**12th edition of Ostrava Kamera Oko begins**

**Saturday 24 September 2020 in Ostrava**

**24. 9. 2020, Ostrava** *The* *International Cinematography Festival Ostrava Kamera Oko takes place in several multi-day blocks this year. The first will take place this weekend on 26 and 27 September in the Etáž cinema in Ostrava. It will offer a summer cinema, a tasting of Japanese cuisine, and the final part of the Soviet epic DAU. The planned audiovisual program in the PLATO gallery has been postponed indefinitely from Friday due to emergency government measures.*

"We regret having to make this decision, and we ask for the audience's understanding. We would like to move the whole event to a more suitable time and implement it in full as planned," comments Gabriela Knýblová, festival director. She adds that it is impossible to set an alternative date for the time being given the uncertain situation.

However, the other program of the first festival block, which will take place this weekend, remains unchanged. In the newly opened cinema Etáž in the Lower Vítkovice area, the audience will see a total of thirteen films of various lengths - from shorts to feature films - in the main competition section called ***Official*** Selection. The space will be given mainly to filmmakers who have been presented at the festival in the past, such as Radu Jude, Santiago Racaj, and Kleber Mendonça Filho. Dramaturg Jakub Felcman has created his own curatorial units from their new and older works, which he will present and comment on as part of the Official Selection, together with his guests among film experts.

On Saturday evening, lovers of Japanese cinema and cuisine will be in for a treat. The summer cinema at the Hlubina Mine will host a unique screening of the new Japanese film ***Kontora***, which won the Tallinn International Film Festival at the end of last year. The evening will include a tasting of traditional Japanese cuisine by Tsurī restaurant.

On Sunday, Ostrava Kamera Oko will offer its audience an extreme filmmaking experience in the form of a six-hour film by Russian director Ilya Khrzhanovsky and German cinematographer Jürgen Jürges ***DAU. Degeneration***. The final 13th episode of

DAU's epic, bluntly simulating the socialist dictatorship in the Soviet Union, offers a powerful authentic experience of a stylized "reality show" for the brave.

The Ostrava Kamera Oko team decided to take a different form for this year's event in response to the global coronavirus pandemic. Within two multi-day blocks, the festival will thematically reflect different visions of the future - dystopian and positive. While the dystopian will take place in a few days, fans of the only cinematographic festival in the Czech Republic will have to wait for the positive.

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