

PRESS RELEASE

February 4, 2020

The Zlín Film Festival for the 60th Time. Visitors can expect not only an attractive film festival, but also a spectacular celebration and a number of extraordinary surprises

Zlín - 2020: Back to the Future, the announced theme of the 60th Zlín Film Festival, has also inspired the authors of the visual that the organizers of the festival unveiled today at the Congress Center in Zlín. It is again based on a monkey, albeit in a completely new form. Combining digitally modified drawings of a monkey head and a robot head created a new graphic element: the "Robo-monkey". The festival will take place from May 29 to June 6.

The sixtieth year of the oldest and largest film festival of its kind in the world will be in the spirit of the theme 2020: BACK TO THE FUTURE. "Back" represents a respectable history of the festival and "the future" promises to fulfill the vision of its modern form developed through science, technology and education," said festival president Čestmír Vančura.

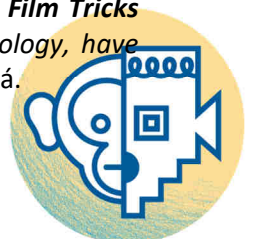
The authors of this year's visual are again the artist Petr Nikl and designer Zdeněk Macháček. It has been based on combining the drawings of a monkey and a robot and thus creating a new whole: a graphically solid digi-icon ROBO-MONKEY. "We want to prove to the public that a visual created combining the described elements will evoke an atmosphere of eternal desire to "touch the stars" – a message that can speak to every generation," says Zdeněk Macháček from Studio 6.15 in Zlín.

In addition to the traditional COMPETITION and the section entitled FESTIVAL CLASSICS, the dramaturgy of the 60th festival will focus on films in a special anniversary edition called 2020: BACK TO THE FUTURE. "This section aims to broaden the horizons of young visitors in the area of science and technology. The films will be dramaturgically divided into three groups: documentary films on science and technology, live-acted sci-fi fiction films for children and youth, and a section devoted to special effects in film," explains art director Markéta Pášmová. A series of **documentary films** informs young audiences about key concepts such as space, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, computer games, and information technology. "In addition to the films themselves, this mini-section will be complemented by lectures for schools and the public, and will try to answer the question of how technology makes our lives easier for us, and vice versa, what dangers do we face from it," says Markéta Pášmová. The mini-section of **science fiction films** should provide young audiences with fun and adventure, as well as learning experiences and opportunities to expand their horizons. The most common theme, encounters with extraterrestrial civilizations, will be supplemented by stories about robots, exploring new worlds and alternative futures.

In 2020, one of the most important pioneers of cinematic tricks would have been 100 years old: American filmmaker and artist Ray Harryhausen, who created unique puppets for the films *Clash of the Titans*, *Jason and Argonauts*, and *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad*. This contemporary of Karel Zeman's (who would have turned 110) has inspired the directors Steven Spielberg, Peter Jackson, George Lucas, Tim Burton, and many others. "We would like to pay tribute not only to him in the **Magic of Film Tricks** section, but also to other special effects creators who, with the help of the latest technology, have provided incredible film experiences to audiences over the years," explains Markéta Pášmová.

2020: NĀVRAT DO BUDOUCNOSTI

2020: BACK TO THE FUTURE



This mini-section consists of films that were revolutionary in terms of special and visual effects. Special screenings of films such as *Metropolis*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Jurassic Park*, *Matrix*, and *Gravity* will be accompanied by an introduction by the experts Kamil Fila and Boris Masník.

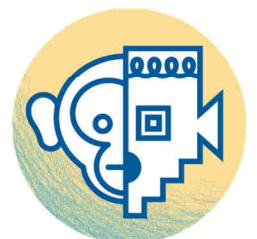
The festival's program department and the special effects artist and film effects supervisor Boris Masník, who is one of the best experts in the Czech Republic and often also participates in projects abroad, have created a section dedicated to film effects. *"For this year's festival theme - and the sci-fi genre in general - film tricks are one of the basic means of expression. It is a pleasant challenge for me to introduce the festival's visitors to the history film tricks and to what goes on behind the scenes,"* says Boris Masník and adds: *"During my meetings with festival-goers, I would like to point out, among other things, that the film tricks carried out in our films haven't lagged behind in quality in terms of world film productions. And this is evidenced by the fact that Czech special effects specialists and companies are successfully cooperating and successfully building on the tradition established by Karel Zeman and our other special effects artists."*

A no less important theme of the festival, which will be reflected especially in the supporting program, is the celebration of the festival's 60th year. *"This important year, which rounds the impressive numbering line to the sixties, will not be without wonderful meetings, surprises and events. I believe our visitors will enjoy it,"* says Executive Director Jarmila Záhorová and she gives examples from the upcoming program: *"We will certainly please audiences during the opening of the festival itself in the form of a public opening on the Gahura Prospect; we are preparing a big children's party for the youngest of our visitors."* There will also be an exhibition of large format crowd photographs from past festivals, a modern virtual gallery mapping the festival's history, a special festival time machine, and another activities. The history of the festival will also be commemorated by an upcoming documentary by Czech Television directed by Tomáš Luňák, a Zlín native.

A traditional part of the Zlín Film Festival will again be the auction of artistically rendered film clapperboards. The 23rd Clapperboard Salon will start on March 17 in Prague. CLAPPERBOARD TOUR 2020 will again have 5 stops this year – starting in Prague, it will then head out to Mladá Boleslav, Olomouc, Brno and Zlín, culminating in a traditional auction, which will take place on May 31 at the Congress Center.

For the fifth time, the film festival in Zlín will finish with the Festival Half-Marathon MONET + Zlín, which is scheduled to start on Saturday, June 6 at 4 pm, again starting at the Zlín Congress Centre. Preceding this, at 2 pm, will be the popular Festival Family Run; it's a 1400-meter course designed for parents with children and for those who prefer shorter runs. It will start again on the main square at Náměstí Míru.

The Zlín Film Festival will move to Mikulov from June 12 to 16, where the Mikulov Echoes of the Zlín Film Festival will take place for the fourth time.



60

Zlín Film Festival

60th International Film Festival for Children and Youth

29/5 — 6/6/2020

www.zlinfest.cz



The Zlín Film Festival – International Film Festival for Children and Youth is the oldest and, currently, largest film festival of its kind in the world. Its prestige increases every year not only in the Czech Republic, but also abroad. This is evidenced by a number of invitations and the participation of ZFF representatives to sit in the juries of international festivals in Russia, Latvia, Germany, Poland, Greece, India, and other countries of the world.

The festival received an important award at the end of 2019 in Tokyo, Japan at the KINEKO International Children's Film Festival, where it won the KINEKO HONORARY AWARD for its contribution to cinematography for children and youth.

The festival's mission is to present international film productions for children and teenagers, to make them accessible to the child audiences, and offer a high-quality alternative to commonly available audiovisual content. An important aspect of the festival is to educate young audiences through the medium of film, expand their awareness of the outside world, and develop their aesthetic, social, and moral feelings. The aim of the program is to contribute to the development of Czech cinema for children and youth. The organizer of the festival is the company FILMFEST, s.r.o..

You can find out more at www.zlinfest.cz.

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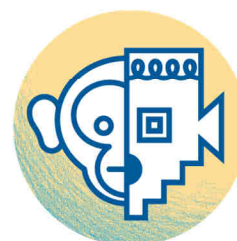
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2020: NĀVRAT DO BUDOUCNOSTI

2020: BACK TO THE FUTURE



Special edition 2020: BACK TO THE FUTURE

The films in this section will be dramaturgically divided into three groups:

- **documentaries about science and technology**
- **sci-fi fiction films for children and youth**
- **the magic of movie tricks**

Documentaries about science and technology

A series of documentary films informs young audiences about key concepts such as space, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, computer games, and information technology. The American documentary **Inventing Tomorrow** (USA, 2018, Laura Nix) follows the inspiring story of six teenagers who reach the finals of the Intel ISEF international science competition. **More Human Than Human** (NLD/USA/BEL, 2018, Tommy Pallotta, Femke Wolting) tells about the complex role of artificial intelligence in the contemporary world.

The documentary film **Side by Side** (USA, 2012, Christopher Kenneally) focuses on film technology as a question of whether digital or classic film, in which the actor Keanu Reeves interviewed the legends of world cinema. In addition to further documentary films, this mini-section will be complemented by lectures for schools and the public, and will try to answer the question of how does technology make our lives easier for us, and vice versa, what dangers do we face from it.

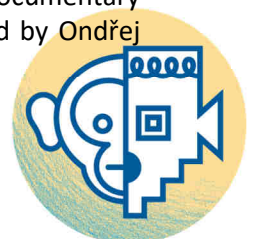
Live-acted sci-fi fiction films for children and youth

This mini-section of science fiction films should provide young audiences with fun and adventure, as well as learning experiences and opportunities to expand their horizons. The most common theme, encounters with extraterrestrial civilizations, will be supplemented by stories about robots, exploring new worlds and alternative futures. It will include classical genre works such as **E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial** (USA, 1982, Steven Spielberg), **Back to the Future** (USA, 1985, Robert Zemeckis), the animated **Wall-E** (USA, 2008, Andrew Stanton), and **The Iron Giant** (USA, 1999, Brad Bird). Space adventures will be experienced by the protagonists of **Explorers** (USA, 1985, Joe Dante) and **Zathura: A Space Adventure** (USA, 2005, Jon Favreau).

The magic of movie tricks

One of the groundbreaking technical inventions of all time is the film camera. From the very beginning of cinematography, the film industry has been trying to come up with new technologies that would not only provide a larger portion of entertainment but also contribute to artistic impression. Film tricks are as old as film itself. We can hardly imagine a film without visual tricks today. Viewers consume digital effects as well as popcorn. But to who should get credit for it? How do visual effects originate and what is their history?

In 2020, one of the most important pioneers of cinematic tricks would have been 100 years old: American filmmaker and artist Ray Harryhausen, who created unique puppets for the films *Clash of the Titans*, *Jason and Argonauts*, and *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad*. This contemporary of Karel Zeman's has inspired the directors Steven Spielberg, Peter Jackson, George Lucas, Tim Burton, and many others. This Magic of Film Tricks section should pay tribute not only to him, but also to other special effects creators who, with the help of the latest technology, have provided incredible film experiences to audiences over the years. The original tricks in Karel Zeman's films will be reviewed in the screening of the documentary **Film Adventurer Karel Zeman** (CZE/CAN, 2015, Tomáš Hodan) with an introductory word by Ondřej Beránek from the Karel Zeman Museum.



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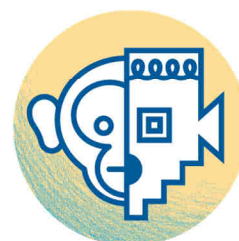
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This mini-section consists of films that were revolutionary in terms of special and visual effects. Special screenings of films such as **Metropolis** (GER, 1927, Fritz Lang), **2001: A Space Odyssey** (GBR/USA, 1968, Stanley Kubrick), **Jurassic Park** (USA, 1993, Steven Spielberg), **The Matrix** (USA, 1999, Lilly Wachowski, Lana Wachowski) či **Gravity** (USA/GBR, 2013, Alfonso Cuarón) will be supplemented with a professional introduction by Boris Masník and Kamil Fila.

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60

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The organizer of the Zlín Film Festival, FILMFEST, s.r.o., would also like to thank all of our partners and supporters, who were absolutely crucial for making it possible for the 60th festival to happen. They are:

Co-organizer: statutory city of Zlín

General partner: Kovárna VIVA a.s.

General Media Partner: Czech Television

Financial supporters: Ministry of Culture, Zlín Region, State Fund of Cinematography, Creative Europe - MEDIA; City of Otrokovice

Main partners: ENAPO OBCHODNÍ a.s.; ŠKODA AUTO a.s.; KOMA MODULAR s.r.o.; Zlaté jablko, a.s.; GOLDEN APPLE CINEMA, a.s.

Main media partners: Czech radio; Total Film, DENÍK

Significant partners: Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně; MONET+, a.s.; SPUR a.s., PFNonwovens Czech s.r.o.; ABB s.r.o.; Navláčil stavební firma, s.r.o.; EUROVIA CS, a.s.; ROBE Lighting s. r. o.; IS Produkce s.r.o.; DHL Express (Czech Republic) s.r.o.

2020: NĀVRAT DO BUDOUCNOSTI

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