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SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE SEMESTER OF CZECH PRESIDENCY

PRESS MEMO

FILM FESTIVAL ZLIN

Zlín, the city linked to the name of Baťa, has a long tradition in 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. The 48th edition was unique for the number of films presented (570 films from 52 countries) and visitors (108.722).

ZLIN REGION IN BRUSSELS

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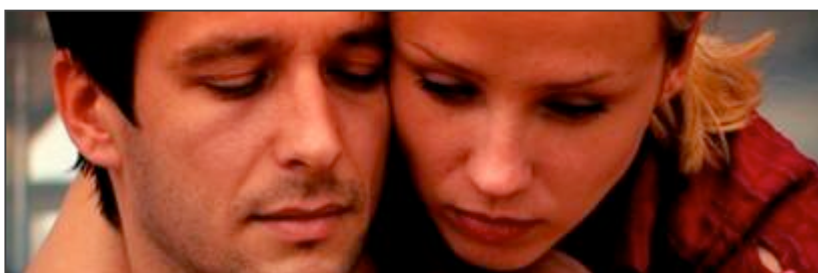
Zlín Region closes its participation to the Czech Presidency as special guest of Brussels Film Festival

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 in 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 a special guest within the official program of the Brussels Film Festival presenting one of the movies of 2009 year's selection, "Changes", a Czech-Italian co-production registered for the European Debuts' Competition.

Film Festival Zlín is represented by a delegation including Mrs. Taťána Nersesjan, Member of the Regional Council of the Zlín Region, Mr. Tomáš Řehořek and Ms. Petra Hřebíčková, Director and main protagonist of "Changes". The program of the evening includes the greetings by Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the EU, Mrs. Milena Vicenova, to Swedish Ambassador in Belgium, Mr. Magnus Robach, as representative of the Member State holding the EU Presidency from 1st of July on.



For more information about the Film Festival Zlín, see: www.zlinfest.cz/en/

For more information about the Brussels Film Festival, see: www.brusselsfilmfestival.eu

For more information about the Zlín Region in Brussels and its activities, see: www.zlinregioninbrussels.eu



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