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63rd International Film Festival for Children and Youth

PRESS RELEASE

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Zlín Film Festival Will Award Zlata Adamovská and Pavel Nový with the Golden Slipper This Year

The largest and oldest film festival for children and youth in the world will present 295 films from 50 countries this year. The Golden Slipper will be awarded in Zlín to actor Pavel Nový at the start of the festival and to actress Zlata Adamovská at the end. The Zlín Film Festival will open with the world premiere of the animated feature *Tony, Shelly and the Magic Light*.

The sixty-third year of the film festival will again bring festival-goers in Zlín a varied film program from different parts of the world and a range of accompanying activities to strengthen and develop relationships between parents, children and grandparents. *"We aim to showcase the best of the world's film productions for children and young people and offer an alternative to the audiovisual content commonly available. The festival is, above all, fun for our visitors. However, through films and supporting programs, we will also offer them, as in previous years, the opportunity to learn, to broaden their awareness of the world around them, to raise current topics and discuss them,"* said Čestmír Vančura, president of the Zlín Film Festival.

In its film program, the festival is offering films in competition in the traditional categories, to which filmmakers have submitted over 1500 films this year. The festival programmers have selected **295 films from 50 countries**, including traditional European countries such as Germany, Finland and France. *"However, exotic countries such as Peru, Qatar or Nicaragua are also represented,"* said artistic director Markéta Pášmová, confirming that this will be a year with an unusually strong participation of Canadian and Norwegian films, which is reflected in the composition of the main competitions. She also pointed out a novelty for this year's festival, which will be screenings at the Atlas cinema in Prague. *"School groups and other audiences in Prague will have the unique opportunity to be part of the Zlín Film Festival and see 14 films with special introductions with delegations, which we will broadcast directly from the festival in Zlín,"* explained Markéta Pášmová.

The festival will officially open on June 1 at 10:00 am with the world premiere of the Czech-Slovak-Hungarian family film *Tony, Shelly and the Magic Light*. The film, directed by Filip Pošivac and created with stop-motion animation, delivers the message that it is possible to deal with difference in any form and that tolerance and responsibility are cards that can always be played. One of the animated characters is voiced by actor Pavel Nový, who will be awarded the Golden Slipper award for his lifetime contribution to cinema for children and youth by the festival president later that evening. *"I feel honoured, so the pleasure is all mine,"* reacted Pavel Nový to the news of the award, adding that he is definitely not finished with his work for



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children: *"After all, I should be making another children's film this summer in which I will be a mysterious figure at the beginning."*

The world premiere of the Canadian film **Billie Blue** will be shown during the opening night gala for adults. Director Mariloup Wolfe, screenwriter Sarah-Maude Beauchesne, and lead actress Lilliane Skelly are coming to the festival to present this summer tale of romantic first love.

In the out-of-competition part of the film program, the festival will commemorate the work of Czech animators, first of all by Břetislav Poyar, who would have celebrated his 100th birthday this year. 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 festival's supporting program will also focus on themes aimed not only at the young generation. *"Among other things, there will be lectures 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 of the festival: *"However, we don't want to forget the anniversary of our partners, Czech Radio and Czech Television. We will focus on the 60th anniversary of the Czech televised Bed-time Stories, for which we have prepared a composite program with interesting guests, and we are preparing an exhibition with props from the series Studio Kamarád. And of course, we will also be running again as part of the 8th year of the MONET+ Zlín Festival Half Marathon and the RBP Family Run."*

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

As far as which films will ultimately take home an award from the 63rd Zlín Film Festival is concerned, this will again year be decided by expert juries. The 18 jurors will include director Šimon Holý, animator Alexandra Májová, Slovak journalist Martin Kudláč, as well as actresses and Hana Vagnerová and Jitka Schneiderová, who will chair the main festival jury.

The prizes will be awarded during the closing gala evening on Wednesday, June 7. The second Golden Slipper from the festival president will be presented to actress and film representative Zlata Adamovská, who has also starred in a number of films for young people and in fairy tales such as *The Prince and the Evening Star*, *Hell with the Princess*, *The Christmas Star*, *The Crown Prince*, and more. **Zlata Adamovská** reacted to the organizers' decision with slight embarrassment. *"I'm not sure I deserve such an award. But at the same time I was of course delighted that it would be at the much-loved festival in Zlín."*



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For the seventh time, the festival will officially close with the Mikulov Echoes of the Zlín Film Festival. It 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.

At the end of 2019, the festival received an important award at the KINEKO International Children's Film Festival in Tokyo, Japan, where it received the KINEKO HONOURARY 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 filmové historie 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, carries out the Festival Half Marathon MONET+ Zlín, other events and projects.

Find out more at www.zlinfest.cz

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