



## Prague IFF - Febiofest kicks off with Redford and awards prize to Fonda

The gala opening of the 26<sup>th</sup> Prague International Film Festival – Febiofest took place on Thursday 21 March, with Czech Minister of Culture **Antonín Staněk** in attendance. During the first evening of the festival he presented a Kristián award for lifetime contribution to cinema to the actress **Jiřiná Bohdalová**. A second Kristián was accepted on behalf of the US movie star Peter Fonda, who could not attend the opening for health reasons, by two people connected with the most significant film of his career, *Easy Rider*. The classic 1969 movie was released 40 years later in a Czech version on DVD by Bontonfilm and the award was picked up the distribution company's director, **Martin Palán**, and the Czech voice of Peter Fonda, dubber **Zdeněk Mahdal**. The prize will be given to the Hollywood actor at a later date.

The gala opening was also attended by a number of international filmmakers due to present their works in person in the coming days. Alongside festival president **Fero Fenič** and director **Kamil Spáčil**, the red carpet welcomed the ambassadors of Lithuania, Israel and Mexico, Czech star actors, UK actress **Rachel Jackson**, French director **Méryl Fortunat-Rossi**, Israeli director **Elad Keidan**, US cinematographer **Alex Salahi** and **The Einstein Couple**, who create advertising campaigns for the films of **Lars von Trier**. Reference was made to a silver memorial medal to **Jiří Menzel** that was earlier presented to his wife **Olga Menzelová**. There was also a surprise in the form of another silver medal with her portrait that was presented to **Jiřiná Bohdalová**. The ceremony culminated with a screening of **Robert Redford's** latest movie *The Old Man & The Gun*, which the Hollywood star has said is his last.

The festival also got underway on the same day, with screenings of films in all sections held at the CineStar Anděl, CineStar Černý Most and Ponrepo cinemas. Pictures competing in the New Europe section were also shown. The 10 films by debut directors will be judged by a jury comprised of 33 viewers and headed by an honorary chair, photographer **Jan Saudek**. The winner will be announced at the festival's closing ceremony at CineStar Anděl on 28 March. That evening will also see the presentation of prizes in the You're the Filmmaker amateur competition and the Amnesty International Award, whose jury includes Czech actor **Petr Vacek** and Swedish director **Isabella Eklöf**.

On Friday a meeting with directors, producers and actors involved in a number Czech-Slovak projects (**Viktor Tauš**, **Klára Melíšková**, **Teodor Kuhn**, **Ela Lehotská**, **Vladimír Škultéty**, **Ondřej Zima**, **Jakub Felcman**, **Tomáš Michálek** etc.) will take place at 13:30 at the Press Centre at hotel Andel's, while that evening the Slovak competition film *By a Sharp Knife* by director **Teodor Kuhn** will receive its premiere. The first evening of the Culinary Cinema section will feature the film *Tazzeke*, after which viewers will enjoy a Moroccan-French menu from master chef **Lukáš Čížek**. The event will be moderated by **Jolana Voldánová**

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Febiofest Press Centre, hotel Andel's, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Stroupežnického 21, Praha 5  
open 22 to 29 March, 10:00 to 18:00