

## The Best of Czech Cinema

The aim of this course is to provide a concise overview of the history of Czech cinematography since the foundation of Czechoslovakia one hundred years ago. The selected films showcase different aspects of the art of Czech cinema. Each screening will be introduced by a brief talk.

**Lecturer:** Dr Jana Fischerova

**22 October 2018** – Opening lecture on the evolution of Czech film, its greatest achievements and most significant personalities.

**5 November 2018** – Screening of *The Ear* (1970), dir. Karel Kachyňa – A tense drama-thriller about a Party official and his wife who discover that their house has been bugged. What follows is a long night of fear and panic. The film was banned by the Communist authorities upon its completion and only released after the fall of the regime in 1990.

**12 November 2018** – Screening of *Alice* (1988), dir. Jan Švankmajer – The famous director's uniquely dark take on Lewis Carroll's book. The film combines live action with stop motion animation.

**19 November 2018** – Screening of *Divided We Fall* (2000), dir. Jan Hřebejk – In Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia, a childless couple agree to hide a Jewish friend, at a great risk. This powerful drama, containing elements of comedy, won the Czech Lion award for Best Movie and was also nominated for an Oscar.

**3 December 2018** – Screening of *Lost in Munich* (2015), dir. Petr Zelenka – Following the 1938 Munich Conference, where Britain and France decided to try and appease Hitler, Czechoslovakia lost a part of its territory to Germany. A 90-year-old parrot who once belonged to France's Prime Minister Daladier, and who was present at the Conference, becomes a key character in this experimental comedy about wounded national pride, about the nature of historical truth, and about the perils of low-budget filmmaking. It won the Czech Lion award for Best Screenplay.