



Film ^ Liberec

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Liebig Town

architect Jakob Schmeissner, Ernst Schäfer, Oskar Rössler
realization in 1911–1923



Film^Liberec

The city of Liberec has very well-preserved architecture in its centre, which makes it popular with film productions from all over the world as an authentic scene for historical stories. Liberec doesn't often represent itself but one of the European metropolises instead. Most often Vienna or Hamburg. The most frequently filmed places in Liberec are the interiors of the historical Town Hall, the North Bohemian Museum, the railway station, the square in front of the Town Hall and the Pod Branou square. You may, however, have also seen the F. X. Šalda Theatre, Masaryk Street or the Ještěd TV transmitter on the silver screen.

^ Liberec Film Office

The Liberec Film Office was set up in August 2015 to promote the city below Ještěd as an ideal filming destination. The film office works with film professionals and helps them to carry out their projects in the city. At the same time, it coordinates cooperation between film crews and the relevant offices or other institutions necessary for filming. For film fans, it also holds commented tours of Liberec Town Hall, "In the Footsteps of Film", on which transformations of the interiors for filming are presented. Current tour times can be found at www.visitliberec.eu. The Liberec Film Office received special recognition in the Film Friendly 2015 competition as the "jumper of the year". In 2016, the Liberec Film Office won this national competition. More information on the Liberec Film Office can be found at www.liberecfilmoffice.cz or on Facebook.



Liberec Town Hall
architect Franz von Neumann
realization in 1888–1893



Pictures from shooting at the Liberec railway station.



Last Visa

Czech Republic/China, 2016
Direction: Quing Hua
Play: Jan Révai, Vlastina Svátková,
Otakar Brousek ml., Kateřina
Sokolová, Natalia Germani

The TV series *Last Visa* was the very first film project for the Liberec Film Office. Without exaggeration, our office was learning how to work with filmmakers along the way. It tells the story of a Chinese ambassador who saved thousands of Jews in Austria by issuing them with visas, thus helping them to escape from Europe. The filming took place at the Liberec railway station, the Pošta Café, Kostelní Street, Liebieg Palace and also Liberec Town Hall. Cooperation with the Asian film crew brought us several interesting experiences. Did you know, for instance, that in order to secure a successful shooting, fireworks have to be set off on the first day? The reason is simple. Asians believe that by doing this, any evil spirits that could complicate the shooting will be chased away. Besides Liberec, the series was also shot in Prague, Pilsen and Terezin.



Once Upon a Time in Paradise

Czech Republic/Slovakia, 2016
Direction: Daniel Krzywoń, Peter Pálka
Screenplay: Josef Urban
Camera: Lukáš Teren, Jiří Petr
Play: Vavřinec Hradilek, Vica Kerekes,
Jan Budaf, Miroslav Etlzer, Simona
Stašová, Jürgen Heinrich, Ondřej
Havelka, Ladislav Mrkvička, Petr Šmid,
Petr Buchta, Claudia Vašeková, Attila
Mokos, Marek Geiřberg, Pavel Rímský,
Karolina Morschlová and other.



The movie *Once Upon a Time in Paradise* has a very close link to our region, as it was based on the book of the same name, which tells the dramatic story of rock climber Josef Smítka from the Bohemian Paradise. In Liberec, the movie was shot in the historical Town Hall and at the Horní Růžodol railway station. The meeting room, located on the 2nd floor of the historical building, represented a bank. You can see it in the movie in the scene where Heinrich (Petr Šmid) receives money from his father (Ondřej Havelka) for Josef (Vavřinec Hradilek), who is hiding from the Germans in the rocks. An interesting thing is that, while the shooting in the Liberec Town Hall took a whole day, there is only a few seconds of it in the movie. But that's how it works in movies.



Picture from shooting in the Mayor's Lounge.

Once Upon a Time in Paradise movie trailer



Shadow of the Ferns

Czech Republic, 2017
Direction: Marek Najbrt, Radim Špaček
Screenplay: Ondřej Štindl, Robert Geisler, Benjamin Tuček
Camera: Martin Štěpánek
Play: Václav Neuzil ml., Ivan Trojan, Judit Bárdos, Jan Budař, Václav Kopta, Tomáš Jeřábek, Michal Dalecký, Marie Doležalová and other.

The dramatic series from Czech Television was based on the original series *Life on Mars*. In 10 episodes, you can follow the story of young policeman Filip Marvan (Václav Neuzil ml.), who has to break the law in order to save his brother. Unfortunately, he is hit by a car shortly after that. And what happens next? Filip wakes up in hospital in a North-Bohemian town in the early 1980s...; we won't tell you more because we reckon the show is worth seeing. The third part – Dead People – was filmed in the Culture House in Liberec. The scenes from the Political Song Festival back stage were filmed there. In this episode, you can see Jana Plodková and Marek Taclík, who play members of the "Sloky" band. Their song "No, no bomb" is truly unforgettable... The inhabitants of Liberec were also given a chance to try out acting by becoming extras.



Pictures from shooting in the Culture House.



"No, no bomb" song by the Sloky band



Pictures from shooting in the Liberec Town Hall.



Genius – Albert Einstein

USA, 2017
 Direction: Kenneth Biller, Minkie Spiro, Kevin Hooks, James Hawes, Ron Howard
 Screenplay: Angelina Burnett, Mark Lafferty, Kenneth Biller, Noah Pink
 Camera: Mathias Herndl, Bob Gilles
 Play: Geoffrey Rush, Johnny Flynn, Samantha Colley, Michael McElhatton, Seth Gabel, Ralph Brown, Richard Topol, Emily Watson and other.

When we learned that Liberec was considered one of the possible locations for the first National Geographic feature series, we were very pleased. It then escalated to absolute exultation, as the interiors of the Liberec Town Hall impressed so much that they appear in most parts of the series. The meeting room on the 2nd floor of the Town Hall became **Albert Einstein's** study, and the ceremonial hall was transformed into the auditorium of the university where Einstein gave lectures. Filming also took place at the North Bohemian Museum, the train station, the Liebig Palace and many other locations in and around Liberec. The city below Ještěd was visited not just by the Oscar-winning director Ron Howard, but also by Geoffrey Rush and Emily Watson. The crew kept returning to us from September 2016 to February 2017. It was a long, difficult, but very pleasant shoot, and we are very proud of the result. The Oscar-winning director spoke highly about the cooperation with Liberec and hopes to return here, below Ještěd, one day.

Teaser of scene in the ceremonial hall of the Liberec Town Hall



Picture from shooting in front of the North Bohemian Museum.



Pictures from shooting in the Liberec Town Hall.



Milada

Czech Republic, 2017
Direction: David Mrnka
Screenplay: David Mrnka, Robert J. Conant
Camera: Martin Štrba
Play: Ayelet Zurer, Robert Gant, Daniel Rchichev, Karina Rchichev, Tatjana Medvecká, Vica Kerekes, Igor Orozovič, Jaromír Dulava, Vladimír Javorský, Jitka Smutná, Hana Vagnerová, Alena Mihulová, Karel Dobrý, Jiří Vyorálek, Anna Geislerová and other.

The feature film about **Milada Horáková** was shot by director David Mrnka at several locations in the Czech Republic. However, the last clapper sounded in Liberec in 2016. It was preceded by shooting scenes in parliament, which was portrayed by the ceremonial hall of the Liberec Town Hall. You can also see the town hall corridors in the movie. The film's ambition is to attract foreign audiences as well, and therefore the lines of the Czech actors were recorded in English. To make their speech as authentic as possible, they had a coach to help them with English pronunciation. The film was dubbed for Czech viewers.



Milada movie trailer



Pod Branou square



Provincial Court movie trailer

Provincial Court – the story of one family

Germany, 2017
Direction: Matthias Glasner
Screenplay: Heide Schwochow
Camera: Jakub Bejnarowicz
Play: Ronald Zehrfeld, Johanna Wokalek, Saskia Reeves, Barbara Auer, Felix Klare, Eva Löbau and other.

A moving story in Ursula Krechel's award-winning novel was filmed by German ZDF television on Pod Branou square and at the Liberec railway station. The movie tells the story of the Kornitzers, a Jewish-Christian family, who, after exile and persecution in the Nazi era, tried to build a new life for themselves in West Germany.



Visualization for shooting on the Pod Branou square.

Brecht

Germany/Austria/Czech

Republic, 2017

Direction: Heinrich Breloer

Screenplay: Heinrich Breloer

Camera: Gernot Roll

Play: Burghart Klaußner, Adele

Neuhauser, Laura de Boer, Trine

Dyrholm, Ernst Stötzner, Vojtěch

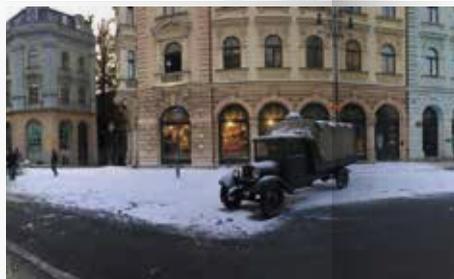
Havelka, Jan Šantroch, Jakub

Krejča and other.

This movie on the life of **Bertolt Brecht**, the writer and playwright, was shot primarily at the F. X. Šalda Theatre. In the movie, it represents the theatre in which Brecht worked all his life. However, it is interesting that the scenes filmed in Liberec represent 5 other theatres in the movie, as our theatre proved to meet the criteria for period shooting. A big attraction of the shoot was the snow. Not that we have a shortage of it here below Ještěd in winter, but this film was shot in July, and therefore artificial snow had to appear in scenes. In addition to the F. X. Šalda Theatre, the crossroads in front of the theatre and the Pošta Café also appeared in the movie.



F. X. Šalda Theatre in the
Bertolt Brecht movie trailer.



Pictures from
shooting at the
F. X. Šalda Theatre.



Carnival Row

USA, 2018

Direction: Jon Amiel

Screenplay: Travis Beacham, Peter

Cameron, René Echevarria and other

Camera: Chris Seager

Play: Orlando Bloom, Cara

Delevingne, Wajid Ali, Jamie Harris,

Anna Rust, Ian Hanmore, Petra

Bučková, Andrea Čudová and other.



Orlando Bloom and
Cara Delevingne are
signing the Liberec
city chronicle.

The **Carnival Row** series was shot all over the Czech Republic. The film crew stayed only one day in Liberec – at the railway station, but luckily for us, both stars of the project made their way here. So, on top of Ron Howard's signature, two more no less valuable ones were added to the city's chronicle. The main actor in the series is Orlando Bloom, who plays a detective there. The second signature is from the actress and model Cara Delevingne, who plays a fairy. The series takes place in a fantasy world, and murders happen in a fictitious Neo-Victorian town, where real people and mythical creatures live side by side.



Carnival Row
movie trailer

Spider-Man: Far from Home

Czech Republic, Great Britain,
Italy, 2019
Direction: Jon Watts
Screenplay: Chris McKenna,
Erik Sommers
Camera: Matthew J. Lloyd
Play: Tom Holland, Jacob
Batalon, Zendaya, Jake
Gyllenhaal and other.

Filming of the last part of the Spider-Man series was kept strictly secret, and that is why a working title for the project was used – BOSCO. The filming was technically very challenging, preceded by months of preparations. The square in front of the Town Hall was transformed into the Prague festival of lights, to which filmmakers brought many stalls, fairy lights, a Ferris wheel and a children's carousel. The Neptune Fountain was also involved in the filming. The film decorators hid the statue of Neptune inside a new, fictitious but functional fountain, decorated with an unknown man. The shooting took place at night and involved lots of action – there was no shortage of explosions whatsoever.



Photos by Jay Maidment



Spider-Man: Far from
Home movie trailer



Rats – TV series

Czech Republic, 2020
Direction: Viktor Tauš, Matěj Chlupáček
Screenplay: Miro Sifra
Camera: Martin Douba
Play: Lenka Krobotová, Cyril Dobrý, Václav Neuzžil ml., David Novotný, Eliška Křenková, Milošlav Pecháček, Duy Anh Tran, Přemysl Bureš

Rats, a Czech Television series, is the first project of the Liberec Film Office, which was supported by the City of Liberec even financially. Together with Viktor Tauš, it is co-directed by the Liberec native Matěj Chlupáček. This is the first time the Liberec Film Office has worked with a local filmmaker. We are really happy about that.



Matěj Chlupáček on filming in Liberec: "Shooting most parts of the *Rats* miniseries in Liberec was for me, as a Liberec native, a truly exceptional experience. Although my future career as a director and producer began to form in this city many years ago, when I was making short films as a child with my friends after school, I haven't filmed any of my professional film contributions here until now. After three feature films and three series, *Rats* is the first thing I have brought to my hometown. We shoot at many places – at the zoo, next to the café Bez Konceptu, at the Imperial Hotel, on the streets of the city, but also at the housing estate and on the outskirts of Liberec. The diversity of our city is amazing, and it provides many opportunities for the series to take advantage of. We are very grateful for the support from the City and the Film Office, and we couldn't imagine our project being created elsewhere with such support."

Shot in Liberec



Line of Separation
2017



Brecht
2017



Shadow of the Ferns
2016



SPARK
2016



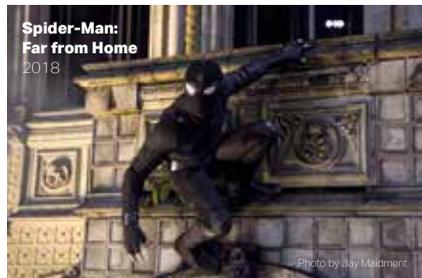
Carnival Row
2018



Last Visa
2015



Carnival Row
2018



**Spider-Man:
Far from Home**
2018

Photo by Jay Maidment



Rats
2020



Provincial Court
2016



Wandering Camera series
2018



Milada
2016



Last Visa
2015



Genius - Albert Einstein
2016/2017



Brecht
2017

In the footsteps of film

Would you like to learn even more about film in Liberec? Join us on a commented tour of the Liberec Town Hall called "In the footsteps of film". On this one-hour tour, you will see the transformations of the Town Hall interiors, hear some gags from the filming and take a peek behind the scenes of filmmaking.

The tour takes place once a month from 5pm – 6pm. Dates can always be found at www.visitliberec.eu or on the Liberec Film Office Facebook profile. The tour is in the Czech language.

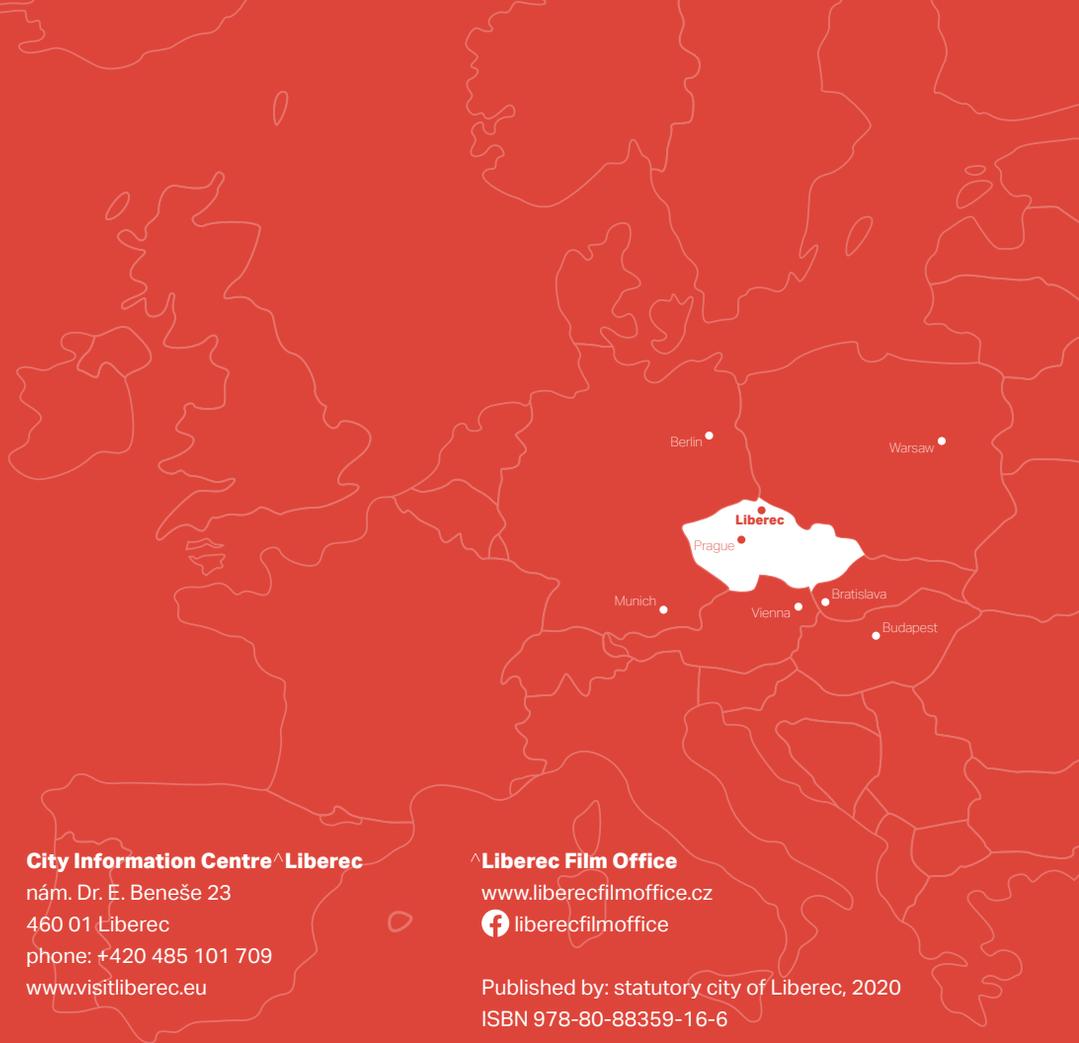
Tickets must be booked in advance:

phone: +420 485 101 709

e-mail: info@visitliberec.eu

web: www.evstupenka.cz





City Information Centre ^ Liberec

nám. Dr. E. Beneše 23

460 01 Liberec

phone: +420 485 101 709

www.visitliberec.eu

^ Liberec Film Office

www.liberecfilmoffice.cz

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