



Film

BAM presents *The Anarchic Cinema of Věra Chytilová*, Apr 10—18, a celebration of the radically inventive Czech filmmaker

March 7, 2019/Brooklyn, NY—From Wednesday, April 10 through Thursday, April 18, BAM presents *The Anarchic Cinema of Věra Chytilová*, the most extensive retrospective dedicated to the radical Czech filmmaker in New York in 20 years, along with work by a new generation of filmmakers mentored by Chytilová. The series is co-presented by the Czech Film Fund, and will include imported prints and restored DCPs from the Czech National Film Archive.

One of the most aesthetically and politically daring filmmakers of the Czechoslovak New Wave, Chytilová (1929—2014) garnered international acclaim for her gonzo, anarcho-feminist classic *Daisies*, which—despite censorship in her homeland—was awarded the Grand Prix at the Bergamo Film Festival in Italy. While few of her other films are currently well-known in the US, Chytilová was a prolific filmmaker who left behind a decade- and genre-spanning, strikingly singular body of work that confronts patriarchy, capitalism, and government repression with wit and visual panache.

The series begins with Chytilová's stunning first feature, *Something Different* (1963), a radical landmark of feminist cinema that intercuts two parallel stories: a documentary about an Olympic gymnast and a narrative story of an alienated housewife, all in offbeat style with subversive social commentary. Other early works include her verité-meets-New Wave graduate film, based on her own experiences as a fashion model, *Ceiling* (1962), screening with the shorts *A Bagful of Fleas* (1962) and *Automat Svět* (1966); her internationally recognized masterpiece of raucous female anarchy *Daisies* (1966); and her ravishing political allegory *Fruit of Paradise* (1970).

While Chytilová faced censorship in her early career—*Daisies* was originally banned due to its depiction of food waste—her filmmaking career was effectively suspended for seven years by the Czechoslovak communist regime following the Soviet invasion of 1968, during which time she directed commercials under her husband's name. However, due to low cinema attendance in the mid-70s, the state-run film studio Kratky Film Praha invited Chytilová to return to directing, beginning with 1977's commercially successful battle-of-the-sexes farce *The Apple Game* (1977).

While Chytilová's post-60's career work remains largely underseen, her films between the 70s and 2000s retain her iconic sense of experimentation and rebellion. Films include the satirical, tragicomic portrait of a Communist housing complex *Panelstory* (1980); the expressionistic portrait of medieval political-sexual gamesmanship *The Jester and the Queen* (1982); the merciless skewering of male sexual wish fulfillment *The Very Late Afternoon of a Faun* (1983); and the gonzo teen horror film *Wolf's Hole* (1987). Later works include the irreverent capitalist satire (a cult classic in the Czech Republic) *The Inheritance or Fuckoffguysgoodday* (1992); the edgy rape revenge farce *Traps* (1998); and her unhinged final film, the black comic psychodrama *Pleasant Moments* (2006).

In recognition of her long career as a professor at Prague's legendary FAMU film school, the series will also include a selection of films by a new generation of filmmakers mentored by Chytilová. Films include a documentary about Chytilová herself, *Journey* (Blažević, 2003); Olmo Omerzu's ironic melodrama of family implosion *Family Film* (2015); the fearlessly feminist indictment of sexual assault and the Slovak mental health system *Filthy* (Nvotová, 2017); and the biting comedy of quarter-life anxiety *Dreamers* (Rudolfová, 2009).

For further press information, please contact:
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[The Anarchic Cinema of Věra Chytilová Complete Schedule:](#)



Film

Wed, Apr 10

7pm: *Something Different*
9:30pm: *Journey*

Thu, Apr 11

7pm: *Fruit of Paradise*
9:30pm: *Family Film*

Fri, Apr 12

7pm: *Daisies*
9pm: *Jester and the Queen*

Sat, Apr 13

4:15pm: *Panelstory*
6:30pm: *Wolf's Hole*
8:45pm: *The Inheritance or Fuckoffguysgoodday*

Sun, Apr 14

3pm: *The Very Late Afternoon of a Faun*
5:15pm: *The Apple Game*
7:30pm: *Filthy*

Mon, Apr 15

9:30pm: *Dreamers*

Tue, Apr 16

7pm: *Traps*
9:45: *Daisies*

Wed, Apr 17

7pm: *Calling + A Bagful of Fleas + Automat Svět*
9:30pm: *Daisies*

Thu, Apr 18

7pm: *Pleasant Moments*
9:30pm: *Daisies*

About BAM Film

Since 1998 BAM Rose Cinemas has been Brooklyn's home for alternative, documentary, art-house, and independent films. Combining new releases with year-round repertory program, the four-screen venue hosts new and rarely seen contemporary films, classics, work by local artists, and festivals of films from around the world, often with special appearances by directors, actors, and other guests. BAM has hosted major retrospectives of filmmakers like Spike Lee, Chantal Akerman, John Carpenter, Manoel de Oliveira, Luis Buñuel, King Hu, and Vincente Minnelli (winning a National Film Critics' Circle Award prize for the retrospective), and hosted the first US retrospectives of directors Arnaud Desplechin, Hong Sang-soo, Andrzej Zulawski, and Jiang Wen. Since 2009 the program has also produced BAMcinemaFest, New York's home for American independent film, and has championed the work of filmmakers like Janicza Bravo, Andrew Dosunmu, Lena Dunham, and Alex Ross Perry. The 12-day festival of New York premieres, now in its 11th year, runs from June 12—23, 2019.

Credits:

Leadership support for BAM Film programs provided by The Thompson Family Foundation

Support for A Year of Resistance, amplifying marginalized voices in cinema, provided by The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences



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BAM Rose Cinemas would also like to acknowledge the generous support of The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, Brooklyn Delegation of the New York City Council, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, and Bloomberg

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Your tax dollars make BAM programs possible through funding from the City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. The BAM facilities are owned by the City of New York and benefit from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with support from Mayor Bill de Blasio; Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl; the New York City Council including Council Speaker Corey Johnson, Finance Committee Chair Julissa Ferreras, Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, Councilmember Laurie Cumbo, and the Brooklyn Delegation of the Council; and Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams. BAM would like to thank the Brooklyn Delegations of the New York State Assembly, Joseph R. Lentol, Delegation Leader; and New York Senate, Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

Special thanks to: Co-presented by the Czech Film Fund.

General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place (between Lafayette Ave and Hanson Place), houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas features first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater) D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue
 Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center
 Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.