

9 March 2022, Prague

JUST AS PHOENIX RISES FROM THE ASHES, SO DEF RETURNS TO CINEMAS IN FULL SWING

6 – 10 April 2022 / PRAGUE / Lucerna, Světozor and Přítomnost cinemas

7 – 10 April 2022 / OSTRAVA / Minikino, Etáž and Centrum Pant cinemas

8 – 12 April 2022 / BRNO / Scala and Art cinemas

6 – 13 April 2022 / FESTIVAL ECHOES / Boskovice, Havířov, Červený Kostelec, Jablonec nad Nisou, Hradec Králové, Hodonín, Vrchlabí, Šumperk

DEF will come to cinemas in four weeks! And, as the visual with Phoenix rising from the ashes suggests, it will be returning in full swing – the original film festival will be transformed into a competition festival. The main competition will focus on debuts, and in addition to that, the festival will offer a competition section of musical films. The 29th DEF still offers high-quality, exclusively European films to the audience. *“Music, noises, sounds... I see a large emphasis on the musical aspect of films in the programme. This includes original scores by Nick Cave and Warren Ellis for the wildlife documentary *The Velvet Queen*; the cascade of sounds in the directorial debut *Spectre* by musician Para One; and the modern trap music in the rapper story *Lovely Boy*. The teenage theme resonates in the liberal-minded comedy *Miss Viborg* as well as in the fresh drama *Youth Topia* or in the pungent wish *A Chiara*. Quite a lot of films dealing with mysticism have come together in the programme, including the society of ufologists in *The Sacred Spirit*, as well as the heroines of the dramas *Clara Sola* and *Holy Emy* – and the range stretches all the way to a light-hearted dimension of veneration in the comedy *Tralala* with popular *Mathieu Amalric*,”* comments Šimon Šafránek, the festival’s programming director, on the selection of films. The main part of DEF will take place in Prague from 6 to 10 April, in Ostrava from 7 to 10 April and in Brno from 8 to 12 April. Festival Echoes will be taking place until 13 April. Detailed information on the programme will be published on an ongoing basis on the DEF website at <https://2022.eurofilmfest.cz/en/>.

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DEF 29



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COMPETITION SECTION OF DEBUTS AND MUSICAL FILMS

DEF has the ambition to give accolades to the screened films in two competition sections – the main competition will present debuts, and the second one will focus on musical films. In the main competition of debuts and in the competition of musical films, decisions will be made by a five-member panel of judges and a three-member panel of judges, respectively. The chairman of the panel of judges for the competition of debuts will be **Tomáš Baldýnský**, a Czech film critic, actor, producer, screenwriter and script editor. This panel of judges will also include producer **Kristina Hejduková**, film critic **Marta Balaga**, Irish director and writer **Mike Ahern** and Czechoslovakian Film Database founder **Martin Pomothy**. The panel of judges for the Film and Music competition section will be chaired by **Jan P. Muchow**, a Czech musician, composer, music producer and a member of the bands Ecstasy of Saint Theresa and Umakart. The other member of the panel of judges are **Veronika Donutková**, a cameraman and creative Slovak ex-dancer, and **Pavel Turek**, a music critic and cultural editor. The audience will be able to vote on the films as part of the pan-European LUX Audience Award.

PROGRAMME SECTIONS

The 29th DEF will screen films, which would not otherwise find their way to Czech cinemas. In a total of 6 programme sections covering a broad range of topics, DEF will present distinctive debuts, award-winning films from prestigious festivals, animated films, films for a younger audience and families with children as well as documentaries and films by old masters.

Stars / These films received awards at renowned festivals, were made by world-renowned creators and feature celebrities of European cinema. A selection of contemporary films you should not miss out on. Šimon Šafránek, the DEF programming director: *“Among the several pre-premieres, I would like to highlight the musical comedy Tralala about a travelling singer/songwriter played by Mathieu Amalric whose life was changed in an unexpected manner after visiting the pilgrimage town of Lourdes.”*

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For the First Time – competition of debuts / They disrupt the old ways and wish to have their own voice be heard. The DEF programme competition that will give The Best European Debut of the Year award will consist of daring films of the upcoming generation of film-makers. Šimon Šafránek, the DEF programming director: *“Reflection of social media in the real world, mysticism and intensive relationships – these are the big attractions of our main competition section, which also includes the opening film, a subversive comedy about an elderly drug dealer, titled Miss Viborg, by Marianne Blicher.”*

Film & Music – competition of musical films / Tones and melodies set the rhythm in the competition section focused on avant-garde, documentaries and live action films where music plays the lead role. Šimon Šafránek, the DEF programming director: *“I am happy about the international premiere of Spectre, an avant-garde search for the legacy of one’s family, by renowned French music producer and composer Para One, as well as about the delirious Italian trap-style coming-of-age story titled Lovely Boy by Francesco Lettieri. The claustrophobic horror Masking Threshold underscores our interest in music and sound.”*

To the Point: No Parents / First loves, fears and the magical power of friendship. Films focusing on the present-day lives of children and adolescents. Šimon Šafránek, the DEF programming director: *“In the portrait titled The Scars of Ali Boulala, we will show the turbulent life of the world’s skateboarding legend.”*

There Is Hope / A programme focused on films, which search for life in harmony with nature and prompt questions regarding sustainability and environmentalism. Šimon Šafránek, the DEF programming director: *“Besides The Velvet Queen by the directing duo of Marie Amiguet and Vincent Munier, I am looking forward very much to the meditative Jack’s Ride by Susana Nobre and the solitary drama The Cabin set in the remote Norwegian Svalbard archipelago.”*

MEDIA – Cold Blood / Horror, fantasy, blood and bizarreness. This is the theme of a collection of older but nonetheless still exciting and thrilling film stories, which we present in the MEDIA – Cold Blood section. The films to be screened were supported by the Creative Europe MEDIA programme. Šimon Šafránek, the DEF programming director: *“Who would not wish to watch the thrilling Thelma by Joachim Trier or the fantastical Pan’s Labyrinth by Guillermo del Toro in cinema once again?”*

You can find detailed information on the programme at <https://2022.eurofilmfest.cz/en/> and on the DEF pages on social networks: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#).

FYI: Days of European Film have been trimmed down, too, and will be known henceforward as **DEF. DEF? OMG, WT@? LOL!**

This year's DEF visual features the mythical bird Phoenix, a symbol of rebirth and renewal in the mythologies of many nations. It brings the hope of a new beginning and an almost mystical awareness of the unity of destruction and creation. Originally, it was only supposed to lift DEF from the ashes of lockdowns and quarantines but now it acquired many more meanings. But let us perceive, above all, its colourful beauty and its will to fly ever higher.

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