



**Ostrava Kamera OKO<sup>13th</sup>**  
*International Cinematographers Film Festival*  
**September 29–October 3 2021**

## **13th Ostrava Kamera Oko festival starts in exactly one week**

22. 9. 2021, Ostrava - *The thirteenth edition of the international film festival focused on cinematography, Ostrava Kamera Oko, starts on Wednesday 29 September with a screening of the new Czech-Swiss comedy *Lost in Paradise*. Over the course of five days, the festival will offer more than thirty short and feature-length films from the fields of fiction, documentary, and experimental film with an overlap into the visual arts, as well as an extensive accompanying program. The festival will run until Sunday 3 October.*

**Official selections** from international festivals, the **Short Film Competition** for young domestic cinematographers, film selections in the **Curator's Selection**, **Audiovisual Evening with Genot Centre** or **Industry Program** with several guests – the Ostrava Kamera Oko festival presents this year's program. It will run from 29 September to 3 October in the cinemas Etáž (Dolní oblast Vítkovice), Art (Dům kultury města Ostravy), and in the PLATO gallery.

### **Competition section**

The main festival competition the **Official Selection** will present six feature films that have caught the attention of dramaturgs at the international film festivals. From this year's Cannes Film Festival, OKO brings to the Czech Republic the latest film by French director Bruno Dumont and cinematographer David Chambille *France* (2021) – an addressable allegory on contemporary France. The competition will also include a minimalist film with medium-length footage, *First Moment* (2021). Its author, German cinematographer, director, and conceptual artist Nicolaas Schmidt presented it at this year's IFF Locarno. The next film in the Official Selection is the Serbian black comedy *Heaven* (2021), also released this August in Locarno. A year older is the film *Night After the Wedding* (2020) by cinematographer Yaron Scharf and director Talya Lavie. The story of this romantic comedy begins where all others end – on the wedding night. The penultimate nominee for the festival's main prize is the Japanese drama *True Mothers*, about adoptive parents whose happy life is interfered with by their son's alleged biological mother. In addition, last year's *Modern Loves* (2019) from Mexico will also appear in the Official Selection.

"Both 2020 and 2021 were strange years. Films had their careers ruined, there was no time to put them on, and when they did enter the cinemas, they were not well attended. Dozens of films are now in limbo. We therefore decided to commemorate last year's film apocalypse



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at least symbolically by re-releasing *Modern Loves*," says Jakub Felcman, the competition's chief dramaturg, describing what led his team to repeat the film.

The second competition section - **Short Film Competition** - annually presents emerging Czech and Slovak cinematographers. This year it will be Helena Fikerová with her film *Dreaming*, Barbora Kučeríková and her film *Between*, Zdena Sýkorová and her *Intermezzo*, Lubomír Ballek with his film *Sing For Us*, and Patrik Balonek with his film *Red Cap F 30.2*.

The winner of the Official Selection will be decided by an international jury consisting of young emerging filmmakers – Indian cinematographer **Bhumika Singh**, South Korean cinematographer **Tae Ho Kim** and domestic filmmaker **Jana Hojdová**, whose feature debut *Mirrors in the Dark* was screened at this year's KVIFF and will also be presented to the audience of Ostrava Kamera Oko. The jury of the Short Film Competition will include established filmmakers **George Chiper Lillemark** from Romania, **Irina Lubtchansky** from France, and **Santiago Racaj** from Spain.

### **Special introduction**

During the opening ceremony, which will take place in the Etáž cinema on Wednesday 29 September at 8PM, the new Czech-Swiss comedy *Lost in Paradise* starring Hana Vagnerová will be presented. It will be personally introduced at the opening ceremony by cinematographer **Yvon Teyssler** and director **Fiona Ziegler**.

The Czech documentary about Sokol *On Your Marks!* – and its cinematographer **Denisa Buranová** will also come to Ostrava.

### **Curatorial selection and Industry program**

This year, the OKO program team approached selected personalities from the field of film and art to create their own curatorial selections for Ostrava Kamera Oko, reflecting their approach to the camera and film in general. This year's film selection will be presented by film and media theorist **Kateřina Svatoňová**, film director **Michal Hogenauer**, and conceptual sculptor **David Fesl**.

The industry programme will offer festival guests, experts, students, and interested members of the general public the traditional **Location Tour**, a walk through interesting locations in the Moravian-Silesian Region, this year situated in the mountainous landscape of Karviná; a lecture and presentation by **Julia Žáčková** from the **NOCHI** talent agency on



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cinematographers represented by agents; a **Masterclass** by cinematographer **Kryštof Hlůže**, who, in addition to traditional cinematography, also works with visual artists; and two **retrospectives** of the work of currently debuting cinematographers.

The first one will be dedicated to **Jana Hojdová**, a juror of the Official Selection and a filmmaker, whose feature debut *Mirrors in the Dark* is soon to be released and who is currently preparing a documentary about Oscar-winning cinematographer Robert Richardson (collaborator of Oliver Stone, Martin Scorsese, Quentin Tarantino, and Robert De Niro). The second retrospective will present the work of **Tomáš Frkal** (the director of photography of the successful documentary *A New Shift*). The selection of his short films will also include a new film by directors Eliška Kovářiková and Adam Struhala, *The Glory of the Terrible Eliz*.

As part of the *Industry program*, the partner Association of Czech Cinematographers will bring *Landscape in the Shadow* by **Divis Marek** and an exhibition dedicated to the centenary of this organization. It will be on display on Prokeš Square in front of the Ostrava New Town Hall.

### **Accompanying program - night at PLATO and art in the streets**

In cooperation with the Prague music publishing house Genot Centre, Ostrava Kamera Oko is preparing an **audiovisual night** in the PLATO Ostrava gallery. The intense musical and visual experience consisting of ten performances by domestic and international artists starts on Saturday 2 October at 9pm and ends with a shared breakfast at sunrise on Sunday morning.

This year's Ostrava Kamera Oko also includes the **OKO Warm Up** section, which extends into the visual arts and reflects different artists' approaches to the camera. Jakub Jansa, Valentýna Janů, Johana Novotná, and Televize Estráda will present their work both in selected places in the public space of the city and directly in cinema halls.

*The festival will take place with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the State Cinematography Fund, the Statutory City of Ostrava and the Moravian-Silesian Region.*

*For more information or to arrange press accreditation, please contact PR manager Klára Šebestová via e-mail [sebestova@kameraoko.com](mailto:sebestova@kameraoko.com)*



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Contact: Ostrava Kamera OKO Vítězné náměstí 14, 160 00 Prague, Czech Republic  
[www.ostravakameraoko.com](http://www.ostravakameraoko.com)