

CZECH TELEVISION PRESENTS HISTORICAL DRAMA



COLETTE

A GRIPPING STORY ABOUT THE POWER OF LOVE,
GREATER THAN THAT OF DEATH

PRODUCERS:

Happy Celluloid, Česká televize, Wandal Production, Státní fond České republiky pro podporu
a rozvoj české kinematografie, Barrandov Studio, Audio-vizuální fond, UPP, RTV

Awards:

XII International War Movie Festival by Yu.N.Ozerov – Sevastopol 2014:
Main Prize for the best artistic film

 **Česká televize**

Colette

A narrative drama about the power of love, about people in extreme situation, and about thirst for freedom. It is devoted to all survivors of the holocaust.

Arnošt Lustig, a world-renowned writer nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, was one of them. His novella Colette is based on his personal experience of a concentration camp prisoner and witness of few attempted escapes from the hell of Auschwitz.

The protagonists of the story, unfolding in the Auschwitz concentration camp, are Colette, a Jewish girl from Belgium, and Czech Jew Vili. Only their secret love helps them to survive the everyday horrors of the camp, where anything that can save life or at least postpone death for a while is an object of trading. Vili is caught smuggling, injured, thanks to the solidarity of the prisoners secretly operated on in the prison hospital and then nursed by Colette. She, too, has to make sacrifices, and in order to survive is forced to succumb to fanatic SS officer Weisacker. Luckily neither Colette nor Vili take part in the prisoners' planned escape, and their lives are spared. But for how long? The front is approaching, Vili sets out on the death march, and Colette flees with the transport to Sachsenhausen. Will they ever meet again?

Videotape HDTV, 120', m/e track, English version, © 2013

Directed by: Milan Cieslar
Screenplay by: Milan Cieslar
Director of Photography: Marek Jícha
Editor: Alena Spustová
Sound: Michal Deliopoulos
Music: Atli Örvarsson
Costume Designer: Jan Kocman

Starring:
Clemence Thioly, Jiří Mádľ, Eric Bouwer,
Andrej Hryc, Zuzana Mauréry, Helena
Dvořáková, Ondřej Vetchý, Michal
Dlouhý, Miroslav Táborský, David
Suchařípa and others



Milan Cieslar (born 1960)

Director, writer, producer. He graduated in film directing from the Prague Film School FAMU. He has directed many films for children as well as adults often based on literary material as varied as its authors: Truman Capote, Ivan Klíma, Dick Francis or Vladimír Křepek. His dedication to the craft of filmmaking can be seen in all of his projects.

FILMOGRAPHY

- 1989 **DYNAMIT** Honorary mention at the Children IFF in Amsterdam 1989
- 1990 **LOOKING FOR LENNON**
- 1995 **THE TASTE OF DEATH**
- 2000 **DER LEBENSBOHN/SRING OF LIFE** The main prize at Troia IFF, Laon IFF, Gottbus IFF, Quebec IFF, Chemnitz IFF, Zlin IFF. Official selection of Berlinale 2000, Montreal, Karlovy Vary, Jerusalem, AFI Los Angeles, Fort Lauderdale, Palm Beach, Shanghai)
- 2003 **DIRTY SOUL** Official selection of IFF Festroia, Cairo 2005
- 2005 **BONDS OF BLOOD** IFF: Panorama Montreal 2005
- 2009 **A SNOWY NIGHT**
- 2010 **THE RAIN FAIRY**
- 2011 **SIGN OF THE HORSE**
- 2012 **LOVE IS LOVE**
- 2013 **COLETTE**

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