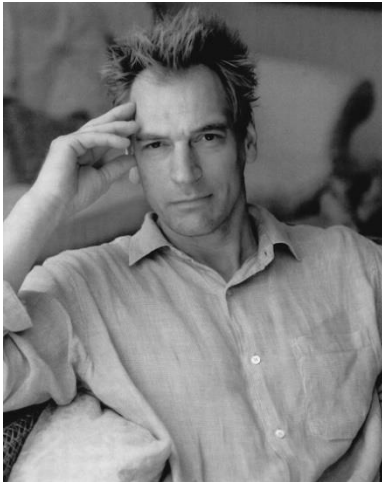


## After Kier, Skarsgård and Keitel, Julian Sands will also appear in *The Painted Bird*

The famous British actor is the fourth international star to confirm their participation in the latest film by Václav Marhoul.



The British actor **Julian Sands**, known to the Czech audience for example from the films *Boxing Helena*, *Leaving Las Vegas*, *Naked Lunch* or *Ocean's Eleven 3*, joins the trio of the outstanding international actors who have accepted a role in Marhoul's film adaptation of the global bestseller by Jerzy Kosiński **The Painted Bird**. His colleagues – Udo Kier, Stellan Skarsgård and Harvey Keitel have already done some shooting or are due to join the crew in the next few days.

By signing his contract, **Julian Sands** has definitely confirmed that he wishes to be involved in the creation of the exceptional movie. He is to appear as the farmer Garbos in the deeply dramatic story. Just like Harvey Keitel, Julian Sands will also have his first shooting day this week. The shooting will take place in the surroundings of Český Krumlov and Hartmanice in the Sušice region. Julian's filmography includes more than 70 feature films, and dozens of TV films and series – among others, *24*, *Dexter*, *Castle* and *Gotham*.

*“Similarly to the other actors, the fact that he liked the script was the most important aspect. I was still worried whether he would accept the role. This is because the farmer Garbos is without doubt the most negative character in my film. Luckily, this did not play such a big role in his decision.”* says the director, screenwriter and producer **Václav Marhoul**.

### **The Painted Bird**

Trying to protect their child from the mass extermination of Jews, a Jewish couple sends their son to a relative in the countryside somewhere in Eastern Europe. However, the boy's aunt dies unexpectedly and the child is forced to set out on a lone journey through the wild and hostile world governed only by local rules, prejudices and superstitions. When the war ends, his fight for physical survival is replaced by a different kind of a fight. A battle he may not even be aware of, a battle with himself, a battle for his soul, his future...



**Jerzy Kosiński** (1933 Łódź – 1991 New York) drew inspiration for his first novel from his own experience and traumas – he was forced to hide in the Polish countryside during the war due to his Jewish background. Kosiński borrowed the title “The Painted Bird” from the rural environment. This expression refers to a custom once popular in the countryside – people used to catch birds and painted their feathers in striking colours. After this, they released the painted bird back into its original environment. However, the other birds would never accept the painted bird back. It would be perceived as an enemy, a foreign element in the flock, and was pecked to death. The main character in the novel feels like a painted bird, as he encounters fear, scorn and cruelty all the time and everywhere simply because he is different. The main character of the novel is a young boy, who himself is THE PAINTED BIRD.

### **Václav Marhoul**

**The Painted Bird** is the third feature film for Václav Marhoul (1960, Praha) as the scriptwriter, producer and director. His previous film, *Mazaný Filip* (Smart Philip, 2003) and in particular *Tobruk* (2008) received numerous Czech and international awards. He was also involved in the production of films *Pražská pětka* (Prague Five, 1989) and *Kouř* (Smoke, 1990), and was the producer of the film *Postel* (Bed, 1998). Václav Marhoul graduated from FAMU, specialising in production, and worked successively for Czech Television, Short Film, and AB Barrandov Film Studios first as Assistant Producer and later from 1990 to 1997 as the General Director. In 1997, he established his own company Silver Screen s.r.o., focusing on the creation of feature films and organising theatre and visual arts events.

**Production:** Silver Screen

**Czech co-producers:** Czech Television  
Eduard Kučera  
Vladimír Mařík and Karel Kraus (Certicon)

**Foreign co-producers:** Directory Films (Ukraine)  
PubRes (Slovakia)  
Rozhlas a televízia Slovenska (Slovakia)  
Film Produkcja (Poland)

**Supported by:** Czech State Cinematography Fund  
Creative Europe – MEDIA  
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Slovak Audiovisual Fund  
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**Partners / Service suppliers:** České dráhy, a.s. (Czech Railways)  
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