

PRESS RELEASE

April 27, 2022

The 62nd Zlín Film Festival Has Presented This Year's Young Stars

Zlín – This year, Brigita Cmunťová and Jan Nedbal were invited to Zlín by Zlín Film Festival's program organizers as representatives of a young generation of actors with a promising future. Visitors will be able to meet the pair of Czech Young Stars not only during the screening of the films they are accompanying to Zlín, but also during the planting the festival tree, at the red carpet, and at other occasions.

The purpose and essence of the special project of the Zlín festival is to introduce young actors who can address young audiences, provide them with inspiration, and act as role models for them. *"The star of Jan Nedbal alias 'Václav Bolemír Nebeský' began shining in the series Božena. I also especially noticed him in director Petr Bebjak's co-production The Auschwitz Report, where he plays a prisoner in a concentration camp, and then also in Tomáš Hodan's latest film The Last Race,"* Markéta Pášmová, artistic director of the Zlín Film Festival, explaining the choice of Jan Nedbal, adding that viewers can look forward to both films as part of this year's festival.

Jan Nedbal accepted the role of Young Star with humor. *"I wouldn't be able to come next year; I'll be 32. And this year it's a bit of a bummer if I'm going to hold the record of the historically oldest young star of Zlín's festival. I won't be boasting about it over a beer, but I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the invitation. It's nice to come young and, on top of that, a star,"* commented Jan Nedbal.

Although Brigita Cmunťová does not consider herself an acting star, she has already caught the attention of Markéta Pášmová in her role of Eliška Toufarová in the historical series *The First Republic*. *"It was a new, yet very interesting, expressive face for me. When I saw producer Julietta Sichel's co-production City on the River, I was sure a new star was rising. In addition, Bridget is a very talented singer and songwriter, which fulfills the task of being a Young Star 100% and she can be a great role model for young people,"* explained the artistic director.

This year the festival's Young Stars event will plant a tree in the growing festival avenue of the University Park on Friday, May 27, at 9:30 am. Jan Nedbal and Brigita Cmunťová will present screenings of films in Zlín, they will also walk down the red carpet in front of the Zlín Congress Centre, participate in an autograph signing at the Golden Apple shopping center, and they will be guests of Vladimír Kroce at the Café Festival on the main square in the city center.

The film *The Auschwitz Report* – to be shown at 62nd ZFF on Saturday, May 28

World War II, April 7, 1944. For thousands of prisoners from all over Europe in filthy barracks rationing food, it was a day like any other. While the others only want to survive, one group of prisoners is preparing to escape. When the inmates gather for the evening count, 26-year-old Fredy and the 6-year-old Valér are hidden in a pit under a pile of beams. Unbetrayed, they need to last three days. The Germans search long and hard for those trying to escape from the concentration camp in Auschwitz. When the sound of sirens announces the end of the search, two starving and frozen young men must cross a hundred kilometers of mountains and enemy patrols to get home to Czechoslovakia. If they make it, they will write up a report on the hell that is Auschwitz. But the most difficult task awaits them – to convince the world to believe it. The film depicts a real heroic act and one of the most significant entries of Czechoslovak citizens in world history leading to the saving of tens of thousands of human lives.

The film *City on the River* – will be shown at the 62nd ZFF on Friday, May 27

This tragicomic drama about love and loss, *City on the River*, was filmed by Latvian director Viesturs Kairišs. It was created in Czech co-production and with Czech participation. One of the main roles here was played by the Czech actress Brigita Cmuntová in the role of the Jewish girl Zisla, who falls in love with the main protagonist, artist and writer Ansis (debuting actor Davis Suharevskis). With his profession, he can find employment under any regime (road and traffic signs are needed by every government). The Latvian-Czech-Lithuanian film tells the story of a man who, in a short period of time, finds himself gradually in the midst of three totalitarian regimes: the authoritarian regime of pre-war Latvia and, during the war period, in the era of communism and Nazism. The absurd and grotesque situation, Kafkaesque atmosphere, great love for two women, and important moral decisions accompany the main hero throughout the cruel and lyrical history of last century's Eastern Europe.

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

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62 ZLÍN
FILM
FESTIVAL

62nd International Film Festival for Children and Youth

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