

8. Věra Chytilová: *Daisies* (*Sedmikrásky*, 1966)

Story: Věra Chytilová, Pavel Juráček. **Screenplay:** Ester Krumbachová, Věra Chytilová. **Director of photography:** Jaroslav Kučera. **Costume Designer:** Ester Krumbachová. **Editor:** Miroslav Hájek. **Music:** Jiří Šust, Jiří Šlitr. **Cast:** Jitka Cerhová (Marie I), Ivana Karbanová (Marie II). **Running time:** 73 min.

*“Some days ago I saw a film – its title was **Daisies** – and it told a story about two beautiful disgusting little girls, absolutely satisfied by their lovely dullness and destroying everything in a spirit of fun, everything that extended beyond their horizon. It seems to me like a far-reaching and topical parable about vandalism. (...) The vandal, as I see him, lives in good social conditions, he is satisfied with himself and has no reason for any revenge. The vandal is a splendid dullness, feeling good in itself and ready to demand its democratic rights any time.”*

Milan Kundera

The presentation of the Czech new wave starts with a shocking “philosophy burlesque” made by the most famous, radically innovative and provocative Czech woman director, Věra Chytilová, the cinematographer Jaroslav Kučera and the scriptwriter and costume-designer Ester Krumbachová. The preview in 1967 was accompanied by an atmosphere of scandal. We can read this movie as a political parable or a morality story made from a feminist point of view. Other outstanding films by Chytilová include *Fruit of Paradise* (1969), *The Apple Game* (1976), *Panelstory* (1979), *Calamity* (1981), *Trap, Trap, Little Trap* (1998) and her latest movie *Ban from Paradise* (2001).

Assigned reading:

- Hames, Peter. *The Czechoslovak New Wave*: “Věra Chytilová.”