



Press Release of the International Film Festival for Children and Young Audiences JUNIORFEST
11 November 2025

JUNIORFEST celebrated adulthood with an exceptionally successful edition

Six days of films for children and young audiences, nine cinemas in six cities, and ten Czech premieres confirmed the growing reputation of the festival, which this year for the first time also introduced a short film competition. This edition was marked by an exceptionally high level of competition entries, strong international participation, and excellent attendance — screenings and accompanying events attracted more than 8,500 viewers.

11 November 2025 – Yesterday, on 10 November, the 18th edition of the International Film Festival for Children and Young Audiences JUNIORFEST concluded in the Pilsen Region. The festival, which symbolically came of age this year, drew thousands of visitors to nine cinemas in the towns of Domažlice, Horšovský Týn, Pilsen, Dobřany, Přestice, and Klatovy. Adulthood was celebrated with a new short film competition section, Czech premieres of international films, and a diverse accompanying program that brought music, art installations, and meetings with personalities of Czech film and television to the festival.

Competition Sections and Awarded Films

This year's edition was distinguished by the exceptionally high quality of competing films. Creators from more than twenty countries participated, and international juries awarded prizes in four categories.

Short Films

Winner: ***Night Boots***, dir. Pierre-Luc Granjon, France

Special Jury Mention: ***Autokar***, dir. Sylwia Szkiladz, Belgium/France

Films for Children aged 6–9

Winner: ***The Children Of Silver Street***, dir. Mehdi Avaz, Denmark

Special Jury Mention: ***Tales From The Magic Garden***, dir. David Súpup, Patrik Pašš, Leon Vidmar, Jean-Claude Rozec, Czech Republic/Slovakia/Slovenia/France

Films for Children aged 10–14

Winner: ***Chao***, dir. Yasuhiro Aok, Japan

Special Jury Mention: ***Honey***, dir. Natasha Arthy, Denmark

Films for Young Audiences aged 14–16

Winner: ***Little Trouble Girls***, dir. Urška Djukić, Slovenia/Italy/Croatia/Serbia

Special Jury Mention: ***Promise, I'll Be Fine***, dir. Katarína Gramatová, Czech Republic/Slovakia

The jurors especially appreciated the diversity of approaches and the sensitive treatment of themes reflecting the contemporary world of young people — questions of identity, empathy, family relationships, and the influence of the digital environment on adolescence.



"This year's competition section offered an extraordinarily diverse palette of films — from poetic stories about friendship and courage to deeper reflections on adolescence, ecological issues, or intergenerational relationships. In total, ten international films had their Czech premiere at JUNIORFEST, which proves that the festival is establishing its firm place on the map of European film events for young audiences. We particularly value the warm reception of the competition films by young viewers, who reacted spontaneously, engaged in discussions with the creators, and confirmed with their responses that quality filmmaking for children and youth truly matters," said Festival Program Director Alexandra Hroncová.

Golden Clock Hand Award for Naďa Konvalinková and Marek Eben

The festival traditionally honored significant figures of Czech film and television whose work shaped generations of young viewers. The *Golden Clock Hand Award* 2025 was presented to Naďa Konvalinková and Marek Eben. Both actors met young fans in Horšovský Týn and reminisced about their roles and collaborations on films and programs that left an indelible mark on Czech children's and youth production.

Accompanying Program

This year's JUNIORFEST was not limited to cinema screens. The accompanying program offered a wide range of events — concerts, workshops, art installations, and live recordings. Audiences enjoyed, for example, a sound effects workshop, a podcasting workshop for future creators, a concert by *Nikola Mucha*, a show by *Kašpárek v rohlíku*, a DJ set by Mardoša, and a live recording of the film podcast *Hodný, zlý a kritický (The Good, the Bad and the Critical)*. Also on display was a light installation by Jan Slanina, inspired by this year's theme "The Fragility of Adolescence."

Festival Transition

"This year's edition was successful not only artistically but also in terms of attendance. Screenings and accompanying events were attended by more than 8,500 young and adult viewers. The festival became a meeting place for different generations — from the youngest viewers to legends of Czech and Slovak children's and youth production," said Festival Director Judita Soukupová.

Judita Soukupová, who helped bring the festival to life eighteen years ago, concluded her final edition this year. She is succeeded by Markéta Mlnařík. *"Handing over leadership after so many years is very emotional for me. I am glad it is happening at a time when the festival stands on solid foundations and has an exciting future ahead,"* added Soukupová.

The festival enters its nineteenth year as an established cultural event with European reach, consistently supporting quality filmmaking for children and young audiences and inspiring dialogue across generations.

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juniorfest.cz

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In cooperation with: Culture and Community Center Přeštice, Museum of Chodsko v Domažlicích, National Heritage Institute, Techmania Science Center



Mezinárodní filmový festival pro děti a mladé publikum

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