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**The 16th Pragueshorts Film Festival, the longest festival of short films, starts today**

The 16th Pragueshorts Film Festival, organized by the team behind the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, will take place from 2 to 27 June 2021 at Prague’s Aero, Bio Oko, Světozor, Pilotů, Edison, and Dlabačov cinemas, at the Kasárna Karlín, Kinská, U Keplera, and Střecha Radost outdoor cinemas, and in other towns, including Brno, Olomouc, Hradec Králové, Ostrava, Prostějov, Zábřeh, Uherské Hradiště, and Semily. This year’s festival is also being held online on the Karlovy Vary film festival’s movie platform [www.kviff.tv](http://www.kviff.tv), where audiences will be able to vote for the Audience Awards.

This year’s International Competition of 37 films from 29 countries includes two domestic representatives: Adam Martinec’s *Anatomy of a Czech Afternoon* was inspired by an actual event when two boys went missing from a public swimming area on a summer afternoon, and in the Romanian-Czech film *Along Came a Prin*ce, director Cristina Groșan’s takes a look at the question of consensual sex from an unexpected viewpoint. The international jury – festival programmer Louise H. Johansen, film journalist Pavel Sladký, and screenwriter and director Ondřej Provazník – will present one award for Best Film, which comes with a financial prize of 3,000 euros, plus two honorable mentions.

The National Competition’s two blocks present 8 Czech films with a running time of 30 minutes or less made in 2020. The films explore growing up, the search for and perception of oneself, or questions related to prejudice or social and cultural stereotypes.

The Czech program is supplemented by Jirka Mádl’s lockdown hit *Brush Me Tender, Brush Me Sweet*. Made spontaneously during the first lockdown, this four-part miniseries tells the love story of a complicated relationship between two toothbrushes in a world paralyzed by the pandemic. The section titled *5x Jenovéfa* presents five short films that have one thing in common: the charisma of one of the most distinctive Czech actresses today, Czech Lion recipient Jenovéfa Boková, who has appeared in a number of television series, shorts, and feature-length films. *George the Dog, Refugee* won the Audience Award at Pragueshorts 2020.

This is the first year that LABO, our section dedicated to presenting fresh and innovative approaches to both form and content, is being held as a competition program. A jury of representatives from the domestic art scene – musician/producer Sára Vondrášková, sculptor/designer Michal Cimala, and photographer Tomáš Souček – will present one of the nine entrants with the festival’s Award for Best Experimental Film. Among the competition are Finland’s *Blue Honda Civic*, a poetic view of the world as seen through the eyes of a car driver, and the American short *Valerio’s Day Out*, a video diary about a young jaguar who, unhappy in love, escapes from the zoo.

The opening program, which will be shown at cinemas and online, presents a selection from the festival’s various sections and thus offers a comprehensive introduction to the festival program. The festival program also features extra short films in the Ultrashorts section, a block of comedies titled Live Forever!, and the traditional and popular Brutal Relax Show of midnight movies and terribly incorrect humor, moderated by Ivana Veselková and Zuzana Fuksová, the hosts of the Buchty radio show. The Radu Jude retrospective presents five of the Romanian director’s short live action films and one autobiographical documentary in which Jude reflects on his creative life and artistic style. Or you can enjoy a musical atmosphere on the big screen with the films in the *Fullmoon* magazine selection, where you will find a music video by Iceland’s Sigur Rós (directed by Floria Sigismondi, who has shot videos for Björk and David Bowie) and a short film by Belgian director and musician Shazzula, a member of the band Wolvennest who has also collaborated with Warren Ellis of The Bad Seeds.

Viewers can vote on the Audience Awards online at [www.kviff.tv](http://www.kviff.tv), where the complete program will be available for free until 27 June after the cinematic premiere. Online viewers can also choose the festival’s best ultrashort film!

The festival trailer can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/b1sayJ0Avbs>

**Print-quality photographs for the various sections, as well as festival visuals, are available for download at:**

<http://pragueshorts.com/cs/media>

More info at [www.kviff.tv](http://www.kviff.tv) and [www.pragueshorts.com](http://www.pragueshorts.com).

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The 16th Pragueshorts Film Festival takes place from 2 to 27 June 2021, online for free at [www.kviff.tv](http://www.kviff.tv) and at the Světozor, Pilotů, Oko, Aero, Edison, Dlabačov, Letní kino Kasárna Karlín, Kinská, U Keplera by Dlabačov, and Střecha Radost cinemas in Prague, plus other cinemas in Brno, Olomouc, Hradec Králové, Ostrava, Prostějov, Zábřeh, Uherské Hradiště, and Semily. Tickets for cinema screenings are available now.

The 16th Pragueshorts Film Festival has been made possible thanks to support from the City of Prague and the State Film Fund. The partners of the 16th Pragueshorts Film Festival are BigBoard, Mall.TV,  Právo, Novinky.cz, Český rozhlas Radiožurnál, Radio Wave, Totalfilm.cz, Full Moon, CSFD.cz, Goout.cz, Informuji.cz, and A2.