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Pat & Mat (Czech and Slovak: Pat a Mat) is a Czechoslovak slapstick stop-motion animated series created by Lubomír Beneš and Vladimír Jiránek. The characters first appeared in the theatrically released short Kuťáci (Tinkers) in 1976, while the first made-for-TV episode "Tapety" ("Wallpaper") was produced for CST Bratislava three years later.

The main characters of the series are two handymen, Pat and Mat, who are inventive and extremely clumsy. As of 2021, 129 episodes of the show have been released, and it has been syndicated in a large number of countries due to its lack of dialogue (except in the Dutch version, which is dubbed).

Names [edit]

The original name of the series was *Kuťáci* (*The Tinkers*), but when production of episodes started for CST Bratislava, a Slovak name was required, and the crew eventually settled for ... a je to! (... and it's done!).[2] The characters

Pat & Mat



Pat and Mat logo (in VAG Rounded)

Genre Animation

> Comedy Slapstick

Created by Lubomír Beneš

Vladimír Jiránek

Written by Lubomír Beneš

Vladimír Jiránek

Jiří Kubíček

Vendulka Čvančarová

Marek Beneš

others

Lubomír Beneš Directed by

Marek Beneš

Petr Skoumal

others

Theme music

composer

Petr Skoumal (ep. 2–91) Composers

Zdeněk Zdeněk (ep. 92-

themselves were nameless until 1989, when they were given the names Pat and Mat. Pat and Mat are shortened forms of Czech expressions "patlal" and "matlal", which can roughly be translated as "clumsy" and "awkward". [3] The authors intentionally gave the characters short and universal names suitable for a worldwide audience. [2]

Premise [edit]

According to the authors, it is manual ineptitude that inspires the stories. Alongside the humour, another motif of the show is the importance of an optimistic approach towards life. The two characters always get into problematic situations, but they never give up until they solve the problem in imaginative ways.^[4] Pat and Mat typically find a solution in the end, usually via a surprising or innovative method, after which they shake hands, before making their trademark hand gesture with a bent hand and closed fist.

History [edit]

The characters were revived in 2009 by Beneš for a new series, *Pat a Mat na venkově* (*Pat & Mat in the Country*). The pilot, "Postele" ("Beds"), premiered at the 50th Zlín Film Festival in 2010.^[5] 12 more episodes followed between 2011 and 2015, produced by Patmat Film and filmed in 16:9. Beneš directed and wrote all 13 episodes. Eight of the episodes were released on DVD in 2013 and received their TV premiere on the Dutch channel VPRO on 9 June of the same year, with the rest following soon.

To celebrate the show's 40th anniversary, Gusto Entertainment produced full-length feature film released in cinemas in 2016. The film, *Pat a Mat ve filmu* (*Pat & Mat in a Movie*), featured ten of the 2009-2015 episodes with linking segments and was shown in cinemas in several countries, including the Netherlands.^[6]

	130)	
	Luboš Fišer (ep. 1)	
Country of origin	Czechoslovakia (episodes 1–35) Czech Republic Slovakia (only episodes 2–	
	29)	
	West Germany (only episodes 30–35)	
	Netherlands (episodes 92–130)	
	China (episodes 92–130)	
Original language	None	
No. of episodes	129 (+1 unreleased)	
F	Production	
Running time	6–9 min.	
Production companies	Krátký film Praha aiF Studio	
	Patmat film Ateliéry Bonton Zlín others	
Ori	ginal release	
Network	ČST (1979–1992) ČT (1992–2020) STV (1993–2011) ČT :D (2013–2020) TV JOJ (2016)	
	August 12, 1976 ^[1] –	



From 2018 until 2020, 39 new episodes divided into three 13-part series were made in Patmat film, co-produced by Czech Television and Netherlands-based JUST Productions, again directed by Beneš. The animation for more than half of these episodes was produced in a Chinese studio to speed up work.^[7]

On November 11, 2021, Czech Television announced that production of *Pat a Mat na venkově* series continues.^[8] New episodes are expected to be released at the end of 2024.

The studio initially planned to make further episodes of the new series, with the possibility of half-hour episodes and a feature film in the future. ^[9] Due to these circumstances, *Playing Cards* has never been released or distributed in the Czech Republic and most of the world, even though it entered competition at Annecy in 1999. ^[10]

Although the episode was pulled from distribution, a screenshot from it was posted on aiF Studio's website. The former Prague management later set up a new studio at the same location, Animation People, and posted more screenshots on their website, which were eventually replaced with a short, silent clip of the episode.^[11]

Censorship [edit]

Czechoslovakia [edit]

Although the authors wanted to continue shooting after the initial short, their studio Krátký film did not allow them to do so. The reason given was that *Kuťáci* were just ordinary entertainment not appropriate for the cultural policy of the time. However, as the Slovak Television in Bratislava showed interest in further episodes, twenty-eight episodes were produced for them instead, with great success.^[2]



Episodes made from 1979 to 1985 have Mat (left) wearing a grey shirt.

Fox Kids airings [edit]

In 2003 Fox Kids Europe bought the rights from Ateliery Bonton Zlín to air episodes 2–26^[12] on the Fox Kids network in several countries, including the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Germany, United Kingdom, Greece, Portugal, Latin America and Brazil. The show had its intro and outro changed, and almost all scenes in which the characters use knives or which contain slapstick violence deemed too "intense" were cut. Later airings put the original intro back in, but replaced the outro with a narration warning against imitating the behavior of the series' characters.

Production years [edit]

Nr.	Episode(s)	Production year
1	1 (1)	1976
2	2–29 (28)	1979, 1981–1985
3	30–35 (6)	1989–1990
4	36–49 (14)	1992, 1994
5	50 (1, unreleased)	1998
6	51–78 (28)	2002–2004
7	79–91 (13)	2009, 2011–2015
8	92–104 (13)	2018

9	105–117 (13)	2018–2019
10	118–130 (13)	2019–2020

List of episodes [edit]

N° ≑	Year of production	English title +	Czech title (Slovak in 1979–1985)	Episode director				
	Kuťáci (Tinkers)							
	produced in the Barrandov animation studios (Krátký Film), Prague							
1	Lubomír Beneš							
рі	a je to! produced in the Barrandov animation studios (Krátký Film), Prague for Czechoslovak Television, Bratislava							
2	1979	Tapestry (Wallpaper)	Tapety	Lubomír Beneš				
3	1979	Workshop	Dielňa	Lubomír Beneš				
4	1979	Carpet	Koberec	Lubomír Beneš				
5	1979	Rocking Chair	Hojdacie kreslo	Lubomír Beneš				
6	1979	Picture	Obraz	Lubomír Beneš				
7	1979	Garage	Garáž	Lubomír Beneš				
8	1979	Light (The Light)	Svetlo	Lubomír Beneš				
9	1981	Record Player (Gramophone)	Gramofón	Lubomír Beneš				
10	1981	Grill	Grill	Lubomír Beneš				
11	1982	Removal (Moving Day)	Sťahovanie	Lubomír Beneš				
12	1982	Water	Voda	Lubomír Beneš				
13	1982	Garden	Záhradka	Lubomír Beneš				
14	1982	Painting Job	Maľovanie	Lubomír Beneš				
15	1982	Jumpers	Skokani	Lubomír Beneš				
16	1982 Crossword (Crossword Puzzle)		Krížovka	Lubomír Beneš				
17	1983	Bird Feeder (Birdhouse)	Búdka	Lubomír Beneš				
18	1983	Big Laundry (Laundry Day)	Veľké pranie	Lubomír Beneš				
19	1983	Gym	Telocvičňa Lubomír Ben					
20	1983	Breakfast (Breakfast in Grass)	Raňajky v tráve	Lubomír Beneš				
21	1983	Washing Machine	Práčka	Lubomír Beneš				
22	1983	Rain	Dážď Lubomír Be					

23	Excursion (Trip)		Výlet	Lubomír Beneš		
24	1984	Winegrowers (Winemakers)	Vinári	Lubomír Beneš		
25	1984	Skates	Korčule	Lubomír Beneš		
26	1984	Piano	Klavír	Lubomír Beneš		
27	1985	Potters	Hrnčiari	Lubomír Beneš		
28	1985	Defect (Malfunction)	Porucha	Lubomír Beneš		
29	1985	Apple	Jablko	Lubomír Beneš		
		Pat & I	Mat			
	pro	duced in the Barrandov animatio	on studios (Krátký Film), Prague			
30	1989	Key (The Key)	Klíč	Lubomír Beneš		
31	1989	Furniture	Nábytek	Lubomír Beneš		
32	Mowing Machine (Lawnmower)		Sekačka	Lubomír Beneš		
33	1990	Big Cleanup	Generální úklid	Lubomír Beneš		
34	1990	Roof	Střecha	Lubomír Beneš		
35	35 1990 Door		Dveře Lubomír Beneš			
		Pat & I	Mat			
		produced in the authors	' aiF Studio, Prague			
36	1992	Biscuits	Sušenky	Marek Beneš		
37	1992	Garage Door	Vrata	Lubomír Beneš		
38	1992	Cyclists	Cyklisti	klisti Lubomír Beneš		
39	1992	Paving Bricks (Tiles)	Dlaždice	Lubomír Beneš		
40	1992	Parquetry (Parquet)	Parkety	Lubomír Beneš		
41	1992	Gutter Pipe	Okap	Marek Beneš		
42	1992	Convertible	Kabriolet	Lubomír Beneš		
43	1994	Flat Tire (Accident)	Nehoda	Lubomír Beneš		
44	1994	Billiards	Kulečník	Lubomír Beneš		
45	1994	Quickset Hedge (Hedgerow)	Živý plot	Lubomír Beneš		
46	1994	Safe (The Safe)	Trezor	Lubomír Beneš		
47	1994	Mudguard (Fender)	Blatník	Lubomír Beneš		
48	1994	Model Builders	Modeláři	Lubomír Beneš		
49	1994	Windsurfing	Windsurfing	Lubomír Beneš		
	episode not released for distribution					

(produced by part of Lubomír Beneš's former team without his heirs' consent)

50	1998	Playing Cards Karty		František Váša		
	Pat a Mat, Pat a Mat se vracejí (Pat & Mat Return)					
	(followers, with Marek Beneš or his consent)					
F 4	0000	produced by Atelie	Marila			
51	2002	Puzzle	Puzzle	Marek Beneš		
52	2003	Roasted Sausages	Opékají špekáčky	Ladislav Pálka		
53	2003	Roof Repair	Opravují střechu	Ladislav Pálka		
54	2003	Black Box	Černá bedýnka	Vlasta Pospíšilová		
55	2003	Furniture on Wheels	Kolečka	Vlasta Pospíšilová		
56	2003	Dog House	Psí bouda	Milan Šebesta		
57	2003	Lacquering the Floor	Natírají podlahu	Ladislav Pálka		
58	2003	The Greenhouse	Skleník	Marek Beneš		
59	2003	The Swing	Houpačka	Marek Beneš		
60	2003	Unwanted Guest	Nezvaný návštěvník	Marek Beneš		
61	2003	Bodyguards	Bodygárdi	Marek Beneš		
62	2003	Painting the Windows	Natírají okna	Marek Beneš		
63	2003	Easter Egg	Velikonoční vajíčko	Vlasta Pospíšilová		
64	2003	Slim Figure	Štíhlá linie	Vlasta Pospíšilová		
65	2003	Vending Machine	Automat	Marek Beneš		
66	2003	Autodrome	Autodráha	Marek Beneš		
67	2003	Aquarium	Akvárium	Marek Beneš		
68	2003	Canning	Zavařují	Ladislav Pálka		
69	2003	Hang Glider	Rogalo	Ladislav Pálka		
70	2003	Christmas Cake	Vánočka	Milan Šebesta		
71	2003	Flu	Stůňou	Ladislav Pálka		
72	2003	Fax Machine	Fax	Josef Lamka		
73	2003	Strawberries	Jahody	Vlasta Pospíšilová		
74	2004	Playing Golf	Hrají golf	Ladislav Pálka		
75	2004	Bottle Cap	Někam to zapadlo	Vlasta Pospíšilová		

76	2004	Swimming Pool Kopají bazén		Marek Beneš			
77	2004 Hanging a Painting		Věší krajinu	Marek Beneš			
78	2004	Christmas Tree	Vánoční stromeček	Marek Beneš			
	Pat a Mat na venkově (Pat & Mat in the Countryside)						
		produced by Patm	at film, Prague				
79	2009	Beds	Postele	Marek Beneš			
80	2011	Water Supply	Vodovod	Marek Beneš			
81	2011	Paper Plates	Papírový servis	Marek Beneš			
82	2011	Projector	Promítačka	Marek Beneš			
83	2012	Vacuum Cleaner	Vysavač	Marek Beneš			
84	2012	The Pool	Bazén	Marek Beneš			
85	2012	The Floor	Podlaha	Marek Beneš			
86	2013	Deadwood	Suchý strom	Marek Beneš			
87	2014	Orange Juice	Pomerančová šťáva	Marek Beneš			
88	2014	Bicycle	Rotoped	Marek Beneš			
89	2015	Cactus Kaktus		Marek Beneš			
90	2015	Bathroom Tiles Obkladačky		Marek Beneš			
91	2015	Sun Cover	Sluneční clona Marek Beneš				
		Pat a Mat nás baví (Pat	& Mat Entertain Us)				
		produced by Patm	at film, Prague				
92	2018	Bees	Včely	Marek Beneš			
93	2018	(Solar) Lawnmower	Sekačka	Marek Beneš			
94	2018	Mole	Krtek	Marek Beneš			
95	2018	Fence	Plot	Marek Beneš			
96	2018	Clogged Chimney	Ucpaný komín	Marek Beneš			
97	2018	Power Station	Elektrárna	Marek Beneš			
98	2018	Rock Garden	Skalka	Marek Beneš			
99	2018	Rodeo	Rodeo	Marek Beneš			
100	2018	Carousel	Kolotoč	Marek Beneš			
101	2018	Dishwasher	Myčka	Marek Beneš			
102	2018	Waste	Odpad	Marek Beneš			
103	2018	Stairs	Schody	Marek Beneš			
104	2018	Camera	Kamera	Marek Beneš			

	Pat a Mat – Zimní radovánky/Pat a Mat v zimě (Pat & Mat – Winter Fun/Pat & Mat in Winter) produced by Patmat film, Prague					
105	2018	Calamity Kalamita		Marek Beneš		
106	2018	Christmas Lights	Marek Beneš			
107	2018	Sauna	Sauna	Marek Beneš		
108	2018	Nativity Scene	Betlém	Marek Beneš		
109	2018	Tree	Stromeček	Marek Beneš		
110	2018	Gifts	Dárky	Marek Beneš		
111	2018	New Year	Silvestr	Marek Beneš		
112	2019	Christmas Card	Novoroční přání	Marek Beneš		
113	2019	Potato Salad	Bramborový salát	Marek Beneš		
114	2019	Carp	Kapr	Marek Beneš		
115	2019	Gingerbread House Perníková chaloupka		Marek Beneš		
116	2019	Glazed Frost Ledovka N		Marek Beneš		
117	2019	lgloo lglú		Marek Beneš		
	Pat a Mat kutí (Pat & Mat Pat Handymen's Adventures/DIY Troubles) ^[13] produced by Patmat film, Prague					
118						
	2019	Pancakes	Palačinky	Marek Beneš		
119	2019 2019	Pancakes Flying Machine	Palačinky Létající stroj	Marek Beneš Marek Beneš		
119 120						
	2019	Flying Machine	Létající stroj	Marek Beneš		
120	2019 2019	Flying Machine Popcorn	Létající stroj Popcorn	Marek Beneš Marek Beneš		
120 121	2019 2019 2019	Flying Machine Popcorn New Kitchen / Furniture	Létající stroj Popcorn Nová kuchyně ^[14] / Nábytek	Marek Beneš Marek Beneš Marek Beneš		
120 121 122	2019 2019 2019 2019	Flying Machine Popcorn New Kitchen / Furniture Car Wash	Létající stroj Popcorn Nová kuchyně ^[14] / Nábytek Automyčka	Marek Beneš Marek Beneš Marek Beneš Marek Beneš		
120 121 122 123	2019 2019 2019 2019 2019	Flying Machine Popcorn New Kitchen / Furniture Car Wash Harvest	Létající stroj Popcorn Nová kuchyně ^[14] / Nábytek Automyčka Sklizeň	Marek Beneš Marek Beneš Marek Beneš Marek Beneš Marek Beneš		
120 121 122 123 124	2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019	Flying Machine Popcorn New Kitchen / Furniture Car Wash Harvest Phototrap	Létající stroj Popcorn Nová kuchyně ^[14] / Nábytek Automyčka Sklizeň Fotopast	Marek Beneš Marek Beneš Marek Beneš Marek Beneš Marek Beneš Marek Beneš		
120 121 122 123 124 125	2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2020	Flying Machine Popcorn New Kitchen / Furniture Car Wash Harvest Phototrap Ice Making	Létající stroj Popcorn Nová kuchyně ^[14] / Nábytek Automyčka Sklizeň Fotopast Výroba ledu	Marek Beneš		
120 121 122 123 124 125 126	2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2020 2020	Flying Machine Popcorn New Kitchen / Furniture Car Wash Harvest Phototrap Ice Making Tube Post	Létající stroj Popcorn Nová kuchyně ^[14] / Nábytek Automyčka Sklizeň Fotopast Výroba ledu Potrubní pošta	Marek Beneš		
120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127	2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2020 2020	Flying Machine Popcorn New Kitchen / Furniture Car Wash Harvest Phototrap Ice Making Tube Post Barbecue	Létající stroj Popcorn Nová kuchyně ^[14] / Nábytek Automyčka Sklizeň Fotopast Výroba ledu Potrubní pošta Barbecue	Marek Beneš		

Feature films [edit]

Year	Czech title	English title
2016	Pat a Mat ve filmu	Pat & Mat in a Movie

2018 Pat a Mat znovu v akci		Pat & Mat in Action Again	
2018	Pat a Mat: Zimní radovánky	Pat & Mat: Winter Fun	
2019	Pat a Mat: Kutilské trampoty	Pat & Mat: Handymen's Adventures	

Broadcast [edit]

Country	TV channel(s)	Year(s)
Czech Republic	ČST, ČT, ČT :D, Fox Kids	1979–1992 ^[citation needed] , 1992–present, 2013–present
Slovakia	ČST, Jednotka, Dvojka, TV JOJ	1979–1992, 1993–2010, 2016
Netherlands	NCRV, VPRO	1982, 1984-present

Home media [edit]

Shorts from the AIF era were initially unavailable due to copyright issues, but appeared on DVD for the first time in 2007. [15]

Related products [edit]

At least two books with the series' characters have been published:

- Michl, Jiří (1994). Pat & Mat: ...and that's it!. Czech Republic: Egmont.
- Sýkora, Pavel; Jiránek, Vladimír; Beneš, Lubomír (2010). Pat a Mat dokážou všechno [Pat and Mat can do anything] (3rd ed.). Albatros. ISBN 9788000025933.

A Czech computer development company, Centauri Production released the *Pat & Mat* mini video game.^[16] It was released in Czech language in the Czech Republic on 1 October 2009, and in other EU countries in English in 2010. The English version from Steam was taken down in July 2020.^[17]

There is a wide range of Pat & Mat merchandise available, including games, dolls, key rings, office material, posters and T-shirts.^[18]

References [edit]

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- 3. ^ Paula Bobanović (28 January 2020). "Marek Beneš interview (2017)" ₺. ajetology.blogspot.com. Retrieved 26 February 2020.
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- 5. ^ "Detail filmu | Pat a Mat na venkově: Postele" ☑ (in Czech). Zlín Film Festival. Archived from the original ☑ on 24 December 2013. Retrieved 24 December 2013.
- 6. ^ "Buurman & Buurman met kerst al in de bioscoop" ☑. NU.nl (in Dutch). 22 December 2015.
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- 10. ^ Citia (15 June 2013). "1999 Archives | Official Selection | Film Index" ☑. Annecy. Archived from the original ☑ on 24 December 2013.
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- 14. A In Czech TV airings.
- 15. ^ "Pat a Mat speciál ... A je to! (2007) [TV seriál] režie: Lubomír Beneš, Marek Beneš" ☑. Film Database. Retrieved 24 December 2013.
- 16. ^ "Centauri Production Pat & Mat" ☑. Centauri.cz.
- 17. ^ "Save 50% on Pat & Mat on Steam" ☑. Store.steampowered.com. 17 July 2010. Retrieved 24 December 2013.
- 18. ^ "Buurman & Buurtkoekjes" ☑. BuurmanenBuurman.eu. Archived from the original ☑ on 2 February 2017.

External links [edit]

- Pat & Mat ☑ at IMDb
- Official website of Lubomír Beneš' aiF Studio ☑
- Official website of Marek Beneš' Patmat film studio ☑



Categories: Czech animated television series | Stop-motion animated television series | Television duos | Animated duos | 1976 Czechoslovak television series debuts | 1976 animated television series debuts | Czechoslovak television series | Czech children's television series | 1970s Czechoslovak television series | 1980s Czechoslovak television series | 1990s Czech television series | 2000s Czech television series | 2010s Czech television series | 2020s Czech television series | Television shows adapted into novels | Television shows adapted into video games | Fictional Czech people | Fictional inventors | Fictional construction workers | Fictional mechanics | Fictional plumbers | Animated television series without speech | Fictional duos | Czech-language Czechoslovak Television original programming | Czechoslovak animated television series

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