

presents

L'ALIE POĽNÉ (WILD LILIES, dir. Elo Havetta, 1972, 80 min)

*"Behold the birds of the heaven, that they sow not, neither do they reap
and yet, they are not hungry."*



"Elo Havetta's second feature is full of the spirit of carnival and contains no less than three festive gatherings. Constructed on the model of a music composition with a range of motifs and leitmotifs, the film's mainly monochrome images create the sense of old photographs. The crippled and itinerant musicians, the firemen's bands, folk songs, and military fanfares suggest a tendency for life to become music and music to become life. Scripted by novelist Vincent Šíkula and adapted from his own novel, the film is also notable for the invention and relentless energy of Zdeněk Liška's score." Peter Hames. Best of Slovak Film 1921 – 1991, Second Edition, 2018

"An expression of liberated and spontaneous rhythm inspired by folk poetry, surrealism and naive artists.

Protagonists of the film are compared to the birds of the air, that do not sow or reap and still survive; to the lilies of the field that do not care about their clothing and still grow in beauty. And they are just as fragile..." Jan Jaroš: The Story of Tramps. Zemědělské noviny, 8. 3. 1990

"The entire film is based on the principle of a polyphonic music composition. Not only with regard to the form but also the entire dramaturgical concept. There are solo motifs in the film; they develop in order to merge into a symphony in the end. We have also expressed this formally, but it is written like that in the script. When we thought about the art concept of the film we said to ourselves that we are going to base it on period photographs. Since it is a film which could be dedicated to our grandfathers, the image of brownish, yellow military photographs with cracked corners from our grandfathers' suitcases immediately imposes itself. This is why we stuck to the basic brown colour. The use of colour film in the end ensues from the overall composition of the film as a music composition. At the end all colours merge in the finale, which meant that we also needed to add light." Elo Havetta



The film has been digitally restored and is available on 2K DCP in Slovak (OV) with English and French subtitles.