

Czech Film Series 2008-2009

Thursday, March 12, Lindley Hall 102 at 7 PM

Jan Švankmajer: Little Otik

(2000)



Despite its tortured history, Eastern Europe, and particularly Czechoslovakia, has managed to produce an almost uninterrupted flow of the world's great animation over the past few decades. This is due to consistent state support for the format, a long folkloric tradition, and individual artists like Jan Švankmajer. **Otesánek** is based on a Czech fairy tale about a childless couple who adopt a tree stump that looks like a baby. The stump comes to life, grows huge, and starts murdering and eating everybody and everything in its path. A genre-busting masterpiece about the perils of parenthood and what can happen to those who don't leave well enough alone with the status quo nature has determined. Expert balancing act between the grotesque, the comic, and the pathetic.

In Czech with English subtitles. 2 hours 7 minutes.

Introduced by Professor Bronislava Volková

Light refreshments served by the students from the Czech Club