



Karlovy Vary
International Film Festival

Festival Daily

THE OFFICIAL ENGLISH DAILY OF THE 44TH KARLOVY VARY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

SPECIAL EDITION OF
PRÁVO

Saturday, July 11, 2009

free • page 7

Today's program

page 6, 11, 12

Introducing the KVIFF
Grand Jury

page 8

day
9

What they said this
year at KVIFF

page 10

DIVÁČKÁ CENA / AUDIENCE AWARD
DENÍKU **PRÁVO**

Vote for the best film of the 44th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival!
page 2

I'm going to have a blast with Woody!

Antonio Banderas discusses upcoming projects and being kissed by Robert De Niro

Veronika Bednářová

Spanish-born actor Antonio Banderas belongs to a select band of foreign-born thespians who have made it big in both their own country and America. After making a name for himself in Pedro Almodóvar's *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* and *Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down*, he went on to star in major Hollywood productions such as *The Mask of Zorro*, *Evita* and *Spy Kids*. His upcoming projects include a new Woody Allen picture and the Shrek spin-off *Puss in Boots*. Banderas was at KVIFF this week to accept the festival's President's Award. He also presented *Summer Rain* yesterday, which he himself directed.

■ **You and Picasso are probably the two most famous people to come from Málaga...**

He's more famous than me. I like him very much. At a certain point in my life it became almost an obsession in the way that I saw this figure bigger than life and I was thinking all the time, "He came from the streets of Málaga. If he made it, I can make it. It's possible." I now have two Picassos. I have them in Los Angeles.

■ **You've lived in Hollywood for almost 25 years now. What have you learned in that time?**

Basically I see myself as the same guy who left Málaga – but it's not true. That is actually an illusion. I have learned not so much about my professional life, I have learned about life itself, about relationships with other people, about family, about fatherhood. I have learned about the world, how to look at it. Now, I see people for what they are, not for what they do. For me, the university of Hollywood was about life, not about acting.



Photo: Michaela Říhová

Spanish actor Antonio Banderas who received the KVIFF President's Award yesterday.

■ **I think when you and Melanie Griffith got married, nobody expected you to become one of the most stable couples in Hollywood...**

Yeah, people didn't give a penny for us as a couple.

■ **Was it that bad?**

Bad! People were making bets. They were just making bets in magazines saying that we were not going to last more than six

months or something. I should have taken those bets. I would have made a lot of money. But we both came from very strong relationships in our previous marriages, and we learned from that and so we based our relationship on everyday living and the fact that love changes and you shouldn't be afraid of that. People are very orgasmic nowadays. They are looking for the first

rush, everything that is pink, very strong, and then when that disappears they feel empty. But they will never get what I do have.

■ **Which is...?**

Which is spooning at night, that kind of thing. Feeling comfortable with a person, so that you start feeling that you and this person are the same thing, and that you have the same objectives...

■ **Are there any directors you'd still like to work with?**

Yeah. Many. I would have loved to have the opportunity to work with Bertolucci, for example. I remember when I saw *Novecento*. I was 19 years old at the time and he impressed me enormously. I thought it was a fantastic way of telling a story... Woody [Allen] is actually one of the directors that I always wanted to work with. I admire him very much – not just as a movie director, but as a writer too ... I love the way this guy looks at life, so I'm going to have a blast with him. Definitely.

■ **I'm sure he'll like the way you look at life.**

I don't know! When I get in front of legends of that magnitude, I get a little bit shy. He's already directing and it's an ensemble movie with a lot of actors. I don't know if I'm actually going to have the time to approach him and talk to him about things. I don't know! I really don't know.

■ **Who else would you call a legend?**

David Lynch is one of my heroes along with Orson Welles and Stanley Kubrick... As an actor – Robert De Niro. You know, the night of the Oscars this year, I was at a party in Madonna's house and there was a lot of people there, Mick Jagger, everybody... and Robert De Niro appears at some point... I didn't really know him so I approached him and said, "Man, you have to know, I have to tell you, you know, how much I love your work, how much I loved it when you did *Raging Bull*, *Novecento*, *Taxi Driver*, blah, blah, blah." And I finish talking and he just was looking at me and didn't say anything and suddenly he catches me, he simply catches my face and he just kisses me. I left, I thought, "That's cool! Very Italian..."

THE LOWDOWN

Festival press conferences can often be fraught affairs, as testy journo indulges in **showing matches with paparazzi** and frantically rack their brains for **an intelligent question** that hasn't yet been asked.

In fairness, they're no more fun for the celebs than they are for us – and often even more hazardous. At the **Antonio Banderas** presser yesterday at KVIFF, he appeared improbably relaxed and spontaneous in front of the blazing lights and throngs of journo. He soon looked just a bit perplexed, however, when it transpired that the wireless headset he was wearing in order to hear Czech-language questions translated into English was just sending out **electronic squawks**.

Being a resourceful and devil-may-care fellow, he simply tossed off the headset and invited his moderator to translate live. She soon got help when the translator herself came up to sit at Banderas's side. So who says that job doesn't have attractive fringe benefits?

Verbal glitches can also wreak havoc, of course, as Festival TV's **Ian Willoughby** discovered at a morning video interview with writer/director **Paul Schrader** this week. Apparently exhausted from long festival days (and nights), Willoughby stumbled a bit over the word "reverential" in his question. He gamely tried it again, stumbled worse, then got the inevitable jangled, celeb-interview nerves (amazing the power these folk have over even seasoned reporters) and flubbed the word completely.

Gleefully seizing on this, Schrader taunted, "You've absolutely f**ked yourself now." Fortunately, after that icebreaker, the interview went swimmingly and viewers were never the wiser. Such is show biz, folks...

SEE YOU THERE

Jiří Bartoška

KVIFF president

Today I certainly would not miss this year's winner from Cannes, Michael Haneke's *The White Ribbon*. I have heard from my colleagues that it is an incredibly powerful film. After the screening at Cannes nobody doubted this Austrian director would win the Palme d'Or.

Every new film by Jim Jarmusch is an event and we are very happy to have his unusual crime story *The Limits of Control* in this year's program. I would love to see the outstanding actor Isaach De Bankolé, who is one of our guests at this year's festival.

The White Ribbon screens today at 10am in the Espace Dorleans Cinema. You can also catch *The Limits of Control* today at 3:30pm in the Čas Cinema.



THE KNOWLEDGE

Who gets a Crystal Globe?

The highest honor conferred by KVIFF is, of course, the vaunted Crystal Globe. Several others can be awarded, from the President's Award, which actor Antonio Banderas will depart Karlovy Vary with, to kudos (as they're known in the film industry bible, *Variety*) for audience favorite or for creating a body of work recognized in a tribute that screens a filmmaker's best stuff.

Many awards are identical in appearance to the official Crystal Globe, while others look like slightly smaller versions. For the record, though, the only folk who take that walk down the aisle to an officially sanctioned Crystal Globe, either tonight for the televised closing gala, or earlier in the week in the case of busy movie stars, are: Official Selection winners for best feature film and the recipients of the Outstanding Contribution to World Cinema awards (this year that's John Malkovich, Isabelle Huppert and Czech master animator Jan Svankmajer). All the other awards, for best director, actor and actress, best documentary under 30 minutes and over 30 minutes and East of the West section best film are look-alikes. And, as KVIFF program director Julietta Sichel explains, only one film from each nation can be considered to compete in the Official Selection – and then, only if it's a premiere that has not been in the running at any other international festival.

As for the legendary orb itself, it has been an icon of KVIFF for years but had a makeover in 2000, when art photographer Tono Stano, along with Aleš Najbrt, Michal Caban and Šimon Caban, created the current form of the nude woman raising the globe to the heavens, with the statuette designed by Martin Krejzlík. And the luminous glass is crafted by the world-famous, old Czech crystal company Moser, naturally.

