



## Peter Fonda to receive lifetime achievement award at 26<sup>th</sup> Prague IFF – Febiofest

This year's edition of the Prague IFF – Febiofest will bring a number of world famous names to the Czech capital, including the US film star **Peter Fonda**. The actor, perhaps best-known for his role in the cult film *Easy Rider*, which he wrote and starred in alongside **Dennis Hopper** and **Jack Nicholson**, will attend the festival's gala opening on 21 March. The Golden Globe winner will receive Febiofest's Kristián award for lifetime contribution to world cinema during the ceremony.

### Peter Fonda's programme to include *Easy Rider* screening and master class

**Peter Fonda** will come to Prague for the very beginning of the festival. During his stay he will present *Easy Rider*, the film that kick-started the New Hollywood era in the laidback 1960s and earned him an Academy Award nomination for Best Screenplay. The actor, who is 79, will also introduce *Outlaw Blues* (1977), a romantic drama set behind the scenes of the country music business and *Ulee's Gold* (1997), which earned him a Golden Globe as well as an Oscar nomination. Fans of the acting great will also be able to attend a master class given by him on Friday 22 March.

This year the festival's Kristián award will be presented three times. Alongside Peter Fonda and the Danish Oscar-winning director **Bille August**, it will also go to Czech actress **Jiřina Bohdalová**. Fonda and Bohdalová will be presented with the prize at the festival's gala opening, while August will be so honoured during the closing ceremony.

### French actor-director Louis Garrel brings latest work to Prague

Another major guest at this year's Febiofest will be the French actor and director **Louis Garrel**. The 35-year-old, who received a César for his performance in *Regular Lovers*, will present his latest directorial work, *A Faithful Man*, at the festival. Garrel himself stars in the picture, in which he cast **Laetitia Casta** and **Lily-Rose Depp** as his partners. Model and actress Casta, who is married to Garrel, is expected to accompany him to Febiofest. Alongside his latest picture, which will be distributed in Czech cinemas from 4 April by Film Europe, the festival will also present the filmmaker's feature debut *Two Friends* (2015), as well as **Bernardo Bertolucci's** *The Dreamers* (2003), which he starred in as a young actor.

### Redford's *The Old Man & The Gun* for curtain raiser, Stan and Ollie to close festival

This year's Febiofest will be opened by the latest film by Hollywood legend **Robert Redford**, *The Old Man & The Gun*. Based on a true story, director **David Lowery's** picture stars one of the most respected actors of the last half century as a criminal and specialist in jail breaks, which has earned him the admiration of the public. Redford himself announced that it would be the final film of his career.

The closing film will be a drama based on events in the life of the famous comedic duo **Stan Laurel** and **Oliver Hardy**. The film reveals the little-known story of a joint tour of English theatres the pair undertook in the post-war era with a view to healing a professional rift between them. Viewers will be able to enjoy **Jon S. Baird's** *Stan and Ollie*, in which the pair are brought to life by **Steve Coogan** and **John C. Reilly**, on the final two days of the festival.



### Centropa section promises more noteworthy guests

Six of the newest Czech co-productions will appear in this year's festival. Debut director **Teodor Kuhn's** *By a Sharp Knife*, a co-production with Slovakia, was inspired by a real-life criminal case from 2005 and is competing in the New Europe section. It will be introduced by the director as part of a delegation for the film. **Juraj Šlauka's** *Punk Never Ends!*, an exploration of the punk rock lifestyle, will receive its premiere at the festival and be presented by the director. **Mikhail Idov** will introduce his debut, *The Humorist*, a drama about the life of a leading Soviet-era stand-up comedian. **Jan Jakub Kolski**, the well-known Polish filmmaker, will accompany his film *Pardon*, which explores a story of parental courage against the backdrop of dramatic events in post-war Poland. Also bringing delegations to the festival will be the Romanian drama *Heads and Tails* by **Nicolae Constantin Tanase** and the Czech-Israeli co-produced anthology film *First World Problems* by directors **Elad Keidan, Jakub Felcman, Anna Kopecká** and **Jan Hecht**.

### High-quality TV productions on the big screen

Constantly rising standards of television serial production mean that some titles also merit appearing on the big screen. For this reason this year's Febiofest will deliver pre-premieres of TV series such as the three-part *Vodník* by director **Viktor Tauš**. **Klára Melíšková, Miroslav Krobot, Stanislav Majer, Václav Neužil, Zuzana Stivínová, Lenka Krobotová** and other actors will appear in the second-last miniseries in the Czech Television cycle *Detectives from the Holy Trinity*. The festival will also show *Everything is Different* by directors **Jan Prušinovský** and **Vladimír Škultéty**. **Kryštof Hádek, Eliška Křenková** and **Jan Strejcovský** star in the six-part comedy about three people at an ad agency produced by the online station Mall.tv. Delegations of actors and makers will introduce these works at Febiofest.

### New Europe competition promises 10 debutants

The festival's main competition section will this year feature 10 ambitious pictures by emerging European filmmakers. Serbian director **Kosta Ristić's** *Bandits in Search of Mom* tells the story of four siblings who lose their home. *Sorcerer* by Austria's **Sebastian Brauneis** is a mysterious film about the human psyche. **Steve Krikris** from Greece explores the life of an old-school waiter in neo-noir picture *The Waiter*. **João Salaviza** and **Renée Nader Messorá**, who come from Portugal and Brazil, directed the meditative drama *The Dead and the Others*, featuring non-actors from a Brazilian tribe. *The Foundation of Criminal Excellence* by **Oskars Rupenheits** is a Latvian crime comedy set in the socialist era. Sweden's *The Cake General* by **Filip Hammar** and **Fredrik Wikingsson** takes the audience to a town attempting to shake off its reputation as the most boring place in the country. The Scottish actress **Karen Gillan** wrote, directed and stars in *The Party's Just Beginning*. The Danish picture *Holiday* by **Isabella Eklöf** is about a gangster and his girlfriend and explores the violence and humiliation men mete out on women. *Take It Or Leave It* by Estonian director **Liina Trishkina-Vanhatalo** is about the relationship between a father and his new born-daughter. The final competition film is the aforementioned *By a Sharp Knife* by **Teodor Kuhn**.

The winning film will be chosen by a jury comprising 33 film fans selected by festival president **Fero Fenič**. The honorary chair of the jury this year is world famous photographer **Jan Saudek**. The winner will receive Febiofest's Grand Prix and a financial reward of EUR 5,000.



### French cinema dominates Masters section this year

The festival will present 10 new films by world-famous directors once again this year. France is the best-represented country in the Masters section with four films, though three are English-language works. **Claire Denis** has made her first English film in *High Life* (**Robert Pattinson**, **Juliette Binoche**), while **Jacques Audiard** has done likewise with *Sisters Brothers* (**Joaquin Phoenix**, **John C. Reilly**, **Jake Gyllenhaal**). By contrast, US director **Julian Schnabel** went to France to shoot *At Eternity's Gate*, starring **Willem Dafoe** as Vincent van Gogh. The only director who stayed loyal to his country and language in this section was **Olivier Assayas**, with the typical French conversational comedy *Non-Fiction*.

### Heroines come to fore in Made in USA

The Made in USA section once again turns the spotlight on US independent filmmakers and small and courageous pictures that boast an authorial voice, distinctive direction and a personal view of their dramatic or comedic protagonists. In this year's edition, films with female leads fittingly dominate. *The Kindergarten Teacher* by **Sara Colangelo** is about an ambitious educator played by **Maggie Gyllenhaal**. In **Brady Corbet's** *Vox Lux* we follow the career of a pop star played by **Natalie Portman**. Meanwhile, the main character of *Lizzie* by **Craig William Macneill**, in which **Kristen Stewart** and **Chloë Sevigny** excel, is a maid at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Attend films and support the NaFILM National Film Museum

Visitors to this year's edition of the festival can support the development of the NaFILM National Film Museum created by **Adéla Mrázová**, **Terezie Křížkovská** and **Jakub Jiříšně**. Before the museum found a permanent home at architect **Jan Kotěra's** historical building the Mozarteum it had wandered around Prague in the form of temporary exhibitions. Today it offers visitors a permanent interactive exhibition that delivers outstanding experiences to both children and adults. Visitors can try out virtual reality, create their own sound recording or briefly become a multimedia projectionist. Attendance at the following films, which have higher admission, will support the development of the museum: *Bad Reputation* (**Kevin Kerlake**), *El Angel* (**Luis Ortega**), *The White Crow* (**Ralph Fiennes**), *Destroyer* (**Karyn Kusama**), *The Quake* (**John Andreas Andersen**).

### Actor Petr Vacek to join Amnesty International in choosing award winner this year

Alongside the traditional Kristián awards, the festival will also present the Amnesty International Febiofest Award, focused on the human rights field, for the fourth time this year. The jury evaluating seven competition films reflecting that theme will comprise Czech actor **Petr Vacek**, the Swedish director of the film *Holiday* **Isabella Eklof** and **Petr Benda** of Amnesty International. Visitors will also be able to sign a petition in support of **Anastasia Shevchenko** of the human rights organisation Open Russia, who is under house arrest, at the AI stand in the foyer of the multiplex at Anděl. Shevchenko faces up to six years in jail for "repeated participation in the activities of an undesirable organisation" under Russia's hard-line laws. The films in the running are: *A Land Imagined* (**Yeo Siew Hua**), *Manta Ray* (**Phutti Phong Aroonpheng**), *Buy Me a Gun* (**Julio Hernández Cordón**), *Cold November* (**Ismet Sijarina**), *The Load* (**Ognjen Glavonic**), *Harvesters* (**Etienne Kallos**) and *Lemonade* (**Ioana Uricaru**).



### Czech Mint medal for Jiří Menzel

In conjunction with the Czech Mint in Jablonec, Febiofest has this year honoured one of the greatest of Czech directors, **Jiří Menzel**, with the minting of a special memorial medal. His wife **Olga Menzelová** will be presented with the Silver Jiří Menzel Memorial Medal at the main press conference prior to the launch of the festival. With this medal, the Czech Mint builds on similar tributes paid to actors **Karel Fiala**, **Rudolf Hrušínský**, **Vladimír Menšík** and **Jiří Kodet**. The medals are made of pure silver in a limited edition of four pieces in proof quality and weighing 42 g.

### Record participation in You're the Filmmaker

This year's edition of the festival's competition for amateur directors You're the Filmmaker has seen a record number of entries. An amateur competition with few restrictions, it this year features two categories for the first time: individuals and school teams. The theme of the seventh edition has been the spreading of false and alarming reports on the internet: fake news, hoax. Almost 100 school teams and individuals have submitted short films or videos and the winners will be announced at Febiofest's closing ceremony at CineStar Anděl on 28 March. The winner of the individual section will receive CZK 20,000, a mobile phone and a voucher to the O2 Videotéka, while the winners of the schools category will get a financial donation of CZK 30,000 and festival tickets. O2 Czech Republic is the competition's partner.

The festival will receive its gala opening on Thursday 21 March 2019 at Prague's Municipal House and run until 29 March. The closing ceremony, including the announcement of the winners of the New Europe, Amnesty International Febiofest Award and You're the Filmmaker competitions, will take place at CineStar Anděl on Thursday 28 March. As is traditional, screenings will be held at the CineStar Anděl and CineStar Černý Most multiplexes and at the Ponrepo and Municipal Library cinemas. The festival will take place in the regions between 1 April and 18 April 2019 in the following cities and towns: České Budějovice, Hradec Králové, Plzeň, Beroun, Jihlava, Ostrava, Mikulov, Kladno, Liberec, Děčín, Olomouc, Uherské Hradiště, Chomutov and Zlín.

Admission to individual screenings is CZK 99.

Festival passes cost CZK 699 for three days, CZK 999 for five days and CZK 1,699 for nine days.

Admission to a film and exclusive dinner in the Culinary Cinema section is CZK 1,190.

Festival passes and tickets to Culinary Cinema evenings are available at [www.febiofest.cz](http://www.febiofest.cz).

**Advance ticket sales online and physical sales at the CineStar Anděl get underway at noon on 8 March.**

### Festival app to go live 7 March

Just like last year, the festival's app will function on all types of mobile telephone while Febiofest is taking place. New this year is a special filter on Facebook that "creates" an extra set of eyes for viewers on photos of faces, in line with this year's slogan "One pair of eyes is not enough". The filter can be shared from Febiofest's Facebook page or via a link that opens the Facebook camera, with the filter activated, when you click on it. As with all of the festival's visuals, the filter has been created by the company Dynamo design, which this year for the second time is also behind the visuals of the Czech Lion film awards.



## Guests at the Prague IFF – Febiofest 2019

**Markus Schleiner** (Austria) cooperated as casting director on films by **Michael Haneke** (*The Piano Teacher*, *Time of the Wolf* and *The White Ribbon*) and other eminent Austrian directors, such as **Ulrich Seidl** (*Dog Days*) and **Jessica Hausner** (*Hotel, Lourdes*). Schleiner's directorial debut *Michael* was shown at Cannes. Schleiner will present his historical drama *Angelo* at Febiofest on 22 – 23 March. ([Panorama](#))

**Valeria Sarmiento** (Chile) is a leading Chilean editor, screenwriter and director who cooperated on the most important works of her husband, the Chilean director **Raul Ruiz** (*The Lost Domain*, *Klimt*, *Mysteries of Lisbon*, *Night Across the Street*). Since the 1970s she has lived and worked in France, where she has dedicated herself to independent film making. Sarmiento's films (*Notre mariage*, *Elle*, *Amelia Lopez O'Neill*) have won prizes at international festivals. She will introduce her new historical film *The Black Book* on 26 – 28 March. ([Panorama](#))

**György Pálfi** (Hungary) is one of the most distinctive directors in contemporary Hungarian cinema. In 2002 he earned a European Film Award for Discovery of the Year for his debut *Hukkle* and he has since picked up numerous prizes at international festivals. His most successful work to date, *Taxidermy*, competed in the Un certain regard section at Cannes in 2006. The Karlovy Vary IFF has included two of his films, *I Am Not Your Friend* and *Free Fall*, in its programme. Febiofest is presenting Pálfi's latest picture *His Master's Voice* on Friday 22 March. ([Masters](#))

**Tuva Novotny** (Sweden) is a Swedish actress with Czech roots who briefly studied at Prague's DAMU acting school. She has found success in Sweden and Denmark, where she has received major awards. She has also left her mark on Czech cinema, having appeared in **Dan Svátek's** *Close to Heaven*, while recent roles have included a part in the tennis movie *Borg vs. McEnroe*. Novotny will be in Prague from 27 – 29 March to present her authorial film *Blind Spot* at Febiofest. ([Northern Lights](#))

**Peter Strickland** (Great Britain) followed a number of shorts with success at the Berlinale for *Bubblegum* and brought his feature debut *Katalin Varga* to the same festival. His *The Duke of Burgundy* received cinema distribution in the Czech Republic. Strickland is also active in the field of music, founding the music and culinary ensemble The Sonic Catering Band and co-directing the concert film *Bjork: Biophilia Live*. He will introduce the anthology horror *The Field Guide to Evil* in Prague on 27 March. ([Night Circus](#))

**Yona Rozenkier, Or Lee-Tal** (Israel), 27. – 30. 3., *The Dive* ([Panorama](#))

**Alex Salahi** (USA), 20. – 26. 3., *Magic Lantern* ([Masters](#))

**John Butler** (Ireland), 23. – 26. 3., *Papi Chulo* ([Queers Now](#))

**Méryl Fortunat-Rossi** (France) 21. – 23. 3., *Holy Tour* ([Docs](#))

**Mindaugas Survila** (Lithuania), 21. – 23. 3., *The Ancient Woods* ([Docs](#))

**Marcus Lindeen** (Sweden), 25. – 27. 3., *The Raft* ([Docs](#))

**Ognjen Glavonic** (Serbia), 25. – 28. 3., *The Load* ([Balkan Echoes](#))

**Selma Vilhunen** (Finland), 24. – 26. 3., *Stupid Young Heart* ([Generations](#))

**Riku Nieminen** (Finland), 26. – 28. 3., *The Ragged Life of Juice Leskinen* ([Northern Lights](#))

**Marcus H. Rosenmüller** (Germany), 28. – 29. 3., *The Keeper* ([Central Park](#))





## Pre-premieres of titles set for Czech distribution

Febiofest offers viewers the highly attractive opportunity to catch pre-premieres of a great number of films that are set for Czech distribution but will in most cases not be seen in cinemas until April.

### From the Central Park section (a selection):

*Never Look Away* (**Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck**) – 25. 4., CinemArt

Drama by the director of *The Lives of Others* following 30 years in the life of artist **Kurt Barnet**, who is loosely based on one of the most important visual artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, **Gerhard Richter**.

*The Aftermath* (**James Kent**) – 28. 3., CinemArt

Drama set in post-war Germany largely shot in the Czech Republic. **Keira Knightley** stars in this adaptation of the novel of the same name by **Rhidian Brook**.

*The Keeper* (**Marcus H. Rosenmüller**) – Film Europe

Biopic mapping the dramatic life of famous Manchester City goalkeeper **Bert Trautmann**.

### From the Docs section:

*Jaroslav Kučera - A Portrait* (**Jakub Felcman, Tomáš Michálek**) – 4. 4., National Film Archive

Hour-long portrait of a cinematographer whose dozens of films included *The Cassandra Cat*, *Diamonds of the Night*, *Pearls of the Deep* and *Daisies* and who was a key figure in the Czechoslovak New Wave.

*Westwood: Punk, Icon, Activist* (**Lorna Tucker**) – 28. 3., Artcam Films

Tribute to one of the greatest icons in contemporary fashion capturing the birth of punk, which **Vivienne Westwood** was actively involved in, and her four decades in the world of fashion. The film earned a prize at Sundance in 2018.

### From the Generations section:

*Mirai of the Future* (**Mamoru Hosoda**) – 11. 4., CČFK

Japanese anime about forms of family love that was nominated for an Oscar for Best Animated Film. Four-year-old Kun is coming to terms with the birth of younger sister Mirai and finds solace in the garden of their house, which turns into a gateway to a fantasy world.

*Mia and the White Lion* (**Gilles de Maistre**) – 25. 4., Bontonfilm

Adventure set in the Savannah about Mia (11), who has moved to Africa with her family. She forms a unique relationship with a white lion born on the family's farm.

### From the Made in USA section:

*The Beach Bum* (**Harmony Korine**) – 1. 5., Bontonfilm

Legendary screenwriter, director and enfant terrible of US cinema Harmony Korine introduces the irresistible conman Moondog in a subversive comedy packed with high jinks.

### From the Masters section:

*High life* (**Claire Denis**) – 25. 4., Film Europe

A visually compelling wild ride uncovers the roots of human sexuality and physicality in the story of a group of criminals on death row who receive an offer of pardon, if they take part in a space mission.



From the New Europe section:

*By a Sharp Knife* (**Teodor Kuhn**) – 25. 4., Bontonfilm

Feature debut inspired by an actual criminal case that took place in Slovakia in 2005. A group of neo-Nazis were suspected over an attack on a student but mistakes and failings on the part of the police and justice system complicated the arrest of the culprits.

From the Panorama section:

*Genesis* (**Philippe Lesage**) – 9. 5., Artcam Films

Complex and extraordinarily moving film making use of an untraditional structure to capture the traumas of adolescence and first love. A non-linear narrative follows three overlapping stories interwoven with tragic and cosmic coincidences. The film has garnered prizes at a number of European festivals.

*Divine Love* (**Gabriel Mascaro**) – Aerofilms

Story set in Brazil in 2027 focused on the deeply religious Joana, who experiences God's love in a very intensive, absolutely real way. She takes advantage of her position at a notary's office to prevent marriages collapsing; however, she is faced with a crisis within her own.

From the Northern Lights section:

*Arctic* (**Joe Penna**) – 28. 3., Bohemia Motion Pictures

**Mads Mikkelsen** stars as a pilot who has crashed in the Arctic. He adheres to a strict daily regimen in order to survive close to the plane wreck but must eventually decide whether to stay or set off on a deadly journey across harsh wasteland.

*Becoming Astrid* (**Pernille Fischer Christensen**) – CinemArt

Pippi, Emil and the Bullerby children are cult children's characters created by Swedish author **Astrid Lindgren**. Biographical picture about her turbulent youth offering an intimate portrayal of the legend and pioneer of female emancipation.

From the Profile of Louis Garrel:

*A Faithful Man* (**Louis Garrel**) – 4. 4., Film Europe

In his second feature, Louis Garrel also plays the lead, a man whose world collapses when he is abandoned by the love of his life. A decade later she returns, but delivers a shocking secret. The film has received awards at the San Sebastian and Toronto IFFs.

Febiofest builds on last year's cooperation with the company Channels, which represents National Geographic in the Czech Republic, with a screening of the Oscar-winning documentary *Free Solo* (**Jimmy Chin, Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi**), which will be shown free of charge at the festival.

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