

Ji.hlava IDFF kicks off tomorrow

The opening film will be *The Lust for Power* by Tereza Nvotová

The festival will open with a ceremony resembling a political rally, directed by Jiří Havelka

The 21st edition of the Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival kicks off at 9 PM tomorrow. The competition sections will show 342 screenings, 70 of which will be shown in their world premiere. The festival will also include 22 international and 12 European premieres. The official opening ceremony, this time along the lines of a political rally, will be directed by renowned Czech theatre director Jiří Havelka. The opening film will be *The Lust for Power* by Tereza Nvotová. Visitors can also look forward to discussions about the political situation after the Czech parliamentary elections, which took place last weekend.

"The Ji.hlava IDFF can be viewed as an ideal post-election wellness resort. We all will restore our energy regardless of whether we were trying to drown our grief in beer or we are still in mourning. Vysočina offers fresh air and abounds in beautiful nature, the festival will treat visitors to a host of film titles and accompanying programme in the form of discussions, concerts and theatre performances. Everyone can thus find their own balance between the political and the poetical," says Marek Hovorka, tempting audience to visit the Ji.hlava IDFF.

This year's opening ceremony will take place along the lines of the script of **Jiří Havelka**, the director of the VOSTO5 ensemble. *"This year's edition will kick off in an unconventional way – as the 21st rally of Ji.hlava IDFF. The evening will also bring speeches as if we were at a political meeting. We can also reveal the fact that everyone will join in to sing the Wenceslavian Chant,"* says Havelka. In line with tradition, we will also present the first festival awards. The Respekt Award for the best investigative reportage of the previous year will be presented by Respekt's editor Jindřiška Bláhová. The best short documentary in the **Short Joy** section will be announced by Diana Tabakov of DAFilms.cz. Short Joy's winner has been selected by the viewers of the DAFilms.cz portal.

The opening film will be *The Lust for Power* by Slovak director Tereza Nvotová. *"The Lust for Power was made thanks to the Ji.hlava IDFF, because several years ago, I was screening my short bachelor film about (former Slovak authoritarian politician) Vladimír Mečiar at the festival. The film met with great acclaim, people and media wanted to know where and when they would be able to see another screening. That's when I realised that I should approach Mečiar's portrait in a more complex and profound way – so that even my generation would get a grip,"* says director Tereza Nvotová describing the creation of the film.

The first day of the festival, visitors can look forward to a screening marathon of the *Marriage Stories* by **Helena Třeščíková**. The director will in person introduce the story of hairdresser Mirka and dispatcher Antonín. An extensive Taiwanese retrospective will personally be opened by Taiwanese film theorist **Daw-Ming Lee**. The first "Taiwanese block" will include films with the theme of everyday life. These short titles depict life in the countryside.

For visitors:

Accreditations can be collected on **each workday between 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM** in the Festival Center at Vysočina Regional Gallery. Accommodation capacities in the city centre are limited: the visitors can sleep in a gym or stay at a hostel in Třešť connected with Jihlava by a regular festival shuttle bus. Accredited visitors can use **the public transport for free**. The **Ji.hlava IDFF app** offering festival updates is available for Android and iOS is downloadable from online stores.

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24. — 29. 10. 2017
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Ji.hlava International
Documentary Film Festival

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