

SERIAL K!LLER

Serial Killer: Season 6
International Series Festival
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Serial Killer to premiere a new Prima TV series and Hřebejk's *The Winner*

At the end of September, the sixth edition of the international festival Serial Killer will bring more than three dozen Finnish creators to the Czech Republic, as well as all the key personalities of the local television market. Visitors can also look forward to series premieres and screenings of 40 titles, including a competition of TV series produced in Central and Eastern Europe. For the first time this year, a TV series from Slovakia – *The Winner*, a comedy directed by Jan Hřebejk for SkyShowtime – will compete for the title of Best Series from Central and Eastern Europe, awarded by an international jury of TV professionals. Prima TV will also make its debut at Serial Killer with its new comedy series *Bananas*, about the aftermath of the discovery of a crate of cocaine in a Czech supermarket, which will open the festival.

The organisers have also included other successful Czech premieres in this year's programme. For example, the festival will exclusively present Czech Television's adaptation of the successful Belgian comedy series *Sense of Tumour*, while Voyo will show *The Markovič Method: Hojer*, a new miniseries documenting the crimes, arrest and conviction of murderers in communist-era Czechoslovakia.

This year's festival Focus on quality Finnish television will give viewers a glimpse into the lives of employees of a Finnish labour office in the satirical horror *Welfare Warriors*, and the world of aspiring rappers from an ordinary Helsinki housing estate in the comedy *Savela*. The creators of the *Reindeer Mafia* present their adaptation of the novel about a powerful family clan from Lapland. In collaboration with the Film and Architecture Festival, Serial Killer will also present a dark dystopian comedy series *The Architect* commenting on the housing crisis, inequality and loneliness. *"I find that – perhaps surprisingly – the Czech audience has a lot in common with the Finnish one, not least a strong sense of dark humour,"* says festival founder and director Kamila Zlatušková.

The organisers of the sixth edition of the festival have also included a section that reflects one of the strongest current trends in TV shows – the popularity of series for young people, watched enthusiastically by all generations. *"Everybody is eager to discover the new Euphoria or Sex Education, so we have found five new European series, some of which have become instantly iconic like the Danish series Nordland 99 or Norwegian Kids In Crime. Their creators, who grew up in the 1990s, revisit their youth and tell it through today's perspective. The result is an incredibly entertaining ride – thick layers of pop-culture inspirations have helped to create new worlds that will appeal to teenagers as well as those who were already adults in the 1990s,"* says the programme dramaturgist Tāňa Zabloudilová about the line-up of the festival's Young and Restless section.

The programme of the three-day **TV Days** conference for TV professionals, which takes place from 20 to 22 September and is chaired by Dominika Braná, head of the professional programme, will feature 50 speakers from the ranks of broadcasters and festival representatives, filmmakers and up-and-coming talent. Central and Eastern European TV production will be discussed by **Antony Root**, former HBO Executive VP of European production, while **Jarmo Lampela**, Head of Drama at Finnish

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public broadcaster YLE, will speak about the importance of having courage in the decision-making process. Television trends will be presented by the British media company K7 Media, and there will also be a discussion about the planned Czech Television's remake of Věra Chytilová's cult film *Wolf's Hole*.

Thanks to the quality and standard of the contributions, the conference has long been a valued part of the festival for television professionals from all over Europe. This year, TV Days will also welcome its first-ever speaker from the United States – **Molly Nussbaum**, writer of *The Umbrella Academy*, *Daredevil: Born Again*, and many other series.

"Thanks to the excellent international reputation of our conference, I became the first Czech woman in ten years to be selected for the prestigious Eisenhower Fellowships programme. I am going to the US for three months right after the end of this year's festival to establish new valuable relationships with the directors of US TV stations on the East and West coasts that will benefit us for years to come," says Kamila Zlatušková.

The winner of this year's **Progressive Killer** award for a prominent television personality from Central and Eastern Europe is the producer and former director of the Slovak Audiovisual Fund **Petr Badač**, who was scandalously sacked from his post this year. He will be the fifth recipient of this award after Tomáš Hrubý, Viktor Tauš, Tereza Polachová and Michal Reitler. *"It is a great honour for me to receive this award and to join an exceptional company of people whom I greatly respect and admire for their professional achievements. I am glad that the festival focuses not only on awarding creators but also on the work of creative producers and representatives of institutions that are also important for the audiovisual market,"* says Badač.

Traditionally, the festival also offers a rich supporting programme in the streets of Brno. Visitors can look forward to public evening screenings, discussions and a music programme on Moravské náměstí from Wednesday onwards, thanks to our collaboration with Tourist Information Centre Brno. On Friday and Saturday, Czech Television will present its programme there as well. On the same days, Jakubské náměstí will be the venue for a supporting programme organised by TV Nova and Voyo. On Saturday, the sixth edition of the festival will close with a concert by Tata Bojs in the První patro club.

Despite the closure of the Scala Cinema and the Bolek Polívka Theatre due to structural problems with the building, the organisers have managed to find suitable alternative venues for the screenings, although the situation has been and continues to be very difficult. This year's festival will take place on the premises of the **Theatre on Orlí Street**, the **První patro club**, the **CIT cinema**, **Tržnice at Zelný trh**, the **Cabaret des Péchés** and in the newly renovated premises of the **Television Institute**, which – in cooperation with all the major broadcasters – has become an organic part of the Serial Killer festival and an educational platform for new and existing television talent.

Tickets for Serial Killer 2023 are on sale on the [festival's website](#), with accreditation passes for the entire festival costing CZK 450. Accreditations and tickets for individual screenings will also be available at the accreditation centres in the Scala Cinema and Theatre on Orlí Street. Individual tickets will also be available at the screening venues.