

Project Syndicate,  
Deník Referendum  
& Atlas Cinema Present

ATLAS CINEMA

Ke Štvanici 4, 186 00 Praha 8

# PRESS PLAY PRAGUE

INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
ABOUT JOURNALISM

01

8-12  
October  
2024

[www.pressplayprague.cz](http://www.pressplayprague.cz)





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**Welcome to the  
inaugural Press Play  
Prague International  
Film Festival.**



**01**

Dear friends of quality journalism and great films,

This festival is born out of a deep fascination. Initially, it was a fascination with the brilliant fictional films throughout history that portray various aspects of the journalistic profession – films that, in many cases, the Czech public has likely never encountered. Then, it was the realization that there is no festival in Europe dedicated solely to films about journalism.

Finally, it was the fascination with how three distinct organizations – an independent Prague cinema (Kino Atlas), a progressive Czech news outlet (Deník Referendum), and a leading international platform for opinion journalism (Project Syndicate) – could come together and collaborate, guided by shared values and a common goal.

What started as a simple idea for a festival that screened classic feature films quickly evolved to include inspiring documentaries and a competition to showcase new documentary films about the journalistic profession. With limited experience in putting together such a festival, we did not know what exactly to expect, and we have been humbled by the overwhelming interest and high-quality submissions from filmmakers and journalists alike.

Launching the festival has come with its share of challenges, but we also see the incredible potential it has to fulfill our vision: to bring people together, inspire dialogue, and advance positive change. An informed public and a shared understanding of the world are crucial for democracy – and they are not possible without quality, independent journalism. This festival is a way to explore journalism's role in society, to think about how journalists are viewed, what they are up against, and to consider the power of storytelling and how it affects our lives. We hope this festival becomes a place for journalists, filmmakers, and the public to come together, to view, to discuss, to explore, and to celebrate the power of journalism across Europe and around the world.

This year marks the beginning of this journey, and we couldn't be happier to have you join us.

Warm regards,

**Rachel Danna, Vít Janeček, Jakub Patočka**

# About The Festival



The internet was supposed to democratize information and art alike. And, to some extent, it has: it is now easier than ever to produce and share written and audiovisual content and, in many parts of the world, to circumvent state censorship. But as we are presented with a constant stream of content – often directed by opaque tech-platform algorithms – high-quality and credible works can seem like needles in a haystack.

In fact, the digital transformation has helped to usher in a crisis of journalism, not least by upending traditional media business models and facilitating the proliferation of misinformation and propaganda. And it has shifted the film industry's priorities away from creating potent art capable of catalyzing social and political change, with the quest for online “virality” encouraging instead the generation of endless easily palatable content.

Among the myriad crises the world is facing today, the crises of journalism and the film industry might seem to be of minor concern. They cannot compare, one might argue, to climate change and environmental degradation, to skyrocketing inequality and societal fragmentation, to democratic decay and the revival of authoritarianism, to the collapse of multilateralism and the growing militarization of international politics.

But a lack of free, high-quality, and trusted journalism exacerbates every one of these destructive trends, as social movements depend on access to reliable, accurate information. And our failure to give meaningful filmmaking the attention and support it deserves amounts to neglect of a powerful potential lever for change.

This inaugural edition of Press Play Prague brings together journalists, filmmakers, and audiences to celebrate and amplify the power of storytelling to shape a shared understanding of the world – and, in particular, journalism's role within it. By showcasing thought-provoking films that delve into pressing social and political issues, we seek to inspire meaningful discussions and, ultimately, social change. Prague's unique blend of history, literature, philosophy, and cinema offers the ideal backdrop for the event, which will combine historical with current perspectives, fiction with documentaries, and film screenings with live debates and meetings.

# Festival and Media Partners



We are incredibly grateful to our festival and media partners.  
It would not have been possible without their support.



### Special Thanks

"The organizers would also like to thank all of our colleagues at Atlas Cinema, Deník Referendum, and Project Syndicate for their work and support, and especially to: Nicolas Chatara-Morse, Katarína Ďurináková, Šimon Gogola, Derek Halsey, Viera Hladišová, Jiří Holba, Tereza Homolová, Alisiya Ivanova, Richard Janeček, Daniela Matějková, Jan Michoin, Vít Patočka, Zuzana Pavlíková, Tatiana Piussi, Zuzana Piussi, Ema Pospíšilová, Jana Ridvanová, Pavel Sandul, Asher Schechter, Shirin Shity, Anastázie Slaviček, Filip Smelík, Adam Šlegl, Filip Valíček, Zuzana Vlasatá, and the Café Atlas of Plants crew.

Finally, we would like to thank Marián Kamenský, Valer Kot, Maryia Sadouskaya-Komlach, and Patricia Torres-Burd."

# **Press Play Prague Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Writing and Filmmaking**



**Eva Kantůrková**

The Press Play Prague Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the festival's organizers - Atlas Cinema, Deník Referendum, and Project Syndicate - celebrates the accomplishments of extraordinary writers and filmmakers whose work not only elevates the art of storytelling but also embodies the festival's core values: a firm belief in journalistic freedom and the transformative power of narrative to drive positive change.

At a time when democratic freedoms are increasingly under threat, this award honors those who, through film and writing, have shaped public discourse and championed social, ecological, cultural, and political causes. It recognizes writers whose body of work transcends borders and genres and whose cinematic achievements reflect a profound engagement with the world's most pressing challenges, reflecting not only a desire to make the world a better, more equitable place but also the courage to act, often in the face of formidable resistance or entrenched power structures.

In this spirit, it is difficult to imagine a more deserving inaugural recipient of the Press Play Prague Lifetime Achievement Award than Eva Kantůrková. A celebrated and prolific author, essayist, and dissident, her body of work spans novels, short stories, non-fiction essays, and film scripts, including *Funeral Ceremonies*, *My Companions in the Bleak House*, and a biopic on Jan Hus. As one of the spokespersons of Charter 77, she inspires - not only through the body of her work - but also through her civic courage, uncompromising pursuit for justice and freedom, and personal integrity.

Looking ahead, future editions of the prize will introduce a formal nomination process, inviting leading international organizations, as well as media and film professionals, to nominate candidates. The award is global in scope and open to any citizen of the world who meets its criteria and shares the festival's commitment to democratic values, free expression, and the power of storytelling to shape a sustainable, just future for all.

# Practical information

## Venue

Press Play Prague will be held in Atlas Cinema (Kino Atlas), in Prague, Czech Republic, conveniently located near the Florenc tram, metro, and bus stops.

Films will be screened in the Great Hall, Blue Hall, and Karel Vachek Gallery.

## Tickets

Tickets are available at the Atlas Cinema box office or online via the Atlas Cinema webpage.

General admission	109 czk
Students and seniors	69 czk
Festival support ticket	299 czk
Full festival pass	499 czk



# Competitive Program

Press Play DOCS

Press Play SHORTS

The competitive section of the festival will showcase compelling non-fiction films - both feature-length films and shorts - that align with the festival theme. All film submissions will be screened for the first time for a Czech audience. The awards will recognize outstanding contributions to the art of documentary filmmaking and commitment to highlighting the power of journalism.

# Festival Jury



## **Nina Khrushcheva**

Nina Khrushcheva, a Russian-American political scientist, is a professor of International Affairs at The New School in New York. A granddaughter of former Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, she is known for her expertise on Russian politics and international relations. Khrushcheva earned her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Princeton University and has since authored several prominent works, including *The Lost Khrushchev: A Journey into the Gulag of the Russian Mind* and *In Putin's Footsteps*. Nina Khrushcheva is a frequent contributor to Project Syndicate, Foreign Affairs, and major media outlets, offering sharp analyses on Russia, Putin, and geopolitics.



## **Jiří Pehe**

Jiří Pehe is a prominent Czech political analyst, writer, and public intellectual. Born in 1955, Pehe left Czechoslovakia in 1981 and lived in the U.S., where he worked for Radio Free Europe and later became the director of New York University's Prague branch. A significant figure in post-1989 Czech politics, Pehe was Václav Havel's political advisor during his presidency and led his political office from 1997 to 1999. He has written extensively on Czech and global politics, often criticizing nationalist and populist movements. Additionally, Pehe has authored several novels, the latest being *Poslední útěk Adama Drechslera* (2021), a reflection on exile and intellectual life. He regularly contributes to Czech media and takes part in discussions at international forums.



## **Irena Reifová**

Irena Reifová is a prominent media scholar at Charles University, specializing in the study of popular culture, media audiences, and the representation of socio-political ideologies in the media. Her work explores post-socialist media landscapes, with a particular focus on television and its role in shaping collective memory and identity in post-communist societies. Reifová is actively engaged in academic research on Czech media, often emphasizing the cultural implications of class, gender, and politics. She has contributed extensively to both international and Czech media studies through her teaching, publications, and academic leadership.

# Press Play Prague Docs

## Official Selections



Press Play Prague Docs 2024  
Official Selections



# **A Dangerous Assignment: Uncovering Corruption in Maduro's Venezuela**

**Venezuela / 2024 / 84 min.**

**Language: EN, ES / Subtitles: CS**

**Directed by: Juan Ravell**

A Dangerous Assignment follows investigative journalist Roberto Deniz of the Venezuelan news outlet Armando.info as he investigates the key figure in a corruption scandal spanning Venezuela, Colombia, and the United States. The documentary tells the inside story of Alex Saab, his arrest, and subsequent release by the US in a controversial prisoner swap, shedding light on the profound impact this case had on Deniz's life and work. Blending the intensity of a political thriller with the rigor of investigative journalism, the film offers a gripping account of the dangers involved in exposing corruption within a repressive regime. Through interviews, archival footage, and on-the-ground scenes following Deniz's investigative efforts across continents, it uncovers a web of corruption that reaches far beyond Venezuela's borders.

**Wed 10/09 20:00, Sat 10/12 14:30\***

(\*The screening will be opened with introductory remarks  
by the film's director Juan Andrés Ravell.)

# Influence

**Chile, Iraq, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States / 2020 / 90 min.**

**Language: EN / Subtitles: CS**

**Directed by: Richard Poplak, Diana Neilleová**

The film profiles British reputation manager Lord Timothy Bell. Born into a working-class family, Bell shaped Margaret Thatcher's image as the "Iron Lady" and worked for the successors of Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet before expanding to France, Africa, Russia, and the Middle East. In 1998, he co-founded the PR firm Bell Pottinger, which quickly became infamous for representing some of the world's most disreputable figures.

The firm ultimately collapsed after its involvement in a racially divisive campaign in South Africa triggered a widespread backlash from journalists, politicians, and citizens. By tracing Bell's extraordinary career and his manipulation of public institutions, the film explores the politicization of modern communication over the past 40 years and sheds light on recent attempts to weaponize democracy.

**Wed 10/09 21:45, Sat 10/12 18:00**

# He Came Back: Investigating Sexual Violence as War Crimes

**Ukraine / 2024 / 61 min.**

**Language: EN / Subtitles: CS**

**Directed by: Vitalij Havura, Max Jakobčuk**

He Came Back is an investigative documentary that examines the sexual crimes committed during the Russian occupation of Kyiv and Kherson oblasts in early 2022. Since Russia's full-scale invasion, Ukrainian law enforcement agencies have recorded 292 cases of sexual violence by the Russian military – likely only a fraction of the true total. Two women courageously shared their stories with journalists from the Kyiv Independent's War Crimes Investigations Unit, recounting their experiences and their pursuit of justice. The journalists identified both the soldiers responsible for the rapes and their commanding officers. In one case, the journalists meticulously reconstructed the crime, working undercover and contacting civilians and military personnel to expose Russia's use of sexual violence as a war tactic.

**Thu 10/10 19:00, Sat 10/12 16:30\***

(\*The screening will be followed by a discussion between Kyiv Independent's Deputy Chief Editor, Toma Istomina, and RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service Director, Maryana Drach.)

# Trust Me

**USA / 2020 / 90 min.**

**Language: EN / Subtitles: CS**

**Directed by: Roko Belic**

This documentary explores how the constant flood of negative news and misinformation keeps us in a state of fear, leading to widespread mistrust and fueling racism, polarization, mental health crises, and even crime. By examining the intersection of human nature and information technology, the film combines emotional stories with scientific insights and expert interviews to highlight the vital role of media literacy in rebuilding trust, fostering unity, and creating a more resilient population. Despite major global shifts since the film's 2020 release - from the COVID-19 pandemic to the war in Gaza - the film's message about the impact of social media on our world remains as timely and relevant as ever.

**Thu 10/10 21:30\*, Fri 10/11 17:45**

(\*The screening will start with introductory remarks by Preston Stovall, Assistant Professor in philosophy at the University of Hradec Králové.)

# Imane's Promise

**Canada / 2024 / 87 min.**

**Language: AR, FR**

**Directed by: Nadia Zouaoui**

Imane was a young feminist blogger in Algeria, a country where women are viewed as minors for life. Despite constant threats and adversity, she decried, loud and clear, the injustices that have kept women in her country oppressed. She was tragically found dead in 2019. This film serves as a posthumous tribute to Imane and an effort to make amends for the cruel fate she endured. Combining archival footage, interviews with her family members and friends, and excerpts from her blog, the film stands as a homage to the fight for women's rights and a testament to the enduring power of the written word.

**Fri 10/11 18:30, Sat 10/12 18:30**

# Vigilantes, Inc.

**USA / 2024 / 71 min.**

**Language: EN / Subtitles: CS**

**Directed by: David Ambrose**

The integrity of the 2024 US presidential election is facing a serious threat: 8,500 self-proclaimed "vote-fraud hunters" have already challenged the rights of 851,000 voters of color. Investigative reporter Greg Palast (The Guardian/Rolling Stone) tracks down MAGA vigilantes - including one dressed as Doc Holliday - who blocked the vote of 4,000 Black soldiers, including retired Major Gamaliel Turner. In scenes that are both humorous and disturbing, Palast and Turner confront these vote suppressors. *Vigilantes, Inc: Georgia's Vote Suppression Hitman* investigates Georgia Governor Brian Kemp's plan to disenfranchise voters of color, uncovering his family's ties to the state's legacy of racism and slavery and exposing a shocking vote suppression scheme that threatens to affect the outcome of November's presidential election.

**Fri 10/11 20:30\*, Sat 10/12 20:15**

(\*The screening will be followed by a discussion with David Ambrose, the film's director, in English.)



# Press Play Prague Shorts

Out of dozens of submissions, the organizers of the Press Play Prague Shorts competition selected six outstanding short documentaries, which will be screened in a single block.



Press Play Prague Shorts 2024  
Official selection



# The Empty Chair

**Directed by: VOA team, USA, 13 min**

Husband, father, journalist, advocate: Pavel Butorin spent nine long months fighting to secure the release of his wife, the US-Russian journalist Alsu Kurmasheva, from a Russian prison. His journey shows the challenges families face when a loved one is taken hostage or wrongfully detained by a foreign government. Shot in Prague and Washington, DC, “The Empty Chair” follows Kurmasheva’s family and colleagues in the weeks leading up to the historic prisoner swap that finally brought her home. In interviews with Kurmasheva’s husband, eldest daughter, and experts in hostage policy, The Empty Chair examines the increasing risks for Western journalists working in or traveling to hostile countries, and the pressures put on relatives struggling to secure their release

**Wed 10/09 16:30, Thu 10/10 20:00, Fri 10/11 15:45\***

(\*The screening will be followed by a discussion with Jessica Jerreat, Press Freedom Editor at Voice of America and lead editor of the documentary; Liam Scott, one of the lead reporters on the film, Voice of America; and Alsu Kurmasheva, journalist at RFE/RL.)

# Hungary – A Country after a Scandal

**Directed by: Anu Czerwiński and Jakub Majmurek, Poland, 14 min**

This classic journalistic report by Poland's Krytyka Polityczna depicts Hungary after its president was forced to resign under dramatic circumstances, prompting tens of thousands of young people – mobilized by influencers and YouTubers – to take to the streets of Budapest. Will the scandal damage Viktor Orbán in the long term? Is Hungary's democratic opposition capable of meaningfully challenging him in any way? The report provides a probe into a turbulent Hungary at a time when, for a brief moment, it seemed that fundamental political change could be within reach.

**Wed 10/09 16:30, Thu 10/10 20:00\*, Fri 10/11 15:45**

(\*The screening will be followed by discussion with Balázs Kaufmann, investigative journalist at 444.hu, who is the initial author and key investigator behind the story of the presidential pardon scandal in Hungary. Moderated by Jonathan Stein, Managing Editor of Project Syndicate)

# Germany's Palestine Problem

**Directed by: Jad Salfiti, Germany, 8 min**

Germany's suppression of pro-Palestinian voices represents a conflict between the need to process historical guilt, the perspective of anti-colonial movements, and the value of free speech. Since October 7, 2023, authorities have been cracking down on public expressions of solidarity with Palestine, detaining protesters carrying banners with slogans like "Stop the Genocide" and banning pro-Palestinian groups. Although protests are now permitted, events featuring speakers who advocate for Palestinian human rights continue to be canceled across the country. "Germany's Palestine Problem" - a micro-documentary for the news organization The New Arab - uncovers the underlying causes of this alarming trend.

**Wed 10/09 16:30, Thu 10/10 20:00, Fri 10/11 15:45**

# How Iran targets activists everywhere

**Directed by: Stan Aron, Germany, 15 min**

It is widely known that Iran's autocratic regime ruthlessly cracks down on its opponents. However, the shocking revelation brought to light by this short documentary is that its "tentacles" also extend to the streets and homes of European democracies, where Iranian dissidents, including critical journalists, seek refuge.

**Wed 10/09 16:30, Thu 10/10 20:00, Fri 10/11 15:45**

# Medics on the Ukrainian frontline

**Directed by: András Földes, Hungary, 11 min**

Embedded with a special unit rescuing wounded soldiers, the filmmakers witness the devastating impact of Russian drone attacks in war-torn Ukraine, signaling a dangerous shift in warfare tactics. This film documents the assault on Avdiivka, a town that Russian forces have brutally besieged for months.

**Wed 10/09 16:30, Thu 10/10 20:00, Fri 10/11 15:45**

# **The Case of Maks Levin — Anatomy of an execution**

**Directed by:, Arnaud Froger and Robin Grassi, France, 17 min**

A documentary about the investigation that Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and war reporter Patrick Chauvel conducted into Ukrainian photojournalist Maks Levin's execution by Russian soldiers in March 2022. Based on six months of research and three visits to Ukraine, the film retraces Levin's final hours in a forest north of Kyiv, at a time when Vladimir Putin's soldiers were trying to capture the Ukrainian capital.

**Wed 10/09 16:30, Thu 10/10 20:00, Fri 10/11 15:45**

# Curated Narratives

with discussions in Czech

# Deadline, USA.

**Deadline, USA / Poslední uzávěrka & Novináři v roli vydavatele  
USA / 1952 / 87 min.**

**Language: EN / Subtitles: CS**

**Directed by: Richard Brooks**

Making its debut screening in the Czech Republic, this film offers a gripping exploration of the tension between journalists and publishers. Set against the backdrop of a bustling newspaper office, it delves into the ethical dilemmas and moral responsibilities that media professionals face, highlighting the challenges of maintaining journalistic integrity amid political and corporate pressures.

**Tue 10/08 17:00**

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The screening is followed by a debate in Czech: Journalists as Publishers  
With the collapse of the traditional publishing industry, more and more journalists assume the role of publishers of new independent media organizations. What does it take to be both a journalist and publisher at the same time?

## **PANELISTS:**

**Vojtěch Boháč**, Editor-in-chief and reporter at Voxpod

**Robert Čázenský**, journalist and commentator, editor-in-chief and owner of the reportage-investigative magazine Reportér

**Simona Janíková**, journalist and co-founder of Okraj

**Pavel Šafr**, journalist, commentator, and currently Editor-in-Chief of Fórum 24

Moderated by Jakub Patočka, Editor-in-chief of Deník Referendum

# She Said

**Když promluvila & Ženy v českých médiích**

**USA / 2022 / 129 min.**

**Language: EN / Subtitles: CS**

**Directed by: Maria Schraderová**

Based on the groundbreaking New York Times investigation into Harvey Weinstein, this powerful film confronts uncomfortable truths of misogyny and systemic injustice, underscoring journalism's role in challenging entrenched norms and fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

**Wed 10/09 19:30**

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The screening is followed by a debate in Czech: Women in Czech Media

This discussion will focus on two questions: How are the women represented in and by the Czech media, and what are the barriers that women face in Czech news organizations?

## **PANELISTS:**

**Petra Dvořáková**, journalist at Denik Referendum

**Tereza Engelová**, journalist, currently works as an editor for Hlídací pes, received the Journalism Award in the "Best Reportage" category in 2018

**Martina Hynková Vrbová**, presenter at Česká televize

**Anna Košlerová**, editor at Český rozhlas

Moderated by Fatima Rahimi



# The Insider

**Insider: Muž, který věděl příliš mnoho**

**USA / 1999 / 157 min.**

**Language: EN / Subtitles: CS**

**Directed by: Michael Mann**

This award-winning film explores the complex and often contentious debate surrounding the protection of whistleblowers. Set in the high-stakes tobacco industry, it offers a compelling portrayal of the ethical dilemmas faced by individuals who risk everything to expose corporate wrongdoing, raising important questions about transparency, accountability, and public-interest journalism.

**Thu 10/10 19:30**

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Before the screening, there will be an introductory discussion on Protecting Whistleblowers.

What are the challenges for journalists when working with whistleblowers when they are essential to breaking a story? What does it take to protect their identity and to ensure their safety, and what is needed to encourage potential whistleblowers to break the silence? The discussion will address these and other critical issues around journalists and their sources.

**Lukáš Diko**, Editor-in-chief at the Investigative Center of Ján Kuciak (ICJK)  
Investigatívne centrum Jána Kuciaka

**Zuzana Vlasatá**, an editor at Deník Referendum

# The Day Earth Caught Fire

**The Day Earth Caught Fire / Den, kdy Země vzplanula & Reflexe klimatické krize v českých médiích**

**UK / 1961 / 98 min.**

**Language: EN / Subtitles: CS**

**Directed by: Val Guest**

This film's portrayal of a civilization on the brink of disaster resonates deeply with contemporary concerns about climate change and environmental catastrophe. It prompts critical reflection on the role of the media in shaping public perceptions and driving action on urgent global issues.

**Fri 10/11 20:00**

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The screening is followed by a debate in Czech: Journalism and the Climate Emergency.

What is the current state of the climate debate in the Czech media? What needs to be done to reflect the true scope of the crisis? What role do media organizations have in shaping the debate around key issues, and what is their responsibility in times of crisis?

## **PANELISTS:**

**Žaneta Gregorová**, journalist at the magazine Sedmá generace

**Jan Kaliba**, Senior Reporter (Climate Change) at Czech Radio (Český rozhlas)

**Matěj Moravanský**, climate reporter at Deník Referendum

**Martin Uhlíř**, member of the Respekt editorial board, author of "Jak jsme se stali lidmi" (2007) and "Sestry" (2021)

Moderated by Daniel Kotecký

# Under Fire

**Under Fire / Pod palbou & Válečné zpravodajství**

**USA / 1983 / 122 min.**

**Language: EN / Subtitles: CS**

**Directed by: Roger Spottiswoode**

A poignant tribute to the courage of war correspondents, this film vividly captures the dedication of journalists who risk their lives to report from conflict zones and bear witness to human suffering. Set against the backdrop of a civil war in Central America, it highlights the vital role of the media in holding power to account and amplifying the voices of those caught in the crossfire.

**Sat 10/12 13:30**

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The screening will be followed by a conversation with Vojtěch Boháč, war reporter and editor in chief of Voxpot.

# Uncharted Frames

with discussions in English

# The Killing of Shireen Abu Akleh & October 7th

**Zabití Širín Abu Aklehové a 7. říjen**

**Qatar / 2022, 2024 / 96 min.**

**Language: EN / Subtitles: CS**

**Directed by: Al Jazeera**

These two documentaries, produced by Al Jazeera, investigate the shooting of veteran Palestinian-American Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh by an Israeli sniper in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin, and the events of October 7, 2023 when Hamas fighters and others entered Israel.

**Wed 10/09 16:00**

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These screenings will be followed by a conversation with **James Kleinfeld**, a journalist at Al Jazeera's Investigative Unit.

# Section 16

## Sekce 16

**South Africa / 2024 / 30 min.**

**Language: EN / Subtitles: CS**

**Directed by: Emilie Madeleine Gambade, Malibongwe Tyilo**

In a world where media credibility is under attack and fake news spreads like wildfire, the work of investigative journalists is imperative - and their presence on social media often serves as a vital counterweight to disinformation. But social media is also a battleground where journalists and online bullies clash. This film spotlights the personal stories and exceptional work of four women journalists in South Africa, shedding light on their resilience in the face of these challenges.

**Wed 10/09 18:30**

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This screening will feature special introductory remarks from filmmakers **Emilie Gambade** and **Malibongwe Tyilo** (given virtually), along with an online discussion after the film with **Caryn Dolley**, a journalist featured in the documentary.

# The State Capture

**Ukradnutý štát / Ukradený stát & Stav médií na Slovensku**

**Czechia, Slovakia / 2019 / 79 min. / 15+**

**Language: SK**

**Directed by: Zuzana Piussi**

This film offers a revealing look into the political reality of Slovakia, where the brutal murder of investigative journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée triggered mass demonstrations and led to significant political shifts. This film examines the universal forces behind the scenes, showing how oligarchs and criminal networks manipulate public perception and infiltrate key institutions like the police, the judiciary, and the government.

**Thu 10/10 17:00**

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Before there screening there will be a discussion in English: The Challenges for Media in Slovakia

This panel will examine the current state of media freedom in Slovakia. Before the screening of The State Capture/Ukradený stát, we will explore the impact of political interference, corruption, and the erosion of democratic principles on journalists and media organizations in the country amid political and social upheaval.

The panel will also explore the impact of state capture on the press, the tactics used by governments and oligarchs to control or suppress the media, and the resilience of independent journalists who persist in their pursuit of truth and transparency.

## **PANELISTS:**

**Lukáš Diko**, Editor-in-chief at the Investigative Center of Ján Kuciak (ICJK)

**Balasz Kaufmann**, journalist at 444.hu

**Zuzana Piussi**, Director of Ukradený stát

Moderated by Jakub Patočka, Editor-in-chief of Deník Referendum

# A Thousand Cuts

**A Thousand Cuts / Tisíc bodnutí & Bezpečnost novinářů v době rostoucích hrozeb  
Philippines, USA / 2020 / 99 min.**

**Language: EN / Subtitles: CS**

**Directed by: Ramona S. Diaz**

With press freedom under threat in the Philippines, A Thousand Cuts goes inside the escalating war between the government and the press. The documentary follows renowned journalist Maria Ressa, who has become a top target of President Rodrigo Duterte's crackdown on the news media.

**Fri 10/11 17:00**

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The screening is followed by a discussion in English: Journalist Safety in an Era of Rising Threats. In today's increasingly volatile media landscape, journalists are facing unprecedented risks, from physical violence and online harassment to legal persecution. Following a screening of A Thousand Cuts, which chronicles the struggles of Philippine journalists under President Rodrigo Duterte, we will discuss the urgent need for stronger protections for reporters and the vital role a free press plays in upholding democratic governance. This panel, featuring experts in journalism, human rights, and legal protection, will explore how governments, international organizations, and civil-society groups can work together to safeguard press freedom.

## **PANELISTS:**

**Maksym Eristavi**, journalist from Ukraine, non-resident Fellow with the Transatlantic Leadership program at the Center for European Policy Analysis, co-founder of the Russian Language News Exchange

**Arzu Geybull**a, columnist and writer with a special focus on digital authoritarianism and its implications on human rights and press freedom in Azerbaijan.

**Joanna Szymańska**, Acting Head of Europe Office, ARTICLE 19

**Callum Voge**, Director of Government Affairs and Advocacy at the Internet Society

Moderated by Tarik Jusić, Head of the Central Europe Programme at the Prague Civil Society Centre, lecturer at the University of New York in Prague



# Endangered

**Endangered / Lovná zvěř & Důsledky likvidace svobodného tisku**

**USA / 2022 / 90 min.**

**Language: EN / Subtitles: CS**

**Directed by: Heidi Ewing, Rachel Grady**

This award-winning film chronicles a year in the lives of four journalists working in democratic countries where freedom of the press has historically been taken for granted. Yet, as online misinformation proliferates and world leaders openly disparage the media, distrust of traditional news outlets is on the rise. As a result, journalists are increasingly facing situations more typically associated with war zones and autocratic regimes.

**Sat 10/12 16:45**

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The screening is followed by a discussion in English: The Consequences of Dismantling a Free Press. When authoritarian regimes silence journalists and tighten their grip on the flow of information, the consequences can be profound. How does the decline of media freedom weaken democratic institutions? And how can we protect journalists when the checks and balances that sustain democracy begin to erode, leaving the door wide open for authoritarianism to take root? Following a screening of *Endangered*, a panel of journalists, media scholars, and press freedom advocates will delve into the growing threats to journalists and news outlets in democratic countries, examining real-world examples and discussing ways to inform citizens and foster crucial public debate.

## **PANELISTS:**

**Jessica Jerreat**, Press Freedom Editor, VOA

**Attila Mong**, The Committee to Protect Journalists' Europe Representative

**Juan Andrés Ravell**, audio producer and documentary director from Caracas Venezuela

**Zuzana Vlasatá**, Deputy Editor in Chief at Denik Referendum

Moderated by Jonathan Stein, Managing Editor of Project Syndicate

# Speakers



### **David Ambrose**

David Ambrose is a documentary filmmaker who generates impact by exposing clandestine crusades and delving into forgotten histories, linking them to contemporary societal issues to focus awareness and create positive change. As director, he has helmed several feature documentaries in collaboration with investigative journalist Greg Palast, including *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy* (2016), about insidious endeavors to purge the voter rolls in predominantly Black communities; *Vigilantes, Inc.: The New Vote Suppression Hitmen* (2024), narrated by Rosario Dawson and produced by Maria Florio, Martin Sheen and George DiCaprio, exposing voter suppression campaigns around the country funded by anti-democracy forces; and the upcoming *Long Knife: The Osage Nation, Koch Oil and the New Killers of the Flower Moon* (2025), produced by George DiCaprio, which follows the story begun in Scorsese's film *Killers of the Flower Moon* to the present day.



### **Vojtěch Boháč**

Vojtěch Boháč is a Czech journalist, who has also worked as a war reporter. He is the founder and editor-in-chief of the online news magazine Voxpot. His main focus is on Eastern Europe, but he has covered the war in Donbas, Afghanistan, the Balkans, and the North Caucasus. Before founding Voxpot, he worked for *The Moscow Times* and wrote for *Reporter* and *Deník Referendum*, among other Czech media.



### **Robert Čásenský**

Robert Čásenský, a Czech journalist and commentator, is Editor-in-Chief and publisher of the monthly magazine *Reporter*. From 2006-2013, he was Editor-in-Chief of the daily *Mladá fronta DNES*. In 2013, he left the media group MAFRA after it was bought by Andrej Babiš's Agrofert. He is a co-founder of the Czech Committee of the International Press Institute and currently serves as its chair-person. He studied sociology at Charles University in Prague.



### **Rachel Danna**

Rachel Danna is Deputy Managing Editor at Project Syndicate (PS), a global media non-profit that provides expert-authored commentary to more than 500 outlets in 157 countries. In this role, Rachel manages PS' grant and partnerships portfolio, commissions content, and reports on related outcomes. She designed, implemented, and oversees PS's impact-tracking procedures; developed and leads Project Syndicate's commentary writing and communications trainings; and manages the organization's editorial calendar, relationships with leading contributors, and a number of special series. Rachel regularly lectures on issues related to journalism and the media. Before PS, Rachel worked as a freelance journalist in New York City and served as editor in chief of The New Presence: The Prague Journal of Central European Affairs.



### **Lukáš Diko**

Lukáš Diko is Editor-in-Chief at the Investigative Center of Ján Kuciak. An experienced journalist and media leader, he is a former director of news and journalism at Radio and Television of Slovakia and a former editor-in-chief of news at Markíza television.



### **Caryn Dolley**

Caryn Dolley is an award-winning journalist and author based in South Africa. She has focused on public- and private-sector issues, including corruption and human-rights violations, and has spent more than a decade exposing South Africa's gang networks. In 2023, Dolley was regionally commended for investigative work into global organized crime. In 2022, she was commended for work on transnational drug trafficking and firearms issues, and received a national sustainability award in South Africa for reporting on a developing crime crisis: the theft and smuggling of endangered plants.



### **Maryana Drach**

Maryana Drach is Ukrainian Service Director for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, overseeing Ukrainian Service's award-winning coverage of the 2013-14 Maidan demonstrations and the ensuing developments. As Director, Ukrainian Service has launched the anti-corruption reporting project "Schemes: Corruption in Details" as well as multiple media-programming efforts for the residents of Russia-annexed Crimea (Crimea.Realities) and war-torn Eastern Ukraine (Donbas.

Realities). A Kyiv native, Drach joined the service specializing in international affairs. She earned an undergraduate degree in international studies from Roosevelt University in Chicago and holds a graduate degree in public administration from the Institute of Public Administration and Local Government in Ukraine.



### **Petra Dvořáková**

Petra Dvořáková is a field reporter who focuses on the challenges and injustices faced by marginalized groups, such as migrants, people with psychiatric diagnoses, Roma, and sex workers. At Deník Referendum, she is involved in PULSE, a new pan-European collaborative journalism project.



### **Tereza Engelová**

Tereza Engelová was an editor, presenter, and editor of the foreign news of Czech Television. From 2007 to 2009, she lived in Pakistan, teaching journalism and documentary film at the Women's University in Rawalpindi. She has worked as a correspondent for Respekt, HN, Aktuálně.cz, and the monthly magazine Reporter. She is a member of the editorial staff of the Czech news organization Hlídací pes.

### **Maksym Eristavi**

Maksym Eristavi is a Ukrainian-Czech journalist, writer, and media executive, cofounder of Media Lifeline Ukraine, a hub for Ukrainian refugee journalists, and senior program coordinator at Free Press for Eastern Europe.



### **Emilie Gambade**

Emilie Gambade is a multimedia journalist, editor, filmmaker and the head of multimedia at Daily Maverick, South Africa. Gambade was the editor-in-chief of ELLE & ELLE Decoration South Africa. She is the co-director and producer of Section 16, a short film on online violence against four South African women journalists.



### **Arzu Geybulla**

Arzu Geybulla is an Azerbaijani columnist and writer with a special focus on digital authoritarianism and its implications on human rights and press freedom in Azerbaijan. In the past, she has written for Al Jazeera, Eurasianet, Foreign Policy's Democracy Lab, Coda Story, and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. She is a regular contributor at Open Democracy, the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, and Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso. She is the recipient of several fellowships and was featured on BBC 100 Women Changemakers in 2014. She is based in Istanbul, where she continues her work in journalism and works on a book about the story of Azerbaijani political dissidents.



### **Žaneta Gregorová**

Žaneta Gregorová writes for the social-ecological magazine Sedmá generace, working in the Prague office of the German Green Foundation, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, which promotes education and dialogue on issues of democracy, human rights, energy, sustainability, climate protection, and foreign and security policy. Previously, she worked at the DUHA - Friends of the Earth Czech Republic as a communications manager. Gregorová studied journalism and environmental studies at Masaryk University.



### **Martina Hynková Vrbová**

Martina Hynková Vrbová is a journalist at Czech Television. She studied classical guitar at the State Conservatory in Prague, and subsequently completed her education in Spain, where she continued her studies in classical guitar and Spanish. She worked as a presenter for Spanish state television, where she hosted an entertainment competition. She also cooperates with Czech Radio, and as a scriptwriter she participated in the creation of an ecological series and other programs for Czech TV.



### **Toma Istomina**

Toma Istomina is Deputy Chief Editor of The Kyiv Independent. She previously worked for The Kyiv Post from 2017-21, first as a staff writer, before taking on editor roles. For her role in co-founding The Kyiv Independent, Istomina was selected as one of the Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe in 2022. She holds a master's degree in international broadcasting from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.



### **Simona Janíková**

Simona Janíková, a Czech journalist, is one of the founding editors of the North Moravian regional news organization, Okraj. Previously, she worked for the internet platform of Hospodářské noviny and was a member of its business desk.



### **Jessica Jerreat**

Jessica Jerreat is Press Freedom Editor at VOA, which takes an in-depth look at the challenges and risks to media globally. Prior to joining VOA in March 2020, Jerreat worked at the intersection of press freedom and international news for organizations including The Times of London and the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, where she edited reports on global censorship and attacks on the press. VOA's dedicated press-freedom coverage has earned multiple awards, including the Association for International Broadcasting 2021 Media Freedom Award, the 2021 and 2024 National Press Club Arthur Rowse Press Criticism Awards, and a NY Festivals TV and Film award for human-rights documentary. Jerreat has a master's degree in war, media, and society from the University of Kent in Canterbury, with a focus on propaganda, the press, and conflict in the Korean war.



### **Tarik Jusić**

Tarik Jusic, Director of Central Europe Program at the Prague Civil Society Centre, has over two decades of experience in media development, international media assistance, media research and advocacy, strategic communication, and academia. Apart from his role at the Prague Civil Society Centre, Tarik also teaches courses on issues related to media, democratization and social change, at the University of New York in Prague. He holds a Ph.D. degree from the Institute for Media and Communication Studies, University of Vienna, Austria, and MBA and MA degrees from Central European University.



### **Jan Kaliba**

Jan Kaliba started as a journalist in the sports department of Czech Radio, then worked for twelve years as a Czech Radio correspondent in the USA. He is the first-ever climate reporter at Czech Radio.



### **Balázs Kaufmann**

Balázs Kaufmann, a video reporter with more than 15 years of experience, currently works at the independent news portal 444.hu. He worked as a TV news reporter for public television in Hungary from 2007-2011, then started working for various news sites, including 24.hu and hvg.hu. He has freelanced for Reuters and the Associated Press, and has covered topics such as the refugee crisis, protests, elections, the effects of COVID 19, and the Russia-Ukraine war. In early 2024, his investigation into a presidential pardon in Hungary led to the president's resignation.

### **James Kleinfeld**

James Kleinfeld is a journalist and filmmaker at Al Jazeera's Investigative Unit. In 2016, he spent five months undercover as a pro-Israel advocate for the Lobby USA series. As an undercover journalist, he has also worked on topics related to the rise of the far right in France, and corruption in Namibia, Iceland, and Cyprus. In 2022, he published the so-called "Labour Files," based on the biggest leak of documents in British political history, exposing the campaign to sabotage Jeremy Corbyn and the Left within Britain's Labour Party with false accusations of antisemitism. His most recent work was on the investigative film October 7, revealing a series of false stories surrounding the events of October 7, 2023.



### **Anna Košlerová**

Anna Košlerová started as a journalist in the editorial office of the local Dutch media outlet Ukrant, later working with international news organizations including The Guardian, BBC, Al Jazeera, The Scotsman and VICE World News. Since May 2022, she has been a journalist with the Czech Radio news website iRozhlas.cz.h TV.



### **Daniel Kotecký**

Daniel Kotecký is a data analyst and investigative reporter who joined Deník Referendum after earning a master's degree from Oxford University. He focuses particularly on climate-related issues, such as the fossil fuel industry and green subsidies. At Deník Referendum he also coordinates collaboration with the European Data Journalism Network.





### **Alsu Kurmasheva**

Alsu Kurmasheva, a dual US-Russian citizen, is a journalist and editor at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. She joined the outlet in 1998 as a radio-program moderator. Kurmasheva has covered cultural and human-rights issues affecting ethnic minority communities in Tatarstan and Bashkortostan in Russia. She has also reported on gender issues, leading projects on domestic violence and women's rights. In October 2023, Kurmasheva was detained in Russia on charges of failing to register as a foreign agent. In December 2023, she was also charged with disseminating “false” information about the Russian military. This stemmed from her alleged involvement in the distribution of a book based on stories of residents in Russia's southwestern Volga region who oppose the country's invasion of Ukraine. Kurmasheva was held for more than nine months before she was convicted on charges of spreading “fake” news about the Russian army and sentenced to 6.5 years in prison. In August 2024, Kurmasheva was released as part of a prisoner exchange, which included the release of fellow American journalist Evan Gershkovich.



### **Attila Mong**

Attila Mong is a Berlin-based Europe representative for the Committee to Protect Journalists. He is a freelance journalist and a consultant for DW Akademie, a German media-development organization. He is also a supervisory board member of atlatszo.hu, a crowdfunded investigative-journalism platform in his native Hungary. Mong has worked as an investigative journalist, radio broadcaster, and columnist for 20 years. In 2013, he completed a John S. Knight Journalism Fellowship at Stanford University, a program focused on leadership and innovation in journalism. In 2011, he was a visiting research fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. Mong is the author of several investigative books in Hungary. He was awarded the Pulitzer Memorial Prize for Best Investigative Journalism in 2004 and the Soma Investigative Journalism Prize in 2003.



### **Matěj Moravanský**

Matěj Moravanský is a climate reporter at Deník Referendum. He covers energy policy and strategies to undermine the environmental organizations. He is involved in PULSE, a new pan-European collaborative journalism project. He also works in academia on topics related to the environmental history of Central Europe.



### **Jakub Patočka**

Jakub Patočka is the founding editor-in-chief and publisher of the Czech online daily Deník Referendum, an award-winning Czech news organization focused on analytical news, opinions, reporting, and investigations. In 1989 he was one of the founders of Friends of the Earth Czech Republic and he became the first director of the organization. Since 1999 he has worked as a journalist and editor. He has published commentaries in most major Czech media, as well as in The Guardian, EU Observer, and Voxeurop, among other international media. He is the chairman of the Advisory Board of the Brussels think-tank Corporate Europe Observatory.



### **Zuzana Piusi**

Zuzana Piusi is an award-winning Slovak director and documentary filmmaker, as well as an actress. She graduated from the department of directing at the Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. From 1992 to 2000, she worked with the theater Stoka.



### **Fatima Rahimi**

Fatima Rahimi is a reporter for Deník Referendum, where she writes reports and columns on social issues, migration, racism, the far right, and events in Iran and Afghanistan. For Czech Radio, she prepares the program Hergot!, which focuses on religion and spirituality. She also writes about the culture of sports, especially football. Rahimi was born in Herat, Afghanistan, but has lived in the Czech Republic since she was a child, where she came with her parents as a refugee. She studied European cultural and spiritual history at the Faculty of Humanities of Charles University.



### **Juan Andrés Ravell**

Juan Ravell is an audio producer and documentary director from Caracas, Venezuela. In 2008, Ravell co-founded El Chigüire Bipolar, a wildly popular political satire website that uses humor to bypass government censorship in Venezuela. In 2018, he branched into investigative journalism and began collaborating on projects with reporters from Armando.Info, IDL Reporteros, Columbia Journalism School, and Centro Latinoamericano de Periodismo de Investigación. Ravell has also led projects for Spotify Studios Latin America as an audio producer, notably “Un Poco de Contexto,” an in-depth news and analysis show, and “Fútbol a Muerte.” In 2024, Ravell produced the documentary A Dangerous Assignment.



### **Liam Scott**

Liam Scott is a reporter at VOA, where he covers press freedom and disinformation. Scott has reported for outlets including Foreign Policy, Coda Story, New Lines magazine, and DCist. He previously worked at the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect. He earned his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University, where he studied international politics and mass-atrocity studies. As a VOA Press Freedom desk intern, Scott won a 2022 Clarion Award for original student material produced during his internship. In 2024, he earned a National Press Club Arthur Rowse Press Criticism Award for his coverage of a police raid on a Kansas newspaper.



### **Jonathan Stein**

Jonathan Stein, a former editor at The Economist Intelligence Unit, is Managing Editor of Project Syndicate. He has worked with PS since 2001, and has extensive opinion-journalism training experience, having conducted workshops across three continents for organizations such as the Asian Development Bank and the Mastercard Foundation, and at events including the Google Impact Summit. He has contributed to and edited numerous books on economics, politics, and law. Stein holds degrees from Rutgers University and Yale University.



### **Preston Stovall**

Preston Stovall is an assistant professor in philosophy at the University of Hradec Králové. He works in the philosophy of language, the philosophy of mind, and metaphysics, informed by a reading of German and American philosophy in the 19th and 20th centuries. Since 2021, he has been the program manager and instructor for Critical Thinking about Social Media, a project to bring media literacy into middle-school and high-school classrooms in Montana, supported by Humanities Montana and hosted by the Center for Science, Technology, Ethics, and Society at Montana State University. He is currently using Trust Me in a program for media literacy in high schools in the Hradec Králové region.



### **Joanna Szymańska**

Joanna Szymańska is Acting Head of ARTICLE 19's Europe office. In her previous role as a senior program officer for the Europe and Central Asia program at ARTICLE 19, she focused on issues of freedom of expression across the region - including areas of media freedom, civic space, and digital rights. She is an experienced project coordinator, trainer, and researcher. Prior to joining ARTICLE 19 in 2016, Joanna worked at the Freedom House Vilnius office and as an assistant to the General Rapporteur on the Rights of LGBT People of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. She holds a master's degree in Russian studies from the University of Gdansk and a postgraduate diploma in international law from Warsaw University.



### **Pavel Šafr**

Pavel Šafr is a Czech journalist and commentator. He was Editor-in-Chief of Český deník, Lidové noviny, Mladá fronta DNES, Director of the Blesk group, and editor-in-chief of the weekly magazine Reflex. In 2015, in response to the "oligarchisation" of the Czech media, he founded the online daily Forum 24 and later the printed weekly Forum, which he publishes and manages as editor-in-chief.



### **Malibongwe Tyilo**

Malibongwe Tyilo is a writer, multimedia journalist, cinematographer, filmmaker, and the associate editor of Maverick Life. He is the co-director, cinematographer and editor on Section 16. The film Section 16 was in official selection in festivals around the world; it won the Zébu d'Or for best documentary in the Pan-African competition at the 18th Rencontres du Film Court Madagascar in November 2023.



### **Martin Uhlíř**

Martin Uhlíř is a journalist and writer. He focuses on science and new technologies. Since 2006 he has been the editor of Respekt. He is the author of the educational book How We Became Human (2007) and the novel Sisters (Paseka 2021).



### **Callum Voge**

Callum Voge is Director of Governmental Affairs and Advocacy at the Internet Society. He tracks and analyzes incoming legislation to understand how it may positively or negatively impact the internet and use this information to advocate for change. Prior to joining the Internet Society, Voge worked as a senior policy adviser in the United Kingdom Civil Service, where he was team lead on internet-safety negotiations under the UK's G7 presidency. As a UK civil servant, he conducted research and produced policy recommendations on digital currencies, mobile payments, and government engagement with international big tech. He also spent five years working for Project Syndicate, where he negotiated grants and media partnerships with leading publications in 55 countries in Africa, Asia, and Europe.



### **Zuzana Vlasatá**

Zuzana Vlasatá is an award-winning investigative reporter and the deputy editor in chief of the independent Czech daily Deník Referendum, where she is also in charge of its reporting unit. Her focus is on environmental topics, oligarchs, corporate power, and state capture. She is a member of the Board of the Committee of the International Press Institute.

# Timetable

	Tue 10/08	Wed 10/09	Thu 10/10	Fri 10/11	Sat 10/12
13:30					Under Fire & War reporting ★
14:30					A Dangerous Assignment: Uncovering Corruption in Maduro's Venezuela ★
15:45				Press Play Prague Shorts ★	
16:00		The Killing of Shireen Abu Akleh & October 7th ★			
16:30		Press Play Prague Shorts			He Came Back: Investigating Sexual Violence as War Crimes
16:45					Endangered & The Consequences of Dismantling a Free Press ★
17:00	Deadline - U.S.A. & Journalists as Publishers ★		The State Capture & The State of Media in Slovakia ★	A Thousand Cuts & Journalist Safety in an Era of Rising Threats ★	
17:45				Trust Me	★

18:00					Influence
18:30		Section 16			Imane's promise
19:00			He Came Back: Investigating Sexual Violence as War Crimes	The Day Earth Caught Fire ★ & Reflection of the climate crisis in the Czech media	
19:30		She Said & Women in Czech Media ★	The Insider		
20:00	Opening of Press Play Prague & Vigilantes, Inc.	A Dangerous Assignment: Uncovering Corruption in Maduro's Venezuela	Press Play Prague Shorts	Vigilantes, Inc. ★	Closing of the festival ★
20:15					Vigilantes, Inc.
21:30			Trust me		Winning Films of Press Play Prague & Deadline – U.S.A.
21:45		Influence			



Curated Narratives



Uncharted Frames



PPP Docs



PPP Shorts



★ Debate with guests

# Organizers





### **Project Syndicate**

For more than 25 years, Project Syndicate, a not-for-profit media organization, has brought original, high-quality commentaries to a global audience. Featuring exclusive contributions by prominent political leaders, policymakers, scholars, business leaders, and civic activists from around the world, Project Syndicate provides news media and their readers with cutting-edge analysis and insight, regardless of ability to pay. Our membership includes over 500 media outlets - more than half of which receive our commentaries for free or at subsidized rates - in 158 countries. Our mission is to ensure equal access to ideas that help people everywhere understand and respond to the forces - and risks - shaping their lives.



### **Deník Referendum**

Founded in 2009, Deník Referendum is an independent online daily funded mainly by its readers. The news and analysis website is creating a space for bold, transformative journalism on social and environmental issues, with a strong focus on civil rights and the quality of democracy. The focus of the organization has expanded towards investigative journalism after the reporting unit was established in 2014. The reporting team pioneered public debate to address several pressing social issues, such as the housing crisis, environmental crimes, oligarchy and state capture, discrimination of the Roma community, and the normalization of hate speech in public. As of 2024 it is the only Czech news organization that has been awarded the European Press Prize.



### **Atlas Cinema**

The legendary Prague cinema and café is located in the basement of a functionalist building that was designed by students of the famed Czech architect Pavel Gočár - František Stalmach and Jan Hanuš Svoboda - and built in 1939-42.

Last spring, the cinema was reopened by a group of filmmakers and producers committed to developing a multifunctional arthouse space. In addition to the two screening halls and café/stage, there is the Karel Vachek Gallery, showcasing artworks of Karel Vachek, a Czechoslovak filmmaker, philosopher, and painter, who was a member of the Czechoslovak New Wave.

# The Festival Poster

## **The 2024 Press Play Prague Festival Poster**

In celebration of the noble yet endangered journalistic profession, the festival organizers commissioned a poster by the internationally acclaimed cartoonist Marian Kamensky. This artwork reflects the ongoing struggles for press freedom in today's world. If anyone finds the cartoon provocative, please remember that it is just that: a cartoon.

Marian Kamensky has contributed to numerous leading European media organizations. His Facebook profile was once suspended for a month due to a cartoon he made about Donald Trump - it is definitely worth looking up.

Project Syndicate, Deník Referendum & Atlas Cinema Present



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FILM FESTIVAL  
ABOUT JOURNALISM

8-12 October '24  
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Festival  
and Media  
Partners



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