

REGARDING FAME I CAN'T COMPLAIN

FILM ODYSSEY ABOUT ZUZANA MICHNOVÁ

"I would never want to be more famous and I know that those really famous stars say that everybody wants to be famous. But I don't want to be photographed leaving house or asked for an autograph on subway. I don't want that. I'm glad my shows are sold out, and that's just fine."

Zuzana Michnová

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JITKA NĚMCOVÁ

IN THEATRES FROM 29TH AUGUST, 2013

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CREW

PRODUCER Bio Art Production s.r.o. (Ivo Krátký, Petr Koza)

DISTRIBUTION CinemArt a.s.

SCREENPLAY, DIRECTION Jitka Němcová

PRODUCTION Petr Koza

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Diviš Marek

MUSIC Zuzana Michnová, Marsyas, Franz Liszt

EDITOR Jan Daňhel

SOUND RECORDING Jan Štindl, Veronika Bartošová, Matouš Sýs, Ondřej Konvička

SOUND ENGINEER Radim Hladík jr., Karel Zámečník

GRAPHIC DESIGN Karel Haloun, Luděk Kubík (the poster exempted)

CAST

Zuzana Michnová, Iva Janžurová, Marián Roden, Michael Kocáb, Michal Pavlíček, David Koller, Roman Holý, Jiří Macháček, Matěj Ruppert, Bolek Polívka, Jiří Vondráček, Jiří Charypar, Pavel Skála, Vlasta Třešňák, Jiří Zelenka, Petr Jarchovský, Bára Hrzánová, Oldřich Lichtenberg, Jaroslav Olin Nejezchleba, Lubomír Houdek, Cyril Höschl, Petr Weiss, Marek Eben, Jaroslav Hutka, Vojtěch Lindaur, Marek Brodský, Oskar Petr, Karel Haloun, Míra Kuželka, David Noll, Jan Tomek, Regina Čeřovská, Ludmila Vavrečková and many others...



ABOUT THE FILM

Feature film about music composer, songwriter and singer Zuzana Michnová, lead vocalist of the currently reunited band Marsyas. At the age of 64, she's been touring around the Czech Republic and all the shows are sold out. The movie is a surrealistic cinematic poem with colourful pictures. The film Regarding Fame I Can't Complain feels like a crazy dream that never ends, it's a fascinating collage of memories, rare archive material and interviews with music business figures. All that wrapped in unique footage from a sold-out show at La Fabrika.



Anticipated film by the director Jitka Němcová will focus on the period of Zuzana's greatest fame, her joys and dreams, interviews with musicians are combined with archival footage. The film depicts not only her life story, but also her colleagues such as Petr Kalandra, who died in 1995. Němcová will utilize archival material, photographs, music videos, and will reproduce certain amusing stories of her life, so that they resemble original material from the period. Interviews seen in the film will include Marek Eben, Jaroslav Hutka, Michal Pavlíček, David Koller, Michal Kocáb, and many others. The documentary is not just a whiff of memories and footage of talking heads of personalities, it's aiming to map the singer's mind in a way to create a visual poem according to her thoughts, personal writings and songs. It's combination of narrative and documentary approach, special effects, archival footage, and is one of the most interesting and challenging realizations in the world of Czech documentary in recent years.

Film full of energy for all those who love Zuzana and Marsyas, for all the generations of rock-lovers, not only those who know Zuzana or the band, but even for those who sail through life and take it as it comes. Jitka Němcová, director, decided to make the film *Regarding Fame I Can't Complain*, as she herself is one of Zuzana's admirers. „Zuzana Michnová in the 70s was like a miracle to me,“ she says.

“We used to go see her to clubs and it clearly helped us to pass through those difficult times back then. Another reason to make the movie was the fact that she's a great composer and songwriter, her music is beautiful and she's truly special and unique woman. So I believe that making the film is a worthy idea,” the director adds.

Film on the 70s phenomenon of Zuzana Michnová named *Regarding Fame I Can't Complain* will be premiered on August 29 2013 and will be distributed to theatres by CinemArt.

ABOUT ZUZANA MICHNOVÁ AND MARSYAS

Marsyas is one of the most important Czech pop group of the 70s and the 80s. One of their most popular songs is Zmrzlinař, as heard in the movie Pupendo. In 1971 she founded a folk duo with Jiří Jeřábek, a singer and a banjo player. Petr Kalandra, a great blues-influenced guitarist, a singer and a harmonica player later joined them. In 1973, a talented author Oskar Petr took place of Jeřábek. This marks the beginning of the group Marsyas, with Zuzana as a central figure. Nowadays legendary trio Zuzana Michnová, Oskar Petr and Petr Kalandra released their debut album in 1978, that even now remains fresh and inspiring. Though in the following years the band lineup was changing frequently, all following albums exceeded in local folk and rock scene. Zuzana Michnová, one of the best Czech singers and a prolific songwriter, is the only original member of the group who remained in the band in all the periods. Their first eponymous record was released in 1978. Alongside five band albums, Zuzana released a solo album, Rány (1986), featuring Michal Pavlíček and Klaudius Kryšpín. She quit music in 1989 in favour of motherhood, which also meant a pause for the band, though they occasionally performed concerts and re-released some albums.



Last year saw the prolific band making a return, on June 14th 2012 they performed a sold out show at La Fabrika. „I invited all the musicians that have played with me in 40 years,“ the singer says. Alongside Michnová, those who appeared on stage included Michael Kocáb or Oskar Petr, who emigrated to the US in 1979 after working on Marsyas' debut album. Some other former members of the band also appeared on the stage, namely Jiří Vondráček, Jaroslav Olin Nejezchleba and Pavel Skála. The show was also filmed by Jitka Němcová and will be occasionally shown in theatres and released on DVD.

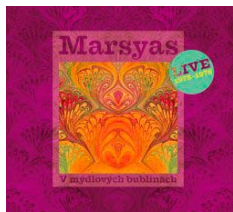
LA FABRIKA
KOMUNARDŮ 30, PRAHA 7 - HOŘEŠOVICE
14/6/2012/19:30

ZUZANA MICHNOVÁ
A HOSTÉ
MICHAL PAVLÍČEK
OSKAR PETR
MICHAEL KOCÁB
MARSYAS

JÍŘÍ VONDŘÁČEK, JAROSLAV OLIN NEJEZCHLEBA
JÍŘÍ CHRYPÝ, PAVEL SKÁLA, JÍŘÍ ZELENKA
DAVID HOLL, JAKUB ZITKO, PETR POKORÝ
SUPPORT: PETR KALANDRA MEMORY BAND

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COTE
10





In the spring of 2013, Galén publishing also released the band's live double-album called „V mýdlových bublinách“, released within the „Olivovníky“ edition.

„I got really upset that our sound engineer let a strange scruff record our show for a bottle of wine. It wasn't even allowed to do, but if that didn't happen, we wouldn't have this live album,“ Michnová adds details of the album production. The album contains previously unreleased songs alongside uncensored songs from between 1973-1978. Early cover versions of Bob Dylan, CSN&Y, Melanie, Fairport Convention and also first examples of original work.



Alongside the album, a book called „Dávám tak ber!“ by musical journalist Vojtěch Lindaur has also been published. It is not only a profile text about the band, but also a collage of Lindaur's memories of meeting the band and its members. It maps the original lineups and albums, depicts the life of Petr Kalandra and Zuzana Michnová in socialist Czechoslovakia, as well as Oskar Petr's life overseas. Memorable stories told by friends, fans and fellow players. Old photographs and documentation, complete discography and essential articles on the band are all included in the book. Thoughts by Vladimír Merta, Jiří Černý, Jan Hrubý, Michal Jupp Konečný and Daniel Fikejz complete the mosaic.



Zuzana Michnová was born on March 31st 1949 in Jihlava, and since she was a little girl, she always wanted to become an actress or a painter. A brush never found its way to her hands, yet she acted in several Czech movies. Nevertheless, the main part of her life has always been music. Zuzana Michnová is not only a singer and a songwriter, but is also one of the most significant figure of Czech folk and rock music. When 12 years old, she joined a choir, then a dance company and even a rock group. Zuzana loves good wine and, as not many people are aware of, she suffers terribly from button-phobia. Zuzana is a spontaneous songwriter, who simply and unexpectedly opens up to share her feelings with great amount of grace to it. Her spontaneously expressed visions are earnest.

ZUZANA MICHNOVÁ INTERVIEWED

Tell us about the main character of Regarding Fame I Can't Complain. Who exactly is Zuzana Michnová?

She's a singer, songwriter, and a married mother of two.

How long do you know Jitka Němcová? Can you tell us about your first meeting?

I've known her for a long time. We first met at some filming for Czech Television - the programme was called Women in jazz and it was a project of Jana Koubková. I was singing my Blues for the evening, but the director focused more on Eva Olmerová.

What in your opinion is typical for Jitka Němcová's process of work?

She's always well prepared and is an eager filmmaker.

In the movie we can see you having sex with members of the band Monkey Business. How did that happen?

By accident a technician sent a cableway carriage up to the terrace of the Mövenpick hotel. We had a deal that we get off it and shoot the scene in the lobby. Eventually it didn't happen and those bastards came up with a naked scene scenario. I was laughing and cursing at them all the time, but I was afraid that Jitka will kill me when the door opens. But we somehow made it.

Few months passed since the filming was done, what are your current plans?

I'm still in the process of making the film, and it seems endless - dubbing, music, posters, etc.

What's your approach to songwriting? What comes first - music or lyrics?

In every case I write text after the music is done - be it mine or someone else's song.

What can we expect from your concerts?

Nice people, my songs and great stories.

If you could choose someone to sing to, who would that be?

I thought about it a lot, but it has to be Bob Dylan.

What is your message to people coming to see Regarding Fame I Can't Complain to a cinema?

Never mind coming in a bad mood, as I believe we can make you laugh.



What was the initial impulse for making a documentary on Zuzana Michnová?
Zuzana Michnová herself, her work, the band Marsyas, their beautiful songs, and memories.

What was it like to direct such persona as Zuzana Michnová?
Same as a professional actress.

How was the pre-production and what was the most difficult part of it?
Preparations didn't differ from any feature narrative film, and there were no difficulties throughout the process.

Does it ever happen, that some spontaneous scenes, that occur on location, and eventually end up in the final cut of the film?

It happened many times, given the fact that it's more or less a documentary, yet the narrative scenes were shot precisely according to the technical script.

What affected the storyline of Regarding Fame I Can't Complain?
Zuzana Michnová, her unexpected energy, discipline and hard work.

What is it like to make a movie about someone, who doesn't let you in her life, as Zuzana claims?

The film is not about tabloid stories, but hard work, inspiration and phantasy.

Seen now from distance, what is the main message of Zuzana's life story?
A great talent.

What about the poster, how does that evolve and who chose the design? Were you involved in it?

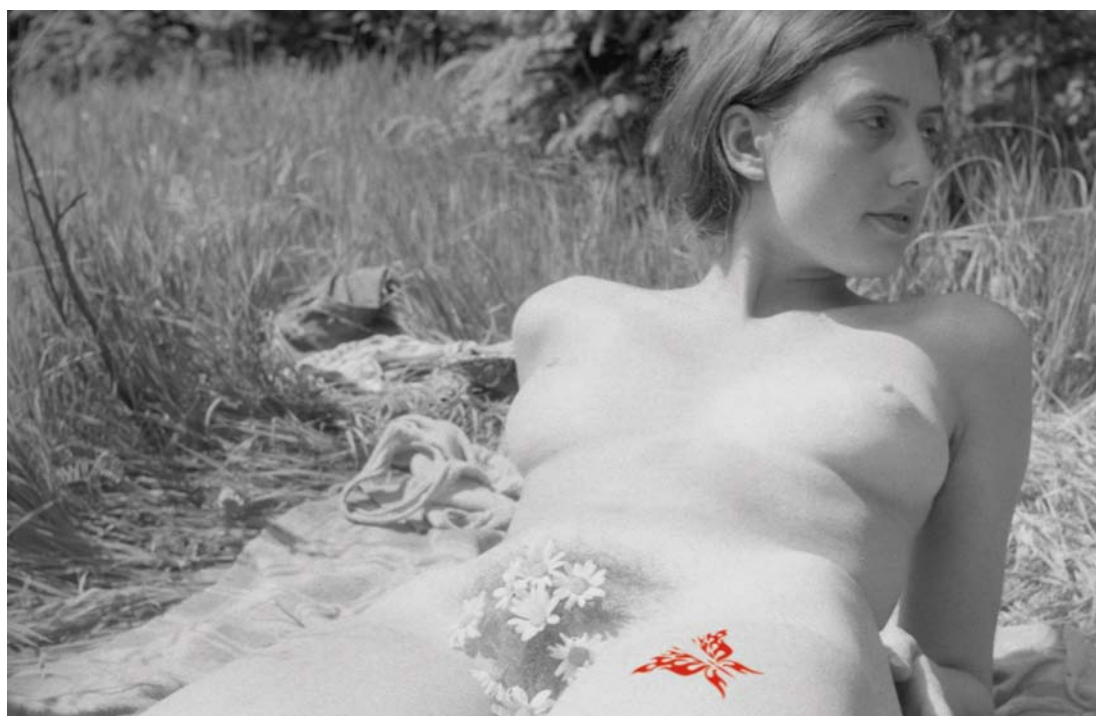
I chose the design after discussions with Zuzana Michnová. It is a reminiscence of the time period we lived in.

Who inspires your work?

All the good movies, currently the work of Luis Bunuel.

What are you planning film-wise? Is there a movie we can look forward to?

I prepare a film based on Maxim Biller's stories. My students from FAMU will also take part in the filming.



CREW

JITKA NĚMCOVÁ WRITER & DIRECTOR

After graduating from FAMU, she left to Rome to work for a famous Italian director Federico Fellini. She works on various projects for the Czech Television - from short story films and fairy tales to entertainment shows (Abeceda, Portréty z not, O babě Hladové, Uctívá poklona, pane Kohn, Hodina pravdy, Seš mrtvej, tak nebreč), but also documentary series and live broadcasts (Noc s Andělem). Her trademark genre is seemingly live-broadcasted narrative documentary with bits of mystery to it. Uninformed viewer can't figure out, whether he's watching fictional story or reality (Taneční zábava). She's a lecturer at Prague's FAMU and was a wife of Otakar Vávra, a well-known director who recently deceased.

DIVIŠ MAREK DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

One of the most acknowledged cinematographers of his generation (born 1964). Graduated from FAMU with the film Akáty bílé (1996). He's been awarded with Český Lev for the film Štěstí (2005) and nominated for the price for the film ...a bude hůř (2007). As a cinematographer he's worked on such films as Čtyři slunce (2012), Jarmareční bouda (2010), Klub osamělých srdcí (2010), Zemský ráj to na pohled (2009), Venkovský učitel (2008), Kuličky (2007), Hrušeň a Mareš jsou kamarádi do deště (2005), Nuda v Brně (2003), Divoké včely (2001) etc.

JAN DAŇHEL EDITING

Author of photographs for the book Krajina a revoluce. Editor, lecturer at FAMU and a member of the Group of Czech and Slovakian surrealists. He's an author of many solo photographic exhibitions, among others the Vědecký rozhovor (with J.Sádl), he contributes to the Analogon magazine. As an editor, he's worked on following films: Čtyři slunce (2012), Nebe, peklo (2010), Pokoj v duši (2009), Venkovský učitel (2007), Václav (2008), Štěstí (2005), Divoké včely (2001).

RADIM HLADÍK JR. SOUND

Radim Hladík's name is a trademark in Czech music business. Given not only by his father's legendary band Blue Effect, but the fact that his son is no disgrace either. He chose the path of mixing desks lit by the film screen. Radim is a sound engineer, who certainly aims for perfection in this field. His success precedes the words. He's been awarded the Český lev for best sound of such movies as Zapomenuté světlo (1996), Je třeba zabít Sekala (1997) and Eliška má ráda divočinu (1999). With the film Amerika (1994), he pioneered the use of computers for sound engineering in the Czech Republic. He participated on following films: Amerika (1994), Anděl Exit (2000), Rebelové (2001), Mazaný Filip (2003), Jarmareční bouda (2010), Rodina je základ státu (2011) and many others.

KAREL HALOUN AND LUDĚK KUBÍK GRAPHIC DESIGN

Karel Haloun graduated from the High Art School (1967–1971) and the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design, where he has been teaching since 2005. He devotes himself mainly to graphic design, illustration and free art. Ever since 1996, he has been working in tandem with Luděk Kubík. He was an external, associated member of the graphic studio Side2 in the years 2004–2008; since 2008 he has been a member of the graphic affiliation 3-rd Workshop. He has earned various awards for his work, such as the Czech Grand Design 2006 (along with Tomáš Machek and

Luděk Kubík), the Graphic Work of the Year in 2009 for his portrait of Mejla Hlavsa of the Plastic People of the Universe, or several awards in the Most Beautiful Book of the Year contest, most recently in 2011 (with Jan Čumlivský). In 2006, he was inducted into the Beat Hall of Fame with the rock group Jasná páka/Hudba Praha, being an unperforming member of the band. His works are included in the collections of the National Gallery, the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, the Moravian Gallery in Brno and many other public and private collections here and abroad.

Luděk Kubík graduated from the Technical High School in Chomutov (1979–1983) and studied at the Engineering College of Plzeň (1983–1987), which he did not finish. From 1988 until 1991, he was a member of the samizdat magazine Teplický Vogel. In 1991, he joined the AG studio of the Lidové Noviny Publishing. Ever since 1996, he has been working in tandem with Karel Haloun. He was awarded many prizes for his work, often while collaborating with Karel Haloun. For instance, the Most Beautiful Book of the Year (2002, 2003), Photographic Publication of the Year (2003), the Critics' Prize at the XXI. Bienále Brno, the Czech Grand Design 2006 (along with Tomáš Machek and Karel Haloun) and other citations. He has participated in many exhibitions, notably his collaborative show with Karel Haloun at the Archa Theatre (2000), at Zlin's Fórum Gallery (2000) or at the Ten-Up exhibit in Brno's Místodržitelský Palace. His works are included in the collections of the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague and the Moravian Gallery in Brno.

Karel Haloun and Luděk Kubík did not design the poster for the movie.

PETR KOZA PRODUCER

In 2002 he graduated from the Střední průmyslová škola sdělovací techniky in Prague, dept. of Sound & image technology. After studying at Soukromá vyšší odborná škola filmová in Písek, he was accepted for FAMU in 2003, dept. of production. Besides numerous student short films, he's been working as executive producer since 2005. He's been working on feature film production for the Czech producer Čestmír Kopecký. (e.g.A bude hůř, Zlatá šedesátá, Kuličky, Babička), for Biokissfilm s.r.o. (e.g. Jarmareční bouda, Živý mrtvý, Haškovy povídky). In 2009 he debuted as producer with the documentary film Longplay about music cover design. He's associated with Andrej Krob from Divadlo Na Tahu, whom with he made a short TV documentary Zvláštní vydání (2010), and in participation with HBO and WakeForest he produced a feature documentary Za světlem tmou (2012). Together with Ing. Ivan Krátký, he founded a new production company Bio Art Production s.r.o. in 2011 with focus on feature films and documentaries.

IVO KRÁTKÝ PRODUCENT

Střední průmyslové školy filmové in Čimelice graduate, founder and CEO of the Euroclaim Praha s.r.o. investment company, in 2011 he founded a production company Bio Art Production s.r.o. with focus on feature films and documentaries, but also to support emerging young fine artists. In 2012 he supported the making of a feature documentary Za světlem tmou (dir. Pavel Bureš) and co-produced the film 7 hříchů (dir. Jiří Chlumský). In 2013 he produced the film 5 Rules, directed by Vavřinec Menšíl and currently is finishing some interesting productions, such as Regarding Fame I Can't Complain, The Mystery of Sklep Theatre, Mánes on the Waterfront or Zejtra napořád.



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

RUNTIME 94 min.

TECHNOLOGY AVC Intra, Panasonic AG HPX 250E camera, P2 card

IMAGE 16:9

SOUND 5.0 and stereo 2.0

MASTER HD CAM/DCP/ Blu-ray disc

PREMIERE August 28th, 2013

DISTRIBUTION from August 29th, 2013


CO-PRODUCER

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www.bioartproduction.cz

Bio Art Production s.r.o. is a new production company founded in 2011. It's main focus is production and co-production of Czech audiovisuals projects of all types and genres, mostly feature films and documentaries. They also focus on realization of young emerging artists' works as well as exhibitions, concerts and occasional theme-specific screenings.

LIST OF BIO ART PRODUCTION REALIZATIONS

ZEJTRA NAPOŘÁD Romantic roadmovie comedy by Rudolf Havlík about a man, who decided to change his life. Production

5 RULES Feature documentary by Vavřínek Menší. In theatres from March 2013

THE MYSTERY OF SKLEP THEATRE Save-the-world manual: feature narrated documentary about the end of the world and the Sklep Theatre. Written and directed by Olga Dabrowská. Production

MÁNES ON THE WATERFRONT Feature time-lapse documentary about a famous Prague gallery and its transformation in time. Written and directed by Vladimír Škultéty. Production

FLANNEL POKER – MILLIONAIRE FROM O BLOCK OF FLATS Documentary about a game balancing between sport and hazard. Written and directed by Lukáš Landa, Production