

Václav Marhoul has completed the fourth phase of filming *The Painted Bird*

Director **Vaclav Marhoul** has just completed the fourth of the seven stages of filming the adaptation of **Jerzy Kosiński's** world-renowned bestseller ***The Painted Bird***. In the first three weeks in November the crew shot the first footage in the town of Český Krumlov, then they moved to the surroundings of St. Mikuláš's Church near Boletice village, followed by the Žežulka, Nature Reserve close to the town of Hartmanice in the Sušice District. After a week of filming they returned to the Český Krumlov area, specifically to Blanenský Forest and its highest peak Kleť. The last clapper to fall on this filming phase was once again in the vicinity of the church in Boletice. Following on from performances by **Udo Kier** and **Stellan Skarsgaard**, two more greats of the film world have become involved. **Harvey Keitel** and **Julian Sands**.



"Naturally both of them played their parts wonderfully. What's more they had to speak their dialogues in Church Slavonic, so they had other things to concentrate on than just their acting. In order to do so, they both had a month of sound recordings prior to filming, as well as a video which showed a totally different lip sync, the movement of the lips and mouth, compared to that if they had spoken in their native language of English. Likewise, during every day of preparing and filming Harvey Keitel also had a language coach and they went through everything well in advance. Otherwise, it was a very good directorial experience working with Harvey, as he is an actor who, through his approach and relationship to the role, grew up in the famous Actors Studio, a school dedicated to teaching professional actors, theatre directors and dramatists. Right from the beginning he focused on the so-called Stanislavski method, based on a psychoanalytical breakdown of the motivations in the character to be portrayed. This requires the actor to discover the essential nature of the character within themselves. So Harvey approached his role in precisely this way during the preparation and filming," added **Václav Marhoul**.



The preparations for the **fifth phase of filming**, scheduled for the end of February 2018, will begin at the start of December. However, until then it is still necessary to find its main actress. Due to the fact that it is a Slovak coproduction, she must be from Slovakia.

“Normally, I choose an actor right away, or on the basis of a personal visit to some theatre performances. This time, however, I have to resort to what I really hate - a public audition. The problem lies in the fact that the role is not so much a woman but a girl. I see this character being about 15 years old. So it’s impossible to see such a young actress playing in a professional theatre. So, for over a month now, the Slovak production team has been taking photos and making videos of students from the drama schools in Košice, Martin, Nitra and Bratislava to give me a basic selection. The casting itself will take place in mid-December in Bratislava,” added **Václav Marhoul**.

Another location that has been chosen for filming is the inaccessible and wild bank of the Lipno Dam. However, so that the crew can get the right scenes, it needs a proper winter.

“We need Lipno to freeze over and to have snow in the surrounding forests. If the winter won’t provide this, then we will have to travel somewhere to get it. Maybe to northern Poland. Or even further north,” explained **Václav Marhoul**.

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
Ukrainian State Film Agency

Partners / Service suppliers:

České dráhy, a.s. (Czech Railways)
Ministertvo obrany ČR (Ministry of Defense)
Česká Podnikatelská Pojišťovna (Insurance company)

General sponsors: Jiří Rain, Petr Žaluda

Sponsors: Robert Bárta, Daniela Řepová, Jan Sýkora, Evan Zohav Lazar, Josef Koller

Contacts

Official web: <http://www.nabarveneptace.cz/?lang=en>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ThePaintedBirdMovie>

Media representation for the CR:

2media.cz s.r.o., Pařížská 13, Prague 1

www.2media.cz

[Facebook 2media.cz](#)

[Instagram 2media.cz](#)