## Contents

	st of Illustrations	viii
Pr	eface	X
1	How Film Constructs Images of Reality	1
	Film as Politics and Sociopolitics	1
	The Methodology	2
	Czech Society, the Value System Disseminated by Czech Post-	
	Communist Feature Films and the Findings of the Sociologists	5
2	Testimony about the Communist Era	15
	Bitter Statements about Normalization	15
	Normalization, Literature and Film-Making	33
3	Stalinism: Fading Memories of Brutal Oppression	45
	Camps, Family, Ideology	45
	Imprisonment and Work Camps	45
	The Army and War	48
	A Child's Perspective	51
	Life on the Edge	53
	The Kafkaesque World of Power	54
4	Lessons from History	59
	From Josephinism to the Prague Spring	59
	Moral Integrity and the Dawn of the Modern Era	59
	The Idyll of the First Czechoslovak Republic?	61
	The Demons of War in the Twentieth Century	69
	The Murder of Jews in the Second World War	76
	Ethics and National Trauma	79
	A Subjective Look at History through Contemporary Eyes	92
5	The First Experience of Freedom	111
	Post-Communism: Not Quite What We Expected	111

6 Popular Entertainment	124
Attempts to Make Commercially Viable Films	124
Present-Day Helplessness	147
Back to the Bosom of the People	150
Mainstream Comedies	153
7 Contemporary Society	176
Rebels and Restlessness	176
People who will never be Millionaires	182
Machinations, the Media, the Ordinary Man	190
Them and Us	193
How to Fight Death	199
Society in Distress	203
Schools	215
Slovakia	219
9 Contamparary Relationships	231
8 Contemporary Relationships Politics, the Family, Society	231
Men and Women	250
People on the Edge of Madness	258
Loneliness	259
O. M La Any Ago At Any Time	269
9 Man – In Any Age, At Any Time People among Strangers and among their Own	269
	272
Discovering the World In Spite of Everything	277
In Spite of Everytiming	
10 Young People on Film	281
The World of the Teenager	281
The Aimless World of Youth	284
In a Gesture of Defiance	289
11 Thrillers	298
12 Film as Visual Experiment	306
Stronger Narratives, Original Images	319
Hoaxes	324
13 Experiments that Succeeded	331
Tongue-in-Cheek	331
A Concentrated Psychological Experiment	334
Analysis through the Grotesque	336
A Poetic Fairytale	337
Philosophical Treatises in Surrealist Images	339

	Contents	vii
14 The Best Forty-Five		347
Select Bibliography Filmography of Czech Feature Films, 1990–2011 Index		351 353 365