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### Festivals of Live Cinema

Collaboration of the Czech (PAF) and Norwegian (Screen City) Platforms for Film and Contemporary Art of the Moving Image

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## FESTIVALS OF LIVE CINEMA PAF OLOMOUC / SCREEN CITY STAVANGER

**Thanks to the support of Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway (EEA Grants), PAF has started close cooperation with Norway**

**Initial press release for the project, May 26 2015**  
[for immediate release]

The cultural platforms, [PAF](#) from the Czech Republic and [Screen City](#) from Norway, will merge in a unique project, devoted to contemporary audio-visual art. The topic of the year-long cooperation between both platforms for film and the contemporary art of the moving image is the phenomenon of so-called live cinema.

Besides discovering national cinematographies, for many years PAF has presented projects related to contemporary visual art, cinematography and new technologies. During its thirteen-year history the festival has introduced many international artists at Czech and world premieres and has produced significant works. Now, these activities are being followed by the new international project “Festivals of Live Cinema”, which has similarly ambitious aims.

*“Live cinema refers to projects which originate in real time when both the audio and the visual parts of the works are being created. The development of similar productions has been known since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We are interested not only in the current state of the art, but also in a historical reflection to compare the situation in the past with the contemporary technological accessibility of moving images. A team of international curators and artists will participate in the project, and the outputs can be seen and heard in Stavanger (October) and in Olomouc (December). We also negotiate with other institutions all over the world,”* says Martin Mazanec, the main programme manager and a curator for the Festival of Film Animation.

Live Cinema exists in the tradition of cinema, contemporary art and music. The project originated with the fact that a thorough description of this area of manifestations of cinema and visual arts **has long been neglected.**

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-- *Festivals of Live Cinema – initial press release (p. 2)* --

In the context of audiovisual performance and installation, Live Cinema is an important testimony to technological and social changes in the perception of contemporary art through different forms of presentation and interfaces. The project “[Festivals of Live Cinema](#)” is thus literal manifestation of live culture.

In cooperation with the festival [Screen City](#), the Norwegian platform for film and contemporary art, a number of cultural activities in Norway and in the Czech Republic will be implemented up to April 2016 as part of the “Festivals of Live Cinema” project.

The outputs of the project will be particularly intended for the general public, but also for university students and experts. The project includes screenings, audio-visual performances, presentations and installations in barrier free public spaces, as well as workshops, lectures and professional seminars.

The intensive cooperation between Czech and Norwegian artists and curators will last for several months and will result in unique artistic projects intended for specific occasions. The year-long mapping of the Czech and Norwegian artistic scenes, a mutual exchange of experience, specialists!, discussions, lectures and round tables will result in original texts devoted to the phenomenon of Live Cinema in specific Czech and Norwegian contexts. Texts will then be accessible on the project website [www.pifpaf.cz/eea](http://www.pifpaf.cz/eea).

### **INTRODUCING PARTNERS OF THE PROJECT:**

Based in Olomouc, [Cultural platform PAF](#) has been concerned with issues of live audiovisual performances in the tradition of cinema, animation and visual arts for thirteen years—in the dramaturgy of PAF – Festival of Film Animation and contemporary art, held in Olomouc every December, in yearlong cooperation on exhibitions, seminars and foreign festivals, and in its own publishing series Edition PAF.

Its activities in this area have received exceptionally positive reviews from both specialists and the general public.

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-- Festivals of Live Cinema – initial press release (p. 3) --

This year's PAF – the Festival of Film Animation – will take place from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2015 in Olomouc, but the festival itself is preceded by many exciting year-long cultural activities implemented in the Czech Republic (Veselí nad Moravou, Luhačovice, Olomouc, Prague, Ostopovice, Brno etc.) and abroad (Slovakia, Slovenia, Poland, Hungary and Texas and New York, etc.). All these activities will be discussed on our website and in our newsletter ([www.pifpaf.cz/paf-newsletter](http://www.pifpaf.cz/paf-newsletter)).

Most of the space will be devoted to activities taking place in Norway and Iceland in response to the “Festivals of Live Cinema” project.

[The Screen City Festival](#) focuses on moving images presented in public spaces; on city facades, shop windows and other urban venues. It took place for the first time in 2013. The festival experiments with the reshaping of public space through media art, presenting a programme of video art, animation, creative data visualizations, projection mapping and participatory urban media interventions.

PAF has been collaborating with the Norwegian festival and cultural platform Screen City since 2013 when an [exchange of our film screening programme](#) took place. The current project “[Festivals of Live Cinema](#)” develops the possibilities of collaboration with our experienced Norwegian partner into a complex production of a unique programme for Czech and Norwegian cities while, together with Norwegian and Czech artists, an international team of curators will be involved.

*“Of course we welcome the opportunity to cooperate with Norway. For us it is a unique opportunity to learn a great deal about the Norwegian artistic scene and to exchange know-how with an experienced partner. And of course we are happy to introduce several exceptional Czech artists to Norway. Their names will be released soon. What is invaluable from my viewpoint is the opportunity to initiate completely new, unique artistic projects that will come from the meetings and cooperation among Czech and Norwegian artists. These activities will last for several months and will be financed from EEA Grants,”* says Alexandr Jančík, the director of PAF.

The names of the artists and external specialists involved in the project will be released on the project website and [via the newsletter](#).

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### **Festivals of Live Cinema—Collaboration of the Czech (PAF) and Norwegian (Screen City) Platforms for Film and Contemporary Art of the Moving Image**

Project web page: [www.pifpaf.cz/en/eea](http://www.pifpaf.cz/en/eea)

Material for media, illustrative photos download: [www.pifpaf.cz/en/eea/media](http://www.pifpaf.cz/en/eea/media)

Subscribe for our newsletter: [www.pifpaf.cz/en/newsletter](http://www.pifpaf.cz/en/newsletter)

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*The project “Festivals of Live Cinema—Collaboration of the Czech (PAF) and Norwegian (Screen City) Platforms for Film and Contemporary Art of the Moving Image” is supported by grant from [Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway](#) and co-financed by The Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the State Cinematography Fund, the International Visegrad Fund, The City of Olomouc and the Olomouc Region.*

*Project partner is [Screen City: Moving Image Festival Stavanger](#)*



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## APPENDIX: INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

**Full title of the project:** Festivals of Live Cinema—Collaboration of the Czech (PAF) and Norwegian (Screen City) Platforms for Film and Contemporary Art of the Moving Image

**Start of the project:** May 7 2015

**End of the project:** March 31 2016

### Project objective

The goal of the project is to connect various venues where contemporary manifestations of cinema and visual arts are presented: socially diverse spaces such as cinemas, galleries, clubs and above all public places in towns where exposure to contemporary art through screenings, audio visual performances, presentations and installations in accessible public spaces would be possible for people from all social categories.

The programme will be tailored both geographically and socially to two particular towns, in the Czech Republic (Olomouc) and Norway (Stavanger). The diversity of live cinema art will be analysed by an international team of experienced curators, theoreticians and artists who will participate in the preparation of an original programme for the Norwegian and Czech project outcomes, including workshops and lectures.

The programme is intended for the wider public, regardless of demographic, ethnic and social differences.

Information gained in the project will be regularly updated and made available in Czech and English to both professionals and the general public via the webpage of the project; this bilingual output will communicate the characteristic cultural heritage of the manifestations of live cinema to the international community.



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## The most important planned activities of the project

The activities of **Live Cinema Lab**, including the project presentation, screenings and discussions in multimedia studios in Iceland, Norway and the Czech Republic, will take place in May and June.

Live Cinema Lab is the basis for the preparation of a unique programme and production of audio-visual performances and installations within which questions relating to live cinema and contemporary technologies will be reflected upon. Artists and curators from Norway, the Czech Republic and Iceland will participate in the emergence of the programme. There will be visits to multimedia studios and meetings with artists and curators.

This “laboratory” of live cinema will result in installations, screenings and audio-visual performances related to the theme of Live Cinema. These activities will be implemented in October in Norway and in December in the Czech Republic.

**Live Cinema Phenomenon**, a round table and a discussion of the invited expert curators and artists will follow. The programme will be accessible to the public and will take place in Olomouc. The date will be specified later.

The most significant activities will take place during the festivals **Screen City** (15–18 October 2015, Stavanger, Norway) and **PAF** (3–6 December 2015, Olomouc, the Czech Republic). The results of an intensive Czech-Norwegian artistic cooperation together with Live Cinema Lab will be presented. Completely new audio-visual installations and performances, presentations and lectures on Live Cinema history, block of films concerning live cinema etc., will be prepared for the festivals. (We will regularly update and inform people about the beginnings of our unique projects.)

The project will include lectures and workshops intended for the general public as well as experts who will reflect on the phenomenon of Live Cinema in historical tradition of film city symphonies, the construction of painted pianos, etc. Research concerning the contemporary situation of audio-visual performances in Norway and in the Czech Republic will be carried out. Communication and consultation with students will regularly take place at artistic institutions of higher education in Norway and in the Czech Republic.



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### **For whom is the project “Festivals of Live Cinema” intended?**

Through its variety, number of outputs and year-long activities of a diverse character, this project is aimed at the general public with no national, ethnic, gender or social borders.

From the viewpoint of merit, several target groups may be specified:

Researchers or scientists //

The project is intended for both professionals from the area of audiovisual art and new media and specialists from other fields such as e.g. optics, physics and architecture. The latter will mainly be addressed through lectures, symposia and expert discussions taking place during the festivals PAF and Screen City. One of the main goals of the project is research in media, social and technological development of live cinema with emphasis placed on the interconnection of image and sound, light and colour, technological procedures and space and movement. We will examine the synesthetic quality of audiovisual performances and events organized within the project and reinvestigate the so far known historical facts and place into context through analyses published in writings such as the catalogue, anthologies or scholarly articles aimed at specialist journals. The target group will have the possibility of active participation in the production of these outputs by means of discussions and individual contributions to the mutual benefit of the scientific community and in support of its interdisciplinary relations.

Young adults //

This target group will primarily be composed of fans of and people interested in audiovisual art. The project will enable further cultivation of appraisal and deepening of knowledge; similarly to the students, they will have the possibility of active participation in discussions with specialists, workshops, lectures, audiovisual performances and screening programmes.



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#### Students //

Students will mainly benefit from the possibility of direct contact with contemporary audiovisual projects that will be presented by the Festivals of Live Cinema, the educational value of individual lectures, authors courses and workshops. Emphasis will be placed on the exchange of ideas at the festivals that serve as an important mediator of dialogue between specialists and students. Students will gain both theoretical knowledge and practical skills and experience; furthermore, they will have the possibility to actively participate in organizing and producing selected sections of the festival programme.

#### Wider public //

Festivals of live cinema are open to the wider public. The whole programme aims at supporting cooperation of people of different age, nationality and ethnicity. The project events testify of an open civil society.

#### Children //

Children will be addressed through practical workshops thematically related to specific programme themes of the festivals of live cinema, author presentations focusing on the creation of cartoons and animation screening programmes. Workshops will enable the little viewer to participate in the preparatory and production phases of the creation of audiovisual work; emphasis will be placed on the creative process and individual outputs of the programme for children will be accustomed to specific age groups.



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## Partners' profiles

### PAF

PAF began in 2000 and since that time it has taken place regularly in Olomouc. Since 2008 the organization team has been responsible for year-round activities. PAF is a unique platform in the Czech Republic with new technologies and traditions of film animation in contemporary art and in film production being functionally combined.

In the long term, PAF is open to cooperation with international film festivals, galleries, museums, archives and digital databases. PAF is organized by a [professional team](#) active throughout the year. Every year, students of film, theatre and media studies are encouraged to take part and implement their curatorial projects.

PAF activities include a four-day festival of film animation and contemporary arts, year-long dramaturgical and production activities, the preparation of curatorial exhibitions, screenings, workshops, seminars, editorial and publishing activities, as well as participation in presentations and conferences, symposia and festivals. Activities take place in the Czech Republic and abroad. PAF is organised by Pastiche Filmz.

More at [www.pifpaf.cz/en](http://www.pifpaf.cz/en)

### Screen City

[The Screen City Festival](#) is dedicated to the moving image presented in public spaces; on city facades, shop windows and other urban venues. It took place for the first time in 2013. The festival experiments with the reshaping of public space through media art, presenting a programme of video art, animation, creative data visualizations, projection mapping and participatory urban media interventions.

The next edition of Screen City will take place between October 15 and 18 2015 under the title *Labouring the City In-between*. Its goal will be the creation of locally specific works for the town of Stavanger and its public spaces. Its programme format will explore the expanded borders of cinematic experience reflecting on the line between the filmatic and non-filmatic.



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Guest artists will be in charge of presenting links between the moving image and architecture in interaction with public space. The Screen City Festival is produced by the media art platform Art Republic residing in Norway and Germany.

More at <http://www.screencity.no/>

### EEA Grants

Through the [EEA Grants and Norway Grants](#), Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway contribute to reducing social and economic disparities and to strengthening bilateral relations with the beneficiary countries in Europe. The three countries cooperate closely with the EU through the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA).

For the period 2009–14, the EEA Grants and Norway Grants amount to €1.79 billion. Norway contributes around 97% of the total funding. Grants are available for NGOs, research and academic institutions, and the public and private sectors in the 12 newest EU member states, Greece, Portugal and Spain. There is broad cooperation with donor state entities, and activities may be implemented until 2016. Key areas of support are environmental protection and climate change, research and scholarships, civil society, health and children, gender equality, justice and cultural heritage.

More at <http://www.eeagrants.cz/>

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