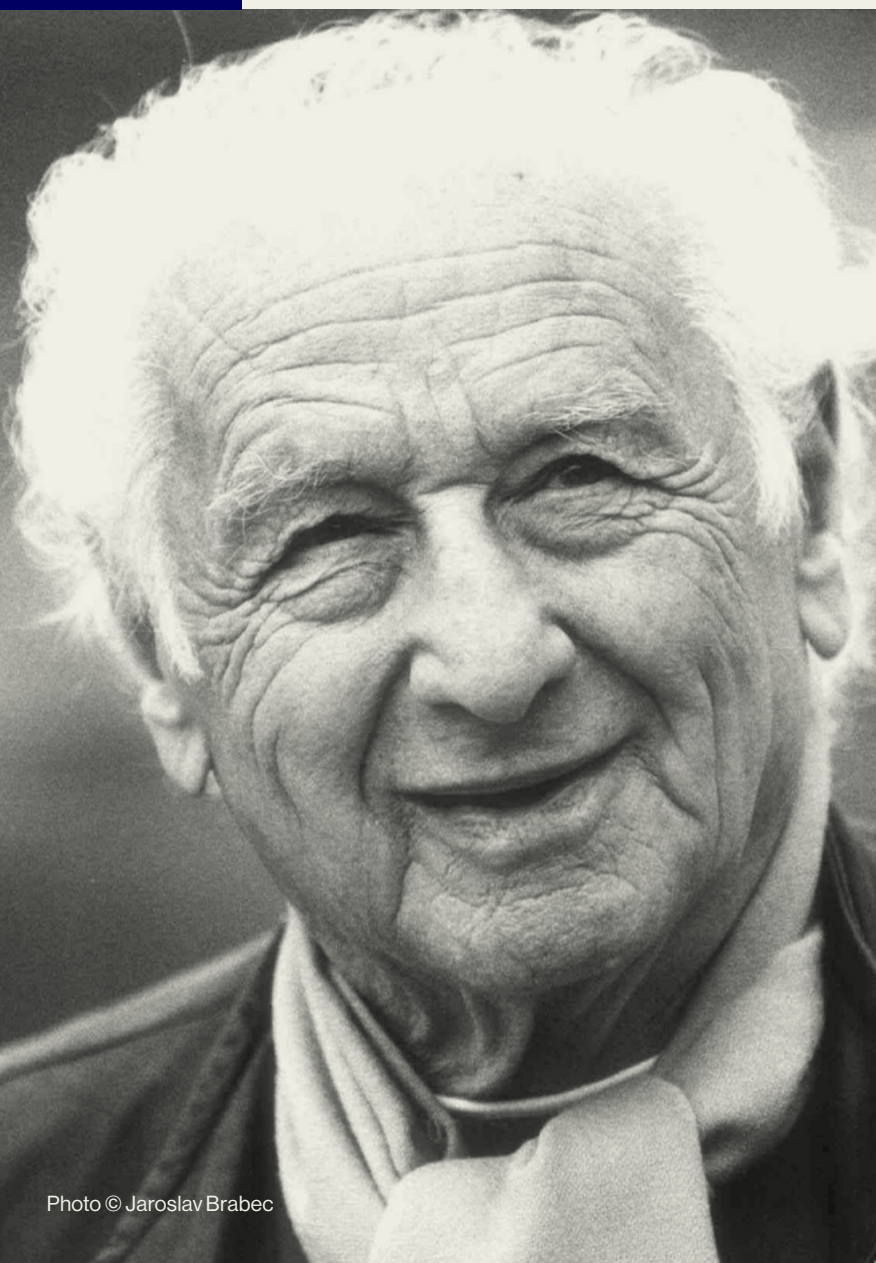


# ARNOŠT LUSTIG FOUNDATION



“Forgiveness is the bridge on which even previous arch enemies can meet. There is no other bridge. Without this bridge, we are sentenced to hostility for eternity.”

*Arnošt Lustig*

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From the age of 12, when he witnessed Nazi troops invade his beloved Prague until he drew his final breath in the same city in February 2011, Czech author Arnošt Lustig recognized and embraced the Holocaust, not as a source of bitterness and despair but as the moral starting point for humanity to renew its faith, its tolerance and its hope. For him, the essence of life was measured in what is good, not bad.

His prolific body of work, including novels, screenplays, short stories and other writings, was translated into scores of languages, and earned him prestigious nominations for the Nobel, the Pulitzer and the Man Booker prizes, as well as the Franz Kafka Prize, an international literary award presented by the Franz Kafka Society and the city of Prague.

As Lustig once wrote: *“I dedicate my work to the victims of the Jewish tragedy. To all those who know how to say NO. To those who know how to distinguish between good and evil. To those, who know how to decide. To those, for whom the word democracy represents the possibility to correct mistakes, for whom it is a way of life.”*

In this spirit, the Arnošt Lustig Foundation will honor and expand his legacy in four thematic areas of creative endeavor – literature, film, development of creative talent, and education. At the source of the inspiration are his lifelong belief in the enduring human spirit of resistance, the quest for dignity and justice, and his evocation of extraordinary acts of courage by individuals faced with unimaginable choices.