

## **Visegrad cinema: Points of Contact from the New Waves to the Present**

**Film Studies dept., Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague** (nám. J. Palacha 2, Praha 1)

**Wednesdays from 14:00 – 19:00**, room 429 (screening room)

Guarantee: doc. PhDr. Ivan Klimeš

Coordinators: PhDr. Petra Hanáková, Ph.D.; Kevin Johnson, M.A.

The cinemas of the Visegrad region have shared a history of fruitful contacts and communication at least since the period of the New Waves in the 1960s, the high point of development in Eastern European Cinema. Just as the cinemas of the region flourished at that time, so did mutual communication and reflection on highly topical aesthetical, cultural, and political questions. This situation of close cooperation and fertile contacts was unfortunately not re-established after the fall of the totalitarian regimes in the wake of 1989. For this reason, academic exchange and general knowledge about the development of “Visegrad cinema” declined significantly among both film scholars and cinephiles. This course is intended to bridge these gaps and reestablish a network of exchange among scholars and to communicate this shared knowledge to film students.

The course is planned to establish a platform for scholars specializing in the cinemas of the Visegrad region and to revive the spirit of cooperation and necessity for communication that characterized the region from the 1960s on. The New Wave periods stand out as milestones in the history of all the countries in question: with local variation, filmmakers shared the impulse towards artistic, aesthetic and thematic experimentation, which was then carried out within the context of state controlled and state financed film industries. This paradoxical situation and creative context could not be appropriately examined at the time, and the lack of communication between scholars complicated subsequent research during the periods of transformation.

The course intends to communicate to students the rich and varied history of Visegrad cinema, with a specific focus on the heritage of the New Waves. The course will also explore the subsequent development of the national cinemas from the 1960s to the present, an aspect that is even less known among students. The cinemas of the Visegrad region not only share a rich and inspirational history, but have also found themselves confronting similar hardships and economic compromises in the present state of the film industry. This course should offer students (not only from the Film Studies Department, but also from the Department of History and the respective language departments) an overview of the main achievements and problems of cinema in the region and hopefully inspire them in their own further research.

**Each regular session will consist of a specialized lecture (minimum 4 hours a session, twice the length of regular class), each session will be accompanied by a film screening.**

## Course outline:

4.3.2009 **Opening session**

**Welcoming address:** doc. PhDr. Ivan Klimeš, head of the Film Studies dept.

**The Visegrad region in historical perspectives**

Michal Kopeček, Ph.D., Institute of Contemporary History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague

**Visegrad cinema: histories and futures**

doc. PhDr. Ivan Klimeš & Petra Hanáková, Ph.D., Film Studies dept, Charles University in Prague

11.3.2009

**Film Language in Czech and Polish Cinema around 1968: Styles, Motifs and Subversion**

Iwona Kurz, Ph.D., Film and Audiovisual Culture section, Institute of Polish Culture, University of Warsaw

18.3.2009

**Central Europe in New Perspectives: Eroticism, Power, Fate**

Kevin Johnson, M.A., Film Studies dept, Charles University in Prague

25.3.2009

**Women Filmmakers in East-European New Wave Cinemas**

doc. PhDr. Stanislava Přádná, Film Studies dept, Charles University in Prague

1.4.2009

**The Second World War in the Polish Cinema of the 1960s**

Prof. Piotr Zwierzchowski, Ph.D., Institute of Polish Philology, Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz

8.4.2009

**The Artistic Dialogue in Visegrad Cinema: Polanski and Szabo, Forman and Gazdag... and Others.**

Prof. Andras Szekfu, Ph.D., Film Studies Department, King Sigismund College Budapest

15.4.2009

**The Image of the Holocaust in Visegrad Cinema**

Monika Mikušová, Ph.D., Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava

22.4.2009

**Main Tendencies in Polish Cinema after 1989: Vernacularism, Auteurism, Genre**

Prof. Ewa Mazierska, Film Studies dept., University of Central Lancashire

29.4.2009

**Identity and Containment in Transition Cinema**

Petra Hanáková, Ph.D., Film Studies dept., Charles University in Prague

6.5.2009

**The Problematic Other: (Im)possible Intercultural Dialogue in Slovak and Czech Cinema after 1993**

Jana Dudková, Ph.D., Slovak Academy of Sciences, Department of Theatre and Film

13.5.2009

**Closing session**

**Panel discussion:** Teaching Visegrad cinema to domestic and international students.

Participants: members of the Prague and Bratislava Film Studies departments