

# PRESS KIT

# THE CZECH FILM PROJECT



**Karlovy Vary  
International Film Festival**  
Zvláštní uvedení

**XOVA  
FILM**

**BGF**  
Background Films

**KVIFF  
EVENTS**

**MAGIC  
★ LAB**

**beep  
SOUND!**  
POSTPRODUCTION



# “What is Czech in Czech film?”

*Why this question? Even we don't have a clear answer. Perhaps the question itself contains inner contradictions. Maybe it's not right to look at cinema through the prism of any stereotypes, where films are personal works of art. At the same time, this question is often asked of us in our producing practice. As if the recognizability of a country's cinema could effectively shape audience expectations. It's true that some neighboring countries manage this well. We have different expectations of an independent American film, a Romanian, Greek, French, Iranian, or Danish one. But more than market questions, this reflection provokes us to think about cultural identity and creative continuity. What image does the phrase “Czech film” evoke for us? What is typical in the stories we tell each other? Are there local stereotypes? What does a Czech film look like? In short — what does it mean when a cinema is “Czech”?*

**Original title:** Projekt český film  
**English title:** The Czech Film Project  
**Directors:** Marek Novák, Mikuláš Novotný

**Short synopsis:** A filmed survey of 29 directors of Czech fiction cinema, each asked a simple question — what is Czech in Czech film?

**Longer synopsis:** Inspired by Wim Wenders' film *Room 666* (1982), *The Czech Film Project* interviews 29 directors of Czech narrative cinema, each asked a simple question in a single room of Hotel Thermal during the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival — what is Czech in Czech film? The result is a cross-section of current thinking about Czech cinematography, stories, stereotypes, and society here and now.





Featuring: Dužan Duong,  
Martin Dušek, Jiří Havelka,  
Mira Fornay, Ondřej Provasník,  
Jitka Rudolfová, Tomasz  
Wiński, Šimon Holý, Matěj  
Chlupáček, Cristina Groșan,  
David Ondříček, Bohdan  
Sláma, Marek Najbrt, Andrea  
Sedláčková, Jan Hřebejk, Adina  
Šulcová, Michal Hogenauer,  
Vojtěch Strakatý, Jan Vejnar,  
Zuzana Kirchnerová, Tomáš  
Pavlíček, Marie-Magdalena  
Kochová, Adam Koloman  
Rybanský, Jiří Mádl, Beata  
Parkanová, Petr Jákl, Ivan  
Vojnár, Michaela Pavlátová,  
Diana Gam Van Nguyen

## Creative team

**Concept:** Marek Novák  
**Direction & Editing:** Marek Novák, Mikuláš Novotný  
**Cinematography:** Martin Pokorný  
**Sound Recording:** Anna Hokešová  
**Sound Mixing:** Zuzana Švancarová  
**Make-up:** Kateřina Housková  
**Camera Assistant:** Michal Gahut  
**Production Manager:** Klára Žaloudková  
**Producers:** Marek Novák (Xova Film), Mikuláš  
Novotný (Background Films)  
**Co-Producers:** Milan Kuchynka (KVIFF Events),  
Michal Křeček (Magic Lab), Lukáš Moudrý  
(Studio BEEP)

## Technical information

**Runtime:** 82 minutes  
**Year of production:** 2025  
**World premiere:** July 5, 2025,  
Karlovy Vary IFF – Special Screening  
**Language:** Czech, English  
**Picture:** Color, 1.85:1  
**Sound:** 5.1  
**Format:** DCP 4K  
**Produced by:** Xova Film, Background Films,  
KVIFF Events, Magic Lab, Studio BEEP





## Marek Novák

Marek Novák graduated Prague's FAMU, is an alumnus of EAVE and a member of ACE Producers. He is the CEO of Xova Film, a Prague-based production company with auteur-driven, eclectic profile. Recent productions include the Venice-awarde *Ordinary Failures* by Cristina Groșan (2022) or *After Party* by Vojtěch Strakatý, which premiered at Venice Film Festival in 2024. Together with Mikuláš Novotný, he's premiering *The Czech Film Project* documentary at Karlovy Vary IFF 2025.

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## Mikuláš Novotný

Mikuláš co-founded Background Films, where he produced, among other works, the six-hour film essay *Communism and the Net or the End of Representative Democracy* by Czech New Wave legend Karel Vachek (Rotterdam 2020), and Tomasz Mielnik's spiritual comedy *Journey to Rome* (Karlovy Vary 2015). He co-produced Jan P. Matuszyński's *Leave No Traces* (Venice Main Competition 2021) and Mihai Mincan's debut *To the North* (Venice Orizzonti 2022). He is currently finishing an ambitious period film *The Chosen One* based on Thomas Mann's novel and directed by Tomasz Mielnik. Together with Marek Novák, he is presenting *The Czech Film Project* in Karlovy Vary.

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