

**ZIPO film, Antonín Charouz  
and  
BPA sport marketing**

is pleased to present  
a new Czech feature-length documentary film  
by Adolf Zika

**Le Mans Phenomenon**



premiere:  
**October 2008**

TV, DVD, Cinema Distribution:  
**2008/2009**

**[www.lemansphenomenon.com](http://www.lemansphenomenon.com)**



## The Le Mans Phenomenon

The feature-length documentary film will result in a DVD release, as well as television and film distribution from digital recordings. The documentary presents the race as a phenomenon of the motorsports world, which has outlived several decades in various forms and endures to this very day. Today, one can undoubtedly say that it's the most famous motorsports event in the world.

However, the aim of this film is not a motorsports documentary, but rather an artistic depiction. Classical music juxtaposed with "flying monopost", playful camera angles, creative edits, postproduction effects, and perfect Dolby SR sound allowing the viewer to feel as if they were in the racecar itself. A screenplay with a storyline was intentionally created to create the mood of a film with actors. All of these will put this documentary into a field of its own -- a field where emotions, passion and maximum enthusiasm take first place.

Eight members of our staff followed the Charouz Racing/Aston Martin team for several days, as well as the other drivers of the Aston Martin vehicles in the GT1 category. It was an attempt to come closer to the legacy of the victories belonging to the Aston Martin DBR1 in the 24-Hour Le Mans race in 1959.

The atmosphere of the race was recorded by six cameras, which the director controlled with the use of a communication system which the company Zipo Film created especially for this purpose.



## Director's Statement

As a small boy, I received a toy racetrack. It was a gift that made more of an impression on me than all of my previous gifts. After a while, I realized that what attracted me the most was the phenomenon of the race, competition, meeting face-to-face with my childhood rivals. My imagination was quite vivid at this age. One could say the races I was experiencing were absolutely real. Because I was very productive as a child, I thought, "How could I bring a real contest into my room?" And so, I organized a race the entire street wound up talking about. It was called the 24-Hour Le Mans. We met in my friend's spacious apartment and built four complete racetracks. We began at three o'clock in the afternoon, our mothers cooked, brought us drinks and cheered us on. Our young eyes glowed like a flame in a hearth until ten at night, when we all fell asleep on the plastic track with the remote controls in our hands, and perhaps dreamt about how we would one day ride the track as adult racers.

That was the beginning of my dream about the most famous race in the world, The 24-Hour Le Mans.



## Creators

Story, screenplay, director:	Adolf Zika
Camera:	Jiří Křenek, Robert Bílý, Adolf Zika
Assistant Cameraman:	František Zíka
Editing:	Bob Sean Clark
Sound:	Pavel Dvořák
Sound Engineer:	Pavel Dvořák, Martin Večeřa
Music:	The Roboters
	Guests: Vladimír Martinka, Kateřina Mátlová, Petr Schel
Producer:	Adolf Zika, Antonín Charouz
Co-producer:	BPA sport marketing a.s.
Executive producer:	Stanislava Ziková
Postproduction supervisor:	Jan Bartoň
Camera supervisor:	Adolf Zika
Dramaturgy:	Pavel Doležal
Music dramaturgy:	Bob Sean Clark
Motorsport advicer:	Martin Straka
Further cooperation	
Digital imaging and recording:	Jiří Kubík
Sound postproduction:	Studio Virtual
Image postproduction:	Filmové studio Olomouc
Production:	ZIPO film s.r.o.
	Stanislava Ziková, František Zíka
	BPA sport marketing a.s.
	Jana Obermajerová, Lucie Červená, Daniel Křeček, Martin Sekerka
	Charouz Racing System
	Monika Dvořáčková
Production consultant:	John Daczicky
Assitent production:	Pavλίna Bartoňová, Markéta Podhajská, Karel Adam
Promotion designer:	Marcel Musil
Web programmer:	Rado Korpa / MrCode
Web administrator:	Ingmar Gorman
Photography:	ZIPO film archiv
Economist:	Radka Lhotáková
Main advisor:	Legal office of JUDr. Jiří Štáidl



Adolf Zika was born in 1972 in the town of Prachatice. He graduated from the school of pedagogy and in 1988 became a member of the Center for Top Sports in Prague. He gained the title of Junior Champion of the country in judo, and was awarded a bronze medal in the European Junior Tournament in Vienna. In 1990, he traveled to Budo University of Katsura, Japan, where he underwent training under the best judo fighters in the world. After his return, he abruptly quit his judo career without any official explanation.

In the following years, Adolf Zika tried to catch up by learning everything about life which he had not learned from sports. He composed music, toured and organized various unique projects. In 1993, he was the guitarist for the hardcore band Serious Music. He wrote both music and lyrics. In 1994, he began with photography and a year later won first place in the most contended category of the Czech Press Photo – sports series. In 1996, he worked for a German travel agency in Cologne. Following this, the fashion label Pietro Filipi selected him as their central photographer. In the spring of 1997, Zika was able to open his own studio in Prague, began shooting fashion and commercial photography, and his first large commissions started to come in. He began working on catalogs for fashion all over the globe, creating calendars and working on commissions in Australia, Barbados, Hawaii, the Dominican Republic and many other locations. He worked regularly for Playboy, where he photographed many of their covers and for brands such as Hermès, Australian Bodycare, Speedo and many other. From 1997 to 1999 he led and created the image of the travel agency Fischer and its airline Fischer Air. In 1999, he formed the film and production company ZIPO film. In the fall of the year 2000, he was selected among six photographers of the world to represent the renowned brand Leica at Photokina in Cologne. He was then placed into the prestigious worldwide calendar of this brand. He is the author of the largest printed project of the year 2000, which involved the cooperation of the best 120 photographers of the Czech Republic and four other countries. The result was the publication THE LAST BOOK OF THE CENTURY, A Day in the Life of Czech Republic. A year later, Adolf Zika was placed into the book of personalities for Czech commercial and fashion photography.

Since 2001, he has directed over three dozen television commercials, and worked on a feature-length film as a producer. In the same year, he began long-term cooperation with the mobile operator Orange. For Orange Slovakia, he created their entire re-branding campaign in South Africa. From the year 2001 till 2005 Adolf Zika became the official photographer of the racing team Ferrari Menx, with whom he traveled throughout Europe. In 2002, he placed among the bestselling Czech authors at Paris Photo in the Louver, where he represented the Leica Gallery Prague. He also won a tender to be the photographer for the commercial television station Nova, after which he created the photographic concept and creative promotional visuals for all its programs. He worked for the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he prepared the official book for the Czech Republic's entrance into the EU. In the year 2003, he signed a contract with the publisher Presco Group for an annual calendar of his work to be distributed worldwide.



In June 2004, Adolf Zika was arrested under unclear circumstances, followed by a three-month detention. After a two-year process, he was cleared of all charges without explanation. In September of 2004, his photographs were once more on display at the world exhibition Photokina in Cologne, this time in the Olympus E-system Gallery. His photographs were later displayed at the gallery Black and White Past and Present, organized as part of Interkamera 2006, where there were three classic Czech photographers exhibited (Drtikol, Chochola and Sudek), along with three representatives from the current generation: Saudek, Vano and Zika. In the summer of 2006, with the support of the Hasselblad and Leica companies, he took photographs for his planned publication 6 Days and 24 Hours of Le Mans, a non-traditional conception of the most famous automobile race in the world. He yet again dedicated himself to the world of fast cars in 2006 and 2007, while working on the project A1GP Season 2006/07. The result of which is an extensive photographic publication, capturing the dramatic moments of the A1GP season as well as a peek behind the scenes of every race. On his journeys for unique photographs, Adolf Zika has traveled to over 47 different countries all over the world.

In October 2006, Adolf Zika released a narrative and luxuriously adjusted black-and-white and in part retrospective book of photography Luxurious Luminescence, published by the Presco Group.

Zika's black-and-white photographs, mainly artistic nudes, are enlarged using a classic technique, and always shot on a negative and never digitally retouched. They are not influenced by modern techniques and it is difficult to place a date on the vast majority of Adolf Zika's photography. This might be the reason Adolf Zika is a sought-after photographer for personal collections.

In the year 2007, Adolf Zika as the screenwriter and director, completed a feature length documentary film about the world renowned photographer Jan Saudek titled JAN SAUDEK - TRAPPED BY HIS PASSIONS, NO HOPE FOR RESCUE. The film was completed as a Czech-American co-production.



## Antonín Charouz – race car driver, businessman

Race car driver Antonín Charouz was born in 1954 in Prague. He has two sons with his wife Marketa. He can be proud of a wide range of victories. In the 2007 season, he broadened his extraordinary collection to 36 champion titles! Among the most significant milestones of his career are the two European championships in uphill racing in the years 1985 (group B) and 1992 (group N). On three occasions, he participated in the American uphill race Pikes Peak, which is considered the unofficial world championship in uphill racecar driving. In the year 1995, he won this race in his category and set a new track record. Antonin Charouz is the only Czech racer who managed to win the world championship in touring car track racing. Other distinctions belonging to Antonin Charouz on foreign tracks include the Austrian uphill championship (1992) and the FIA championship – Central European Zone (2005). On the home front of automobile sports, he has won 32 championship titles, both on tracks, in uphill races, and other automobile competitions. He expands upon his victories to this day, as he regularly competes with his Mercedes-Benz AMG C- Klasse DTM in the international championship of the Czech Republic and the Division 4 races, and continues to be set the standard for his competitors. Antonin Charouz is the five-time winner of the prestigious Golden Steering Wheel award (1985, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992) and the holder of many other trophies, including the Fair Play award given by the International Olympics Committee.

Meanwhile, he has been able to demonstrate his organizational and managerial abilities in the motorsports world. He understands that one needs to do much more than steer a car in order to race. He was the first driver to start in the red and white colors of the Marlboro Company. In 1993, he formed the Bohemian Promotion Agency (later BPA sport marketing a.s.), initially for the purpose of organizing and financially supporting Czech racecar drivers. Progressively, its activities have grown into various motorsports events that support the development of motorsports in the Czech Republic.

The BPA agency has not only taken part in local automobile championships that raised the stakes of European racing, but also brought a host of interesting races to the Czech tracks. First the Fiesta Cup, which during its time became a hit on the local motor scene, and later others like Formula Ford, Formula BMW, a series of races called Euro F3000, in 2004 and 2005 the prestigious championship DTM, and in October of 2006 the first A1GP series World Championship of Motorsports.



Of course, BPA has supported and continues to support a number of Czech drivers beginning to prove themselves on foreign tracks. Probably the most well-known is Tomas Enge, who in 2001 became the first Czech to race in the Formula 1, and later regularly appeared in the elite American series IRL, in the 24-Hour Le Mans and is currently one of the world's best drivers of Grand Turismo racecars. Born in Liberec, he's not the only driver that Charouz's company supports. In 2005, he brought Roman Krest into the World Rally Championship, Jarek Janis started in the F3000 Championship, DTM, FIA GT and Le Mans Series, and his younger brother Erik won the European Championship of Motorcars class ICC125, as well as the Skoda Octavia Cup and in 2007/2008 was the ace of the Czech national team in the A1GP World Championship of Motorsports. Another from this group of drivers is the young Jan Charouz, who in the 2007 season amazed with his achievement in the Le Mans Series in the prestigious category LMP1, where he became the absolutely fastest pilot of a vehicle with a gas motor. Also racing with the support of the BPA agency is the very talented Adam Lacko.

The Charouz Racing System placed its own team into some prestigious series, for example the European Championship Formule 3000, and Antonín Charouz also stands at the forefront of the entire Czech A1GP team, Škoda Charouz Racing System - Lola/Judd had much success in the 2007 season of the Le Mans Series, and also shined in the legendary 24-Hour Le Mans, where he battled for a fantastic 8<sup>th</sup> in his debut.

The managerial abilities of Antonín Charouz haven't wavered during any of these achievements. Therefore, there's no doubt that without the name Charouz and his BPA agency, our motorsports scene would look very different today. At the very least, it would be incomplete.



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