

5/2016

LEARN  
CZECH  
THROUGH  
FILM



Czechmovie.com

1.5.2016

## **Who we are**

*We are a company that helps students and people living abroad in their effort to learn the beautiful and also difficult Czech language.*

## **How we started**

*We started when we were studying and participated in international projects such as Socrates, Comenius, Part bass, E-twinning etc...*

## **What is the aim**

*Within the project, we were thinking about how enjoyable learning the Czech language could be. We have created a website and a catalog of the best and most useful films for learning the Czech language.*

*We found out that there is a large foreign interest in Czech cinematography. People wrote us that they are interested in particular films. Based on their demand, we have created a shop.*

*Many Czechs live in English-speaking countries. They have children, and those children have children... They cannot write in Czech language and they can only speak a few words. Czech culture is rich and beautiful; it would be a pity if it is lost between generations.*

*Our opinion is that if a person hears Czech, visually sees it, then it is much easier to learn words, phrases and whole sentences. It's nothing new but it works.*

## **We would like all of you, who are learning or want to learn Czech, show the best of the best.**

*Below you will find a catalog with descriptions of what the best Czech film industry has created.*

*Some of the films are taught in school for the graduation exam in the Czech Republic.*

*This booklet includes information about most popular Czech films, including drama, comedy, fairytale.*

## Fairy tale

### *Three wishes for Cinderella (Tři oříšky pro Popelku)*



#### **Description**

The film stars Libuse Safrankova as the title character, a young woman who is put upon by her stepmother and stepsister. Cinderella does not simply fall into the prince's arms. In this version, he must actively pursue the young woman who is a skilled sharpshooter and wearing hunting outfits. Cinderella also has three wishes at her disposal, gained from three magic nuts.

#### **Why this film?**

The story is well known. Even if you cannot understand the language, you will understand the plot. Czech is in simple sentences. It contains a lot of colloquial phrases. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.



**86%**  
**8,0/10**

## *Once upon a time, there was a king (Byl jednou jeden král)*



### **Description**

There was a selfish self-centered widowed king who called himself “King Myself, First”. He asks his three daughters to name the measure of their love for him. When one of them says, "more than salt", he banishes her from the kingdom. Not understanding what she meant, the King assumes love can only be measured by precious metals.

### **Why this film?**

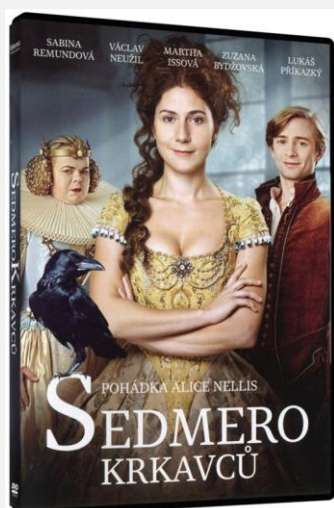
Even if you cannot understand the language, you will understand the plot. Czech is in simple sentences. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.



**87%**

**8,1/10**

## *The seven ravens (Sedmero krkavců)*



### **Description**

A young girl takes a hard task. She has to save her brothers and get rid of a curse placed on them by their mother. It is a story of courage, perseverance, the power of words, truth and true love...

### **Why this film?**

The film has a beautiful storyline. The main heroes speak intelligibly. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.

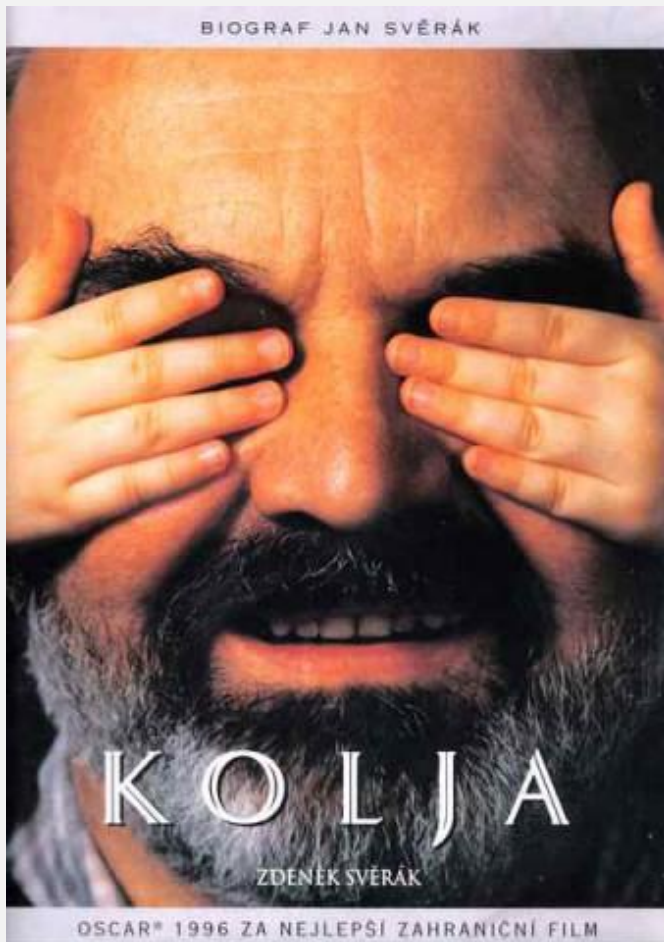


**75%**

**7,1/10**

## Drama

### *Kolya (Kolja)*



#### **Description**

Franta Louka is a concert cellist in Soviet-occupied Czechoslovakia, a confirmed bachelor and a lady's man. Having lost his place in the state orchestra, he must make ends meet by playing at funerals and painting tombstones. But he has run up a large debt, and when his friend, the gravedigger Mr. Broz, suggests a scheme for making a lot of money by marrying a Russian woman so that she can get her Czech papers, he reluctantly agrees. She takes advantage of the situation to

immigrate to West Germany, to her lover; and leaves her five-year-old son Kolya with his grandmother; when the grandmother dies, Kolya must come and live with his stepfather - Louka.

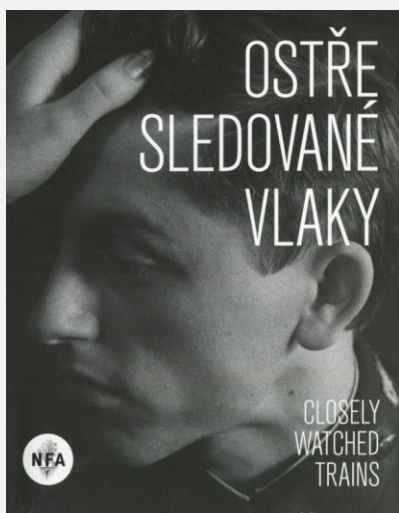
#### **Why this film?**

Oscar movie with interesting storyline. Even if you cannot understand the language, you will understand the plot. Czech is in simple sentences. It contains a lot of colloquial phrases. It can be played on all devices. The film has English, Finnish, French, Italian subtitles.



**86%**  
**7,8/10**

## ***Closely Watched Trains (Ostře sledované vlaky)***



### ***Description***

Oscar winning Czech drama Closely Watched Trains is about a young railroader Milos, who attempted suicide because of his unhappy love. The story is set during the World War II. Every day the transports of German arms are crossing the station where Milos works.

### ***Why this film?***

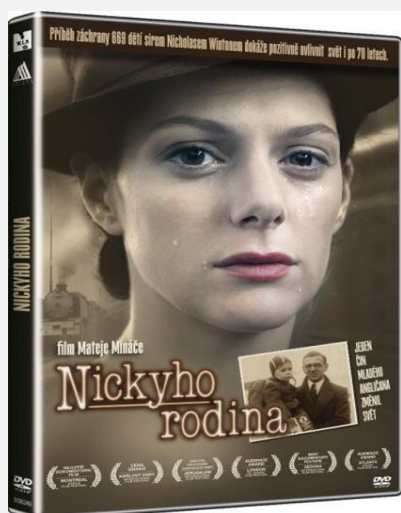
A story you will remember forever. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.



**83%**

**7,8/10**

## ***Nicky's Family (Nickyho rodina)***



### ***Description***

This documentary drama tells the story of Nicholas Winton, an Englishman who organized the rescue of 669 Czech and Slovak children just before the outbreak of World War II.

### ***Why this film?***

Even if you cannot understand the language, you will understand the plot. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.

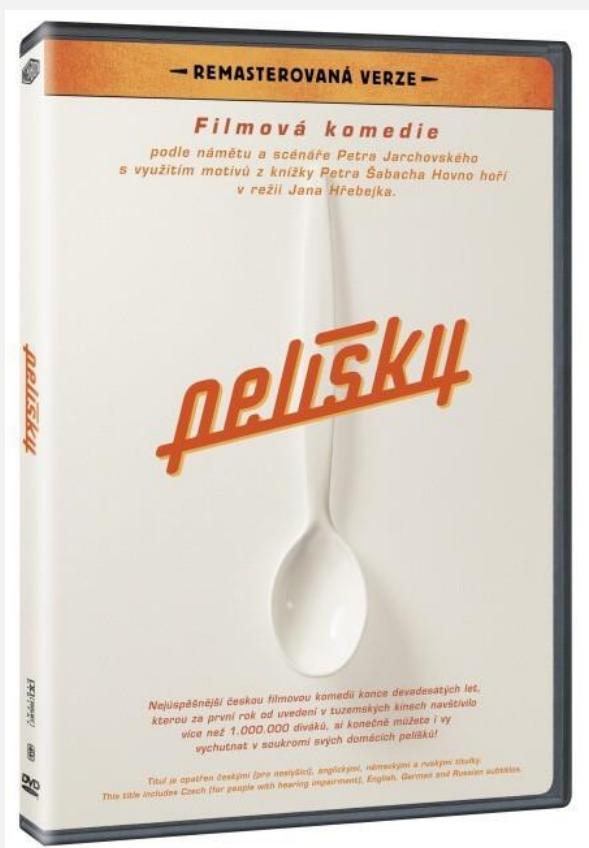


**81%**

**7,9/10**

## Comedy

### *Cosy Dens (Pelíšky)*



### **Description**

One of the best Czech movies. Unique retro comedy from the end of 1960s, which shows the life in the socialistic Czechoslovakia. Two families, Sebkovi and Krausovi, are celebrating Christmas, but not everyone is in a good mood. Teenage kids think their fathers are totally stupid, fathers are sure their children are nothing more than rebels, hating anything they say.

### **Why this film?**

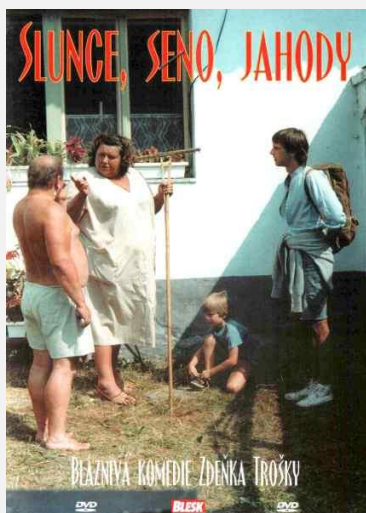
Even if you cannot understand the language, you will understand the plot. Czech is in simple sentences. It contains a lot of colloquial phrases. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.

The film details life during the Prague Spring, leading up to the Russian invasion. The humor is typically Czech.



**91%**  
**8,3/10**

## ***Sun, Hay, Strawberries (Slunce, seno, jahody)***



### ***Description***

A summer comedy Sun, Hay and Strawberries shows life in a small village in South Bohemia in funny way. University student Simon Planicka comes to that village to work on his project. He tries to find out if culture of environment has any impact to milk yielding on local cows.

### ***Why this film?***

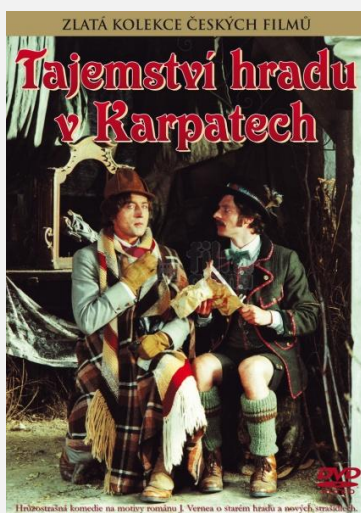
Even if you cannot understand the language, you will understand the plot. Czech is in simple sentences. It contains a lot of colloquial phrases. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.



**68%**

**7,1/10**

## ***The Mysterious Castle in the Carpathians (Tajemství hradu v Karpatech)***



### ***Description***

In the 1800s, a baron, who is the owner of a castle known as The Devil's Castle and who is also an obsessed opera fan, keeps the body of his favorite diva preserved in a crypt in the castle.

### ***Why this film?***

Even if you cannot understand the language, you will understand the plot. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.



**84%**

**7,6/10**



## Family

### *With You the World Is Fun (S tebou mě baví svět)*



#### **Description**

Three middle-aged men go for a vacation with their children and learn to cope with their needs without their wives. Quickly, they plan to exhaust the kids to have some time off, but nothing really works out as planned.

The film was awarded as the best Czech comedy ever made. That award is rather contradictory since the comedy is the Czech top genre - but it surely is one of the best. It just does not have a blind spot - there is always something funny

happening there. And the humor is built on the swift dialogues and original situations rather than on odiousnesses which so often replace the humor in the modern movies.

#### **Why this film?**

Even if you cannot understand the language, you will understand the plot. Czech is in simple sentences. It contains a lot of colloquial phrases. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.



**82%**  
**7,7/10**

## ***Kooky (Kuky sne vrací)***



### ***Description***

Young Ondra has asthma and so his mom throws away his favorite toy: a musty old stuffed bear named Kooky. That night Ondra dreams that Kooky is determined to find his way back home from the dump. In the boy's fantasy, the bear gets lost in a forest occupied by strange animals.

### ***Why this film?***

The viewer if you cannot understand the language can understand the plot. Czech is in simple sentences. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.



**71%**

**7,4/10**

## ***Taming Crocodiles (Jak se krotí krokodýli)***



### ***Description***

What happens when Daddy Lubos, an alpine rescuer, goes with his daughter Amalka and her class at school camp as a nurse and his wife Anna is vainly looking forward to a vacation together? Will their son Vasek go on adventure expedition to remote islands?

### ***Why this film?***

Even if you cannot understand the language, you will understand the plot. Czech is in simple sentences. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.

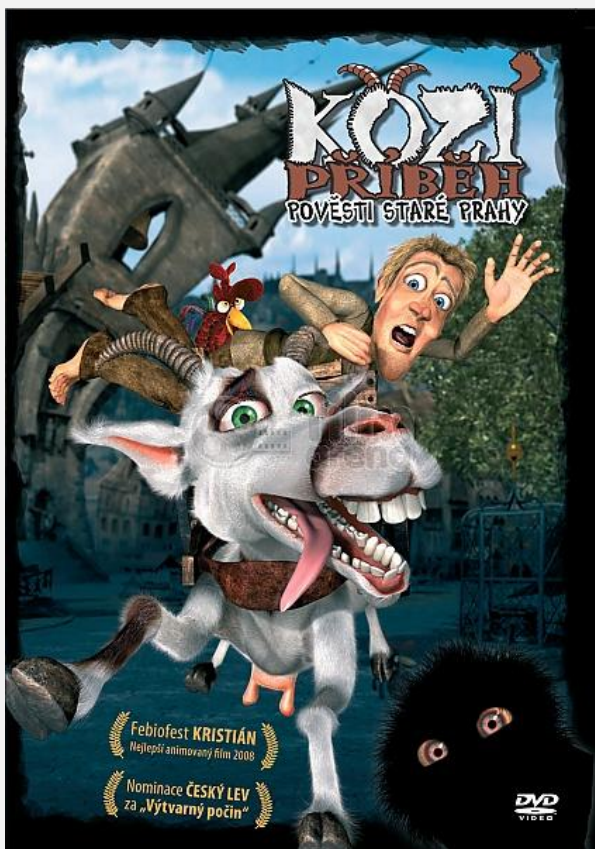


**36%**

**4,2/10**

## Educational

### ***Goat Story: The Old Prague Legends (Kozí příběh: Pověsti staré Prahy)***



#### ***Description***

Story about a friendship between a young villager Kuba who arrives in medieval Prague and his Goat. Hilarious story about Kuba and his constantly babbling Goat. They bring eggs to the construction of the Charles Bridge. The whole story is interwoven with the mysterious fate of a poor student Matthew from Faust's house and other legends and ghosts of medieval Prague. Kuba falls in love with Katy - a street-wise girl from Prague. Goat is jealous, and starts to hate Katy... A Czech opening took place in

October, 16th, and the movie has immediately become the most successful Czech animated movie in history.

It was the first Czech and East Europe feature-length computer animated film.

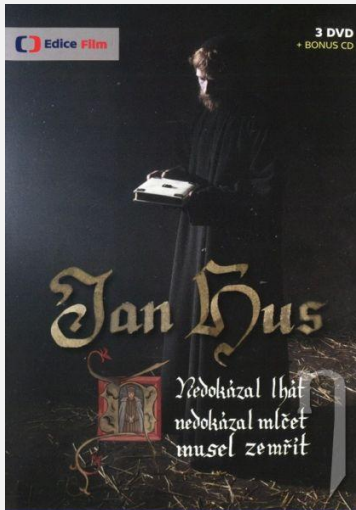
#### ***Why this film?***

The film is about the reputation of the city of Prague. Even if you cannot understand the language, you will understand the plot. Czech is in simple sentences. It contains a lot of colloquial phrases. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.



**39%**  
**3,8/10**

## ***Jan Hus 3DVD+CD***



### ***Description***

Jan Hus was a Czech priest, philosopher, early Christian reformer and Master at Charles University in Prague. After John Wycliffe, the theorist of ecclesiastical Reformation, Hus is considered the first Church reformer, as he lived before Luther, Calvin and Zwingli.

### ***Why this film?***

The viewer if you cannot understand the language can understand the plot. Czech is in simple sentences. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.



**59%**

**6,2/10**

## ***Citizen Havel (Občan Havel)***



### ***Description***

Director Pavel Koutecký started to film Václav Havel in the year 1992 and he followed all the important moments of Havel president's function till its end in 2003.

### ***Why this film?***

Even if you cannot understand the language, you will understand the plot. Czech is in simple sentences. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.

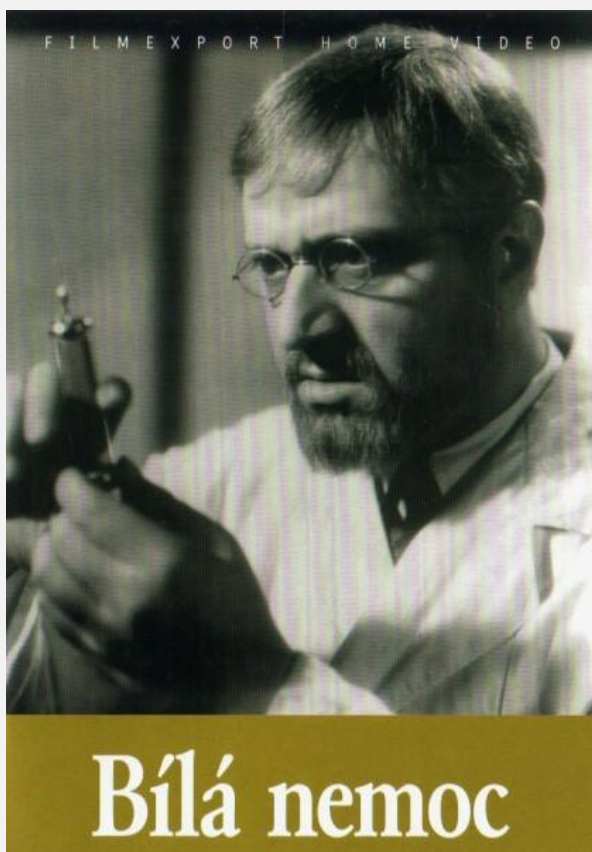


**77%**

**7,8/10**

## *First Republic films*

### *The White Sickness (Bílá nemoc)*



#### **Description**

White disease is spreading through the country and elsewhere in Europe. People all over the place are totally terrified. Doctor Galén has discovered a cure for the disease. However, being politically minded and apparently quite disdainful of the Hippocratic Oath, he requires his prospective patients to bring income statements, and only cures the poor. The government, meanwhile, eager to maintain public order and tranquility, is sponsoring a ruse, allegedly a former student of Galén, who sells fake cures to the rich.

These consist largely of removing cosmetic symptoms. In the end Europe is plagued by both the war and the disease.

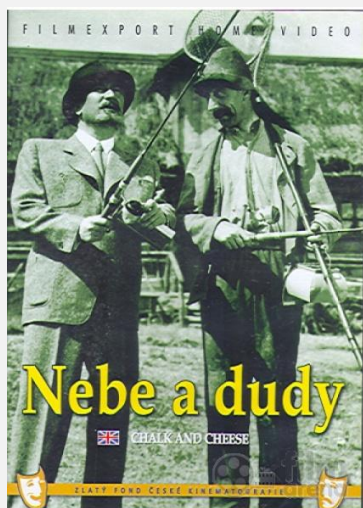
#### **Why this film?**

The world-famous masterpiece by Czech writer Karel Čapek. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.



**84%**  
**7,4/10**

## ***Chalk and cheese (Nebe a dudy)***



### ***Description***

Nice comedy about a poor and a rich man. The wealthy industrialist is an old curmudgeon, a hypochondriac. He lives in his house and does not care about anyone. On the other side of the village lives a villager. He has a daughter and two sons. One day, Mr. Industrialist suffers an accident ...

### ***Why this film?***

Even if you cannot understand the language, you will understand the plot. Czech is in simple sentences. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.



**85%**

**7,5/10**

## ***Hotel Blue Star (Hotel Modrá hvězda)***



### ***Description***

Zuzanka can finally stop toiling away at washing dishes at hotel Mercur after a distant aunt has bequeathed her her own hotel - Blue Star. She proudly marches over to the luxury hotel in the center of the town and immediately begins to change the personnel. It comes out that her inheritance is in reality a small, shabby little hotel of the same name.

### ***Why this film?***

Even if you cannot understand the language, you will understand the plot. Czech is in simple sentences. It can be played on all devices. The film has English subtitles.



**84%**

**7,2/10**

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