

LEON Productions presents  
a full-length documentary directed by Jaro Vojtek

# HRANICA

## THE BORDER

A film about a meaningless border which divided  
the village of Slemence as well as the fates of its people  
for several decades



**Producer:** Mario Homolka, David Čorba  
**Director:** Jaro Vojtek  
**Story by:** Jaro Vojtek  
**Screenplay:** Marek Leščák, Jaro Vojtek  
**Photography:** Tomáš Stanek, Jaro Vojtek  
**Editor:** Zuzana Cséplő, Maroš Šlapeta  
**Sound:** Jaro Vojtek, Tobiáš Potočný  
**Sound Mix:** Marek Lacena  
**Music:** Peter Groll  
**Executive Producer:** David Čorba

**Appearing in the film:**  
Peter Lizák, Tibor Tóth, Štefan Tóth,  
Pál Bocsárszky as Vince Tóth,  
Rebeka Kuiková, Alexander Gilányi,  
Rebeka Gilányiová, Eleňa Hornyáková  
with her son, inhabitants of the towns  
Male Slemence and Velke Slemence

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## SYNOPSIS

Following WWII the Sub Carpathian Russia (i.e. Eastern part of Czechoslovakia) was allocated to the then Soviet Union and the new state border drawn by politicians in Moscow was, uncompromisingly, staked by the Red Army. The Czechoslovak village Slemence had the bad luck to stand in the new borderline's way. Its inhabitants suddenly found themselves divided into two parts – while one remained in Czechoslovakia, and the other one fell to the Soviets. This led to the violent separation of not only families, parents and children, lovers and friends, but also land and even those buried in the cemetery ...

The history of Velké and Malé Slemence, divided by a forced border of barbed wire, with watchtowers and without a crossing point, had begun. An iron curtain in the middle of the communist camp...

The free opening of a small checkpoint after 60 years has come late. Close relatives died shortly before the opening, and the young people see the "natural" border as an opportunity to make easy money by smuggling in goods and people. On 21 December 2007, this border became the Easter border of the Schengen area... The border has, in time, created two totally different worlds from the same community.

**LEON**  
PRODUCTIONS

Production Company: LEON Productions, Jadranská 41, 841 01 Bratislava, Slovakia, Tel: +421 2 6453 3992, Cell: +421 905 609 173, Fax: +421 2 6446 2784, e-mail: leon@leonproductions.sk, www.leonproductions.sk

The film's scriptwriter, director and director of photography

## JAROSLAV VOJTEK

What message did you want to send to the viewers with *The Border*?

I wanted to reflect on the absurdity of creating any borders, and about how helpless man alone is, even now, against the power decisions made by the state or pursuing higher interests. Where is the man – the identity, with unrepeatable and unique stories of his life today? What is an individual, in today's world that embodies the mass? A lonely man against the environment he lives in. Decisions about his life may be made somewhere else and he has no influence. I also wanted to reflect on the absurdity of our deeds and actions. To offer a look at ourselves in order to make us capable of self-reflection and realizing the loss of our simple values, which are extremely important to our lives – otherwise we feel lost. Values such as love, submission, tolerance, attentiveness to each other, modesty, fairness, openness, straightness, friendship, virtue ... It is a kind of a self-portrait of issues, which I am concerned about, and through shooting I endeavor to learn as much as possible about these issues. In fact this is the reason for my filmmaking – because unrepeatable, authentic people marked by the irony of life are books you cannot buy anywhere ...

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Running time: 72 min.

Format: 35 mm, 1:1,66, 2398 m

Sound: Dolby Stereo