



## DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM

Parléřova 17, 169 00 Prague 6  
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### Days of European Film: from renowned filmmakers to new talents

**Prague, March 21, 2025** – A diverse selection of current films from European filmmakers will be featured at the 32nd edition of the **Days of European Film** festival, starting on April 2. The festival will present a variety of feature films, documentaries, and animated movies, including comedies and dramas from film veterans, as well as acclaimed debuts from up-and-coming filmmakers we will surely hear more about. The program also includes films focused on ecology and those in which music plays a central role. "This year's edition presents not only strong cinematic voices but also bold experiments that demonstrate how European cinema is responding to the challenges and current issues of today's world," explains the festival's curator, Šimon Šafránek. The festival will feature the latest film by British director Andrea Arnold, **Bird**, the musical comedy **Heavier Trip** from the directing duo Juuso Laatio and Jukka Vidgren, the winner of the Orizzonti section at the Venice Film Festival **The New Year That Never Came** by Bogdan Mureșanu, or the film **Grand Theft Hamlet** by Pinny Grylls and Sam Crane, created entirely within the popular online video game **Grand Theft Auto**. A retrospective of the French director Michel Gondry will also be a part of the program.

Every year, the festival offers many films that cannot be seen in regular distribution. This year, it will also host meetings with festival guests, including filmmakers, **Mental Hygiene** with Aleš Stuchlý, discussions, side programs for children, and screenings for schools and seniors. **Days of European Film** will take place from April 2 to 8 in Prague at the Světozor, Edison, and Přítomnost cinemas, from April 2 to 16 at the Art cinema in Brno, and from April 12 to 16 at the Minikino in Ostrava. From April 9 to 16, the festival will travel to cinemas in eleven other cities across the Czech Republic. The entire program is available at [www.eurofilmfest.cz](http://www.eurofilmfest.cz).

### Rising Stars of the Big Screen

The main competition section of **Days of European Film, First Time**, speaks the language of the youngest generation of filmmakers, bringing fresh debuts that observe human existence without embellishment. The impressive film **Winter in Sokcho** by Koya Kamura blends live-action scenes with animated elements and tells the story of a young woman working in a coastal Korean town whose peaceful life is disrupted by a mysterious Frenchman. The social drama **Lesson Learned** by Bálint Szimler, which won an award at Locarno for best actress, portrays the tension at a Hungarian primary school where a young teacher tries to change the established teaching methods. The gripping thriller **Bring Them Down** by Chris Andrews takes viewers to a pastoral Irish region where old family grudges bubble to the surface. The film **Toxic** by Saulé Bliuvaitė follows two teenage girls dreaming of escaping their bleak hometown and aspiring to become models. The film won three awards at the Locarno Film Festival, including the Golden Leopard. In the intimate but deeply emotional drama about prolonged mourning and the need to overcome it, **Poison** (Otrava – Příběh lásky) by Désirée Nosbusch, Tim Roth and Trine Dyrholm reunite years



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later at the grave of their young son. The film **Travel Essentials** by Kamila Tarabura tells the story of an American journalist of Polish descent who must confront her past and open up the suppressed issue of sexual abuse of young girls in Poland. **The New Year That Never Came** by Bogdan Mureșanu is a mosaic of stories set in Timișoara just before Christmas 1989 when revolutionary ferment slowly creeps into the characters' lives. The film won an award in the Orizzonti section at the Venice Film Festival. Following the screening in Prague, the **Balkan Disco Party** will take place with free entry.

### Music in the Spotlight

The **Film & Music** section connects the world of cinema and music in stories full of emotions and energy. The sci-fi musical **The End** by Joshua Oppenheimer, starring Tilda Swinton and Michael Shannon, takes viewers into an underground bunker where a wealthy family survives an ecological disaster. However, their fragile balance is disrupted by an unknown girl. Another film, the musical comedy **Heavier Trip** by Juuso Laatio and Jukka Vidgren, is a continuation of the movie **Heavy Trip!**, which tells the story of a heavy metal band escaping from prison and trying to perform not only at their dream festival but also save their childhood home. **Diva Futura** by Giulia Louise Steigerwalt explores the rise of Italian pornography in the 80s and 90s, when media influence led to the election of porn star Ilona Staller, known as Cicciolina, to parliament. Anton Alvarez's documentary **The Flamenco Guitar of Yerai Cortés** follows the turbulent family history of one of Spain's most significant young flamenco figures. The stylized musical documentary **The Extraordinary Miss Flower** by Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard (Nick Cave: 20,000 Days on Earth) delves into the work of Icelandic singer Emilíana Torrini, who found inspiration in letters from the 60s and 70s.

### News from Film Veterans

The **Panorama** section provides a broader look at contemporary European films worth noting. The Czech premiere of Andrea Arnold's surreal drama **Bird** (Ptáče), starring Barry Keoghan as a father who wants to marry despite his daughter's objections, will be shown. The film was selected for the Cannes Film Festival competition. The festival will welcome its casting director, Lucy Pardee, known for her innovative casting and talent scouting approach, who will lead a masterclass in collaboration with Cinergy. In a tense drama, **Julie Keeps Quiet** by Leonardo van Dijn reveals the dark side of tennis and elite sport. In the Czech premiere, Marie Dvořáková's documentary **World Between Us** follows the first successes of now-world-famous photographer Marie Tomanová in the United States and her steep rise. Both artists will attend the screening in Prague. During the festival, the Czech Lion Award-winning animated film **Living Large** by Kristina Dufková will return to cinemas, humorously showing adolescence's first struggles, loves, and pitfalls. **When Fall Is Coming** by French director and screenwriter François Ozon (Swimming Pool, 8 Women, Frantz) is



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an elegant, intricately woven mushroom-picking crime thriller set in the French countryside. The film excelled at the San Sebastián Festival, winning the Jury Prize for Best Screenplay and the Best Actor award for Perra Lottin. The historical movie **From Hilde, with Love** by Andreas Dresen takes viewers to a World War II-era anti-Nazi resistance group known as the "Red Orchestra" in Berlin. The drama **The Witness** (Svědčtyně) by Nader Saeivar presents the moral dilemma of a woman who witnesses a murder that the police refuse to investigate for political reasons. The film won the Audience Award at the Venice Film Festival. **Bad Director** (Špatnej režža) by Oskar Roehler takes a satirical look at the burnout and personal crises of a fifty-year-old director struggling to complete a new film. **Love** (Láska) by Dag Johan Haugerud tells the story of Marianne, a doctor who frees herself from romantic ideals to live in the here and now without expectations or commitments. **Marco, The Invented Truth** by Aitor Arregi and Jon Garaño is a satire based on actual events, where an unyielding journalist uncovers the truth about a man who claimed to have survived a concentration camp. **Madame Luna** by Daniel Espinosa is a thriller about a human trafficker who ends up in a refugee camp and must confront her dark past. British master Mike Leigh presents the drama **Hard Truths**, a story of a woman struggling to cope with losing a loved one and paradoxically directing her anger at those closest to her. The original documentary **Grand Theft Hamlet** by Pinny Grylls and Sam Crane takes place within the **Grand Theft Auto** video game, where two actors rehearse Shakespeare during the COVID pandemic. A discussion on **GTA** will follow the screening in Brno.

### Wild Nature and the Animal World

The **Living Planet** section opens up themes of protecting our planet and caring for the environment. It will feature the Oscar-winning animated film **Flow** by Gints Zilbalodis. The screening will accompany animation workshops for children and discussions on animal rights, ecology, and sustainability. The film is also currently nominated for the LUX Prize, which the European Parliament awards in collaboration with the European Film Academy. Festival-goers will have the opportunity to vote. Director Tereza Kotyk will personally introduce her new film **Nebelkind: The End of Silence**, in which a Viennese animal breeder follows the trail of an escaped wolf across the border to the Czech Republic, unexpectedly confronting her family's traumatic past. The film **Kyuka: Before Summer's End** by Kostis Charamountanis takes viewers to the picturesque Greek island of Poros, where family history and old wounds unexpectedly surface. **Alpha** by Jan-Willem van Ewijk, awarded the Europa Cinemas Label in Venice, is set in the alpine nature and follows a father and son confronting family conflicts and the hostile environment in a skiing thriller. A unique legal drama directed by Laetitia Dosch will be presented by **Dog on Trial**. For the first time, a dog is truly put on trial, and the defence, as well as the entire process, raises questions about the relationship between humans and animals. In the atmospheric debut **No Sleep Till**, which contributes to the discussion about climate change, director Alexandra Simpson follows the evacuations before an approaching hurricane in Florida while a group of people refuses to leave.





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### Tribute to Michel Gondry

In a special retrospective, the Days of European Film (DEF) will pay tribute to the French film inventor Michel Gondry, whose films combine playful, dreamlike stories with meticulous visual execution. The program includes the animated novelty *Mayo, dej mi název* (Maya, Give Me a Title) – a poetic and humorous tribute to his deep bond with his daughter. The audience can also look forward to the cult classic *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* with Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet, which blends melancholy and fantasy in a story about love and loss, as well as the fantastical adaptation of Boris Vian's famous novel *Mood Indigo*, full of colours and tones, starring Audrey Tautou and Romain Duris. The festival program also offers the surreal comedy *The Science of Sleep*, where Gondry experiments with the boundaries between the dream world and reality. Gael García Bernal and Charlotte Gainsbourg played the lead roles in the film. The festival will also showcase **Gondry's music videos**, highlighting his collaborations with bands and musicians such as Daft Punk, Björk, The Chemical Brothers, and Kylie Minogue. The partner of this section is the Creative Europe MEDIA Office.

### Accompanying Program

DEF traditionally offers a rich accompanying program. Among other events, visitors can look forward to several evenings of *Mental Hygiene* with Aleš Stuchlý, where the uncompromising film critic complements screenings with lively and entertaining discussions with unconventional guests. For families with children, filmmaker workshops will be available during selected screenings. Discussions will accompany additional screenings on current topics. **Pub quizzes** on European cinema will be held in several cities. The festival will also host screenings for seniors and schools and programs aimed at the professional public. Alongside the masterclass with casting director Lucy Pardee, there will also be a seminar for cinema managers, distributors, and other film professionals.

### Festival Awards

DEF is a competitive festival for the fourth year, awarding two prizes. In the main **debut competition**, a jury will decide the winners, including actress Antonie Martinec Formanová, producer Jiří Konečný, artistic director of the Gdynia Film Festival Joanna Łapińska, director and winner of the 31st edition of DEF Katalin Moldovai, and film critic Pavel Sladký. DEF will also honour the **best musical film** of this year's edition. The jury includes journalist Jana Kománková, multimedia artist, director, and photographer Anežka Horová, and musician Milan Cais. The author of the film awards is jeweller Zdeněk Vacek. Another award is the **LUX Audience Award**, presented by the European Parliament in collaboration with the European Film Academy. Viewers







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can choose the winning film **until April 27** at [luxaward.eu/cs/](https://luxaward.eu/cs/), and the winner will receive an invitation to the awards ceremony in Brussels.

The central part of *Days of European Film* will take place from April 2 to 8 in Prague at the Světozor, Edison, and Přítomnost cinemas, followed by screenings from April 2 to 16 at the Art cinema in Brno and from April 12 to 16 at the Minikino in Ostrava. The festival will also take place in various regional cinemas **from April 9 to 16**, including in Boskovice (Panorama), Frýdek-Místek (Kino Vlast), Havířov (Kino Centrum), Hradec Králové (Bio Centra), Jablonec nad Nisou (Kino Junior), Přerov (Metro 70), Šumperk (Kino Oko), Vrchlabí (Kino Střelnice), Vyškov (Kino Sokolský dům), Hodonín (Kino Svět), and Znojmo (Kino Svět).

### Days of European Film – Overview of Sections and Films

#### First Time

##### Debut Competition

Young filmmakers are breaking old norms and claiming their voice. Their feature films are debuting on the big screen for the first time. The competition showcases a selection of strong and thought-provoking European debuts from the past year.

- **Travel Essentials**, directed by Kamila Tarabura (2024, Poland / Germany)
- **Lesson Learned**, directed by Bálint Szimler (2024, Hungary)
- **The New Year That Never Came**, directed by Bogdan Muresanu (2024, Romania / Serbia)
- **Poison: A Love Story**, directed by Désirée Nosbusch (2024, Luxembourg / Netherlands / Germany)
- **Bring Them Down**, directed by Chris Andrews (2024, Ireland)
- **Toxic**, directed by Saulė Bliuvaitė (2024, Lithuania)
- **Winter In Sokcho**, directed by Koya Kamura (2024, France)

#### Film & Music

##### Competition Section

The Film & Music competition highlights the power of two artistic disciplines and their ability to touch human emotions and passions worldwide. The images, tones, and melodies set the rhythm for this section focused on avant-garde, documentary, and fictional films in which music plays a central role.

- **Diva futura**, directed by Giulia Louise Steigerwalt (2024, Italy)
- **The Flamenco Guitar Of Yeraí Cortés**, directed by Anton Alvarez (2024, Spain)
- **Heavier Trip**, directed by Juuso Laatio, Jukka Vidgren (2024, Finland / Belgium / Germany)
- **The End**, directed by Joshua Oppenheimer (2024, Denmark / USA / Ireland / Germany)
- **The Extraordinary Miss Flower**, directed by Iain Forsyth, Jane Pollard (2024, United Kingdom)





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### Panorama

#### A selection of the most interesting films from 2024

The films from this section have won awards at renowned festivals. Directed by masters of cinema, they feature exceptional actors from the European film scene. Panorama presents the best and most significant of contemporary European cinema.

- **Hard Truths**, directed by Mike Leigh (2024, United Kingdom / Spain)
- **Grand Theft Hamlet**, directed by Sam Crane, Pinny Grylls (2024, United Kingdom)
- **Julie Keeps Quiet**, directed by Leonardo van Dijn (2024, Belgium / Sweden)
- **When Fall Is Coming**, directed by François Ozon (2024, France)
- **Love**, directed by Dag Johan Haugerud (2024, Norway)
- **Madame Luna**, directed by Daniel Espinosa (2024, Sweden / Denmark)
- **Marco, The Invented Truth**, directed by Aitor Arregi, Jon Garaño (2024, Spain)
- **Bird**, directed by Andrea Arnold (2024, United Kingdom)
- **From Hilde, with Love**, directed by Andreas Dresen (2024, Germany)
- **The Witness**, directed by Nader Saeivar (2024, Germany / Austria)
- **World Between Us**, directed by Marie Dvořáková (2024, Czech Republic / Slovakia)
- **Bad Director**, directed by Oskar Roehler (2024, Germany / Luxembourg)
- **Living Large**, directed by Kristina Dufková (2024, Czech Republic / Slovakia / France)

### Tribute to Michel Gondry

- **Maya, Give Me a Title**, directed by Michel Gondry (2024, France)
- **The Science of Sleep**, directed by Michel Gondry (2006, France)
- **Mood Indigo**, directed by Michel Gondry (2013, France / Belgium)
- **Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind**, directed by Michel Gondry (2004, USA)
- **Michel Gondry: Music Videos**

### Living Planet We Care About It

There is only one Earth, it's beautiful, and still full of life. We all know it's worth caring for. What themes about the ever-relevant relationship between humans and nature are filmmakers reflecting upon in their works? This selection of eco-themed films offers something for the whole family. The Living Planet section was made possible with the support of the European Union, which, like us, is dedicated to the protection of our planet for a healthy future.

- **Alpha.**, directed by Jan-Willem van Ewijk (2024, Netherlands / Switzerland / Slovenia)
- **Flow**, directed by Gints Zilbalodis (2024, Latvia / France / Belgium)
- **Kyuka: Before Summer's End**, directed by Kostis Charamountanis (2024, Greece / North Macedonia)
- **Nebelkind: The End of Silence**, directed by Tereza Kotyk (2024, Austria / Czech Republic)
- **No Sleep Till**, directed by Alexandra Simpson (2024, Switzerland / USA)
- **Dog On Trial**, directed by Laetitia Dosch (2024, Switzerland / France)





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### Links:

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### DEF IS HELD UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF:

- Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic, Martin Baxa
- Mayor of the City of Prague, Bohuslav Svoboda
- Mayor of the City of Brno, Markéta Vaňková

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