



IKARIE XB 1



OFFICIAL SELECTION
CANNES CLASSICS
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

**DIGITALLY RESTORED
AND BACK IN CINEMAS**

**15 May 2016,
1 PM, The Buñuel
Theatre**

Jindřich Polák's pioneering and much-imitated film *Ikarie XB 1* (Czechoslovakia, 1963) is one of the cornerstones of sci-fi cinema. It predates *Star Trek* and Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* and was clearly an influence on both, as well as on almost every other science-fiction work that followed.



“Remains one of the most original and exciting science fiction films ever made... packed with sublime moments unlike those of any film preceding it. A game-changing film that profoundly influenced the genre and showed that science-fiction movies weren't only about special effects; they were also high art. Of the hardest and most admirable kind.”

Alex Cox, The Guardian

SYNOPSIS

It is the second half of the 22nd century and a spaceship called Ikarie XB 1 is on its way to Alfa Centauri to search for extraterrestrial forms of life. Its crew, made up primarily of scientists from various fields, being far from our solar system, is exposed to unknown and unimaginable dangers. At the same time, the film also deals with a number of their everyday worries as well as their delights. The stylistically refined fictional world of a distant future is brought to life through Kališ's black and white shots in a wide screen format and Liška's innovative electronic music, as well as the iconic set pieces and costumes. In addition, the matter-of-fact performance style employed by the best Czech actors from the time add a natural feel while also providing additional psychological layer to it. The script writers drew some of their inspiration from a novel by Stanisław Lem called The Magellanic Cloud. It is also worth mentioning that they resisted the politicization that sci-fi films of that time were frequently subjected to which often made them fairly superficial. Instead of pitting two rival systems against one another, thus creating an obvious East versus West dichotomy, they portray the hope for a better, morally more advanced humankind in place of the “riff raff” of the 20th century, who did not leave anything but disasters in their wake.

Director: Jindřich Polák **Story and Screenplay:** Jindřich Polák, Pavel Juráček, based on the novel The Magellanic Cloud (Obtlok Magellana) by Stanisław Lem **Director of Photography:** Jan Kališ **Music:** Zdeněk Liška **Production Designer:** Jan Zázvorka **Editor:** Josef Dobřichovský **Costume Designer:** Ester Krumbachová **Special Effects:** Jan Kališ, Milan Nejedlý, Jiří Hlupý, Pavel Nečešal, Karel Císařovský, František Žemlička **Ensemble Cast:** Zdeněk Štěpánek, Radovan Lukavský, Dana Medřická, Miroslav Macháček, František Smolík, Jiří Vršála.

The restoration was done by the Hungarian Filmlab in Budapest, under the supervision of the National Film Archive in Prague, in 2016.
Length: 88 minutes **4K DCP** **Sound:** Original mono (restored) **Black and White** **Aspect ratio:** 2.35:1 **Language:** Czech
Subtitles: English, French **Czechoslovakia 1963**

SALES

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