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FILMS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

CZECH/SLOVAK:

ALL MY GOOD COUNTRYMEN 1968 115 min. (VHS)

Director: Voytech Jasny

This film, one of the last completed prior to the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, was immediately banned and won the Special Jury Prize of the Cannes Film Festival. It weaves together stories about a group of characters in a small Moravian village following the socialization of Czechoslovakia in 1948. Director Jasny was called "the spiritual father of the Czech New Wave" by Milos Forman

DAISIES 1966 74 min. (DVD)

Director: Vera Chytilova

Cast: Jitka Cerhova; Ivana Karbanova; Julius Albert

A freewheeling, madcap, feminist farce, Daisies features two uninhibited young women, both named Marie. The two Maries develop outrageous pranks in this outlandish comedy. Daisies' slapstick, destructive climax led to its immediate banning by the government.

DIVIDED WE FALL 2000, 122 min. (DVD)

In German-occupied Czechoslovakia, a young couple provides shelter to a Jewish neighbor, taking extreme and sometimes comical measures to protect him and themselves. Petr Jarchovský, with director Jan Hřebejk, adapted his own novel for this Oscar-nominated feature that won the Czech Film and Television Awards for Best Film, Director, Actor, Actress and Screenplay. "Mr. Hřebejk and Mr. Jarchovský, working in the rich Czech tradition of absurdist humanism, construct a universe booby-trapped with impossible choices and ethical puzzles" (A.O. Scott, New York Times).

THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 1991 100 min. (VHS)

Director: Jan Sverák

Cast: Jan Triska, Libuse Safrankova

Nominated for the 1991 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, "The Elementary School" is set in post-war Czechoslovakia, exploring the lives of a group of pre-adolescent boys in the interval between the departure of the Nazis and the arrival of the Communists.

THE FIREMEN'S BALL 1976 73 min. (VHS)

Director: Milos Forman

Cast: Vaclav Stockel, Josef Svet, Jan Vostřil

An Academy Award-nominated comedy depicting the outrageous descent of a firemen's ball into total chaos.

THE JOKE 1968 80 min. (DVD)

Director: Jaromil Jires

Cast: Josef Somr; Jaroslava Obermaierova; Jana Dítětová; Jaromír Hanzlík

This tragicomedy revolves around a single joke: a professor, who is also an unrepentant ladies' man, is sentenced to six years hard labor for an irreverent postcard he sends to a woman he is trying to seduce.

KOLYA 1996 105 min. (DVD)

Director: Jan Sverak

Cast: Zdenek Sverak, Andrej Chalimon, Libuse Safrankova

Winner of the Academy Award and Golden Globe as Best Foreign Language Film. A delightful comedy about a confirmed bachelor whose get-rich-quick scheme backfires, leaving the five-year-old Kolya in his care.

LARKS ON A STRING 1991 96 min. (VHS)

Director: Jiri Menzel

Cast: Vaclav Neckar, Jityka Zelenohorska

While serving time for desertion and taking steps toward re-education, a rag-tag group of workers unite as a young couple decides to marry. Even the prison guards can't resist this romance as the wedding and on-site honeymoon unfold in a series of hilarious plot twists.

THE LAST BUTTERFLY In English: 1994 106 min. (VHS)

Director: Karel Kachyna

Cast: Tom Courtenay, Brigitte Fossey, Milan Knazko, Josef Kemr

Set in World War II, a famous French actor is taken prisoner by the Gestapo and sentenced to perform in the town of Terezin. As he rehearses with a group of Jewish children in what is to be the last performance of their lives, he refuses to play a role in the Nazi's charade.

LOVES OF A BLONDE 1966 86 min. (VHS & DVD)

Director: Milos Forman

Cast: Hana Brejchova, Vladimir Pucholt, Josef Sebanek, Milada Jezkova

This Czech New Wave classic was nominated for the Best Foreign Language Oscar. This romantic comedy follows a piano player who seduces a lovelorn factory worker.

MANDRAGORA 1997 133 min. (DVD)

Director: Wiktor Grodecki

Cast: Mirek Caslavka, David Svec, Miroslav Breu, Jiri Kodes

After failing in school and fighting with his father, 16-year-old Marek flees his village for Prague, where he's attacked at the train station. Offered work, he's taken to an apartment, drugged, and introduced into the world of male hustlers. Teaming with David, they parlay their situation into a partnership with their boss, saving money and making plans to exit the city.

MURDER CZECH STYLE 1966 90 min. (VHS)

Director: Jiri Weiss

Cast: Rudolf Hrusinsky; Kveta Fialova; Vladimir Mensik

A chubby, clumsy office clerk gets a shot at true love in this black comedy. Winner of the Grand Prix at the San Sebastian Film Festival and the Donatello Prize.

MY SWEET LITTLE VILLAGE (SD) 1985 99 min. (VHS & Beta format)

Director: Jiri Menzel

Cast: Janos Ban, Marian Labuda, Rudolph Hrusinsky

Menzel's gentle observations of commonplace events celebrate small town life and leave one longing to be a part of this "sweet little village."

THE PARTY AND THE GUESTS (O slavnosti a hostech) 1966 71 min. (DVD)

Director: Jan Němec

Cast: Ivan Vyskočil, Jan Klusák, Jiří Němec, Pavel Bošek

Distinguished by being "banned forever" in its native Czech Republic, Jan Němec's "A Report on the Party" is a great film from the flowering of the Czech cinema in the 1960s. It is a political thriller that satirizes unquestionable conformity.

A PRAYER FOR KATARINA HOROVITZOVA 1991 60 min. (VHS)

Cast: Jiri Adamir, Lenka Fiserova, Cestmir Randa

Based on Arnost Lustig's award-winning novel, this film, the winner of the top prize of the Monte Carlo Film and Television Festival, tells the story of a beautiful Polish singer, set against the backdrop of a cruel game which involves trading Jewish lives for those of Nazi officers imprisoned in American jails.

THE SHOP ON MAIN STREET 1965 126 min. (VHS)

Director: Jan Kadar and Elmar Klos

Cast: Ida Kaminska, Josef Kroner

The 1965 Academy Award winner for Best Foreign Language translates the horrors of the Nazi Occupation into simple human terms, combining pathos with humor to tell the story of a friendship between an elderly Jewish woman and a good-natured carpenter appointed as her Aryan controller, addressing the complex issue of moral responsibility while illuminating the tragedy of racism.

UP AND DOWN (Czech: Horem pádem) 2004 113 min. (DVD)

Director: Jan Hřebejk

Cast: Jirí Macháček, Petr Forman, Jan Tříska, Emília Vášáryová

Milan and Goran are two criminals who smuggle illegal immigrants. One night after they complete a smuggle, they discover that one of the immigrants has left a baby behind. Milan and Goran decide to sell the baby to Lubos and Eman, who are responsible for running an illegal baby adoption center. Lubos and Eman make attempts to sell the baby to Miluska and Frantisek, a barren couple.

GERMAN:

BORN IN '45 1966 94 min. (DVD)

Director: Jürgen Böttcher

Cast: Monika Hildebrand, Rolf Römer and Paul Eichbaum

Originally banned in 1966, director Jürgen Böttcher's sexually daring tale of love and disillusionment among two newlyweds attempting to navigate the treacherous world of marriage was never officially released in his homeland until after reunification in 1990.

COLONEL REDL In German: 1984 142 min. (DVD)

Director: Istvan Szabo

Cast: Klaus Maria Brandauer, Armin Mueller-Stahl, Gudrun Landrebe

In the early part of the 20th century, Alfred Redl ruthlessly rises from his peasant background to become a high ranking member of the Imperial Austrian military. But when Redl is sent to spy on the Russian Empire, his espionage is compromised by his secret double life as a homosexual. As the world perches on the brink of war, Redl finds himself trapped in a web of deception.

EUROPA EUROPA 1991 121 min. (VHS)

Director: Agnieszka Holland

Cast: Marco Hofschneider, Julie Delpy, Hanns Zischler

Winner of the Best Foreign Language Film Golden Globe Award. In the midst of chaos in WWII Europe, Solly, a resourceful Jewish teen, narrowly escapes capture by Nazis. Separated from his family with little hope of survival, Solly vows to stay alive, even if it means donning a German uniform and posing as a Nazi soldier. Based on the autobiography by Solly Perel.

GOOD BYE LENIN 2003 121 min. (DVD)

In 1989, Christine Kerner has lost her husband and is completely devoted to the Socialist East German state. A heart attack leaves her in a coma, and when she awakens eight months later, the Berlin Wall has fallen and it's a whole new world. To protect her from the shock, her son Alex hatches a plan to keep her in the dark. It's easy... all he has to do is turn back the hands of time. Winner of six prestigious European Film Awards.

LIVES OF OTHERS (Das Leben der Anderen) 2006 137 min. (DVD)

Director: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck

Cast: Ulrich Mühe, Martina Gedeck, Sebastian Koch, Ulrich Tukur

In 1984 East Berlin, an agent of the secret police, conducting surveillance on a writer and his lover, finds himself becoming increasingly absorbed by their lives. A masterpiece about life behind the Iron Curtain.

STALINGRAD 1993 150 min. (VHS)

Director: Joseph Vilsmaier

Cast: Dominique Horwitz, Thomas Kretschmann, Jochen Nickel

Depicts the Battle of Stalingrad from the perspective of German soldiers trapped in the city during the historic conflict.

SVD--CLUB OF THE BIG DEED German titles and French narration: 1927 50 min. (VHS) - Silent film

Directors: Grigori Kozintsev and Leonid Trauberg

A cinematographic film in the fashion of Eisenstein and Pudovkin, celebrating the revolutionary Decembrist movement of 1825 St. Petersburg. An early collaboration between the originators of F.E.K.S. (Factory of the Eccentric Experimental Actor).