



HIGHLIGHTS

PAGE 2 > 5 WHAT'S NEW FROM BRUSSELS

**Promoting the Zlin Region
in Europe: the special
event for Film Festival Zlin**

**Sunday 28.06.2009
Flagey Centre, 10h30**

Screening for the press of
"Changes", from the official
selection of the Film Festival
Zlin and presentation of the
Film Festival to the
international press.

**Monday 29.06.2009
Zaventem airport**

Arrival of the delegations
from the Zlin Region and the
Film Festival Zlin.

**Tuesday 30.06.2009
EC DG INFSO, 12h00**

Meeting with Mrs. Aviva
Silver, Head of Unit Media
Program.

Rose House, 15h00

Signature of the
Memorandum with the
Brussels Film Festival.

Centre Flagey, 19h30

Special evening devoted to
the Film Festival Zlin within
the Brussels Film Festival.

**Wednesday 01.07.2009
Zaventem airport**

Departure of the delegations

SPECIAL FOCUS ON "FILM FESTIVAL ZLIN IN BRUSSELS 2009"

Editorial

Mattia Crosetto

Dear readers,

The Semester of Czech Presidency to the EU Council will end up the 30th of June 2009. For that date, the members of the European Commission will fly to Stockholm where – the 1st of July – the Swedish Semester will officially begin.

In order to celebrate the conclusion of the Czech Semester, we have organized a special event, based on a partnership with one of the main cultural events of the Capital of Europe: the Brussels Film Festival.

Thanks to our initiative, exactly on the 30th of June 2009, the official program of the Brussels Film Festival schedules now a special evening dedicated to the International Festival for Children and Youth of Zlin. We will present a movie coming from this year selection of the Festival – Changes, a Czech-Italian co-production – its director and actors, the producers and in general the organization of the Festival in Zlin.

But this important promotional evening is only a part of the event we have prepared. Other important initiatives are in the agenda.

In fact, we have also prepared a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Film Festival Zlin, the Zlin Region and the Brussels Film Festival for the development of joint initiatives and projects. The Memorandum will be signed at the Rose House at the presence of the Brussels Film Festival representatives and Mrs. Taťána Nersesjan, representing the Zlin Region.

Then, we have organized also an official visit to the Directorate General for Information Society of the European Commission, with the Head of Unit for the Media Program – that finances also the Film Festivals – and a press conference for Sunday 28th 2009 where our Office will present the Film Festival Zlin to the international press.

Sincerely,

Mattia Crosetto
The Head of Office
Zlin Region in Brussels

The Zlín Region closes its participation at the Semester of Czech Presidency with a touch of glamour

Film Festival Zlín brought as special guest to Brussels Film Festival

For the 49th edition of the Film Festival Zlín, on the occasion of the first Semester of Czech Presidency to the EU Council, the Zlín Region in Brussels has realised a special partnership with the Brussels Film Festival.

With nearly half a century of history, the International Film Festival for Children and Youth of Zlín is considered one of the most important events of this type in the world. Each year, the Festival attracts tens of thousands of visitors, film enthusiasts and professionals from all over the world, thus contributing to make the Zlín Region famous on the international stage

On the 30th of June 2009, upon initiative of the Zlín Region in Brussels, the Film Festival Zlín will be the special guest of the official program of the Brussels Film Festival with the presentation of one of the movies of this year's selection, "Changes", a Czech-Italian co-production registered for the European Debuts' Competition.

The Film Festival Zlín will be represented by an official delegation including also Mrs. Taťána Nersesjan, Member of the Regional Council of the Zlín Region, Mr. Peter Hunak, Director of the External Relations Department, Mr. Tomáš Řehořek and Ms. Petra Hřebíčková, Director and main protagonist of "Changes". A press screening and a reception complete the agenda of the event, officially associated - as last cultural appointment - to the Semester of Czech Presidency to the EU Council.

PROGRAM OF THE EVENT

19h00-19h30 Registration of participants and welcoming of guests at Centre Flagey

19h30-19h40

Introduction to Film Festival Zlín and to its role in promoting the Zlín Region

Moderators:

Mr. Michel de Schaetzen - Director of the Brussels Film Festival

Mr. Mattia Crosetto - Head of the Representative Office of the Zlín Region in Brussels

Official introduction:

Mrs. Taťána Nersesjan - Member of the Regional Council of the Zlín Region

19h40-21h00

CHANGES (Promeny)

A film by Tomáš Řehořek!

CZECH REPUBLIC - ITALY, 2009, 179'

With Alena Ambrová, Petra Hřebíčková, Petr Jenista, Dita Zábanská

At the end:

Q&A debate with the Director, the main protagonist and the producers of the movie

21h15

Cocktail reception at Foyer 1st floor

With the participation of the Director, protagonist and producers

The event is officially associated to the Semester of Czech Presidency to the EU Council

For those who wish to know more:

For more information about the event on the website of the Zlín Region in Brussels:

http://www.zlinregioninbrussels.eu/mission/activities_interna.php?lingua=ITA&newsid=249

For more information about the event on the website of the CzechReg:

<http://www.czechreg.eu/?D=83>

For the presentation of the event on the official website of the Czech Presidency to the EU:

<http://www.eu2009.cz/scripts/modules/diary/action.php?id=4027>

The movie on the screen**CHANGES (PROMENY)****From the selection of the European's Debuts**

A film by Tomas Rehorek

CZECH REPUBLIC - ITALY, 2009, 79'

With Alena Ambrova, Petra Hrebickova, Petr Jenista, Dita Zábřanská

Four people with nothing in common.

Four destinies meeting at one point. Four lives about to be changed.

The wife of a successful man has nearly everything to be happy - except a child. She is willing to do about anything to reach her goal. A sports coach has given his whole life to athletics, but has reached his peak and has plenty of time to find out what he has missed in life. A lonely old lady lives in a large empty house; finding escape in higher spheres. And finally a poor young mother with two children struggles and fights, but there may come a moment when she will have to give up. The visually compelling film follows four different characters whose lives are interwoven only gradually and randomly.

Changes was directed by probably the youngest Czech director of a feature film of all times.



EU2009.CZ

Background

The Film Festival Zlín

Zlín, the city linked to the name of Baťa, has had a long tradition of organizing film festivals.

There were festivals of Czech and Slovak films held in Zlín as early as in 1941 and 1942, under the name of Film Harvest (also known as Zliennale). These seminal festivals are still considered the beginning of Czechoslovakia's film festival tradition. History of the Film Festival in Zlín began in the year 1961 when the historical first edition of the Film Festival for Children and Youth was held. In the course of time the festival expanded in number of films as well as visitors and cinemas. A milestone of sorts was the 48th edition when the festival acquired 6 new cinemas, bringing the total number of projection venues to 23. The 48th edition was also unique in its record number of films presented (570 films from 52 countries) and visitors (108,722).

Tradition

Films are not only projected, but also produced in Zlín. In 1936, Jan Antonín Baťa founded a new film studio in the city, which gradually turned into Czechoslovakia's most prominent centre of filmmaking focused on children and youth. Well known filmmaking artists such as Karel Zeman, Hermína Týrlová, Alexander Hackenschmied, Břetislav Pojar or Josef Pinkava created their works in the Zlín film studios. The glorious filmmaking tradition of Zlín continues today in its two film schools. It is the very connection of film and filmmaking tradition which gives the Zlín Film Festival its unique appeal. In this place with such unique history, the two poles of the film world unite each year: the audience and the filmmakers.

Architecture

Apart from its film-related tradition, Zlín can also boast a unique set of works of modern architecture. The city was created at the beginning of the 20th century as an experiment in urbanism and leading figures of domestic and international architecture participated in its planning. Among the most well known names are those of Le Corbusier, František Gahura or Vladimír Karfík. Thanks to its high quality architecture, the city could provide excellent background for the festival right from the beginning. A good example of this might be the Grand Cinema - in its time Central Europe's largest film venue with the seating capacity of 2,500.

For those who wish to know more about:

www.zlinfest.cz/en/



The Brussels Film Festival

Since 2001, the Brussels Film Festival has taken the place of the Brussels International Film Festival (1974-2000) as one of the main cultural and welcoming events at the beginning of the summer in the Capital of Europe. The distinctive feature of the festival is the exclusive promotion of European directors' debut films (1st or 2nd feature film).

Its Official Competition is a selection of 14 films from European directors, only first or second feature films. An international jury has to choose between those for the Golden Iris Award.

The section "Avant-Premieres" includes a selection of European feature films from European directors that will be released in theatres in the next future. Finally, the "Belgian Talents" category is reserved to Belgian debut films from the last six months.

Open-air screenings and concerts complete the program of this unique cultural event.

For those who wish to know more about:

www.brusselsfilmfestival.eu

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| Tue 30.06 | 17:00 - Somewhere in between here and now 19:30 ZLIN FILM FESTIVAL Changes 21:30 - The Higher Force | 17:00 LUX - Katalin Varga 20:00 - Joueuse | 18:00 - Alle Anderen 20:00 - Morphia 22:00 - Aguas Verdes | 22:15 - Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (Michel Gondry) |
|-----------|---|--|---|---|

The official program of the Brussels Film Festival for the 30th of June 2009 is available on the website of the event and is resumed here above.



The Zlin Region in Brussels presents the event to the Belgian and International Press at the "Screening for the Press" session on"

Sunday 28 - 10h30
At Flagey Centre

The Zlin Region in Brussels has prepared a press book for the occasion.

The event is also promoted through the official catalogue of the Brussels Films Festival, the Festival brochure and website.

For more information about this and other activities of the Zlin Region in Europe, please contact:

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