

**Václav Marhoul has completed the second stage of shooting the Painted Bird**

The second stage of shooting the adaptation of the global bestseller by Jerzy Kosiński **The Painted Bird** directed by **Václav Marhoul** comprising seven stages in total has been completed. During the first half of June, the crew worked in Slovakia, specifically in locations near the Váh river, then in the Mlýnská dolina studios in Bratislava, and finally in Malý Dunajec, where an old watermill operates to this day. The famous actor **Udo Kier** took part in the shooting in Slovakia.



*“Naturally, working with **Udo Kier** was a premiere for me as I had the opportunity to work with such famous and excellent actor for the first time in my life. He was incredibly perceptive, sensitive and always ready. He offered new ideas, yet at the same time modestly adjusted to anything I asked of him. I was also amazed by the fact that before we started shooting in a new environment, for example in the interior of the watermill, he always asked to stay in the location by himself for as long as one hour. To feel the new environment and, as he said, to have a good sniff of the place. Udo’s performance was supported marvellously by the acting talents of two Czech actors, **Míša Doležalová** and **Zdeněk Pecha**. And I must not forget our main child actor, **Petr Kotlár**. At the beginning, he felt a little jealous, especially of Udo, because I shot many scenes just with him, Míša and Zdeněk. Everything settled down naturally after a while. It was delightful to watch them act together,”* the director, scriptwriter and producer **Václav Marhoul** adds.

The crew moved to the Ralsko conservation area for the entire second half of June to shoot the scenes from the part of the film entitled Lech and Ludmila. Lech is played by the Polish actor **Lech Dyblik** and **Jitka Čvančarová** appears in the role of Ludmila.

*“I had other excellent actors to work with. I gave the role to **Lech Dyblik** immediately, purely intuitively a couple of years ago in Berlin, when he came for a quick visit by car from Warsaw. From our first meeting that evening, he perfectly embodied my expectations of the character and his energy. Some of the scenes were tremendously hard, especially for **Jitka Čvančarová**. Quite frankly – I take my hat off to her. She suffered incredibly in some of the scenes, which were shot in very hot conditions, and she refused her stunt double, saying that she would act the scenes herself. She never complained in the least and endured everything. She was truly wonderful,” **Václav Marhoul** adds.*



The preparation for the **third stage of the shooting** is in full swing at the moment. Most of the planned shooting days in August will be in Brdy in the Rokycany region, near Konstantinovy lázně, and around Český Krumlov. Another star of a global format, **Stellan Skarsgaard** is coming to join us for a part of the shooting.

**Making of / Photo PP:**

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## **The Painted Bird**

Trying to protect their child from the mass extermination of Jews, a Jewish couple sends their son to a relative in the countryside somewhere in Eastern Europe. However, the boy's aunt dies unexpectedly and the child is forced to set out on a lone journey through the wild and hostile world governed only by local rules, prejudices and superstitions. When the war ends, his fight for physical survival is replaced by a different kind of a fight. A battle he may not even be aware of, a battle with himself, a battle for his soul, his future...

**Jerzy Kosiński** (1933 Łódź – 1991 New York) drew inspiration for his first novel from his own experience and traumas – he was forced to hide in the Polish countryside during the war due to his Jewish background. Kosiński borrowed the title “The Painted Bird” from the rural environment. This expression refers to a custom once popular in the countryside – people used to catch birds and painted their feathers in striking colours. After this, they released the painted bird back into its original environment. However, the other birds would never accept the painted bird back. It would be perceived as an enemy, a foreign element in the flock, and was pecked to death. The main character in the novel feels like a painted bird, as he encounters fear, scorn and cruelty all the time and everywhere simply because he is different. The main character of the novel is a young boy, who himself is THE PAINTED BIRD.

### **Václav Marhoul**

**The Painted Bird** is the third feature film for Václav Marhoul (1960, Praha) as the scriptwriter, producer and director. His previous film, *Mazaný Filip* (Smart Philip, 2003) and in particular *Tobruk* (2008) received numerous Czech and international awards. He was also involved in the production of films *Pražská pětka* (Prague Five, 1989) and *Kouř* (Smoke, 1990), and was the producer of the film *Postel* (Bed, 1998). Václav Marhoul graduated from FAMU, specialising in production, and worked successively for Czech Television, Short Film, and AB Barrandov Film Studios first as Assistant Producer and later from 1990 to 1997 as the General Director. In 1997, he established his own company Silver Screen s.r.o., focusing on the creation of feature films and organising theatre and visual arts events.

**Production:** Silver Screen, s.r.o.

**Czech co-producers:** Czech Television  
Eduard Kučera  
Vladimír Mařík and Karel Kraus (Certicon)

**Foreign co-producers:** Directory Films (Ukraine)  
PubRes (Slovakia)  
Rozhlas a televízia Slovenska (Slovakia)  
Film Produkcja (Poland)

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