



Národní
filmový
archiv

MY SWEET LITTLE VILLAGE

FILM BY JIŘÍ MENZEL

BACK IN CINEMAS

This charming chronicle of rural life, nominated for an Oscar in 1987, is one of film director Jiří Menzel's greatest films. It marked Menzel's third collaboration with Zdeněk Svěrák, after *Kdo hledá zlaté dno/Who Looks for Gold?* (1974) and *Na samotě u lesa/Seclusion Near a Forest* (1976). It was not originally intended that a script by Svěrák be used, but he had been mistakenly paid twice for his work on *Seclusion*. As such, the co-founder of the Jára Cimrman Theatre jotted down a few pages of text in order to comply with the bureaucratic system. But Jiří Menzel liked the premise so much that he set about getting an entire screenplay written. This episodic portrait of a Bohemian village is built around the wobbly friendship between two men of opposing natures – farm truck driver Pávek (Marián Labuda) and his mentally challenged assistant Otík (János Bán). Pávek wants to get rid of his unreliable protégé once the harvest is over, after which Otík would move to Prague. But the naïve assistant is unprepared for life in the big city. The young man's broad smile while wearing headphones over his ears is now viewed as an inherent component of the colourful village idyll. The film also features the tetchy Turek (Petr Čepek), jealous of his wife Jana (Libuše Šafránková), and the absent-minded dreamer, Doctor Skružný (Rudolf Hrušínský), who enjoys admiring the wonder of the Bohemian countryside while driving.

Jiří Menzel (1938–2020)

The world-renowned Czech director Jiří Menzel was one of the leading figures of the Czechoslovak New Wave of the 1960s. Employing subtle lyricism and sensitivity, he made many popular tragicomedies about everyday joys. After graduating from the Prague Film Academy – FAMU, where he studied alongside Věra Chytilová and Evald Schorm among others, Menzel made his first feature film *Closely Watched Trains* (*Ostře sledované vlaky*, 1966). This tragicomedy set during the Nazi occupation of Bohemia in World War II won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. Menzel's next film, an adaptation of Vladislav Vančura's novel *Capricious Summer* (*Rozmarné léto*, 1967), opened the New York Film Festival. His *Larks on a String* (*Skřivánci na niti*) from 1969 received the Golden Bear at the Berlinale. However, because the film had been immediately banned, this did not happen until 21 years after its completion. His bittersweet comedy *My Sweet Little Village* (*Vesničko má středisková*, 1985) was nominated for an Oscar.

Czechoslovakia 1985 • 103 min. • DCP & Blu-ray • English subtitles

Directed by	Jiří Menzel
Story, screenplay	Zdeněk Svěrák
Director of photography	Jaromír Šofr
Set designer	Zbyněk Hloch
Editing	Jiří Brožek
Cast	János Bán, Marián Labuda, Rudolf Hrušínský, Libuše Šafránková and others

The donors of the digitization project were Mrs. Milada Kučerová and Mr. Eduard Kučera.

Sales:

Národní filmový archiv
E: distribuce@nfa.cz

www.nfa.cz

www.zpetvkinech.cz

Press:

Národní filmový archiv
Jana Lohrová
E: jana.lohrova@nfa.cz



Milada & Eduard Kučerovi

