

Press Release: "Trafáčka - Temple of Freedom"

On November 11 of this year, a new documentary by Saša Dlouhý and Roman Vávra will be released at OKO cinema in Prague. The film, about the creation and gradual decline of a centre of alternative culture, uniting artists such as Point, Nepraš, Cimala and Roman Týc, was produced by freeSaM in co-production with Czech Television, and will be distributed by Aerofilms.

"The linking of such a unique place with a group of ambitious design artists attracted me to the extent that I wanted to capture both the emergence and the twilight of Trafáčka. I had no idea that I would spend the next six years so intensely, and that this period would bring me so many new experiences and friendships, as well as so much disillusion and disappointment," says Saša Dlouhý about his film.

From the autumn of 2006 to the summer of 2011, the authors monitored the creation and development of a former industrial site, which was altered by a group young artists into an arena for the presentation of all forms of Czech and foreign art. Within several years, the then fresh holders of Masters academic degrees succeeded in becoming renowned authors, at least in the Czech fine art community, and without any previous experience succeeded in managing such a complex organism as Trafáčka used to be. Growing success on the one hand, and personal controversies or the impact of the economic recession on the project on the other hand – all this was what the authors tried to capture in their documentary. Their intention was to shoot a documentary as a testimony to one generation of artists who were finding their way in the world of art, and trying to cope with the response of the media to their artistic activities.

The core protagonists of the documentary include

Jakub Nepraš (1981) – Graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts, department of new media, headed by Michael Bielický. A multi-media artist implementing the most state-of-the-art techniques to create video collages and paintings. Holder of many foreign awards, among others the highest award at the Arte Fiera Bologna. Author of several exhibits integrated into the key part of the presentation of the Czech Republic at the Shanghai World Expo.

Jan Kaláb (1978) – Graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts and became a pioneer of Czech graffiti art. He used to work under Nicky Splesh, Cakes and Point. A renowned artist who succeeded in finding his way to galleries with street art artefacts. Author of many public space installations, he represented Czech art at the Shanghai World Expo in China. In 2008, he participated in the organisation of the first graffiti and street art festival in Prague.

Michal Cimala (1975) – Graduated from the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. Currently, he works as an assistant to Jaroslav Róna at the Academy of Fine Arts. An all-around artist – sculptor, designer, painter and musician, he is also a member of the music band Roxor. Recently, he has had individual exhibitions at Hamburg’s Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe and Contemporary Art Centre DOX.

Roman Týc (1974) – The most impressive representative of the Ztohoven group, who shot to fame, for instance, by covering part of the heart installed by Jiří David on Prague Castle, replacing city lights in Prague’s underground metro passages, or faking a nuclear explosion broadcast by the Czech Television. His individual works focus on the public space including, for instance, the replacement of the glass on Prague traffic lights.

Matin Káňa (1975) – Graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts. His work has been exhibited in the National Gallery since 1994. A painter and sculptor whose artefacts were inspired by new technologies, sci-fi, comic books and Asian culture, he advanced to the final round of the NG 333 award.

Blanka Čermáková – Curator and producer of the gallery and residential studios since the foundation of the Trafačka centre. She collected her experience at the Ministry of Culture and Academy of Fine Arts, where she works until now. She also worked as a curator at the Shanghai Expo and in the Contemporary Art Centre DOX, in the framework of the Metropolis exhibition.

Authors of the documentary: “Trafačka – Temple of Freedom”

Saša Dlouhý (1971) – His movie projects up until 2010 include the direction of nature-focused documentaries, including but not limited to, the subaquatic environment. As a journalist, he covers domestic and foreign cultural events. In 2007, he founded his own company freeSaM in order to produce his own programmes. Independent creative projects: Azory pod hladinou (Azores under Water), Valdéz – ráj velryb (Valdéz – the Whale Paradise), Léto v Šanghaji (Summer in Shanghai).

Roman Vávra (1965) – Graduated from the documentary department of Prague’s Film and TV School, the Academy of Performing Arts. He engages himself not only in documentaries but also fiction movies. He earned five Czech Lion award nominations for the movie “Co chytneš v žitě”, and has shot a number of successful documentaries, for instance “Hrobník”, “Bitva o život” or “Karel IV”. He has been cooperating with the Czech Television since 1992.

Jakub Voves was charged with the editing of the documentary “Trafacka – Temple of Freedom. The film music was composed by the multimedia artist Ondřej Skala who is engaged in the project called “Ježíš táhne na Berlín”. Jan Zajíček, with his roots in the graffiti scene, created the animations. The script editor was Jana Hádková.

Trafacka - Temple of Freedom

year of production 2011

capture format HD

sound 5.1

length of documentary 75 Minutes

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