

Jen sí Tak Trochu Písknout

(translation unknown; UK = "Just a Little Whistle")

Czechoslovakia : 1980 : dir. Karel Smyczek : Barrandov

: 84 min

prod: : scr: Radek John & Ivo Pelant : dir.ph.: Viktor Ruzicka

.....
Michal Suchánek; Dan Šedivák; Pavel Kohout; Libuše Hečzková; Renata Pokorná

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	□	€	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3714b	2	3	2	558	3	-	-	-	-	No	Unseen



Class barriers in Soviet Czechoslovakia

Source: International Film Guide 1982

26th London Film Festival (1982) programme review:

"A central theme in the Czechoslovak cinema during recent years has been the exploration of childhood and adolescence, one of the leading lights in this area being Karel Smyczek, who has now made three features. **"JUST A LITTLE WHISTLE"** centres on two contrasted boys: one, the product of a middle-class family, the other motherless and rather rough in his ways. Their friendship results in juvenile delinquency, rows with parents and a mild necking party with girl friends but, at the end, the first boy's parental influence prevails and he rejects his friend.

Shot with great fluency and remarkable control over his predominantly youthful cast, Smyczek invests his little world with a good deal of ambiguous comment about loyalties within the

family group. As a Czech friend commented, 'the film is important because it shows the boy taking the first step on the road to compromise in our present society'." "

- John Gillett, **Film**

International Film Guide 1981 note:

"Story of two teenage boys neglected by their parents."

International Film Guide 1982 review:

"An outstanding contribution to problems affecting contemporary society comes in the shape of a second film by the talented new director Karel Smyczek, **"JUST A LITTLE WHISTLE"** ("Jen Si Tak Trochu Pisknout"),

dealing with the difficulties of bringing up



youngsters in big cities.

Vices of the bourgeoisie

Source: 26th London Film Festival guide

Two thirteen-year old Prague boys are the stars of the film. Petr, the darling of his over-fussy, comfortably middle class parents and Pavel, whose background is different. He lives with his father who is divorced and extremely casual about his son's upbringing. So Pavel spends most of his time on the street. Confrontation with the adult world as experienced by the two very different boys is the basic theme of the story.

Smyczek continues to show his adroit sense for casting children and for drawing honest performances out of his young actors. Karel Smyczek and Viktor Ruzicka, the cameraman, brought the fast-moving pace of a changing town to the screen in a splendid manner. **"JUST A LITTLE WHISTLE"** is one of the most successful films produced in 1980 and with it Smyczek proves he is one of the most striking personalities of the up and coming generation of Czechoslovak directors."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "The Moving Picture Boy", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Exhibited at the Karlovy Vary, Berlin and Gijon film festivals, and the Mannheim Children's Film Festival. Czechoslovakia was the Soviet Bloc's most prolific producer of children's films, and *The International Film Guide 1981* reports a substantial batch of titles for, with or about children, among them **"DÍVKA S MUŠLÍ"** ("The Girl with a Shell"), **"ČUKROVÁ BOUDA"** ("Sugar Shack"), **"ÚTÉKY DOMU"** ("Escapes Home"), **"PRÁZDNINY PRO PSA"** ("Holiday for a Dog") and **"BRONTOSAURUS"** (nothing to do with dinosaurs).

See subject index under **CRIME / DELINQUENCY** and **EASTERN EUROPE /SOVIET BLOC**.