

***Il Boemo* by Petr Václav will celebrate world premiere in competition at San Sebastian IFF**

Czech feature *Il Boemo*, written and directed by Petr Václav, will celebrate world premiere in the Official Selection of the 70th San Sebastian International Film Festival 2022. A period drama about Josef Mysliveček, one of the most prolific Italian opera composers of the 1770s with Czech roots, is produced by Jan Macola of Mimesis Film. The Czech Film Fund supported *Il Boemo* for both development and production with EUR 948 000.

Celebrated Czech auteur Petr Václav returns to San Sebastian, where he competed with *Parallel Worlds* (New Directors) in 2001, to world-premiere his brand-new feature *Il Boemo* in the Official Selection. Set in the second half of the 18th century, the film tells an extraordinary story of Josef Mysliveček, son of a Prague's miller, who leaves for Italy to fulfil his dream and establish himself as a composer in the very centre of European opera. Thanks to his talent but also to his charisma and luck, in a few years he manages to break through where many others have failed before him. From an unknown musician "from the north", he becomes one of the biggest stars of the musical firmament at the time. Recognition and fame bring him satisfaction, give him access to the highest circles of society, and provide him with constant favour of women, including the most famous opera divas. Yet, despite his success, he is unable to provide for himself materially on a permanent basis.

Il Boemo is Czech-Italian-Slovak co-operation with Jan Macola of Mimesis Film being the main producer. Co-producers include Italian Dugong Films (producer Marco Alessi), Slovak sentimentalfilm (Marek Urban) and Czech co-producers Czech Television, Magiclab, Libor Winkler, Daniel Bergmann and Jan Menclík. *Il Boemo* was supported by the Czech Film Fund for both development and production with total EUR 948 000 and also in the Production Incentives programme. The film was also backed by Creative Europe – MEDIA, Prague Film Fund, Pilsen Region, South Moravian Film Fund, Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Film Foundation, Arte, MIBAC (Ministero della cultura), Liguria Film Fund, Veneto Film Fund and Sicilia Film Fund.

Petr Václav spent more than 10 years making his dream film. As a big-budget, director-driven film, *Il Boemo* is a rare project by Czech standards and has been a long time coming for Václav and his collaborators. The FAMU graduate, who now resides in France, debuted in 1996 with his film about a Roma boy, *Marian*, which won him the Silver Leopard at Locarno. Václav is also known for his films *Parallel Worlds* (2001) and *The Way Out* (2014), which premiered in San Sebastian (New Directors competition) and the ACID section in Cannes respectively. *The Way Out*, which focused on a young Roma woman trying to escape her poor living conditions, won seven Czech Lions in 2014, including Best Film, and also four Czech Film Critics' Awards. Lately, director released drama *We Are Never Alone* (2016, presented in Forum at Berlinale and at Toronto IFF), *The Jumper* (2017) and also *Confession of the Vanished*, the 2015 documentary about a performance of Josef Mysliveček's opera *Olimpiade* and the composer himself, which served as prep work for his feature-length narrative film.

Last Czech film, which competed in San Sebastian's Official Selection, was *Something Like Happiness* by Bohdan Sláma in 2005 (the film eventually won the Golden Shell and the actress Ana Geislerová won the Silver Shell). In 2015, Olmo Omerzu's second feature *Family Film* competed at the prestigious New Directors section. Last year, Czech cinema was in San Sebastian represented by

minority co-productions – *Marocco* (New Directors), *107 Mothers*, *Bad Luck Banging or Loony Porn* and *The Crossing* (all in Zabaltegi-Tabakalera).

Press Service:

Jaroslav Kejzlar

Editor & Communication

Czech Film Center / Czech Film Fund

Veletržní 530/27, 170 00 Praha 7

telefon: +420 601 326 883

e-mail: jaroslav@filmcenter.cz

www.filmcenter.cz

[facebook](#)