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“THE HOUSE”

**Honored with Palm Springs Film Festival
NEW VOICES/NEW VISIONS AWARD**

A house is an apt metaphor for identity, family, and an enduring model of moral and cultural order.

But in the new film, “The House” (Dom), the structure is a doomed, half-built shell where every brick is mortared in place with angst and simmering resentment, a ruin-in-progress which will never be a home. The Czech-Slovak coproduction was recently honored with the *New Voices/New Visions Award* at the Palm Springs International Film Festival 2012.

“The House” is the feature debut for young filmmaker Zuzana Liová, produced by Michal Kollar and Viktor Taus (victor@fogndesirefilms). Writing and directing as a young woman of the same generation as her female protagonist, Eva, played by newcomer Judit Bardos, Liová brings a fresh relevancy to her story of yearning to

flee the oppression of a controlling father, rigid cultural values, and suffocating, small-town society.

The central conflict between Eva and her father Imrich, played by Miroslav Krobot, deepens as Imrich doggedly works at building a “home” for Eva, even as torrential rains flood the yard to hopeless mud, and Eva secretly plans to escape to the UK for work as an *au pair*. The realization that Imrich had previously started building, then abandoned an unfinished house for the older daughter he has now disowned underscores the futility of his character’s drive to maintain family structure, made all the more devastating as his relationship with Eva disintegrates.

The producers of the film, Michal Kollar and Viktor Taus (viktor@fogndesirefilms.com), comment: "We greatly value and appreciate this *New Voices, New Visions Award*, especially considering the fact that the new films in our preproduction and development are geared towards the international audiences."

The Palm Springs Festival, juried by Jeff Lipsky, co-managing executive of Adopt Films, Paul Hudson, co-founder of Outsider Films and Tom Quinn, co-president The Weinstein Company/New Label, selected “The House” from a total of ten new international competitors. They said: "Although the story told in ‘The House’ is not a new one, we felt that the direction and performances took the film to the

next level, and made us understand why a father may not be able to let go of his children, and also why they would want to leave. The motivations behind characters felt real and made for a compelling film about a girl's journey to adulthood."

The screenplay for "The House" was awarded the Krzysztof Kieslowski Award at the IFF Cannes. The film premiered at Berlinale 2011 in the Forum Section, was awarded the Variety Critics' Choice at KVIFF, 2nd Jury Special Mention na IFF Vilnius, Anonymul Trophy at Anonimul IFF, and was nominated for the Sutherland Award na BFI London among other honors.

<http://www.dumfilm.cz/index.php?lg=en&page=producenti>

Fog'n'Desire Films (www.fogndesirefilms.com) currently is at work on an upcoming film project, "Clownwise", written by Petr Jarchovsky, the author of the Academy Award-nominated films "Divided We Fall" and "Zelary", which is a Czech-Slovak-Luxembourg-Finnish coproduction. Negotiations currently are underway to cast Kati Outinen, Julie Ferrier and Didier Flamand in the leading roles, who will be joined by several celebrated Czech comedic actors.

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