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# Thu 13 Nov



CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1985

## My Sweet Little Village

*Vesničko, má středisková*

2.30 8.30 NFT2

**Director:** Jiří Menzel

*Production Company:* Barrandov Film Studio

*Producer:* Jan Šuster

*Screenplay:* Zdeněk Svěrák, Václav Šašek

*Photography (Colour):* Jaromír Šofr

*Export Agent:* Československý Filmexport, Václavské nám 28, Prague

*Leading Players:* Marian Labuda, János Bán, Rudolf Hrušínský, Petr Čepěk, Libuše Šafránková, Jan Hartl

*Running Time:* 102 mins

*Festivals:* Cannes, Montreal, Telluride, Toronto

London  
F.F. '86

Discovered unheralded in a modest Cannes market screening, Menzel's new film provoked the most mirth heard at the festival this year, followed by a rarely-heard ovation. Without a doubt the director's best since his 1968 *Capricious Summer*, it features a gallery of hicks whose exploits range from Feydeau-esque adultery to the good-hearted final rallying around the village idiot, whom property developers are conspiring to dispatch to a tower block in town. Yet it is not the plot which makes the film. Rather it is the tone of affectionate irony: the earnest way the villagers discuss the recent advent there of Western bra-less-ness; their enthusiasm for American action films (shown nightly on TV preceded by the identical, solemn warning that they 'mirror a bourgeois society dedicated to the power of the dollar'); and Menzel's favourite actor, crinkle-faced Rudolf Hrušínský as an accident-prone doctor whose high success rate owes more to an unquenchable desire to help than to his entirely unproven medical expertise.—*Clare Kitson*.

Short: *Sincerely, Harold Washington* (UK 1986/Dir Simon Howard). Will a Lonely Hearts ad bring true happiness? 10 mins.