



# The Czechoslovak New Wave

By Peter Hames

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*The Czechoslovak New Wave* was originally published in 1985 and was quickly established as the world's leading authoritative English-language text. A study of the most significant movement in post-war Central and East European cinemas, it examines the origins of a movement against the political and cultural developments of the 1960s leading to the Prague Spring of 1968. Peter Hames also summarizes key aspects of Czech and Slovak histories between the wars and in the 1940s and 1950s. Directors discussed include Milos Forman, Jan Svankmajer, Jiri Menzel, Jan Nemec.

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## Editorial Review

### Review

In analyzing this complex artistic-social phenomenon, Mr Hames illuminates an important episode in modern film history... his descriptions of the marvelously ageless films are accurate and exhaustive. (Josef Skvorecky *Sight and Sound**Sight and Sound**Sight and Sound**Sight and So*)

A richly detailed picture of the Czech New Wave... demonstrates the genuine originality in many of the films of the Czech Wave. (David Paul *Cineaste*)

The film selections are given exemplary treatment... immensely useful. (Natasa Durovicova *Wide Angle*)

Hames' book on the roots, flowering, and ending of Czechoslovakia's New Wave is an excellent addition to the history of film... The analyses of films are so precise and clear that the reader comes to quickly trust the critiques of unseen films. This is a necessary volume for any library with a film collection. There are good photographs, an excellent bibliography, and helpful footnotes. And the writing is clear and unobtrusive. (B. W. Whitlock *Choice*)

Well-written and comprehensive... Hames discusses some 15 to 20 films in considerable detail, and provides a survey of Czech cinema from its inception. (Roy Liebman *Library Journal*)

A fascinating and informative book... which contains just about everything you ever wanted to know about Czech movies. (*Screen International*)

### About the Author

Peter Hames is Honorary Research Associate in Film and Media Studies at Staffordshire University. His books include the first edition of *The Czechoslovak New Wave* and, as editor, *Dark Alchemy: The Films of Jan Svankmajer*.

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