



PRAGUE IFF – FEBIOFEST 2020 COMEDY COMPETITION

The new Febiofest competition section Comedy Competition is focused on art-house style comedic pictures that reflect modern-day realities. They have a prominent place in the festival programme. The section's jury is comprised of 33 selected film fans while the honorary chair of the jury is one of the leading Czech actresses Klára Melíšková. The comedy section will start on the first day of the festival with an out-of-competition screening of the 1928 film *Circus*, the festival's tribute to the master of comedy Charlie Chaplin. The first film opening the competition will be the French comedy *All About Yves* by director Benoît Forgeard.

God Exists, Her Name Is Petrunya (2019), dir. **Teona Strugar Mitevska** - screening attended by the director on 22/03 at 5.30pm

Each January on the Epiphany holiday, the priest in the town of Shtip in Macedonia throws a wooden cross into the river. According to the tradition, the man who manages to fish it out first can look forward to good luck and prosperity throughout the whole year. However, this year, a woman captures the cross – Petrunya, a 32-year-old unemployed historian who still lives with her parents. But doesn't a woman deserve a good year as well? A comedy about a woman trying to succeed in a world built on the rules of men.

Teona Strugar Mitevska - Born into an artistic family, she started acting as a child and graduated in film from the Tisch School of Arts, New York. Her feature debut, *How I Killed a Saint*, was produced by a company she has with her siblings (also her sister Labina, known from the Czech film *Loners*). *God Exists, Her Name Is Petrunya* is her fifth film, portraying the life in the Balkans.

Heroic Losers (2019), dir. **Sebastian Borensztein**

A group of friends led by former football player Fermin decide to put their savings together for an agricultural project. One day after they deposit the money in a bank, Argentina suffers an economic collapse and the money is blocked. Moreover, they find out they have been tricked by an unscrupulous lawyer and the bank manager. What if they could get to their savings again? Based on a novel by Eduardo Sacheri, this suspenseful comedy is a new contribution to the heist genre.

Sebastian Borensztein - the Argentinian screenwriter and director is one of the country's most successful television creators. In 2005, he debuted with *The Die Is Cast*, and his *Chinese Take-Away* (2011) was awarded a Goya for the Best Ibero-American Film by the Spanish Film Academy.

Loli paradička (2019), dir. **Richard Staviarsky, Viťo Staviarsky** – screenings attended by a delegation on 24/03 at 5.30pm and on 25/03 at 9pm

At a fair, Veronka steals two Turkish delights from Milan's stand. When he finds out she did it only because she was hungry, he takes pity on her and buys her lunch. In return, she offers to become his sales assistant. And the two outsiders grow closer – he doesn't mind she's a Romany, she doesn't care he doesn't have a leg. Set in eastern Slovakia, this romantic comedy offers sparkling performances of both leading actors and an authentic local dialect.

Richard Staviarsky - graduated in Film and TV Directing from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, and has created several short films (e.g. *Andyho zena*, based on his father Viťo Staviarsky's short story). **Viťo Staviarsky** - studied screenwriting at FAMU in Prague, and now focuses on literature. *Loli Paradička* is their feature debut.



Mossad! (2019), dir. **Alon Gur Arye** – screenings attended by the director on 23/03 at 5.30pm and on 24/03 at 9pm

When the RBG (Really Bad Guys) organization kidnaps an American tech billionaire in Israel, a Mossad agent is forced to work together with his American counterpart from the CIA. But while she works by the book, he looks for shortcuts wherever possible. Just like anything in the Middle East, not even this cooperation can go without a conflict. A crazy comedy about secret agents who endanger the world even more while trying to save it, by the buddies of *The Naked Gun's* creators.

Alon Gur Arye He started as a radio screenwriter and continued as a TV director of kids' programs. His desire to shoot something else than the dramas prevalent in the Israeli cinema drove him to make a DIY mid-length film in 2007 – *Hamosad Hasagur (Israeli Intelligence)*, a comedy about a Mossad agent. He later developed this motive into a feature film.

Eeb Allay Ooo! (2019), dir. **Prateek Vats**

A young man is employed in a team of people who chase monkeys away from an administrative complex in New Delhi. The monkeys' natural predator has vanished, so the team has to learn such screeches as “eeb”, “allay”, and “ooo!”, banish the monkeys, but not hurt them in the slightest. But what to do when the animals genuinely scare you? Through the comic theme, this biting satire addresses social issues, heading to an almost surreal tragedy in the spirit of films by Ken Loach. *Eeb Allay Ooo!* won the Best Film, Best Actor and Young Critics Choice awards at the festival in Mumbai.

Prateek Vats - the Indian director has made many award-winning short films, including a documentary about a bodybuilding centenarian, *A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings* (2017), which won the Jury Prize at India's National Film Awards. *Eeb Allay Ooo!* is his feature film debut.

Call Mom! (2019), dir. **Lisa Aschan**

Some parents wait their whole life to hear the kids say “Thank you”. And some children wait just as doggedly to hear “Sorry”. This unsolvable equation serves as the starting point of this Swedish crazy comedy about mothers and daughters. Circumstances force thirty-five-year-old Niki, whose behaviour shows that maturity is not just about age, to reconsider all her relationships and life decisions. A positive film, whose mere name suggests what to do when life gets hard.

Lisa Aschan - after her studies, she grabbed attention with fictitious ads for spiky “Fuck the Rapist!” tampons. She made a TV series about a girl who pretends to be a leopard. Her feature debut *She Monkeys* about the rivalry between girls in a riding school won awards at festivals worldwide as well as at home for the Best Swedish Film.

All About Yves (2019), dir. **Benoît Forgeard** – screenings attended by the director on 20/03 at 5.30pm and on 21/03 at 9pm

Jerem longs to become a famous musician, so he moves into his grandma's house to have the peace and quiet to compose his rap album. One day, a mysterious woman working for a start-up called Digital Cool shows up. He convinces Jerem to try Yves, a new type of a smart fridge that should make his life easier. Yves wins Jerem's affection and starts helping him write music, resulting in Jerem becoming famous. But is the life with Yves really that easy?

Benoît Forgeard - the French director and actor graduated in fine art in Rouen and in video art at Fresnoy. He debuted with the feature *How to Succeed in Life*. His second live-action film was selected for one of Cannes' independent sections and for the competition at the Sitges festival. He directed a series about film for the Arte channel and wrote a book of reviews of imaginary films.