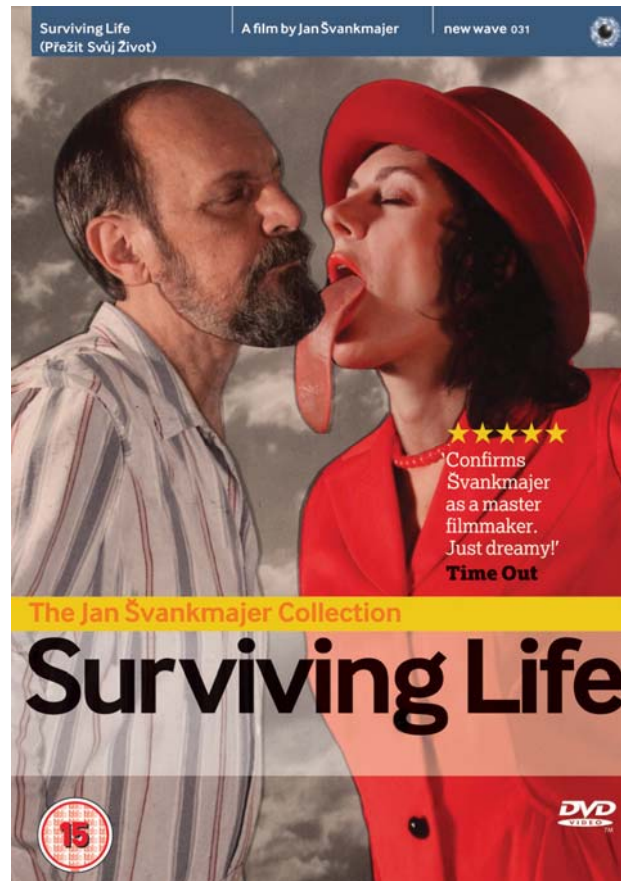


Surviving Life

(Přežit Svůj Život)

a film by Jan Švankmajer



Czech Republic / Slovakia 109 mins/ Certificate 15

DVD release date: June 11 2012

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new wave films

Surviving Life

Director	Jan Švankmajer
Script	Jan Švankmajer
Producer	Jaromír Kallista
Co-Producers	Juraj Galvánek, Petr Komrží, Vít Komrží, Jaroslav Kučera
Associate Producers	Keith Griffiths and Simon Field
Music	Alexandr Glazunov and Jan Kalinov
Cinematography	Jan Růžička and Juraj Galvánek
Editor	Marie Zemanová
Sound	Ivo Špalj
Animation	Martin Kublák, Eva Jakoubková, Jaroslav Mrázek
Production Design	Jan Švankmajer
Costume Design	Veronika Hrubá
Production	Athanor / C-GA Film

CZECH REPUBLIC/SLOVAKIA 2010 - 109 MINUTES - In Czech with English subtitles

CAST

Eugene , Milan	Václav Helšus
Eugenia	Klára Issová
Milada	Zuzana Kronerová
Super-ego	Emília Došeková
Dr. Holubová	Daniela Bakerová
Colleague	Marcel Němec
Antiquarian	Jan Počepický
Prostitute	Jana Oláhová
Janitor	Pavel Nový
Boss	Karel Brožek
Fikejz	Miroslav Vrba

SYNOPSIS

Eugene (Václav Helšus) leads a double life - one real, the other in his dreams. In real life he has a wife called Milada (Zuzana Kronerová); in his dreams he has a young girlfriend called Eugenia (Klára Issová). Sensing that these dreams have some deeper meaning, he goes to see a psychoanalyst, Dr. Holubova, who interprets them for him, with the help of some argumentative psychoanalytical griping from the animated heads of Freud and Jung.

As we gradually piece together Eugene's life story, his dream-world love affair with Eugenia is thwarted by the appearance of other characters, including her little boy Peter, her extortionist ex-husband, and a filthy old woman who keeps warning him not to harm her. Soon after, we discover she is expecting Eugene's child - to the dismay of Dr. Holubova, who believes Eugenia is in fact his anima. And getting your anima pregnant is worse than incest...

JAN ŠVANKMAJER

After studying at the Institute of Industrial Arts and the Marionette Faculty of the Prague Academy of Fine Arts in the 1950s, Jan Švankmajer, now 77, started working as a theatre director, chiefly in association with the Theatre of Masks and the Black Theatre. He first experimented with film-making after becoming involved with the mixed-media productions of Prague's Lanterna Magika Theatre.

He began making short films in 1964 (released as a definitive anthology by the BFI), and continued working in the same medium for over twenty years, when he finally achieved his long-held ambition to make the extraordinary and much loved feature film based on Lewis Carroll's ALICE IN WONDERLAND (ALICE, 1988). His subsequent acclaimed features include FAUST, CONSPIRATORS OF PLEASURE, LITTLE OTIK and LUNACY.

He has also exhibited drawings, collages and 'tactile sculptures', many of which were produced in the mid-1970s, when he was temporarily banned from film-making by the Czech authorities. He has been a member of the Prague Surrealist Group since 1969.

FILMOGRAPHY:

1964 -- THE LAST TRICK
1965 -- J.S.BACH - FANTASY IN G MINOR
1965 -- A GAME WITH STONES
1966 -- PUNCH AND JUDY
1966 -- ET CETERA
1967 -- HISTORIA NATURAE
1968 -- THE GARDEN
1968 -- THE FLAT
1969 -- PICNIC WITH WEISMANN
1969 -- A QUIET WEEK IN THE HOUSE
1970 -- THE OSSUARY
1970 -- DON JUAN
1971 -- JABBERWOCKY
1972 -- LEONARDO'S DIARY
1973 - 9 -- THE CASTLE OF OTRANTO
1980 -- THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER
1982 -- DIMENSIONS OF DIALOGUE
1982 -- DOWN TO THE CELLAR
1983 -- THE PENDULUM, THE PIT AND HOPE
1987 -- ALICE (FEATURE FILM)
1988 -- VIRILE GAMES
1988 -- ANOTHER KIND OF LOVE
1989 -- MEAT LOVE
1989 -- DARKNESS-LIGHT-DARKNESS
1989 -- FLORA

Surviving Life

1990 -- THE DEATH OF STALINISM IN BOHEMIA

1992 -- FOOD

1994 -- FAUST (FEATURE FILM)

1996 -- CONSPIRATORS OF PLEASURE (FEATURE FILM)

2000 -- OTEŠÁNEK (LITTLE OTIK) (FEATURE FILM)

2005 -- LUNACY (FEATURE FILM)

2010 -- SURVIVING LIFE (FEATURE FILM)



“Fear of life is a basic human emotion. Religion, creativity, love, sex, the accumulation of objects (that we elevate to ‘collecting’, or denigrate to ‘hoarding’), the quest for fame, money, power – such are the substitutes with which we attempt to smother that deadly fear. Fear of life is far stronger than fear of death. Witness the frequency of murders and suicides – not only real ones, but those we see every day on television or in the cinema. Fear is a dark, subterranean river flowing through our innermost beings and influencing our every moment, whether waking or sleeping. If, as Freud tells us, the purpose of dreams is to fulfil our secret or manifest desires, then surely somewhere deep inside us that most basic of human desires must constantly be being fulfilled: to survive one’s own life.”

Jan Švankmajer

