

59TH KARLOVY VARY INTERNATIONAL



FILM FESTIVAL JULY 4-12 2025

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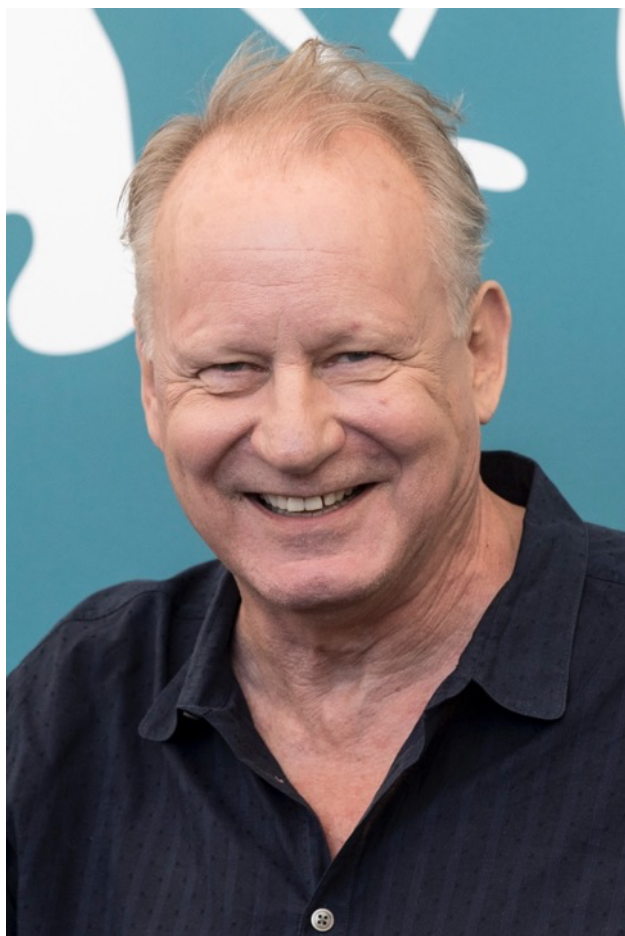


Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

STELLAN SKARSGÅRD TO RECEIVE THE CRYSTAL GLOBE FOR OUTSTANDING ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD CINEMA AT THE KARLOVY VARY FILM FESTIVAL

Swedish film and theater actor Stellan Skarsgård, recipient of a Golden Globe award, will return to Karlovy Vary for the 59th edition of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, where he will be presented the Crystal Globe for Outstanding Artistic Contribution to World Cinema.

Skarsgård will personally present his new film *Sentimental Value*, which won the Grand Prix at this year's Cannes Film Festival. It was the sixth film directed by Joachim Trier, a film that has received rave reviews from critics around the world and is already considered a serious Oscar frontrunner.



Skarsgård previously was a guest of the festival in 2002, when he presented director István Szabó's film *Taking Sides*.

During his long career, Skarsgård has appeared in dozens of movies, worked with leading international directors, and received numerous prestigious awards. But this summary falls far short of properly describing the full dimension that he brings to his various roles, nor the wide range of genres he has appeared in. He has no trouble alternating between Hollywood blockbusters and independent arthouse cinema, where his name often helps smaller films to be made. He himself says that all acting is the same – the only difference is what each film needs from him. His ability to make even smaller roles shine almost certainly is the result of his rich experience as a stage actor, including appearances with the Royal Dramatic Theatre in Stockholm.



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In the 1970s and 1980s, Skarsgård worked primarily for Swedish and European films. His outstanding performance as the lead in Hans Alfredson's *The Simple-Minded Murderer* (1982) earned him a Silver Bear for Best Actor at the Berlinale. He also played the lead in the drama *The Ox* (1991), directed by famous cinematographer Sven Nykvist, which was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. After previously appearing in several international productions – an adaptation of Milan Kundera's *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* (1988, dir. Philip Kaufman) and the action film *The Hunt for Red October* (1990, dir. John McTiernan) – he made his international breakthrough as the male lead in Lars von Trier's *Breaking the Waves* (1996), which won the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival. Over the years, he has collaborated with von Trier on a number of occasions, including *Dancer in the Dark* (2000), *Dogville* (2003), *Melancholia* (2011), both parts of the provocative drama *Nymphomaniac* (2013), and the television series *The Kingdom*.

In 1997, his portrayal of a professor in Gus Van Sant's double Oscar-winning *Good Will Hunting* and an appearance in Steven Spielberg's *Amistad* further confirmed his outstanding acting talents, and in recognition the European Film Academy presented him with its 1998 European Film Award for Achievement in World Cinema. There followed offers to appear in films such as *Timecode* (2000, dir. Mike Figgis), *The Glass House* (2001, dir. Daniel Sackheim), *Exorcist: The Beginning* (2004, dir. Renny Harlin), and above all two parts of the international mega-hit that is the *Pirates of the Caribbean* franchise – *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* (2006, dir. Gore Verbinski) and *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* (2007, dir. Gore Verbinski). In 2006, Skarsgård played the title character of the famous painter in Miloš Forman's historical drama *Goya's Ghosts*. But he has also appeared in lighter films, for instance the musical hit *Mamma Mia!* (2008, dir. Phillida Lloyd) and its loose sequel *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again* (2018, dir. Ol Parker).

In 2011, he played Dr. Erik Selvig in the action sci-fi *Thor* (2011, dir. Kenneth Branagh), and over the following years he reprised this role in several other Marvel movies: *The Avengers* (2012, dir. Joss Whedon), *Thor: The Dark World* (2013, dir. Alan Taylor), *Avengers: Age of Ultron* (2015, dir. Joss Whedon), and *Thor: Love and Thunder* (2022, dir. Taika Waititi).

In 2019, Skarsgård appeared in director Václav Marhoul's adaptation of Jerzy Kosiński's novel *The Painted Bird*, which was shown at the Venice Film Festival. Also that year, he made his return to Scandinavian film with the drama *Hope* (dir. Maria Sødahl), which was nominated for two European Film Awards and shortlisted for the Best International Feature Film category at the Academy Awards, and *Out Stealing Horses* (dir. Hans Petter Moland).



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His portrayal of the Soviet politician Boris Shcherbina in HBO's successful miniseries *Chernobyl* (2019) earned him an Emmy nomination and a Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor in a Series, Miniseries or Television Film. He subsequently worked with Dennis Villeneuve on the sci-fi saga *Dune* (2021, 2024) and played one of the main roles in both seasons of the Star Wars series *Andor* (2022–2025).

The film *Sentimental Value*, in which he plays one of the leading roles, was enthusiastically received at this year's Cannes Film Festival. Ambitious, sensitive, humorous, and touching, the film tells the story of a house full of family memories, joys and conflict. Charismatic characters wander the house's cold interior, while their complex destinies entwine in the overgrown garden. Can ancient grievances be forgiven? It's a question echoing from room to room.



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ACTRESS VICKY KRIEPS TO RECEIVE KVIFF PRESIDENT'S AWARD

At the opening ceremony of the 59th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, the KVIFF President's Award will be presented to actress Vicky Krieps, winner of a European Film Award for Best Actress for the biopic *Corsage*, a performance for which she was similarly recognized at Cannes in the Un Certain Regard section.

One of today's exceptional acting talents, Vicky Krieps was born in Luxembourg, where her grandfather Robert Krieps was a well-known politician and member of the country's resistance movement during the Second World War.



Krieps first gained experience as an actress while at the Lycée de Garçons secondary school in Luxembourg City, after which she attended the Luxembourg Conservatory. As late as in 2004, however, she was still not sure whether her future lay in acting. Instead, she worked for a social project at a primary school in a South African township near the town of Knysny. When she eventually decided to study acting, she attended the Zurich University of the Arts while simultaneously gaining hands-on experience at the Schauspielhaus Zürich.

International renown came in 2017, when she appeared in Paul Thomas Anderson's romantic drama *Phantom Thread*. The following year, she had a role in the cinematic adaptation of David Lagercrantz's successful novel

The Girl in the Spider's Web (dir. Fede Álvarez). In 2021, Krieps had several interesting acting opportunities: her performance in French director Mathieu Almaric's *Hold Me Tight* (Serre moi fort) was nominated for a César, she played the main role in M. Night Shyamalan's mystery-thriller *Old*, and she appeared in another leading role, this time



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alongside Tim Roth, in the drama *Bergman Island* (dir. Mia Hansen-Løve). Also that year, she had a cameo in Daniel Brühl's *Next Door* (Nebenan, 2021), which was shown at last year's festival in Karlovy Vary.

A role as the rebellious Empress Sissi in Marie Kreutzer's *Corsage* (2022) brought her several awards including the Best Actress Award in Un Certain Regard and Best Actress at the European Film Awards. She again donned a period costume for both parts of a celebrated adaptation of Alexandre Dumas's *The Three Musketeers* (Les Trois Mousquetaires, 2023, dir. Martin Bourboulon). Karlovy Vary audiences could see her at last year's festival as the free-thinking Vivienne in Viggo Mortensen's western drama *The Dead Don't Hurt* (2023). She also played the title character of director Margarethe von Trotta's biopic *Ingeborg Bachmann: Journey into the Desert* (Ingeborg Bachmann: Reise in die Wüste, 2023), which was shown at the Berlinale. This year's Un Certain Regard at the Cannes Film Festival included *Love Me Tender* (2025; dir. Anna Cazenave Cambet), based on the book and story of Constance Debré. Krieps portrays Clémence, a former lawyer who navigates a custody battle over her son after coming out as a lesbian. Later this year she is set to appear alongside Cate Blanchett and Adam Driver as part of an all-star cast in Jim Jarmusch's latest outing, *Father, Mother, Sister, Brother*.

On the occasion of honoring Vicky Krieps with its President's Award, the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival will be showing the film *Love Me Tender*.



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ACTRESS DAKOTA JOHNSON TO RECEIVE KVIFF PRESIDENT'S AWARD

American actress Dakota Johnson will be on hand at the 59th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival to receive the KVIFF President's Award and to present her two latest films.

Dakota Johnson continues her family's multigenerational acting tradition, as represented by her grandmother Tippy Hedren and both of her parents, award-winning Hollywood stars Melanie Griffith and Don Johnson.



Credit: Su Mustecaplioglu

It should thus not come as a surprise that her film debut was at age ten, when she appeared in *Crazy in Alabama* (1999, dir. Antonio Banderas). After finishing high school, she embarked on a professional acting career and also had a breakthrough in the world of modeling. In 2010, she appeared in David Fincher's *The Social Network*, which earned her and the entire cast best ensemble awards from the Hollywood Film Awards, the Phoenix Film Critics Society, and the 2011 Palm Springs Film Festival.

Worldwide popularity came with the film adaptation of E. L. James's "Fifty Shades" trilogy – *Fifty Shades of Grey* (2015, dir. Sam Taylor-Johnson), *Fifty Shades Darker* (2017, dir. James Foley), and *Fifty Shades Freed* (2018, dir. James Foley). In 2015, she appeared in director Scott Cooper's star-studded biographical crime drama

Black Mass, and the following year she was nominated for a BAFTA in the category of Rising Star. Her performance in the remake of Dario Argento's *Suspiria* (2018, dir. Luca Guadagnino) earned her a Robert Altman Award from the Film Independent Spirit Awards. She co-starred in Maggie Gyllen



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haal's adaptation of Elena Ferrante's *The Lost Daughter* (2021), which was nominated for three Oscars and played the main role in another film adaptation, this time of Jane Austen's romantic novel *Persuasion* (2022, dir. Carrie Cracknell). She next stars in Amazon's romance thriller *Verity* (2026, dir. Michael Showalter).

In 2019, Johnson launched TeaTime Pictures with her producing partner Ro Donnelly. They produced the comedy *Cha Cha Real Smooth* (2022, dir. Cooper Raiff), *Am I OK?* (2022, dir. Stephanie Allynne and Tig Notaro), and recently the drama *Daddio* (2023, dir. Christy Hall), which is based on the emotional, concentrated dialogue of two randomly connected people, played by Johnson and Sean Penn.

As a director, Johnson has shot the Coldplay music video *Cry Cry Cry* and the short film *Loser Baby* (2023).

At the festival in Karlovy Vary, Dakota Johnson will present two films she is currently appearing in – the romantic comedy full of provocative chaos *Splitsville* (2025, dir. Michael Angelo Covino), which she also produced under her TeaTime Pictures banner, and the comedy *Materialists*, an exploration of a somewhat toxic relationship triangle by one of today's most lauded directors, Celine Song and co-stars Pedro Pascal and Chris Evans. Dakota Johnson will receive the KVIFF President's Award before the screening of *Materialists* on July 6 at 10.30pm in the Grand Hall of the Hotel Thermal.

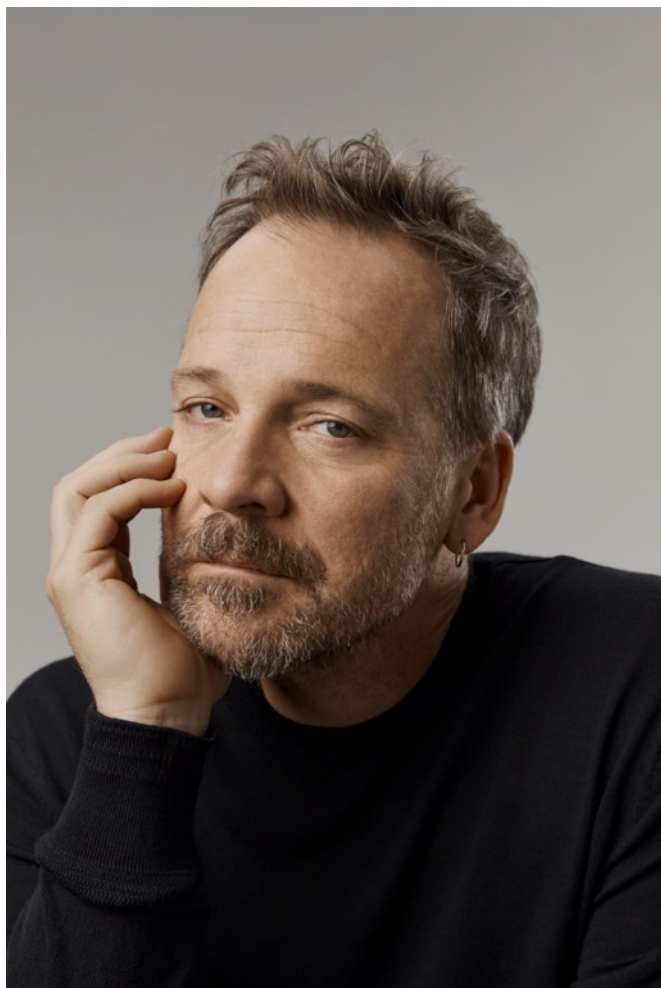


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KVIFF PRESIDENT'S AWARD TO BE PRESENTED TO AMERICAN ACTOR
PETER SARSGAARD

The 59th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival will present the KVIFF President's Award to American actor Peter Sarsgaard, winner of a number of awards such as the Volpi Cup from the Venice Film Festival, plus a nomination for an Emmy® and one for a Golden Globe.

Peter Sarsgaard is an Emmy® Award-nominated actor who is renowned for his range and ability to access what is behind the often-complicated facades of the characters he plays.



Most recently, Sarsgaard stars in director Tim Fehlbauer's *September 5*, which was nominated for a 2025 Golden Globe in the category 'Best Motion Picture Drama.' The film had its World Premiere at the Venice Film Festival, receiving rave reviews, and shortly thereafter screened at the Telluride Film Festival. *September 5* covers the events that took place during the 1972 Munich Olympics, where an American sports broadcasting crew finds itself thrust into covering the hostage crisis involving Israeli athletes. The film also stars John Magaro, Leonie Benesch, Ben Chaplin and is produced by Sean Penn.

He can be seen as 'Tommy Molto' in *Presumed Innocent*, an Apple TV+ series inspired by the novel of the same name by Scott Turow. The show tells the story of a horrific murder that upends the Chicago Prosecuting Attorneys' office when one of its own is suspected of the crime. The series, created by David E. Kelley, stars

Jake Gyllenhaal, Renate Reinsve and Ruth Negga. The show premiered in June 2024.



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Sarsgaard wrapped production on Warner Bros.' *The Bride!*, which is set to release later this year. Directed by his wife, Maggie Gyllenhaal, the film takes place in 1930s Chicago and puts a spin on the classic Frankenstein story. Peter will star opposite Christian Bale and Jessie Buckley.

Sarsgaard starred in Michel Franco's *Memory*, opposite Jessica Chastain. The film explores society's misfits and how their inability to conform to expectations is often rooted in events only existing in their memories. The film premiered at the 2023 Venice International Film Festival where he was awarded the Volpi Cup for Best Actor.

In 2021, he was integral in the Gotham Award-winning film, *The Lost Daughter*, written and directed by his wife Maggie Gyllenhaal, based on the novel of the same title by Elena Ferrante. The story follows a woman whose beach vacation takes a dark turn when she begins to confront the troubles of her past. The film also stars Olivia Colman, Jessie Buckley, Dakota Johnson, and Ed Harris. The film garnered Oscar Nominations for both Olivia Colman and Jessie Buckley as well as a nomination for Best Original Screenplay.

In that same year, he starred in *Dopesick*, loosely based on the NY TIMES Best-seller by Beth Macy. The show took viewers to the epicenter of America's struggle with opioid addiction, from the boardrooms of Big Pharma to a distressed Virginia mining community, to the hallways of the DEA. Created by Danny Strong, and directed by Barry Levinson, the show starred Michael Keaton, Michael Stuhlbarg, and Kaitlyn Dever and went on to be nominated for 7 Emmy Awards, including Best Limited or Anthology Series, and earned Sarsgaard his first Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Limited or Anthology Series.

Previous notable credits include: Joseph Schuman and Austin Stark's *Coup!* Matt Reeves' *The Batman*, opposite Robert Pattinson, *Experimenter* opposite Winona Ryder directed by Michael Almereyda, Pablo Larrain's award-winning film, *Jackie*, where he played Robert F. Kennedy opposite Natalie Portman, Woody Allen's *Blue Jasmine* opposite Cate Blanchett, Ed Zwick's *Pawn Sacrifice*, Kelly Reichardt's *Night Moves*, *Year of the Dog* directed by Mike White, *An Education* directed by Lone Scherfig and starring opposite Carey Mulligan, *Kinsey* written and directed by Bill Condon starring opposite Liam Neeson, *Jarhead* directed by Sam Mendes and starring alongside Jake Gyllenhaal, *The Dying Gaul* opposite Campbell Scott and Patricia Clarkson, *Garden State* directed by Zach Braff and playing opposite Natalie



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Portman, *Shattered Glass* directed by Billy Ray and starring opposite Hayden Christensen, for which he was nominated for a Golden Globe.

On the big screen, Sarsgaard first received wide acclaim for his role as John Lotter in Kimberly Pierce's *Boys Don't Cry*. Starring opposite Hilary Swank and Chloe Sevigny, he received critical praise for his searing portrayal of the violent ex-con ill-equipped to deal with a startling discovery.

In 1995, Sarsgaard made his theatrical debut in the Off-Broadway production of Horton Foote's *Laura Dennis*, which was directed by James Houghton. In 2008 Sarsgaard made his Broadway debut as Trigorin in Anton Chekov's *The Seagull* opposite Kristin Scott Thomas and Carey Mulligan. This was the beginning of his critically acclaimed Anton Chekov run, which was followed by an off-Broadway run of *Uncle Vanya* and culminated with *Three Sisters* both starring opposite Maggie Gyllenhaal. *Three Sisters* was nominated for a Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Achievement Off-Broadway and a Drama Desk Award. In April 2015, he completed a six-week run of *Hamlet* at the Classic Stage Company which found him reunited with his *Three Sisters* and *Uncle Vanya* director, Austin Pendleton.

Sarsgaard attended the Actors' Studio Program at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri and currently resides in Brooklyn with his wife, actress Maggie Gyllenhaal, and their two children.

Peter Sarsgaard will receive the KVIFF President's Award at the opening ceremony of KVIFF 59. In his honor, the festival will screen the journalism drama *Shattered Glass* (2003).



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KVIFF ANNOUNCES THE TWELFTH ENTRY IN THE CRYSTAL GLOBE COMPETITION, THE IRANIAN FILM BIDAD

In early June, the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival announced eleven films that will be vying for the main prize in the festival's Crystal Globe Competition. The twelfth film, Iran's *Bidad*, remained secret to protect the safety of the film's delegation. At Karlovy Vary, director Soheil Beiraghi will present the world premiere of his story of the young singer Seti who refuses to accept the fact that women in Iran are not allowed to perform in public. In defiance of her country's religious laws, she decides to sing in the street. Her performances quickly gain in popularity, and Seti becomes a star for a young generation that no longer wants to be oppressed by the regime.



Bidad was made as an independent production; otherwise, it would never have been approved by the censors because of its critical tone. Even so, director Soheil Beiraghi was investigated by the authorities during filming. It was necessary to withhold announcement of the film's inclusion in the festival's program until he and the members of his crew could safely travel out of Iran. A few days ago, the festival team was overjoyed to hear that they were on their way, and so we now can announce the full Crystal Globe Competition with all twelve participating films.



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GUESTS OF THE 59TH KVIFF

Traditionally, premieres in KVIFF's Crystal Globe Competition are introduced by large delegations of the films' creators. The world premiere of *Out of Love* will be presented by the film's star, French actress **Camille Cottin**, whom audiences will recognize from the series *Call My Agent!* (2015) or the films *Allied* (2016, dir. Robert Zemeckis) and *House of Gucci* (2021, dir. Ridley Scott). Hungarian director **Bence Fliegauf**, winner of the Silver Bear at the Berlinale, will be on hand for the world premiere of his evocative cinematic vision *Jimmy Jaguar*. The international premiere of *Rebuilding* will be presented by **Max Walker-Silverman**, who returns to Karlovy Vary three years after coming to town with his feature film debut *A Love Song*, which was shown in the Horizons section in 2022.



Camille Cottin in Out of Love (dir. Nathan Ambrosioni)

The melancholic, touching, and funny *The Love That Remains* – a story of fading love and the dissolution of a marriage whose successful world premiere was at this year's Cannes Film Festival – will be personally introduced by Icelandic director **Hlynur Pálmason**. Mexican director **Michel Franco** returns to Karlovy Vary after just one year to present his provocative love story of a Mexican dancer and a successful American philanthropist, *Dreams*. The film, which stars Jessica Chastain in the role of the philanthropist, had its world premiere at this year's Berlinale. **Mstyslav Chernov**, winner of a Pulitzer Prize and an Oscar



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for his *20 Days in Mariupol*, will be in town to present his latest documentary, *2000 Metres to Andriivka*. Chernov's radical film again rewrites the definition of war documentary. The historical drama *Two Prosecutors*, which had its world premiere in the main competition in Cannes, will be introduced by director **Sergei Loznitsa** in person.

American director, actor, and screenwriter **Jay Duplass** will accompany the screening of the comedy *The Baltimoreans*. This melancholic yet humorous duet about a newly sober man who forms an unexpected bond with his dentist was an audience favorite at the SXSW festival. **Paolo Genovese**, known for directing original, intelligent, and exceptionally popular films such as *Perfect Strangers* and *Superheroes*, presents his latest undertaking – the romantic comedy *Madly*. Georgian director **Dea Kulumbegashvili** will introduce her second feature film, *April*. This uncompromising drama, which won the Special Jury Prize at the Venice Film Festival, tells the story of a gynecologist who illegally helps village women terminate their pregnancies.

Argentinian actor **Nahuel Pérez Biscayart** was named Best Actor at the 2014 Karlovy Vary festival for his performance in *All Yours* (dir. David Lambert) and received a César Award for his role in *120 BPM* (dir. Robin Campillo). This year, he returns with *Kill the Jockey* (dir. Luis Ortega). Italian actor **Valerio Mastandrea** is known to Karlovy Vary audiences thanks to his appearances in *Viva la Liberta* (2013, dir. Roberto Andò) and *Piazza Fontana: The Italian Conspiracy* (2012, dir. Marco Tullio Giordana). At this year's festival, he will present *Feeling Better*, which he directed and in which he plays the main role.

Director **Mark Jenkin**, whose previous film *Enys Men* was a revelation at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival, is coming to Karlovy Vary for the world premiere of his short film *I Saw the Face of God in the Jet Wash*, which is being shown in the festival's Imagina section.



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TRIBUTE TO JIŘÍ BARTOŠKA AT THE 59TH KARLOVY VARY IFF

The Karlovy Vary International Film Festival will pay tribute to its president Jiří Bartoška with the opening film *We've Got to Frame It! (a conversation with Jiří Bartoška in July 2021)*, directed by Milan Kuchynka and Jakub Jurásek, screenings of the film *Tiger Theory*, and the exhibition *Jiří Bartoška – KVIFF President*.

Jiří Bartoška, charismatic commentator on the world around him, who possessed one of the most fascinating Czech(oslovak) destinies of the past fifty years, was certainly not one for self-admiring glances in the mirror of memories. The president of the Karlovy Vary film festival vigorously rejected all suggestions for a biographical work or film portrait; he was irritated by the pathos associated with official versions of personal life narratives. Thus all the more valuable (and hitherto unseen!) is the bard's affable, informal exchange with producer Milan Kuchynka, in which he touches upon a myriad themes, from his grammar school days and the Velvet Revolution, to his encounters with stars – and this conveyed with playful ease, blistering irony and affectionate wisdom.



Jiří Bartoška in We've Got to Frame It! (dir. Milan Kuchynka and Jakub Jurásek)



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The audiences will have the opportunity to watch the opening film of the 59th KVIFF *We've Got To Frame It!* (a conversation with Jiří Bartoška in July 2021) online at www.kviff.tv. The online stream will begin at approximately 9.15pm – after the conclusion of the opening ceremony, which will be streamed live at KVIFF.TV. The stream of the film will be available live only, and will be accessible worldwide for free, without registration. English subtitles will be available.

The film *We've Got to Frame It!* will also be screened for the festival audiences on July 7 at 4pm and July 11 at 7:30pm in the Congress Hall of Hotel Thermal.

As a part of the Jiří Bartoška Tribute, the film *Tiger Theory* (2016, dir. Radek Bajgar) will also be screened.

Synopsis: Perhaps they were once tigers, creatures that roamed free and allowed no-one to dictate the terms. Yet now they are docile rabbits wracking their startled brains to figure out just how they got so tame. This is the way things seem for Jan, a vet who believes all his life decisions are being made by his enterprising wife Olga. With a view to regaining the wilder aspects of his past, the best he can come up with is to feign illness and get himself committed to a psychiatric facility, thus extricating himself from his wife's influence. Do men really have it that bad? Is it so difficult to work things out with women? Are real men now on the verge of extinction? And can you turn your life around at this late stage? This tragicomedy examining human relationships and gender roles provided a great opportunity for actor Jiří Bartoška.

Exhibition Jiří Bartoška – KVIFF President

On 30 large-scale panels placed in the outdoor area between two iconic festival venues – the Thermal and Pupp hotels – visitors will find 60 black-and-white photographs capturing, through the eyes of festival photographers, the most important festival moments as well as unique portraits of the remarkable personality who led the Karlovy Vary Festival for three decades.



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NEW FESTIVAL TRAILER WITH BOLEK POLÍVKA

The opening ceremony of this year's KVIFF will feature the premiere of the new festival trailer starring Bolek Polívka.

Polívka was awarded the KVIFF President's Award at the 56th edition of the festival in 2022. The trailer was directed by Ivan Zachariáš, a longtime creator of KVIFF trailers. After its premiere during the festival's opening ceremony, the trailer will be available online exclusively on KVIFF.TV and the festival's YouTube channel.



Bolek Polívka in the new festival trailer (dir. Ivan Zachariáš)



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BRITISH BAND LA ROUX TO PERFORM AT THE FESTIVAL'S OPENING CONCERT

Grammy-winning British synthpop band LA ROUX will perform at the opening concert of the 59th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in front of the Hotel Thermal.

The concert, which starts around 10:45 pm on July 4, 2025, is free for the public. A fireworks display will follow the concert.



La Roux, which since its inception has been fronted by singer-songwriter Elly Jackson, originated as a songwriting duo consisting of Jackson and songwriter-producer Ben Langmaid. The duo first appeared on the music scene in 2006, when their modern synthpop was met with an enthusiastic response. The self-titled debut album (2009) was a critical and commercial success and won numerous awards, including a 2011 Grammy Award in the category of electronic/dance album. The album produced hits such as "In for the Kill," "Bulletproof," and "I'm Not Your Toy," which catapulted the duo to the top of the music scene. "Bulletproof" reached first place on the UK singles chart in 2009 and won a Pop Award at the 2011 BMI London Awards.

After artistic differences and Langmaid's departure, La Roux's second album, the distinctly melodic *Trouble in Paradise*, was released in 2014. Following a longer pause, the third album, *Supervision*, came out in

2020. Since Langmaid left in 2012, Elly Jackson has represented La Roux on her own as its main creative force and distinctive performing personality. At concerts, she appears with a backup band.

The festival's partner for the opening night concert is ORLEN.