



The Embassy of the Czech Republic  
welcomes you to the launch of the  
Mutual Inspirations Festival 2013

## Václav Havel's Evening



**September 5, 2013, 6 pm**

**“To understand each other does not mean to become  
like each other, only to understand each other’s identity.”  
~ Václav Havel**

*Mutual Inspirations Festival 2013 - Václav Havel*  
[www.mutualinspirations.org](http://www.mutualinspirations.org)

## PRESENTATION:

### *Prison Experience of Václav Havel in Memories and Documents*

Through the project, researchers are creating a specialized website that will offer the general public as well as researchers and experts a wide spectrum of sources including interviews conducted with Václav Havel himself, official documents, archival materials, Havel's letters from prisons and memories and testimonies of his cellmates. Pieces of structured and transparent information and audiovisual materials will allow for all persons interested in President Havel's story to understand better one of the key chapters of his life. His prison experience represents an ultimate experience as well as an important feature shaping the career of the statesman who became a leading icon in the fight for human rights and the rights of political prisoners all over the world. Through mapping the prison experience of Václav Havel, they hope to make available the research of Czechoslovak political imprisonment in the 1970s and 1980s.

The project is prepared by Czech doctoral candidates from different fields of humanity studies in the framework of the civic organization Political Prisoners.eu. The project team collaborates with a number of institutions including the Václav Havel Library in Prague.



**Petra Čáslavová** is a Ph.D. student at the Institute of Czech Literature and Librarianship affiliated with the Faculty of Philosophy at Masaryk University. She wrote a dissertation on the topic: "Prison Experience in the 20th Century and Its Reflection in Czech Literature: Poetry, Autobiographical Prose, Memoirs and Letters." She is also a student of Sociology at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Masaryk University. In her research on prison experience, she prefers an interdisciplinary approach.



**Tomáš Bouška** received his Ph.D. in oral history at the Charles University in Prague. He works at the Aspen Institute Prague and lectures at the College of Media and Journalism. He is a board member of the Czech Oral History Association. His main field of interest is oral histories of political prisoners, and he is founder and chairperson of the volunteer research organization Political Prisoners.eu / Političtí vězni.cz. He directed a documentary portrait of a female political prisoner called *K.Ch.* (2011, 40min) and published an oral history collection of former Czechoslovak political prisoners in 2009.

For additional information, please visit [www.politicalprisoners.eu](http://www.politicalprisoners.eu).

## **Opening**

Václav Kolaja  
Head of the Political Section  
Embassy of the Czech Republic

## **Presentation**

*Prison Experience of Václav Havel  
in Memories and Documents*  
Tomáš Bouška (ASPEN Prague) and  
Petra Čáslavová (Political Prisoners.eu)

## **Q&A**

## **Opening of Photo Exhibition**

*Olga Havlová in the Memories of Her Friends  
and in the Photographs of Bohdan Holomíček*  
PANT Ostrava - Petr Pánek, Petr Šimíček, Jiří Sovadina  
ÚSTR Praha - Zdeněk Hazdra, Michael Pelíšek

## **Reception**

## **Documentary Film**

*Citizen Havel Goes on Vacation*  
by director Jan Novák



## **Mutual Inspirations Festival 2013-Václav Havel**

This year, the Mutual Inspirations Festival celebrates the life and legacy of the dissident, playwright, and former Czech president Václav Havel, with over 30 events taking place from September 5-October 31, 2013, throughout prestigious venues in the nation's capital. The festival is an annual initiative spearheaded by the Embassy of the Czech Republic, focusing on the mutual inspirations between Czech and American cultures and featuring each year an extraordinary Czech personality who has greatly influenced and inspired others through his or her work. For more information about the Mutual Inspirations Festival, please visit [www.mutualinspirations.org](http://www.mutualinspirations.org).



**FILM:**

*Citizen Havel Goes on Vacation*  
(*Občan Havel jede na dovolenou*)

The documentary recreates a trip across Czechoslovakia. In 1985, Václav Havel embarked on a road trip when he was still the country's most prominent dissident. In the course of one week, he was thrown into jail twice, each time for 48 hours

of preventive detention, and followed by over 300 plainclothed policemen, who would helpfully point out to him the right way whenever he got lost. Contrasted with the authentic Czech TV news of the period, the stories of Havel and his dissident hosts show the humor in life even under the staggering pressure of a totalitarian regime. (Dir. Jan Novák, 2004, 90 minutes, in Czech with English subtitles)

Jan Novák is a screenwriter, film director, and producer. He also made another film on Václav Havel called *Citizen Havel is Rolling the Barrels* (*Občan Havel přikuluje*), which explores Havel's time working in a brewery and his inspiration for his famous play *Audience*. Fort Fringe-The Shop, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic, will screen the film on Sept. 26 at 12 noon. For additional details, please visit [www.mutualinspirations.org](http://www.mutualinspirations.org).

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**SUPPORTERS OF THIS EVENING**

**Aspen Prague**

[www.aspeninstitute.cz](http://www.aspeninstitute.cz)

**PANT Ostrava**

[www.pant.cz](http://www.pant.cz) or [www.moderni-dejiny.cz](http://www.moderni-dejiny.cz)

**ÚSTR Praha**

[www.ustrcr.cz](http://www.ustrcr.cz)