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Master of dramatic space: a documentary on Jaroslav Malina : by Dutch filmmaker Hans van Seventer

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Joseph E. Brandesky |

Master of

Dramatic Space: A

Documentary on Jaroslav

Malina

by Dutch Filmmaker Hans van
Seventer.

Czech Premiere: June 22nd, 2011

Jaroslav Malina is no stranger to the *Prague Quadrennial*. He served three times as the *PQ* General Commissioner, has been a juror on prize committees for the competitive exhibition and has had his own work displayed there in the past. So it comes as no surprise that the 2011 *PQ* directorate provided a time and space for the Czech premiere of Hans van Seventer's documentary about this world-renowned designer and painter. Advertisements provided in the *PQ Mag* describe the film as follows:

This film sheds light on Malina's life and career, showing how he worked with integrity and imagination, mixed with enough caution to allow him to survive and become a world leader in stage design.

The film fulfils the advertisement and much more. The director wraps the life history of Malina, as well as his homeland, in the context of Bedřich Smetana's opera *Dalibor*. Throughout the film we hear music from the opera underscoring and accentuating Malina's story. Images of his work from childhood to the present day richly describe

Malina's mastery of his twin fields of endeavour: painting and design.

A previously unseen feature of the film is Malina at work developing the design for *Dalibor* as well as painting a quick landscape of the Czech countryside adjacent to his country home. We see the rapidity and surety of his hands in action. This alone makes the film a treasure for future generations of designers and artists. Indeed, Hans van Seventer specialises in documentaries about visual artists. His approach presents the historical context in which Malina lives and creates, and blends it with vivid personal recollections. The result is an enlightening and deeply human glimpse into the world of a master artist.

Master of Dramatic Space, a Documentary on Jaroslav Malina received its international debut at the Garden State Film Festival in New Jersey, USA. It was awarded the Best International Short Documentary Award during the festival, in April 2011.

The DVD of the documentary is available at *PQ* and online at the website:

<http://www.artistonfilm.nl/en/theater>