

## Alois Nebel

Czech Republic 2011

**Directed by**  
Tomás Lunák**Writing Credits**  
Jaroslav Rudis  
Jaromír Svejdlík**Cinematography**  
Baset Jan Strítezský**Original Music**  
Petr Kružík**Cast**  
*Miroslav Krobot*  
Alois Nebel  
*Marie Ludvíková*  
Kveta*Leos Noha*  
Wachek  
*Karel Roden*  
The Mute

84 min

*Our next screening...***Monsters (UK)**

Tue 27 November 2012

Dir: Gareth Edwards

Stunning low-budget sci-fi  
road movie praised for its  
poetry, awe and beauty.

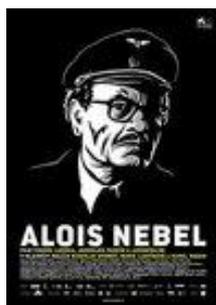
Each season, WFS always try to include at least one animated feature. Tonight's film, which uses the innovative rotoscoping technique, is a critique of the years of Soviet domination of Czechoslovakia.

The film is entirely in black-and-white and uses rotoscope animation, meaning that actual live-action footage was shot and drawn over top of using computer animation (rotoscope animation could also be done by hand). This unique process gives the film the fluidity of a live-action film, while allowing the director the almost limitless degree of artistic freedom that comes with animated projects. Check out *A Scanner Darkly* for another example of rotoscope animation. The combination of black-and-white and rotoscope animation is stunning to watch, and immediately sets the sombre mood of the film. *Alois Nebel* will inevitably be embraced by fans of art-house and foreign films, but I urge adventurous viewers to check it out when they are feeling like a totally different experience from mainstream North American cinema. I still feel haunted by the pasts of the downtrodden characters in *Alois Nebel*, but also stunned into silence by the otherworldly beauty of a lonely train, rolling loyally down the track.

*Matthew Hodgson, Entertainment Maven*

Nebel, a creation of graphic novelists Jaromír Svejdlík and Jaroslav Rudis, is a strangely compelling character, if impenetrable and stoical to a fault. These traits make it all the more rewarding when progress is made in his interactions with the lonely Kveta; they are at once inadvertently therapeutic and symbolic of a generation's attempts to negate a troubled past and the personal demons that have beaten down but never broken Nebel. The rotoscope animation of *Alois Nebel* (2011) is wonderfully evocative with a dark, austere allure; the impression is of a monochrome relation to Ari Folman's *Waltz with Bashir* (2008). Lunák's direction is superb, always intent on utilising meaningful silences to loudest effect. Glances, recollections, repetitions: all are used as carefully modulating narrative tools, providing well-earned reward by the affectingly cathartic finale. *David O'Connell, 20/20 Filmsight*

The stunning images that fill the screen, and the technique used to achieve them seem to contradict the mundane reality of Nebel's existence. They also create a sense of hyperreality that cause us to look at this story much closer than if it were told using conventional methods. The style is essential: *Alois Nebel* couldn't have worked any other way.

*Jason Pirodsky, expats.cz*Voting for *Tyrannosaur*: A-36 B-17 C-0 D-0 E-0 Rating: 92%