



Distant Journey

Digitally restored film
by Alfréd Radok

Národní
filmový
archiv

Alfréd Radok's debut still gives a unique answer to the question of how to express the inexpressible. The film does not translate the horror of the Terezín concentration camp directly, but through a comparison of the different visions that shaped the horrific reality of the Holocaust. The multilayered art report therefore combines a melodramatic story, echoes of expressionism and a self-reflective play with documentary and fiction.

The film will be screened in digitally restored form, which was created in 2019 under the supervision of the National Film Archive.

The digital restoration of *Daleká cesta* was carried out with the aim of making the film available under the existing technological conditions so that it was as faithful as possible to a hypothetical form at the time of its first release. The restoration itself was preceded by an extensive survey of preserved film materials together with research in non-film sources in order to obtain the most detailed information about the production and presentation of the film and its original form. The archival sources and period prints show, among other things, that the film finished in December 1948 was censored and approved only in May 1949. Although the Prague premiere was scheduled for May, *Daleká cesta* was not officially released – from mid 1949, the film was screened in a limited distribution circuit, mostly in non-Prague cinemas without much press coverage. Now, thanks to the digital form, the film will return to the cinemas.

Czechoslovakia 1948 • 104 min. • DCP

Director	Alfréd Radok
Screenstory, Screenplay	Mojmír Drvota, Erik Kolár, Alfréd Radok
Director of Photography	Josef Střecha
Set Designer	Jan Pacák
Editor	Jiřina Lukešová
Sound Designer	Josef Vlček
Music	Jiří Sternwald
Cast	Blanka Waleská, Otomar Krejča, Viktor Očásek, Zdeňka Baldová

Alfréd Radok (December 17, 1914 Koloděje nad Lužnicí – April 22, 1976 Vienna)

Although he originally considered journalism, he decided for theatre. He started as an intern and assistant director for E. F. Burian between 1938–1941. After his beginnings as a director in Prague, Brno and Plzeň, Radok was interned in a labor camp near Wrocław from September 1944 to January 1945 for racial reasons. He worked as a theatre director in both opera and drama departments of Divadlo 5. května, for drama department of National Theatre and Divadlo státního

filmu Theatre among other places. As one of the founders of *Laterna magika* (1956–1959) Radok connected film and theatre in perfect symbiosis. With *Laterna magika* he celebrated worldwide success at the Brussels EXPO 58. Radok gained his first professional experience with film as an artistic adviser for Art Nuveau comedy *Parohy* (1947) by František Sádek. His first directing debut was suggestive expressionistic drama *Daleká cesta* (1948). After this, Radok was only allowed to implement a transcription of classic theatre play by V. K. Klicpera *Divotvorný klobouk* (1952), distorted by censorship and a film describing the beginnings of motoring in Bohemia *Dědeček automobil* (1956) based on the novel by Adolf Branald. Radok also worked for radio and Czechoslovak Television as an exceptional director (plays *V pasti*, *Ďábel v Bostonu*, *Šach mat*).

Sales:
Národní filmový archiv
Tomáš Žůrek
E: tomas.zurek@nfa.cz
Tel.: +420 778 487 858
www.nfa.cz
www.zpetvkinech.cz

Press:
Národní filmový archiv
Veronika Bokšťeflová
E: veronika.boksteflova@nfa.cz
Tel.: +420 778 522 709

