

Guest star



Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman in the 1994 film *The Shawshank Redemption*.

Compromise is a dangerous thing

Tim Robbins isn't shy about taking on bad scripts, bad policies and great music

Actor-director **Tim Robbins**, who once dreamed of a career as a folk musician, says he's long been inspired by film artists who buck the system, especially Miloš Forman. Robbins himself has challenged authorities often, once getting banned from the Oscars for protesting the refugee policies of George W. Bush. In comments to the press and public at KVIFF, Robbins spoke – with his upcoming concert with The Rogues Gallery Band coming up on July 4 – of his luck, inspirations and approach to storytelling. The text was edited from a press conference by Will Tizard.

How does your role as the protagonist of the 1994 film *The Shawshank Redemption* continue to affect your life?

Pretty much every day that I'm out in public someone says something extremely nice to me about that film. So if I'm having a bad day there's always some positivity out there. I think it's really awesome to have that. It's such a nice thing to be remembered for such a good film. There's a lot of people that are remembered for very popular films that might not have been received so well. I feel blessed that that film has meant something for so many people.

How did it happen that you took that role and why did you decide to take it on?

It was a really, really good script. It was one of the best scripts I've ever read and both Morgan Freeman and I and the cast, the cinematographer, Roger Deakins, knew that this script had great potential. But we had no idea at the time how much it would resonate for so many people for so long. I don't think you can ever really know that. When it came out it wasn't immediately a huge success. It wound up with its longevity by more and more people discovering the film through video cassettes and DVDs and television. It's a testament to the film itself that it did endure.

You said that you were struck by the honesty and richness *Loves of a Blonde* when it screened on opening night here. Was Forman always an inspiration for you?

Miloš Forman made some of the most beautiful films that I've seen - *Amadeus*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* - so when I got a chance to meet him I was nervous. Most of the people that I've met that I've idolized have actually turned out to be really great people, not egotistical. When I met Miloš I really wanted to work with him. When

I met with him he was expressing his frustration with the system. This experience gave me a great inspiration, a great love for Miloš Forman - that he would, after having the successes that he's had, that he would still retain his integrity and retain his vision of what an artist should be.

This was the incident in which a Hollywood studio sent Forman a poster for a film he hadn't yet made and it angered him and made him cancel the project.

It's difficult sometimes – when you're trying to maintain a career – to say no. To draw a line and say 'that's enough' – I will not cross that line. That I was able to witness Forman say that gave me a touchstone for my own life and career.

Have your outspoken political comments gotten you into trouble publicly or in your career?

I have no way of knowing. If I had been safe, if I had kept my mouth shut when something I felt needed to be said needed to be said, if I had not spoken out I don't know that

I would like myself very much. I think compromise is a dangerous thing when you're talking about artistic integrity, the truth.

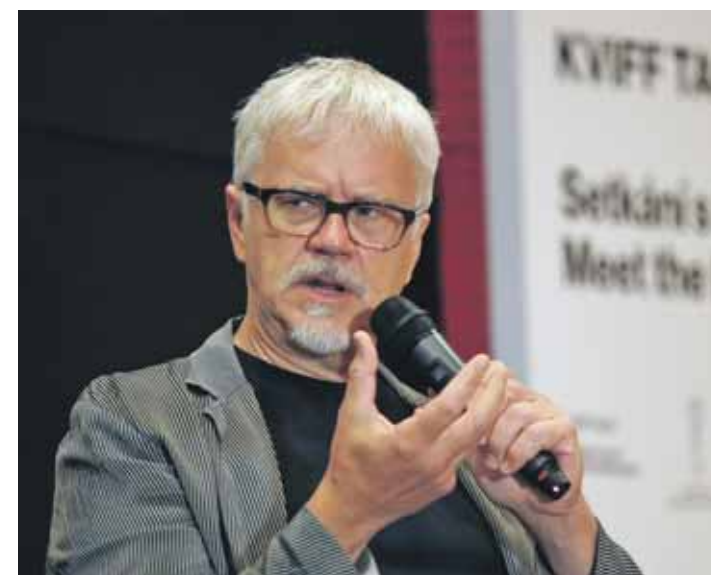
And to know something and to not say anything is for me a betrayal of what democracy is. The reason we have freedom of speech in a democracy is not to use it when it's convenient; it's to use your speech when it's difficult.

Growing up with folk music all around you, did this shape the music you play with your band?

I play a lot of originals that I've written and do some cover songs, usually of songs that are not really well known. We're not a karaoke kind of thing. Traditional roots music - blues, see shanties... very much in the tradition of Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger with a little Billie Holiday thrown in. •

Concert: Tim Robbins and The Rogues Gallery Band

**July 4 at 9 pm
Municipal Theater**



Reporters and fans spoke for hours with Tim Robbins this week, covering work, morality and politics.

Faces

Today the festival welcomes director **Paweł Maślona**, to present his film *Panic Attack* in the main competition. In the documentary section competition director and screenwriter **Tomáš Bojar** is coming with *Breaking News* and director **Yuqi Kang** with *A Little Wisdom*.



Wolfgang Fischer

Director **Vladimir Bitokov** is bringing his film *Deep Rivers* and director and producer **Beata Parkanová** is screening *Moments*, both are part of the East of the West competition section. The Another View section wel-



Gianni Zanasi

comes **Sergej Loznica** for the films *Victory Day* and *Donbass*. Director **Wolfgang Fischer** is



Rachel Shenton

screening his film *Styx* and directing brothers **Damiano D'Innocenzo** and **Fabio D'Innocenzo** will show *Boys Cry*. Fellow countryman, director **Gianni Zanasi**, is bringing his film *Lucia's Grace* to show in the Horizons section.

The People Next Door section welcomes **Ivo Trajkov** (*The Past*) and director **Chris Overton** along with actress **Rachel Shenton**



Sergej Loznica

representing their Academy Award-winning short film *The Silent Child*.

Director **Petr Zelenka** will arrive for the exclusive release of the preview of two episodes of the third series of the HBO series *Therapy*.

Events



Richard Linklater will talk about the Austin Film Society during his KVIFF TALK.

Industry events you don't want to miss today

Artificial intelligence and script analysis: Predicting commercial and critical success for European and independent film

Hosted by: Nadira, founder and CEO of ScriptBook

10 am, Industry Pool Hotel Thermal

Big data and artificial intelligence are impacting how entertainment is being made today and how it will be made in the future. In this session,

ScriptBook showcases a live demo of their platform for artificial intelligence script analysis and financial forecasting. Take a chance to learn how AI can equip you with a powerful tool to improve decision-making and select content which stands out both critically and commercially.

KVIFF TALK on Baltic poetic documentaries

Hosted by: Latvian journalist and film historian Zane Balčus

10:30 am, Cinema A In English, Open to public

The retrospective *Reflections of Time: Baltic Poetic Documentaries* offers a rare chance to see key documentary films by several generations of filmmakers. As part of the KVIFF TALK, we will be screening short films from the 1960s '70s as the '90s. The discussions will be attended by all the filmmakers.

Works in Development – Feature Launch

11 am – 12.30 pm, Cinema Čas

KVIFF has partnered closely with Trieste Film Festival, the When East Meets West platform and MIDPOINT script development program. Together they will showcase nine projects in development from the region of Central and Eastern Europe at this year's KVIFF. These selected projects will have gone through treatment in the Feature Launch program and will be ready for co-production.

KVIFF TALK with directors Richard Linklater, David Zellner and Andrew Bujalski on the subject of the Austin Film Society

Hosted by: American journalist Peter Debruge

1.30 pm, Congress Hall

This year's festival pays homage to the Austin Film Society, a non-profit film organization founded in 1985 that today is one of the most important institutions of its kind in the USA.

Works in Progress

2 – 4 pm, Cinema Čas

Producers and directors from Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans, the former Soviet Union and now also the Middle East will introduce new films that will premiere after the Karlovy Vary IFF.