



F+ FEBIOFEST
Bratislava 2021

ONLINE

6th Industry Days

Bratislava, March 29–30, 2021



When preparing last year's festival, it didn't even occur to us that we would have to cancel it. And when doing so, hardly could we have anticipated that it wouldn't even take place in 2021 either. Slovak cinemas closed down last autumn, and we still don't know when public screenings will restart. Cinema distribution as we knew it has been suspended, but film production continues. We are happy that the pandemic hasn't stopped Slovak filmmakers from developing their projects, and we are thankful to the main financial partners of Slovak film industry (Slovak Audiovisual Fund and RTVS) for supporting filmmakers through these difficult times. We would also like to thank the Slovak Audiovisual Fund and our partners (Slovak Film Institute, Midpoint and

Lumiére Cinema) for their kind support for the online version of Industry Days, and for their help presenting new Slovak works in progress.

Although we can't currently watch films at cinemas, we can still talk about them, imagine them, and look forward to their future screenings. Whether in a screening hall or at a computer - good projects always receive recognition, even if presented from a different continent. Let's look forward to when we can watch them again at cinemas. Some of them, hopefully, at next year's Febiofest in Bratislava, offline, live, and together with many other viewers.

Ondrej Starinský
Artistic director

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Industry Jury



Bernd Buder

Born 1964 in Berlin (West), studied political science at the Free University of Berlin. 1996-2005 program director of the Berliner Filmkunsthaus Babylon art film theatre. Curatorial activities for various film festivals (Turkish Film Week Berlin, goEast Film Festival, dokumentArt Neubrandenburg, Prishtina FilmFestival). Since 1996 he has been associated with the FilmFestival Cottbus in various positions – research, press spokesman, curator – and from 2011-2014 he headed its co-production market connecting cottbus, and has been its programme director since 2015. In 2021, he will also be responsible for the Jewish Film Festival Berlin & Brandenburg programme. Buder also programmes competitions of the European film festival Cinedays in Skopje, and works as programme consultant for the Berlinale section Forum. He also works as a film journalist and lecturer, and is a member of the European Film Academy.



Hugo Rosák

Hugo Rosak is the Head of Industry Office at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Its KVIFF Eastern Promises platform focuses on curating and promoting film projects – at various stages of development or production – from Central & Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Over 40 projects from the region are annually introduced to industry experts from around the world. Hugo is also involved in the Midpoint Institute's Feature Launch program, and collaborated as a consultant for the First Cut Lab editing program. He has previously worked with innovation design, intercultural management, as well training and development, but is most happy giving his heart to arthouse film.



Renata Santoro

Since 2010 Film Researcher and Head of Programming at Giornate degli Autori, the independent section of the Venice Film Festival, after working in its communication office for five years (since 2006). Lecturer in Berlin and Cannes for the ScripTeast Program. In 2008 appointed by the Italian Ministry of Culture and the Province of Rome as supervisor of the "IOO+I. One hundred films and one country, Italy". The project aimed to preserve and promote Italian film heritage, especially in schools, encouraging films' use as a tool to teach Italian history.

In 2006 and 2007, artistic director and coordinator of the Special effects section at Castelli Animati, an International Film Festival for animation and new technologies.

Member of the European Film Academy.

Works in Progress

Selected projects



Architekt drsnej poetiky Rough Poetry Architect

Slovakia – Czech Republic – Brazil | colour | 70 min.
docudrama | completed

DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY: Ladislav Kaboš

DOP: Martin Šec

EDITORS: Michal Kondrla, Darina Smržová

PRODUCER: Darina Smržová (EDIT Studio, SK)

CO-PRODUCERS: Tibor Horváth (RTVS, SK), Michael Kaboš (KABOS Film & Media, CZ),
Pedro Rosa (Embaúba Produções, BR)

SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 175 000

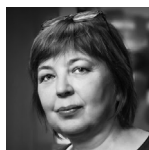
EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

CONTACT

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Ladislav
Kaboš



Darina
Smržová

SYNOPSIS

An old man fails to recognise his own face in the mirror. He suffers from Alzheimer's disease. Little by little, his memories get washed away. One day he decides to tell the story of his life to his reflection in the mirror. The man is Hans Broos – an important representative of modern Brazilian architecture, Carpathian German by origin, born in Slovakia. The mirror to which he confesses acts as a reflection of his own memories.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I intend to base the project's visual concept – elaborated in “docudrama” style – on graphically and artistically composed shots, stylization, and thoughtfully-used archive material. The faces of witnesses of past events will appear in mirrors as reflections and reflected images – we aim to emphasize the futility and transient nature of individual memory, as well as the unretainable nature of truth. We likewise project historical scenes onto the walls and surfaces of Broos's brutalist architecture in order to create a feeling of uncertainty.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Ladislav Kaboš, director, screenwriter, cinematographer, photographer, 1978 graduated MgA. from FAMU. In 1980 debuted with *Children Looking at Us*, which was awarded second prize in Varna in 1981. After his social documentaries *Starina* and *Carnival in Sebechleby* in 1983, the communist government prohibited him from working on his next project because of the films' critical portrayals. In 1993 he founded MEDIA FILM. He's currently working on his own documentary film projects as well as shooting films for Czech and Slovak television stations. He has received many awards for his films.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Darina Smržová, FAMU graduate, Prague. Editor, producer, and teacher at VŠMU in Bratislava. EDIT Studio prioritises the production of challenging – mainly historic – documentaries that necessitate time-intensive research of archive materials and people, followed by years of preparation and production. Such specification makes this studio's position within Slovakia both unique and exceptional. The studio produced the feature-length documentaries *The Whole World Is a Narrow Bridge* (2010), *The Final Mission* (2014), and *The Oath* (2017), all directed by Dušan Hudec.



Interiéry / Insides

Slovakia – Czech Republic – Germany | colour | 80 min.
documentary | in development

DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY: Paula Ďurinová

DOP: Petra Hermanová

PRODUCER: Matej Sotník (Guča, SK)

CO-PRODUCERS: Michal Kráčmer (Analog Vision, CZ),
Jana Cisar (Jana Cisar Filmproduktion, DE)

WORKSHOPS & FORUMS: Dox In Vitro 2020

SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 120 000

PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY: 10/2021 – 04/2022

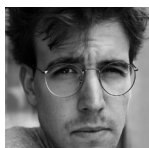
EXPECTED RELEASE: 11/2022

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Paula
Ďurinová



Matej
Sotník

SYNOPSIS

Anxiety is the unspeakable elephant in the room. In mutual sharing between a group of strangers, the triggers of life in modern capitalism are exposed. Can our own vulnerability be used as a radical act? The answer arises as we follow several characters in two parallel realities: the reality of the personally-experienced outside world shifts to a utopian space – a designed incubator where angst can safely be revealed. During the pandemic, the concept of intimacy in the urban environment is being tested more than ever. *Insides* leads us to realize our own body both individually and as part of the collective societal body.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Insides derives from my personal experience with anxiety and various therapeutic processes, during which I observed my own concept of individualism breaking down. In collaboration with several female artists and researchers, we design and facilitate group meetings. These allow the group of initial strangers to become vulnerable with each other and gradually create a strong bond, while we follow their everyday lives. The film's narrative structure is inspired by my own panic attack experience. I observed the development of panic attacks and noticed a dramatic curve in anticipation of the attack, the fearful powerlessness itself, and the subsequent come down.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Paula Ďurinová (based in Berlin and Slovakia) graduated from Documentary Filmmaking at the class of Olga Sommerová, Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia. She participated in IDFAcademy (2017) and Summer School of Ethnographic Filmmaking in Czech Republic (2013). Ďurinová has produced and directed short documentary films in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Czech Republic and Slovakia, and has collaborated with arts and human-rights institutions and collectives. In 2010, she co-founded the Living Documentary platform. She is currently studying Experimental Film at the UDK – Berlin University of the Arts.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Matej Sotník co-founded and leads Slovak distribution company Film Expanded, which primarily focuses on creative documentaries. He studied audiovisual studies at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava with an internship at the Department of Documentary Film at FAMU. He co-founded the alternative Documentary on Wheels distribution platform, and the VIRUSfilm production company. He leads the film section of the monthly Kapitál magazine. As an executive and creative producer he closely cooperates with the production company Guča, which has produced several internationally successful documentaries such as *White on White* (dir. Viera Čákanyová, main prize winner at Ji.hlava IDFF 2020).



Matka noci / Mother of the Night

Slovakia – Czech Republic – Latvia | colour | 120 min.
fiction | horror, psychological drama, lyrical thriller | in development

DIRECTOR: Peter Czikrai

SCREENPLAY: Peter Balko

DOP: Matej Šomrák

EDITOR: Lucie Haladová

PRODUCERS: Jana Kluková (KFS production, SK), Michal Kollár (KFS production, SK)

CO-PRODUCERS: Andrea Shaffer (Mindset Pictures, CZ),
Guna Stahovska (Mojo Raiser, LV)

WORKSHOPS & FORUMS: MIDPOINT Intensive SK 2019

SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 1 200 000

EXPECTED RELEASE: 11/2022

CONTACT

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Peter
Czikrai



Jana
Kluková

SYNOPSIS

On her ninth birthday, Lucia disappears without trace. Her unexpected return to her mother and village community a year later is interpreted as a miracle from God. But a series of unexplained incidents raises questions about the nature of Lucia's disappearance, and her subsequent strange behaviour. Her mother slowly becomes the focus of an intense conflict between the concerned community and her only daughter.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Mother of the Night observes the Slovak witch concept through genre film. While the witch myth metaphorically represents an extreme side of society, it also poses the question: what is the root of evil?

By respecting traditions and contemporary anthropological and ethnological research, I aim to deliver insights into this phenomenon in Slovakia. The dramatic horror-changing psycho-drama enthralls me in terms of story, as well as the opportunity to develop a strong emotional appeal to audiences, embracing tension and consternation – all through modern film language.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Peter studied film and television directing at VŠMU, and subsequently worked as a copywriter. He is now a recognized director of commercials and short films. His filmography includes *MI for Malnutrition* (2013), a short horror film created for the second anthology *ABCs of Death 2; Good Night* (2013), a mid-length horror which premiered at the biggest US horror festival ScreamFest LA; and *And...* (2013), a short horror film which won silver at the worldwide Bloody Cuts – Who's There Film Challenge 2013.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

KFS production was established by Michal Kollár, a producer with two decades' film business experience. His feature *The House* (dir. Zuzana Liová) premiered at the 2011 Berlinale and returned Slovak film to the map of world cinema. Kollár has produced 12 feature films and TV series by Czech, Slovak, Finnish and Polish directors. He is an EAVE, ACE and Producer on the Move 2011 participant, and received training on the Midpoint and ScriptTeast programmes. KFS producer Jana Kluková has been involved in film and TV since 2012, and is the co-founder of Slovakia's first VOD platform for Czech-Slovak films.



Moc / Power

Slovakia – Hungary – Czech Republic | colour | 100 min.
fiction | political thriller | in post-production

DIRECTOR: Mátyás Prikler

SCREENPLAY: Marek Leščák, Mátyás Prikler

DOP: Gergely Pálos

EDITOR: Matej Beneš

PRODUCERS: Zora Jaurová (MPhilms, SK), Mátyás Prikler (MPhilms, SK)

CO-PRODUCERS: Viktória Petrányi (Proton Cinema, HU), Petr Oukropec (Negativ, CZ), Pavel Strnad (Negativ, CZ), RTVS (SK)

WORKSHOPS & FORUMS: Holland Film Meeting 2015, Les Arcs Co-Production Village 2015, ACE 2016, KVIFF Pitch & Feedback 2017

SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Minority Culture Fund (SK), Hungarian National Film Fund, Eurimages, Czech Film Fund, Creative Europe – Media

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 1 590 000

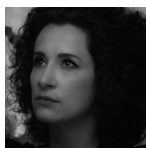
EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

CONTACT

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Mátyás
Prikler



Zora
Jaurová

SYNOPSIS

Somewhere on the border between two Central European countries, a boy is accidentally killed during an unlicensed hunt. One of the politicians involved is the leading candidate for the key international post of Water Commissioner, tasked with finding a solution for European water shortages. The government hires secret agent Steiner to hush up the scandal. Yet the more he investigates, the more embroiled he becomes in the dilemmas of power and its use. How much can be uncovered about the truth and its protagonists? Is the truth hidden in the events or consequences?

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Power deals with politics and power in contemporary Western democracy. The story of an unfortunate incident whereby a high-ranking politician inadvertently kills somebody reveals the hidden machinery of political power, and its mechanisms of self-protection. It also questions the true identity of political figures, and the stories behind their public personas. The film confronts the question of truth in public life – its various forms, seeking, and concealment.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Born in Bratislava in 1982, Mátyás Prikler graduated from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, where he studied film direction under the guidance of Stanislav Párnický. Between 2005 and 2006, he studied at the Hungarian Film Academy in Budapest where he attended classes by János Szász and Attila Janisch. His short film *Thanks, Fine* (2009) was screened as part of the Cinéfondation section at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival. His first feature-length movie *Fine, Thanks* premiered at IFF Rotterdam in January 2013. His company MPhilms produced the feature film *Slovakia 2.0* (2014), comprising 10 short films by 10 directors. He also produced Jaro Vojtek's last film (*Children*, 2014) and is the minority co-producer of *Mirage* by Szabolcs Hajdu (2014).

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

MPhilms is a Slovak film company established in 2005. It produces mainly feature and documentary arthouse films, as well as socially-focused smaller film and interdisciplinary projects. The company has two producing partners – Zora Jaurová and Mátyás Prikler. MPhilms is also involved in educational activities, creative workshops, and trainings for young people.

FILMOGRAPHY: *Paradise on Earth* (2019), *Ex-Prime Ministers* (2018), *Mirage* (2014), *Children* (2014), *Slovakia 2.0* (2014), *Fine, Thanks* (2013)



One More Question

Slovakia – Great Britain – Czech Republic | colour | 90 min.
documentary | in production

DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY: Mira Erdevički

DOP: Denisa Buranová, Artur Conka

EDITOR: Krasimira Velitchkova

PRODUCERS: Zuzana Mistríková (PubRes, SK), Ľubica Orechovská (PubRes, SK)

CO-PRODUCERS: Lucie Wenigerová (Spring Pictures, GB), Martin Juza (Krutart, CZ), RTVS (SK), Czech Television (CZ)

WORKSHOPS & FORUMS: DOK Leipzig Co-Pro Market 2019

SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Czech Film Fund, Minority Culture Fund (SK), BFI/Doc Society, Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage (GB)

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 281 000

EXPECTED RELEASE: Spring 2022

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Mira
Erdevički



Zuzana
Mistríková



Lucie
Wenigerová

SYNOPSIS

One More Question is a film with three protagonists: Ondrej Olah, Denisa Ganon, and Peter Toták. They represent a generation of Roma children who emigrated to the United Kingdom in the 1990s and early 2000s. They were given chances in England that they had been denied in their native lands – Slovakia and the Czech Republic – and now they are educated and confident Europeans. But Brexit and the worldwide pandemic have intervened in their lives. We observe the consequences very closely, through the eyes of the film's protagonists.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This film has developed over the past 4 years. First, it was constructed by capturing carefully selected situations with a hand-held camera. The pandemic meant this approach had to be stopped, so I came up with the new concept of using iPhones and GoPro cameras to record the protagonists' lives with intimate access, and an opportunity to reveal the community from the inside. The iPhone material has quickly become the core of the film, while the crew-generated footage will be available for flashbacks to the pre-Covid era.

Understanding the characters' predicament should emerge from actuality, observing their real-life situations. I like the camera to keep moving, always probing. I like to use composed music to fill out the emotion of the scenes, and leave enough space for music to resonate, enriching but not overwhelming the intimate portraits I am seeking to create.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Mira Erdevički is an award-winning documentary maker, director and writer. Her debut feature-length documentary *Black and White in Colour* (1999) was the first Czech film to secure a broadcast on BBC Storyville and won numerous awards. Mira subsequently created a number of documentaries for European broadcasters, mainly BBC and Arte, such as *Somewhere Better* (2003), *The Man with an Opera House in His Living Room* (2003), *Sevdah: The Bridge that Survived* (2005), and *Tito's Ghosts* (2008).

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Zuzana Mistríková is the executive director of PubRes, a Creative Industries Consultancy and Film Production & Distribution Company, as well as the president of the Slovak Independent Producers Association. Together with Ľubica Orechovská, she has co-produced several films starting Ondřej Trojan's *Identity Card* (2010). Since then, she has produced or co-produced more than twenty feature films and TV projects, including a documentary on Jan Švankmajer *The Alchemical Furnace* (dir. Adam Olša, Jan Daňhel, 2020), *The Painted Bird* (dir. Václav Marhoul, 2019), and *Insect* (dir. Jan Švankmajer, 2018).

Lucie Wenigerová is a Bafta-nominated film and TV producer. She's most recently worked as associate producer on the latest film by Sally Potter, *The Roads Not Taken*, starring Javier Bardem and Elle Fanning, which premiered at the 2020 Berlinale Competition. Her previous credits include *Strawberry Fields* (dir. Frances Lea, 2011) and the Mist series for Channel Five. Lucie is a long-standing member of the European producers' ACE network.



Potlesk / Applause

Slovakia – Poland – Czech Republic | colour | 90 min.
fiction | drama | in production

DIRECTOR: Juraj Lehotský

SCREENPLAY: Timotej Križka, Juraj Lehotský

DOP: Timotej Križka

EDITOR: Radoslav Dúbravský

PRODUCERS: Juraj Lehotský (Arytmia, SK), Michaela Jelenek (Arytmia, SK)

DELEGATE PRODUCER: Katarína Tomková (kaleidoscope, SK)

CO-PRODUCERS: RTVS (SK), Izabela Igel (Harine Films, PL), Tomáš Weinreb (Black Balance, CZ)

WORKSHOPS & FORUMS: Les Arcs Works in Progress 2021

SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Polish Film Institute, Czech Film Fund

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 1 300 000

EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

CONTACT

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Juraj
Lehotský



Katarína
Tomková

SYNOPSIS

Matúš is a talented musician left alone with his stepbrother, Dávid, after the passing of his adoptive mother. While Dávid takes what life gives him, Matúš feels frustrated by his failed ambitions and feels like the tables have turned when he unexpectedly bumps into his old schoolmate Albert. But unlike Dávid, who has found happiness in a senior's home, Matúš cannot find joy despite his success in the “better world”. He slowly realizes that happiness is a state of mind hidden in small things, and that the life we live is also about those we live for.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Applause is a film that will explore the “smallness” of us all: how we all need to feel complete, how we define ourselves as unique, and how we evaluate our “victories”. The film should be shot in a natural, authentic visual style, with characters based on the observed world. It is built on the aesthetics of my previous films, where the main character is an “ordinary person”, and told in a dynamic, captivating form where the thin line between sadness and laughter will offer something new to viewers.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Juraj's documentary *Blind Loves* (2008) premiered at the Quinzaine des Réalistes section in Cannes, winning a C.I.C.A.E Art Cinema Award, followed by a fruitful festival career. His feature debut *Miracle* (2013) premiered at Karlovy Vary IFF and received the Special Jury Mention. The film continued at Toronto IFF and many other festivals. *Nina* (2017), Juraj's next feature, again premiered at Karlovy Vary IFF, with a North American premiere at Toronto IFF. It received awards at two A-list festivals: Warsaw FF (FIPRESCI Award) and Cairo IFF (Bronze Pyramid).

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Newly-established Arytmia combines the creative and production experience of established director Juraj Lehotský with Michaela Jelenek – who has a long track record of production management and executive production. For the *Applause* project, the team was joined by Katarína Tomková as delegate producer and co-producer.



Potopa / Flood

Slovakia | colour | 90 min.
fiction | drama | in development

DIRECTOR: Martin Gonda

SCREENPLAY: Martin Gonda, Dominika Udovorková, Martin Šuster

DOP: Oliver Záhlava

PRODUCERS: Katarína Krnáčová (Silverart, SK), Tomáš Gič (Silverart, SK)

WORKSHOPS & FORUMS: Connecting Cottbus cocoPITCH 2020, Sources 2 Script Development Workshop 2020, Pop Up Film Residency 2020

SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Minority Culture Fund (SK)

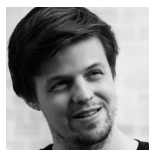
ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 861 300

PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY: 06/2022

EXPECTED RELEASE: 09/2023

CONTACT

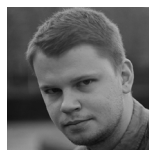
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Martin
Gonda



Katarína
Krnáčová



Tomáš
Gič

SYNOPSIS

The fate of Mara's home village is sealed by a new dam project. She longs to leave the countryside to study in town, but her father – a Ruthenian farmer – keeps her tied to the family land, which he defends despite the end approaching. Mara finds herself at the heart of a village community which is plagued by failing infrastructure, hidden terrors of the authorities, and the incoming flood.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

For me, *Flood* has always been a story about the end of the world: the extinction of small communities, the eradication of a culture and way of life, the loss of identity and traditions, of home and well-established systems of coexistence. During my research for *Flood*, I was fascinated by the fates of families and individuals who couldn't give up their way of life – or refused to do so. The decision to fight for their homes and land – which had been built and cultivated by their ancestors for generations – and keep their identity, meant them defying the authorities and stubbornly embarking on a forlorn battle.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Martin Gonda is a graduate of the Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, where he received his Master's degree in Film and TV Directing. He spent several months at the production company Atelier de Film in Bucharest via the Erasmus Internship Programme, working as an assistant producer on various projects, and as the head of programming at Arkadia ShortFest in Romania. His short film *Pura Vida* screened at Cinéfondation in Cannes in 2019. He is currently working on his debut feature *Flood*.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Silverart is a film production company managed by Katarína Krnáčová, an EAVE graduate and Producers on the Move participant. She produced *Little Harbour* (dir. Iveta Grófová, 2017), the Crystal Bear-winner at Berlinale, and is currently producing *Flood* by Martin Gonda. After the family film *Summer Rebels* (dir. Martina Saková, 2020), Silverart's current slate includes the road-movie *Stand Up* (dir. Juraj Bohuš; the first Slovak film shot green), the Czech co-production *Saving the One Who Was Dead* by Václav Kadrnka, and the Serbian co-production children's film *How I Learned to Fly* (dir. Radivoje Adrić). Katarína Krnáčová is also developing a high-end TV series with Slovak public broadcasting.



Samorast / Chicken

Slovakia | colour | 17 min.
fiction | tragicomedy | in production

DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY: Peter Hoferica

DOP: Jaro Kuchárik

EDITOR: Laura Čagalová

PRODUCERS: Academy of Performing Arts – Film and TV Faculty (SK)

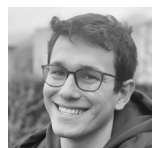
SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 8 300

EXPECTED RELEASE: 08/2021

CONTACT

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Peter
Hoferica

SYNOPSIS

Juraj returns home to tell his parents something important. But as soon as he opens the door, he finds out his parents are divorcing. At first, he considers himself old enough to get through this, but the longer he stays home, the more he starts panicking. Suddenly he has to figure out who his parents are, and who he is himself.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Tragicomedy with the main character directly speaking to the camera *Fleabag* style. Humour and drama are mixed with fast pacing and extensive contrasts such as between Juraj and other characters, and Juraj talking to camera.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Peter Hoferica (23) was born in Martin, Slovakia and is currently in his fourth year of film directing studies at the Film and TV Faculty of Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. He has directed some music videos, commercials, and currently his first comedy TV series.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

The Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava is the oldest and most prestigious film school in Slovakia. It provides education to especially gifted students, further develops their talent and artistic abilities, and leads them to a deepening of their individual personal expression. In this way it contributes to audio-visual developments and promotes awareness of the nation's high cultural level.



Šťastný človek / A Happy Man

Slovakia – Czech Republic | colour | 90 min.
social documentary | in production

DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY: Soňa Gyárfáš Lutherová

DOP: Noro Hudec

EDITOR: Peter Harum

PRODUCERS: Maroš Hečko (AZYL Production, SK), Peter Veverka (AZYL Production, SK)

CO-PRODUCERS: Filip Čermák (Company F, CZ), HBO Europe

WORKSHOPS & FORUMS: Agora Docs in Progress 2020, Dox In Vitro 2020

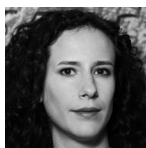
SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 220 000

EXPECTED RELEASE: Autumn 2022

CONTACT

AZYL Production
www.azyl.sk
info@azyl.sk
+421 911 101 416



Soňa Gyárfáš
Lutherová



Peter
Veverka

SYNOPSIS

A Happy Man tells the intimate story of a strong and unique person and his family. The film encourages viewers to consider alternatives in existential interactions that may concern all of us.

Czech girl “R” emigrated to Sweden with her Slovak husband Ivan ten years ago. They had two children and made a new home abroad. R realizes that she doesn’t feel good as a woman. She wants to change gender and take the name Marvin instead. It’s an intimate story of Marvin’s personal transformation as a partner, immigrant, writer of erotic novels, and activist. Transition is not only physical change but also a fundamental transformation of one’s own perception.

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

I intend to challenge preconceived ideas about intimate questions and peel back the subtle layers, and by so doing present viewers with an empathetic viewpoint – without judgment or scandal.

The time-lapse documentary is being shot over three years. Observational material is supplemented by selfie videos, archival photographs, and video footage. We will also project the imaginative world of Marvin’s novels into his everyday life (through commentary). The visual portrayal is vivid yet sensitive. We go beyond the “surface” of events and people by aiming to capture the authentic behaviour and situations in protagonists’ lives.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Soňa Gyárfáš Lutherová is a social and visual anthropologist, documentary filmmaker, and author. She works as a researcher at the Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. She has authored numerous academic papers and chapters in monographs. She has written a children’s fiction book about human diversity. As a filmmaker, she debuted with the anthropological documentary *Flooded* (2017) at domestic and international festivals. Currently, she is directing an anthropological time-lapse documentary *A Happy Man*.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER

Peter Veverka graduated from the Film and TV Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava and from the American Film Institute. He worked as a creative executive and producer for LA-based production company Point Road, under a deal with 20th Century Fox Studios. In 2018 he commenced a partnership with the Slovak production company AZYL working on developing European content aimed at a global audience. His latest films were *Amnesty* (2019) by Jonáš Karásek and *One of These Days* (2020) by Bastian Günther.

AZYL Production began as a major producer of Slovak short films from 2005-2012. After the success of their first feature film *The Candidate* (dir. Jonáš Karásek, 2013), they expanded into producing theatrical features, documentaries, as well as TV and online content. AZYL focuses on working with debut and second-time directors.



Strigov

Slovakia | black-and-white | 8 min.
documentary | in post-production

DIRECTOR, SCREENPLAY, DOP & EDITOR: Barbora Berezňáková

PRODUCER: Eva Pavlovičová (Známa firma, SK)

SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 8 000

EXPECTED RELEASE: 01/2022

CONTACT

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Barbora
Berezňáková



Eva
Pavlovičová

SYNOPSIS

"All of life is a preparation for death"
- Cicero -

Death, so present in our lives in a very new context now. A short documentary film of a traditional Ruthenian funeral made as a way of coping with the loss of a beloved person, an ancestor. The slow disappearance of the old world. The last hand-in-hand, the coffin lid closed. The silence. Grey hair, crossing the chest in quiet prayer. Steam rising from the mouth. An empty chair. White flowers on white snow. Secret coins under the pillow, closed eyelids, whispers and cries.

The last way up. To the roots. To infinity.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This short documentary/experimental film depicts an intimate perspective, a surreal reflection of death and life through a poetic lens of the rarely captured moment of a relative's funeral. The film is a fond farewell to the vanishing world of traditional Ruthenian community in the hills of eastern Slovakia. Metaphorically, a farewell to the personal worlds which are fading with the death of each of our ancestors.

Visually highly subjective, the dream-like black and white imagery brings viewers into the world of memory and an intercutting of past and present.

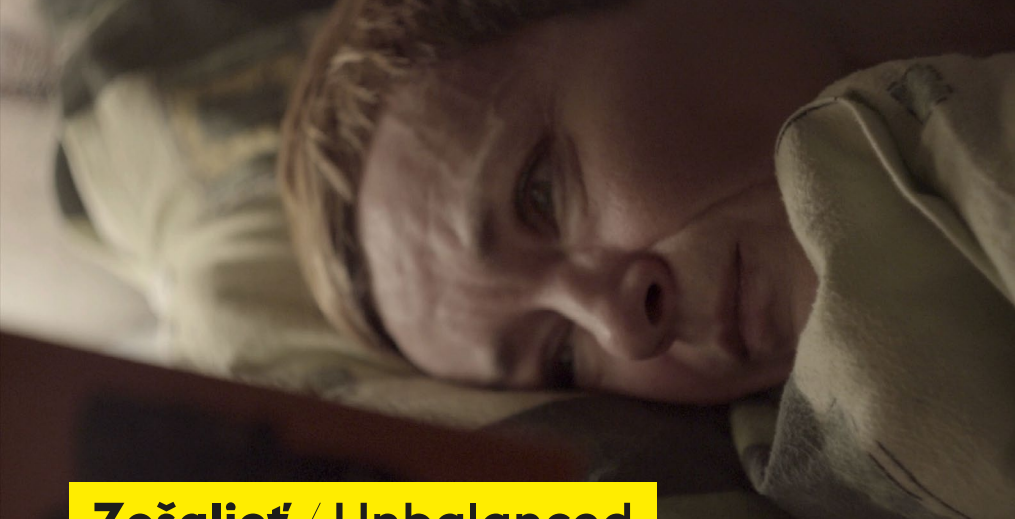
ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

After completing studies at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, the New York Film Academy and the Bellas Artes in UPV, Valencia, Barbora Berezňáková works as a freelance filmmaker and artist. In addition to documentary films, she also creates video installations and video animations. Barbora is the director of the transmedia interactive projects *Ask at home 68/89* devoted to inter-generational dialogue. Her feature debut *Never Happened* premiered at Warsaw Film Festival in 2019 in which she explores a personal experience against the background of political events.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Známa firma is the creative platform/production company of director and producer Barbora Berezňáková. She works with various collaborators, such as the long-time cooperation with associate producer Eva Pavlovičová.

Eva Pavlovičová was drawn into the film industry by Kinečko magazine where she was producer and editor. She then produced and distributed challenging films at various different film companies. In 2019 she started her PhD. studies at Comenius University in Bratislava with a focus on film and its public value. She currently produces challenging cinema and transmedia projects.



Zošaliet' / Unbalanced

Slovakia – Czech Republic | colour | 85 min.
fiction | social tragicomedy | in production

DIRECTOR: Zuzana Piussi

SCREENPLAY: Ingrid Hrubaničová

DOP: Martin Štrba

PRODUCER: Vít Janeček (VIRUSfilm, SK / Dfilm, CZ)

SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Czech Film Fund

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 320 000

EXPECTED RELEASE: 03/2022

CONTACT

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Zuzana
Piussi



Vít
Janeček

SYNOPSIS

A story of 45-year-old Nada and her 10-year-old daughter. Following her divorce, Nada has decided to start living again and better – to feel calmer and be more successful. But an unexpected source of frustration for Nada comes in the form of a local mentally ill person living in the flat above hers. With the authorities, neighbours, and relatives of the sick person not seeing Nada's situation as worthy of resolution, it looks like she's stuck. Nada begins to develop mental problems herself, and picks out the old neighbour as her target...

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

At the intimate level, the film will explore the world of a lonely woman who smiles and looks balanced from the outside, but behind this mask conceals herself and her problems. How can she support and be a role model for her child? The film raises the following key questions at the social level: how to relate to external disturbances that impact homes that result from bad institutional decisions or the social/personal/mental status of neighbours? How long can you live under stress without losing confidence in justice, politics, institutions, the state, and yourself? What is the boundary between acting in a professional and personal capacity?

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Slovak director, documentary filmmaker, producer, and actress. She graduated from the Department of Directing at the Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. From 1992 to 2000, she worked with the Stoka theatre company, and then the SKRAT theatre project. She has been making films since 2003 when she graduated in documentary filmmaking from Bratislava Film Academy.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Vít Janeček, director, writer and producer, associate professor at FAMU. He graduated from the School of Philosophy of the Charles University in Prague (Film Studies) and from FAMU (Non-fiction). His creative interest comprises considering the transversal aspects of reality – science, politics, society, and thought. Together with his wife, renowned Slovak director and producer Zuzana Piussi, they formed Dfilm production in Prague in 2015 and VIRUSfilm in Bratislava in 2019. Since 2015 they have focused on producing socially-themed films. He has produced over ten full-length documentaries and co-produced several fiction films, including full length *The Monk* (by The Maw Naing, 2014, CZ/MM).

Works in Progress **Tutor**

In cooperation with

MIDPOINT
INSTITUTE



Michaela Sabo

Michaela studied at VŠMU (Slovakia), DAMU (Czech Republic) and UCLA (Los Angeles). In 2014, Michaela moved to Berlin to be part of the Serial Eyes program, an intensive 8-month postgraduate course on TV writing and show running based in Berlin. Michaela found her network during the studies and is currently living in Berlin. Michaela was part of the EPI European TV Drama Series Lab in the year 2013.

Apart from her own work as a freelance writer and creative producer (five TV series already aired, several feature film and TV series projects in different stages of development or production), Michaela is also working as a pitching trainer (Sarajevo Film Festival, Serial Eyes – DFFB, Series Mania – Writers Campus, MIDPOINT workshops, Odessa International Film festival, Antalya Film Forum, Tallinn Black Nights, etc.).

MIDPOINT INSTITUTE

MIDPOINT Institute

MIDPOINT Institute is an international audio-visual training and networking institution organizing a wide range of programs focused on script and project development, post-production and the education of aspiring script consultants and development executives.

Its programs are dedicated to both short and feature narrative films and limited or ongoing series.

MIDPOINT's main mission is to support writers, directors and producers from Central and Eastern Europe. Thanks to strong partnerships with international co-production markets, film and series festivals, training programs, national film funds and further audiovisual decision makers, MIDPOINT Institute represents a front-gate to European film and television industry. With its earnest focus on emerging filmmakers from the CEE region, MIDPOINT prides itself as an efficient talent incubator.

Projects developed within MIDPOINT Institute are presented at the most established professional industry platforms, accepted to the leading international festivals, commissioned and developed by significant European

broadcasters and financiers and its graduates have proven to become an important element in both their local and the international audiovisual ecosystem. Throughout the year, numerous programs are organized – as regular or one-off events.

THE OFFERED PROGRAMS ARE DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS:

- Feature-length films: MIDPOINT Feature Launch, MIDPOINT Editing Room
- Short-length films: MIDPOINT Shorts
- Series: MIDPOINT TV Launch, MIDPOINT Writers' Room, MIDPOINT Cold Open
- Tailored programs MIDPOINT Intensive are designed to serve the needs of local professionals.
- Conceived in 2010, MIDPOINT Institute is supported by Creative Europe - MEDIA sub-programme of the European Union, Czech Film Fund, Ministry of Culture Czech Republic, Slovak Audiovisual Fund and operates under the auspices of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague.

Partner initiatives

DAE

DAE

The Documentary Association of Europe was founded during the Berlinale in February 2020. It is primarily a member's network made up of professionals working in the non-fiction film industry with the goal of strengthening and growing their networks, creating an abundance of opportunities and protecting their interests on a pan-European and international level.

dok.incubator

DOK.INCUBATOR

Dok.incubator, an international documentary rough-cut workshop, provides six-months of individual tutoring by top internationally-active editors, producers and distributors. For six months, the workshop inspires teams of eight selected films from all over the world, each represented by three team members (producer, director, editor).



FILM RESIDENCY

POP UP FILM RESIDENCY

Pop Up Film Residency intends to bring the best of what artistic residencies usually offer, together with a truly individualized mentorship program. Each residency is unique, specific to the needs of the project, and as a matter of fact only hosts one resident at a time.



SOFA

School of Film Agents invites young film agents for a workshop training to Wroclaw, Poland. The program's special quality is its unique target group: upcoming film professionals From Central and Eastern Europe, Germany, Greece, Central Asia and the republics of Caucasus. SOFA doesn't aim to educate film directors or producers. SOFA supports culture promoters, mediators, and catalysers with unique film/cinema project ideas for the local and international audience in their country of origin – in all possible creative shapes.

Successful projects previously presented at **Industry Days**

Out of films presented at Industry Days (ID) Works in Progress since 2016, 26 have been completed and many enjoyed a successful festival and distribution run.

Amnestie / Amnesty

SK – CZ | dir. Jonáš Karásek | prod. AZYL Production
ID 2019 | WP: 2019

Backstage

SK – CZ | dir. Andrea Sedláčková prod. | ARINA | ID 2016
WP: Zlín IFF 2018

Cesta do nemožna / The Impossible Voyage

SK – CZ | dir. Noro Držiak | prod. MEDIA FILM (SK),
KABOS Film & Media (CZ) | ID 2019 | WP: 2019

Čiara / The Line

SK – UA | dir. Peter Bebjak | prod. Wandal Production
ID 2017 | WP: Karlovy Vary IFF 2017

Diera v hlave / A Hole in the Head

SK – CZ | dir. Robert Kirchhoff | prod. HITCHHIKER
Cinema | ID 2016 | WP: Ji.hlava IDFF 2016

Divoké bytosti / Wild Beasts

SK – CZ | dir. Marta Prokopová, Michal Blaško
prod. Super film (SK), MAUR film (CZ) | ID 2017
IP: Uppsala Short FF 2020

Dobrá smrt / The Good Death

SK – CZ – FR – DE – AT | dir. Tomáš Krupa | prod.
HAILSTONE | ID 2017 | WP: Ji.hlava IDFF 2018

Hluché dni / Silent Days

SK – CZ | dir. Pavol Pekarčík | prod. partizanfilm | ID 2017
WP: Karlovy Vary IFF 2019

Hotel Úsvit / Sunrise Hotel

SK | dir. Mária Rumanová | prod. Punkchart films
ID 2016 | WP: IDFA 2016

Kid

SK | dir. Gregor Valentovič | prod. FTF VŠMU, ARTICHOKE
ID 2018 | WP: Karlovy Vary IFF 2019

Letní rebeli / Summer Rebels

SK – DE | dir. Martina Saková | prod. Silverart (SK),
PROJECTOR23 (DE) | ID 2016 | WP: BIKY Busan 2020

Loli paradička

SK | dir. Richard Staviarsky, Víto Staviarsky | prod.
STAVIARSKY | ID 2018 | WP: Art Film Fest Košice 2019

Malá říša / Little Kingdom

SK – IS | dir. Peter Magát | prod. FilmFrame | ID 2019
WP: 2019

Nech je svetlo / Let There Be Light

SK – CZ | dir. Marko Škop | prod. ARTILERIA | ID 2018
WP: Karlovy Vary IFF 2019

Neviditeľná / Unseen

SK | dir. Maia Martiniak | prod. ARINA | ID 2020
WP: CPH:DOX 2020

Nina

SK – CZ | dir. Juraj Lehotský | prod. Punkchart films
ID 2017 | WP: Karlovy Vary IFF 2017

Ostrým nožom / By a Sharp Knife

SK – CZ | dir. Teodor Kuhn | prod. nutprodukcja
ID 2016 | IP: Shanghai IFF 2019

Pivnica / The Cellar

SK – RU – CZ | dir. Igor Vološin | prod. FURIA FILM
ID 2017 | IP: Busan IFF 2018

Po sezóne / Off Season

SK | dir. Andrea Kalinová | prod. Archimera | ID 2018
WP: IFF Cinematik Piešťany 2018

Raj na zemi / Paradise on Earth

SK | dir. Jaro Vojtek | prod. Mphlms | ID 2018
WP: Ji.hlava IDFF 2019

Skutok sa stal / Never Happened

SK – CZ | dir. Barbora Berezňáková | prod. LEON
Productions | ID 2018 | IP: Warsaw FF 2019

Služobníci / Servants

SK – RO – CZ – IE | dir. Ivan Ostrochovský
prod. Punkchart films | ID 2016 | WP: Berlinale 2020

Spoons

SK | dir. Jana Smokoňová | prod. Teren production
ID 2018 | WP: 2019

Správa / The Auschwitz Report

SK – CZ – DE | dir. Peter Bebjak | prod. D.N.A. | ID 2018
WP: 2020

To tá monarchia / King Bee

SK | dir. Vladislava Sárkány | prod. sarkany | ID 2019
WP: IDFF One World Slovakia 2020

Učiteľka / The Teacher

SK – CZ | dir. Jan Hřebejk | prod. PubRes | ID 2016
WP: Karlovy Vary IFF 2016

ONLINE

6th Industry Days

Bratislava, March 29–30, 2021

PROJECT SELECTION: Rastislav Steranka, Ondrej Starinský, Tomáš Hudák

CATALOGUE COMPILED BY: Tomáš Hudák, Monika Lošťáková

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Milan Stolár, www.intuitio.studio

PROOFREADING: Darren Chastney

INDUSTRY DAYS CREW: Rastislav Steranka, Ondrej Starinský, Tomáš Hudák, Peter Dubecký,
Ľubica Orechovská, Monika Lošťáková, Diana Švihlová, Boris Šlapeta, Štefan Jurča,
Zita Hosszúová, Michal Peržel, Barbara Sigmundová, Zuzana Kizáková

SPECIAL THANKS: Barbora Struss, Braňo Rozbora

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