

Famous Czech- & Slovak-Americans



Where are your ancestors from? Are they Czech or Slovak? Are they West Indian or Kenyan? Have you ever been surprised when a celebrity shares your heritage? *Famous Czech- & Slovak-Americans* takes a playful look at people in the twentieth century spotlight who have Czech and Slovak roots. Many are well-known while some others may be more surprising. Quiz yourself and see how many names you can come up with before seeing the exhibit.

An Exhibit in Six Panels

First Panel:

This panel features people who have made major contributions in the political realm or in times of war. From little-known reporters, like John Machacek, to former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to World War II soldiers Sergeant Michael Strank and Lieutenant Colonel Matt Konop, these Czech- and Slovak-Americans have committed themselves to cause and country.

Second Panel:

Many sports figures are from the Czech Republic or Slovakia, or are of Czech or Slovak descent, and all have made their mark on their chosen sport. Martina Navratilova dominated women's tennis for nearly ten years. Jaromír Jágr has earned many honors during his twenty-seven years in the National Hockey League. He also carries a piece of his home country and heritage onto the ice for every game.

Third Panel:

Those who have made major discoveries or accomplishments in science and industry may be the least well-known of this exhibit. Sure, Gene Cernan and Jim Lovell are known the world over for their lunar flights, but Štefan Banič, inventor of the parachute? Slovak. Dr. Helen Taussig, the founder of pediatric cardiology? Czech. What else have the remarkable people on this panel done?

Fourth & Fifth Panels:

This exhibit would not be complete without mentioning at least a few of the Czech- and Slovak-Americans in the arts and entertainment industry. Their contributions know no bounds. From some of the best songs performed on Broadway to one of the best pianists on record to a man who helped establish photography as an art form to a cartoon girl called Dora to, of course, some of the most amazing films ever made. Arnold Schwarzenegger was the lead man in action/sci-fi movies for years before entering the political arena. Stephen Chbosky wrote the screenplay for the 2017 live-action version of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. And Steve Ditko? Who is that? Only the co-creator of two rediscovered Marvel greats, Dr. Strange and Spiderman.

Sixth Panel:

Put yourself to the test with the Jeopardy-style quiz on this panel. Flip panels will display the answer to a question about some of the famous Czech- & Slovak-Americans included in the exhibit. Lift the answer to find out which one of the troupe it is and, yes, your answer must be in the form of a question.

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Exhibit Rental Information

Famous Czech- & Slovak-Americans is comprised of six retractable panels that tell a bit about the lives and achievements of selected 20th century Americans of Czech and Slovak descent within four different categories: Politics and War, Sport, Science and Industry, and Arts and Entertainment. The sixth panel is a Jeopardy-style quiz game with detachable flip panels.

Exhibit Contains:

- 6 panels that retract into a metal base (opened like a roller shade), each housed in a black zippered bag. The opened panels are each 36 x 72 inches in size.
- 3 short poles for each panel (in bag with panel)
- 12 detachable canvas sections with printed answers, each measuring 10" x 6" (for panel 6)
- All panels and canvas sections fit into one box (14 inches long, 14 inches wide, 48 inches tall)
- Shipping box weighs approximately 76 lbs.

Space Requirements:

- 21 linear feet (allowing for 6 inches between each panel). This figure is based upon all six panels being set up in a row, but they can be in any configuration within a space.

Time:

- Duration of exhibit is negotiable

Security:

- Periodic checks of exhibit area
- Open to the public only while there is an attendant in the building

The NCSML traveling exhibition program is generously supported by American Czech Association, Los Angeles and American Sokol Los Angeles.

Procedures for Booking:

The borrower must pay for shipping costs to and from the venue. The NCSML Traveling Exhibit Coordinator will ship via FedEx and send return shipping labels via email once the exact return date has been determined. The Coordinator will also arrange the package pick-up. The NCSML Finance Director will bill the borrower after the exhibit's return to the NCSML.

Setting up the Exhibit:

- Remove panel (rolled up in metal case) and three poles from bag
- Place metal case on floor and turn small metal piece on bottom so it is perpendicular to metal case
- Put together three poles to create one long pole with a screw at one end and a tapered opposite end
- Screw bottom of pole into perpendicular metal piece on case bottom
- Pull up on panel to unroll it
- Attach the hole at the center top of panel beam to the top of the pole (tapered end)
- To attach canvas sections to panel 6, match up the numbered sections to the corresponding questions printed on the panel and use existing velcro tabs

Questions about this exhibit?

Contact:

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