

THE STORY OF THE CENTURY



by LECA FILM production

A PROJECT OF A CINEMA TRILOGY INSPIRED
BY THE LIFE AND THE ERA OF **ALEXANDER DUBČEK** WHO HAS
ENTERED THE WORLD HISTORY WITH HIS HUMAN FACE

"EAST AND WEST MUST FIND THEIR WAY TO EACH OTHER.

This is in the interest and for the good of all mankind."

Alexander Dubček





ALEXANDER DUBČEK

- the most famous Slovak in the world of the 20th century
- the most popular politician of 1968 in Europe and the world
- **SYMBOL OF HUMANITY AND ETHICS IN POLITICS**
- **symbol of the 1968 Prague Spring**
- **reformer of communism into 'socialism with a human face'**
- the most important figure in modern democratic history together with Václav Havel
- The Laureate of the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought (EP)
- The Laureate of an honorary doctorate from the Università degli Studi di Bologna (1988)
- recipient of world awards and doctorates from world universities

LECA FILM production Ltd.





ANDREJ ANTONIO LECA PRODUCER AND THE AUTHOR OF THE LEITMOTIF

Born on the 21st July 1980 in Trenčín

FOUNDING OF THE LECA PRODUCTION

He, along with his life partner, culturologist and dramaturgist Roberto Leca; founded the production company **LECA production in 2011**, which sees as its goal the development of cultural and societal values in Slovakia, as well as continual creation of positive image of Slovakia abroad. Ever since its founding, **the producer Andrej Antonio Leca has been active as a producer on both domestic and international level.**

The art agency LECA production has since its inception been cooperating with numerous influential personalities of art and with its activities and experience enriches and supports cultural events in Slovakia and abroad. The production cooperates with renowned individuals from art, culture, science, sports and education and helps their presentation not only within the confines of Slovakia but also abroad.



with the
Ms. MILENA CANONERO,
costume designer ad
producer (four Academy
Awards)

Ms. NICOLETTA ERCOLE,
italian costume designer
and
art producer of THE STORY
OF THE CENTURY



with the Mr.
OLEG
MENSHIKOV,
russian actor

AWARDS GRANTED to Mr. Andrej Antonio Leca

2013 – awardment of the **Knight Order of the St. Eugenius of Trebizond**

2013 – Honorary Membership of Byzantine University

2014 – **Order of the Knights of Constantine the Great and St. Helena**

He has renewed activity of Slovak Royalist Association in 2019 along the Princess Mária Renáta Stillich von Kustra and became its **Chancellor.**



FILM

In 2015, the field of activity of **LECA production was expanded also to the film production branch.** The producers Andrej Antonio Leca and Roberto Leca have decided to prepare the thus far most large-scale live-action cinematographic work of art in the history of Slovak and Czech cinema, **an epic of the 20th century titled THE STORY OF THE CENTURY** with a universal topic, attractive and understandable not only for the European audience, **with star-studded domestic and international cast under the leadership of renowned and world acclaimed director Lordan Zafranović and international professional team.**

In 2020, Andrej Antonio Leca became a **member of the Executive Committee of the Slovak Film Union.**

Starting in 2024, LECA film production becomes the co-organizer of gala on the occasion of awardment of the oldest national film accolade IGRIC in cooperation with the Slovak national television RTVS.

THEATER

For more than 10 years has LECA production represented the **Theater of One Actor of Milka Zimková**, who has belonged to the most important actresses of one-man theater not only in Slovakia and Czech Republic but also in the European context. During this period, LECA production has realized **more than 100 theater performances**. On the occasion of commemoration of the **50th anniversary of the Prague Spring**, LECA production in collaboration with The Capital City Bratislava prepared the inauguration of theater play "**MY PRAGUE SPRING**" with the main proponent of Jitka Frantová Pelikán directed by the **Italian maestro Daniel Salvo**. Patronage over the project has been undertaken by: the President of the Czech Republic, Slovak PM, the Mayor of Bratislava and The Embassy of Italian Republic in Slovakia. The performance has been created in the Teatro di Roma under **the High Patronage of the President of Italy Giorgio Napolitano**, who had awarded J. Frantová with Italian Order of Commendatore. The performance has taken place with the attendance of influential personalities of political, diplomatic, cultural and social life as well as with that of the general public.

In 2018, LECA in cooperation with producer Rudo Geri renewed the **cult classic theater play LORD NORTON AND SERVANT JAMES**, directed by Michal Vajdička in collaboration with Bratislava-based theater Štúdio L+S. The legendary comedy has once again acquired thousands of avid viewers among the contemporary new generation of theater-goers. Ever since its premiere there have been approximately **150 reruns** in Bratislava and other Slovak cities as well.

In 2023, commemorating the life jubilee (85 years) of the **maestro of world mime prof. Milan Sládek**, LECA organized and realized a **large exhibition of his works of visual art as well as the festival of mime MILAN SLÁDEK – MIME** during the 4 weeks time period in the Bratislava gallery Umelka/Slovak Fine Arts Union with guests of the festival being from home and abroad. Maestro Sládek has said his farewell with this activity to the Slovak audience as an active mime. The performance has been conducted under the auspices of the Ambassador HE Barbara Wolf and the Chairman of Bratislava Self-governing Region Mr. Juraj Droba.

In 2022, LECA introduced the worldwide successful comedy **ALE, ALE, PANI PLUKOVNÍKOVÁ**, also called The Ashes and Aquavit from the pen of the Finnish playwright **Bengt Alhfors** and directed by Vladimír Strnisko in the Štúdio L+S to commemorate **the 80th birthday of Božidara Turzonovová, the Slovak acting legend**. In a rather black comedy excel except for the main protagonist also other acting personalities.



CHARITY

Leca has actively collaborated in the past on the fundraising for UNICEF in cooperation with the then long-time Chairwoman of the Slovak **UNICEF** Committee doc. MUDr. Veronika Lehotská, CSc. LECA production collaborated in the years 2010-2014 with the **Foundation fund Plaváček of Deana and Juraj Jakubisko** in Slovakia and later the producers Andrej Antonio Leca and Roberto Leca **with the cult classic film director Juraj Jakubisko and his wife and actress Deana** founded the Plaváček civil association in Slovakia with the focus on supporting the artistically gifted children and youth from socially disadvantaged groups of the society.

LECA production has organized **three annual charity galas called Wind to the Sails** in collaboration with the Slovak National Theater **directed by Juraj Jakubisko, which have been broadcasted on the Channel 1 and Channel 2 of Slovak National Radio and Television** (among the starring artists were also such personalities as is the opera diva Elena Obraztsova and others).

THE FOUNDING OF LECA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

LECA civic association **was founded in 2014** in which Andrej Antonio Leca holds the position of **Chairman of the Executive Board** and the **vice-Chairman of the Executive Board is Roberto Leca**. The membership in the Artistic Committee has been accepted by numerous **forefront personalities of Slovak culture**. Until the year of 2020, the association was fully engaged in **supporting gifted children and youth from socially disadvantaged groups in Slovakia and Czech Republic** in the age range of 3 to 26 years in all of the branches of art – music, singing, dance, theater and fine arts. LECA has organized **5 annual glorious TV charity galas Four-leaf Clover for Talents** with cooperation of the Capital City of Slovak Republic Bratislava, Nová scéna theater and the City Theater of P.O. Hviezdoslav. Numerous important personalities from home and abroad have performed alongside the stipendists of the LECA civic association.



Thanks to the Four-leaf Clover project the **Day of Regional Televisions** has been created, a day when for the first time ever almost all of the regional televisions had cooperated together and broadcasted a rerun of the charity event **in Slovakia and Czech Republic** at the same time.

The activities of LECA production and the LECA civic association has thus far been **supported and put under their auspices by several influential institutions and personalities**: the Presidents of the Slovak Republic, the President of the Czech Republic, Slovak Ministry of Interior, The Capital City of Slovakia Bratislava, Czech Ministry of Defense, The Office of the Commissioner for Children of Slovakia, The National Bank of Slovakia, Fund for the Support of Culture of Ethnic Minorities, Slovak Ministry of Finance, several embassies, organizations and towns in Slovakia.

Thanks to the activities of Plaváček and LECA civic association, partners and entrepreneurs that continually supported the uniqueness and talent **of more than 150 diligent children and young people**, and during those times **a sum of more than 200 000 € has been** divided for their support.

In 2023, the activities of LECA production were broadened to also include the development and safeguarding of spiritual and cultural values, carrying out activities in the field of theater artistry, audiovisual works, visual arts and others.

SOCIAL SPHERE AND THE CONNECTING OF GENERATIONS

Andrej Antonio Leca managed the **Center for the Elderly of the Town of Trenčín** from 2007 to 2011, during which it became **the most active daily care center for the elderly in Slovakia**. In this facility he has composed the format of the recurring **Talkshow With Famous Personalities**, that hosted various artistic personalities but also the **first President of The Slovak Republic Michal Kováč**, what would later be his final public appearance before his passing.

The LECA production agency has long been in active the field of work with seniors and connection of generations.

In 2012, LECA in cooperation with the legend of Slovak cabaret, actress and singer Mája Velšicová created a new format with a playful **title Prešporské štrnky brnky**. The project has been realized in **cooperation with the Capital City of Slovak Republic Bratislava**. The project has aimed to build bridges between people, connect generations, entertain but also teach and bring numerous beautiful moments so that those that were born the earliest would not feel so alone. The guests of the event were various singers, actors, scientists etc. Later has been this format spilled over to other cities of Slovakia, and was attended by several tens of thousands of viewers. The agency has cooperated with Mája Velšicová for years and produced **more than 150 concerts**.

In cooperation with the Slovak Ministry of Interior, the LECA civic association realized a project titled **SENIORS! BEWARE!** In 2021. Theme of this project was prevention of crimes committed on the elderly. Thanks to funding a telling event was able to be realized with entry free of charge for seniors. The event, thanks to media coverage had **reach of more than 100 000 viewers**.



MUSIC

LECA production released and brought to life a **record titled Dialogue of Two Souls** by the guitarist, composer and singer Eva Golovková alongside the recitations of acting bards in 2014. The celebratory inductment into life has been carried out in the Primaciálny Palace in Bratislava accompanied by numerous important personalities and the media. In 2015, LECA production released another music record. **Onto a Beautiful Garden** – a selection of Ján Hollý's poems in the interpretation of Slovak acting legend Ida Rapačová.

In 2018, LECA production and LECA civic association organized a **megaconcert in the National Tennis Center in Bratislava** dedicated to the memory of music virtuoso Ján Berky Mrenica Sr. titled **FROM OČOVÁ TO THE WORLD**, that was broadcasted on the **RTVS channels**. A plethora of forefront personalities of Slovak and Czech music scene performed at the concert. The main guest of the concert was Czech Slávik Award-winning singer Lucie Bílá. The project was supported by **The Office of The Slovak Government**. LECA has organized **more than 200 concerts and other events since its inception**.

FINE ARTS

The portfolio of LECA's activity also includes the organizatory activities in the field of fine arts. Throughout the years, LECA has organized **more than a dozen of exhibitions** in several important institutions and exhibition halls.

LECA is organizing, ever since the year of 2023, **the exhibitions of The National Bank of Slovakia – the curator being Roberto Leca.**

One of the hallmark activities of THE STORY OF THE CENTURY project is also **presentation of contemporary Slovak and Czech fine arts.** For picking the works of art and the authors themselves, important kunsthistorian PhDr. Dagmar Srnenská, PhD. has been invited to join the team. The first exhibition titled **HUMAN FACE – FREEDOM OR DEATH** was realized to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Alexander Dubček's birth in 2021 with a spillover well into 2022, for a period of 6 months in a cooperation with Slovak National Museum – Historical Museum in the palace of the Castle in the capital city of Slovakia Bratislava under the auspices of the ex-President of Austria (2004-2016) a the current co-Chairman of the Ban Ki-Moon Centre Mr. Heinz Fischer.

The project has been drawn up since its beginning with an outlook for it to be a travelling exhibition. The first foreign presentation was able to be realized in 2023. In cooperation with the National Bank of Slovakia, a presentation of contemporary Slovak fine arts was realized in the **Kunstverein Familie Montez gallery Frankfurt am Main in Germany, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the National Bank of Slovakia's founding.** The meaning of the exhibitor's message was confirmed by the reaction of international audience on the festive opening of the exhibiton in Frankfurt among the ranks of **high representatives of the European Central Bank** as well as among the ordinary visitors of the exhibition, what had also been the reason for the repeated extension of the exhibition for almost a month.

NÁRODNÁ BANKA SLOVENSKA
1993-2023

The Governor of Národná banka Slovenska, Peter Kažemír cordially invites you to attend the opening of the exhibition

THE HUMAN FACE - FREEDOM OR DEATH
CONTEMPORARY ART FROM SLOVAKIA

on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Národná banka Slovenska and of the Slovak Republic as an independent state.

23 May 2023, 18:00

Kunstverein Familie Montez
Honsellstraße 7, 60384 Frankfurt am Main

CREATIVE PRODUCERS OF THE EXHIBITION
Andrej Antonio Leca, Roberto Leca

CURATOR OF THE EXHIBITION
Dr. Dagmar Kudoľáni Srnenská

REALIZED IN COOPERATION WITH THE HONORARY CONSUL OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
Mr. Imrich Donath

THE EVENING WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MUSICAL GUESTS
Andrea Zimányiová & Jurej Burian

R.S.V.P.
18 May 2023 | protokol@nbs.sk
This invitation is for one person only and is not transferable.

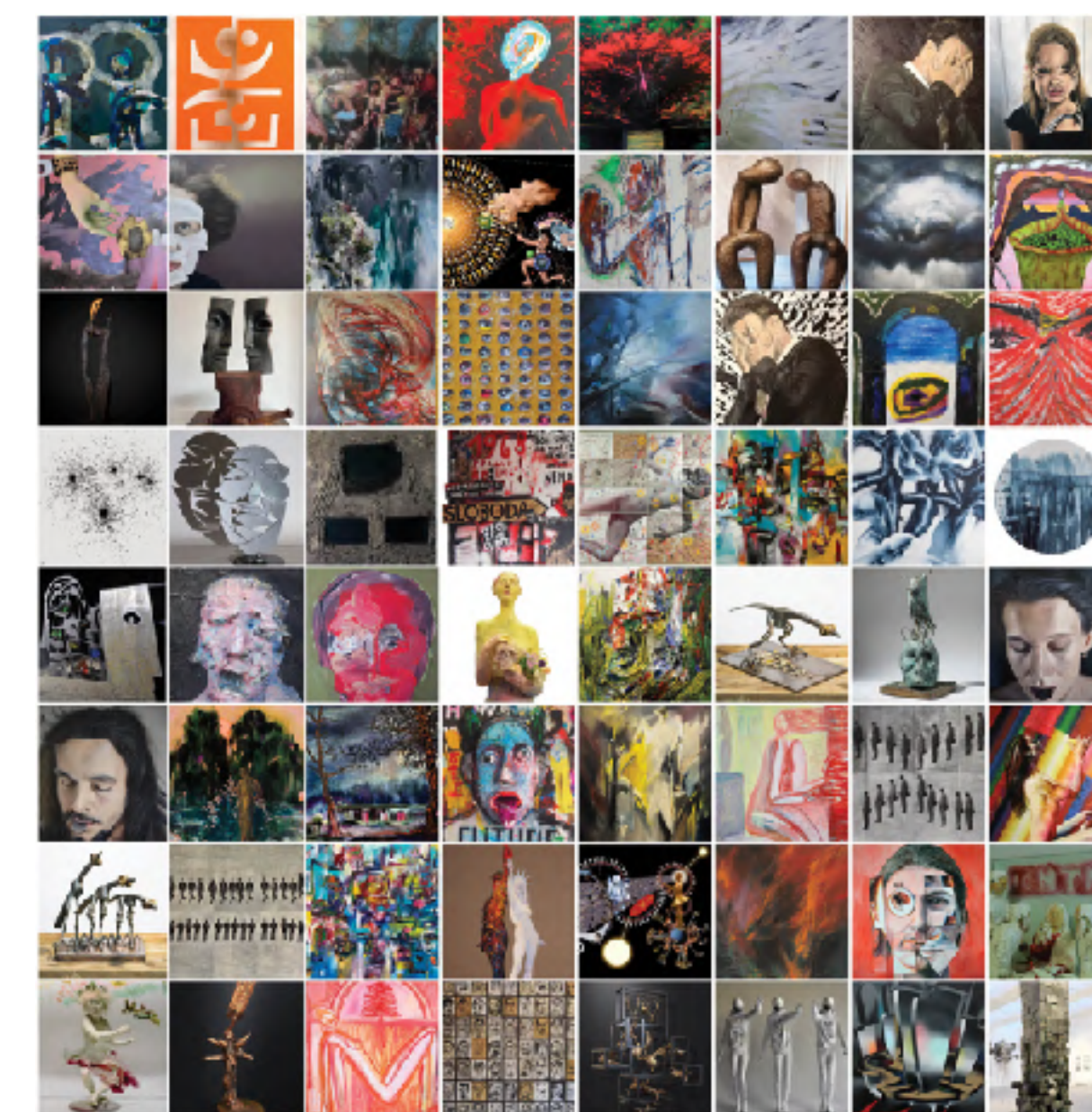
DRESS CODE
smart casual

ADDRESS
Kunstverein Familie Montez
Honsellstraße 7
60384 Frankfurt am Main

Audio and video recordings of the event will be made and may be used by Národná banka Slovenska for promotional and documentation purposes. If you have any questions in this regard, please email them to dpo@nbs.sk.



Artworks by Andy Warhol as part of the exhibition
The Human Face - Freedom or Death by LECA



THE HUMAN FACE – FREEDOM OR DEATH
CONTEMPORARY FINE ART FROM SLOVAKIA

Exhibition on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the National Bank of Slovakia and of the Slovak Republic as an independent state.

SPORT

Activity in the business sector since 2004. Andrej Antonio Leca has managed the **Slovak Association of The Strong Men** and the **Association Fitness Gabrhel Trenčín** (of which he had also been the **Vice-President**) since the year of 2006.

During his tenure he has co-organized **more than 100 sport events** on domestic and international level, conferred the World Cup of Strong Men in cooperation with **TV Eurosport**, The European Cup of Strong Men, The World Cup of Powerlifting; has co-founded the Slovak Cup of Strong Men and the Slovak Cup of Fitness For Children. He has taken part in organizing the influential sport-culture-charity event **The Night of The Stars** in Trenčín in cooperation with the Trenčín Self-governing Region under the auspices of the **President of The Slovak Republic**. An accolade has been awarded during these events throughout the years to various influential personalities, such as to the director Juraj Jakubisko, to the President of The Anti-Cancer League dr. Eva Siracká, to the world champion of athletics Dušan Čikel or to the **Olympics winner in boxing Ján Zachar**.

A SELECTION OF ACTIVITIES THUS FAR

European Conference of Female Entrepreneurs and Managers in Bratislava (2013) / Historical building of the Parliament, Hotel Carlton, Bratislava;

Opening of a boutique of the **world-renowned designer Blanka Matragi** (2013) / Bratislava;

Cooperation with SONET civic association on organizing of **theater productions** in Bratislava and other cities and towns in Slovakia;

Gala concert on the jubilee of the tenorist Otokar Klein and the conductor Peter Feranec (2014)/ Historical building of the Slovak National Theater, Bratislava;

Evening on the jubilee of the **70th birthday of actress of the Slovak National Theater and the reciter Eva Mária Chalupová** / Bratislava;

Evening with the acting legend Květa Fialová for he 85th birthday (2014) V-klub, National Enlightenment Center, Bratislava;

TV gala for the jubilee of 80th birthday of the actress, singer, and legend of cabaret Mája Velšicová/ Nová scéna theater, Bratislava;

Bulgarian-Slovak SPRING BALL under the auspices of the Embassy of Bulgarian Republic in Slovakia/ Bratislava;

International dance-theater performance **100 Years of Tango** directed **Alfonso Veneroso** (2017)/ City Theater of P.O. Hviezdoslav, Bratislava;

Music project Gipsy Jazz SK (2019-2020), a Slovak tour sponsored by the Fund For The Aid of Culture of Ethnic Minorities; **Music project Feel the Roma music** (2019) / a Slovak tour sponsored by the Fund For The Aid of Culture of Ethnic Minorities and others.



ANDREJ ANTONIO LECA STATEMENT OF THE PRODUCER

You are born human, but humane you become. That goes not only on the individual level but also a collective one, in the development of history, its ebbs and flows, during which the tragedies are alternated with short periods of truce and peace.

When shall we finish the journey of our self-developent on a road long and painful, to the Promised Land?

Are we to ever find it? ...even about that is our **STORY OF THE CENTURY...**

The life of Alexander Dubček and his family belongs to the great stories with its meaning trickling down into the present. The story takes place in various countries among **three continents**, portrays several authentic historical personalities and events from the year of 1918 until the present day.

The ambition of the creators is to prepare a three-part drama work of art THE STORY OF THE CENTURY with universal topic, attractive and understandable not only for the European audiences, with star-studded cast from home and abroad under the leadership of world-renowned critically acclaimed director Lordan Zafranović (co-creator of the script) and international expert team. The 20th century is marked not only by the progress of human mind, knowledge and development of new technologies but also by cruelty and bloodshed in two World Wars. Perhaps we all hoped that the history shall not repeat itself in the 21st century...

The first feature film subtitled **FREEDOM OR DEATH** is a riveting epic narrative, in which the creators of the script offer material for a saga that follows the destinies of three generations. Concretely: the story begins with the destinies Alexander Dubček's parents and uncle in Chicago (U.S.A.) where the "Red Summer" is in full swing, and goes through the events of the age marked by Stalin's persecution in Kyrgyzstan and Soviet Union in general, and showcases several authentic historical personalities and events.

Our story is marked by a leitmotif of interconnectedness of two amulets that were made at the start of the 20th century by Jewish jeweler and cabalist Aron in Chicago. ... In other words, shall a being be found that interconnects the two golden oak leaves symbolizing the two spheres as pillars of the formerly unitary constitution of the Universe in our story? The narrative is dominated not only by the effort of authentic portrayal of retroatmosphere and colorful palette of characters, but also by riveting, almost adventurous plot full of twists on the limits of reality with contours of mystical imagery. **The ambition of a script configured in such a way is to realize a trilogy that would attract the international audience.**

This should be promoted also by the universally valid and understandable theme of search for individual and collective freedom.

The approximative budget of the first film is 13 million EUR.

The induction into distribution on the first film will be preceded by release of **three-part novel THE STORY OF THE CENTURY** with a subtitle: Freedom or Death - Decade of love and hate - Human Face.

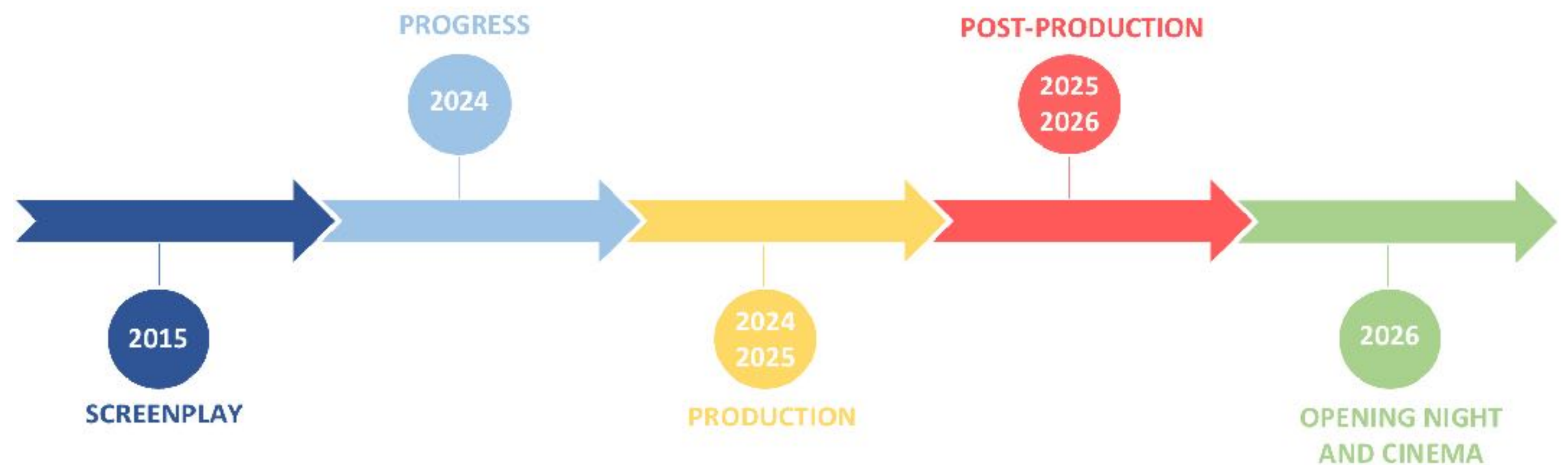
BUSINESS MODEL

The business model of the project is based on the main three pillars: development, production and distribution.

Financial resources from entities such as patrons, donors, advertising partners, investors and co-producers will be used primarily for the basic development and production of the first feature film **FREEDOM OR DEATH**, which is planned for global distribution with internationally recognized creators and first-class cast.



Through the entire trilogy, the epic **THE STORY OF THE CENTURY**, the relevant entities will have not only opportunity to participate in an exceptional film project but also to have a unique opportunity to be an active part of the epic of the 20th century.



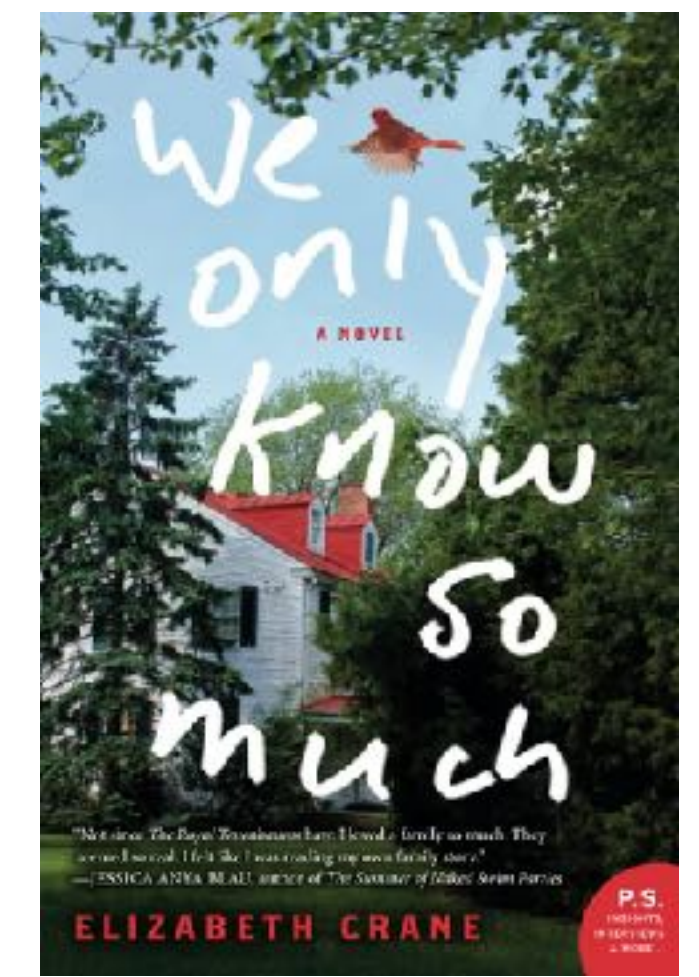
THE PLANNED CAST

THE STORY OF THE CENTURY



NOAH CAMERON SCHNAPP

- American actor
- in the role of Alexander Dubček



THE PLANNED CAST

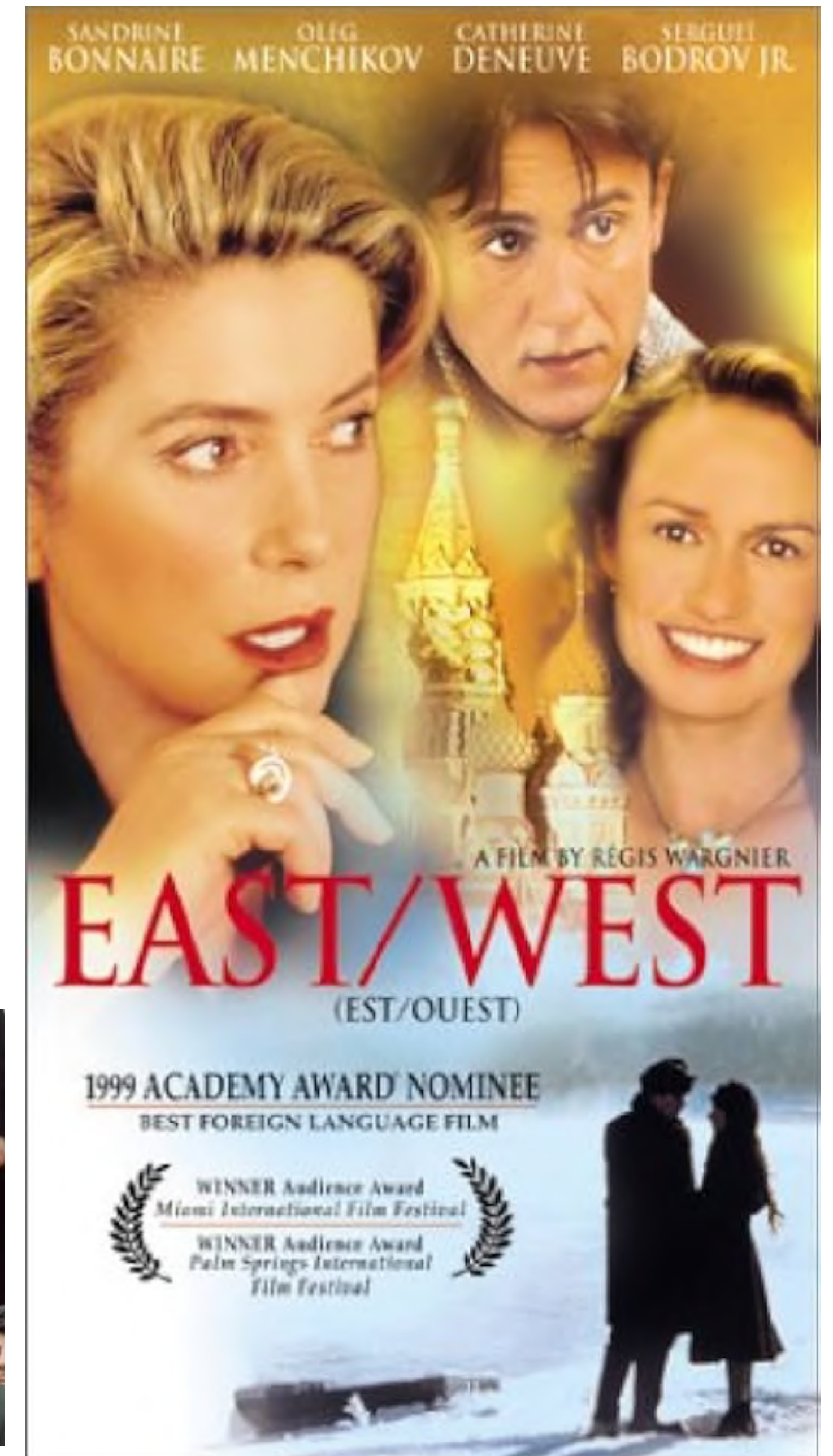


OLEG MENSHIKOV

- russian actor
- in the role of Alexander Dubček

Winner
LOCARNO

Winner
BEST ACTOR
NIKA AWARDS

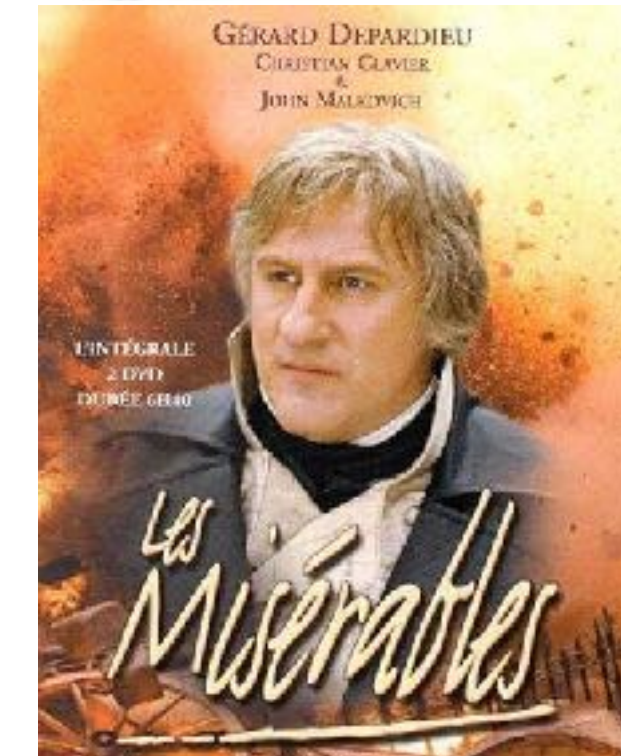
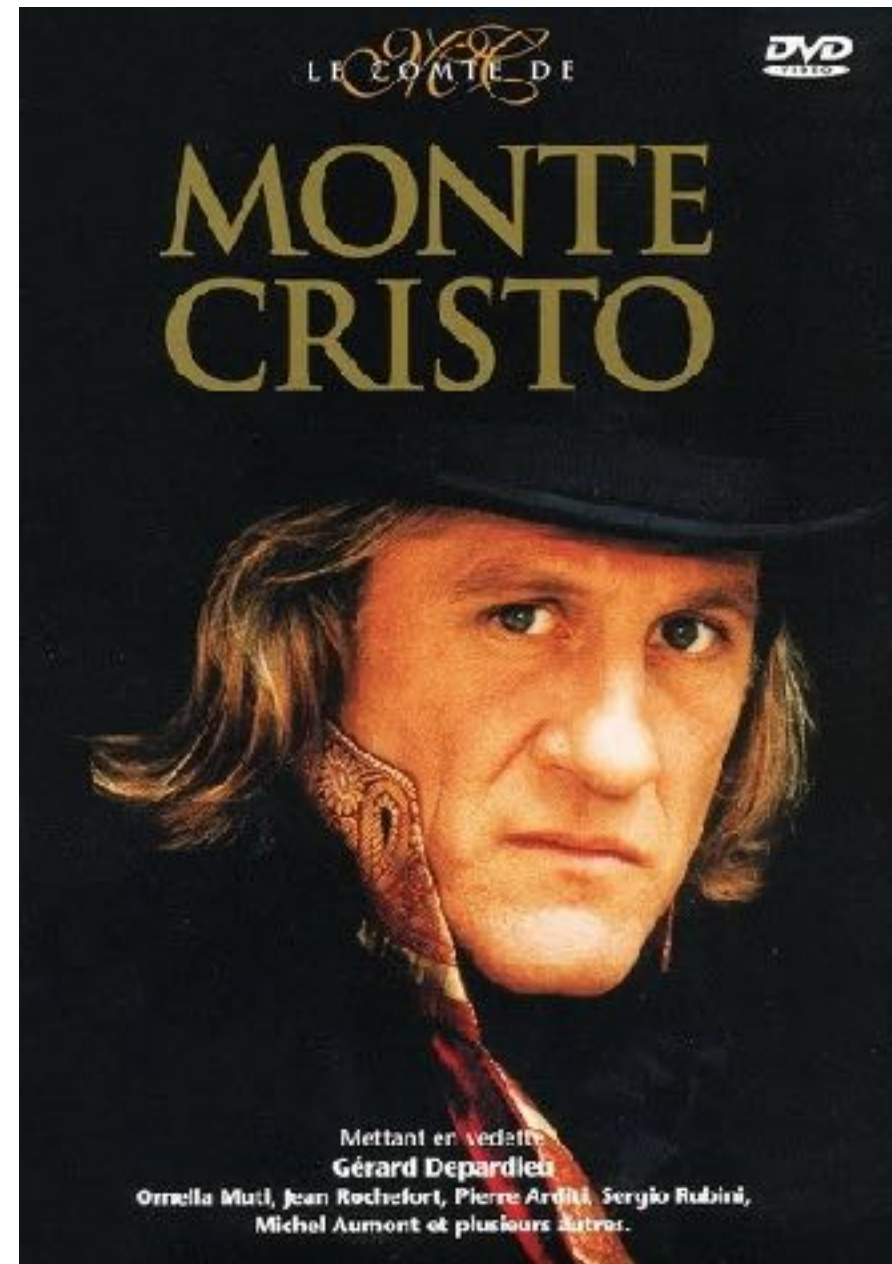


THE PLANNED CAST



GÉRARD DEPARDIEU

- french actor
- in the role of L. I. Brezhnev
- in the role of a gardener



THE PLANNED CAST



BARBORA BOBULOVA

- slovak - italian actress

Winner
DAVID di Donate of AWARDS

Winner
BEST ACTOR
GOLDEN GLOBES, Italy

Winner
ART FILM FESTIVAL



Producer Andrej Antonio Leca & actress Barбора Bobulova & manager LECA FILM production Michal Marek

LORDAN ZAFRANOVIĆ SCREENPLAY CO-AUTHOR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

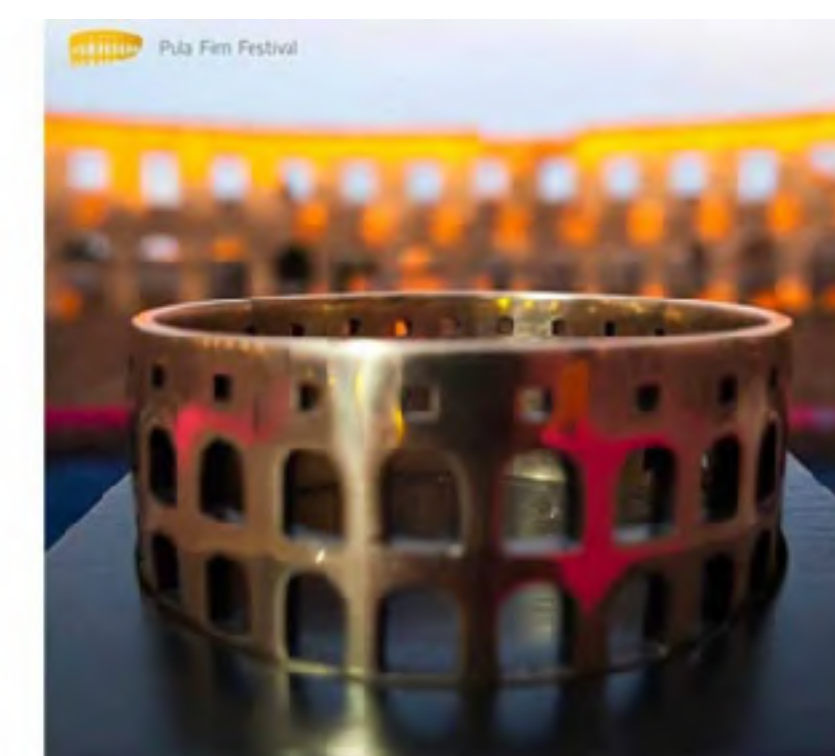
Born in 1944 in Maslinca on the island of Šolta, Croatia.

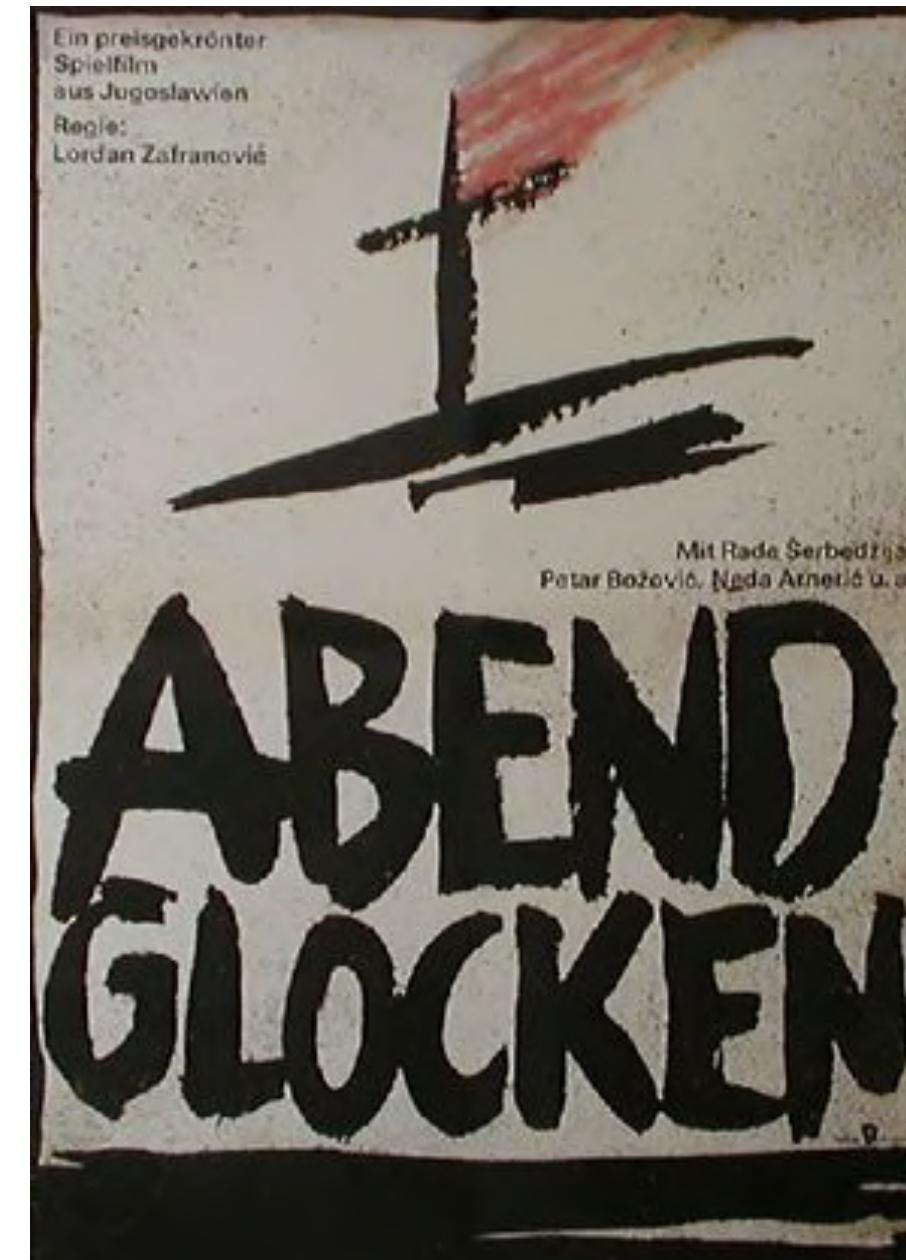
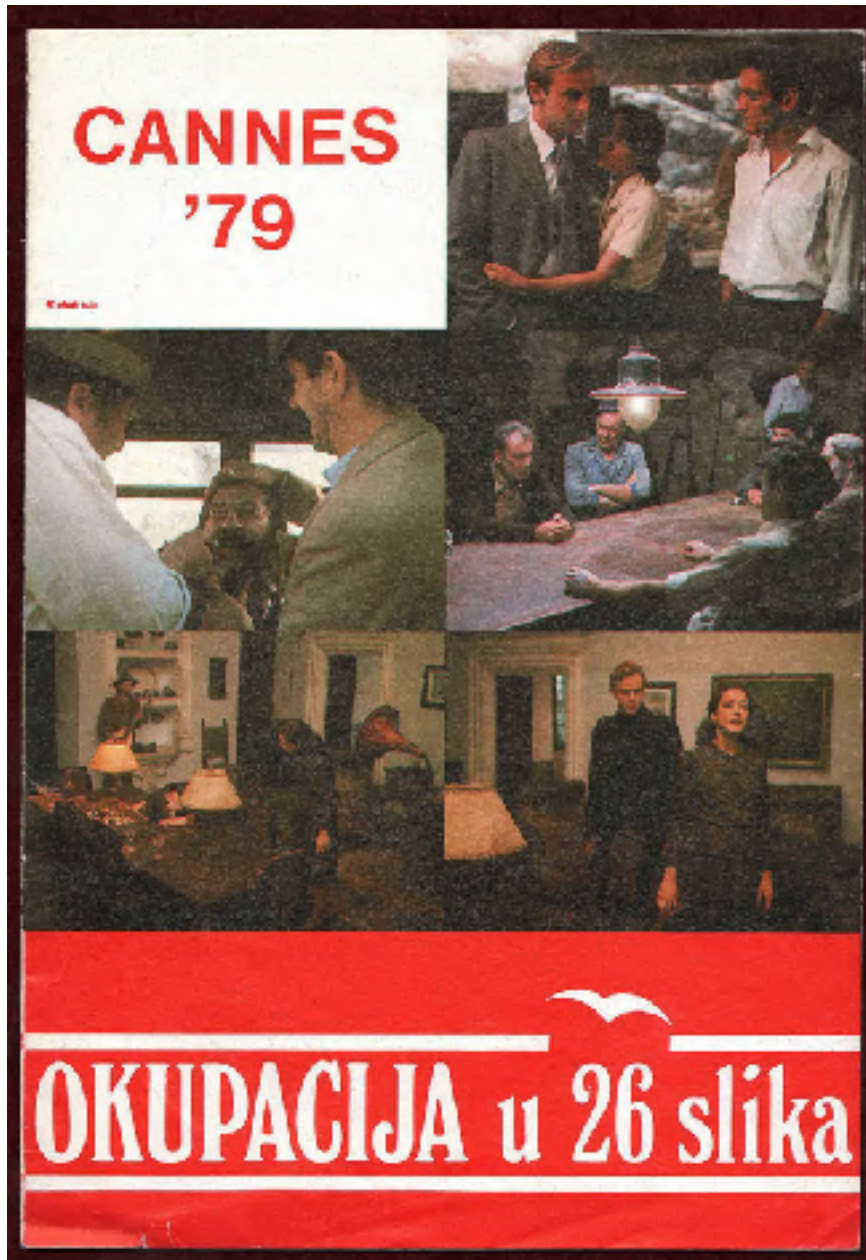
After graduating from marine school, he studied literature and visual arts at the Split Pedagogical Academy. His filmmaking beginnings go back to the days of his early youth. In the early 1960s he started shooting his first experimental amateur titles. In 1966 he was already recognised as an international master of amateur film and began working on professional productions. **He studied directing under the Academy Award-winning Czech author Elmar Klos** at the Prague Academy of Performing Arts, graduating in 1971.

His best-known work thus far is the first part of the **cult trilogy Occupation in 26 Pictures** (1978). That film won the Big Golden Arena at the Pula IFF, 22 awards at various worldwide festivals, as well as an **Academy Award nomination** and a nomination for **Cannes IFF**. At the time of its release, it became the most watched film in Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. For the second part, The Fall of Italy (1981), Zafranović won the **Big Golden Arena** and the Grand Prix at IFF Valencia. For the third part, The Bells of Evening, he again won the **Golden Arena in the Best Director category**.

In the mid-1980s Zafranović focused on making films such as Angel's Bite (1983) and The Whores' Festival (1988), blending drama and eroticism. He also directed many TV films for Croatian and Serbian televisions. His documentary **Blood and Ashes of Jasenovac** (1985) was **nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary**. In recent years, he has been recognised for directing the thirteen-episode TV series about Josip Broz Tito, Tito – the Last Witnesses of the Testament, which was produced by Croatian Television in 2005 – 2011. **Zafranović has dedicated his life to finding new possibilities in cinematography. He has made 101 films, most of which he also wrote.**

Zafranović is considered a **master of modern Yugoslavian cinema and a Mediterranean classic**, whose films compare with the works of celebrated European authors such as Angelopoulos and Bertolucci. His main motivation in film is to explore the tensions that regular people experience in extreme historical circumstances. His works assail the deepest foundations of nationalism and contest the justification of historical violence. Currently, Zafranović is working to prepare a demanding film titled **The Golden Cut 42** which will bear testament to an evil which is seeking stop another evil. The film is an artistic invocation for the evil to never happen again.







LORDAN ZAFRANOVIĆ STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SCREENPLAY CO-AUTHOR, CO-SCRIPT EDITOR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There were filmed many films and series about significant personalities of 20th century. Dramatic fates and destinies of those who significantly affected the history were attractive for the viewers – e.g. Churchill, Roosevelt, Tito, de Gaulle but people were fascinated also by the stories of dangerous dictators - Hitler, Mussolini, or Stalin. I recently made a 13-part series on inspiring and moving destiny and life of Josip Broz Tito.

I have known the situation in Czechoslovakia very well from my own experience. As a student of direction at Prague's FAMU in the years 1967 – 1971, **I experienced the Prague's Spring, the occupation, and the beginning of normalization, too. I observed with my own eyes those turbulent societal and also human changes** – progressive easing and releasing, desire for freedom, for plurality of opinions, the possibility to travel abroad right up to thriving of art – including the film miracle of the Czech New Wave – and side by side **increasing influence of Alexander Dubček who personified and embodied the hopes of Czechs and Slovaks as well in a „socialism with a human face“.** People loved **Dubček** in that time!

We are even approaching the years before his arrival to the world by portrayal of destinies of his father Štefan Dubček, the American citizen and a convinced Communist who after his return to Czechoslovakia set off together with a family to build better future in the Soviet Kyrgyzstan in the times of tough Stalinism.

Zafranović's personal experience of the Prague Spring, the occupation, and the beginning of normalization in Czechoslovakia formed his interest in the fate of Alexander Dubček, who symbolized the desire for fairer and more human organization of society.



LORDAN ZAFRANOVIĆ, KRZYSZTOF ZANUSSI and ANDREJ ANTONIO LECA

LORDAN ZAFRANOVIĆ STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SCREENPLAY CO-AUTHOR, CO-SCRIPT EDITOR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

An ambition of this extensive, wide-ranging film project is to bring epically tuned and harmonized period fresco of 20th century, on the background of which there were developing dramatic destinies of Dubček's family saga from the USA, through Czechoslovakia, Asia to the USSR, while their supporting and stimulating topic is searching the individual and societal freedom. The first part of a film brings the impressive catchy view on less known historical events within the international help Interhelpa. The mosaic of tragicomical situations of vividly and lifelike depicted wide range of characters brings the universally applicable and true testimony, which should work as the compact stand-alone and self-reliant complex. The long-term thorough collection of material of the major screenwriter Karol Hlávka who supports himself by study of materials, papers and foundations as well as testimonies of historians, professional consultants, living witnesses and friends of Alexander Dubček confirms the confidential and restricted knowledge of historical context, life and institutions and destinies of Dubček family. As screenwriters with the project author, producer Andrej Antonio Leca, we respect the authentic biographical data and specific factual turning points but naturally we cannot avoid the fiction and freer fabulation and therefore we mark our narration only as the inspired one by the life of Alexander Dubček and his family.

Even at the first sight it is evident and obvious that it is financially, from realization point of view but also from a time aspect, a demanding large historical project with a huge number of characters and locations, the ambition of which is to address the wide spectrum of viewers in the whole world through a suggestive and magnetic personality of Alexander Dubček who despite everything does still remain a largely popular and famous symbol of revolt against the totalitarian power.

We have precisely developed a screenplay for realization of this plan.



The film project aims to bring an epic fresco of the 20th century and a societal freedom theme. The script has been precisely developed for this purpose.



KAROL HLÁVKA AUTHOR OF A SHORT STORY, CO-AUTHOR OF THE STORY OF THE CENTURY

Born 1955 in Nové Mesto nad Váhom (Slovakia).

Karol graduated from the School of Film and Television Screenwriting at the Bratislava Academy of Performing Arts. He wrote his first feature film script, *V meste plnom daždnikov* (In the City Full of Umbrellas, 1981) while he was still a student, and he thus became the **youngest professional screenwriter in Slovakia at the time**. His **most successful script was for the film *Fontána pre Zuzanu* (Fountain for Suzanne, 1985)**, which in its first year of screening became the **most frequented film in Czechoslovakia**.

In 2007 he wrote the libretto for a *Fontána pre Zuzanu* musical based on his own screenplay. The show was premiered in 2008 by the Nová Scéna Theatre in Bratislava. Karol Hlávka is a traveller, writer and photographer. In 1997 he published the book *Naverímboha* about his travels in South America. It became a cult title for young people who, following the collapse of the Iron Curtain, yearned to travel and discover new cultures. He wrote the script for the theatre show *We Are All Children of This Country*, in collaboration with the government of the Slovak Republic, which promoted tolerance between nations and races.

In recent years, he has been active as a blogger. In 2017 he finished his novella *Tanec Sily* (The Dance of Strength), which was published in 2018 by the Slovak Writers Association, of which he is a member. He has collaborated with LECA production and the LECA civic organisation since 2014, having written four scripts for the Lucky Clover for Talents gala benefits.

The life and work of the most famous Slovak, **Alexander Dubček**, has been his pet topic for the past 10 years. He has consistently explored Dubček's life from both a political and a private angle.



Karol Hlávka is a successful screenwriter, with his most successful script being for the film *Fountain for Suzanne*, which became the most frequented film in Czechoslovakia in its first year of screening. He has also written a libretto for a musical adaptation of his own screenplay and collaborated with the Slovak government to promote tolerance through theatre.

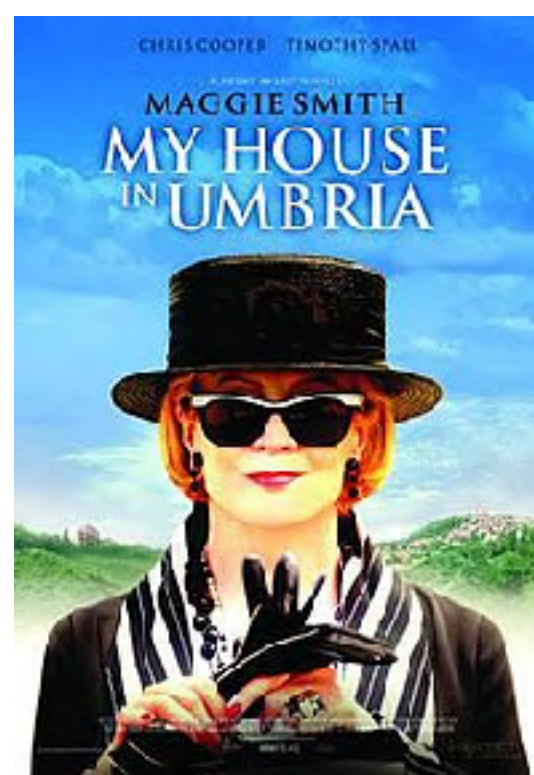
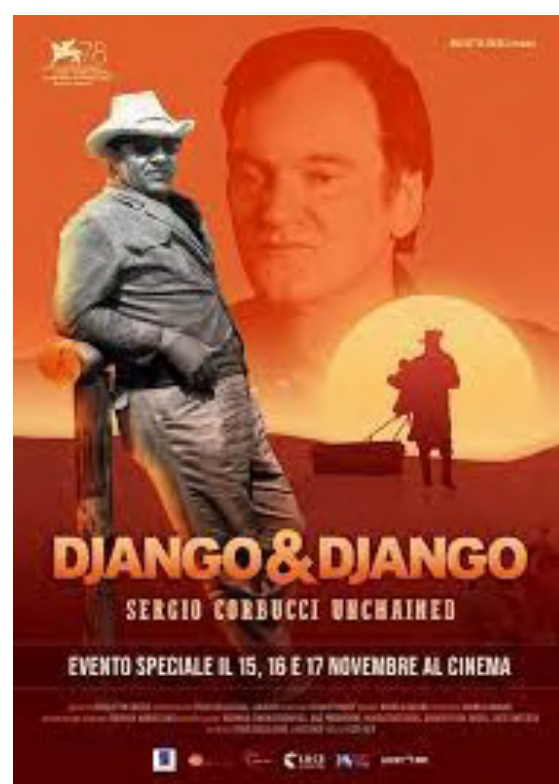


NICOLETTA ERCOLE ART PRODUCER AND COSTUME DESIGNER



Costume Designer for Film, Theater and Television since 1974, she has collaborated with many Italian and international directors: from Marco Ferreri, for whom she **designed the costumes for about 12 films to Bolognini, Visconti, Benigni, Tornatore, James Cameron, Richard Loncraine, Julie Taymor, Francis Ford Coppola, Margarethe Von Trotta, De Sica, Vanzina, Pieraccioni, Nuti, and many others.** She designed the costumes for **more than 130 feature films for Cinema, Television and many Theatrical plays,** working with Polansky, Barbareschi, Giorgio Ferrara and many others.

She has worked in the field of fashion since 1971 collaborating with fashion designers such as Pier Luigi Tricò, Renato Balestra, Valentino, Laura Biagiotti, Trussardi for whom she has cured some Events and Fashion shows. She had has been a consultant of Bulgari for the promotion of product placement in Italy and North America for about 8 years. Over the years she has developed personal and professional relationships with many designers and craftsmen in the field of the Italian fashion such Armani, Fendi, Ferrè, Lancetti, Missoni, Scervino, Balestra. She has worked in the field of culture and cinema as a **consultant to Cinecittà Holding** from 2006 to 2008 curing an award dedicated to all Technicians and Craftsmen of Film on behalf of the Holding. In 2007, she was in charge of the organization of the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of Cinecittà, with an international parterre. **She has been nominated three times to the Silver Ribbons for Best Costume Designer, three times to the David di Donatello, once to the Emmy Awards and once Academy Award with Milena Canonero.** Since 2008 she is Counselor for Special Events, External Relations and the Project of the Mecenati of the Festival dei 2 Mondi of Spoleto under the direction of Giorgio Ferrara.



ALESSIO VLAD MUSIC COMPOSER AND CONDUCTOR

Since 2010, he has been the **artistic director of the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma.**

The son of the renowned composer Romano Vlado and the famous architect Licia Borrelli, he studied piano at the Vincenzo Vitale School, composition and conducting at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory and the Accademia Chigiana in Siena with Guido Turchi and Franco Ferrara, and musical phenomenology with Sergio Celibidache.

At the same time, he studied literature and philosophy and art history with Cesare Brandi at the University of Rome.

He was a pupil and later collaborator of **Leonard Bernstein**, when he began a career as a **conductor**, which led him to conduct operas and concerts around the world with many orchestras and opera houses in Europe and America..

Vlad's achievements as composer include works for Theatre and Film, on behalf of directors such as **Bernardo Bertolucci** and **Franco Zeffirelli**. For Bertolucci, his score for "**Besieged**" won the **1999 Golden Globe for the best Italian Soundtrack**. For Zeffirelli, he composed music for Pirandello's "Six Characters in Search of an Author," (in Italy and at the National Theatre in London); and for the films "**Sparrow**," "**Jane Eyre**," "**A Tea with Mussolini**," and for "**Callas Forever**." To remark also the long collaboration with Cristina Comencini (among others the score for the film "Va dove ti porta il cuore") and with Giorgio Ferrara (for the film "Tosca e altre due" and, last season at the Theatre de Montparnasse in Paris and at La Biennale di Venezia, the music for the Strehler- Goldoni's play "Memoires" at in Rome, at Fori Romani, "The Tiberio Case"). In April 2007 the Toronto Philharmonia dedicated a very succesful concert to Alessio Vlad's music for Franco Zeffirelli's movies, which Vlad conducted.





DANIEL SEVERA CZECH CO-PRODUCER

The owner of the company Daniel Severa Production, Prague, the Czech Republic

Former Czech kayak racer and multiple national and state (Czechoslovakia) champion, as well as European vice champion, after few years career as a State Bank executive officer, find out his life position in entertainment industry. Shortly after Czechoslovak "Velvet Revolution" (1989), Severa has been involved in production of Juraj Herz's "The Frog King" - long feature fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen with international cast. A filmmaker since 1990 with over 600 hours of theatrical / primetime fiction & non-fiction formats on his account.

President of the Film & TV Producers' Association since 2014. Former CME (A Warner Bros. Comp.) Head of Fiction Prods. Former Film Market Director of IFF Karlovy Vary.

A credible fiction formats producer proven by many previous both awarded as well as box-office / TV ratings successful projects.

The company is based in Prague's Barrandov and in addition to extensive production facilities also disposes two studios, makeup and costume rooms, greenrooms, wardrobe workroom/warehouse, etc.



MALTA FILM STUDIOS



Meeting with representatives of the MALTA FILM COMMISSION, Malta r. 2022

THE STORY OF THE CENTURY, inspired by the life and times of the most famous Slovak in the world, Alexander Dubček, also caught the attention of **MALTA FILM STUDIOS**, which is one of the largest production facilities in the world. Malta's history as a destination for film production spans more than 90 years, during which the island has hosted some of the most important Hollywood productions - **Gladiator**, **Alexander**, **Munich**, **Assassin's Creed**, **Murder on the Orient Express** and others.



25th July 2022

Mr. Andrej Antonio Leca,
CEO
LECA production s.r.o.
Cervenova,
811 03 Bratislava – Old Town,
Slovakia

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR THE AUDIOVISUAL INDUSTRY
QUALIFYING PRODUCTION: The Story of The Century (Feature Film / and / TV Series)
QUALIFYING COMPANY: LECA production s.r.o.

This is to confirm that the Malta Film Commission has received information regarding your Feature Film and TV Series, 'The Story of The Century',

In accordance with the guidelines, as a Qualifying Company you would be eligible to receive a cash rebate on the qualifying expenditure incurred in Malta relating to 'The Story of The Century', a Qualifying Production (Feature Film & TV Series). 40% of the eligible expenditure in accordance with the guidelines can be obtained as a cash rebate once filming is complete.

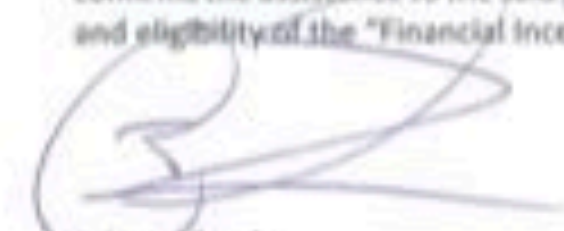
Our scheme also makes it possible that apart from filming, any visual effects and post-production carried out in Malta relating to this same Qualifying Production, in accordance with the guidelines, can also secure an uncapped cash rebate as high as 40% too if they meet the minimum eligibility criteria.

The provisional certificate is released once an official application together with requested supporting documents is made.

The cash rebate will only be given once the production is terminated in Malta, the final accounts are presented to the Commission and a full audit of expenses is carried out by an independent auditor appointed by the Commission. There will be a final review by the Commission to approve the cash rebate. If this is approved, it will be forwarded to the qualifying production no later than five months from the date of receipt of final accounts.

If an official application is not made with the Malta Film Commission within 365 days from the issuance date of this letter, then this document is deemed to be void and the issuance of a new letter must be sought.

This is to confirm, that the Financial Incentives for the Audiovisual Industry are issued in accordance with GBER Rules, Article 54 and in accordance with legal notices LN67/2019, LN68/2019 and LN48/2021. The European Commission has formalised its position regarding the current State Aid rules till end of 2023. However, should this be extended and hence retain these rules till further, the Malta Film Commission confirms the assistance to the said production till the extended period and upon approval of the submission and eligibility of the "Financial Incentives for the Audiovisual Industry".


Johanni Grech
Malta Film Commissioner



THE STORY OF THE CENTURY AND KYRGYSTAN

During the visit of Kyrgyzstan, a producer Andrej Antonio Leca attended the official **meeting with the Minister of Culture, Information and Tourism of the Kyrgyzstan Republic Zhamankulov Azamat Kaparovich**. The Minister expressed the honour and respect towards the personality of Alexander Dubček who was raised and lived as a child in the distant and remoted Kyrgyzstan. **Thanks to Alexander Dubček is parents, being the members of the production squad or cooperative society Interhelpo “Esperantists”, there was built the substantial part of the infrastructure of the capital Bishkek (in that time Frunze), from the hospital, and the first factory to the first school in the Kyrgyzstan Republic.** The Minister of Culture expressed to the LECA FILM production the support and assistance of the Kyrgyzstan Republic for the successful realization of the upcoming film.



AKZHOL BEKBOLOTOV

THE DIRECTOR OF AITYSH FILM STUDIO IN BISHKEK, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR AND CAMERAMAN, A BEARER OF NATIONAL AND FOREIGN RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

A bearer of many awards and prizes: Grand Prix at XIX International Film Festival Aidyn Dogan Istanbul 2007, Jury Prize at International Film Festival in Baku in 2007, Jury Prize SCO of the International Film Festival Issyk Kul-2007, Grand Prix IF-France-Germany-Kyrgyzstan Bishkek-2008, Grand Prix at XXV International Film Festival Teheran, 2nd prize at International Film Festival V „Dubai“-2008, Grand Prix at the Youth Film Forum „Umt“ Bishkek-2009, Prize „ARTE“ at XXI IFF Dresden, Germany 2009, scholarship of the President of Kyrgyzstan Republic „Altyn Shaty“ -2010, Prize „Winged Future of Kyrgyzstan“ at the film nomination „Work of the Director Vivid“ Bishkek-2010, the best cameraman at the 3rd Ak Ilbirs National Film Festival Bishkek 2014, a honorary recognition of the President of Kyrgyzstan Republic, Bishkek-2016 and others.



ANDREJ ANTONIO LECA next to ALEXANDER DUBČEK CHILDHOOD HOUSE in KYRGYSTAN



with General Director of Cinematography of Kyrgyzstan



ANDREJ ANTONIO LECA with Minister of Culture, Information and Tourism of Kyrgyzstan ZHAMANKULOV AZAMAT KAPAROVICH

KRZYSZTOF ZANUSSI CONSULTANT

POLISH SCREENWRITER, DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER FOR TV AND CINEMA

Prizes - Cannes, Venice, Locarno, Moscow, Chicago, Montreal, Berlin, Tokyo...



“ **WHY IS IT WORTH INVESTING IN FILM AND TRYING TO RAISE FUNDS FOR A FILM ABOUT ALEXANDER DUBČEK?** “

“ **There are many films about Hitler and Stalin, but relatively few about people who stood on the right side of history. The lack of such films raises questions about why they are not more prevalent.** ”

„Look around, and all over Europe, you will see films about Hitler or Stalin. You will find them on every corner. Even the internet is replete with them. **In contrast, you will only find relatively few, if any, films about people who stood on the right side of history**, on the side of justice and not of crime. Furthermore, there is an interesting question that still surrounds Dubček: how come that someone who possessed such intimate knowledge of Russia; someone who had grown up in the Soviet Union and understood the nature of **DUBČEK HUMAN FACE - THE STORY OF THE CENTURY**

Stalinism; someone who knew the hideous truth about the show trials that swept across 1950s Czechoslovakia, and who was familiar with the vicious practices of the first General Secretary Gottwald, nevertheless remained a devoted communist. This question grips my interest, and it is also dramatically central to the film. Knowing everything he did about what was going on in Czechoslovakia, how could Dubček believe in communism, and how could he think that he could ever give it a human face? The story of Dubček's life lends itself to cinematic exploration, much like the story of his death, whose circumstances remain unclear to this day – questions still persist as to whether he may have been assassinated. **Were there dark forces involved? Who would have benefited from his liquidation?** This is another great cinematic motif, insofar as it allows us to ponder what would have happened in Slovakia if Dubček had lived. We can imagine the paths the country could possibly have taken – in my personal view, it would have turned out to be a completely different place. That is why the prospect of making a film about Dubček is so enticing to me and why **I have decided to enter into the project following agreement with the producer Andrej Antonio Leca.**”



Creative team meeting with director Krzysztof Zanussi. In the photo from the left: chief screenwriter Karol Hlávka, major general Svetozár Naďovič, maestro Krzysztof Zanussi, producer Andrej A. Leca, col. Stanislav Vojčík and Slovak actor and director Ľubomír Paulovič, Warsaw, 2018

STATEMENTS OF THE CONSULTANT

ANDREI KONCHALOVSKY

film director, screenwriter,
film producer



The end of the 1960's in the history of Europe was marked by an attempt of the Czechs and the Slovaks to breathe a new life into the socialist ideas of their country. By then, there had already been a few revolts against the Stalinist mechanism of state in other countries: first in East Germany, then in Hungary, then in Poland. And every time those revolts were violently put down by the Soviet troops. However, what happened in Czechoslovakia wasn't a rebellion, but a peaceful reform movement that was widely supported by the people of the republic. In 1968, the Czechs and the Slovaks had an incredible surge of public consciousness, which led to a harsh pushback from Moscow and, ultimately, a political, moral, and humanistic catastrophe.

Even now, as many documents of that era are declassified, it is difficult to say who the heroes or the anti-heroes of this **historic process** were. What's worth mentioning is that the young generation knows very little of the high hopes that **inspired the people of Czechoslovakia in the early months of 1968**.

It all began when Aleksander Dubcek, the newly appointed Head of the KSČ, abolished censorship! This was the first signal announcing that a person could now speak and write WITHOUT FEAR, BREATHE FREELY, AND NOT HIDE ONE'S THOUGHTS! To the Stalinist model of State this was an unheard-of act of impudence, undermining the foundation of the regime sustained by FEAR. The retraction of censorship shook the society to its core; the people woke up from a long sleep and suddenly felt hopeful for a new form of the state, now seemingly within reach. Nobody was aiming to bring down the socialist regime, people just wanted to be themselves and inject their society with some humanistic traits, inspired by European philosophy that pervaded the Central Europe since the times of the Holy Roman Empire. The Communist Party with Dubcek at its head instantly acquired sincere support of the people, which had never happened in any other country of the Soviet Block. This genuine mass enthusiasm alarmed, and later drove to panic, first the Kremlin, and then the rest of the states in Eastern Europe. The Stalinists found the motto of the new ideology, which soon spread to the other countries of the continent, particularly insulting: **"Socialism with a human face"**.

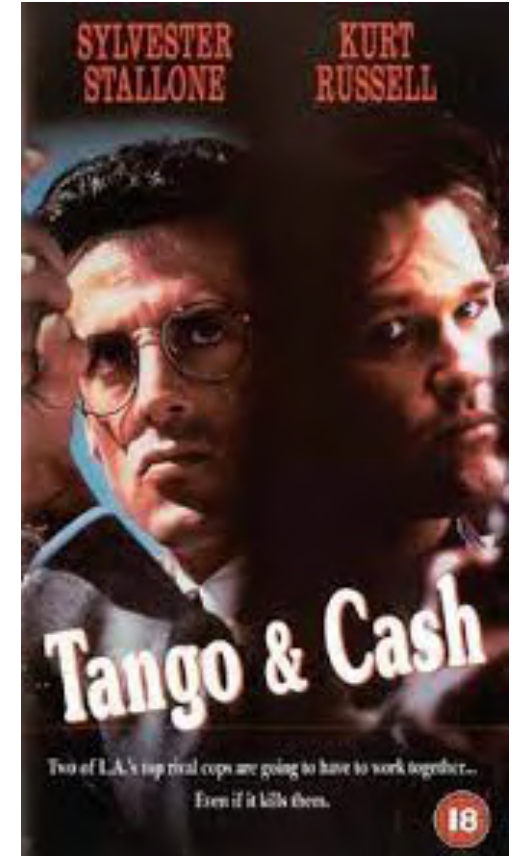
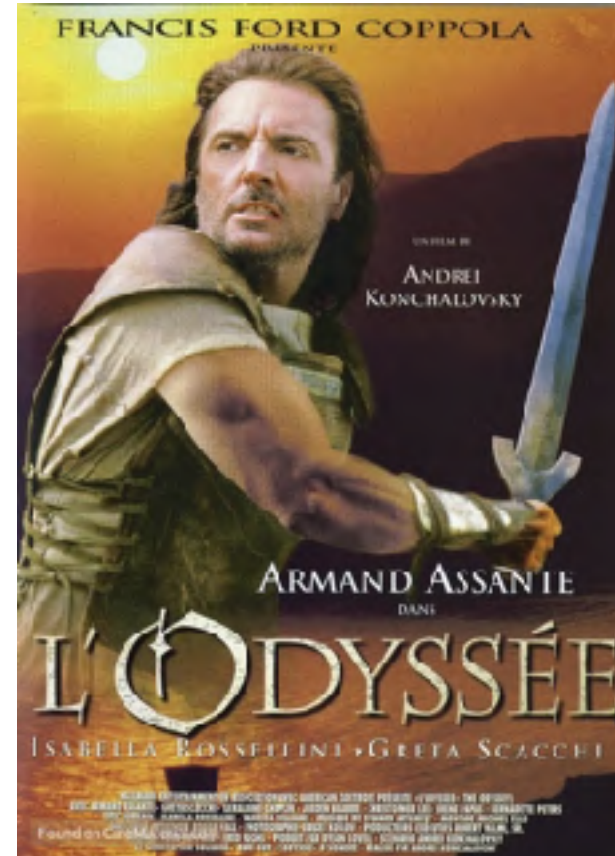
It made it look like the Soviet model lacked such a face (a fact of truth that had been continuously effaced).

The history of the Prague spring can be interpreted from various perspectives, but what interests me is a more intimate look at the high human tragedy of the Czechoslovakian events. Dubcek was brought up in a typically soviet ambiance. When he returned to Czechoslovakia, he witnessed the same dazed society he saw in the USSR. Later on, while working as a Party official, he fully realized that in Czechoslovakia, just like in USSR, every party executive is always fearful and suspicious of all his actions being controlled, all his conversations listened to and recorded.

The story of Dubcek is a story of a man who crossed the line and dared to DEFY FEAR. He stopped fearing the wiretapping, the agents, the occasional barking from Moscow, the repression... He decided to act as a free man. This discrepancy between his behavior and the psychology of his counterparts brought about its own share of fear and suspicion. His peers in Prague and partners from the USSR deemed his actions dysfunctional and delusional. A “proper” Soviet leader, a member of the Party, could not act like this. However, there was a peculiar circumstance: Dubcek’s policy had aroused some incredible enthusiasm among the Czech and Slovak students and workers. The people supported his initiative: Dubcek’s endeavors gave the students and the workers hope that such a conventionally conservative political force as the Communist Party is capable of adjusting its function and championing a move towards free society.

Aleksander Dubcek was certain that he was answering the call of his heart, like a real communist. It is this certainty that brought about the tragedy of Dubcek and the “Prague spring” as a whole. One could even liken Dubcek to a hero of an ancient tragedy: the protagonist’s actions inevitably lead to his doom, yet he blindly keeps working towards his goals; aware of the risks, the hero just cannot act otherwise. The same goes for Dubcek: until the very end, he would either fail to see the dangers he had been warned about, or would consciously keep his mind off them.

Yet, doom was inevitable: tanks invaded the country, hopes shattered. Dubcek couldn’t see sense in this suppression until his last days, but he found his life’s purpose and was certain of his righteousness. That is where his greatness lies: he got to keep his face, the Human Face.



HEINZ FISCHER PATRONAGE

Federal president of Austria (2004-2016)

Co-chair of the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens



Dear Mr. Andrej Antonio Leca,

I am very pleased to inform you that followed by our personal meeting and communication I decided to take a patronage of your film project DUBČEK - SLOBODA ALEBO SMRTĚ a LUDSKÁ TVÁŘ (DUBČEK – FREEDOM OR DEATH and HUMAN FACE) inspired by the life of Alexander Dubček, very appreciated and known personality of european and world history and who was also my personal friend.

I appreciate your effort as an author of the projet but also of your creative and executive team to create this wo-piece historical film inspired by Mr. Dubček known in history as the "politician with human face" who tried to make better, free and just society for people.

Dear Mr. Leca, I also accept a role of the consultant of your project, and as far as I can I would like to be helpful during the process of the development and the realization of the film.

I wish you as well as your team a lot of succes, good supporting partners and a good finalisation of your project. Alexander Dubček deserves it!

Sincerely,

Heinz Fischer
Heinz Fischer

Federal President of Austria (2004-2016)



PAVEL TRAUBNER PATRONAGE

Born 1941 (Slovakia)
**the Slovak neurologist
 renowned professor of medicine**

Suffered from and survived holocaust, a fighter for human right honorary chairman of the Central Union of the Jewish Religious Faithful in Slovakia honorary chairman of the international organization B'nai B'rith in Slovakia

Alexander Dubček entered the world history with a socialism of a human face who opposite then-existing socialism used to bring numerous political and social advantages. Unfortunately, he didn't manage and handle all but Dubček made Slovak world-famous with his modesty and at the same time his resistance against the violence. I had with him highly positive experiences as a physician when thanks to his son, a physician, in that time the medical student Pavol, he came to me when he was hit by a motorbike of two motorcyclists in leather coats on the pavement and had the injured neck spinal column. In that time, we really became close and discussed the perspective. It was, however, in the year 1972 when he was persecuted.

Dear Sir Andrej Antonio Leca,

as a lifelong advocate of human rights and a supporter of your project from the very start, I have decided to put the project THE STORY OF THE CENTURY by LECA FILM production under my personal patronage. This project must be created because it documents the significant period of history and is absolutely important to know the history as without knowledge of history it is impossible to create the high-quality future.



MARTIN KORČOK STATEMENT

**Ethnologist and Museum of Holocaust Head
 in Sered' /Slovakia/**

The item of interest are victims of undemocratic regimes of 20th century

Alexander Dubček played an important role not only in our but also the world history. Despite this fact, many people don't know him well enough. The family, in which he was becoming the young adult. Countries where he was raised, values that he was living for. The work, which he had done but also his death itself have been by now known and familiar only to the limited circle of individuals.

The man who sacrificed his career, position, function, status, privacy for a freedom and democracy of all the people of the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The man who deserves not to be forgotten, never ever. I believe that it may be significantly beneficial that the upcoming epic feature film **THE STORY OF THE CENTURY** of the film production LECA production will come soon. We will, at the same time, pay a tribute to a great giant of our modern history by its support and implementation and we will commemorate the fact that recognition of the acts of "great giants" of the past can influence the future.



BUST OF ALEXANDER DUBČEK IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Alexander Dubček, a significant prominent personality of the Czechoslovak history, was a role model for the chairman of the European Parliament Martin Schulz.

He said so at the ceremonial unveiling of Alexander Dubček's bust in the premises of the European Parliament in Strasbourg on December 13th, 2016.

The chairman of the European Parliament Mr. Schulz added that Dubček was one of the most important personalities of Europe and it's a huge honour that his bust would be exhibited in the premises of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Dubček was awarded in 1988 with the honorary doctorate at the Italian University in Bologna.



President of the European Parliament (from 2012 to 2017)
Mr. MARTIN SCHULZ

Similarly, he is the laureate of Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought from 1989, being awarded by the European Parliament.

Dubček's bust is located at the hall of the building of Paul Henry Spaak in Brussels as the official great hall for all the government and official visits of the Euro-parliament head: politicians, members of the European Parliament, personalities of social and cultural life.



ANDREJ SACHAROV

(1921 - 1989)

World-famous physicist and bearer of the Nobel Peace Prize, he said to A. Dubcek when he was awarded by A. Sakharov Prize in 1989:

I am convinced that the gulp of freedom, which Czechs and Slovaks tried when Alexander Dubček led them, became the prologue of bloodless revolutions in the eastern Europe and the Czecho-Slovakia itself. The sun had from time to time showed its face. It was Prague's Spring of the year 1968...Scenes of that courageous daring attempt had been ineffaceably written into our memory and our inability to help is the pang of conscience of the free world.

PROFESSIONAL GUARANTORS

PAVEL POLLÁK

(1926 - 2022)



The Slovak lawyer and historian, a family friend of A. Dubček since 1956, personal assistant of Dubček in the Federal Assembly of the Czechoslovak Federative Republic (1991-1992), a specialist in the history of the emigration squad Interhelpo in the Soviet Kyrgyzstan, in the years 1993 – 2010 worked in the Presidential Office of Slovakia, the author of 30 volumes of the original Presidential Chronicle (deposited in the Presidential Library of the Slovak Republic), the author and co-author of numerous memorial books and studies about A. Dubček

“I’m happy that this film is just being realized, this epic inspired by Alexander Dubček, my dear friend of mine, whom I was so-called the right hand in the last years of his life. I can proudly state that Alexander Dubček represents a symbol of humanity and a good in politics. In the period when he was a representative of socialism and thanks to him democratic streams crossed the borders to Czechoslovakia, he became the most progressive and forward-looking man of that time. The film should be displayed to general public at home and the world as well, what all Dubček had to go through in his life, what all he struggled to do for his people and he did and without any doubts, he has the right to be noted as a symbol of modern democracy. I believe that the LECA production will manage and handle this huge project until the successful end and I am glad that I can help with my humble testimonies as well.”



JITKA FRANTOVA PELIKAN

(1932 - 2020)

Czech- Italian film, drama actress and later a dancer, since 1968 living in Rome, the wife of the significant personality of Prague’s Spring, popular General Director of the Czechoslovak Television (1963-1968) and the European politician Jiří Pelikán.

“I experienced the Prague’s Spring, as well its dramatic repercussions, side by side with my husband Jiří Pelikán and I personally knew Alexander Dubček. Prague’s Spring must not be erased from the history of Czechoslovakia! A. Dubček will forever remain for the whole world the symbol of Prague’s Spring, this reform of communism, which had changed the framework of the whole Europe. With Dubček’s initiation to rule and power, there opened the path to resurgence and rebirth. Although he was not the born reformer, he was highly honest and straight person who recognized the opinions and requirements of the population.

Therefore I consider the film project for such an important and meritorious one. It is important to continuously remind and remember the fight of these honest people for better future, people who many times risked not only an imprisonment, but also their life. May they rest in peace!”

PROFESSIONAL GUARANTORS



prof. IVAN LALUHA
born in 1932

Slovak historian and sociologist, a Czechoslovak politician, close co-worker and a friend of Alexander Dubček, later the Vice-President of the Alexander Dubček Society, an academic educator, a bearer of many awards and prizes, honoured with the Command of Ľudovít Štúr 2nd class awarded by the President of the Slovak Republic at the occasion of 10th anniversary of the Slovak Constitution for the lifelong contribution and asset in the field of politics and development of democracy in Slovakia

“Alexander Dubček was above all a democrat, humanist and visionary. The epic of the film production LECA should be created with the message that there existed a man who expressed the desires of people for a better life and he tried harder and struggled to do so.”



**Major General, retired,
SVETOZÁR NAĐOVIČ**
born in 1939

Major General, significant personality of the Czechoslovak and Slovak Army, head and leader of the Direction for displacement of the Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia in the years 1990-1991, a bearer of many domestic and foreign awards, honoured in 2019 by the President of the Slovak Republic with the Command of Ľudovít Štúr 1st class for the extraordinary merits for defence and security of the Slovak Republic

“I accepted the offer of LECA production to become a consultant and guarantor of the film project by which **we want to enhance and raise the thoughts of a fight for fairer and lawful society in the global extent**. If only this film could help to discover other charismatic personalities in Slovakia and in the world like Alexander Dubček was!”



prof. JACQUES RUPNIK
Born in 1950 Czechoslovakia

French political scientist and historian, specialist on Central and Eastern Europe, a graduate of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris and Harvard's University in the USA. He worked in BBC, was the counsellor of the President Václav Havel and is the bearer of many significant awards.

During a visit to SciencesPo in Paris in 1991, Alexander Dubček discussed Moscow's Protocols with students, explaining that his decision to prioritize the general benefit over his honor and dignity was the most important one in his life. He didn't risk potential victims and helped overcome a critical situation. Although some Czechs and Slovaks felt disappointed in Dubček, **he introduced reforms and became a symbol of a different model than Moscow's**. “**Mr. Leca, I believe that you can manage to realize and execute the film and I am very pleased to contribute with my consultation as well.** Please display in the film that huge inner pressure when Dubček was deciding, what he had to experience and consider. That is important. Dubček's Prague's Spring was a kind of model and example for Gorbachev's perestroika 20 years later.”



PROFESSIONAL GUARANTORS

PAVOL DEMEŠ STATEMENT

Analyst and author, the former Minister for Foreign Relations of the Slovak Republic, the Counsellor of the First President of Slovakia Michal Kováč

the Counsellor of the First President of Slovakia Michal Kováč. Out of the numerous awards these are the most outstanding ones: EU-US Democracy and Civil Society Award (1998), USAID Democracy and Governance Award (1999), two state honors and medals – The Royal Dutch Order of Knight of Oranje Nassau Order (2005), Yugoslavian Star of the First Class (2005), South East Europe Media Organization Human Rights Award (2009), Medal of Honor, Friends of Slovakia, USA (2011) or Prize of the Minister of Culture of the Bulgarian Republic (2014).

During my numerous foreign travels, I found out that there is no better and more known and famous Slovak in the world than Alexander Dubček. For me personally Alexander Dubček relates to the courage and humanity. The man of courage and hope. We are still waiting for the film production of the most well-known Slovak.



PAVOL DEMEŠ, MICHAL KOVÁČ (president of Slovak Republic 1993 - 1998) and BILL CLINTON (president of the United States from 1993 to 2001)



JAROSLAV VOLF STATEMENT

Long-standing chairman and member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic for the Slovak social democracy, in the election's year 1992 a close colleague of Alexander Dubček. Currently in the senior's age he is monitoring and communicating the politics only at a distance, active as the analyst in the area of consultancy and ITC market research.

”Alexander Dubček fought for a fairer society. He was respected both at home and abroad. He wasn't just a politician either but also and above all, flesh and blood, with his feelings, imaginations, thinking....yes - **I knew him this way, with his eternal kind smile, expressing his personality, always ready to pass by, stop even with the unknown person, to listen to their opinions and also**

complaints. He liked people and they returned it to him by their trust, attachment, favour, and support. He was naturally modest, with a tolerance and humbleness to the life of people around him and just the same uncompromising and high-principled in his stances and defence of values he believed in. He was always at the side of harmed and poor ones, he hated the injustice, oppression, and superiority. Alexander Dubček has definitely deserved the film productions of his rich life already long time ago – but we deserve it as well to understand his attitude and decisions better, and to find our own inspiration emerged in them. Great thanks belong to all who have undertaken this demanding but at the same time very necessary task to process the life path of Dubček by the film optics. Right even more urgently that in today's world, this topic is more than relevant.”

STATEMENTS

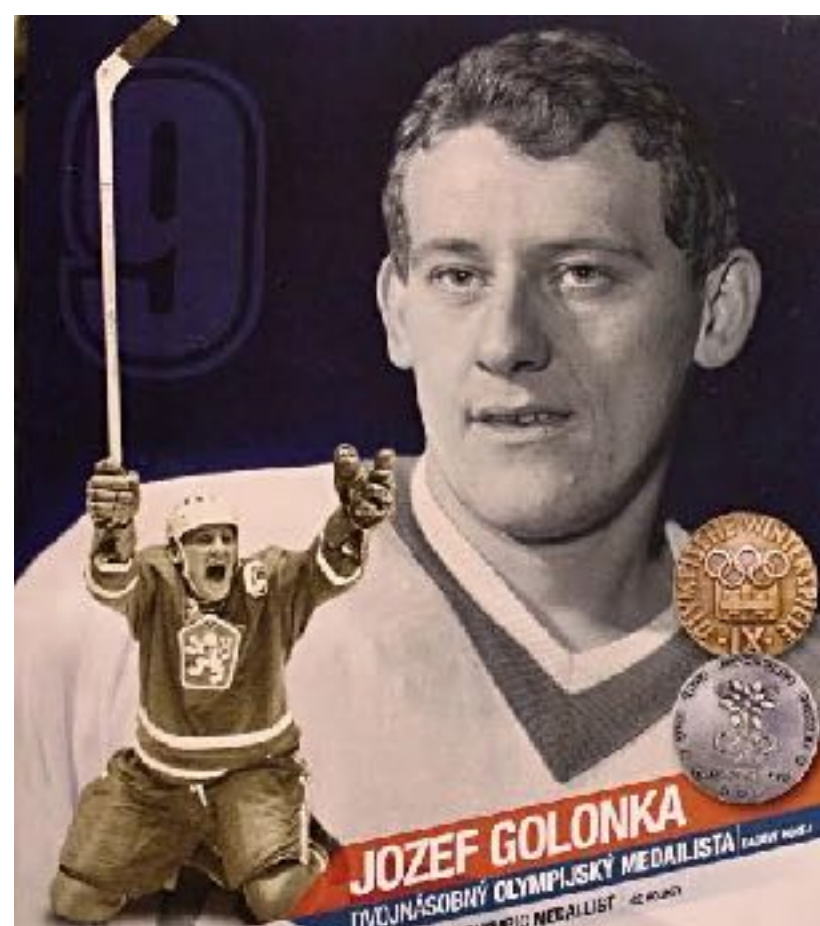


JOZEF GOLONKA

Czechoslovakian ice hockey legend, member of the Hall of Fame of International Ice Hockey Federation IIHF

“To me, Alexander Dubcek is the greatest Slovak ever. Excited celebration that connect with protests against the Soviet army occupying Czechoslovakia started after the ice hockey match in 1969, where Czechoslovakia beat Soviet Union 4:3 in the World Championship in Stockholm. It was a political and sports matter. The whole team was adamant to win at all costs! We were all for Dubcek! We played for Dubcek! We played at the Olympic games in 1968, when he still held his post and we played for him again. It is an honour that

I can be part of the project THE STORY OF THE CENTURY and I strongly believe that film production of LECA will be able to materialise this grand project.”



JAROMÍR JÁGR

A world-famous Czech ice-hockey player

“What is the reason for the sign A.D. and 1968 present on my helmet? My grandmother used to talk a lot about the year 1968, about what it meant to her also about Mr. Dubček who she highly appreciated and respected. I, on the other hand, very much respected the grandma and I trusted her. Therefore, the Dubček’s initials and that year.”



STATEMENTS



MILAN SLÁDEK

Born in 1938



A world-famous Slovak pantomime, choreographer, director, educator and professor and a bearer of many awards and also a state 3rd class accolade Order of Ľudovít Štúr from the President of the Slovak Republic. In 1974 he opened his own THEATRE KEFKA in Koln am Rhein (Cologne), which at that time was the only permanent theatre of the pantomime in the western Europe.

“For the first time I realized and perceived Alexander Dubček sometime in the sixties when he had a speech on 9th of May celebrations. Our march just coincidentally stopped at the podium where he, the Secretary of the Communistic Party of Slovakia, had a speech. To my surprise, he started to talk about a beautiful weather, trees full of flowers. I thought, What is he talking about? Where are all those phrases about the eternal co living with the Soviet Union? I enormously appreciated and respected Dubček. I think that when Gorbachev professed to him or when other nations professed to him then we, Slovaks, should rather better think what kind of personality we had and what impact on the world Dubček had... When I recall Kubišová and Janžurová, how enthusiastically they handed him the flowers as if he was some kind of pop star or when I recall the fantastic Werich’s characterization of Dubček... Precious people who recognized the quality of this person. These are all facts, which also today provide motivation to think of Dubček’s personality. In comparison to other politicians, he was immeasurably charismatic – humanity played the great role in his case.”



MARTA KUBIŠOVÁ

Czech singer and actress, signatory of Charter 77, which became a symbol of the struggle for freedom

“I really admired Mr. Dubček! I’m already looking forward to that movie ... “



STATEMENTS



ROBERT KIRCHHOFF

The Slovak film director, screenwriter, producer and cameraman, the academic educator Bearer of numerous domestic and foreign awards

“Alexander Dubček was an example of realistic Utopian. There encountered in him the belief, faith, idealism, and ideology. His face protruded and stood out outside the borders of bipolar world and so maybe as “the first communist ascended to the Christian Heavens where he rightfully ended up among the characters like Martin Luther King, John F. Kennedy, or Willy Brand who not only thought over Utopia but also pursued an Utopia.” **I root for this upcoming film project from the production workshop LECA FILM production!**”



“Presentation of credentials to King Harald V.)”

DENISA KOTEREC FRELICHOVÁ

Ambassador of the Slovak Republic in the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Iceland

“The attempts to achieve the so-called „socialism with human face“ failed. It showed that reforming the unreformable is just not possible. Despite the fact that these attempts were trampled with brutal violence, the history showed that violence and lies won't be able to defeat the truth in the long run. The endeavour and personal contribution of A. Dubček to promoting truth left deep imprint on the world and lived to see the appreciation it deserves. His visit to Norway in the year 1990 serves as great example. **Alexander Dubček was received in the Norwegian Stortinget (Parliament) with cordial standing ovations and then the Parliament Chairman Jo Benkow said that it was for the first time that Stortinget applauded this way. The next historic moment was the audience with the King Olaf.** It was the king himself who expressed the wish to meet with the leader of the Czechoslovak National Assembly. It is important to remember the legacy of Dubček and to talk about him also to our offsprings. Therefore I really applaud and support this project and I immensely look forward to the film.”



ZDENKA PROCHÁZKOVÁ - HARTMANN with RICHARD LUGNER (Austrian entrepreneur in the construction industry, a Viennese society figure)

ZDENKA PROCHÁZKOVÁ HARTMANN

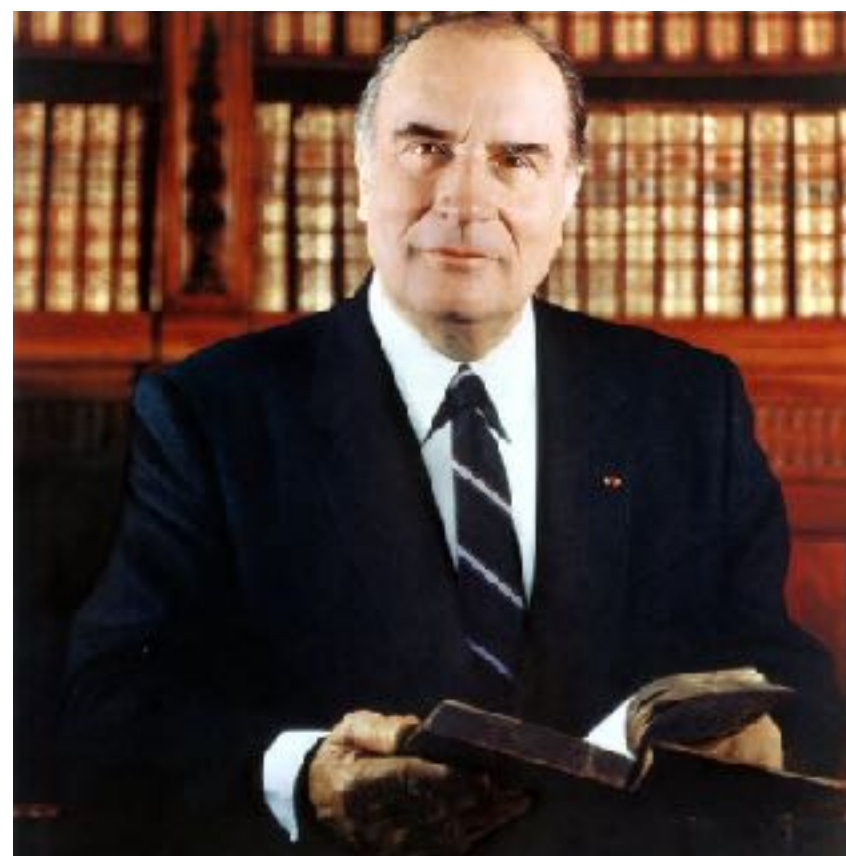
(1926 - 2021)

Czech-Austrian dramatic and film actress, a legend

“Dear Andrej and Roberto Leca!

I personally knew Alexander Dubček. He had a good heart and clean soul; he was simply a **good person**. I very much keep my fingers crossed for you!”

STATEMENTS



FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND

President of the French Republic and
ex officio Co-Prince of Andorra in the
years 1981 - 1995

“I am glad that today for the first time I can greet the freely elected representatives of the Czech and Slovak people... My deep respect for the character and activities of President Dubček plays a part in this... We remember what the Prague spring meant until it was broken by violence and we loved and admired those over the long years refused to have their consciences in any way silenced.”

MILOŠ ZEMAN
President of the Czech Republic
in the years 2013 - 2023

PATRONAGE



Prezident České republiky

Miloš Zeman

uděluje

ZÁŠTITU

filmovému projektu

DUBČEK LUDSKÁ TVÁŘ

s podtitulem SLOBODA ALEBO SMŘT

V Praze dne 27. srpna 2019

STATEMENTS



MARGARET THATCHER

British politician and Prime Minister of the Great Britain government (1979-1990)

In her speech during the meeting of the Federal Assembly of the Czecho-Slovak Federative Republic in Prague in 1990 referring to the personality of Dubček she said:

“The sun then showed us your face. That was the Prague Spring of 1968 when you, Mr President, played such an important role until hope was so cruelly suppressed. The picture of this brave attempt is ineffably etched in our memories, at the same time that our inability to help you will always weigh on the conscience of the free world.”



MIKHAIL SERGEYEVICH GORBACHEV

The first president of the USSR and bearer of the Nobel Peace Prize



„If we all had set off on the path Czechoslovakia had in the spring 1968, we would have had avoided many extremes and nowadays we would have been different, the whole world would have been different and today’s changes wouldn’t have been introduced in such a difficult way.“

STATEMENTS



JAN WERICH

(1905 - 1980)

**one of the most popular and respected
Czech artist of 20th century**

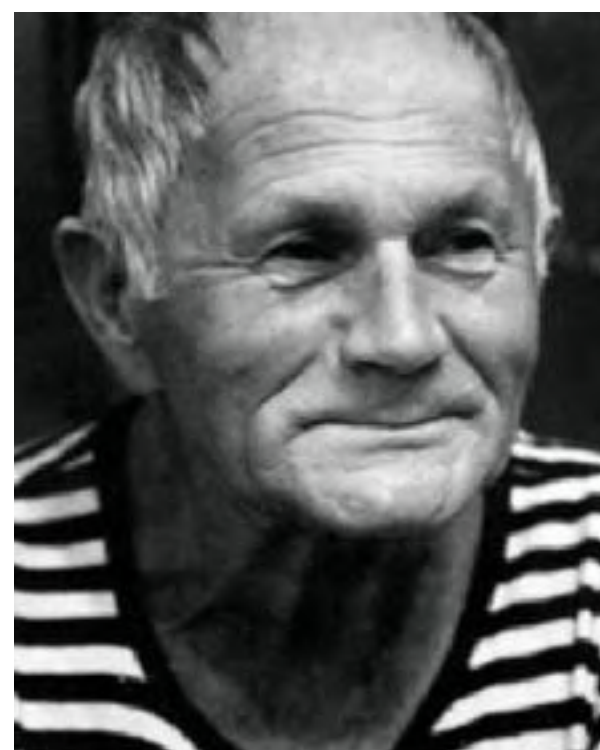
„Alexander Dubček is an amazing person, really an amazing person! It is so easy to support Dubček...

He is laughing, he has those little eyes and his optimism is contagious...

And he behaves like an ordinary you, ordinary me or ordinary they because he is the ordinary everyman because he is the Man.

And people like to cheer and support such person.

And it's worth supporting such man....”



BOHUMIL HRABAL

(1914 - 1997)

Czech writer and one of the most significant and most original and distinctive novelist of the second half of 20th century

„My dear friend Sasha (Alexander) Dubček passed away... he was the first big-hearted and noble communist who reigns also at the Christian Heavens... Little Angel, please guard my little soul, guard the little soul of the **Saint Sášenka** too... He was a hero and he drank his cup of sorrow to the full... “

RALF GUSTAV DAHRENDORF

(1929 – 2009)

German-British sociologist, political scientist, philosopher and liberal politician.

He was a prominent leading specialist for explanation and analysing of class war and struggle in a modern society and is considered as one of the most influential thinkers of his generation.



“In 1968 the Czechs and Slovaks performed one of their greatest performances in the history. As well as they managed and stood the test not against the crumbling communism but against its so-far strong, brutal Brezhnev's form of it. Allegations that Dubček and his surroundings violated and made it wrong and did not arrange and secure the means of power of their politics, is absurd non-sense! The real fact they didn't surrender with the leading personality of Dubček and were defeated by the superpower only after they had exhausted all the existing possibilities, is just the confirmation of this fact. The Soviet invasion happened right in the moment when it seemed they could ultimately handle and arrange those means and nothing could prevent and thwart it. The attempt to deprive a nation of a pride and dignity for just one and not many light flashes of its history is a huge crime, motivated merely by interests of power. And as such it will be assigned and recorded to the history as well.”

ZUZANA ČAPUTOVÁ STATEMENT PRESIDENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Alexander Dubček was not only a man of the Prague Spring but also of the November '89. In the 1960's he was the embodiment of the democratic change which positively intoxicated the majority of the larger society. **The invasion of the Warsaw Pact armies** and his personal experience with “normalization” demonstrated the futility of **the effort to attach a human face to a totalitarian regime**. During the normalization period Alexander Dubček withdrew from the public life but was not forgotten. His journey to Italy that included **the conferment of the honorary doctorate from the University of Bologna** and **his meeting with the Pope John Paul II.** sent echoes throughout the media in the free world.

In November '89 he took stage on the meetings in Bratislava and Prague and the human face he wished to attach to the politics had the potential to resonate even with the generations that did not experience the events of 1968. He joined the change which was much more profound than the Prague Spring and marked the true downfall of the Communist regime. Having said that, Alexander Dubček played his part in this truly historic period only for three years. In this short period of time he was pivotal as the Chairman of the Federal Assembly of the CSFR in passing laws **that transformed a totalitarian state into a democratic country.**

Alexander Dubček is one of the historical figures that transcended his role. He was playing a key part in the attainment of the goals thanks to which is Slovakia a democratic state, such goals which even he himself formerly deemed impossible to attain.



ZUZANA ČAPUTOVÁ during the 100th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Dubček, 27th November 2021



ANDREJ ANTONIO LECA with the President of the Slovak Republic



GUIDO GAMBETTA

The professor of econometrics at Bologna University who held positions of a Dean of Political Science Faculty, Department of Economic Sciences Director and Vice-Chancellor and who proposed in 1988 to award A. Dubček by an honorary doctorate and organized the whole event, he organized and arranged the permission for Dubček to travel abroad with the Czechoslovak authorities and came to pick him up in person to Bratislava drove him to Bologna.

“We, Italians, have highly respected Alexander Dubček, we have considered him for a hero. We praise and speak highly of his feeling to bring the politics closer to ordinary, common people in such a way, they understand it. He was pure and simple the extraordinary man who didn't do politics for himself but for others.”

STATEMENTS



MICHAL KOVÁČ

the first president of the
Slovak Republic in the
years 1993-1998

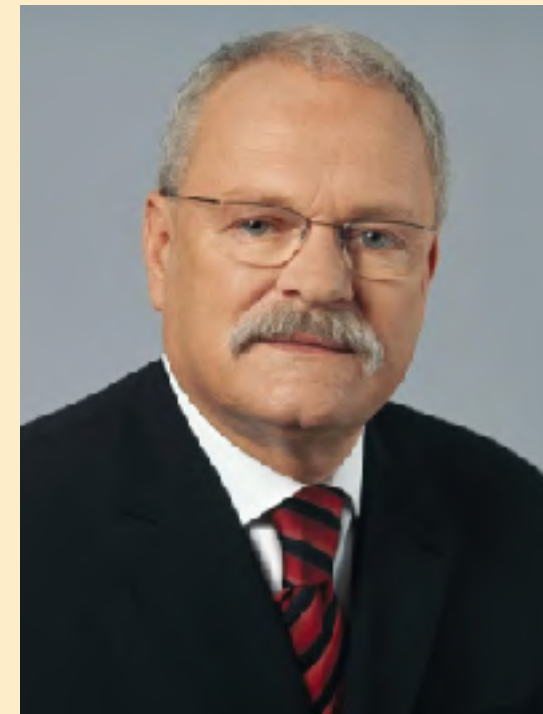
“Alexander Dubček personifies and reflects the substantial part of what is the best of our national character. He is the humangoodness and kindness, diligence, modesty, simplicity, austerity, and straightness. The feeling for justice, warmth and heartiness but also masculinity and then also the softness that represents itself is from time by an emotion or tear.”

RUDOLF SCHUSTER

the president of the Slovak
Republic in 1999 - 2004

“It was Dubček who in the sixties understood that socialism of the Soviet type dehumanizes the human lives and threatens freedom of people. And it was also him who had a courage to promote the reforms of this system. The ideals for which Alexander Dubček lived began to materialize themselves, however his unexpected death caused that he was not able to live and feel to see them through as much as necessary.

Dear Mr. Leca, I really appreciate and respect you and keep my fingers crossed for you!”



IVAN GAŠPAROVIČ

the president of the Slovak Republic
in 2004-2014

Dear Mr. Leca,

It was my immense pleasure to meet with the creative team behind **THE STORY OF THE CENTURY**, a film devoted to one of the most important figures in modern Slovak history, Alexander Dubček. I greatly appreciate the initiative you have shown in resolving to create this co-production project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Dubček’s birth. I sincerely hope that the film will resonate with the broadest possible audience, and especially with the younger generation, who will thus have the opportunity to better acquaint themselves – through the life story of Alexander Dubček – with our recent history and Dubček’s efforts to build a better and more just society. In view of this film’s importance, I hereby wish to officially express my support of the project you have been working on. In conclusion, **Mr. Leca, allow me to wish you and your collaborators much success both at home and abroad. May you find good sponsors and patrons, and most importantly, may you bring the project to a successful and fruitful conclusion. You have my best wishes.**

Respectfully!

STATEMENTS



GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH

(1924-2018)

**41st president of the USA in the
years 1989-1993**

Alexander Dubček, Jelena Bonner and Lane Kirkland inspired millions of people by their invincible power of conviction and strong belief. Dauntless and unafraid in their effort for support of individual freedom and human dignity helped to realize and pursue those remarkable and extraordinary changes, which we celebrate today. Congratulating to each of them for receiving that prestigious and richly earned and deserved reward. Barbora joins me with the wish of all the best at the occasion of this commemorative and joy ful dinner and wishing you much success in the future!

Georg Bush, May 1990, the USA



BILL CLINTON

**the president of the USA
in the years 1993-2001**

“The death of Alexander Dubček has saddened me, but at the same time I am glad that as one of the leading personalities of the Prague Spring he lived to a time when he could see with his own eyes the spread of democracy to Eastern Europe.”



WILLY BRANDT

(1913-1992)

**German statesman, leader of the
German Social Democratic Party of
Germany (SPD) from 1964 to 1987 the
chancellor of the Federal Republic of
Germany from 1969 to 1974**

“Europe could be much further ahead had Alexander Dubček been allowed to continue his policies after 1968”.

STATEMENTS



ANTONIO TAJANI

president of the European Parliament (2017 to 2019)
italian politician and former Italian Army officer member of the
European Parliament since 2014

“Alexander Dubček has remained the symbol of a politician who represented the human hopes and a desire to live in better society.

Alexander Dubček, one of the most famous politicians from former Czechoslovakia, has been and will remain for the Europeans the symbol of Prague’s Spring and a

politician representing and standing in for the human aspirations, hopes and longing to live in better society. It’s no surprise that Dubček was awarded with the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought already in 1989, right after Nelson Mandela. He inspired many people in his own country and abroad, too. His death was not only the enormous loss for Slovakia but also for the whole Europe.”



the PRESIDENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
(2014 - 2019) MR. KISKA with ANTONIO TAJANI



ENRIQUE BARÓN CRESPO

16th President of the European Parliament (1989-1992)
Spanish politician, economist and lawyer personally
handed the Sachar price to Alexander Dubček.

“I met a lot of dissidents in my life. Dubcek was certainly one of them. He spoke calmly and clearly. He smiled a lot. During the lunch he mostly spoke about the future. Despite being a communistic leader 20 years ago, his political activity and reforms were something new in the 1960s. he helped to awaken the society. During the lunch meeting, everyone including me had another opportunity to realise how polite and open Alexander Dubček was.”



ALEXANDER DUBČEK
with ENRIQUE BARÓN CRESPO

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION:



Roberto Leca, President of the Czech republic (2003-2013)
Mr. Václav Klaus and Andrej Antonio Leca



Prime Minister of the
Czech Republic
(2017-2021) Mr. Andrej
Babiš and producer
Andrej Antonio Leca



President of the Republic of Bulgaria (2017 -)
Mr. Rumen Radev and Andrej Antonio Leca



Assistant of producer Ms. Barbara Mihajilovicova, President of
the Republic of Austria (2004 - 2016) Mr. Heinz Fischer.
and Andrej Antonio Leca



Andrej Antonio Leca and Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the Slovakia (2018-2022) Mr. Momčilo Babić

Manager LECA FILM production Mr. Michal Marek,
head of LECA FILM production Mr. Andrej Antonio Leca,
attaché of the Embassy of the People's Republic of
China in Slovakia Ms. ZHOU Xinran and LECA FILM
production manager for foreign affairs
Ms. Beata Šolarová



Meeting with the Ambassador of Italy in Slovakia
His Excellency Gabriele Meucci



Producer Andrej A. Leca with his personal assistant
Barbara Mihajilovičová at the talks and negotiations
with the Ambassador of the Republic of France in
Slovakia His Excellency Christophe Léonzi



ANDREJ ANTONIO LECA and ANDREI KONCHALOVSKY

Negotiations with the world-famous russian director and head of MOSFILM film studios, Mr. Karen Shakhnazarov, Moscow, October 2019



Producers Andrej Antonio Leca and Roberto Leca with film and theater Slovak actress, member of the Drama of the Slovak National Theater Mrs. Eva Mária Chalupová



Andrej Antonio Leca with the French producer and agent of Gérard Depardieu Mr. Arnaud Frilley, Paris



Roberto Leca, Slovak actress and LECA committee member Mája Velšicová, PRESIDENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC (1999-2004) MR. SCHUSTER and Andrej A. Leca, Art Film Fest

Consulship with Ján Kubiš (ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia and prominent UN diplomat)



Andrej Antonio Leca and his assistant Michal Marek, Oscar winner Milena Canonero and art producer and famous costume designer Nicoletta Ercole, interpreter Silvia Blechová (Rome, 2013)

Roberto Leca, director of Bratislava Castle, Mr. Barta, Ambassador of Israel to Slovakia H.E. Eitan Levon and Andrej Antonio Leca



On the photo from the left: Andrej A. Leca, Nikolay Sirin, Barbara Mihajilovičová, world-famous russian actor Oleg MEŇŠIKOV, Daria Stenina and Karol Hlávka, Yermolova Theater, Moscow, 2019



Presentation of the project to the Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation in the Slovak Republic H.E. To Alexander Wittwer, year 2016



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