

56th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival July 1–9 2022



Press Release
April 26 2022

Film Servis Festival Karlovy Vary, a.s. Panská 1, 110 00 Praha 1, Czech Republic
www.kviff.com / +420 221 411 011 / +420 221 411 022
festival@kviff.com / production@kviff.com / program@kviff.com
industry@kviff.com / press@kviff.com / gservice@kviff.com

Partners of the 56th Karlovy Vary IFF

Supported by



Main partners



Partners



Supported by



Official car



Official coffee



Official fuel



Partner of the People Next Door section



International shipping partner



Partner of festival moments



Official champagne



Official beer



Partner for a clean festival



Festival awards supplier



Partner of the festival Instagram



Official bike



Point of sale software provider



Wine supplier



GPS technology supplier



Main media partners



Media partners



Main hotel partners



Official non-profit partner





Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

Organizer of the 56th Karlovy Vary IFF 2022: Film Servis Festival Karlovy Vary, a.s.

Organizers of the 56th Karlovy Vary IFF thank to all partners which help to organize the festival.

56th Karlovy Vary IFF is supported by:

Ministry of Culture Czech Republic

Main partners:

innogy

Vodafone Czech Republic a.s.

Rohlik.cz

City of Karlovy Vary

Karlovy Vary Region

Partners:

UniCredit Bank Czech Republic and Slovakia, a.s.

BENZINA ORLEN

Allwyn - the European lottery company

Philip Morris ČR a.s.

Czech Investment Funds

Mattoni mineral water

Accolade

Visa

PROGRESUS Invest Holding



Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

Supported by:	construction group EUROVIA CS
	DoDo
	RENOMIA, a. s.
	Alca
	Luxor Bookshop
	Packeta
	OSTRA GROUP
	HSF System
Official car:	BMW
Official coffee:	Nespresso
Official fuel:	VERVA
Partner of the People Next Door section:	Sirius Foundation
Official non-profit partner:	Patron dětí
International shipping partner:	DHL Express
Partner of festival moments:	instax
Official champagne:	Moët & Chandon
Official beer:	Pilsner Urquell
Partner for a clean festival:	KÄRCHER
Festival awards supplier:	Moser Glassworks
Partner of the festival Instagram:	PROFIMED
Point of sale software provider:	Storyous
Wine supplier:	Obelisk
Official bike:	Specialized



Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

GPS technology supplier: **ECS Invention spol. s r.o.**

Partner of the No Barriers Project: **innogy Energie**

Main media partners:

Czech Television

Czech Radio Radiožurnál

PRÁVO

Novinky.cz

REFLEX

BigBoard Praha PLC

Media partners:

magazine TV Star

ELLE Magazine

men's magazine Esquire

Main hotel partners:

Hotel Thermal

Grandhotel Pupp

Four Seasons Hotel Prague



Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

KARLOVY VARY FESTIVAL TO HONOR BOLESLAV POLÍVKA

At the festival's 56th edition, the KVIFF President's Award for outstanding figures in Czech cinema will go to actor, playwright, screenwriter, and director BOLESLAV POLÍVKA.

Bolek Polívka first came to audiences' attention as a distinctive and inimitable theater actor and co-founder of Brno's legendary Goose on a String theater. The plays that he directed and starred in (*Am and Ea*, *Pezza versus Čorba*, *Pépe*, *The Castaway*, *The Final Trap*, *The Jester and the Queen*) were inspired by cabaret clownery, commedia dell'arte, and slapstick cinema, although their distinctive style consciously transcended genre boundaries. The unique and original nature of these performances earned Polívka recognition at home and abroad and led to numerous collaborative efforts with leading international theater ensembles. In 1993, he founded the Bolek Polívka Theatre, and as an actor he continues to perform with a number of theaters outside Brno.



(Foto: David Konečný)

For more than two decades, Bolek Polívka has left a similarly distinctive mark on domestic cinema as well. His first larger role was as Mageri in the musical *Ballad for a Bandit* (1978, dir. V. Sís). This was followed by a series of important collaborations with director Věra Chytilová, beginning with *Calamity* (1981) and eventually expanding to include five films. Even years later, *The Inheritance or Fuckoffguysgoodday* (1992) – a tragicomic parable of life in early post-communist Czech society – shows how precisely the creative tandem of Polívka-Chytilová (they both co-wrote the screenplay) was capable of identifying the new era's social shifts. Other joint projects include a film adaptation



Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

of Polívka's play *The Jester and the Queen* (1987), another co-written film, *Expulsion from Paradise* (2001), and *Pleasant Memories* (2006).

Polívka's extensive filmography clearly reflects his ability to work across genres. Although audiences tend to see him as a comic actor thanks to his roles in popular comedies such as *Cosy Dens* (1999), *I'm All Good* (2008), or *Men in Hope* (2011), he has earned respect and recognition outside this genre as well. For instance, his portrayal of a priest in Vladimír Michálek's *Forgotten Light* (1996) earned him a Czech Lion for best actor and another award in the same category at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. He later also took home a Czech Lion for best actor for *Divided We Fall* (dir. Jan Hřebejk, 2000), which was nominated for an Oscar for best foreign film. Another seven nominations for the annual Czech Lion awards document the diverse range of genres Polívka is capable of: Tomáš Vorel's bitter *Out of the City* (2000), Jan Hřebejk's humorous portrait of the communist era *Pupendo* (2003), Bohdan Sláma's rawly poetic *Something Like Happiness* (2005), Jiří Vejdělek's *Roming* (2007), in which Polívka formed one half of a charmingly incongruous duo with Marián Labuda, Alice Nellis's fantasy film *Angels* (2014), Slávek Horák's remarkable debut *Home Care* (2015), and Jiří Strach's fairy tale *Angle of the Lord 2* (2016).

Polívka has worked with many other directors on a number of films, including Juraj Jakubisko (*Sitting on a Branch, Enjoying Myself*, 1989; *Bathory*, 2008), the previously mentioned Tomáš Vorel (*To the Woods*, 2012; *The Way Home*, 2021), and F. A. Brabec (*Wild Flowers*, 2000; *The Magical Duvet*, 2011; and *Gump: The Dog That Taught People to Live*, 2021).

Bolek Polívka also frequently appears on Czech television screens, where he hosts the long-running shows *Manéž* and *Bolkoviny* and has also appeared in a number of television series (*Cases of the 1st Department*).

As an homage to Bolek Polívka, Karlovy Vary festival will screen the film *Forgotten Light*.



Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

KARLOVY VARY FESTIVAL TO PRESENT PREMIERE OF DIGITALLY RESTORED ADAPTION OF MILAN KUNDERA'S THE JOKE

At its 56th edition, the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival continues its long-running tradition of premiering digitally restored versions of classic Czech films. This year, the festival will be showing another important example of the Czechoslovak New Wave, director Jaromil Jireš's 1968 adaptation of Milan Kundera's novel *The Joke*.



(Zdroj: NFA)

A masterful film adaptation of a famous novel, *The Joke* is the darkly grotesque story of how, in an atmosphere of absolute intolerance, spying, and denunciations, an innocent student prank can fundamentally ruin a life.

The main protagonist, Ludvík Jahn, returns to his hometown after many years away in order to meet the radio journalist Helena Zemánková. His main motivation for the meeting, however, is the fact she is married to his former classmate and best friend, who literally ruined Ludvík's life and future through an innocent prank. The bitter Ludvík plans to use Helena for his belated revenge, which in the end proves a failure and leaves him feeling even more



Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

pathetic, embarrassed, and alone than when his friends expelled him from university at a party meeting.

Milan Kundera published his novel in 1967 and worked closely with director Jaromil Jireš on writing its screen adaptation. The film, which premiered in early 1969, was awarded the Silver Siren at a screening of Czech and Slovak films in Sorrento, Italy, and also took home an award from the 17th San Sebastián International Film Festival. With the onset of Normalization, it was locked away and was not shown at more international film festivals until after 1989.

The Joke is a cinematically unostentatious reinterpretation of the basic themes found in Kundera's novel. It paints a meticulous, almost harrowing picture of how the communist terror of the 1950s was able to upend the lives of ordinary people and distort the perception of ethical values.

The film's digital restoration was organized by the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in collaboration with the National Film Archive and the State Fund for Cinema. The digital restoration process was performed in 2022 at UPP and Soundsquare using original sound and film negatives stored at the National Film Archive. *The Joke* is the twenty-third film whose restoration was made possible thanks to a donation from Milada and Eduard Kučera.

The Karlovy Vary festival has long supported the screening of digitally restored copies of important works of domestic and international cinema. The festival's tradition of digitally restoring Czech films began with *Marketa Lazarová* in 2011 and since then has continued with other works of Czech cinema. The 55th KVIFF also hosted a large retrospective of films restored by The Film Foundation, established by the renowned director Martin Scorsese with the goal of preserving and protecting examples of world cinema.



Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

**KARLOVY VARY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS KVIFF TALENTS.
THE PROGRAM SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF ORIGINAL AUDIOVISUAL
PROJECTS**

The organizers of the Karlovy Vary IFF are expanding the festival's portfolio of activities aimed at systematically supporting filmmakers. For many years, these activities, which have included workshops and presentations of projects in the developmental stage, were held as part of the festival's KVIFF Eastern Promises program.

**KVIFF
TALENTS**

This year, the festival presents the pilot year of a new project, KVIFF Talents. The objective of this year-round program is to identify talented filmmakers and to support the creation of creative audiovisual projects with international ambitions possessing a high level of originality. As part of the program, the selected filmmakers will be provided financing for development, mentoring from experts, and the chance to

present their projects to potential producers, partners, and investors at the festival in Karlovy Vary. Applications for this year will be received until 22 May.

"Promoting new talents has always been a central part of the festival's activities. With KVIFF Talents, we are moving these activities onto a new level. We are convinced that the program will be another piece of the puzzle promoting greater originality, creative boldness, and international ambitions by filmmakers from our region," says KVIFF's executive director Kryštof Mucha.

KVIFF Talents is divided into two sections, held in parallel. The "Creative Pool" focuses on the search for creative ideas for audiovisual works of any format or genre – it could be a short film, a web series, a podcast, a music video, or a video game. The goal of the "Feature Pool," meanwhile, is to support ideas for original live-action films that have the potential to be made quickly with a budget under five million Czech crowns. The project's pilot phase is open to submissions from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. In the future, there is a chance that the project will be expanded to include all of Central and Eastern Europe.

"A key feature of KVIFF Talents is that it takes an individualized approach. We realize that every project has different needs during the delicate development stage, and so we are planning to provide filmmakers with customized support," adds Mucha. In the current call for submissions, which is open until 22 May, filmmakers can submit their projects to two programs: the Creative Pool and the Feature Pool. In early June, each program will select three filmmakers to be this year's KVIFF Talents. Over the course of the Karlovy Vary film festival,



Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

the program will organize presentations with the goal of connecting the filmmakers with potential producers, partners, and investors. This step marks the beginning of long-term collaboration aimed at financing the project's development, providing help with financing, or offering mentoring during the development, production, and distribution stages. Complete information on the project is available at: <http://talents.kviff.com/>.



Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

KARLOVY VARY WILL HOST THE WORKS-IN-PROGRESS PROGRAM OF THE ODESA FILM FESTIVAL

The Karlovy Vary festival will support Ukrainian filmmakers and the country's film industry through a unique collaborative project with the Odesa International Film Festival (OIFF).

The unprecedented military assault on Ukraine has been accompanied by fundamental limitations to the country's cultural life. The Karlovy Vary festival expresses its full support for Ukrainian filmmakers and festival organizers, and will thus host the Works-in-Progress program of the 13th Odesa International Film Festival, which cannot be held there because of the war. In Karlovy Vary, the program will be known as OIFF WIP Selection.



(Zdroj: OIFF)

"We are convinced that broad solidarity with war-afflicted Ukraine must also include support for the country's cultural life, which at this moment has come almost to a halt. As a film festival, we have thus tried to find ways of supporting Ukrainian cinema, and we are glad that we have managed to work with the Odesa film festival to find a meaningful form of cooperation," says Hugo Rosák, head of KVIFF's Industry Department.



Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

„The current conditions of the war in which the Ukrainians find themselves have a direct impact on the film industry. Therefore, we were offered to hold the industrial part of the Odesa International Film Festival as part of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. We are extremely grateful to our colleagues for this opportunity. For the opportunity to show Ukrainian cinema, Ukrainian talent and culture to the world”, – Anna Machuh, General Director of OIFF said. Works in progress at the Odesa International Film Festival is a presentation of the completed feature-length films by their producers and directors to be distributed in 2022-2023. The main goal of the Work in progress presentation is to promote Ukrainian films in the world and local markets and to attract the attention of international distributors and also to find the partners for future projects. The selection committee of the OIFF selects 12 feature film projects in the final stage of shooting or in post-production produced in Ukraine or in co-production with Ukraine. Projects should meet the international quality standards to be demonstrated in frames of the Works in progress presentation



Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

VISUAL DESIGN OF THE 56TH KVIFF

The visuals for the 56th KVIFF were designed by Jonatan Kuna and Zuzana Lednická of Studio Najbrt.

“This year’s festival poster is not only a black-and-white but also a color illustration and celebration of the things we experience together every year at the beginning of July along Karlovy Vary’s colonnade between the Thermal and Pupp hotels. You can find your own Wally – and many other figures associated with the festival’s history,” say the design’s authors.



www.kviff.com



www.kviff.com



Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

PLAY IT AGAIN! AN EXHIBITION BY STUDIO NAJBRT

The Studio Najbrt exhibition looks back on the studio's twenty-eight years of working for the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. The many different visual styles of each festival year will be presented through a selection of posters, printed materials, and other items created every year for the festival. The work of Aleš Najbrt, Zuzana Lednická, Marek Pistora, Jakub Spurný, and several other designers will be on display at the Karlovy Vary Gallery of Art.

PEOPLE NEXT DOOR AT KVIFF FOR THE SIXTH TIME

For the sixth year in a row, the Karlovy Vary festival will include **People Next Door**, a section of films featuring protagonists with physical, visual, or hearing disabilities. The section is presented in collaboration with the Sirius Foundation, the official non-profit partner of the 56th KVIFF.

PATRON OF CHILDREN NAMED OFFICIAL NON-PROFIT PARTNER OF KVIFF

This year's official non-profit partner of the Karlovy Vary festival will be the Patron of Children project by the Sirius Foundation. Patron of Children is a unique project that presents online stories of children in need of support. Anyone can choose a child they want to help and the amount they wish to donate. The project's overhead is completely covered by the foundation, meaning that every last crown you donate goes directly to the children.

On the festival's official website, www.kviff.com, you will find a link to the Patron of Children website containing all information about the project.