

ZIPO film
Thomas Charles Sedivy
and
euro AWK

Olympus
Post Production Prague
Studio Virtual

present
a new Czech-American feature-length documentary film
by Adolf Zika

JAN SAUDEK

TRAPPED BY HIS PASSIONS
NO HOPE FOR RESCUE

premiere:
December 2007

theatrical distribution:
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www.saudekfilm.com



The true spirit of an individual whose talent influences history often remains unexplained. The exceptionality of their legacy goes hand in hand with the ways they differ from ordinary mortals. Often in direct contact we don't understand them despite the fact they have entertained millions of people.

This film is my personal view into the spirit of a revolutionary photographer and remarkable person. Although it's perhaps only one view out of a thousand, it made sense to try.



Story, screenplay, director: Adolf Zika
 Director of photography: Jan Barton, Robert Bily
 Edit: Bob Sean Clark
 Sound: Pavel Dvorak
 Music: Claus Grabke
 Guests: Petr Schel, Laco Deczi, Krucipusk
 Producer: Adolf Zika
 Co-producer: Thomas Charles Sedivy
 Executive producer: Stanislava Zikova, Martin Kotik
 Postproduction supervision: Karel Coma
 Camera supervision: Adolf Zika
 Story editor: Pavel Dolezal
 Music editor: Bob Sean Clark

 Other cooperation
 Recording of digital imaging: Jiri Kubik
 Clapper: Stanislava Zikova
 Sound post-production: Studio Virtual
 Image post-production: Post Production Prague
 Production: ZIPO film s.r.o., Ingmar Gorman, Eva Aichmajerova
 Production assistants: Frantisek Zika, Pavlina Bartonova, Gary G. Wang, Karel Adam
 Making off: Robert Bily
 Promotion designer: Marcel Musil
 Web programmer: Rado Korpa / MrCode
 Web administrator: Daniel Novak
 Photographer: Marie Polack
 Guests: PhDr. Josef Louda, Lukas Navara, Karel Robenhaupt
 Costumes, props: ZIPO film, Barrandov studio - Fundus
 Economist: Radka Lhotakova
 Lawyer: Lay office - JUDr. Jiri Staidl
 Text translations: Linguafilm
 Final text corrections: Katerina Novakova
 Main lighting: Ales Franc
 Cine jib: Jan Cervenka, Milos Trnka



The full-length documentary film JAN SAUDEK – TRAPPED BY HIS PASSIONS, NO HOPE FOR RESCUE provides a personally truthful yet harsh life story of a hero and dropout. It is presented as a grand drama, not just full of stirring, colorful photographs, but also provocative ideas, illusions and ideals. Jan Saudek became a world-renowned photographer, winning international awards and being exhibited abroad, long before he had gained recognition in his native country. He is a man who appears in many roles before the camera, often changing them, often surprising, and often shocking. However, even the most versatile illusionist is incapable of entirely hiding in the face of three cameramen in action under the supervision of a director.

With its creative approach, this documentary does not claim to adhere to the textbook forms of the genre. It tries to handle it freely, in order to portray and interpret the complete complexity of the artist's personality. Each of the three interconnected plotlines tell the story of another world. The one in color is clean and seemingly realistic, recounting and presenting factual information. The black-and-white film is concerned with the inner self of the photographer, which is why the camera never meets him face-to-face. And the raw documentary camera in the hands of the director himself maps out the intimate moments where no film-maker has so far been permitted to tread; the moments when Jan Saudek experiences his intellectual, sensual and sexually rich "orgies". Likewise, though, he witnesses the genuine sentiments, true happiness and genuine loneliness of a genius.

Producer and director Adolf Zika relies heavily upon his personal acquaintance with the portrayed photographer, but in spite of the fact that he greatly venerates him, the narration is far from being oversimplified in presenting the truths about this controversial master of photography. Along with the viewer, he attempts to look behind the artist's mask, even at the price of a painful revelation – to get to the very core of these „truths“.

In some passages of the documentary, there are certain shots and scenes which might be considered as beyond the limitations of the ethics and morality of today's society. However, this is not the case of the first Czech pornographic film, but of the greatest love story of recent years. He has contended with war, suffering, the loss of his dearest offset by blind love, dreams of a family and the intangible glory of fame. Poverty, condemnation and lack of appreciation are counterbalanced by wealth, hypocritical recognition and the freedom to reach the high heavens in an unstoppable aging process. This and much more which has gone unmentioned and ineffable is portrayed in this riveting documentary film about the life and work of the most famous living Czech photographer, Jan Saudek.



- 1935 Born, May 13th in Prague.
- 1947 In Life magazine, he sees a report about Evita Perón by Margaret Bourke-White, Eugen Smith and Giselle Freund, and is instantly smitten.
- 1950 Receives his first camera, a Kodak Baby Brownie – his first photographic experiments follow.
- 1951 He creates and colors his first photograph.
- 1952 Studies to be a photographer, until the year 1983 works as a replicator of photographs in a print shop.
- 1959 He uses a „real“ camera, a Flexaret 6x6, and also draws and paints.
- 1963 Permanently influenced by the catalog accompanying the great photo exhibition The Family of Man (Edward Steichen).
- 1972 He discovers his signature WALL, which becomes synonymous with his work.
- 1977 Giselle Freund gives him a Rolleiflex which was used by Evita Perón. He uses it to this day.
- 1981 In Milan, the first monograf Il teatro de la vita is released.
- 1983 He becomes a photographer by trade, dedicating himself to his artistic work.
- 1987 His family confiscates his negatives – he won't get them back for another five months.
- 1990 Becomes the first Czech ever to receive the distinction of the French title Le Chevalier des Arts et Letters (Knight of Art and Literature). The French director Jerome de Missolz shoots a film about him, Jan Saudek – Czech Photographer.
- 1993 The film company Febio selects him for the project GEN (100 Czechs of Today).
- 1998 His photographs are exhibited in his homeland – the proceeds (7,200,000 Czech crowns) are given to charitable causes.
- 2005 His fourteenth and most extensive monograph, SAUDEK (Published by Slovart, Praha), is released alongside a large retrospective gallery in Prague.
- 2006 From the hands of the Minister of Culture, he receives the honor of Artis Bohemiae Amicis for spreading the good name of his country abroad. The publisher Taschen takes over the monograph SAUDEK and releases it across the globe – within six weeks, all shipments are sold out.
- 2007 On Celetna Street in Prague, a permanent gallery of work by Jan Saudek is opened.

Adolf Zika was born in 1972 in the town of Prachatice. He graduated from the school of pedagogy and in 1988 became a member of the Center for Top Sports in Prague. He gained the title of Junior Champion of the country in judo, and was awarded a bronze medal in the European Junior Tournament in Vienna. In 1990, he traveled to Budo University in Katsura, Japan, where he underwent training under the best judo fighters in the world. After his return, he abruptly quit his judo career without any official explanation.

In the following years, Zika tried to catch up by learning everything about life which he hadn't learned from sports. He composed music, toured and organized various unique projects. In 1993, he was the guitarist for the hardcore band Serious Music. He wrote both music and lyrics. In 1994, he began with photography and a year later won first place in the most contended category of the Czech Press Photo – sports series. In 1996, he worked for a German travel agency in Cologne. Following this, the fashion label Pietro Filipi selected him as their central photographer. In the spring of 1997, Zika was able to open his own studio in Prague, began shooting fashion and commercial photography, and his first large commissions started to come in for brands such as Hermes, Australian Bodycare, Speedo and many more. He began working on catalogs for fashion all over the globe, creating calendars and working on commissions in Australia, Barbados, Hawaii, the Dominican Republic and many other locations. He worked regularly for Playboy, where he photographed many of their covers.

From 1997 to 1999 he led and created the image of the travel agency Fischer and its airline Fischer Air. In 1999, he formed the film and production company ZIPO film. In the fall of the year 2000, he was selected among six photographers of the world to represent the renowned brand Leica at photokina in Cologne. He was then placed into the prestigious worldwide calendar of this brand. He is the author of the largest printed project of the year 2000, which involved the cooperation of the best 120 photographers of the Czech Republic and four other countries. The result was the publication *The Last Book of the Century, One Day in the Life of the Czech Republic*. A year later, Adolf Zika was placed into the book of personalities for Czech commercial and fashion photography.

Since 2001, he has directed over two dozen television commercials, and worked on a feature-length film as a producer. In the same year, he began long-term cooperation with the mobile operator Orange. For Orange Slovakia, he created their entire re-branding campaign in South Africa. From the year 2001 till 2005 Adolf Zika became the official photographer of the racing team Ferrari Menx, with whom he traveled throughout Europe. In 2002, he placed among the bestselling Czech authors at Paris Photo in the Louvre, where he represented the Leica Gallery Prague. He also won a tender to be the photographer for the commercial television station Nova, after which he created the photographic concept and creative promotional visuals for all its programs. He worked for the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he prepared the official book for the Czech



Republic's entrance into the EU. In the year 2003, he signed a contract with the publisher Presco Group for an annual calendar of his work to be distributed worldwide.

In June 2004, he was arrested under unclear circumstances, followed by a three-month detention. After a two-year process, he was cleared of all charges without explanation. In September of 2004, his photographs were once more on display at the world exhibition photokina in Cologne, this time in the Olympus E-system Gallery. His photographs were later displayed at the gallery Black and White Past and Present, organized as part of Interkamera 2006, where there were three classic Czech photographers exhibited (Drtikol, Chochola and Sudek), along with three representatives from the current generation: Saudek, Vano and Zika. In the summer of 2006, with the support of the Hasselblad and Leica companies, he took photographs for his planned publication „6 Days and 24 Hours of Le Mans“, a non-traditional conception of the most famous automobile race in the world.

Zika's black-and-white photographs are enlarged using a classic technique, and always shot on a negative - he never touches them up digitally. Not being influenced by modernity, it's difficult to place a date on the vast majority of Adolf Zika's photography. This might be the reason he's a sought-after photographer for personal collections.

He yet again dedicated himself to the world of fast cars in 2006 and 2007, when he worked with the project A1GP Season 2006/07. The result of which is an extensive photographic publication, capturing the dramatic moments of the A1GP season as well as a peek behind the scenes of every race.

On his journeys for unique photographs, Adolf Zika has traveled to over 40 different countries all over the world.

In the year 2007, as the screenwriter and director he completed his first feature length documentary film about Jan Saudek titled JAN SAUDEK – TRAPPED BY HIS PASSIONS, NO HOPE FOR RESCUE. The film was completed as a Czech-American co-production.



ZIPO film s.r.o.
Holeckova 9/100
150 00 Prague 5
Czech Republic

tel./fax: +420 242 499 613

e-mail: saudek@zipo.cz

web: www.saudekfilm.com

