

## CIEE Study Center in Prague, Czech Republic

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Film Studies Program Newsletter 2, Fall 2012

**Ahoj z Prahy, Study Abroad Advisors!** It is almost November and our Film Studies students are in the middle of pre-production. All groups are set and we know their film projects are going to be great.

### Academic Trip to Písek

Every Fall semester we take the Film Studies students to the **International Film Student Festival in Písek**, a city in Southern Bohemia.

#### Day 1 Friday

On the first day we took off from Prague at 9am. The minibus took us to Písek in two hours and we were riding through the lovely countryside of Southern Bohemia. There we were picked up from by local student who took us to the main cinema Portyč – the heart of the festival. We were officially welcomed by the festival director, Vladana Terčová, who invited us to come to the festival opening on Friday night. During the afternoon we watched students' films and went to see FAMO School in Písek. It's the film academy of Miroslav Ondříček, the cinematographer of Miloš Forman. There we talked to local students who then took our students to dinner and introduced them to other local students. After dinner we went to the film *Ve stínu* introduced by the director David Ondříček. This movie was sent to represent the Czech Republic in the Academy Awards.

#### Day 2 Saturday

We watched students' films almost all day. Our students were very critical and didn't like the films that much. But it was a great opportunity for them to see the mistakes and avoid them once working on their own projects.

#### Day 3 Sunday

On the last day of the trip we left Písek and went to the mountains to the old castle Kašperk. This castle was used as film set for one famous Czech fairy tale and has beautiful surroundings. Unfortunately the weather was not good enough to allow us to take the 10 mile hike. We had to take a bus there. On the way back we stopped for short snack at local creperie.



**Read what Tyler Brown, University of Washington, wrote about the trip:**

#### Pisek Film Festival Trip

*My trip to Písek this past weekend was absolutely amazing because it gave me everything I wanted out of a trip: delightful food, new experiences, and a great time. Watching Films, hiking to a castle, meeting Czech Film students and watching*

*more films only scratches the surface of what I did. Here are the highlights from a fantastic trip:*

*I'm going to start this blog off by talking about the main event: The prestigious film festival. Quite honestly, this was the largest student film festival I have been a part of, and it gave me a new meaning behind the word "international." Out of the 29 films I viewed: 5 were from the Czech Republic; 4 were from Germany; 3 were from the USA. The rest were from Israel, Germany, Iceland, Greece, Poland, Belgium, South Korea, France, China, Spain, Italy, India, Ireland, Finland, Estonia, Canada, and Iran. Wow, talk about diversity! Luckily, most of these films were subtitled in English, so I was able to enjoy them completely.*

#### Scenic Písek

*When I wasn't watching films, I was busy exploring the beautiful town of Písek. We couldn't have picked a more picture-perfect day.*



#### The Blind Cafe

*Perhaps one of the largest surprises for me was sipping coffee in complete darkness at the blind cafe, which is located inside a large bus. Here is how it works. You enter through the back door of the bus, and when the door closes, you are literally in complete darkness. You are then led by a blind person to a table at which you sit down and order coffee.*



#### The Castle

*On our way back to Prague, we stopped at a magnificent 700 year-old castle, which sits atop a mountain of rock. Unfortunately, the weather was an extreme opposite of the day before, but we made the most of our experience. As a cloud of fog rolled past the castle, I couldn't help but think of the film "Monty Python and the Holy Grail."*

#### Conclusion

*Overall, traveling to Písek was a great experience. It was nice to get away from the familiar streets of Prague, and to immerse myself in a new film culture. Meeting film students from around the world and viewing their amazing films was an inspiring experience I will never forget. Shout out to CIEE for planning a great trip.*

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