



## Prague IFF – Febiofest 2021 presents films from Sundance, Venice, Berlinale and Cannes

The 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the Prague International Film Festival – Febiofest is here! Like usual, this year's programme includes films tried and tested by prestigious international festivals. Tickets to screenings and OFF program are on sale at <https://www.febiofest.cz/en/tickets>.

### From Sundance to Febiofest

**Assassins** is a gripping investigative documentary which reveals how two women unwittingly became a part of a secret service's plan to eliminate a critic of the North Korean regime, Kim Jong-nam. Touching family drama **Farewell Amor** perceptively portrays the immigrant experience. Or the star-studded, captivating spectacle **Shirley**, inspired by the personality of the author of the horror novel *The Haunting of Hill House*. All of these films from this year's Prague IFF – Febiofest programme premiered at Sundance, America's most famous independent film festival.

**Shirley**, starring Elizabeth Moss, left Sundance with the Special Jury Award, while **Farewell Amor** later won the Independent Spirit Award. Both **Exile**, a film about an increasingly paranoid Kosovar in Germany, and **Charter**, a Swedish story of a mother trying to get access to her own children, which is in the Main Competition at Febiofest, also began its successful journey in Utah's Park City last year. **Dinner in America**, a humorous and sensitive portrait of two uprooted souls, which is competing in Febiofest's Comedy Competition, was also screened at Sundance. A new VR section will offer **Bembé**, a film that lets you witness a traditional Cuban ritual.

### Award-winning films from Venice

Seven films from the programme of the 28<sup>th</sup> Prague IFF – Febiofest have premiered at the oldest film festival in the world: in Venice. Last year, Amos Gitai's **Laila in Haifa**, a film about five women, taking place during one night in a nightclub, was one of the films competing for the Golden Lion. **Nowhere Special**, a poignant story of a dying father; the psychedelic nightmare of **Night of the Kings**; **The Man Who Sold His Skin**, a provocative reflection on the role of art; and the observational social drama **Listen** were all presented in last year's second Orizzonti section. The story of a Syrian refugee, **The Man Who Sold His Skin**, won in the Best Actor category, while **Listen**, the story of a Portuguese family in Britain, won both the Special Jury Prize and the Best Debut Award in Venice. **The Whaler Boy**, a visually refined Russian poem about



longing, which is competing in Febiofest's Main Competition, was screened in the parallel section Venice Days in the 77<sup>th</sup> Biennale, as did Chile's tenderly melancholic adaptation of the novel ***My Tender Matador***.

## 11 Berlin Premieres at Febiofest

Films that premiered at the prestigious Berlinale festival have a strong presence at this year's Prague IFF – Febiofest. They are all remarkable and often award-winning. For example, ***The Trouble with Being Born***, a film of Austrian-German co-production which explores the identity of a young android girl, won the Special Jury Award in the first edition of the new Encounters section at last year's Berlinale. There, its rivals included ***The Servants***, whose director Ivan Ostrochovský was a member of the Main Competition jury this year. An intoxicating audio-visual ride through the invisible parts of a pulsing city, ***Berlin Alexanderplatz***, was competing for Golden Bear and ultimately won **the European Film Award** for music, having been nominated in two more categories.

An atypical road-movie about the power of parental love and the state of contemporary Serbia, ***Father*** took home the Audience Award and the Prize of the Ecumenical Jury last year. It shared the Panorama section at Berlinale with ***One of These Days***, a film about a group of American endurance competition contestants who discover the strength of human will.

***Any Day Now***, an unpretentious and hopeful story of an Iranian family in Finland that the director based on his own childhood experiences, was screened last year in the **Generations** section, aimed at children and youth. It was joined there by ***My Name Is Baghdad***, a loose sequence of episodes from a life of a seventeen-year-old skater girl from São Paulo. The winner of this year's Czech Lion award, ***Charlatan***, premiered in Germany at the **Berlinale Special Gala**. Its producer Mike Downey was honoured with the Kristián Award this year. Also having debuted in the Berlinale Special category, ***Last and First Men*** by the tragically deceased Jóhan Jóhannsson will be screened at Febiofest accompanied by its cameraman Sturla Brandth Grøvlen.

You can also look forward to a new film by Hungarian director Bence Fliegauf ***Forest – I See You Everywhere***, which was selected from this year's Berlinale Competition and honoured with the Best Supporting Performance prize. Seven psychological analyses of everyday situations create an anthropological mosaic of today's society. German adaptation of Erich Kästner's cult novel ***Fabian***, starring the popular Tom Schilling, was also running for the Golden Bear this year.

## Cannes Labels in the Febiofest programme



**28TH PRAGUE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**  
**PRAGUE September 17 – 24, 2021**

The selection of the Prague IFF – Febiofest film programme includes titles from the most famous film festival: in Cannes. French actress Luàna Bajrami, known for her role in the romantic drama *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, will arrive in person to present her debut as a director ***The Hill Where Lionesses Roar***. This gritty and tender tale of a journey of self-discovery told from a women’s perspective premiered in Cannes this June.

Last year, the French festival was cancelled by the pandemic. A selection of films can boast a “Cannes label” instead. Among them, the carefully built psychological drama ***Slalom*** explores a relationship of a promising young athlete and her coach; ***Souad*** – a dramatic story of two Egyptian sisters whose lives get disrupted by their social media relationships; or ***A Good Man***, an intimate drama meticulously handling the sensitive subject of trans\* parenting, starring Noémie Merlant, another star of the *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*. Another film honoured with the Cannes Label was ***Another Round***, winner of both the Academy and European Film Awards, which will be screened as a part of a profile of the cameraman and guest to the festival Sturla Brandth Grøvlen.

Hirokazu Kore-eda, Japanese master of humanism, compassion and understanding, has also celebrated great successes at Cannes with his films ***Like Father, Like Son***, ***Air Doll***, ***Nobody Knows***, and, above all, ***Shoplifters***, which won him the prestigious Palme d’Or in 2018. All of the aforementioned pictures are presented in the Hirokazu Kore-eda: Profile section.

### Contacts

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