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## Movie Nights

### Movies on the Spring Czech Komensky Club Program

#### The Capricious Summer – *Rozmarné léto* (1967)

A comedy by director Jiří Menzel, based on the novel by Czech writer Vladislav Vančura.

The film depicts a humorous story of three men - a colonel, a priest and a bath-keeper - during rainy summer holidays. The arrival of a magic man, Arnoštek, and his beautiful companion, Anna, livens up the dull city...

Starring: Rudolf Hrušínský, Vlastimil Brodský, Jiří Menzel, Jana Preissová.

#### Divided We Fall - *Musíme si pomáhat* (2000)

This movie was nominated for the Academy Awards in 2000 for Best Foreign Language Film.

Directed by Jan Hřebejk, this story takes place in Czechoslovakia. The film opens in 1939. Horst, a Czech-German Nazi married to a German woman, brings food to the invalid Josef and his wife Marie, who are Slavs. Josef hates the Nazis. When Josef finds David, who has escaped a concentration camp in Poland after first being sent to the Theresienstadt concentration camp in northern Bohemia, Josef and Marie decide to hide him in their apartment...

#### Protector – *Protektor* (2009)

Directed by Marek Najbrt. It the story of Hana and Emil Vrbata, a couple living in German-occupied Czechoslovakia during World War II.

The general reception in Czech the press and the audience for the movie was extremely positive. It was also selected as the Czech Republic's submission for Best Foreign Language Film at the 82nd Academy Awards.

It is 1938 and the Nazis are just one step away from invading and occupying Czechoslovakia. Hana is a young

## [Komensky Club Schedule Spring 2011](#) **Mark Your Calendar!**

*All events except for the Banquet are free of charge and open to the public. All films are shown in their English Language version or with subtitles.*

**February 1st – Movie Night – “The Capricious Summer”**

(*Rozmarné léto*) 7:30pm, City Union, room posted

**February 28<sup>th</sup> - Czech and Russian Poetry Reading, City Union 9:30 -2:00 PM**

**March 1<sup>st</sup> - Egg coloring with the Komensky Club 12:30-1:30 Saint Mark on the Campus (13<sup>th</sup> and R),**

**Evening:-Slavic Spring Customs; Presentation, City Union 7:00 PM**

**March 8th- Antonín Dvořák and Russian Composers Concert, City Union**

**March 15<sup>th</sup> - Movie Night in the Union, “Divided We Fall” (Musíme si pomáhat) 7:30 pm, Union, Room posted**

**March 28<sup>th</sup>-April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Czech Culture Week**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> - Czech Night Polka dance and Lessons 8:00-10:00 PM (Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center)**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Czech Language Foundation Banquet, Speaker: Dr. Daniel Kostoval, Chargé d’Affaires the US Czech Republic Embassy; 6 pm East Campus Union, RSVP 7705029 (\$30)**

**April 5<sup>th</sup> - Movie Night in the Union- “Protector” 7:30 pm City Union, Room posted**

**April 19<sup>th</sup> Lecture: Czech and Russian Easter Traditions by Svetlana Rasmussen and Katarina Cermakova Union 7-8:30 PM, Room posted**

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Movie Night in the Union, “How to Drown Dr. Mráček” (Jak Utopit Dr. Mráčka /The End of the Water Sprites) 7:30 pm in the City Union, Room posted**

**For information: call 472 3386; 472 1336; write [msaskovapierce1@unl.edu](mailto:msaskovapierce1@unl.edu)**

Czech film actress who also happens to be Jewish. She's just appeared in her first feature with her leading man, an older Jewish actor, who warns her that her career is over that their picture will never see the light of day since the Nazis will never allow its release...

**How to Drown Dr. Mracek, the Lawyer – *Jak utopit dr. Mráčka aneb Konec vodníků v Čechách* (1974)**

The Czech fantastical comedy about love, directed by Václav Vorlíček. In Prague, the last seven Czech water sprites live in a damp house close to the Vltava river. The authorities assign them a new apartment in a modern house with central heating. It is decided that their old house will be destroyed. Mr. Wassermann, the leader, commands the menials to drown Dr. Mracek, the lawyer who makes decisions about sanitation, but...

### [A Saturday Afternoon in Wilber](#)

Last Saturday I had the pleasure of spending a few hours in Wilber, NE. I am taking an English class this semester called "Writing and Communities" and we were assigned to choose a community that we are interested in, take observations, and write a report. I immediately knew I wanted to write about a Czech community, and decided Wilber would be the most authentic one around.

After only a little while in Wilber I knew I had chosen the right place. The rich Czech heritage was everywhere. Buildings were embellished with Czech artwork. All of the benches on Main Street had Czech greetings painted on them, such as "Vítáme Vás!" All of these things made for great pictures that I will include in my project.

As I was making my way around Main Street taking notes on what I saw, I noticed that while almost all businesses were closed for the afternoon, one small shop was flying an "open" flag. This little shop is known as the "Czech Cottage" and is proudly owned and operated by a local family. I stumbled in to find a man named Randy managing the shop alone that Saturday afternoon. He greeted me and continued to tell me that all jewelry is 40% off. I explained to him that my purpose in Wilber that day was research-based. He eagerly gave me some background information on the shop, which I found to be a truly heartfelt story. Unlike most small business owners in this country, Randy and his wife Heidi are not in it for the profit. In fact, Heidi was at her other job that afternoon. The two bought the shop for their two adopted daughters so that they could gain life-experience working in the shop after school and on weekends. Randy continued to tell me that his daughter, Lisa, especially enjoys working in the shop. Since their home was only a few blocks from the shop, he called Lisa so that she could come over and chat with me.

When Lisa arrived it was apparent that she came because she wanted to tell me more about the shop, not because Dad told her to. We walked around the shop and she told me stories behind different pieces of jewelry and

ornaments. I was really intrigued to find out that nearly all of the merchandise they have is from the Czech Republic. Randy and Heidi have suppliers who frequently travel and bring them back authentic items. It was obvious that every item in the shop was special to Randy and Lisa. I overheard a conversation they were having as Randy told his daughter that a certain platter or plate sold that morning.

"Really? But Dad, we've had that thing forever!" Lisa replied in shock.

My trip to Wilber is something I will never forget. Sure, I have been there before for Czech Days and other things, but I have never got to spend one-on-one time with any of the locals. I couldn't have asked for a better experience to gain insight for my English project. If you find yourself in Wilber, I encourage you to stop at "Czech Cottage" on Main Street, even if it is just to browse!

By Olivia Johnson

### [Meet the Students of Czech 202](#)

My name is Mallory Slama. I am from Tabor, South Dakota where there is an annual Czech festival. This Czech community is very traditional and has taught me to be very active with my Czech heritage. My grandmother took me to the Czech Republic as a high school graduation present. It was absolutely amazing. My family and I have researched as much as we could about our past and are now working on learning as much as possible about the current Czech traditions and culture.

I am Jennifer Kroft and I am a History Major at UNL. I study Czech so my generation will not be the first in our family not able to speak Czech. I am interested in the history of immigration in this country and the effects of Americanization on all ethnic groups. I am also currently digitizing the early Komensky issues that were published here at UNL prior to WWI. I also collect Czech pottery and jewelry from the early twentieth century.

My name is Jeffrey Wesely. I'm a student at UNL majoring in Computer Science. My family on my father's side is 100% Czech, but none on my mothers. Every year we have a small family reunion where all the Wesely's get together and sometimes we go to a large family reunion where most of the various related families get together and they put out a family tree so we can see who's related to who (because there are so many of us it gets hard to tell). Our family has enjoyed Kolach's every now and then along with knedlik.

My name is Katherine Sanner and I am a Psychology Major at UNL and an English major at York College. My grandfather was 1st generation and my grandmother is 2nd generation American born Czech. I grew up listening to them speak Czech and all of their brothers and sisters speak it as well. I think it is important for my generation and my children's generation to learn their heritage and learning Czech is one of the ways I can do that. Hopefully, I can instill that pride into my children as well!

My name is Mike Proskovec, and I am an English major student at UNL. My father's parents were both full Czechs and could use English and Czech fluently. My aunts and uncles as well as my father sometimes use Czech mixed in with their English too. Growing up around them gave me a great appreciation for the Czech language and culture. Alex Brandes. I am a graduate student studying Community and Regional Planning. My undergraduate degree is from UNL in International Studies and French. I am originally from Central City, Nebraska. My grandmother's family was from the Czech Republic, and she spent time living there as a child.

#### Robitschek Scholars

Hello to all Nebraskan Czechs! My name is Vladimir Zejda.

I come from a small village called "Slatinice" [1540 citizens by the end of 2009] which is located not very far from the town of Olomouc. Olomouc used to be the capital of Moravia [the status was established in 1314 by the Czech king Jan Lucemburský] but was replaced by Brno after the Thirty Year's War's Swedish occupation and nowadays is thus a capital of a region called "Haná" and „Olomoucký kraj" i.e. "the Olomouc County".

This year the soccer team of Olomouc has been playing unprecedentedly well; after six matches Sigma ranks the second place in the major-league. This actually may be the first season in the history of the club that we become champions!

I come from a family of three – I am the only child. After I finished my high school [gymnasium] I started attending The University of Economics in Prague. This year I finished my bachelor's studies in Finance but have wanted to pursue the career in business and marketing for quite a long time and next year I will hopefully start my master's degree in international business. If you want to, you may contact me through my e-mail vladimir.zejda@gmail.com, I'll be happy to get in touch with you.

Name: Dominika Pompová [nika.pomp@gmail.com](mailto:nika.pomp@gmail.com)

My name is Dominika Pompová, I am a fourth year student in the department of adult education and personnel management at Charles University in Prague. I was born in Ivančice near Brno, but already as a child I lived with my parents in Pilsen, the city of four rivers.

From my parents I inherited a love of motion, sports and travel, from my mother an interest in design and architecture, from my father musical talent and interest in literature and languages. I believe that the year I spent at UNL will enrich me and not only in these directions.

#### News from the Czech Republic

Foreign Affairs Minister Karel Schwarzenberg has thrown his weight behind the granting of political asylum to a former Ukrainian. Danylyshyn, a former economy minister, was released from custody Jan. 14 after the Prague State Attorney's Office issued an order for his release

Reaction in Ukraine has been sharply divided, with the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry slamming the decision and the political opposition to President Viktor Yanukovich hailing the news as international recognition of their persecution.

Speaking to journalists after his release, Danylyshyn expressed thanks to the Czech government for the steps it took in his case, and said that unlike Ukraine, the Czech Republic was a European Union state that respected the principles of freedom and democracy. Bill Lehane, Prague Post

#### **Czech Embassy in Tunisia in the Line of Fire**

While much of the world watches Tunisia's citizen uprising unfold from the safety of their own homes, diplomats at the Czech Embassy in Tunis, the North African nation's capital, are beefing up security as the violence plays out before their eyes. Nationwide protests and riots over unemployment and alleged government corruption began in December 2010 and culminated Jan. 14 in the ouster of longtime President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, who dissolved the government and, after stepping down, fled the country. The day Ben Ali resigned, the embassy hired a private security firm to provide them with bodyguards as the riots intensified in the nearby streets of Tunis' city center. But the bodyguards - who, by law, are unable to carry firearms - vanished once guns were fired. Jack Buehrer, Prague Post

**Doctors on Strike** "Thanks, we are leaving." Czech hospital doctors started an initiative and protest against the low wages and chaos in the health care sector. Almost 4.000 doctors gave notice by January 1, 2010 and are planning to work in more „doctor friendly“ countries as Germany. The doctors in Motol hospital alert that medical care will revert to the state thirty years ago. Dozens of them who primarily didn't want to join the initiative think about changing their mind. Minister of Health Leos Heger get a mandate to negotiate with doctors, the Friday meeting results are expected with great suspense.

#### **Two Parties Fight over the Post of Police Chief**

As the selection of a new state police chief drags on, political observers have expressed outrage at the political circus featuring Public Affairs (VV) and the Civic Democrats (ODS). "It's disappointing that the selection process of the police president is connected to this political controversy," said Stanislav Beránek, who covers the police beat for Transparency International. "Never before has there been so much politicization of the process."

Despite ongoing complaints from the ODS about the legitimacy of Interior Minister Radek John's panel to choose the next police chief, the ministry moved forward, and John announced Jan. 18 that the panel had disqualified former deputy police chief Viktor Čech and current deputy police chief Ivan Bílek. The panel will decide on the remaining three candidates Jan. 19. Cat Contiguglia, Prague Post

### [Czech Vocabulary](#)

### [Weather Vocabulary](#)

Počasí	Weather
Je jasno	Clear or Sunny
Je polojanso	Fair Weather- Partly Cloudy
Je zataženo	Overcast- Cloudy
Je deštivo	Rainy
Je bouřka	Storm
Fouká vítr	Blowing Wind
Sněží	Snowy
Je náledí	Icy- Slick
Je slunečný den	It is a sunny day
Je teplo.	It is warm.
Je zima.	It is cold.
Je vedro.	It is hot.

The principal function of the Czech Komenský Club is to sponsor events that focus on culture and history and bring together people of diverse backgrounds who want to share Czech heritage. Readers of *Náš Svět* are encouraged to attend club events and participate in other activities listed in the newsletter in order to enhance awareness of the Czech culture in Nebraska communities. There is a low annual membership fee of \$3.00 for students and \$8.00 for non-students. The membership fee helps finance the films, newsletters and other special activities. Checks should be made out to the Czech Komenský Club and mailed to: Mila Saskova-Pierce, UNL, 1133 Oldfather Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0315. Membership is open to everyone!

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