



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
CANNES CLASSICS
SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE 2021

The Cassandra Cat

Digitally restored and back in cinemas in 2021.

Až přijde kocour (The Cassandra Cat)

After making a name for himself with the anthology film *Touha* (*Desire*, 1958), which received recognition at the Cannes Film Festival, Vojtěch Jasný shot the fairy-tale allegory *Až přijde kocour* (*The Cassandra Cat*). Jiří Brdečka and Jan Werich collaborated with Jasný on the screenplay. Werich also acted in the film, portraying both the main narrator, castellan Oliva, and a traveling magician who puts on a show in the small Czech town. The magician is accompanied by the performer Diana (Emília Vášáryová) and a magical cat with sunglasses. When the sunglasses are removed, the cat's vision is able to reveal the true nature of people. Lovers turn red, thieves turn gray, traitors turn yellow... The headmaster of the local school and a restaurant manager are afraid the cat will expose their unfair practices, so they steal the animal. However, the pupils of teacher Robert (Vlastimil Brodský) are determined to put things in order. The coloring of the actors was not done in post-production, as is customary today, but during the filming itself, with the help of costumes, make-up, and colored lights. With its combination of colorful special effects, location shooting in the charming town of Telč, and fantasy story with moralistic undertones, the film enchanted the jury in Cannes, where Jasný won the Special Jury Prize not long after *Touha* (*Desire*) had received an award there.

Czechoslovakia 1963

Director: Vojtěch Jasný • **Screenplay:** Jiří Brdečka, Vojtěch Jasný, Jan Werich • **Photography:** Jaroslav Kučera • **Production design:** Oldřich Bosák • **Editing:** Jan Chaloupek • **Music:** Svatopluk Havelka • **Special Effects:** Jaroslav Kučera, Vladimír Dvořák • **Cast:** Emília Vášáryová, Jan Werich, Vlastimil Brodský, Jiří Sovák, Vladimír Menšík, Jiřina Bohdalová



Digital restoration

This 4K restoration was carried out in 2021 at L'Immagine Ritrovata in Bologna, under the supervision of Národní filmový archiv, Prague. The digital restoration of this film was made possible by a donation from Mrs. Milada Kučerová and Mr. Eduard Kučera with the support of Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Národní filmový archiv, Prague, would like to extend its thanks to the community of film heritage institutions associated within FIAF, the International Federation of Film Archives. Many FIAF members provided valuable cooperation, research and elements instrumental for this restoration, especially Das Bundesarchiv, Cinémathèque royale de Belgique, Filmoteka Narodowa – Instytut Audiowizualny, Filmarchiv Austria, Gosfilmofond of Russia, Jugoslovenska kinoteka and the National Film Institute Hungary – Filmarchive. Some of the necessary film loans were kindly supported by the Czech Center in Moscow and the Czech Centres Prague.



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