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**CZECH  
& SLOVAK  
FILM FESTIVAL**



## Media Release

The 3rd Czech and Slovak Film Festival (CaSFFA)'s dual openings gloriously successful!

Great turnouts and merriment at the first screenings of the Karel Zeman retrospective, Spirit of Adventure exhibition opening and the Opening Night Gala!

Reminder of things still to come:

Federation Square screenings of Czech and Slovak shorts  
SPECIAL EVENT: The Cathedral Builder  
and  
an array of brilliant features, both new and from the archives

Melbourne, 18 September 2015 - The atmosphere was electric last night as guests arrived at the official Opening of the 3rd Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia, held at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI).

Patrons were offered a Green Fairy Absinth cocktail as they made their way into the screening of the darkly comical Opening Night film, The Snake Brothers (Kobry a užovky, dir. Jan Prušinovský, 2015).

CaSFFA's Artistic Director Cerise Howard commenced proceedings with a delightful opening address, acknowledging the festival's volunteers, sponsors and partners for their everlasting dedication and staunch support in making this festival happen. Mrs. Anna Petrášová from the Embassy of Slovakia in Canberra and Mr. Hani Stolina from the Consulate of the Czech Republic in Sydney followed with speeches full of warm sentiments about the Czech and Slovak cultures.

After the film, the party continued well into the night at the ACMI Cafe + Bar. Festival-goers enjoyed gourmet nibbles and complimentary beverages as they were entertained by the fabulous Orkeztra Glasso Bashalde.

A similar triumph was felt at the launch of the wondrous [Spirit of Adventure](#) exhibition that took place the evening prior, Wednesday, 16 September. ACMI's fantastic Australian Mediatheque was packed with happy people who enjoyed interacting with the many works on display before heading up to the Karel Zeman screenings of *Journey to the Beginning of Time* (Cesta do pravěku) and *The Outrageous Baron Munchausen* (Baron Prásil), co-presented with the Melbourne Cinémathèque.

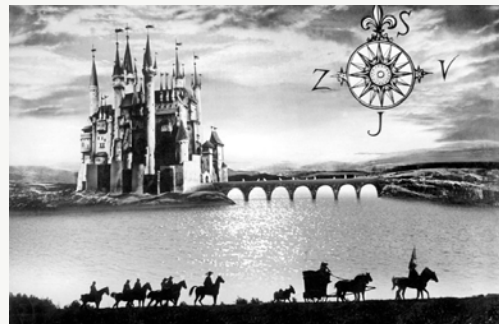
## CaSFFA in the media

In the hours leading up to the Opening Night Gala, the CaSFFA team were excited to wake up to a terrific article published in The Age by Philippa Hawker. The piece [Sounds and silents at Czech and Slovak Film Festival](#) celebrates our upcoming special event, The Cathedral Builder at Melbourne Town Hall.

For a more detailed overview of our festival, take a look and read of the fab post [Zemania at the 3rd CaSFFA](#) published on the ACMI blog and composed by our very own Artistic Director, Cerise Howard.

And last, but certainly not least, tune in to Triple R 102.7FM for Film buff's Forecast between 12-2pm tomorrow, Saturday 19, to hear Cerise discuss the wonders that are yet to take place at #CaSFFA2015.

Highlights still to come



The Karel Zeman retrospective continues next Wednesday 23, 7pm. Kicking off the night will be [An Invention for Destruction \(Vynález zkázy\)](#), followed by [A Jester's Tale \(Bláznova kronika\)](#). As a wonderful bonus, special guest Anthony Lucas will present a thematically related screening of his superb Oscar-nominated silhouette animation, *The Mysterious Geographic Explorations of Jasper Morello*.

Tickets for the Karel Zeman films are Cinémathèque passes which can be purchased through the [ACMI website](#). A Cinémathèque mini-pass is Full \$28 / Conc. \$23 - incredible value! Whereas an annual membership allows the purchaser to enjoy a whole year of Wednesdays' worth of superbly curated big screen riches, Czech, Slovak and otherwise, for only Full \$150 / Conc. \$130.

## This weekend...





A variety of excellent films, from the archives and new features alike, will be projected across the screens of ACMI this weekend. Starting the fun tonight will be [Photographer \(Fotograf\)](#), an unflinchingly honest look at world-renowned and controversial photographer Jan Saudek. Ending the evening will be [The Mysterious Castle in the Carpathians \(Tajemství hradu v Karpatech\)](#), Oldřich Lipský's kooky Monty Python-style adaptation of Jules Verne's tale.

On Saturday evening, the multiple-award-winning social drama about a Romani couple's struggles in a small town *The Way Out (Cesta ven)* will screen before *Fair Play*, a compelling look at a young athlete's conflict of personal ethics in the pursuit of a better life.

## Federation Square viewings

On Friday 18 at 3:30pm, a series of family-friendly short films will be screening on the Big Screen in Fed Square and again on Sun 20 at 1:30pm. Afterwards on the Sunday, why not head over to the ACMI cinemas for the screenings of [Three Brothers \(Tři bratři\)](#), a joyous box-office hit about three young men's fantastical journey into the realm of fairytales, followed by [When the Cat Comes \(Až přijde kocour\)](#), a forgotten gem and one of the most inventive, magical and yet subversive family-friendly films made under a communist regime.



Later on Sunday evening, [Daniel's World \(Danieluv svet\)](#), a fascinating documentary about a self-confessed, inactive paedophile who seeks understanding, will also screen in ACMI Cinema 2.

## The Cathedral Builder & Pavel Kohout live score at Melbourne Town Hall

As a unique addition to this year's festival, we have included in our program a special concert and screening event with one of the finest concert recitalists of his generation, Czech organist Pavel Kohout. Save the date for this unmissable FREE EVENT, presented in partnership with the City of Melbourne and the National Film Archive in Prague, taking place at the Melbourne Town Hall and utilising the Grand Organ, the largest instrument of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere: Thursday 24 September.



Pavel Kohout will perform works by Josef Klička and Antonín Dvořák, followed by his own live score to a wonderful silent film, *The Cathedral Builder (Stavitel chrámu, dir. Karel Degl & Antonín Novotný, 1919)*.



The Cathedral Builder concerns a legend surrounding Petr Parléř, the architect of Prague's Saint Vitus Cathedral and Charles Bridge, and a pact he may have made with the devil in order to complete Prague's celebrated cathedral...

On Friday 25, CaSFFA will close triumphantly with a screening of the superb documentary on Czech pop singer and icon of the Prague Spring Marta Kubišová, [The Magic Voice of a Rebel \(Magický hlas rebelky\)](#), a wonderful profile of a fascinating woman who endures as a symbol of freedom in the post-revolutionary Czech and Slovak Republics.



All tickets for Melbourne sessions of CaSFFA can be purchased online on the [ACMI website](#), over the phone (03 8663 2583) or at the ACMI box office.

More information on the 2015 program can be found on the fantastic, user-friendly [CaSFFA website](#) or amongst the pages of our official festival program, available to pick up from our festival venues and various inner city cafes, eateries, galleries, community centres and more.

## The 3rd Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia

Melbourne: 16-25 September, Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI), Federation Square and the Melbourne Town Hall

Sincerely,

Cerise Howard, Artistic Director, and the CaSFFA team: Brendan Black, Denisa Cross, Lilliana Hajncl, Linda Studená, Lenka Hadravová, Carmen Reid, Jack Russo, Miriam Fletcher, Jana Ridillová, Olivia Hărășan, Ioana-Lucia Demczuk, Markéta Fillingarová, Victor Griss and Eleanor Colla

## Socialise

Join us for news, photos and fun on our social networks. Hashtag #CaSFFA

Facebook: [Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia](#)

Twitter: [@CaSFFA](#)

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## Media Enquiries

For more information about the festival, to arrange for an interview with Artistic Director Cerise Howard or with festival guest Pavel Kohout, to request press kits, screeners or other publicity materials, please contact:

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