconsulate@gmail.com</a></b></p>

## 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](http://www.mzv.cz/losangeles)**