



1 — 7/6/2023

63<sup>rd</sup> International Film Festival for Children and Youth

## PRESS RELEASE

June 1, 2023

### THE 63RD ZLÍN FILM FESTIVAL IS STARTING IN ZLÍN

Zlín – The 63rd Zlín Film Festival will bring 295 films from 50 countries and a rich supporting program for schools and the whole family. As of today, it is welcoming important personalities from the film industry who are heading to Zlín. Actor Pavel Nový will be awarded a Golden Slipper in the evening. This year's festival is taking place June 1-7.

This year, the Zlín Film Festival is starting on Children's Day and is primarily intended for children and young people. *"We are expecting a beautiful week together with our festival audience and our guests in the beautiful environment of Zlín in spring. Children and adolescents are both demanding and fun-loving audiences. We look forward to them and to our guests together with our partners and sponsors, and I believe that Zlín will again be good hosts and neighbors this year"*, said the President of the Zlín Film Festival Čestmír Vančura, adding that the film and supporting program is, of course, not only aimed at young audiences, but also at other age categories and, first and foremost, families.

With its content, the festival also focuses on school groups. *"Due to the great interest from local and non-Zlín schools, we have added a further screening site in Zlín this year, which is the TBU auditorium on Mostní Street. The capacity of the morning screenings is currently 85% full, and so is the case with the morning film workshops,"* said Jarmila Záhorová, Executive Director of ZFF, assessing the situation and adding: *"Compared to last year, the number of schools outside Zlín preparing one-day school trips to the festival has also slightly increased. This year, 38 of them will be heading to us. The furthest being, for example, from Litomyšl and Čáslav."*

*The number of accredited guests going to Zlín reached 2,214 before the start of the festival. The capacity of all the accommodation facilities in the city that we have reserved for our needs is currently completely exhausted. And so are the remaining spare capacities in Zlín and the surrounding area,"* said Jarmila Záhorová, Executive Director of the festival.

In its film program, the 63rd Zlín Film Festival is offering a total of **295 films** from **50 countries around the world**.

As is true every year, there will be no shortage of traditional European countries such as Germany, Finland, and France. *"However, exotic locals such as Peru, Qatar and Nicaragua are also represented,"* added the artistic director Markéta Pášmová and confirmed that it will be a year with an unprecedentedly strong participation of Canadian and Norwegian films, which is also reflected in the composition of the main competitions.



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For the first time ever, film screenings can also be visited by audiences at the Atlas cinema in Prague. *"School groups and other audiences in Prague will have the opportunity to be part of the Zlín Film Festival from tomorrow and see 14 festival films"*, explained Markéta Pášmová.

The morning opening film of the festival will be the feature-length animated film **Tony, Shelly and Magic Light**, which was created in a Czech-Slovak-Hungarian co-production. The world premiere will take place in Zlín on Thursday, June 1, at 10:00 a.m.

One of the animated characters of this film was also voiced by the actor **Pavel Nový**, to whom the President of the Festival will award the Golden Slipper Award for Lifetime Achievement in Cinematography for Children and Youth on the same evening. *"I feel honoured, therefore it is my pleasure,"* responded Pavel Nový to news of the award, adding that he had definitely not finished working for children: *"After all, I should be making another children's film this summer, in which I will initially be a mysterious character."* A second Golden Slipper will be received by actress Zlata Adamovská at the end of the festival.

As part of the evening opening, audiences can look forward to the Canadian film **Billie Blue** at 7 pm. This summer story of romantic first love will be presented by director Mariloup Wolfe, author and screenwriter Sarah-Maude Beauchesne, and the main actress Lilliane Skelly.

The first festival evening will also be the occasion to present the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic award "For the popularization of science among youth". This year, the jury focused on young filmmakers – elementary school students tasked with creating a short film about how they imagine life in cities of the future based on new inventions.

For the occasion of Břetislav Pojar's 100th birthday, the festival will commemorate the work of Czech animators in a series called Check the Czechs. These screenings will be supplemented by special introductions with examples of various animation techniques. In response to the trend in the field of series for teenagers, the festival programmers have prepared a new section for European web series for young audiences. *"This year we will focus on Scandinavian productions and each day of the festival we will present one series with themes reflecting contemporary teenage issues - identity, immigration, coming out, bullying and more,"* said Markéta Pášmová.

The supporting program of the festival will also focus on themes aimed not only at the young generation. *"Among other things, there will be gatherings and a talk show called Life Is Like That, where we will talk to interesting personalities about their ups and downs in life,"* said Jarmila Záhorová, the executive director, adding that, as in previous years, visitors will be treated to a rich program at various locations in Zlín. *"For example, they can look forward to the celebration of several anniversaries of our media partners, the exhibition of decorations by Studio Kamarád, dancing in the streets or the return of the party tent, which visitors will now find in front of the Zlín castle,"* explained Jarmila Záhorová and pointed out that visitors can find the full programme in the festival app Zlínfest.



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This year the festival will also focus on a program for film professionals during the **Zlín Industry Days**. Educators will be treated to a conference block full of themes and personalities called **Children Without Borders**.

For the seventh time, the festival will officially close with the Mikulov Echoes of the Zlín Film Festival. The festival is scheduled to take place from June 13 to 15, 2023.

**Zlín Film Festival** - International Film Festival for Children and Youth is the oldest and currently the largest film festival of its kind in the world. It maintains its prestige not only in the Czech Republic but also abroad. This is evidenced by the number of invitations and participation of ZFF representatives to the juries of international festivals in Latvia, Germany, Poland, Greece, India and other countries of the world and the great interest in the film dramaturgy of the festival.

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

The organizer of the festival is FILMFEST, s.r.o., which, in addition to the film festival itself, is also the founder of the FILMTALENT ZLÍN Endowment Fund, operates the Zlín Fest Screen platform, manages the permanent exhibition of Zlín film under the name Kabinet of Film History at the Film Studios. Last year, FILMFEST also organized the 1st Zlín Film Weekend, it regularly organizes film camps and, as part of the film festival, organizes the Festival Half Marathon MONET+ Zlín, as well as other events and projects.

You can find more at [www.zlinfest.cz](http://www.zlinfest.cz)

Media Contact

Ing. Kateřina Martykánová

PR manager

tel.: +420 602 576 870

email: [katerina.martykanova@zlinfest.cz](mailto:katerina.martykanova@zlinfest.cz)



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## OPENING FILM: TONY, SHELLY AND THE MAGIC LIGHT

This year's film festival for children and youth will open with the world premiere of the animated adventure film **TONY, SHELLY AND THE MAGIC LIGHT** by Filip Pošivac. The audience will be able to watch it at three screening times. The film will be distributed in the Czech Republic at the end of this year.

### A film about being different, friendship, and imagination

The puppet film *Tony, Shelly and the Magic Light* tells the story of eleven-year-old Tony, who has a unique characteristic - he has been glowing since birth. His story is a celebration of friendship, imagination and the courage to find light in the darkness. Set in the Advent season, the story of Tony and his friend Shelly conveys the message that being different need not be a burden, but can provide beautiful experiences and unexpected encounters in one's life. "The film about Tony and Shelly is actually an ordinary story that can happen to any of us. It is 'only' a representation of the fairytale beauty hidden in all the good deeds we do for others, because each of us carries at least a small light inside us that can burn whenever we show empathy, tolerance, or help someone else. Any of us can become the hero of a great story," says the director of the film Filip Pošivač, who has extensive experience in animation. He is the main designer of the popular animated series *Bear Tales (Mlsné medvědí příběhy)*, nominated for a Czech Lion, and as a director and designer he worked with Barbora Valecka on the puppet films *Deep in the Moss (Až po uši v mechu)* and *Overboard (Přes palubu)*, and directed the series *Live from the Moss (Živě z mechu)*. He is also a book illustrator, for which he has won a number of important awards. Young readers will know his typical illustrations from a number of other books, including *The Worst Day in the Life of a Third Grader Philip L (Nejhorší den v životě třetáka Filipa L.)*, *From the Cuckoo to St. Nicholas (Od žezulky k Mikuláši)*, and *Hello, Peacock Eye (Paví očko, dobrý den)*.

### Puppet Heroes Live

During the Zlín Film Festival, a **unique exhibition** will be created for three days, where visitors will be able to take a look behind the scenes of a film's preparation. Puppets of both main and supporting characters will be on display, as well as the sets of *Tony, Shelly and the Magic Light*. The exhibition will be open to the general public from June 1 to 3, 2023 in **100dola** - the oldest and largest studio in Kudlov, where many films and fairy tales, such as *Journey to the Beginning of Time*, were filmed. Interested visitors will not only see the current exhibition, but also the premises of this historic building.

### Exhibition

Thursday, June 1 to Saturday, June 3, always from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

Address: 100dola, Filmová 174, Kudlov



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The film *Tony, Shelly and the Magic Light* is a Slovak-Czech-Hungarian co-production. It is produced by the film companies **nutprodukcía** and **nuprodukce**. It is co-produced by **Czech Television, Radio and Television of Slovakia, Kouzelná Animace** and **Filmfabriq**. The film was financially supported by the Audiovisual Fund, the **State Cinematography Fund, Eurimages, Creative Europe MEDIA**, the **Hungarian National Film Institute** and the **Zlín Region**. It will be brought to Czech cinemas by the distribution company CinemArt.





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## ZLÍN INDUSTRY DAYS 2023

### FRIDAY, JUNE 2

#### **FILMTALENT Pitching Fórum**

10 am – 3 pm / Congress Centre, Small Hall

#### **FILMTALENT Talks**

3 pm – 4:30 pm / Congress Centre, Small Hall

#### **Opening of the TBU Fénix digitization centre**

5 pm – 7 pm / Fénix, Antonínova 4379, Zlín

### SATURDAY, JUNE 3

#### **Contemporary Czech literature for children and youth as a source for film themes**

10:30 am – 12:30 pm / Congress Centre, Small Hall

#### **Zlín, city of film**

2 pm – 4:30 pm / Congress Centre, Small Hall

#### **Sex, TikTok & TV: Current trends in young adult productions**

5 pm – 6:30 / Congress Centre, Small Hall

### SUNDAY, JUNE 4

#### **Cinema Off School 2023 / International conference on film and audiovisual education**

#### **Topic: A movie instead of nerding out. "What should a school film guide look like?"**

9 am – 4 pm / Congress Centre, Small Hall

#### **Festival Community: Open mic session**

5 pm – 5:45 pm / Congress Centre, Small Hall

#### **Check the Czechs: Work in Progress**

6 pm – 7 pm / Congress Centre, Small Hall



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## JURIES 2023

### **International professional jury for feature films for children**

Jitka Schneiderová (Czech Republic)

Katarina Launing (Sweden)

Simon Crowe (Great Britain)

### **International professional jury for feature films for junior and youth**

Hana Vagnerová (Czech Republic)

Jerzy Moszkowicz (Poland)

Guðmundur Arnar Guðmundsson (Iceland)

### **International professional jury for short, animated films for children**

Alexandra Májová (Czech Republic)

Vassilis C. Karamitsanis (Greece)

Tomáš Danay (Slovakia)

### **International professional jury for the Zlín Dog student film competition**

Ursula van den Heuvel (Netherlands)

Šimon Holý (Czech Republic)

Martin Kudláč (Slovakia)

### **European Children's Film Association Jury**

Marion Røst Heimlund (Norway)

Samina Gul (Germany)

Nils Andersson (Sweden)

### **International Ecumenical Jury**

Gundi Doppelhammer (Germany)

Théo Péporté (Luxemburg)

Ida Tenglerova (Czech Republic)



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## FILM DELEGATIONS 2023

### International Competition of Feature Films for Children up to 10 Years of Age

**Tony, Shelly and the Magic Light** (CZE): Filip Pošivač (director), Jana Šrámková (animator), Jakub Viktorín (producer), Eva Kameníková (producer), Marek Královský (editor)

**Abbababb!** (ICE): Nanna Kristín Magnúsdóttir (director)

**Children of Nagano** (CZE): Dan Pánek (director), Tom Brenton, Johanka Racková (child actors), Tomáš Havlínek (actor), Jan Lengyel (producer)

**Roï** (FIN): Elina Patrakka (child actress)

**Mimi** (SVK): Mira Fornay (director), Romy Williems (child actress)

**What the Finn** (GER): Stefan Westerwelle (director), Lotte Engels (child actress)

### International Competition of Feature Films for Juniors over 11 years old

**Sea Sparkle** (BEL): Domien Huyghe (director)

**Juniors** (FRA): Hugo P. Thomas (director), Marielle Gautier (actress)

### International Competition of Short Animated Films for Children up to 12 Years of Age

**The Goose** (CZE/FRA): Jan Míka (director), Michal Podhradský (producer)

**Cats Are Liquid** (CZE): Natálie Durchánková (director)

**Vicky, The Sleepy-bye Owl** (CZE): Lucie Sunková (director)

**My Name Is Edgar And I Have a Cow** (CZE): Filip Diviak (director), Bára Příkaská (producer)

**Middle Watch** (GBR/CZE): Ondřej Beránek (producer)

**Dandelions** (CZE): Alexandra Chovanová (director)

**Desert Critter** (GER): Lina Walde (director)

**Lights** (CZE): Jitka Nemikinová (director)

**Where Rabbits Come From** (CAN): Colin Ludvic Racicot (director), Simon Allard (producer), Bertrand Paquette (producer), Cécile Fiquet

**Peter the Beetle** (EST): Meelis Arulepp (director), Kristel Tõldsepp (producer)

**A Tiny Voyage** (FRA): Emily Worms (director)

**Crab** (POL): Piotr Chmielewski (director), Tomasz Sobczak (cinematographer), Piotr Kubiak (sound editor)

**Meet Again** (KOR): Yoorim Lee (co-director)

**Lovely Rita** (SUI): Elena Madrid (director)

### Competition of Feature European Documentaries for Young Audiences

**Fearless** (ITA): Luciano Toriello (director), Massimo a Pierfrancesco Rizzello (protagonist), Giuseppe Maiorano (co-author)

**It's Always Been Me** (DNK): Julie Madsen (director)





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### **International Student Film Competition Zlin Dog**

**Birthmarks** (GER): Lenia Friedrich (director)

**Metamorphosis** (CZE): Karolína Pravdová, Lucie Lisníková (directors)

**Everything's Fine, Potatoes in Line** (CZE): Piotr Jasiski (director)

**I Don't Want to Go Yet** (SVK): Klára Fedora Homzová (director), Viktória Wallnerová (dramaturg)

**Dede Is Dead** (CZE): Philippe Kastner (director), Emma Slobodová (production)

**Rites** (CZE): Damián Vondrášek (director), Martina Netíková (producer), Tomáš Starý (actor)

**Ice Break** (CZE): Elvira Dulaskaia (director), Julieta Sichel (producer)

**Island of Freedom** (CZE): Petr Januschka (director), František Horvát (production)

**Rave to the Grave** (SVK): Vladimír Horník (director)

**Debit Card** (NLD): Thijs Bouman (director)

**Selfmotion** (CZE): Martin Bystriansky (director), Silvie Goliášová (executive producer)

**Vinland** (CZE): Martin Kuba (director)

**Whatman** (CZE): Nika Zinověva (director)

### **World Children's Film Panorama**

**The Tesla Case** (BUL): Andrey Hadjivasilev (director)

**Jonja** (GER): Anika Mätzke (director)

### **Beyond the Childhood Horizon**

**Billie Blue** (CAN): Mariloupe Wolfe (director), Sarah-Maude Beaudesne (author, screenwriter), Liliane Skelly (actress)

**Beautiful Beings** (ICE): Guðmundur Arnar Guðmundsson (director)

### **New Czech Films and TV Programs**

**The Secret of Mr. M.:** Pavel Šimák (director), Honza Štáva, Theo Schaefer, Kamila Vamberová (actors)

**Sex O'clock:** big delegation

**Erhart:** Jan Březina (director), Marek Novák

**Five Years:** Alžběta Malá (actress), Samuel Toman (actor)

**Alchemist Cursed in Time 2:** Jan Révai (actor), Sára Korbelová (actress)

### **Special Mention**

**Zlín – The Town in the Gardens:** Pave Jandourek (director), Ladislava Horňáková (screenwriter)

**The Stolen Airship:** Lída Zemanová, Ondřej Beránek

**Eduard Štorch, The Mammoth Hunter:** Josef Císařovský (director)

**Věra Plívová-Šimková:** Anna Stichenwirthová (director)



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### STARS ON THE WALK OF FAME 2023

During the 63rd festival, two stars will be unveiled again on the Zlín Walk of Fame. The history of the joint project of the Drop of Hope Foundation and the Zlín Film Festival dates back to 2006. This year, the names of **Tereza Ramba** and **Jan Cina** will appear on the stone tiles in front of Zlín's Grand Cinema.

**The event will take place on Tuesday, June 6 at 3:30 p.m. in front of the Grand Cinema**

Media meeting with Tereza Ramba and Jan Cina before the event, at 2 pm in the Zlín Congress Centre (press point in the foyer)

### YOUNG STARS 2023

For several years now, the Zlín Film Festival has also focused on interesting young actors. This year's Young Stars coming to Zlín will be **Antonie Formanová** and **Vojtěch Vodochodský**.

You can meet the Young Stars at the tree planting in the festival alley (University Park opposite the 21st Regional Office building) **on Monday, 5 June at 9:30 a.m.**



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**The organizer of the Zlín Film Festival, FILMFEST, s.r.o., would like to thank its partners and supporters, without whom the 63rd Zlín Film Festival would not be possible.**

**Finanční podpora / Financial Support**

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