



PRESS RELEASE
April 29, 2025

65th Zlín Film Festival Begins in One Month Showcasing a Wide Range of New Films from Around the World

Prague – The world's largest and oldest festival of films for children and youth will once again offer a vibrant program full of film screenings, creative encounters, and supporting events for its anniversary year. This year's Young Stars will include Sára Korbelová, Alžběta Malá, Antonio Šoposki, and Tomas Sean Pšenička. The Zlín Film Festival will kick off with the distribution pre-premiere of the animated film *Grandma's Fairytales*. The festival will take place from May 29 to June 4, 2025.

The 65th edition of the festival aims once again to be a place where visitors can spend meaningful time, discover new worlds, and create unforgettable memories. The festival will be celebratory, reflecting on its rich history and honoring key filmmakers, personalities, and moments that have shaped it into what it is today.

"Through film screenings and guest encounters, we will commemorate the 100th birthdays of master filmmakers Jindřich Polák and Vojtěch Jasný. Discussions will also recall the Golden Slipper awards, the stars on the Walk of Fame, and especially their recipients," explained Čestmír Vančura, president of the Zlín Film Festival. He added, *"I am pleased that, on this occasion, guests such as Emília and Magda Vášáryová, Pavel Zedníček, Jaromír Hanzlík, Filip Renč, and others will visit Zlín."*

The Zlín Film Festival is above all about a diverse offering of films and the opportunity to see films for children and youth on the big screen – films that audiences usually cannot see outside of the festival. In six competitive and several non-competitive sections, roughly 300 films from 50 countries will be shown, including world, Czech, and international premieres. Films from exotic countries like the Dominican Republic, Chile, South Africa, Cape Verde, Qatar, Kenya, and Uruguay will be represented.

Numerous film delegations made up of directors, actors, producers, and other creators will also travel to Zlín. *"I am thrilled that we can broaden young people's horizons through film, allowing them to experience the lives of their peers around the world and encouraging them to appreciate film as an important medium,"* said artistic director Markéta Pášmová. *"Our work is meaningful – we nurture and shape future audiences by teaching them to understand film and the culture surrounding it."*



She also added that the main non-competitive program will, among other things, focus on two major anniversaries in the field of animated filmmaking. *"Screenings of legendary anime films with special introductions, guests, and a masterclass with Michael Leader for students and the public will be dedicated to the 40th anniversary of Japan's Studio Ghibli. In connection with the celebration of the 60th anniversary of Slovak animated filmmaking, we will offer a section dedicated to Viktor Kubal, the founder of Slovak animation, aimed at adult audiences, while other creators will be presented in the section for children,"* clarified Markéta Pášmová.

The winners of the awards at the 65th Zlín Film Festival will once again be decided by professional juries. Among the total of 18 jurors from 13 countries will be, for example, director and animator from the famous Aardman studio Will Becher (*Wallace and Gromit, Shaun the Sheep, and Chicken Run*), Canadian screenwriter and producer Dominic James, Student Academy Award winner Darja Kashcheeva, producer Tonje Skar Reiersen from Norway's Oscar-winning animation studio Mikrofilm, promising and talented young director Martin Pavol Repka, holder of the Discovery of the Year award from Czech film critics, and member of the European Film Academy and Berlinale Talents 2024 participant Gianmarco Donaggio.

The festival will once again create space for international networking of film professionals during Zlín Industry Days. This is a specialized program that remains the only one in the Czech Republic continuously focused on supporting filmmaking for children and youth. *"A new feature of this year's edition will be a greater focus on student filmmaking in the Zlín Dog section and a special professional part called Young Industry,"* noted artistic director Markéta Pášmová, adding: *"Our goal is to support and motivate new generations of filmmakers. This initiative will offer young creators, who are just establishing themselves in the film industry, inspiration, opportunities for international networking, experience sharing, and discussion."* For educators, there will once again be the conference block Children Without Borders, packed with topics and guest speakers, which will traditionally take place in the second half of the festival.

The Zlín Film Festival will officially open on May 29 at 10:00 a.m. with the distribution pre-premiere of the Czech puppet film *Grandma's Fairytales*, based on the book by Arnošt Goldflam. *"It's actually my very first animated film based on my book. I am all the more delighted that the puppet of Grandpa looks so much like me and even acts like me... It's strange and magical at the same time to see myself as a little puppet, yet still recognize so much of myself in it,"* explained Arnošt Goldflam. *"It was a book I used to read to my children when they were little. It captivated us with its bold approach, humor, and exploration of themes such as the feeling of being unwanted, and the everyday miracles seen only by those who truly pay attention,"* said producer Martin Vandas from Maur Film. The co-production film was directed by four directors from different countries: David Súpup from the Czech Republic, Patrik Pašš from Slovakia, Leon Vidmar from Slovenia, and Jean-Claude Rozec from France.



Audiences can also look forward to a wide range of Czech film premieres, including the family film *Cukrkandl*, the adventurous historical film *Fichtelberg*, the teen movie *High School Heist*, the co-productions *DJ Ahmet* and *Easter Monday*, as well as the miniseries *The Fall of the House of the Kollers* and *The Birth of the Alchemist*. The festival will also host the premiere of the second season of Czech Television's successful series *The Mystery of Mr. M 2*.

As part of the Young Stars project, the festival organizers traditionally introduce actors with promising futures who can engage young audiences, inspire them, and serve as role models. This year, Sára Korbelová, Alžběta Malá, Tomas Sean Pšenička, and Antonio Šoposki will take on this role in Zlín. Together, they will plant a tree in the University Park and meet with their fans at various events. Antonio Šoposki will also have another important role: *"Antonio will become the festival's guide and will share his experiences with viewers of Czech Television in the Zlín Festival Minutes, which will be broadcast every day during the festival after 8:00 p.m. on ČT1,"* explained Jarmila Záhorová, executive director of the Zlín Film Festival.

As part of the 65th anniversary celebrations, the festival organizers have included a spectacular double concert in the supporting program on Thursday, May 29, featuring the Police Symphony Orchestra and Tomáš Klus's band, as part of Zlín's Day of Infinite Possibilities. On Friday evening, an anniversary happening will take place in Komenský Park. A new feature of this year's edition will be a zone in the U13 university building called PIXEL&FRAME – "Gaming a Bit Differently," where the world of gaming will meet film production. *"We will offer visitors not only educational activities but also the chance to compete in a Game Challenge against a film star. There will also be plenty for computer developers and game design enthusiasts, for whom we are preparing themed lectures, workshops, and talk shows,"* emphasized Jarmila Záhorová.

An inseparable part of the festival will once again be the unique auction of clapperboards, with the proceeds going through the FILMTALENT ZLÍN Foundation to support young filmmakers and emerging filmmakers. And for the tenth time, participants of the MONET+ Zlín Festival Half Marathon will take to the streets of Baťa's Zlín. Both of these events will take place on Sunday, June 1, 2025.

As part of the additional supporting program, visitors can look forward to concerts, film workshops, exhibitions, screenings at the summer cinema, as well as meetings with authors and new children's book releases from Albatros Media.

During the opening ceremony on May 29, the Golden Slipper Award will be presented by the festival president to special effects master Boris Masník, and at the closing gala on June 4, it will be awarded to actress Simona Stašová. This year, new stars on the Zlín Walk of Fame will be dedicated to Linda Rybová and Saša Rašilov.

The festival will officially conclude with the Echoes of the Zlín Film Festival, which this year will take place not only in Mikulov from June 10 to 12, 2025, but also in other cities across the Czech Republic. Selected festival films will be screened in cinemas from June 5 to 30.



International
Film Festival
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29/5 — 4/6/2025



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Competition films of the 65th Zlín Film Festival

International Competition of Feature Films in the Children's Category

The Tales from the Magic Garden (CZE/FRA/SVK/SVN, 2025, dir.: David Súpup, Patrik Pašš, Leon Vidmar, Jean-Claude Rozec)

Football on the Roof (CHN, 2024, dir.: Fei Yu)

Lampie (NLD, 2025, dir.: Margien Rogaar)

How Dare You? (JPN, 2025, dir.: Mipo O)

Honey (DNK, 2024, dir.: Natasha Arthy)

I Accidentally Wrote a Book (HUN/NLD, 2024, dir.: Nora Lakos)

The Secret Floor (AUT/LUX/GER, 2025, dir.: Norbert Lechner)

The Mountain (NZL, 2024, dir.: Rachel House)

Tafiti – Across the Desert (GER, 2025, dir.: Nina Wels)

Blue Fiddle (IRL, 2024, dir.: Anne McCabe)

Hola Frida! (CAN/FRA, 2024, dir.: André Kadi, Karine Vézina)

International Competition of Feature Films in the Junior Category

Blue Sky Jo (CAN, 2024, dir.: Patrice Sauvé)

Olmo (MEX, 2025, dir.: Fernando Eimbcke)

Spilt Milk (IRL, 2024, dir.: Brian Durnin)

A Boat in the Garden (LUX/FRA, 2024, dir.: Jean-François Laguionie)

Nawi: Dear Future Me (GER/KEN, 2024, dir.: Toby Schmutzler, Kevin Schmutzler, Apuu Mourine, Vallentine Chelluget)

Sua's Home (KOR, 2025, dir.: YUN Sim-kyoung)

International Competition of Feature Films in the Youth Category

Happyend (JPN, 2024, dir.: Neo Sora)

DJ Ahmet (MKD/CZE/SRB/HRV, 2025, dir.: Georgi M. Unkovski)

Wet Monday (CZE/EST/POL, 2024, dir.: Justyna Mytnik)

Kevlar Soul (SWE, 2025, dir.: Maria Eriksson-Hecht)

Brides (GBR, 2025, dir.: Nadia Fall)

This Too Shall Pass (CAN, 2024, dir.: Rob Grant)

Competition of European Feature Documentaries for Young Audiences

Circusboy (GER, 2025, dir.: Anna Koch, Julia Lemke)

Cricket Dreams (NLD, 2025, dir.: Jamillah van der Hulst)

Girls' Stories (POL, 2023, dir.: Aga Borzym)

Freight (CHE, 2024, dir.: Max Carlo Kohal)

Small Dogs Bark Loud (NOR, 2025, dir.: Nora Nivedita Tvedt)

My Summer Holiday (FRA/MKD/SVN, 2025, dir.: Petra Seliškar)

Girls Don't Cry (GER, 2025, dir.: Sigrid Klausmann, Lina Luzyte)



International Competition of Short Animations for Children

Within (CZE, 2024, dir.: Olga Šarovská)
I am Akiko (BIH/SRB, 2024, dir.: Damir Romanov)
Her Own Truth (POL, 2023, dir.: Agnieszka Kruczek)
Lights (ESP, 2025, dir.: Aitana Cantero Velasco, María Isabel Sáiz Romero)
Freak of Nature (GER, 2024, dir.: Alexandra Lerner)
Capybaras (FRA/CHL/URY, 2024, dir.: Alfredo Soderguit)
Wishes: Windows & Nests (AUS, 2024, dir.: Ana María Méndez Salgado)
The Night Tunnel (BEL/FRA/NLD, 2024, dir.: Annechien Strouven)
Tears of the Little Cloud (ITA, 2024, dir.: Anya Ru, Masha Rumyantseva)
Doggie and Pussycat (CZE, 2025, dir.: Barbora Dlouhá)
Above The Tamarind Tree (QAT, 2024, dir.: Buthyna Al-Mohammadi)
Tin Tune (USA, 2025, dir.: Carolyn Gair)
Treasure (ESP, 2024, dir.: Carmen Álvarez Muñoz)
Bioshorts – Regeneration Tricks (CZE, 2024, dir.: Daniela Hýbnerová)
Ummi and Zaki (GER, 2024, dir.: Daniela Opp)
Nube (FRA, 2024, dir.: Diego Alonso Sánchez de la Barquera Estrada, Christian Arredondo Narvaez)
Lena's Farm: A Pain in the Butt (GER, 2025, dir.: Elena Walf)
Lena's Farm: Full Nest (GER, 2025, dir.: Elena Walf)
Bobel's Kitchen (BEL, 2024, dir.: Fiona Rolland)
Passing By (KOR, 2025, dir.: Hanna Kang)
Baião d'intérieurs (FRA, 2025, dir.: Héloïse Dorsan Rachet)
Humans Build the Biggest Nests (CAN, 2024, dir.: Isaac King)
Kukeleku (NLD, 2024, dir.: Jelle Janssen)
How to Make a Friend (FRA, 2024, dir.: Jinfei Ge, Bin He, Myrtille Huet, Julie Jarrier-Stettin, Yuqiang Zhang, Siyi Chen)
Animanimusical (GER, 2024, dir.: Julia Ocker)
"There once was – There is no more – There is" (POL, 2024, dir.: Karina Paciorkowska, Łukasz Kamil Kamiński)
Meet Me in the Woods (GBR, 2024, dir.: Katie Rosenberg)
Eureka! (BEL, 2024, dir.: Kris Borghs)
How the Bear Composed a Song (SVK, 2024, dir.: Kristína Bajaníková)
Little Ghost Laban: Back Again (SWE, 2025, dir.: Lasse Persson)
Pat and Mat: Air Conditioner (CZE, 2025, dir.: Marek Beneš)
Once Upon a Time in Dragonsville (FRA/CHE, 2024, dir.: Marika Herz)
Hello Summer (CZE/FRA/SVK, 2024, dir.: Martin Smatana, Veronika Zacharová)
Let's Play (NLD, 2024, dir.: Marzieh Rasekh)
Grandpa Tree (MEX, 2025, dir.: Mel Izanami)
The Big Athlete (ARG, 2024, dir.: Melina Aylén Andrada Bustos, Emilio Zapata Vellio, Nicole Camila Zelaya Aragón)
The Rapid Arrows (CZE, 2025, dir.: Michal Žabka)
The Tiny Shoe (CZE, 2025, dir.: Michal Žabka)
Tommy (CZE, 2025, dir.: Miloš Zvěřina)
The Legend of the Hummingbird (FRA, 2025, dir.: Morgan Devos)
The Carp and the Child (FRA/BEL, 2024, dir.: Morgane Simon, Arnaud Demuynck)
Homework (ESP, 2024, dir.: Nacho Arjona)
The Magic Garden (BRA, 2025, dir.: Naira Carneiro, Carlon Hardt)
Mojappi It's Mine! (JPN, 2024, dir.: Nijitaro)



Amen (FRA, 2024, dir.: Orphée Coutier, Bettina Demarty, Kimie Maingonnat, Laurène Perego, Louise Poulain, Avril Zundel)

Wolfie (CZE, 2025, dir.: Philippe Kastner)

The Night Boots (FRA, 2024, dir.: Pierre-Luc Granjon)

Weeds (CZE, 2024, dir.: Pola Kazak)

Abubilla (ESP, 2023, dir.: Rafael Vidal, Julián Gómez)

Sparrows (BEL/FRA, 2024, dir.: Rémi Durin)

Lift Off (USA, 2023, dir.: Rui Han)

Pear Garden (GER, 2024, dir.: Shadab Shayegan)

Forever (FRA, 2024, dir.: Théo Djekou, Pierre Ferrari, Cyrine Jouini, Pauline Philippart, Anissa Terrier)

Atomic Chicken (FRA, 2023, dir.: Thibault Ermeneux, Lucie Lyfoung, Solène Polet, Capucine Prat, Morgane Sirieux, Anna Uglova)

The Empty Panel (FRA, 2025, dir.: Thibault Chollet)

Down in the Dumps (NLD, 2025, dir.: Vera van Wolferen)

International Competition of Student Films Zlín Dog

Buzz of the Earth (CZE, 2024, dir.: Greta Stocklassa)

It Will Be Fine (CZE, 2024, dir.: Karolína Pravdová)

Caught in 4K (AUT, 2025, dir.: Adriana Mrnjavac, Nicole Stigler)

If I Could Fly (GER, 2025, dir.: Alexander Kühn)

Lunar Data Vault (FRA, 2024, dir.: Amandine Bonnanfant, Candice Germé, Florian Guérin-Loury, Guillaume Hochart, Kylian Marques Freire, Florian Marteil, Léonard Mariotte, Adèle Petillot, Pablo Rybaltchenko, Mario Serra, Angelo Teixeira)

Home (CZE, 2025, dir.: Anastasia Skarko)

Beyond the Face (SVN, 2024, dir.: Anja Resman)

When the Chamois Are Quiet (FRA, 2024, dir.: Anna Bourgoïn, Kenza Ghilas, Mahaut de Kerleau, Lucie Donadio, Daisy Haig, Margot de Susanne d'Épinay)

Pavla! (CZE, 2024, dir.: Barbora Venclová)

Bajudh (MEX, 2023, dir.: Carlos Matienzo Serment)

The Bus (SVK, 2024, dir.: Daniela Sláviková)

Behind the Glass (CZE, 2024, dir.: Dominik Zbořil)

It'll Pass (LTU/GBR, 2024, dir.: Dovydas Drakšas)

Constructing an Island (SWE, 2024, dir.: Ebba Gustafsson)

HOPE-65 (FRA, 2024, dir.: Elliott Curaba, Louis Grand, Nolan Vercasson, Alicia Serra, Mathilde Peis, Evan Mastropietro, Tonin Molina, Léo Soler)

Better Man (CZE, 2025, dir.: Eliška Jirásková)

The Drowned (ITA, 2024, dir.: Giacomo Venturato)

Hot Flush (SVK, 2024, dir.: Hana Hančinová)

You Are My Light (CZE, 2024, dir.: Hana Stehlíková)

Basket (CAN, 2023, dir.: Charlotte Gauthier-Nolett)

White Raspberries (FRA, 2024, dir.: Isidora Vulić)

Flares (CZE/FRA, 2025, dir.: Jáchym Bouzek)

Punter (ZAF, 2024, dir.: Jason Adam Maselle)

Woodland (GER, 2024, dir.: Jim Obmann, Emil Pogolski, Vanessa Chu)

The Song of the Sheep (FRA, 2024, dir.: Jules Marcel, Anaïs Castro de Angel, Juliette Bigo, Evan Lambert, Alex Le Ruyet, Jeanne Bigo, Anaïs Ledoux)

Stone of Destiny (CZE, 2025, dir.: Julie Černá)

Two Breaths (USA, 2024, dir.: Kateryna Kurganska)



POLIO (CZE, 2025, dir.: Klára Kubenková)

Life Is Like That and Not Otherwise (GER, 2024, dir.: Lenia Friedrich)

Dragfox (GBR, 2024, dir.: Lisa Ott)

Wormwood (FRA, 2024, dir.: Matthieu Dupille, Chenhe Liu, Philémon Martin, Ninon Quemener, Alexander Vanderplank, Binlin Xie)

The Last Bet (AUT, 2024, dir.: Meike Wüstenberg)

Skipping Rope (TWN, 2023, dir.: Meryl Wu)

Shards Are for Luck (SVN, 2024, dir.: Miha Dragan)

Mr Shoeman (POL, 2024, dir.: Michał Łukowicz)

Tennis Mortis (POL, 2024, dir.: Michał Łukowicz)

The Unknown Painting (GER/ITA, 2025, dir.: Niklas Poweleit)

Rescue (FRA, 2024, dir.: Noemie Alonso, Lea Philibert, Pauline Luciano, Margot Rousval, Mauran Perrone, Gabrielle Terroux)

Three Keenings (IRL, 2024, dir.: Oliver McGoldrick)

The Elevator (GBR, 2024, dir.: Oliver Mottram)

We'll Come to the Beach (GER, 2024, dir.: Pia Mingyue Sun)

Pubert Jimbob (BEL, 2024, dir.: Quirijn Dees)

Confession (SVK, 2024, dir.: Rebeka Bizubová)

Night of Passage (AUT, 2025, dir.: Reza Rasouli)

Hold on for Dear Life (ITA, 2023, dir.: Simone Fiorentino)

Rise Age (GER, 2024, dir.: Tatjana Theuer)



The organizer of the Zlín Film Festival, FILMFEST, s.r.o., extends its thanks to all partners and supporters, without whom the realization of the 65th edition of the Zlín Film Festival would not have been possible.

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