

5. Miloš Forman: *The Firemen's Ball* (*Hoří, má panenko*, 1967).

Screenplay: Jaroslav Papoušek, Ivan Passer, Miloš Forman. Director of photography: Miroslav Ondříček. Editor: Miroslav Hájek. Music: Karel Mareš. Cast: Jan Votrčil, Josef Šebánek, Josef Valnoha, František Debelka, Milada Ježková, Josef Kolb. 69 min.

After the success of *Loves of a Blonde*, Miloš Forman made the greatest and cruellest political metaphor in Czech cinema. The Czech national character was shown in a naked and very painful fashion in this burlesque. But it is also a satire about the Communist regime and about relations between the leaders and the people. The Italian co-producer Carlo Ponti was disappointed by the film, as were Czech firemen.

Assigned reading:

Hames, Peter. *The Czechoslovak New Wave*: "Miloš Forman" – see lecture 3