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Edith Kramer
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Dear Edith:

Enclosed is the information which Vojtech Jasny wanted me to pass along to you. Included are a brief biography, his resume, a copy of a recent Washington Post article on Vojtech, and a description of his films screened at the Montreal Film Festival in 1980.

As you may know, not all of Vojtech's films are available. Fortunately, Vojtech does own a representation of his best work. All My Good Countrymen is in 16mm, Czech with English subtitles, and is in very good condition. Czech Rhapsody is in 35mm with no dialogue, only music, and likewise is in very good condition. The Clown, and Attempted Escape, both are in 35mm, German with English subtitles, and both are excellent prints. The Return is in 16mm, German with French subtitles, and is in poor condition. The Cat is in 16mm, Czech with French subtitles, and also in poor condition. These represent the only films of Vojtech's I have seen; I am quite sure no others are available, but you may want to check with Vojtech if something in his resume catches your eye.

My recommendation to you is to show Countrymen and Czech Rhapsody on one night, for they are companion pieces as well as the culmination of his work in Czechoslovakia. The Clown and Attempted Escape would be a fine double feature for the other evening of screenings. Both are excellent and highly entertaining films, and show a much different director at work than the films of his Czech period. The Clown and Attempted Escape were made at a similar time in West Germany. I may add that The Clown is my very favorite of Vojtech's films.

VOJTECH JASNY

Phone: 212-866-1196 (home)

Director/Writer

FILM/TELEVISION/THEATRE

Butler Hall
400 West 119 Street
NEW YORK, NY
10027

Residence ~~(212) 864-0200~~
Columbia (212) 280-2842
University Office or-2659

Languages: English, Czech, German, French, Russian, Serbo-Croatian

MOTION PICTURE CREDITS - Director/Writer

"The Suicide" Comedy based on the story by Nikolaj Erdman.
German-Finland Co-production, banned in Russia. 1984

"The Return of the Old Man" Cannes Film Festival 1978
Episode #1 of 2.

"My Late Uncle" Episode #2 of 2. Modern fairy-tales.

✓ "Escape Attempt" Based on the book by Walter Wippersberg. German-Austrian co-production. 1976

✓ "The Clown" Based on the novel by Nobel Laureate Heinrich Böll.
Starring Hanna Schygulla. West German production. 1975

"People and Dogs" Original screenplay by Vojtech Jasny. Produced in Czechoslovakia after Jasny's emigration, directed by Ewald Schorm. 1975

✓ "Czech Rhapsody" Short feature (visual poem) produced for the Osaka World's Fair. 1969

✓ "All My Good Countrymen" Original Screenplay by Vojtech Jasny, who also directed this award-winning story of seven men and one woman who's destinies seem inexplicably interwoven in the politics of change. Cannes Film Festival award. 1969

"The Pipes" Based on the story by Ilja Ehrenberg. Co-produced by Filmstudio Barrandov, Prague and Constantin Film, Munich. 1965

"That Cat" ("Un Jour, Un Chat"/Wenn der Kater Kommt") A comedy musical based on the story of a magic cat who can reveal a human's true nature. Innovative filmmaking introducing new matte techniques. Cannes Film Festival Special Jury Award. 1963

"Pilgrimage to the Virgin" Comedy based on the screenplay by Ladislav Stehlik, about the government take-over of Czech agriculture. Co-author/Director. 1960

"I Survived My Death" Drama about life in the WWII camp Mauthausen. 1960

"Desire" Based on the stages of human life, an episodic film featuring novel structure and powerful cinematic imagery. Cannes Film Festival Award. 1958

"September Nights" Comedy by Pavel Kohout about life and times of the Czech Army. Co-authored with Frank Daniel. 1956

*Films here
was dubbed
print*

- "Everything Ends This Evening" Feature. 1954 (Also Short Features)
- "Fearless" (Czechoslovakia, My Homeland) Documentary 1953
- "People of One Heart" Feature Length Documentary about the people of Communist China. Also "The Chinese Opera" and "The Trip Along the Yang-Tse". 1952
- "Strange Years" Feature Length Documentary about farming becoming a collective venture. 1951
- "Happy Life" Feature Length Documentary about the Congress of Students in Prague. 1950
- "It's Not Always Cloudy" Neo-realist feature. Graduation exercise from FAMU, Prague Film School.

THEATRICAL DIRECTING CREDITS

- "The Idiot" Dostoyevsky Theatre am Kirchplatz Schaan-Liechtenstein and Berlin. 1979-80
- "The Idiot" Dostoyevsky. National Theatre, Helsinki Finland. 1980
- "Marie Fights with the Angels" Pavel Kohout. National Theatre, Bergen, Norway. 1982
- "The Audience" Vernissage/Havel. Thu "Police" Mrozek. 1976
Burgtheater Vienna, Austria.

TELEVISION DIRECTING CREDITS

- "The Miss" Ahlsen & Andric: BR 1980
- "The Ideas of Saint Clara" Massinova/Kohout. ZDF 1980
- "Before the Rooster Crows" Bdkovcan. ZDF. 1979
- "The Night the Boss Got Killed" Kipphardt. ZDF/FB 1979
- "The Chairs of Mr. Szmil" Kipphardt. BR 1/FB 1978
- "The Blind Judge" Based on the scripts of Gunther Kunert. 13 episodes in the life of John Fielding, the blind judge of London in the 18th century. For Windrose and WWF Cologne. 1983
- "My Friend Heinrich Böll" on the 65th Birthday of Nobel Laureate. NFD, Munich and ZDF Mainz. Screenwriter/Director. 1982
- "Hazelnut Bush" Based on the novel by Georges Simenon, starring Heinze Ruhmann, for Objectif Film and ZDF. Screenwriter/Director. 1982
- "Us" Based on the book by Jewgenij Samjatin for Windrose, Hamburg.(ZDF) Director. 1981

VOJTECH JASNY - Director/Writer

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'Herbert von Karajan - Studies' On the 70th birthday of this world-reknown conductor. Director (UNITEL, ZDF, ORF, BBC)

'Mystery of the Sphinx' by Ernest Fuchs. (SA, BR, ORF) Screenwriter/Director 1976

'Trees, Birds and Humans' Director/Writer/Cinematographer. 1975

'Liberties of Boredom' Wellershoff. ZDF, SGR, FB. 1977

'Fairy' Ingrisch. ZDF, FB. 1976

'The Life of the Schizophrenic Poet, Alexander Marz' Kipphardt SA, ZDF, FB. 1974

'The Poodle's Heart' Askenazy. ZDF, ORF, FB. 1974

'Special Peace' Stoppard. SA, ZDF. 1973

'The Lighthouse' Mnacko. ZDF, ORF 1972

'Nasrin - The Art to Dream' Asmodi SA, SWF 1. 1971

'Not Only at Christmastime' Heinrich Boll. SA, ZDF. 1969

TELEVISION WRITING AND DIRECTING CREDITS

'The Dream Dancer' Director and author of original screenplay. SDR 1, 1972.

'The Culturer' Director/Writer based on the the story by Bernhard. SWF 1, 1973

'Spring Flutes' Director/Writer based on the story by Turgenev. SWF 1, 1973.

AWARDS

'The Happy Life' - Czech Government Award 1950

'People of One Heart' Mao-Tse-Tung Award & Czech Government Award 1953

'Desire' and 'Mid-Summer Nights Dream' Cannes Film Festival Awards. 1959

'That Cat' ("Un Jour, Un Chat"/"Wenn der Kater Kommt") Cannes Film Festival Special Jury Prize for Technical Innovation and Color. 1963

'All My Good Countrymen' Cannes Film Festival Best Direction and Technical Achievements. 1969

'The Life of the Schizophrenic Poet, Alexander Marz' the RAI Prix d'Italia 1976
Also awarded 'TV Play of the Month' Award by the Hartman Assoc. 1975

'Escape Attempt' Teheran Bronze Delfan Award at the 13th Int'l. Film Fest. 1975
Also awarded Plaque de la Ville de Paris, at the 20th Festival International de France du Film pour l'Efnat et la Jeunesse. 1977

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AWARDS - (con't)

'Escape Attempt' Prix d'Espagne at the 15 International Children's and Youth Film Competition. 1977

Also Lyon Grand Prix du Festival International Lumiere 1979

'Liberties of Boredom' Hartman Association TV Play of the Month Award. 1978

'The Clown' Heinrich Boll. Awarded the Silver Shell at the 24th International Film Festival, San Sebastian. 1978

Also the Prix d'Espagne of the Spanish Writers and the Athenaeums.

BIBLIOGRAPHY & PUBLICATIONS

'The Film Encyclopedia' Ephriam Katz - biography and list of feature film productions. 1982 USA

'All the Bright Young Men and Women' (A Personal History of the Czech Cinema) Josef Skvoretsky. 1971 Canada

'His Heart Belongs to the Movies: VOJTECH JASNY' AGZ/FFK 10/11-75

'Director of Movies and Television, Vojtech Jasny' AGZ/FFK 16/76

Zeutschel - The TV Archive 1966 usf.

" " - Biographies 1969 usf.

Rhone Publishing Company, Gunther Zeutschel - Karlsruhe.

Various international newsletters - Munich, Salzburg.

PROFESSORIAL POSITIONS

Film Academy, Munich. 1981-82 Teacher. . .

University of Salzburg, Austria. 1973-74 Teacher.

Film Academy of Vienna. 1972-75 Teacher, film directing.

PRESENTLY

Columbia University, New York City. 1984-85 Visiting Professor.

REFERENCES

Milos Forman. Director. Professor - Columbia University, New York.

Frank Daniels. Chairman and Professor - Columbia University, New York.

Ivan Passer. Director. Los Angeles, CA.

AGENT

Robert Lantz - The Lantz Office Incorporated, NYC. (212)586-0200

VOJTECH JASNY - A Short Biography

Internationally reknown for his lyrical style, innovative techniques and sensitive interpretation of complex literature, Vojtech Jasny makes his North American "debut".

Graduate of the Prague Film School which spawned such well-known now American directors such as Milos Forman and Ivan Passer, Vojtech Jasny was their predecessor and for many graduates the influential inspiration for their later works.

His artistic sensibilities were acknowledged when his 1969 feature "All My Good Countrymen" won the Best Director Award at the Cannes Film Festival of that year - and 6 years earlier his innovative technical approach to color film and matting won him Best Technical and a Special Jury Prize at Cannes for "That Cat", a comedy musical.

Following the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia, Jasny made a move to Western Europe where he worked in film and theatre, as well as television, continuing to win a raft of international awards for his work in any medium. As well, he began teaching his craft at Universities in Vienna, Munich and Salzburg.

Due to the politics of his emigration, much of Jasny's original Czech work remains virtually unknown in North America, though most people are familiar with some of his European undertakings such as the film adaptation of Nobel Laureate Heinrich Böll's "The Clown", starring Hanna Schygulla; and his sensitive portrait of conductor Herbert von Karajan, produced by West German Television and BBC.

Exhibiting a style that ranges from comedic to poetic, as Jasny says "Each one is different, each story has its own way of being told", Vojtech Jasny's early studies in philosophy no doubt underscore his ability to evoke deep emotions as his camera invites you to experience another life, with all its passions, joys, sorrows, quests and questions.

Currently a Professor at Columbia University, Vojtech Jasny continues to develop film productions, two of which are very dear to him - "The Kids" based on the "The Peace Book" by Bernard Benson, for which the screenplay will be written ^{with} by Frank Daniel; and "The Idiot" by Dostoyevsky, a piece which Mr. Jasny has directed many times for theatre.

Retrospectives of Mr. Jasny's work have been presented recently in London, England (1980), Paris, France (1983) and Montreal, Quebec (1984).

Vojtech Jasny was honored at the 1971 25th Anniversary of the Cannes Film Festival along with other multiple prize winners. His fellow honorees included: Lindsay Anderson, M. Antonioni, Ingmar Bergman, Robert Bresson, Federico Fellini, Orson Welles and William Wyler among others.