



PRESS KIT

**World Premiere of the Karel Zeman's film  
Invention for Destruction  
under the project Restoring the World of Fantasy**

**Invention for Destruction**

Czechoslovakia, 1958, 78 min

Director: Karel Zeman

Screenplay: Karel Zeman, František Hrubín (based on the book by Jules Verne)

Camera: Jiří Tarantík

Music: Zdeněk Liška

Starring: Lubor Tokoš, Arnošt Navrátil, František Šlégr, Miloslav Holub, Václav Kyzlink, Jana Zatloukalová, Felix le Breux, Otto Šimánek, Alena Kreuzmannová, František Řehák and others

- 9. June 1958 – première at the World Film Festival at EXPO 58 in Brussels in Belgium, where the film won the Grand Prix
- 26. June 1958 – première in Prague in Czechoslovakia
- **10. July 2015** – simultaneous première of the digitally restored version at 20:00
  - **as part of the 50th International Film Festival in Karlovy Vary**
  - **as part of the World EXPO 2015 in the National Film Museum in Turin, Italy**
  - **in the Museum of the Moving Image in New York**
  - **on Czech Television**

**RESTORING THE WORLD OF FANTASY**

The project *Restoring the World of Fantasy* is a joint project of The Czech Film Foundation, Karel Zeman Museum and Czech Television. The aim of the project is within three years to digitally restore selected films produced by Karel Zeman to the finest quality, to screen them in cinemas and bring them to life again. The aim of the project is also to inform the public about importance of the digital restoration.

Funding for the restoration was secured by the Czech Film Foundation with contributions from the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. All lovers of the films of Karel Zeman

can contribute to the digital restoration of his other films, either by making a deposit to the Transparent Account of the *Restoring a World of Fantasy* project on the Czech Film Foundation web pages or by pledging CZK 30 by sending the SMS: DMS BIJAKY to the number 87 777. You can also contribute regularly throughout the year by sending the SMS: DMS ROK BIJAKY, again to the number 87 777. All information you can find on [www.theczechfilmfoundation.com](http://www.theczechfilmfoundation.com).

The American expert James Mockoski will act as the supervisor of the digital restoration of these Karel Zeman films. The restoration is being led by the chief restorer Ivo Marák at Universal Production Partners (UPP). The reconstruction of the audio portion of the films is taking place in Soundsquare under the direction of Pavel Rejholec. Ludmila Zemanová is also an integral part of the restoration process.

## **Partners of the *Restoring the World of Fantasy* Project**

### **The Czech Film Foundation / Nadace české bijáky**

The mission of the Czech Film Foundation is to digitally restore important works of Czech cinematography and store them for the next generation of film fans. The Foundation is the first organization in the Czech Republic to be systematically engaged in the digital restoration of films and one of the tasks it set itself is to raise funds for these purposes.

*"This is our national heritage, because we felt that if we participate actively in the digital restoration of other major Czech works, we can start the process in which others will wish to participate. Indeed, on the list of the Golden Fund of Czech Cinematography are gems that the vast majority of us have often seen, and that left us impressed. They reveal not only the quality but also the historical context of the life of our nation and therefore have to remain available to future generations. With the changes in format that we witness today, it is almost impossible to continue to make these films available to the public,"* said Peter Šikoš, founder and chairman of the Czech Film Foundation.

To aid the rescue of these gems of Czech and Czechoslovak film, the Foundation receives funding from private contributions and public collections through which ordinary film-lovers can themselves contribute to the on-going digital restoration. Any type of contribution can be made to the Transparent Account of the Foundation, via the Donate Properly portal ([www.darujspravne.cz](http://www.darujspravne.cz)) or via DMS.

During its short lifetime, the Czech Film Foundation has devoted to the process of digital restoration of the Golden Fund of Czech Cinematography more than four million crowns raised exclusively from private sources. It was responsible for the restoration of Miloš Forman's comedy *The Firemen's Ball / Hoří, má panenko*, *All My Good Countrymen / Všichni dobří rodáci* by Vojtěch Jasný, Jiří Menzel's film *Closely Watched Trains / Ostře sledované vlaky* and this year it also contributed to the digital restoration of the Tomáš Vorel film *Stone Bridge / Kamenný most*. *Restoring the World of Fantasy* is one of the projects of the Foundation, whose fund raising campaign was launched in April 2015 with an initial deposit to its Transparent Account in the amount of 800 thousand CZK.

An integral part of the mission of the Foundation is to inform and raise awareness about the issue of digital restoration in the Czech Republic and to promote activities which inform professionals and the general public about this issue.

### **The Karel Zeman Museum**

The Karel Zeman Museum is a non-profit organization – a registered institution – which takes care of the preservation, promotion and development of the legacy of the filmmaker Karel Zeman and which presents his life and work to the public. It emphasizes the development of the Czech cinematic special effects and animation in the context of European and world cinema.

The main activity of the institution is the preparation and presentation of exhibitions and archive activities. The core of its activity consists of the interactive exhibition at the Karel Zeman Museum in Prague's Lesser Quarter mapping the life and work of Karel Zeman. A co-founder of the museum is the director's daughter Ludmila Zemanová.

In addition to digitally restoring the three most important of Zeman's films within the ***Restoring the World of Fantasy*** project, the museum digitizes and produces Zeman's film on DVD and Blu-ray on an on-going basis. There are 7 films to date in its *Karel Zeman Film Club* series.

Other activities of the institution include the mapping of, theoretical reflections on and promotion of Czech cinematic special effects and animation in particular through documentary and theoretical works (film, publishing activities) in the context of Karel Zeman. It is a respected institution whose socio-cultural outreach goes beyond that of Zeman's own work, an important institution in the European and world context.

### **Czech Television**

Czech Television fulfills the mission of a public institution not only by making broadcasts of its balanced and varied programming, but also by giving support to many charitable and non-profit activities and cultural projects. Among its core tasks is the preservation and development of a significant part of the national cultural heritage in the fields of film and television.

Czech Television is the guarantor of traditional and original drama, documentary and animated films and simultaneously creates space for future development. In addition, it is also the largest film co-producer in the Czech Republic, which makes it a solid pillar of Czech national cinema.

An inseparable part of the mission of public service television is the development of general education and the upbringing of the young generation. In this regard the status of public television is completely irreplaceable, and therefore it is not surprising that high-quality programs for children and youth are still the most popular formats produced by Czech TV among all our viewers at home and abroad.

Besides its original work, Czech Television plays an important role in the digitization and restoration of Czech films and cartoons, which deserve to be preserved for future generations for their unique qualities.

"The process of storing and providing access to the wealth of Czech national film for future generations is entirely consistent with the long-term mission of public television. I believe that Zeman's classic work in new quality can easily compete with contemporary creative work and confirms that it provided a model and a prototype for a series of internationally recognized artist," said Director General of Czech Television Petr Dvořák.

**The project *Restoring the World of Fantasy* is being carried out:**

in cooperation with Universal Production Partners

with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic

under the patronage of the Minister of Culture, Mgr. Daniel Herman

**Participating in the world film premieres of *Invention for Destruction* are:**

- Karlovy Vary International Film Festival
- Museo Nazionale del Cinema, Torino
- Museum of the Moving Image, New York
- The commissioner General Office for the Participation of the Czech Republic at EXPO Milano 2015
- The Czech Tourist Authority - CzechTourism
- The Czech Center Milan
- The Czech Center New York
- Havas Worldwide Prague

Patron of the world premiere of the digitally restored version of *Invention for Destruction* in Turin is the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for the region of Piemonte p. Franco Aprile.

**SIMULTANEOUS PREMIÈRE OF THE DIGITALLY RESTORED FILM**

**Friday, July 10, 2015 at 20:00**

**CINEMA:**

- **Czech Republic**  
**The International Film Festival Karlovy Vary**  
The Large Hall in the Hotel Thermal
- **Italy**  
**The National Film Museum in Turin (Museo Nazionale del Cinema)**  
**Cinema Massimo**

as part of the World Exhibition EXPO 2015

- **USA**  
**Museum of the Moving Image in New York**  
(14:00 local time)

**TELEVISION:**

- **Czech Television**  
**ČT2**

**OTHER INTERNATIONAL SHOWINGS FOLLOWING THE PREMIÈRE:**

Museo Nazionale del Cinema, Torino, Italy

- Sunday, 12. 7. 2015 from 20:00
- Tuesday, 14. 7. 2015 from 16:00
- Friday, 17. 7. 2015 from 19:00
- Sunday, 19. 7. 2015 from 20:30

Museum of the Moving Image New York, USA

- Sunday, 12. 7. 2015 from 20:00 (14:00 EST)

**THE FILM: *Invention for Destruction***

The most successful Czechoslovakian film in history, which became a global phenomenon in 1958. In New York alone it was screened simultaneously in 96 cinemas. This fantasy adventure won a number of prestigious awards, including the Grand Prix at EXPO 58 in Brussels.

This is the first of Zeman's films to be inspired by Jules Verne, in which the director tries out a new style of art direction, which he was later to develop even further. The story-book sets, striking design and innovative music of Zdeněk Liška – all contribute to the unique appearance of this thrilling story with its anti-war subtext. The black and white narrative is deeply influenced by the classic engravings of Édouard Riou and Léon Bennett - the original illustrators of Verne's novels.

The digital restoration of the film *Invention for Destruction* is a part of *Restoring the World of Fantasy*, a joint project of The Czech Film Foundation, Karel Zeman Museum and Czech Television. The aim of the project is, within three years, to digitally restore selected films by Karel Zeman to the finest quality, to screen them in cinemas and bring them to life again. The aim of the project is also to inform the public about the importance of digital restoration.

American expert James Mockoski is supervisor of the digital restoration of these Karel Zeman films. The restoration is being led by chief restorer Ivo Marák at Universal Production Partners (UPP), the reconstruction of the audio portion of the films is taking place in Soundsquare under the direction of Pavel Rejholec.

## **CONTENT OF THE FILM**

The story of the engineer Simon Hart - as recorded in his diary - takes place at a time when humanity was driven by a belief in inevitable progress. New inventions emerged like mushrooms after the rain and attracted criminals to abuse them...

Hart, along with his mentor, Professor Roch, are kidnapped by the rogue Count Artigas. This alleged benefactor of the professor's research is in fact the cynical boss of a band of pirates, who deliberately sink merchant ships to steal their cargo. The trusting Roch is completely unaware that Artigas wants to exploit his new explosive to gain world domination. Hart, cut off from the old scientist in a makeshift shack, tries to thwart the plans of the villains and inform the world outside of their real intentions. Meanwhile he meets the young beauty Jane, who was rescued during one of the pirate attacks. With some difficulty, he manages to send a message from the villain's lair on the island of Back Cup, a high-tech base hidden inside what looks to the outside world like a smoldering volcano. But it is not easy to attack overwhelmingly powerful enemies who possess the deadly submarine Nautilus and an array of deadly inventions...

## **FOREIGN GUESTS AND EXPERTS AT KVIFF**

### **Ludmila Zemanová**

Artist, illustrator, novelist, screenwriter, film director and daughter of the film director, artist and animator Karel Zeman. She participated in various film work, then actively collaborated with her father on his last animated films (*The Sorcerer's Apprentice / Čarodějův učeň, The Tale of John and Mary / Pohádka o Honzíkovi a Mařence*).

In 1984 she emigrated to Canada, where she worked as a teacher, then as a director and designer of animated films and as an illustrator of children's books. She currently lives with her family in Montreal.

Among her best-known and most successful books are the illustrated trilogy *Epic of Gilgamesh*, which won numerous international art prizes and awards.

Currently she is preparing a monograph on Karel Zeman, complete with her own illustrations. The book should be ready in the second half of 2015.

Ludmila Zemanová is a co-founder of the Karel Zeman Museum.

She is collaborating in the digital restoration of the films of Karel Zeman.

*"The films of my father, Karel Zeman, demonstrate the originality and imagination of a Czech artist and rank among the world's works of art. It is important that his work should never be lost. So, I support the **Restoring the World of Fantasy** project."* said Ludmila Zemanová, who was personally involved in the restoration of the films.

## **James Mockoski**

A leading American expert in the field of archiving, preservation and restoration of films. Since 2002 he has worked in this field for American Zoetrope film studio. He is also the administrator of the film library of Francis Ford Coppola.

Among the major projects he has worked on there were the construction of the Film Archive buildings with controlled temperature and humidity in Rutherford, California, and the introduction of the cataloging system for the archive collections of films, video, sound, props, costumes and print.

He led the restoration and digitization of the movies *Apocalypse Now / Apokalypsa*, *Apocalypse Now Redux / Apokalypsa, zkrácená verze*, *The Conversation / Rozhovor* and leads the post-production department. He is the co-creator of methods of archiving digital works by the American Zoetrope studios and curator of exhibitions dealing with film history and related topics (The Francis Ford Coppola's exhibition, a collection of pre-cinematic devices and more).

Before working with ZOETROPE, he collaborated with the Film and Television Archive at UCLA as a film conservator. He developed methods for the dyeing and coloring in the restoration of silent films in the laboratories of the David Packard Stanford Theater. He studied Film Studies and Archiving at the University of Norwich in England and at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

## **Ivo Marák**

Chief restorer of Zeman's films, director of technology development at Universal Production Partners (UPP), which is responsible for the post-production of films, the visual digitization of films in the course of which it performs the digital restoration of Czech films.

UPP has the most experience in the field of restoration in the Czech Republic. The company restored the films *Markéta Lazarová*, *Firemen's Ball / Hoří, má panenko*, *All My Good Countrymen / Všichni dobří rodáci*, several Jan Švankmajer films, a series of Jan Špáta documentaries, part of the Georgian National Archives and many others. When renovating experts from the UPP use the latest technologies available in digital post production.

Ivo Marák also lectures on the topic of digitization and digital restoration for professionals and the general public.

We will gladly also arrange an interview with representatives of the partner institutions that are responsible for the *Restoring the World of Fantasy* project – The Czech Film Foundation, Karel Zeman Museum and Czech Television.

## **KAREL ZEMAN - BIOGRAPHY**

director, screenwriter, art-director  
3.11.1910 – 5.4.1989

A true successor to Georges Méliès and a wizard of the big screen, as he was often called, Karel Zeman was born in Ostroměř near Nová Paka in northern Bohemia. A brilliant pioneer of special effects in film, he is still one of the few Czech directors to be universally recognized in the world of cinema.

Ever since his childhood he had adored puppets and performed with them in a puppet theater. Despite his artistic talent his parents insisted he study business at high school in Kolín. At the age of 17, responding to advertisement in a newspaper, he went to Aix-en-Provence in the south of France, where he studied advertising design. While in France, he frequently visited the cinema, and became especially interested in animated movies. He was to put this knowledge to good use in his own first attempt at animation – an advertisement for soap.

He traveled widely in his youth, hiking in Morocco, Egypt, Yugoslavia and Greece. After his military service he returned to work in advertising, and, in 1939, he was about to make an extended trip to Casablanca in Morocco, as a representative of the Bába shoe company, but failed to get the necessary papers from the then Protectorate authorities in time and in the end he had to stay put.

He then began working as head of the advertising section of a department store in Brno. In 1943, the film director Elmar Klos was sent to make a report about a window-dressing competition which Zeman had recently won. Klos was so taken by Zeman's work that he immediately offered him a job at the Bata Film Studios, in the Kudlov suburb of Zlín. Thus began the professional career of this later world famous film director and production designer.

Zeman often had to struggle against difficult conditions in the technically ill-equipped Kudlov Studios. Many of the workers with whom he started had no particular experience of filming. They, like Zeman himself, had to learn everything on the job. Gradually a coordinated creative team emerged.

Journey to the Beginning of Time released in 1955 became Zeman's breakthrough film, his first to combine live action, animation and puppetry. Four years later, Invention for Destruction saw him shoot to world-wide success. The film was immediately sold to 72 countries and became the most successful Czech film of all time.

Zeman continued to develop his highly successful use of special effects in *The Fabulous Baron Munchausen* and the two Jules Verne adaptations that followed. In the 1970's, partly motivated by his love for children and the desire to create films specially for them - but also in part because of the difficulty of shooting live action movies - Zeman returned to making strictly animated films.

Among Zeman's close associates were the composer Zdeněk Liška, animator Arnošt Kupčák, production manager Karel Hutěčka and his daughter Ludmila, co-creator of his films from *The Adventures of Sinbad the Sailor* onwards.



In the late 70's Zeman was threatened with the loss of his sight, but he overcame the disease and continued working. In the final stages of his life he suffered from heart problems. Karel Zeman died in Zlín on April 5, 1989.

## **KAREL ZEMAN - FILMOGRAPHY**

- 1945 Vánoční sen — The Christmas Dream
- 1946 Pan Prokoup: Podkova pro štěstí — Mr. Prokoup: A Horseshoe for Luck
- 1946 Křeček — The Hamster
- 1947 Zatopená zahrádka — The Deluge of the Animals
- 1947 Pan Prokoup v pokušení — Mr. Prokoup in Temptation
- 1947 Pan Prokoup ouřaduje — Mr. Prokoup, The Office Clerk
- 1947 Pan Prokoup na brigádě — Mr. Prokoup, The Volunteer
- 1948 Pan Prokoup filmuje — Mr. Prokoup, The Filmmaker
- 1949 Pan Prokoup vynálezcem — Mr. Prokoup, The Inventor
- 1949 Inspirace — Inspiration
- 1950 Král Lávra — King Lavra
- 1952 Poklad Ptačího ostrova — The Treasure of Bird Island
- 1955 Pan Prokoup, přítel zvířátek — Mr. Prokoup, The Animal Lover
- 1955 Cesta do pravěku — Journey to the Beginning of Time
- 1957 Pan Prokoup detektivem — Mr. Prokoup, The Detective
- 1958 Černý dým — The Black Diamond
- 1958 Vynález zkázy — The Fabulous World of Jules Verne
- 1959 Pan Prokoup akrobatem — Mr. Prokoup, The Acrobat
- 1960 Laterna magika II — The Magic Lantern II
- 1961 Baron Prášil — The Fabulous Baron Munchausen
- 1962 Kouzelný svět Karla Zemana — The Magical World of Karel Zeman
- 1964 Bláznova kronika — A Jester's Tale
- 1964 Bez pasu a bez víza z Kudlova do San Franciska — From Kudlov to San Francisco with no Passport and no Visa
- 1966 Ukradená vzducholod' — The Stolen Airship
- 1970 Na kometě — On the Comet
- 1974 Pohádky tisíce a jedné noci — The Adventures of Sinbad the Sailor
- 1977 Čarodějův učeň - Krabat — Krabat - The Sorcerer's Apprentice
- 1980 Pohádka o Honzíkovi a Mařence — The Tale of John and Mary
- 1980 Karel Zeman dětem — Karel Zeman for Children

## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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