Press release, 27th Prague IFF – Febiofest Prague, 18. 9. 2020

**Prague IFF – Febiofest underway! Iva Janžurová receives Kristián award.**

**The 27th edition of the Prague IFF – Febiofest has been ceremonially launched. With major interest from the media, many leading figures in Czech culture came together at Prague’s Slovanský dům for the opening ceremony, at which Kristián awards for acting legends Iva Janžurová and Milan Lasica were presented.**

Numerous leading directors, actors and other representatives of Czech culture walked up the red carpet. Among those welcomed to Slovanský dům by moderator Vlastimil Korec were the minister of culture, Lubomír Zaorálek, Prague 1 councillor Petr Hejma, director Olga Sommerová, the actresses Iva Janžurová, Dana Morávková and Hana Vagnerová, director Slávek Horák and numerous other well-known names. After festival president Fero Fenič declared the festival underway a Kristián award was presented to an icon of Czech cinema, Iva Janžurová. A second recipient, Milan Lasica, was unfortunately unable to attend so his prize was received by Roman Lajciak, deputy director of Prague’s Slovak Institute. However, the festival will remind viewers of Lasica’s acting prowess with a screening of *The Three Veterans*. The pictures *Morgiana, Ene Bene* and *Boarding House for Bachelors* are being shown in honour of Iva Janžurová. The awards presentation was followed by a pre-premiere of the hotly anticipated documentary *Karel* by Olga Malířová Špátová.

**Festival news**

This year’s edition is full of changes, and not only in terms of time of year and venue. The Prague IFF – Febiofest has added new competitions to the programme in the form of the Main Competition, now judged by an expert jury, and the Comedy Competition. The five prestigious entrants in the Main Competition – including Ivan Ostrochovský’s *The Servants*, which screened at the Berlinale, and *You’ll Die at 20*, which earned a prize for best debut in Venice – will be judged by Czech directors Beata Parkanová (whose will also introduce her *Moments*) and Slávek Horák (presenting his recently released *Havel*) and actress Anna Polívková; she has stood in for Jiří Mádl, who was forced to step down from the jury.

The Comedy Competition delivers seven entertaining art-house style films from various corners of the planet, including *God Exists, Her Name is Petrunya*, which earned the European Parliament’s LUX prize, and Mumbai Film Festival winner *Eeb Allay Ooo*! Thirty-three selected film buffs, headed by Dana Morávková, will choose the winning movie; the actress has taken the place of Klára Melíšková, who is sick. The competition got underway today with the Israeli comedy *Mossad!* by director Alon Gur Arye.

**Festival passes**

Viewers can acquire available tickets by means of festival passes, which can be purchased for three, five or eight days. Passes may be bought and tickets selected every day at the information stand at Slovanský dům or online at www.febiofest.cz

With each ticket bought viewers will receive two face masks and a ticket for the RONDO draw, via which they can take part in a competition for prizes worth CZK 15 million. For more information go to www.febiofest.cz.

**Accompanying programme**

The accompanying programme takes place for the first time this year in the unique space of Zahrada Savarin, which is accessed from the street Na Příkopě. A rich daily programme of music, dance and films awaits visitors. The film section of the accompanying programme includes a tribute to the Oscar-winning director Jiří Menzel. The festival is remembering his oeuvre with three films: *Larks on a String*, introduced by Olga Menzelová, *Capricious Summer* and *Closely Watched Trains*.

**Family screenings**

The smallest viewers haven’t been forgotten. Prepared for them is a special animated programme about eternally hungry and inventive friends in *Hungry Bear Stories*. The Czech animated adventure series *Kosmix* will whisk curious children off to explore the universe. And the popular series *The Websters*, whose premiere screening is linked to a book launch, will entertain the whole family.

**Festival in the regions**

After its eight-day run in the capital film fans in the regions can look forward again this year to the festival continuing in other cities. A smaller version of the festival kicks off on 24 September in České Budějovice. The closing ceremony will take place in Zlín on 8 October.

22.09. – 24.09.2020 Liberec

28.09. – 30.09.2020 České Budějovice

01.10. – 03.10.2020 Ostrava

04.10. – 06.10.2020 Děčín

05.10. – 07.10.2020 Beroun

06.10. – 08.10.2020 Zlín

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