

ARNOŠT
LUSTIG
FOUNDATION



ARNOŠT LUSTIG FOUNDATION

An Arts & Humanity Foundation

The Arnošt Lustig Foundation is an arts-based educational organization dedicated to promoting humanism via the living legacy of the writer and humanist, Arnošt Lustig. The Foundation was established by his children, Eva and Josef, on 21 August 2020, the anniversary of the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 by armies of the Warsaw Pact. Through the Foundation Eva and Josef hope to continue their father's efforts to make the world a more humane place.



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*Each individual is irreplaceable... The loss of a single man,
woman or child impoverishes the lives of each and every one of us.*
Arnošt Lustig

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Our **vision** is to foster humanity and justice in the world. We serve this vision primarily, but not only, by presenting the lifelong legacy of Arnošt Lustig.



We **pursue** the timeless humanist mission that Arnošt Lustig committed his life and work to both in literature and film.



We **share** his legacy, regardless of geographical borders, to inspire people today on their road to liberty, *'without which people are no more than well-dressed animals speaking some kind of human language.'*



We believe it is vital to **amplify** a legacy that challenges people to reflect upon what really matters today and reinforces their commitment to speak out and stand up against the tide of attitudes and behaviors that threaten democracy.

PEOPLE BEHIND THE ARNOŠT LUSTIG FOUNDATION

Executive Board



Eva Lustigová MBA: Founding Board Member and CEO of the Lustig Foundation. Decades of experience in management consulting in developing countries and with the World Health Organization. Also, a documentary film producer, director and writer as well as an occasional translator of her father's work.



Josef Lustig Ph.D., MA et. MA: Founding Board Member of the Lustig Foundation and Director of The Arnošt Lustig Library. Documentary filmmaker, lecturer in film studies, an intercultural communication consultant and an occasional translator of his father's work.



Ing. Petr Zahradník MSc.: Eminent macroeconomic analyst and consultant, specializing in EU economic policy and development. Member of the Strategic and Economic Analysis Team at Česká spořitelna/Erste Group Bank, adviser to the President of the Czech Chamber of Commerce, adviser to Minister for European Affairs of the Czech Government as well as Member of the National Economic Council of the Czech Government. In 2015 - 2020, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels. Earlier, he was Director of the EU Office of Česká spořitelna/Erste Group Bank and economic adviser to President Václav Havel. Frequently featured speaker at universities and in the media.

Chief Executive Officer



Eva Lustigová MBA: leads a team of experts sharing a vision and commitment to fulfill the Foundation's objectives.

Auditor for the Lustig Foundation



Ing. Dita Řihová: Economist with long-standing experience in the not-for-profit sector primarily in the Arts and Education sectors.

International Board of Trustees (in process of formation)



Ing. Jan Fischer CSc.: Chair of the International Board of Trustees for the Lustig Foundation. Former Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Czech Republic. Earlier positions include serving as vice-president of the European Bank for Renewal and Development and President of the Czech Statistical Office. Member of Executive Boards such as Prague University of Economics and Business, Charles University, Czech Statistical Office, as well as of the External Advisory Board of University of New York in Prague. Chair of the Czech section of the Czech-Korean Forum for the Future.

MORE ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Lustig Foundation aims to play a key role among NGOs and institutions active in the arts and education, both in the Czech Republic and internationally.

The Lustig Foundation stands behind two principal messages aligned with humanist principles and democratic values:

To remember what happened during the Holocaust and learn from this human tragedy

To cherish, protect and defend human rights and democracy.

Through the development of programmes, we will encourage people to stop and think about the ills that afflict the world such as racism, antisemitism, xenophobia and fanaticism, among others, that Arnošt Lustig addressed in his works. In pursuing this we hope to provoke critical thinking, debate and, crucially, sustained intergenerational dialogue.



Literary Legacy

- Promote and mainstream Arnošt Lustig's writings – fiction, factual literature, philosophical essays, reflections and other texts – using also new formats, including comic strips and audio books. In addition to individual titles, we envision a series of anthologies entitled "Arnošt Lustig: Writer and Witness", that include selected short stories, novellas, novels, essays, memoirs and interviews in Czech, English as well as thirty other languages.
- Establish The Arnošt Lustig Library that includes an educational center and a literary archive.
- Facilitate the publication of an annotated edition of Arnošt Lustig's collected works taking a holistic view based on chronology and genre.
- Expand availability of his books and writings in libraries and educational and cultural institutions.
- Disseminate his writings internationally by facilitating incentive packages for translation and publication into other languages.
- Encourage the adaptation of Arnošt Lustig's works for performance media, including theater, film, dance and music.



Film Legacy

- Facilitate the production of Arnošt Lustig's cinematic legacy, including the production of six feature films based on unrealized scripts from his estate.
- Facilitate the production of films based on Arnošt Lustig's prose.
- Facilitate the production of "remakes" of some of the films based on Arnošt Lustig's screenplays.
- Facilitate the creation of Arnošt Lustig's life story as a documentary drama, as well as an animated film.





Education

- Raise awareness and understanding of the events of the twentieth century and their relevance to the world today, while encouraging, developing and nurturing humanist principles and democratic values.
- Familiarise students with the work of Arnošt Lustig by integrating content into school curricula as well as multimedia interactive exhibitions and games.



© Alan Pajer



Creativity

- Foster creative talent in young writers at the secondary school level and above in the Czech Republic and internationally.

“ The purpose of art – and it really is an art – is to civilize human beings. At least a little, a millimetre every day. It is very easy for human beings to be animals. We are no more than animals that turn human every day. And this humanity can be lost in a matter of seconds. The concentration camps showed us that. ”

Arnošt Lustig



© Meeting Brno

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You always have a choice: Yes or no. I want to be decent, to see the difference between what is base and what is noble, between good and bad, just and unjust. That is fundamental, as the Bible already tells us.

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Arnošt Lustig



The winners of the international literary competition Young HUMAN-ists 2021 - 2022 held for students from the Czech Republic, Germany and Belgium; Ukrainian refugee students in Prague who participated in an arts workshop entitled "War and Peace" using the winning texts from the Young HUMAN-ists competition as a point of reference



Veronika Smyslová, Project Manager of the Young HUMAN-ists 2021 – 2022 after turning over tablets to the Ukrainian refugee students in Prague as a reward for their participation in the arts workshop “War and Peace”



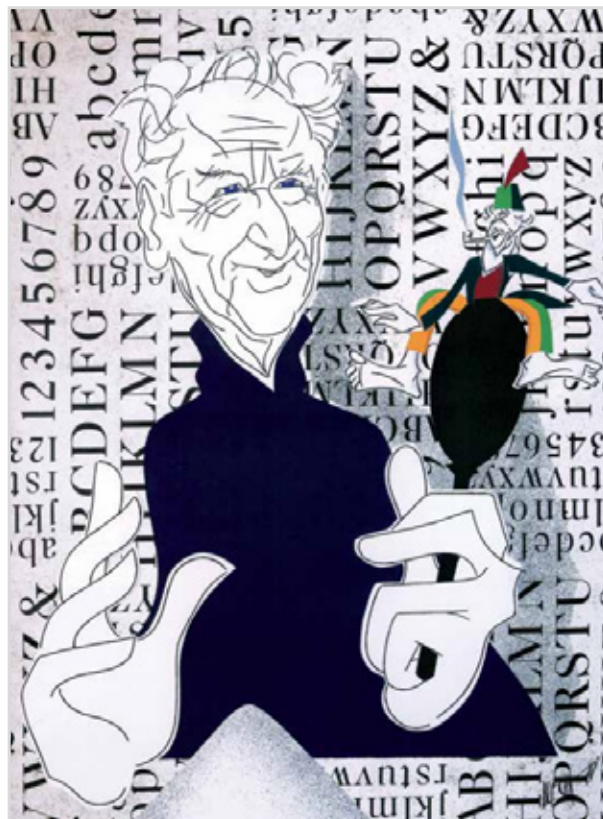
Josef Lustig in conversation with Eva Marková and Jana Čemusová from the Memory of Nations Gymnasium in Prague that was among the schools joining the Young HUMAN-ists 2021 – 2022

Our target groups in the Czech Republic and abroad:

- Readers, movie and theatre-goers, students, teachers, staff in educational establishments, museums, libraries, bookshops.
- Publishers, film-makers, theatre programmers, script editors, producers, actors and other artists.
- Professionals in media and marketing, entrepreneurs, organizers of film, theatre and other art festivals.
- Representatives of human rights organizations.



After the arts workshop “War and Peace”, Veronika Smyslová, Project Manager (far right, standing) joins the Ukrainian refugee students outside the elementary school Popelka in Prague where the workshop took place



© Josef Blecha



Invitation for the exhibition held under the auspices of Municipal District Prague 8

Examples of activities

- 1. Novel about Arnošt Lustig.** An illustrated biography of Arnošt Lustig's life journey by author Markéta Pilátová with working title: *Arnošt's Journey*. Publication planned, in print and e-book editions, in Czech and several other languages.
- 2. Multi-volume edition of Arnošt Lustig's works in German.** Short stories, novels, and interviews from key periods of his creative career are being prepared into a multi-volume edition in collaboration with a leading publisher in Germany and Austria.



Arnošt Lustig's *Tides of Luck ... in Other Words, We Wanted a Different World* (Universum Publishing House and Radioservis, 2021, ed. Eva Lustigová)



Eva Lustigová and author, journalist and essayist Karel Hviždala, Meeting Brno, July 2021

- 3. Stage production of Arnošt Lustig's short story *The Great White Journey* (*Velká bílá cesta*, 1964).** An excerpt, adapted and directed by Eva Lustigová, was performed as part of the concert cycle "Musica non grata" at the State Opera, Prague in October 2021. Additional performances in Czech as well as English and German are planned.

4. Young HUMAN-ists. An international literary competition to foster creative talent in young writers at the secondary school level and above in the Czech Republic and internationally. Pilot held during school year 2021 –2022 in the Czech Republic, Belgium and Germany. A student and an expert jury of acknowledged writers and journalists evaluated the contributions in prose, poetry and essay, focusing on the subject of friendship. As the war in the Ukraine broke out during the pilot, Ukrainian refugee students in Prague were invited to participate through an arts workshop focused on friendship as well called “War and Peace”. Their work led to an exhibition shown during the award ceremony held at the National Pedagogic Museum and Library of John Amos Comenius. Keynote on the significance of humanism today was delivered by Dmitri Strotsev, a leading Belorussian dissident poet (laureate of Disturbing the Peace Award, Václav Havel Library Foundation, New York, 2021).

5. Museum with emphasis on education. A section of the museum at the former Brněnec (Brännlitz) concentration camp, where Oskar Schindler saved the lives of 1,200 Jews, will focus on history of the twentieth century as seen through Arnošt Lustig’s life story. The exhibition will be part of the permanent collection and will feature both his prose and films. The museum is part of a larger programme envisioned by the ARK-s Foundation. The site, a historical monument from the Holocaust (known also through the film “Schindler’s List”) served as the headquarters of one of the most successful textile factories in Europe belonging to the Löw-Beer family before the Nazis stole it in 1938.

6. An international educational touring exhibition “I Want To Be Human – Arnošt Lustig’s Message to the Stars and to All of Us” as part of the official cultural presentation during the Czech Presidency of the European Union



President Václav Havel and Arnošt Lustig, early 1990s in Prague
© Alan Pajer

Council in 2022. To mark this occasion, we have launched a “Czech spaceship” at the Royal Planetarium of Belgium, Brussels carrying the humanist and universal values that underpin Arnošt Lustig’s intellectual legacy (September–November 2022).

Focused on Arnošt Lustig’s humanist message about how people can live through unimaginable things and retain their humanity, it is a call to self-reflection, a challenge to young and old to build a better, fairer world. “The conceptual and architectural design is based on Arnošt Lustig’s metaphor of the “shell of civilization”, namely that *“The problem with civilization is that it grows slowly, millimetre by millimetre, yet its thin shell can be peeled off in a week, a month... It is easier to destroy civilization than to extend it, just as it is easier to find an enemy than a friend.”*

Importantly, the exhibition has also built in the participation of students from secondary schools drawing on their quotes about humanism in the context of the libretto through a workshop. The quotes will be collected in all countries where the exhibition will tour, eventually leading to the publication *I WANT TO BE HUMAN – Students’ Messages to the Stars and to All of Us*. The exhibition is curated by a team headed by the eminent museologist and historian Pawel Ukielski. The author of the concept and text selection of the exhibition is Eva Lustigová.

- 7. A touring exhibition “Coming Home: Bread, Sugar, Lustig.”** This exhibition depicts Arnošt Lustig’s return to the Prague of his childhood. Shown at the Libeňský svět (Libeň World, November 2021 – January 2022), this exhibition will also be adapted to an e-format with an educational component for students at the secondary school level.
- 8. A touring exhibition “Dialogue of Two People from One World” (“Dialog zweier Menschen aus einer Welt”).** Czech Jewish writer and Holocaust witness Arnošt Lustig and Belorussian award-winning dissident poet and publisher Dmitri Strotsev “converse” for the first time through their selected texts and photographs. Though the two never met, they are bound through palpable affinity, a complicity that is hard to explain and easy to understand. At the Czech Center, Munich, 27 October – 11 January 2023. In German.
<https://munich.czechcentres.cz/de/programm/ausstellung-dialog-zweier-menschen-aus-einer-welt>
- 9. Arnošt Lustig’s Tides of Luck ... in Other Words, We Wanted a Different World** (Universum Publishing House and Radioservis, 2021, ed. Eva Lustigová). A collection of hitherto unpublished programmes, readings and interviews by and with Arnošt Lustig on the Czechoslovak/Czech Radio was transcribed and published in 2021 to mark the tenth anniversary of the author’s death. The collection spans from 1953 to 2010.

10. A Brochure for students of journalism and nonfictional prose. An interactive publication is envisaged to help budding journalists learn the trade with tips from Arnošt Lustig, offering new insights into his work as a journalist.

11. Culture and Art: a series of unique cultural and artistic events

"In beauty and goodness I seek my soul." – Arnošt Lustig

● **The Cantata – Dance of the Insane.**

A programme of music and poetry performed at more than a dozen music and cultural festivals in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. J. S. Bach's cantata "Ich habe genug" (BWV 82) is interwoven with free verses by Arnošt Lustig, recited by a star cast (Jiří Lábus/Petr Štěpánek/Milan Kňažko, Jitka Schneiderová/Vilma Cibulková and Vilém Udatný). J. S. Bach composed for God's glory – Soli Deo Gloria – Arnošt Lustig for people for them to acknowledge the frailty of our humanity. Both were inspired by the idea that their work will invigorate the soul. This holds also for this distinctive performance available on request in Czech, German, Spanish, Russian or French. Directed by Eva Lustigová.

● **Poetry readings and discussions** with Belorussian dissident poet and publisher Dmitri Strotsev during his tour in the Czech Republic. In theaters and libraries in Prague and Brno targeted at the general public as well as students at secondary and university level.

● and other exceptional literary and multi-genre events.



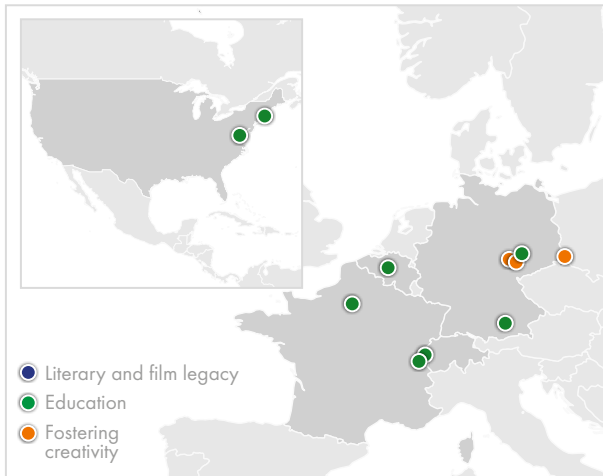
As part of the presentation of Czech culture in Brussels during the presidency of the Czech Republic of the EU Council, the international touring exhibition "I WANT TO BE HUMAN – Arnošt Lustig's message to the stars and to all of us" found its place in the Royal Planetarium of Belgium, in three-languages



Guests at the Royal Observatory of Belgium at the opening of the exhibition "I Want To Be Human – Arnošt Lustig’s Message to the Stars and to All of Us” at the Royal Observatory of Belgium



Students from the Czech School without Borders in Brussels and the European School 3 in Brussels presenting their views on humanism during the opening of the exhibition "I Want To Be Human – Arnošt Lustig’s Message to the Stars and to All of Us” at the Royal Observatory of Belgium



In 2021 and 2022, our activities spanned a number of locations on two continents to inspire humanist principles and provoke critical thinking, debate and, crucially, intergenerational dialogue



ARNOST LUSTIG LEA Z LEEUWARDENU
ŽIDOVSKÁ TRILOGIE



LEA Z LEEUWARDENU
ARNOST LUSTIG

Modlitba pro Kateřinu Horovitzovou
Arnošt Lustig

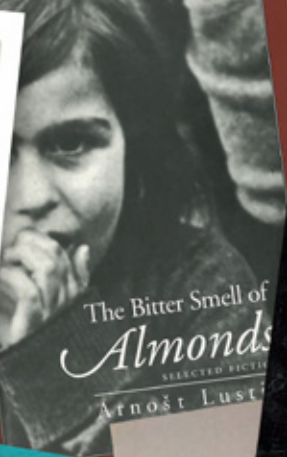


Modlitba pro Kateřinu Horovitzovou
Arnošt Lustig


I ten nejslabší může udělit bezpráví lekci

Mladá fronta

The Bitter Smell of Almonds
Arnošt Lustig




NIGHT AND HOPE
A searing document of human suffering and endurance under Nazi terror
ARNOST LUSTIG



ARNOST LUSTIG
DEŠTIVÉ POLEDNE



Ulice ztracených bratří
Arnošt Lustig



Ulice ztracených bratří
Arnošt Lustig

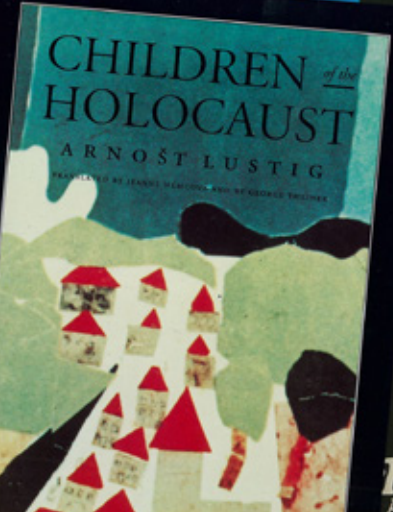
Co byl Arnošt Lustig
s ním prožil a zapsal František Ginger



SOUBOR NEJLEPŠÍCH LUSTIGOVÝCH POVÍDEK, KTERÉ SVÝMI DRAMATICKÝMI NÁMĚTY A JEJICH ZPRACOVÁNÍM ZISKALY ÚSPĚCH V CELÉM SVĚTĚ.

Arnošt Lustig smrt odumocnělých lidí ve přírodních ústředích, ex-
Jewish Center
Die Ta, Frankfurt am Main
Glasgow

CHILDREN of the HOLOCAUST
ARNOST LUSTIG



A Prayer for Katerina Horovitzova
A Novel by Arnošt

Greed and guil, innocence and evil with human hope and the unyielding terror of the Nazi death-camps. HEARTSTOPPING PARABLE!
The New York Times



HANDS OF THE LUSTIG



Lovely Green Earth
ARNOST LUSTIG

This is a major work of fiction
Mail on Sunday
A remarkable achievement
Independent



STREET OF...



ARNOST LUSTIG





The Young HUMAN-ists getting to know each other in Prague – the winners from the Czech Republic, Germany and Belgium, along with the Ukrainian refugee students from the workshop “War and Peace,” teachers, the project team and keynote speaker Dmitri Strotsev



Students from the Ukraine show their art from the workshop “War and Peace.” We added this activity following the start of the war in the Ukraine and the arrival of hundreds of thousands of refugees in the Czech Republic

Arnošt Lustig: A MAN WHO LIVED TO WRITE AND WROTE TO LIVE (21 December 1926 – 26 February 2011)

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*My greatest success in life? Living and surviving.
Because that's exactly what the Nazis decided I ought not do.*

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Arnošt Lustig

Arnošt Lustig is one of the most important and influential writers of the twentieth century. He personally bore witness to the horrors of war and the concentration camps. His legacy and life story stand out as truly exceptional in the European context and throughout the world.

His work earned him **nominations** for:

- the Nobel Prize for Literature three times
- the Pulitzer Prize
- the Man Booker International Prize for lifetime contribution to literature in the English language, and
- the US National Book Award.

He **received an Emmy** for News and Documentary Outstanding Individual Achievement as co-screenwriter of PBS film.

He was the **laureate of prestigious international and Czechoslovak awards**, including:

- the international Franz Kafka Prize
- the Literary Award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters for exceptional accomplishment
- the Publishers Weekly Award for the Best Literary Work (shared with Norman Mailer and John Updike)
- two American National Jewish Book Awards
- the B'nai B'rith Award
- Knight of the Order of Mark Twain

- Czech Republic Meritorious Medal of the First Order for Outstanding lifetime Achievement granted by the President
- Vladislav Vančura Prize
- Czech Pen Club Prize for Literary Achievement
- Karel Čapek Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Arnošt Lustig loved people and believed in life, justice, friendship, courage, and human dignity. He was convinced that as long as we find the best in ourselves these values will ultimately prevail, while realizing that *“in each of us there is the best and also the worst.”*

He wrote and wrote, more than 100,000 pages over his lifetime – 21 novellas and novels, 15 collections of short stories, numerous biographical texts and essays and 18 screenplays, some of which were turned into international award-winning feature films.

Books by Arnošt Lustig

Novels: My Acquaintance Vili Feld ■ Dita Saxová ■ A Prayer for Katerina Horovitzová ■ The White Birches of Autumn ■ The House of Returned Echoes ■ Darling ■ The Unloved: From the Diary of Seventeen-Year Old Perla Sch. Darkness Casts No Shadow ■ Jewish Trilogy: Waiting for Leah, Jewish Trilogy 1. Colette: A Girl from Antwerp, Jewish Trilogy 2. Tanga: A Girl from Hamburg, Jewish Trilogy 3. The Abyss ■ Lovely Green Eyes ■ The Luggage Thief ■ My Acquaintance Vili Feld/Darkness and Light of the World ■ White Birches ■ The Girl with a Scar ■ We Have No Choice (alternate title “At the Airport”) ■ Friends ■ Love, Body and Death ■ The Case of Marie Navarová.

Short Story Collections: Night and Hope ■ Diamonds of the Night ■ Street of Lost Brothers ■ You Shall Humiliate No One ■ Ripples on the River ■ Indecent Dreams ■ Fire on Water ■ Bitter Smell of Almonds ■ Rainy Afternoon ■ Shoah series comprising four volumes: Morning till Evening ■ Blue Day ■ I Am Leaving into a Dream ■ Clock like a Windmill.

Short Stories (published outside the above collections): The Merry Song of Dead Birds ■ Infinity ■ Somebody Else's Mother ■ ...And numerous others.

Biography: Testimony ■ Literary Recording of Arnošt Lustig's Memoirs and Reflections ■ Moments with Ota Pavel.

Essays and Interviews: Essays: Selected Texts 1965–2008, Arnošt Lustig Essays: Selected Texts 1965–2000 ■ Arnošt Lustig Answers ■ Interviews with Harry James Cargass and with Michael Bauer ■ Arnošt Lustig Interview ■ Selected Interviews 1979–2002. ■ About Literature, Stephen and Anne ■ About Women ■ About Writers ■ Good Day, Mr. Lustig: Thoughts about Life ■ Arnošt Lustig 3 × 18 ■ Portraits and Reflections ■ Arnošt Lustig Through the Back Door ■ The Presence of Arnošt Lustig ■ Dialogues ■ Tachles Lustig ■ Arnošt Lustig's Tides of Luck ... in Other Words, We Wanted a Different World.

Feature Film Screenplays (produced): Transport from Paradise ■ Diamonds of the Night ■ A Prayer for Katerina Horovitzová ■ Dita Saxová ■ Colette ■ November.

Feature Film Screenplays (from the legacy available on request to producers and film directors): The Unloved ■ Lovely Green Eyes ■ Tanga ■ The Girl with a Scar ■ White Birches of Autumn ■ A Man the Size of a Postage Stamp ■ The Three of Us Shall Not Part (co-authored with Ludvík Aškenazy) ■ Western Railway Station (in collaboration with Jan Němec).

Screenplays – Short Films: A Bite to Eat.

Screenplays – Documentary Films: Theresienstadt ■ Stolen Childhood ■ Precious Legacy.

Films Based on Arnošt Lustig's Prose: Blue Day ■ The Little Rabbit (short film) ■ The Devilish Ride on a Scooter (short film).

Poetry: Shevirat hakelim: Shattering of the Vessels ■ Text for the symphonic poem Night and Hope.

Radio play: Prague Crossroads.

MOMENTS in the life of Arnošt Lustig

1926

Arnošt Lustig was born in the suburb of Vysočany, at the outskirts of Prague, Czechoslovakia.

"My parents – Terezie Löwy and Emil Lustig – were married in Svitavy (Zwitau) in 1923, fifteen kilometers from Brněnec (Brünnlitz) in Moravia, not far from my mother's birthplace in Moravská Třebová. My Jewish father was a poor textile merchant. He had blond hair, blue eyes and solid roots in Bohemia. My mother was a seamstress from a traditional Jewish orthodox family. I was second line after my sister Hana (1924)".

"Father and I used to walk to Wenceslas Square. He liked walking, although he'd actually been a cavalryman during World War I in Italy. In my childish naïveté, I hoped he'd buy me a horse. But he never even taught me to ride..."

1939

He attended primary and junior secondary school. Then, with the introduction of anti-Jewish laws in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, he was barred from school. He worked as an apprentice tailor and in a leather goods workshop during 1939–1942.

1942

When war broke out he might have ended up in Shanghai. But when it became evident to his father that they should leave Czechoslovakia in a hurry, they could only afford an emigration visa for one of the four family members. Instead, in November 1942, at nearly sixteen years of age he ended up in the Theresienstadt Ghetto.

1944

In the Theresienstadt Ghetto, he worked as a "jack of all trades", ironically also building the railroad tracks on which his "transport to the East" in September 1944 took him and two thousand other prisoners to the dreaded Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp.

"In Auschwitz they put us in quarantine without even testing us, as we were designated for the gas chambers. We waited our turn while they gassed the Hungarian Jews... At first we were terrified, but after three days we got used to it. We got bored. I made a rag ball and kicked it about with my friend Jiří Justic. An SS man came. What are you doing? He was amazed. People were waiting to be gassed and there we were playing soccer... He couldn't believe his ears and eyes."

1944

In October 1944, by a stroke of luck and resilience, he managed to get out of Auschwitz-Birkenau to Buchenwald-Meuselwitz, yet another concentration camp. At that time, he had already known that his father had been murdered in the gas chamber.

1944

In Auschwitz-Birkenau, "someone from Germany asked if there were any metalworkers among us. We lied. Suddenly lots of us were metalworkers. I also made myself older. They gassed young people of about fifteen and anyone over forty."

1945

In April 1945, he left Buchenwald-Meuselwitz with a death transport bound for the Dachau concentration camp. He managed to escape after a US bomber plane destroyed the locomotive, mistaking it for a Nazi military train and bringing the train to a halt.

1945

Six days later, still in April 1945, he and his best friend found their way back to Prague. They survived six days and nights of a tortuous journey through the woods, hiding from animals and German militia forces, starving, cold and without shelter. Once in Prague, still in hiding, he and his best friend took part in the Prague Uprising against the Nazis.

1945

Only his mother, sister and cousin survived the war, returning to Prague with the women's transport from Mauthausen in June 1945.

1960

After the war he studied business and journalism before working as war correspondent in Israel's War of Independence, editor at Czechoslovak Radio, reporter for the weekly Mladý svět (Young World), and scriptwriter at the Barrandov Studios for a number of films of the celebrated Czechoslovak New Wave. In the 1960s he was one of the best selling Czech authors with over a half a million books in print.

1968
1970

After emigrating in August 1968, he and his family lived in Haifa and subsequently also in kibbutz Hahotrim, Israel, followed by a year in Zagreb, Yugoslavia where he worked as a screenplay writer for Jadran Film, one of the biggest and most notable film studios in Central Europe. In the fall of 1970, he and his family settled in the USA, initially in Iowa City where Arnošt Lustig was a member of the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa.

1973

He launched his career as professor of literature, creative writing and film at The American University in Washington, D.C. that was to last for over thirty years. He had the honour to read from his work at the White House and in Congress.

1989
2010

After the Velvet Revolution (1989) he divided his time and work between Washington and Prague. Happy to be home, he kept busy writing, teaching as a professor of creative writing, and as the honorary president of both the Franz Kafka Society and the Česká Hlava (a Czech organization promoting science and research). He continued to be a public figure often featured in the media and actively engaged in speaking at events concerning social justice and the arts.

"It was beautiful. Though this hardly captures what it was like. Because the moment we stepped off the plane we saw Vlasta Chramostová, Jiří Dientsbier, minister Jiří Hájek, and other dissidents. Everyone was speaking Czech and we knew the Iron Curtain was opening up, which meant the end of the Soviet Union and its way of tyrannizing and enslaving everyone, including its own people... But there was something else about that homecoming. On a second first impression, this country was not the fairy tale land we had been dreaming of in exile, but a country damaged by many, many hostile influences, including one being Nazi, another Soviet, and that it was not going to be the kind of fairy tale we had wished for, because life is not a fairy tale, life is life."

2011

Arnošt Lustig dies in Prague after a long and courageous battle with lymphoma.

For more about Arnošt Lustig's work, see *The Art of Prose: The Art of Arnošt Lustig* (www.lustigfoundation.com)



Arnošt Lustig enjoys a cup of coffee and more during the European Identity Cultural Caravan, Ljubljana, Slovenia, April 2003 © Alan Pajcar



**People remember you for what you do.
Make the world a better place.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eva Lustigová Josef Lustig".

Eva Lustigová and Josef Lustig
Founders, Arnošt Lustig Foundation

If you wish to contribute to our efforts, please find our account details below:

Account name: Arnošt Lustig Foundation

Bank: Komerční banka

Currency: EURO

IBAN: CZ74 0100 0001 2326 9933 0247

BIC/SWIFT: KOMBCZPPXXX

Currency: USD

IBAN: CZ79 0100 0001 2326 9936 0227

BIC/SWIFT: KOMBCZPPXXX

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(Published in 2022)