



NEW TITLE

AVANT-GARDE TO NEW WAVE

Czechoslovak Cinema, Surrealism and the Sixties

Jonathan L. Owen

Summary

The cultural liberalization of communist Czechoslovakia in the 1960s produced many artistic accomplishments, not least the celebrated films of the Czech New Wave. This movement saw filmmakers use their new freedom to engage with traditions of the avant-garde, especially Surrealism. This book explores the avant-garde's influence over the New Wave and considers the political implications of that influence. The close analysis of selected films, ranging from the Oscar-winning *Closely Observed Trains* to the aesthetically challenging *Daisies*, is contextualized by an account of the Czech avant-garde and a discussion of the films' immediate cultural and political background.

"This book can fill a significant lacuna in the scarce international research on and publications about the [Czechoslovak] New Wave ... it presents a vital contribution to the study of the period." Petra Hanáková, Charles University

"I think this is an excellent text. It deals with a very under-researched subject in an original yet comprehensive manner. It is well-written and well-structured." Elisabetta Girelli, University of St Andrews

About the Author

Jonathan L. Owen completed his Ph.D. on Czech cinema at the University of Manchester. His research interests include the European cinema of the 1960s and 1970s and the Czech twentieth century avant-garde. He is currently preparing articles on Jiří Menzel and Jacques Rivette and a larger project on political cinema.



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