

## PRESENTATION TOPICS

### Life is Hard 1<sup>st</sup> Oct

- What were the positives and negatives of the interwar democratic Czechoslovakia? (1918-1938)
- Look at the first film (Život je pes. Life is Hard) and discuss what the film tells us about: 1. Levels of technological development. 2. (Un)employment of the young. 2. Position of women in interwar Czech society? **Téa Hume Life is Hard 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 , 1 pm.**

### The White Disease 8<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Three presentation topics:

- History of Czechoslovakia: The Munich Crisis, its impact and the role of the UK in the crisis. - Czechoslovakia from mid 1939 until end of March 1939 **Genevieve Jobson 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 3 pm**
- When Čapek's play The White Disease was premiered at the National Theatre in Prague, it received a 30 minute standing ovation from the audience at the end of the play. The audience interpreted it as an anti-Nazi play. But is it? **Jemimah Flowers, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 3 pm**
- Compare and contrast the characters of the Doctor and the Dictator. Are they the same or are they diametrically opposite to each other? What is the most salient issue of the play?

**Olivia Vaaranmaa 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1 pm**

### **From 2018:**

*Coincidentally, just at the time when we are dealing with it in our classes, the world is reminiscing about the shameful Munich Agreement which basically destroyed the interwar democratic Czechoslovakia. The deed was done in the night from 29th to 30th September 1938,*

*Here is a short film which has just been released by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty commemorating the event:*

<https://www.rferl.org/a/munich-agreement-80th-anniversary/29513509.html>

### **The Adventurers' Life is Hard 15<sup>th</sup> Oct.**

"Cum tacent, clamant." What does and what doesn't the film The Adventurers' Life is Hard tell us about the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia?

Outline the characteristic features of the life of the Czechs under the Nazi occupation. Use the appropriate chapter from Mary Heimann's work. **India Jenkins. 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, 3pm, Eve Capon, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1 pm.**

### **The Cremator 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct.**

What kind of people are used by dictatorial regimes, according to the film "The Cremator"? **Sophie George 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct, 3 pm.**

Outline the history of Czechoslovakia "From National Cleansing to Communist Dictatorship" using the relevant chapter from Mary Heimann. **Lewis Scott, 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1 pm**

### **The Ear 5<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

Judging by the film The Ear, describe the relationship of the leadership of the communist party and government in Czechoslovakia in the 1950s to its top officials. **Ellen Breckon, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, 1 pm.**

Prepare a report on developments in Czechoslovakia in the late 1950s and early 1960s using Mary Heimann's chapter "Building a Socialist State".

*From 2018*

*On Sunday morning at 9.30 am, BBC Radio Scotland broadcast a special half-hour feature devoted to the centenary of the foundation of Czechoslovakia on 28th October 1918. The programme featured Karl von Habsburg, a grandson of the last Austro-Hungarian Emperor; Jan Čulík, Senior Lecturer in Czech Studies at Glasgow University, Adam Koziczowski, who wrote The Afterlife of Austria-Hungary, and Anka Dragu from Bratislava of Radio Slovakia International.*

*The programme is quite relevant to this course. You can listen to it here:*

*[https://blisty.cz/video/28\\_10\\_18\\_radioScotland.mp3](https://blisty.cz/video/28_10_18_radioScotland.mp3)*

### **The White Lady 12<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

"Although the White Lady is a comedy, it is at the same time a sharp sociological analysis of how the socialist authoritarian regimes of Eastern Europe worked." What does it tell us? Discuss.

**Sophie McCulloch 12<sup>th</sup> November, 1 pm.**

Prepare a presentation from Mary Heimann's book on life in Czechoslovakia in the liberal 1960s.

### **A Thousand Clarinets 19<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

What social and political issues are dealt with by the film A Thousand Clarinets? **Ben Gill 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1 pm.**

### **The Joke 26<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

Where are the limits of prostituting yourself for career reasons?

### **Something Like Happiness 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec**

How is life different in post-communism? Assess, using this film.

### **Waves 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec**

Where goes the line in this film between fact and fiction. Is the film lying?

