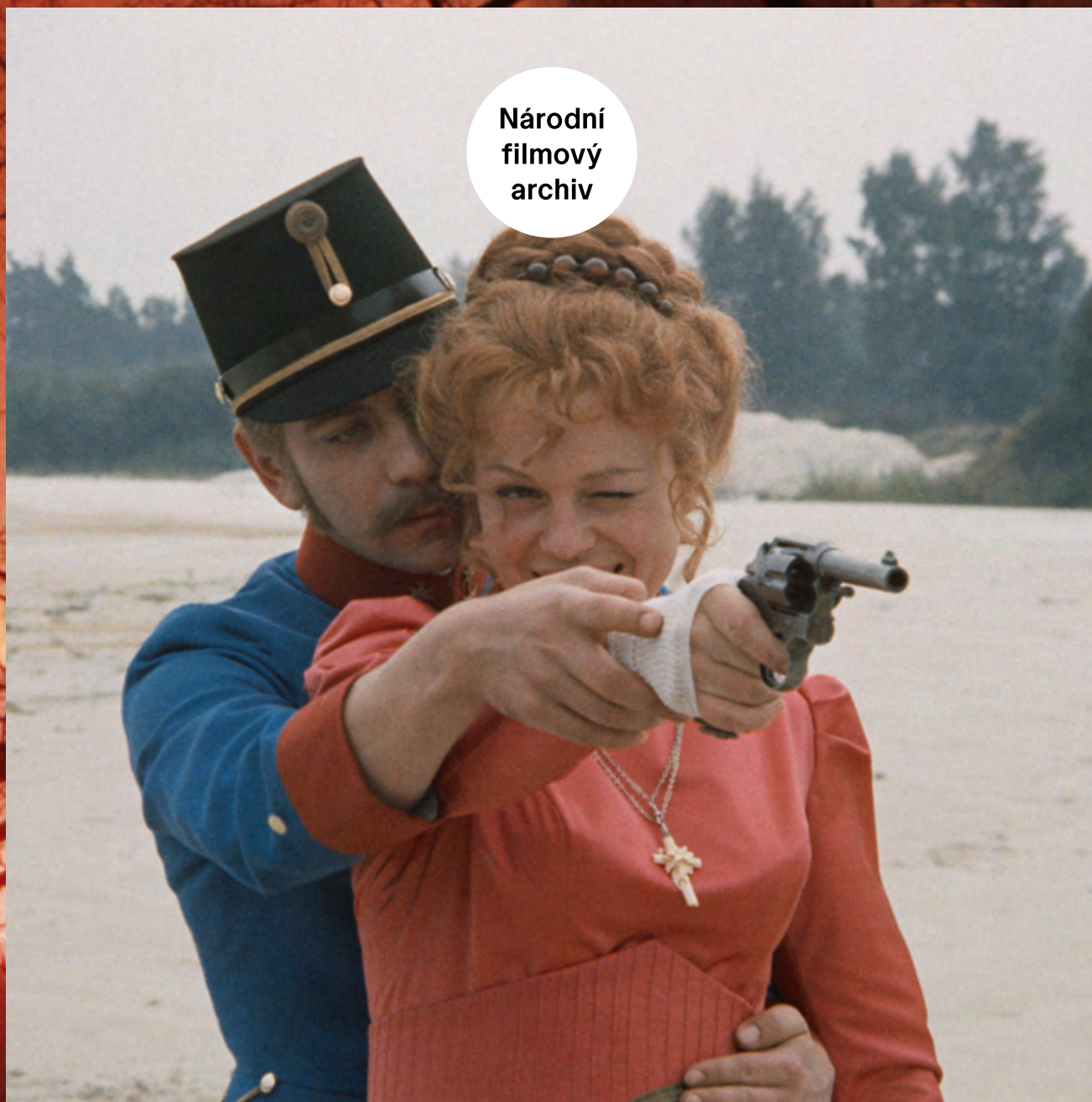


Národní  
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# OIL LAMPS

FILM BY JURAJ HERZ

**DIGITALLY RESTORED AND BACK ON SCREENS**

In the early 1970s, Juraj Herz planned to follow up *Spalovač mrtvol/The Cremator* (1968) by adapting another of Ladislav Fuks's works. But *The Tale of a Criminal Counsel* and *The Merry Annen Ball* were rejected. Instead, dramaturge Václav Šašek offered Herz a script based on Jaroslav Havlíček's psychological novel, *Vyprahlé touhy/Arid Desires*. The director accepted the proposal, and after a short interlude working in television he went back to filming at Barrandov. The protagonist of this expressive story which overlaps into horror is thirty-year-old Štěpa Kiliánová (Iva Janžurová). As a wealthy women living in a small town in the early 1920s, she searches in vain for a groom of the same social status. In the end, she marries her impoverished, greedy cousin Pavel (Petr Čepek), whom she had always looked up to. After the wedding, however, she finds out that the bohemian officer suffers from syphilis. The emancipated heroine is not only unable to fulfil her desires, but she also has to endure her husband's physical and mental decline, a decline which also reflects the moral decay of small-town society. This naturalistic study of thwarted hopes, whose decadent atmosphere is underscored by the Art Nouveau sets and Dodo Šimončič's camerawork, was a great acting opportunity for Petr Čepek and Iva Janžurová, who would go on to play the co-leads a year later in Herz's *Morgiana* (1972).

Czechoslovakia 1971 • 105 min. • DCP & Blu-ray • english subtitles

Director	Juraj Herz
Screenplay	Václav Šašek, Lubor Dohnal, Juraj Herz
Director of photography	Dodo Šimončič
Set designer	Zbyněk Hloch
Edit	Jaromír Janáček
Music	Luboš Fišer
Cast	Iva Janžurová, Petr Čepek, Marie Rosůlková, Ota Sklenčka

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

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