

ON MONDAY THE LIFE SCIENCES FILM FESTIVAL 2014 WILL SHOW WHY WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT MICROBES

Prague, Czech Republic – October 8, 2014 – Advertises for any detergent boast of the ability to destroy 99.9% of bacteria. The aesthetic ideal is a sparkling clean space in which no other being, but man, has a chance to survive. In our obsession with health we destroy and chase away all life as soon as it approaches us, we spend more and more money for drugs and hygienic products, but in reality we are more and more ill. The incidence of diseases of civilisation, such as diabetes, obesity, allergies or respiratory ailments, is reaching pandemic dimensions. For the first time in history we have reached a stage when the next generation will probably live a shorter life than the current one.

What is the cause of this situation? Toni Harman's and Alex Wakeford's film ***Microbirth*** comes with an answer. **On Monday October 13**, the film will **open the 4th Life Sciences Film Festival of documentaries**. Apart from the issue of health risks that the modern world causes the film also raises the topic of natural birth which according to the authors of the film has a decisive effect on the health of each of us. Scientific research shows that the presence of bacteria and microorganisms on and in our body has a much more positive effect than we have assumed so far. The moment of birth is the key moment when the so far "untainted" organism of the child is invaded by microorganisms thanks to whose presence the immune organism is launched in the desirable way. However, the modern trend, which emphasizes Caesarean sections and various medical interventions even in situations when they are not necessary, puts new-born babies at provable risk for their long-term health – their immune system will not start in the way nature intended.

The authors of the film, Toni Harman and Alex Wakeford, will **personally present the screening of the film on Wednesday, October 18 at 1 p.m.** (FAFNR) and will also participate in the after-film discussion. An interview with the director is attached.

On Wednesday at 5.30 p.m. the awarded films of LSFF 2014 will be announced. The event is hosted by actor and film director Zdeněk Suchý and singer Lenka Dusilová will perform there.

The Life Sciences Film Festival will take place at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague – Suchbát from Monday October 13 to Friday October 17, 2014 and it will present 169 documentaries from 29 countries of the world. The concept of this unique event connects the latest local and international documentaries with the base and the whole arsenal of the Czech University of Life Sciences. Entry for the public is free of charge after registration.

For more information go to www.lssf.cz.

Festival programme: <http://www.lssf.cz/cs/program>

News at <https://www.facebook.com/lifesciencesfilmfestival#>

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This year's festival has announced five main topics. After the screenings of films on the topic there will be a discussion with the authors and/or specialists in the given field. Apart from microbes and their relation to people's health (see above) these topics include:

To raise or to grow meat? The topic points to the newest experiments with growing meat from germ cells. It also promotes consumption of high-quality meat.

Selected film: Food, Inc. might be the first film that shows the viewer what they eat, how food is made, what is added in it and why. It compares the production in the largest enterprises with small family-run companies where they care for every piece. The miniseries focuses on basic foods people buy. It also explains how and why junk food is made.

Accompanying programme: October 14 at 5.30 p.m. Faculty of Agrobiological Sciences, Food and Natural Resources. After the screening, there'll be a discussion (not just about ham) with Roman Vaněk, František Kšána jr. and Věra Mátlová.

Can fungi save the world? The topic focuses on the use of the properties of fungi, which can help in environmentally friendly industrial production, lessening the consequences of pollution, simulation for the purpose of communication network improvement etc.

Selected films: Super Fungi, Will Mushrooms Help Save the World? Starting with this provocative title, the film throws light on the world of mycotechnology, one of the most promising avenues for dealing with the many challenges threatening the modern world. From getting rid of pollution to reducing desertification or improving flows around our infrastructure networks.

Accompanying programme: October 14, 12.30 p.m., Faculty of Environmental Sciences. After the screening there will be a discussion on mycorrhiza: RNDr. Miroslav Vosátka, CSc. (Institute of Botany AS CR), doc. RNDr. Jana Kocourková, CSc. (FES), prof. Michal Hejčman (FES), Ing. Lenka Sochorová (FES)

Where will our energy come from? Besides the theme of electromobility the festival will offer a reflection on possible sources of electricity.

Selected film: Better Living through Chemistry: Fuelling Controversy. We are facing a global energy crisis and we have to find alternatives to fossil fuels. Nobel laureates Steven Chu and Hartmut Michel visit a farm with three young researchers to consider our energy futures. They ask whether biofuels can power the planet and, if not, what are the alternatives? This film really gets down to the real science.

Accompanying programme: Round Hall, Tuesday October 14 at 12.30 p.m.: Energy block. Discussion on the topic of Solar Energy and Its Future, Nuclear Waste, Power Industry in Historical Context, Power Industry in 2050. Discussion on films *Current in the Tank – Where*

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is the Electromobile? and *Better Living through Chemistry: Fuelling Controversy* (director Martin Freeth will be present).

Where does the road out of the city begin? The topic reflects the growing interest of young people in the quality of food and gastronomy, growing, composting and social repercussions of agricultural issues (urban gardening, guerrilla gardening etc.).

Selected film: Brooklyn Farmer. Brooklyn Farmer explores the challenges facing Brooklyn Grange, a group of urban farmers who endeavour to run a commercially viable farm in New York City. As their growing operation expands to a second roof, the team confronts the realities inherent in operating the world's largest rooftop farm in one of the world's biggest cities.

Accompanying programme: Faculty of Engineering, Thursday October 16 from 11 a.m. A block of films dedicated to sustainable development and discussion with film directors is accompanied by the afternoon series of events: Zdrojovna, together at CULS, chef show Slow Food Prague Youth Network, Kokoza.

The Life Sciences Film Festival is organised by the Czech University of Life Sciences together with the Harvest Films civic organisation. The festival will take place at the CULS for the fifth time this year. Each year in October since the preliminary year, it has been presenting over a hundred documentaries accompanied by dozens of forums with scientists and filmmakers, presentations, exhibitions, degustations and concerts.

CULS is the third largest university in Prague. It combines a hundred year tradition with latest technologies, progressive science and research in the fields of agriculture, wood sciences, ecology, technology as well as economics and management. Modern, well-equipped labs with state-of-the-art base including school farms provide excellent education with the possibility of personal development and participation on scientific projects at home and abroad. CULS provides complete university education, summer schools, special courses, university of the third age.

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