

**CZECH  
& SLOVAK  
FILM FESTIVAL**



## Press release

### "NEIGHBOURS"

## CaSFFA announces 2017 festival theme at VIP event held at Foreigner Brewing Co.

**Melbourne, Friday 7 April 2017**

On the last Friday of March the Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia bade farewell to daylight saving but shone a light on its 2017 program theme at a VIP event held at Foreigner Brewing Co. in Brunswick, amid good company and good cheer, gourmet sausages and delicious brews.

It was a night of announcements and a few presentations which began with the wonderful news of generous sponsorship from Peter Denison and the team at Foreigner Brewing Co. once again.



Peter Denison (Foreigner Brewing Co.) being presented with a small token of appreciation by CaSFFA Artistic Director Cerise Howard, as voiced over by CaSFFA MC Victor Griss  
– a beautiful film poster of *Postřiziny*, aka *Cutting it Short*  
Photo: Pavel Šindelař

It was followed by CaSFFA's President and Artistic Director, Cerise Howard, proudly and formally revealing the 2017 festival theme:

### **"Neighbours"**

In Cerise's words:

"Our 5th festival will be programmed according to a theme of "Neighbours", referencing the present-day status of the Czech and Slovak nations, whose cinema and culture have long been entwined. This theme will allow for consideration of much more than merely how the Czechs and Slovaks relate to one another, now and previously. It will also allow for a consideration of the Czechs' and Slovaks' relationships with those many and various peoples and lands with whom they have shared shifting borders over the last several centuries.

"The theme will also be utilised to explore how the Czech and Slovak people engage with the other people who live within their nations, whether in the apartment next door, or elsewhere in the community, from any and all walks of life and across historical eras. It will also offer scope to spotlight cinematic co-productions – those productions in which Czech and Slovak cast and crew, stories, and locations have been mixed with those of other lands to produce films which have much to say and demonstrate about the benefits of being good neighbours..."



Eugenia Mocnay (Slovak Honorary Consul to Victoria), Denisa Cross (CaSFFA) and Paul Mocnay enjoying the news and some top-notch Foreigner Pilsener

Photo: Pavel Šindelař

As always, CaSFFA will present the very latest in contemporary Czech and Slovak film, as well as restored classic and cult cinema gems through partnerships with the Slovak Film Institute and the National Film Archive in Prague. This year, however, the festival program will also add flavours from Poland, Hungary, Germany, Ukraine, Austria, and beyond, through neighbourly stories, co-productions, film casts and shooting locations, extending this thematic outlook to CaSFFA's art exhibition, blog and - no doubt! - to its inclusive, all-welcoming and ever-expanding festival community.



Furthermore... in a prelude to this year's festivals in Melbourne and Canberra, CaSFFA can this year boast of a significant incursion into Brisbane in July, partnering with the [Queensland Film Festival](#) (July 13-23) and the [Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art](#) to co-present a **Juraj Herz retrospective** in the Australian Cinémathèque at QAGOMA!

This will be the same wonderful selection that Melbourne audiences will enjoy on September 13 and 20 when, in collaboration with longtime CaSFFA partners **The Melbourne Cinémathèque** and the National Film Archive in Prague, CaSFFA will screen "[Delirium and Decadence: The Giddyng Gothic Cinema of Juraj Herz](#)": 5 classic Juraj Herz films, many of which will also make their way to Canberra's National Film and Sound Archive and its beautiful Arc Cinema in October.



*The Cremator (Spalovač mrtvol, dir. Juraj Herz, 1968), screening at #CaSFFA2017*







*Morgiana* (dir. Juraj Herz, 1972), screening at #CaSFFA2017

And stay tuned – even more Herz brilliance still might yet be smuggled into the program in Melbourne and/or Canberra. But we can't say too much just yet...

To add further cause for celebration, another landmark partnership was announced with the news that the [Krakow UNESCO City of Literature Office](#) is officially joining in as a CaSFFA Cultural Partner in 2017, in a wonderful sequel to the Melbourne and Prague UNESCO City of Literature Offices' partnerships with CaSFFA, established in 2016.

It was a great night, last Friday, catching up with old friends and making a few new ones. Many kranskies and Polish sausages were had and there was plenty of joking and rejoicing as our VIPs went into a half-hourly raffle draw for more delightful film posters!

Thanks to all who attended and once again a very big thank you to all our friends at Foreigner!



Marcel Mihulka and František enjoying the hops, while their furry four-legged companion is plum tuckered out!

Photo: Pavel Šindelař

# The 5<sup>th</sup> Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia

**Melbourne:** September 13-22, Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI), Federation Square

**Canberra:** October 11-14, Arc Cinema, National Film and Sound Archive of Australia

Sincerely,

Cerise Howard, Artistic Director, and the CaSFFA team: Linda Studená, Denisa Cross, Lilliana Hajncl, Carmen Reid, Jack Russo, Miriam Fletcher, Ioana-Lucia Demczuk, Victor Griss, Eleanor Colla, Mia Falstein-Rush, Ben Buckingham and Meg Donaldson.

## Socialise

Join us for news, photos and fun on our social networks. Hashtag **#CaSFFA2017**

**Facebook:** [Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia](#)

**Twitter:** [@CaSFFA](#)

**Instagram:** [@CaSFFA](#)

## Sponsorship Enquiries

CaSFFA offers some attractive and targeted sponsorship opportunities, including advertising opportunities in our 2017 printed program. To obtain a copy of our sponsorship package or find out more, please contact Victor Griss on [victor@casffa.com.au](mailto:victor@casffa.com.au).

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