



# A. Prominent Patient

by Julius Ševčík



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THE TRUE STORY DEVOTED TO THE LIFE AND FORTUNES OF JAN MASARYK, A DIPLOMAT AND LATER CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER, TAKES US BACK TO THE RUN-UP TO WORLD WAR II.

Winter 1939. Flamboyant Czech diplomat Jan Masaryk has fled to America to escape his recent past. Germany has invaded Czechoslovakia and Masaryk is now a man without a nation. In America, he tries to forget the personal and political betrayals he and his country have suffered – but these events shadow his every step. Having served as the Czechoslovak

ambassador in London, Masaryk had failed to win the support of the British and could not avert the ruination of his country. With the help of Dr. Stein, a German immigrant and psychiatrist, and the beautiful writer Marcia Davenport, Masaryk tries to overcome his demons and relives the dramatic events leading up to the outbreak of the Second World War.

DRAMA / ENGLISH & CZECH / 114 MIN / COMPLETED

<b>ORIGINAL TITLE</b>	MASARYK	<b>PRODUCER</b>	Rudolf Biermann and Julius Ševčík
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Julius Ševčík (NORMAL)	<b>PRODUCED BY</b>	IN Film Praha and Rudolf Biermann Slovakia in co-production with Czech Television, Radio and Television Slovakia and ZDF/ARTE
<b>DOP</b>	Martin Štrba	<b>TERRITORIES AVAILABLE</b>	World excluding Czech, Slovakia and Hungary
<b>CAST</b>	Karel Roden (BOURNE SUPREMACY) Hanns Zischler (MUNICH) Arly Jover (THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO) Oldřich Kaiser (THE RED CAPTAIN) Paul Nicolas (TOMMY) Milton Welsh (THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL) Eva Herzigová (MODIGLIANI) Emília Vášáryová (UP AND DOWN)		



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

A PROMINENT PATIENT is a deep journey into the soul of a man as well as an insight into European pre-war politics and Czechoslovakia's role in it. The film is built around two storylines. One tells an intimate and crude story of JAN MASARYK, a son of the founder of Czechoslovakia, who finds himself in a mental institution after losing his land to Nazi Germany. The other is an insight into European pre-war politics as experienced by the main character.

The rhythm of the film is based on the constant clash between light and dark. The retrospective storyline is imbued with the feel of permanent "fog", symbolizing what is in store for Europe in late 1930s. In a personal dimension, conversely, the film "brightens" as its protagonist regains his desire to fight back.

I created a contemporary feel within a historical picture as I believe the conflict between submitting to a greater power and standing up for European values is constantly present. Today, once again, European countries must re-define their values and their sense of European unity and heritage in the face of an aggressor, this time against the Russian Federation.

## THE DIRECTOR

Born in Prague, Julius Ševčík studied at the New York film academy and the Directing Department of the Film and TV School (FAMU) in Prague, receiving a master's degree in 2006. Over the years, he shot numerous short films, his graduation feature film RESTART, and his debut co-production feature NORMAL - THE DUSSELDORF RIPPER. His movies have been acclaimed and awarded at film festivals in New York, Clearmont Ferrand, Mannheim Heidelberg, Taipei, and Moscow. In 2009, Ševčík received the Best Director award at Shanghai International Film Festival for NORMAL - THE DUSSELDORF RIPPER.