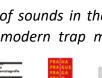
# DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM WILL START IN A WEEK AND ARE IN AT FULL STRENGTH

6 – 10 April 2022 / PRAGUE / Lucerna, Světozor and Přítomnost cinemas 7 – 10 April 2022 / OSTRAVA / Etáž, Minikino and Centrum Pant cinemas

8 – 12 April 2022 / BRNO / Scala and Art cinemas 6 – 13 April 2022 / FESTIVAL ECHOES / Boskovice (Panorama cinema), Havířov (Centrum cinema), Červený Kostelec (Luník cinema), Jablonec nad Nisou (Junior cinema), Hradec Králové (Bio Central cinema), Hodonín (Svět cinema), Vrchlabí (Střelnice cinema), Šumperk (Oko cinema)



DEF – that is, Days of European Film will be offering high-quality, exclusively European films for the 29<sup>th</sup> year in a row. 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 continue until 13 April in additional 8 cities. 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 music films. "Music, noises, sounds... the programme of this year's DEF is definitely musical! 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,"





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comments Šimon Šafránek, the DEF's programming director, on the selection of films, and adds: *"The festival will be opened by the Danish comedy Miss Viborg. This debut of Marianne Blicher is a brightly colourful and highly unconventional look at a sleepy small town. It is a splendidly fresh story about an unexpected friendship."* DEF returns to cinema halls and, as the visual with the Phoenix rising from the ashes suggests, it will be at full strength!

# **OPENING FILM**

An unconventional Danish comedy about a sixty-year-old lady who roams a small town on her electric scooter, selling opioids – that is <u>Miss Viborg</u> – the opening film of the 29<sup>th</sup> DEF. A remarkable story of an offbeat friendship is a masterful debut of **Marianne Blicher** who will personally attend one of the screenings of the film during DEF.









#### **GUESTS AND AMBASSADORS**

The screening of the wildlife documentary *The Velvet Queen* will be personally attended by **Ben Cristovao** who will be interviewed by Lukáš Rumlena, the DEF's host, about the options of how to help protect animals and Nature. Selected DEF programme sections will be supported, for example, by presenter and gamer **Naomi Adachi** and actor and singer **Adam Mišík**.

The screening of the film *Quo Vadis, Aida?* will be followed by a debate of the guests of the Word 21 organisation on the topic of war and migration. **Bohdan Rajčinec**, a representative of the Ukraine minority, and **Ognjen Grebo**, a representative of the Bosnian minority, will be the guests of the debate. The debate will be moderated by **Světlana Witowská**. Moreover, the audience in the Ostrava-based Etáž cinema will be able to attend the concert of the **Gipsy Milan** band and singer **Nancy Švenková** after the screening of the film.

After the screening of the Danish film *Flee*, **Tom Bílý**, the director of Prague Pride, **Adéla Horáková**, a representative of the initiative We Are Fair, and **Matúš Slamka**, the programming director of the festivals Mezipatra and Prague Pride, will come to the Brno-based Scala cinema to debate about what life in Europe is like for LGBTQ+ people. The debate will be moderated by **Soňa Baranová**.

The screening of the film *Cabin* and the presentation of photographic slides from the Svalbard archipelago will be attended by **Ondřej Šperka, Matěj Štrunc** and, remotely, a dog named Rudek living in the Svalbard archipelago.

The exhibition of photographs from concerts by **Jaroslav Kutheil** and **Milan Říský**, titled Sound of Europe, will be attended by both authors.

The screening of the film *Poly Styrene* will also be attended by music critic **Miloš Hroch**. Producer **Kateřina Černá** will be present in the cinema at the screening of the film *My Sun Mad*.

From among foreign creators, the audience will meet **Marianne Blicher**, the director of *Miss Viborg*, the DEF's opening film, or **Johannes Grenzfurthner**, the director of the film *Masking Threshold*. Actress **Brigita Cmuntová** and director **Viesturs Kairišs** will personally present *The Sign Painter*. Producer **Nazarij Kľujev** will introduce *The Sailor*.



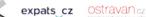






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# COMPETITION SECTION OF DEBUTS AND MUSIC FILMS

This year, for the first time, DEF is a competition festival. The main competition will present the debuts included in the "For the First Time" section, while the second competition will focus on music films included in the "Film and Music" section. The audience will be able to vote on the films as part of the pan-European LUX Audience Award event. The winners will receive BEST FILM DEBUT and BEST MUSIC FILM awards.

**COMPETITION FILMS /** You can find the complete list of competition films <u>here</u>.

DEBUTS from the "For the First Time" section: 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.

MUSIC FILMS from the "Film and Music" section: 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.

**AWARDS /** The film awards for BEST FILM DEBUT and BEST MUSIC FILM were authored by Zdeněk Vacek. Glass cylinders decorated with engraving and sanding were cast from uranium crystal.

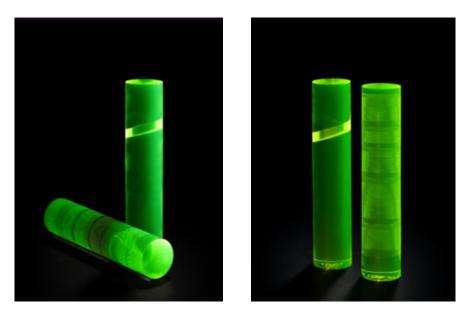


Photo by: Václav Jirásek







BEST FILM DEBUT / The prominent mark ground into the smooth cylinder symbolises the author's "first notch". The first notch on the belt. The first imprint. A high-quality work leaves its mark.



BEST MUSIC FILM / With its engraved line, the award for an experimental music film refers to vinyl records and to the experimental era when sound was recorded in a material in an analogue manner.

**PANEL OF JUDGES /** 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. Other members of the panel of judges are **Veronika Donutková**, a Slovak cinematographer and a versatile artist, and **Pavel Turek**, a music critic and a cultural editor.

You can find detailed information on the members of the panels of judges <u>here</u>.

## **PROGRAMME SECTIONS**

The 29<sup>th</sup> 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.









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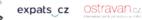




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**STARS** / These films received awards at renowned festivals, were made by world-renowned creators and feature celebrities of European cinema. A selection of contemporary films you should not miss out on.

Šimon Šafránek, the DEF's programming director: "As Czech pre-premieres, we will screen the period drama The Sign Painter (8Heads Productions in collaboration with Klara Khine Distribution) by Viesturs Kairišs about a painter of signs in a city where historical events take place; the cheerful French musical comedy **Tralala** /Film Europe) starring Mathieu Amalric; as well as the adaptation of a novel by Honoré de Balzac Lost Illusions (Film Europe) directed by Xavier Giannoli, which triumphed at this year's César Awards. Within the Stars section, we will also present three films nominated for the Lux award. The animated refugee drama Flee (Film Europe) by Jonas Poher Rasmussen received the European Film Awards in both documentary and animated film categories. The main award at the same ceremony was received by a reflection on the Srebrenica massacre Quo Vadis, Aida? (Aerofilms) made by Jasmila Žbanić, a renowned film-maker. In Great Freedom, director Sebastian Meise shows a man who is repeatedly imprisoned for homosexuality in postwar Germany. The film received the Jury Prize in Cannes in the Un certain regard section."

**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's programming director: "In the competition of European debuts, we will screen a total of 9 films, including the opening subversive comedy **Miss Viborg** by Danish director Marianne Blicher. The Belgian film **Rookie** offers unusual relationship solutions about a motorcycle racer who tries to impart his racing skills to his nephew. The toxic power of ubiquitous algorithms of social networks is attacked by the Romanian satire **#dogpoopgirl** as well as by the visually liberating Swiss sci-fi **Youth Topia**. Extreme conditions of the human soul are examined by the Irish horror film **You Are Not My Mother** as well as by the Hungarian communist era drama **Erasing Frank** about a musician in the jaws of the totalitarian machinery. The film won acclaim at the Venice Film Festival. No less than three competition films examine a departure from rationalism and a shift towards esotericism: the Swedish drama **Clara Sola** about a female healer in wilderness in Costa Rica. This film by director Nathalie Álvarez Mesén competed for Golden







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Camera in Cannes. Traditional art of healing also plays a role in the film **Holy Emy** about girls from a Philippine community in Athens, Greece, directed by Araceli Lemos. This film won special recognition in the competition of debuts at the festival in Locarno. And about mysticism for the third time: Chema Garcia Ibarra made the film **The Sacred Spirit** about a society of ufologists whose esteemed chairman died and left behind a bold plan as his legacy. This film also won special recognition in Locarno, specifically in the main competition."

**FILM & MUSIC – competition of music 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's programming director: "Film and Music is a traditional section of DEF and this year, it is also a competition section. In an international premiere, we will present an avant-garde musical search for the legacy of one's own parents in Spectre: Sanity, Madness & the Family. French music producer Para One debuts as a director of this film. Limits of sounds are challenged by Johannes Grenzfurthner in a claustrophobic horror film Masking Threshold. Live action films are also represented by the trap delirium Lovely Boy by Francesco Lettieri, which already captured interest at the festival in Venice. The programme also includes several unusual musical portraits: **u.Q.** by Ivar Murd shows the troubled life of Estonian adventurer Uku Kuuta who performed in a duo with his mother. **Poly Styrene** is the story of the first non-white British female punk singer-songwriter; the film was directed by her daughter Celeste Bell. The film From the 84 Days then reflects on the creative spirit during the Covid pandemic, with director Philipp Hartmann following Bolivian musicians who were stranded in Germany for three months due to a lockdown."

**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. This is a traditional section made in collaboration with the Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic as part of the European Year of Youth.

Šimon Šafránek, the DEF's programming director: "Coming of age, sports and music. This is the theme of this section, which deliberately focuses on stories for adolescents and children. Debuting director Sarah Blasskiewitz depicts the struggle of step-sisters with racism in Leipzig in the film **Precious Ivie**, in which



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she relies on fantastic actress Lorna Ishema who received Lola, a German film award, for her performance. Chiara from the drama A Chiara (Aerofilms) by Jonas Carpignano is also an adolescent girl who must grow up quickly. We will screen the film in a Czech pre-premiere. The pre-premiere of Leave No Traces (Aerofilms) by Jan P. Matuszyński will show a boy's perspective of coming of age in troubled times. The events of this film take place in 1983 when young Jurek becomes the enemy of the Polish totalitarian regime overnight. A taste of rebellion is present in the life story of a phenomenal skateboarder shown in the film The Scars of Ali Boulala directed by Max Eriksson. Czech cinema is represented by award-winning animated films My Sun Mad (Aerofilms) by Michaela Pavlátová about the trials and tribulations of a Czech woman in Kabul and Even Mice Belong in Heaven (CinemArt) by Denisa Grimmová and Jan Bubeníček, which received a Czech Lion award for an animated film and in addition to that, it can boast of the following awards: Anifilm 2021 – Audience Award, Jury's Special Recognition; 2021 Shanghai IFF – Best Animated Film; 2021 SCHLiNGEL IFF for Children and Young Audience – Animated Feature Film Award, Club of Festivals Junior Award." The musical framework of the section is provided by 6 episodes from the documentary series RapStory (Czech Television) by Šimon Šafránek about the evolution of Czech rap.

**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's programming director: "Music is also important in this section focusing on Nature. In their meditative film The Velvet Queen, directors Marie Amiguet and Vincent Munier follow two photographers who track a legendary beast. Original score for the film was composed by Nick Cave and Warren Ellis. Songs for a Fox by Kristijonas Vildziunas tell a story about a musician who retreats into wilderness where he succumbs to lucid dreaming. Untamed nature awakens vicious passions in people, as the divorced main character finds out in the drama The Cabin about travels around the Svalbard archipelago by debuting Jean-Louis Schuller, or as the diverse group of men trapped by a snow storm in a mountain cabin find out in the loose adaptation of the theatre play January by director Andrey Paounov. Specific relationships with their surrounding environments are cultivated by the old sailor who is unable to sail in **The Sailor** by director Lucie Kašová or the former taxi driver in the fragile portrait Jack's Ride by Susan Nobre. Willemiek Kluijfhout is looking for balance between the worlds of nature and people in the documentary The Taste of Desire, which concentrates on an oyster - whether as a rare animal or as a general symbol of desire."





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**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 section offers a selection of films, which were supported by the Creative Europe MEDIA programme. The Czech Creative Europe Desk – MEDIA is a partner of this section.

Šimon Šafránek, the DEF's programming director: "On a large screen, we will present the magical Oscar-winning **Pan's Labyrinth** by Guillermo del Toro about a girl who escapes from a present war to a fantastical but no less dangerous labyrinth. Echoes of war can also be heard in the sci-fi **Iron Sky** about a Nazi fortress on the dark side of the Moon by Timo Vuorensola. The programme also includes the thriller **Thelma** about forbidden love, directed by Joachim Trier who is currently having a great success with the comedy The Worst Person in the World. The tension is also thick in the psycho-thriller **The Guilty** by director Gustav Möller where an ex-policeman races against time to rescue a kidnapped woman. The Nordic dominance is crowned by the comedy **Small Town Killers** by Ole Bornedal about how hiring a Russian hitman is cheaper than getting divorced."

Creative Europe is an EU programme designed to support cultural and creative industries. The parts it consists of are MEDIA, Culture and an interdisciplinary part. The MEDIA part supports European cinema and the audio-visual industry. "After the difficult period of the pandemic, culture awakens into a different world where new challenges await. One of them will also be access to financing. In this respect, support is offered by the European Union, which prepared an ambitious plan to support the revival of Europe in response to the pandemic. This plan includes support for the cultural sector to be provided through the Creative Europe programme. This programmes has already been running since 2021 with a record-high seven-year budget amounting to 2.4 billion EUR, which represents an increase by 64% as compared to the previous period. I believe that this support, too, will help ensure that cultural institutions of all kinds can not only restore their operation after a two-year downturn but can also regain their position in the life of a free civil society. On the background of the barbarities happening mere few hundred kilometres from us, it is more important than ever," says Dana Kovaříková, the Head of the European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic.

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#### SPECIAL EVENTS

You can find complete information on the entire DEF's accompanying programme here.

"Personally, I am most looking forward to the interview of Lukáš Rumlena, the DEF's host, with Ben Cristovao about the options of helping to protect animals and Nature. The interview will take place after the screening of The Velvet Queen, a wildlife documentary about a search for one of the rarest creatures on this planet, with an original score by Nick Cave and Warren Ellis. If you find an adventure in the Arctic Ocean, far beyond the Arctic Circle, as fascinating as I do, come to cinema to watch The Cabin, after which we will present photographic slides from an adventurous expedition around the Svalberg archipelago. In conclusion, I would like to invite the audience to the film Quo Vadis, Aida?, which will be followed by a debate on the topic of war and migration, which is regrettably once again current Europe. Bohdan Rajčinec, a representative of the Ukraine minority, and Ognjen Grebo, a representative of the Bosnian minority, will be guests of this debate, which will be moderated by Světlana Witowská. I am looking forward to seeing you in cinema!" says Barbora Golatová, the DEF director.

#### THE PLUSH QUEEN

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The film The Velvet Queen and a debate about the protection of animals and environmentalism with Ben Cristovao



### **QUO VADIS, EUROPA?**

The film Quo Vadis, Aida? and a debate about war and migration



#### **QUEER EUROPE**

Two cinemas, two films, one debate, one topic – it's Queer Europe



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## **PHOTOGRAPHIC SLIDES / DIÁKY**

The film The Cabin and presentation of photographic slides from the Svalberg archipelago. More information here.



#### **ANIMATION WORKSHOP**

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The film Even Mice Belong in Heaven and a workshop for families with children. More information here.

9 April / 15:00 / Přítomnost cinema in Prague and 10 April / 15:00 / Centrum Pant in Ostrava



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#### WORKSHOP DJ

The screening of the film Spectre: Sanity, Madness & the Family and a workshop for DJs. More information <u>here</u>. 9 April / 18:00 / Centrum Pant in Ostrava

<u>Spectre: Sanity, Madness & the Family</u> / An avant-garde search for the legacy of one's own parents, which takes place in a world of sounds, noises and musical inspirations from all over the world. **The film will be followed by a workshop in the Ostrava-based Centrum Pant**, during which DJ NECROZ and DJ LÁSKA will teach you the secrets of mixing and DJing. The DEF's accompanying programmes **Animation Workshop** as well **Workshop DJ** in Centrum Pant are a part of the multi-genre festival Faces of Europe. You can find out more about this event at <u>www.tvareevropy.cz.</u>

#### **EXHIBITION SOUND OF EUROPE**

Exhibition of photographs from concerts by Jaroslav Kutheil and Milan Říský. More information <u>here</u>.

Irish U2, German Rammstein, English Depeche Mode, Norwegian Kvelertak, Swedish Ghost, Polish Behemoth and other world-renowned European bands will be presented at the April exhibition put together by concert photographers Milan Říský and Jaroslav Kutheil, titled Sound of Europe, that will be held in the Lucerna Café in Prague on the occasion of the Days of European Film festival (DEF). The photographs were taken in recent years on stages not only in the Czech Republic but also in neighbouring countries during large prestigious festivals as well as club concerts in intimate settings. The exhibition will be opened on the premises of the Lucerna Café in the presence of both authors on Friday 8 April at 19:00. The photographs are musically complemented by a playlist on Spotify, YouTube and Apple Music.









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#### **SCREENINGS FOR SEÑORS AND SEÑORITAS**

Adaptation of the novel *Lost Illusions* by Honoré de Balzac 8 April / 13:30 / Lucerna cinema in Praha / *Lost Illusions* 8 April / 14:00 / Bio Central in Hradec Králové / *Tralala* More information <u>here</u>.

A special afternoon screening for seniors for a reduced ticket price of CZK 65. They will be able to see the beautiful French historical epic film <u>Lost Illusions</u> starring Benjamin Voisin, Cécile de France and Gérard Depardieu. The film is an adaptation of the famous novel by Honoré de Balzac. In Hradec Králové, DEF will present a musical comedy about a travelling singer and songwriter titled <u>Tralala</u> starring Mélanie Thierry, Mathieu Amalric and Josiane Balasko...



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### **SCREENINGS FOR SCHOOLS**

Film educational programmes for secondary schools and for elementary and middle schools. More information <u>here</u>.

Every year, DEF prepares special educational programmes for schools. There were 3 films chosen from this year's festival films and they will be combined with a suitable educational programme based on a relevant theme, which will expand the students' knowledge of the given theme that will be appropriate for their age. School screenings will take place in all festival cities; the accompanying programme will take place predominantly in Prague or online. It is also possible to order a film without the accompanying programme.

# FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS: Even Mice Belong in Heaven

The little mouse Šupito likes to keep convincing everyone that she is the most courageous mouse in the whole wide world and is not afraid of absolutely anything. But the opposite is true. **Accompanying programme:** workshop on the basics of animation

# FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS: *Erasing Frank*

The year is 1983 and the place is Budapest in the communist era. Frank sings in a banned punk band and the regime takes all the steps to silence him. **Accompanying programme:** The Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes has prepared a 90-minute educational programme for students, which is available online for free. Students will get a general idea what a political trial means and will expand their knowledge of what was happening in the society in Czechoslovakia in the 1980s.

## FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS: Precious Ivie

Step-sisters in Leipzig struggle with racism and with the search for their identities.

Accompanying programme: A narrated walk on the topic of racially motivated violence in the Czech Republic















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**CINEMA 2022 / A workshop for cinema operators, distributors and other film professionals. More information <u>here</u>.** 



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## **CINEMA ONLINE**

Once again, DEF is also online! All films will be available on the SupremeXP platform during the period of the festival from 6 to 13 April. Some of the films have a limited number of views so we recommend to buy the film in time. The price of viewing is CZK 80.

The price of the tickets to DEF screenings in Prague, Ostrava and Brno is CZK 130. Online screening is offered by DEF for CZK 80. Ticket prices for the accompanying programme vary. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.eurofilmfest.cz, through the booking systems of cinemas or at the cinemas' box offices. Tickets can also be booked over the telephone or by email. You can find more information on how to purchase tickets here.

The DEF catalogue is available online. Marija Petrinjac is the author of the concept, graphic design and trailer of the 29<sup>th</sup> annual edition of DEF. The film awards were authored by Zdeněk Vacek. In keeping with the tradition, Lukáš Rumlena will be the host of the opening and closing ceremonies.

Please, send accreditation applications to pr.michaeladvorakova@gmail.com.

# 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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**DEF TAKES PLACE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF**: MARTIN BAXA – THE CZECH CULTURE MINISTER, DANA KOVAŘÍKOVÁ – THE HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC, ZDENĚK HŘIB – THE LORD MAYOR OF THE CAPITAL CITY OF PRAGUE, MARKÉTA VAŇKOVÁ – THE LORD MAYOR OF THE STATUTORY CITY OF BRNO, TOMÁŠ MACURA – THE LORD MAYOR OF THE STATUTORY CITY OF OSTRAVA, AND PETR HEJMA – THE MAYOR OF THE CITY DISTRICT OF PRAGUE 1 / **ORGANISED BY**: THE EMBASSIES AND CULTURAL INSTITUTES OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE REPRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC / **WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF**: THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC, THE CZECH FILM FUND, THE CAPITAL CITY OF PRAGUE, THE STATUTORY CITY OF BRNO, THE STATUTORY CITY OF OSTRAVA, THE CITY DISTRICT OF PRAGUE 1, CREATIVE EUROPE DESK – MEDIA, AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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