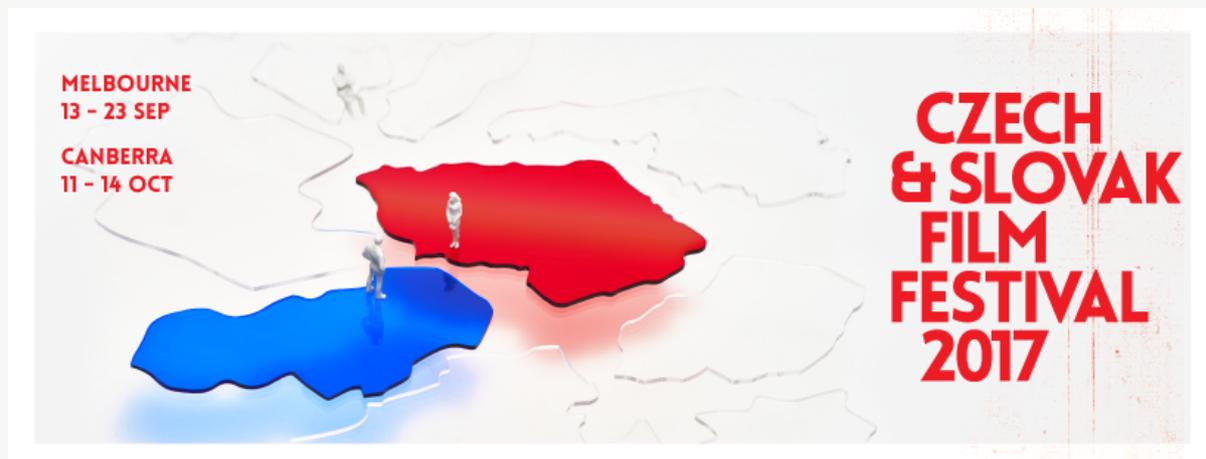


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CZECH & SLOVAK FILM FESTIVAL



The Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia (CaSFFA) announces...

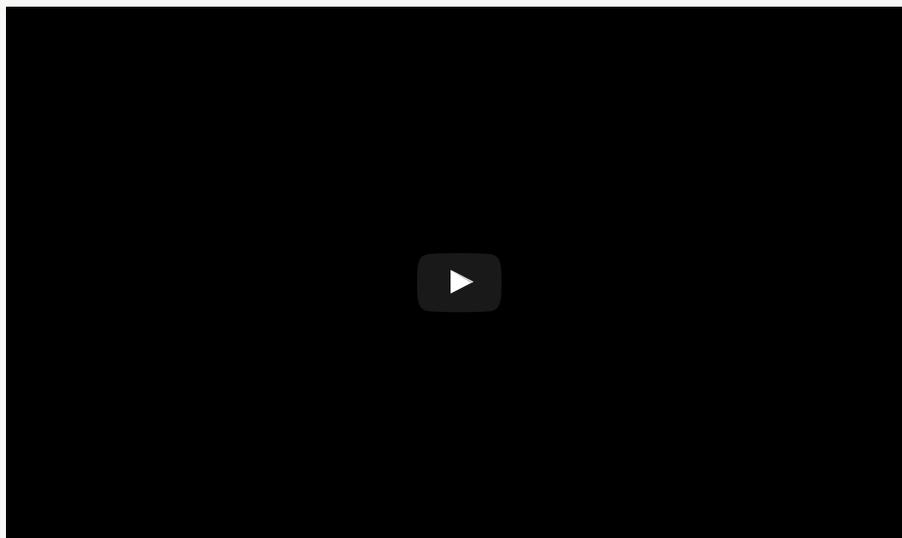
**Full 2017 program with theme of "Neighbours" now online
(and available in print from Monday)**

Tickets are on sale!

Melbourne, Thursday 24 August 2017

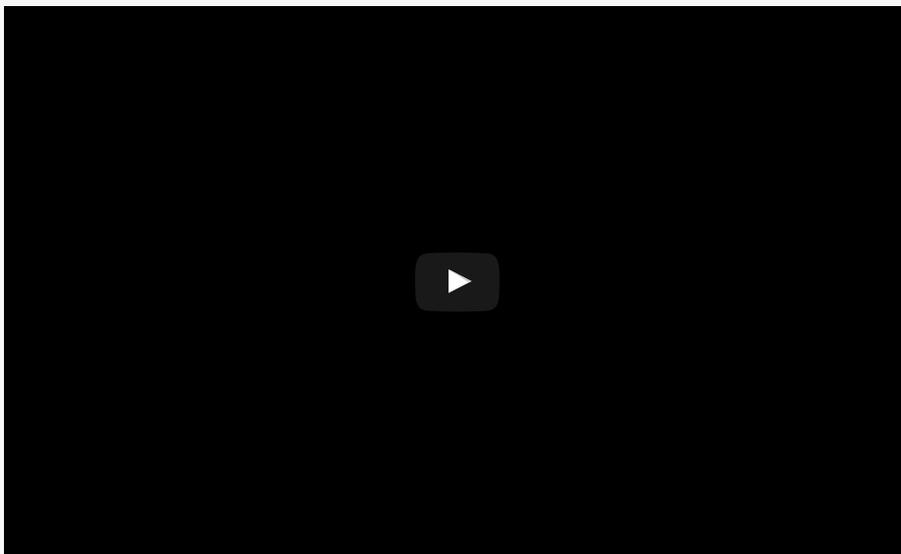
The 2017 Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia (CaSFFA) announces this year's full program and theme of "Neighbours", referencing the present day status of the Czech and Slovak Republics, whose cinema and culture have long been entwined. This theme also explores their relationships with the various peoples and lands with whom they have shared shifting borders.

The festival opens with the newly released [*The Line \(2017\)*](#), directed by *Peter Bebjak*, the first official Slovak-Ukrainian co-production and featuring scintillating action that unfolds across the corresponding border.



The Line

The Closing Night film, the equally brilliant [Anthropoid \(2016\)](#), directed by *Sean Ellis*, is a majority English-language, British-Czech-French co-production which tells the famous true story of the operation to assassinate *Reichsprotektor* Reinhard Heydrich in Prague, a heroic undertaking which has its 75th anniversary this year.



Anthropoid

Festival Director Cerise Howard has said

I'm tremendously excited about the richness of this year's expansive, landmark 5th edition, which spotlights some really exciting co-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 demonstrate, on screen and off, about the benefits of being good neighbours...

This year's partnership with **The Melbourne Cinémathèque** celebrates the career of the great Jewish, Slovak-born director [Juraj Herz](#) across five key films which we've already unspooled in July at the Queensland Film Festival, in partnership with the Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art. Includes the brilliant 1968 film, [The Cremator](#), the flagship title of the Herz retrospective, which is perfectly on topic in its evocation of the perils to all of not doing right by those whom one shares a community with.

Likewise, look forward to [The Shop on Main Street](#), winner of the 1965 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, on which Herz served as Assistant Director and which will be co-presented with the Jewish International Film Festival.

Extending CaSFFA's neighbourly partnership-building, the festival presents a sidebar retrospective celebrating the centenary of legendary Hungarian director [Zoltan Fábri](#). Admission to four fabulous films, *The Boys of Paul Street (1968)*, *Merry-Go-Round (1956)*, *The Fifth Seal (1976)* and *Professor Hannibal (1956)* will be **free** upon redemption of any 2017 CaSFFA session tickets, courtesy of a right neighbourly gesture from the Consulate of Hungary in Melbourne.

Festival highlights include the German-Czech documentary [Koudelka Shooting Holy Land \(2015\)](#), in which revered Czech photographer *Josef Koudelka* journeys into Israel and Palestine, lands which have highly strained neighbourly relations. Presented in partnership with the University of Melbourne European Union Centre on Shared Complex Challenges, a discussion on the role images and film can play in soft diplomacy will take place after the film screening – with key speakers *Dr Ilona Hongisto* and *Dr Tyson Wils*, moderated by festival director Cerise Howard.

Additionally, there's [A Prominent Patient \(2016\)](#), winner of 12 Czech Lions this year; a restoration of Jiří Trnka's spectacular puppet animation [Old Czech Legends](#)

(1952), and the riveting [I, Olga Hepnarova \(2016\)](#) and [The Red Captain \(2016\)](#), which both feature wonderful lead performances from rising stars of Polish cinema. And not to forget *Beside Ourselves* and *Cohabit*, this year's thematic visual arts [exhibitions](#).

For the full program and to purchase tickets please visit www.casffa.com.au

Media Enquiries

For more information about the festival, to arrange an interview with Artistic Director Cerise Howard, or to request screeners or other publicity materials, please contact **Julianna Toth** | +61 423 512 527 | julianna@casffa.com.au

The 5th Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia

Melbourne: September 13-23, 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, Ben Buckingham, Meg Donaldson and James Oczko.

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