

Good Brother Films

Presents

Aussig

Written & Directed by Tony Laue

89 minutes, English, Digital-beta

Premiered

October 2010, Usti nad Labem, The Czech Republic

December 2010, Prague, The Czech Republic

Distributed by Pegasfilm in the Czech and Slovak Republics.

<http://www.pegasfilm.com/distribuceaussig.htm>

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SYNOPSIS

Aussig is a black comedy set in the post communist industrial town of Ústí nad Labem, The Czech Republic. The story revolves around the relationship between two new lecturers at a local university - one a Russian and the other an American. Tension starts when the two men are forced to live together in a small dorm room. They conflict over everything from ketchup to women and quickly develop a dislike for each other. It is as if another Cold War has broken out with the battleground being their little tiny dorm room.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I wrote the screenplay for Aussig in the summer of 2005 at my grandmother's house in North-East Nebraska. I received a phone call from Europe that I was going to be a first time father and that information inspired me to hammer out the screenplay. I had been working with stories told to me by my friend Nik Pitetsky set in the post communist industrial city of Usti nad Labem in the Czech Republic. Nik's stories were about two university lecturers, one an American, the other a Russian who were forced to live together in a small dorm room. I took Nik's stories, drew on a few of my own, mixed them with other stories I had collected over my years living in Europe and boiled them down into what became the screenplay for Aussig.

Nik's stories were primarily funny but also acutely revealing. I immediately recognized this American that Nik had lived with. He's well educated, progressive socially and slightly evangelical in his attempts to convince people of the correctness and superiority of his well reasoned ways. He also believes in his fundamental goodness and decency as a person. Through the writing of the screenplay the stories took on a life of their own and became something other than Nik's stories. In the filming the story again grew and changed and became something distinct and independent from the screenplay. This happened one final time during the editing where the story that was pulled out of the footage took on a different life than the footage itself. The one thing that remained through this whole process was Nik's stories and for those stories I am incredibly grateful.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Aussig is eighty-eight minutes long. The film was shot on an NTSC Canon XL2 at an aspect ratio of 16 by 9. The film is in English with bits and bobs in Czech. All Czech is subtitled into English. The film was edited using Final Cut Pro. All audio post was done at Beep Studios in Prague, The Czech Republic. About seventy five percent of the film was ADRed at Beep Studios in Prague . Grading and color correction was done in Prague at UPP Studio.

Both PAL and NTSC formats are available of the film.

ABOUT THE ACTORS

Nik Pitetsky (Sascha Malinsky)

Nikolaj Pitetsky was born in Orel, Russia in 1974. He studied Linguistics and English Philology at the Orel State University but later emigrated to the Czech Republic where he worked as an English Lecturer at UJEP in Usti nad Labem while writing his PhD.. There he became interested in film and acting eventually teaming up with Tony Laue to work on Aussig. He now lives in Berlin with his family.

Tony Laue (John Gimple)

Tony Laue was raised in Burbank, California. His father, Richard Laue was a minister at Calvary Bible Church in Burbank. After graduating from UC Santa Barbara with a degree in Philosophy Tony moved to Prague, The Czech Republic where he wrote the lyrics for a musical that was produced in Prague called The Caravan. In 2004 he wrote the screenplay for the film Rex-patriates. Rex-patriates was directed by Nancy Bishop and produced by Jeffrey Brown. It screened in festivals worldwide including Karlovy Vary and Rome. It also aired on Czech Television. Aussig is his debut as a director and actor. He continues to reside in the Czech Republic.

Hana Vagnerova (Lenka Simkova)

Hana is from Prague, The Czech Republic where she studied acting at DAMU. She first appeared on Television in 1997 in the hit series Wild Land. She then went on to perform in numerous TV series including leading roles in Horákovi and Vyprávěj. Hana has also had substantial roles in various films including Chytte doktora (Catch the Doctor) and Juraj Jakubisko's Bathory and the Slovak film Odsudene (The Convicted). She is an active member of the theater group Divadlo Rokoko in Prague.

Petra Lustigova (Boženka)

Petra is an accomplished actress. After graduating from DAMU in Prague she acted for 8 years with Divadlo Komedie in Prague. (Ophelia, Hamlet). Since then Petra has performed at Divadlo Archa and with many other leading theater groups in The Czech Republic. She has also had a successful film and TV career that has included roles in a long list of well known films such as Dune and Hannibal. Petra also had a main role in the award winning Czech Film Příběhy obyčejného šílenství (Stories of Ordinary Madness). Her last performance was the role of Monika in the TV film version of Vaclav Havel's last play Odcházení (Leaving).

Ondrej Brzobohaty (Honzík)

Ondrej is not only a talented actor but also a talented musician. He was the lead singer and principal songwriter in the pop band Bůhví. Ondrej was also the first host for the hit Czech TV show Superstar (Pop Idol). Ondrej starred on the long running Czech TV series Ulice (The Street). Currently he is writing the music and lyrics for Sammer Issa's and Dara Rollins's upcoming projects. Ondrej is also a member of the Divadlo Radka Brzobohatého in Prague where he performs regularly.

Ondrej Pavelka (Pan Šimek)

Ondrej is a giant of Czech cinema and theater. He has been acting successfully for nearly thirty years and has appeared in close to twenty films over his career including Juraj Jakubisko's Sedím na konari a je mi dobre, (I'm Sitting on a Branch and I'm Fine). Ondrej has a strong presence in the Czech theater community. Over the years he has been a member of divadlo Na okraji and divadlo Na zábradlí in Prague. Since 1993 he has been a member of the National Theater. He also teaches at the Dramatic Arts Academy in Prague (DAMU).

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Tony Laue (Writer/Director)

Tony Laue was raised in Burbank, California. His father, Richard Laue was a minister at Calvary Bible Church in Burbank. After graduating from UC Santa Barbara with a degree in Philosophy Tony moved to Prague, The Czech Republic where he wrote the lyrics for a musical that was produced in Prague called The Caravan. After spending a few years in Prague he returned to Los Angeles where he worked at CBS TV Studios producing animated graphics for their network campaigns and promos. In 2000 he returned to the Czech Republic and started working at UJEP University in Usti nad Labem as a lecturer. In 2004 he wrote the screenplay for the film *Rex-patriates*. *Rex-patriates* was directed by Nancy Bishop and produced by Jeffrey Brown. It screened in festivals worldwide including Karlovy Vary and Rome. It also aired on Czech Television. *Aussig* is his debut as a director and actor. He continues to reside in the Czech Republic.

Jeffrey Brown (Producer)

Jeffrey Brown has produced numerous documentaries feature films. Most recently, he produced *Mamas & Papas* (2010) by Czech director Alice Nellis. He was also one of the executive producers on Jan Sverak's *Kuky se vraci* (2010), which won the Special Jury Prize at the Karlovy Vary IFF in 2010. Other features include *Shut Up and Shoot Me* (UK-CZ, 2007) and *Rexpatriates* (CZ, 2004), which premiered at the Rome Independent Film Festival.

His documentaries include *The Myth* (2004) a tour film on Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, and *Call of Dudy* (2005) on the Czech bagpipe tradition. He co-produced the documentary film *Durban Poison* (2008) on the first Black-owned theatre in South Africa and is currently completing *Punk in Africa* (ZA-CZ, 2011), recently presented at the SXSW 2011. He is currently producing

the feature films *Listopad* (CZ, 2012) and *The Playroom* (USA, 2012).

Petra Teslerova (Producer)

Petra comes from the Czech Republic. She is an ESL teacher, translator and voice over artist. Her passion for movies has led her to production work on independent film projects, including *Aussig*. At the current time she lives with her husband in Montana, the USA and is preparing for a year-long trip around Southeast Asia to satisfy her affection for travel and cultural differences.

Zuzana Hofova (Producer)

Zuzana Hofová comes from Moravia, in The Czech Republic. She is currently finishing up her Masters Degree in English at UJEP University in Usti nad Labem. She has also studied and worked extensively in both England and Germany. Initially Zuzana worked on *Aussig* as a member of the crew but later assumed more responsibility and took on the role as producer. This is her first film as a producer.

Randy Travis (Director of Photography)

Randy, originally from Southern California, has been traveling the world shooting stock footage of cultures, lifestyles, but more adamantly focusing on building his niche portfolio of underwater scenes and marine animal behaviors. His open approach to distributing his work has spread his footage to unknown projects worldwide, allowing underwater enthusiasts everywhere to enjoy his work.

Andy Wills (Editor)

Andrew is an editor based in Prague. His documentary *Punk in Africa*, a Czech-South African co-production, is to premiere in Prague in 2011. Currently he is editing the documentary *Listopad*, about three people who took part in the Velvet Revolution in Prague in 1989, and their

involvement in a film dramatisation of their experiences. Andrew's previous work includes visual post production on *Forgotten Transports*, Lukas Pribyl's acclaimed cycle of four documentaries about the deportation of Czech Jews during the holocaust. *Forgotten Transports - To Poland* won the audience award at the One world film festival in 2009. Recently, Andrew also worked on the film *Obcansky Prukaz* (Identity Card), by Ondrej Trojan.

Ivo Broum (Sound design)

Ivo is a graduate from the Czech Film Academy (FAMU) in Prague where he studied film sound and sound design. He currently works at the internationally known Beep Studios in Prague, The Czech Republic. Ivo has not only done the sound design for *Aussig* (2010) but also for the documentary *Lise-Forell - Sem Fronteiras* (2009, the Czech TV film *Papirovy atentat* (2007) and also for numerous feature films, TV programs and commercials at Beep Studios. Ivo also plays the keyboard in the Band Revelation.

Dita Simackova - Media Support/Marketing

Dita comes from Prague in the Czech Republic. She graduated from J.E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem after which she spent a few years in England, Switzerland and Thailand. She comes from a journalist's family. Her father is a well-known radio speaker. Dita has worked as a journalist and editor for numerous publications in the Czech Republic. Dita also co-founded a production agency called Dreamproduction that organizes concerts, company events, opening ceremonies, and social gatherings all over the Czech Republic. Because of her experience as an events producer she helped to organize the premiere screenings of *Aussig* in Ústí nad Labem and Prague. She is responsible for all *Aussig* media support.

