

BERGAMO FILM MEETING

International Film Festival

41st edition, 10 – 19 March 2023

Czech director and animator Michaela Pavlátová protagonist of the section dedicated to auteur animation cinema, with a world premiere retrospective.



My Sunny Maad (2021)

Czech director and animator **Michaela Pavlátová** is the protagonist of the **section** dedicated to **auteur animation cinema** at the 41st edition of **Bergamo Film Meeting**, scheduled **from March 10 to 19, 2023**. A **world premiere** of the author's **complete works** will be presented, consisting of **25 titles**, including shorts and features, and **two live-action** films, in which the intriguing traits of **Pavlátová** poetics emerge in full: pressing rhythm, black humour and exquisite framing architecture, combined with a talent for condensing human relationships and feelings into a few minutes, make her one of the **most relevant animators** and **directors on the contemporary film scene**.

The retrospective is announced to coincide with the "International Animation Day" (IAD), which is celebrated annually on October 28, and for 2022 is represented by the official image created by Michaela Pavlátová herself.

Michaela Pavlátová (Prague, 1961) graduated from the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague in 1987. In the same year, as an end-of-study film, she made her first 2D animated short - a recurring technique in her filmography - *Etuda z alba* (An Etude from an Album) in which, with spare traits and light-hearted humour, the stylistic and thematic characteristics that will recur in her filmography are already noticeable. *Řeči, řeči, řeči* (Words, Words, Words, 1991) is a visual representation of the thoughts and speeches that hover in a bar full of people: the creativity and originality with which Pavlátová depicts an ordinary scenario earned her an Oscar nomination for Best Animated Short in 1993.

From this point onwards, Pavlátová achieved such recognition and acclaim that she became, to all intents and purposes, the most internationally recognised animation director of the new generation, earning the praise of critics and audiences alike. With *Repete* (Repeat, 1995), thanks to the combination of compositional refinement and sarcasm, enhanced by pastel drawing animation, Pavlátová won two significant awards: the Special Prize of the Jury at the International Animation Festival in Annecy and the Golden Bear for Best Short Film in Berlin.

From 1998 to 2002, she split her time between Prague and San Francisco, where she worked as an art director for the animation studio Wildbrain Inc.

In 2003, she directed her first live-action feature film, *Nevěrné hry* (Faithless Games), reflecting on the dynamics of couples and the search for marital harmony. At the same time, she confirmed her versatility by continuing to produce animated shorts; in 2008, she directed her second fiction feature film *Děti noci* (Night Owls), presented at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival, where it won the awards for best male and female performances. Some of Pavlátová's films also have an erotic component, sometimes shown in a suggestive manner, other times more explicitly but never vulgar: these include *Karneval zvířat* (The Carnival of the Animals, 2006) or *Tram* (2012), which won the Cristal award at Annecy and the Special International Jury Prize at the Hiroshima International Animation Festival for its ingenious and ironic presentation of female erotic fantasies.

In 2021 she directed *My Sunny Maad*, the first animated feature film that, maintaining its typical spare but elegant traits, puts aside black humour to portray a very timely story of conquering freedom and one's rights through the eyes of a European woman who, for love, moves to Kabul.

Michaela Pavlátová currently teaches animation at the prestigious FAMU - Academy of Performing Arts, Film and TV School in Prague, but has also held courses at the Academy of Art College, Computer Arts Institute in San Francisco, Harvard University and VSUP - Academy of Arts, Architecture, and Design in Prague. She has also been a member of international juries at prestigious film festivals.

Sponsored by the Czech Centre of Milan.

The retrospective films

Etuda z alba/An Etude from an Album, Czechoslovakia, 1987, 4'30"

Křížovka/The Crosswords Puzzle, Czechoslovakia, 1989, 4'36"

Řeči, řeči, řeči/Words, words, words, Czechoslovakia, 1991, 7'49"

Uncles and Aunts, Netherlands, 1992, 3'31"

Repete/Repeat [l.t.], Czech Republic, 1995, 8'52"

This Could Be Me, UK, 1995, 3'18"

Až navěky/Forever and Ever, Czech Republic, 1998, 14'36"

Graveyard, USA, 2001, 5'08"

Taily Tales, Czech Republic, 2002, 2'32"

Nevěrné hry/Faithless Games, Czech Republic/Slovakia, 2003, 93' (feature live action film)

Dopisy z česka/Letters From Czecho, Czech Republic, 2005, 2'48"

Karneval zvířat/Carnival of Animals, Czech Republic, 2006, 10'40"

Laila, Czech Republic, 2006, 4'52"

Děti noci/Night Owls, Czech Republic, 2008, 80' (feature live action film)

Milkomoon/Milk Moon, Czech Republic, 2009, 3'10"

Cirkus kaktus/Circus Cactus, Czech Republic, 2010, 5'08"

Posloucháš mě?/Are You Listening To Me?, Czech Republic, 2011, 9'35"

Tramvaj/Tram, France/Czech Republic, 2012, 7'48"

Ruozne druhy ludi/Different Kinds Of People, Czech Republic, 2015, 3'18"

My Sunny Maad, Czech Republic/France/Slovakia, 2021, 85'

Autoportrét 2021/Self Portrait 2021, Czech Republic, 2021, 20"

60. Léta/Sixties, Czech Republic, 2021, 4'30"

Café Godot - Dva Hrnce/Café Godot - Two Pots, Czech Republic, 2022, 10'45"

Kino - Bucharest, Czech Republic, 2022, 3'09"

Vana/Bath, Czech Republic, 2022, 3'06"

PRESS KIT AND IMAGES

Secure area: <https://www.bergamofilmmeeting.it/en/press/reserved/>

Password: press_bfm2023

Bergamo Film Meeting Onlus Press Office

Ada Tullo +39 349 267490

press@bergamofilmmeeting.it / adatullo33@gmail.com