This film is a result of a mystification, which has been lasting since 1967 and is still alive. It is a mockumentary about Cimrman, a universal Czech genius that was active in all branches of science and art in the times before the First World War. Unfortunately, he has never achieved proper recognition for his achievements. There is a specialized theater in his name in Prague developing this idea in quasi-scientific seminars and theatre plays. Jára Cimrman ležící, spící consists mainly of independent sketches, where Cimrman meets various historical personalities of his times and advises them: he is e.g. responsible for A. P. Čechov calling his play Three Sisters, he advises Gustav Eiffel in conceiving the Eiffel Tower etc. The play/film is one of an extensive series representing a particular Czech type of intellectual humor poking fun at any trace of nationalism Czechs might possess. Color. In Czech with English subtitles. 81 mins.

Introduced by Professor Bronislava Volková