



PRESS RELEASE
February 20, 2025

Zlín Film Festival to Celebrate 65th Anniversary – Simona Stašová and Boris Masník to Receive the Golden Slipper

Zlín – The 65th Zlín Film Festival is set to delight audiences of all ages with a packed film program and supporting events, unveiling a number of innovations, paying tribute to outstanding personalities, and commemorating the anniversaries of Japan’s Studio Ghibli as well as Slovak animated film. This year’s Golden Slipper award will go to actress Simona Stašová and special effects wizard Boris Masník. The festival will take place from Thursday, May 29, through Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

The world’s oldest and largest film festival for children and youth is marking a half-round anniversary this year, and that theme will be woven throughout its visual presentation.

“The festival’s focus remains on itself once again, but this time we’re taking a look back at the inaugural edition by redesigning its very first logo,” said Zlín Film Festival’s Executive Director Jarmila Záhorová. She added that the original, ingenious logo—created by Václav Dobrovolný, a longtime fellow-traveler on the ‘Hill of Dreams’ and a versatile artist, director, animator, and screenwriter—has been digitized and color-enhanced by Zdeněk Macháček of Studio 6.15.

“I dare to hope, perhaps a bit boldly, that this year’s redesigned festival logo will light up the city and draw our fellow citizens’ attention to the festival’s historical legacy—an extraordinarily important undertaking visited, in total, by millions of our compatriots who love film,” said Macháček.

The festival has long served as a key meeting point for prominent figures of the film industry, honoring their lifetime achievements in children’s and youth cinema. This year, the festival president will confer the prestigious award for contributions to children’s and youth cinematography on two distinguished individuals.

“At the festival’s opening, we will present the Golden Slipper statuette to special effects artist and film effects supervisor Boris Masník. Then, during the concluding Gala Evening, we will pay tribute to an extraordinary lady—one of the most in-demand Czech actresses, Simona Stašová—who is celebrating a wonderful personal milestone this March,” announced Festival President Čestmír Vančura.

Audiences heading to the movie theaters can once again look forward to competition entries in the festival’s traditional categories, which filmmakers can submit until March 1, 2025. In its main out-of-competition program, the Zlín Film Festival will spotlight two key anniversaries in the world of animation. To honor 40 years of Japan’s Studio Ghibli, there will be screenings of legendary anime titles with special introductions, guest speakers, and masterclasses for students and the



general public. In celebration of 60 years of Slovak animated film, the festival will offer a series of screenings prepared in collaboration with the Slovak Film Institute. A profile section dedicated to Viktor Kubal—founder of Slovak animation—will cater to adult viewers, while the work of other Slovak animators will be shown in the children’s category.

The festival’s film program will also honor the work of screenwriters and directors Jindřich Polák and Vojtěch Jasný, both of whom would have been celebrating their 100th birthdays this year. *“From Jindřich Polák’s repertoire, we’ll be showing Nebeští jezdci (Riders in the Sky), several episodes of the cult TV series Návštěvníci (The Visitors), and Poplach v oblacích (Panic in the Clouds) featuring the legendary Pan Tau,”* said Artistic Director Markéta Pášmová. She added that audiences can also look forward to the festival premiere of the documentary *Návštěvník Jindřich Polák (Visitor Jindřich Polák)*, currently in production at Czech Television under the direction of Jakub Skalický. Actors Josef Dvořák and Pavel Zedníček, Polák’s wife Zuzana Poláková, and Petr Tichý, General Director of Barrandov Studios, will share their memories of this influential screenwriter and director during a special panel discussion.

“We’ll also revisit the work of Vojtěch Jasný—specifically the renowned film Až přijde kocour (When the Cat Comes)—during a discussion with actress Emília Vášáryová, moderated by film historian and journalist Jan Lukeš. We will also commemorate the 120th anniversary of Jan Werich’s birth.” added Markéta Pášmová.

A new addition to this year’s specialized festival lineup is Young Industry, a platform where inspiring figures from the film world—both established professionals and successful newcomers—will share their insights. *“Our goal is to support and motivate the new generation of filmmakers. This initiative will give young creators, who are just breaking into the industry, inspiration, networking opportunities on an international level, and a forum for sharing experience and discussion,”* explained Markéta Pášmová, adding that students will be directly involved in the organization, a strategy that proved successful during the 3rd Zlín Film Weekend.

The international competition section Zlín Dog will also receive a fresh makeover this year. This category brings together young filmmakers from around the globe, each contributing a unique cultural perspective and enriching the international film industry with new viewpoints, stories, directions, and trends.

“This year, we decided to bring the section even closer to its core audience—students. Along with screenings held at Tomas Bata University, we plan to incorporate discussions with young filmmakers into the student blocks, allowing for an exchange of experiences and the potential for new collaborations,” explained Markéta Pášmová.

A significant change is also in store for the Film Clapperboard Salon, now in its 28th year, which will open with a vernissage on March 18. For the first time, the clapperboards will be exhibited in the entrance hall of the National Museum in Prague. Afterward, they’ll head back on tour to the Škoda Museum in Mladá Boleslav, the Ferdinand Porsche Birthplace in Liberec-Vratislavice, Art Rubikon Gallery in Olomouc, and the Vaňkovka Gallery in Brno. Their final stop will be the Golden Apple Shopping and Entertainment Center in Zlín, before moving to the Zlín Congress Center.



Proceeds from the clapperboard auction fund film projects by students of film schools and other emerging creators. *“We’re delighted that this project gives us the chance to nurture the next generation of filmmakers,”* emphasized Markéta Pášmová, adding: *“On Saturday, March 8, we’ll be on the edge of our seats for the Czech Lion Awards, where five of the films we’ve supported will be competing for the country’s top film accolade.”*

As part of the 65th anniversary festivities, the festival organizers—together with Czech Radio and its symphony orchestra—have planned a Masters of Film Music concert at Prague’s Municipal House on March 27. The festival itself will then kick off with a grand concert by the Police Symphony Orchestra featuring Tomáš Klus on Thursday, May 29, on the main square, Náměstí Míru, as part of Zlín’s Day of Unlimited Possibilities.

“On Friday evening, May 30, visitors can also look forward to a special anniversary happening in Komenský Park,” noted Jarmila Záhorová.

An essential element of this year’s supporting program is once again the MONET+ Zlín 2025 Festival Half Marathon, traditionally the biggest running event in the Zlín region, which will celebrate its tenth year on Sunday, June 1. Across several venues in downtown Zlín, organizers have prepared activities for visitors of all ages. Attendees will also have the chance to meet well-known personalities, filmmakers, and other star guests.

This year, the festival will once again wrap up with the Echoes of the Zlín Film Festival, held throughout June not only in Mikulov but also in other cities across the Czech Republic.

For more information, visit www.zlinfest.cz.

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International
Film Festival
for Children and Youth
29/5 — 4/6/2025



Zlín Film Festival – The International Film Festival for Children and Youth is the oldest and currently the largest showcase of its kind in the world. Its prestige grows year after year, both at home in the Czech Republic and abroad. Proof of this can be seen in the numerous invitations extended to the festival's representatives to serve on juries at international film festivals in Latvia, Germany, Poland, Greece, India, and many other countries, as well as the global interest in the festival's programming.

The festival is organized by FILMFEST, s.r.o., which, in addition to hosting the film festival itself, also oversees the FILMTALENT ZLÍN Endowment Fund, runs the Zlín Fest Screen platform, and manages the permanent Zlín film exhibit known as the Film History Cabinet at the Zlín Film Studios. Last year, FILMFEST held the 3rd annual Zlín Film Weekend, regularly organizes film-themed day camps, and—within the framework of the festival—produces the MONET+ Zlín Festival Half Marathon, along with partner events and other activities and projects.



The organizer of the Zlín Film Festival, FILMFEST, s.r.o., expresses its gratitude to all the partners and supporters without whom the 65th edition of this Zlín film showcase could not take place.

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65 **ZLÍN**
FILM
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