

**Václav Marhoul has completed the third stage of shooting The Painted Bird**

The third stage of the seven stages involved in shooting the adaptation of the global bestseller by Jerzy Kosiński **The Painted Bird** directed by **Václav Marhoul** has been completed. Starting at the beginning of August, the crew worked first in the woods in the Brdy hills, moving on to a location in the Řepora open-air folk museum, then to the area around the Korkyně village near Slapy dam and finally to the surroundings of Konstantinovy Lázně spa town, where another global film star, **Stellan Skarsgaard** joined the crew after the June engagement of **Udo Kier**.



*“Working with **Stellan** has been magnificent. He was always highly focused and attentive to everything concerning his role while shooting. During free time or during pauses between shots, he was incredibly forthcoming, made jokes, and always managed to amuse the crew unexpectedly. He had no star mannerism whatsoever or any excessive requirements. On the contrary. He patiently endured the strong heat, in which we shot his scenes with the main child actor, **Peter Kotlár**, sat with the others in the catering and obliged all requests for interviews with any of the invited journalists. The days we have spent working together have been magnificent and unforgettable for me. I think that acting side by side with **Stellan** has also been a special experience for the actor **Dominik Weber**, whose latest roles have placed him in the position of the rising star of the German film industry. He has also been perfectly prepared and wonderful,”* the director, scriptwriter, and producer **Václav Marhoul** says.

The shooting of the third stage was concluded at locations near Český Krumlov town, specifically on a section of railway tracks between the Polná and Polečnice stations, where the most demanding shots from the technical perspective so far were completed. This required cooperation with the Czech Rail and SŽDC (the national railway infrastructure manager), and the involvement of a vintage steam engine, historical carriages, draisines, stuntmen, and dozens of extras.

*“Once again, I selected Czech and Slovak actors for the other roles. **Milan Šimáček** accepted the role of the owner of an injured horse, **Martin Nahálka**, who performed for me excellently as sergeant Borný in **Tobruk**, took on the role of the partisan leader, and **Irena Máchová** was most persuasive as the Jewish woman with a child. They all performed magnificently, to my utmost satisfaction,” **Václav Marhoul** adds.*



The preparation of the **fourth stage of shooting** will be in full swing at the beginning of September. All of the planned shooting days in November will be centred again around Český Krumlov town, specifically in nearby Czech Army Military Area and in the surroundings of Boletice village. The final negotiations to confirm the engagement of the third global film star – **Harvey Keitel** are currently underway for this part of the shooting. The Russian actor, **Aleksei Kravchenko**, who appeared as the main character in one of the most famous films of the global film industry – **Come and See** by **Elem Klimov**, has also confirmed his interest in acting.

**Making of:**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/123594378@No4/albums/72157682177595995/page3>

## **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

**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)

**Supported by:** Czech State Cinematography Fund  
Creative Europe – MEDIA  
Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic  
Slovak Audiovisual Fund  
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