

Document Citation

Title	Tonsure
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Toronto International Film Festival</i>
Date	1981
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	19
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	Hrabal, Bohumil (1914), Brno, Czechoslovakia Menzel, Jirí (1938), Prague, Czechoslovakia
Film Subjects	Postriziny (Cutting it short), Menzel, Jirí, 1981 Ostre sledované vlaky (Closely watched trains), Menzel, Jirí, 1966



Tonsure **(Short Cut)**

Czechoslovakia 1981

Director Jiri Menzel

Production Company Barrandov Studios

Screenplay Bohumil Hrabal, Jiri Menzel based on Hrabal's story by the same name

Cinematography Jaromir Sofr

Editor Jiri Brozek

Music Jiri Sust

Principal Cast Jiri Schmitzer, Magda Vasaryova, Jaromir Hanzlik, Rudolf Hrusinsky

98 minutes

North American Premiere

Toronto
Film Fest '81

Jiri Menzel was a leading figure in the "liberal spring" of Czech cinema in the late 1960's. He made his debut as a director with the classic *Closely Watched Trains*, a film famous for its earthy, black humour which won an Oscar as the best foreign film of 1966. Menzel's visual style is straightforward and uncomplicated, with little camera movement and a great deal of detail in each frame.

Short Cut is based on a novel by Bohumil Hrabal. It's not so much a terrific story as a terrifically *told* story. Its comedy – there are some very funny moments – is based more on good direction than on clever plot twists. In the balmy, idyllic days of the Austrian empire, before the outbreak of the first World War a somewhat mismatched couple run a large brewery. He is serious and nervous; she is impulsive and "too-lively" – and a bit of a tart. The film deals primarily with their frustrations in running the brewery, the presence of a loud-mouthed rapacious brother and the arrival of the village's first radio, an event which threatens the sedentary life of the hamlet, threatening to push it, buttermilk and borscht, into the twentieth century.

Monday 14 Sept. 8:30 p.m. Elgin

Wednesday 16 Sept. 9:30 p.m. Fox