



# REPORT ON THE SLOVAK AUDIOVISUAL SITUATION IN 2003

MEDIA

MEDIA

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## → LEGISLATION

- Even though there has been a stronger effort developed to enforce and approve the Act on Audiovisuals, which could all in all improve the situation in the Slovak audiovisual field, not even last year's efforts led to a successful end. The Government of the Slovak Republic approved a draft of an Act on Slovak Audiovisual Fund and amendments of the Act No. 1/1996 Coll. on Audiovisuals as amended by later regulations on April 24, 2002. However, after the act had been approved in the National Council of the Slovak Republic (NC SR) the president did not sign it and returned it to the NC SR to be discussed again and no approval procedure continued afterwards.
- Cinematographic people focused rather on how to gain support for a draft on Slovak Television where a suggestion was made to allocate twenty percent of finances collected from concessionary fees to produce fictions, animated films and documentaries in co-operation with independent producers. The volume of the finance thus generated could very effectively influence future audiovisual development in Slovakia. Referring to the mentioned fact, in October 2003, a Proclamation of the Slovak Film and Television Academy, Artists and Members of Cultural Life was written supporting a governmental draft proposal on STV and governmental intention to work on a solution for the revival and development in Slovak audiovisual culture. The Act was adopted on December 4, 2003 (No. 16/2004 Coll. of Laws) but the percentage for production was not approved. However, the Act covers several points concerning the production – e.g. an obligation to submit a proposal to determine the proportion of production and own STV programme broadcasting according to individual programme types, a proposal of a minimum proportion of broadcasting reserved for Slovak audiovisual first releases to total broadcasting at individual program circuits and to total planned broadcasting of first releases for a corresponding period of time, also a proposal of the minimum broadcasting proportion reserved for independent production at STV individual programme circuits and a proposal of a minimum share of audiovisual work production and broadcasting produced by independent producers residing in the Slovak Republic or within the co-operation of Slovak Television }and the mentioned subjects.
- On December 4, 2003 The **Copyright Act** (No. 618/2003 Coll. of Laws) was adopted comprehensively amending copyrights and rights related to taking into consideration all international contracts and agreements which are binding for Slovakia.
- This amendment refers also to copyrights of foreign authors if their work becomes a subject of use in the territory of the Slovak Republic.
- The amendment of the Audiovisuals Act is intended in 2004.

## → FILM EDUCATION

- Even though after 1989, several artistic schools have been opened, the education concerning audiovisual art plays just an insignificant role – e.g. it is taught only at The **Academy of Arts** (AKU) in Banská Bystrica, and **University of St. Cyril and Method** (UCM) in Trnava – the Faculty of Mass Media Communication – Department of Artistic Creation. The essential part regarding preparation of new creators, as well as editors and producers, still lies on the **Film and Television Faculty of Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts** in Bratislava. And the recent graduates are those who are signed under the majority of successful Slovak documentaries and animated films (e.g. Peter Kerekes, Katarína Kerekesová, Robert Kirchoff, Martin Kollár, Vlado Král, Marek Kuboš, Marko

Škop, Jaro Vojtek, etc.). In spite of financial and material problems similar to the ones in other Slovak audiovisual spheres, FTF (Film and TV Faculty) goes on to have lessons within nine syllabi: 1. Film Science and Mass Media (guarantor Prof. Václav Macek); 2. Script Editing and Script Writing (Head of Studio Doc. Dušan Dušek); 3. Film and TV Directing (Head of Studio Mgr. Martin Šulík); 4. Documentaries (Head of Studio Mgr. Vladimír Balco); 5. Animation (Head of Studio Ing. Arch. František Jurišič, ArtD); 6. Camera and Photography (Head of Studio Doc. Ján Ďuriš); 7. Editing (Head of Studio Mgr. Ľudovít Labík, ArtD); 8. Sound (Head of Studio Prof. PhDr. Juraj Lexman, ArtD); 9. Production and Management (Head Doc. Peter Nižňanský). At present the work of the students within these studios belongs to the most representative Slovak film production. Many awards gained by the student films at home and abroad show it – e.g. nomination of a film **In the box** (d. Michal Struss) for the Student Academy Award or Grand Prix Monte Carlo (**Stories and Legends of Ladomirová**, d. Peter Kerekes). It is a pity that after eight annual sets the International Student Film Review ÁČKO did not take place in 2003; here the newest production could have been introduced to the public.

■ The school does not have enough technical equipment and some students' works could have been done only thanks to grants and private production company support. The Department of Animated Films is very probably the last place where animated film production is taught systematically in Slovakia. In 2003 FTF was moved into new premises on Svoradova Street in Bratislava, where the students and teachers should find better conditions for teaching and working.

## → FILM PRODUCTION

■ From the outside, the situation in the Slovak audiovisual area looked very optimistic in 2003. While in 2002 six full-length Slovak or co-production films were finished – **Rain is Falling on Our Souls** (directed by Vladimír Balco), **Cruel Joys** (directed by Juraj Nvota), **Quartétto** (directed by Laura Siváková), **Escape to Budapest** (directed by Miloslav Luther), **Some Secrets** (directed by Alice Nellis), and full-length documentary **Nicholas G. Winton – Power of Good** (directed by Matej Mináč) awarded by International Emmy Award, in 2003 the Slovak copyrights 2003 appeared on eight titles. Four with a majority Slovak financial share. A full-length document by Peter Kerekes **66 Seasons** participated in competition at International Film Festival Karlovy Vary 2003 and it was released into Slovak cinemas on February 9, 2004 within the Slovak part of Febiofest. The first film by an actress Zita Furková **Autumn (yet) Strong Love** was released on December 5, 2003 at the 5th International Film Festival Bratislava; more information on its future screening in cinemas is not known so far. A new film by Miro Šindelka **It Will Stay Between Us** was released on October 9, 2003. The Slovak Academy Award nominee as the best foreign language film **King of the Thieves** (Germany–Czech Republic–Slovakia–Austria–France, directed by Ivan Fíla) was already on for one week in Slovak cinemas but only to meet one of the nomination requirements of the American Academy Award. However, its gala premiere was on February 19, 2004. A fairytale **Devil Knows Why** (Czech Republic–Slovakia, directed by Roman Vávra), **Forest Walkers** (Czech Republic–Slovakia–France, directed by Ivan Vojnár) and **Faithless Games** (Czech Republic–Slovakia, directed by Michaela Pavlátová) were already released on March 23, 2003, August 28, 2003 and September 25, 2003. And on February 5, 2004 a Czech–Slovak–Austrian co-production film by Ondřej Trojan, nominee for Academy Award for the best foreign language film 2004 **Želary**, was first released.

■ A question mark is still hanging over the Slovak–American co-production film, **Blood Lines**,

(Slovakia–USA, directed by Oleg Harenčár) due to the continuous law arguments. The film has not been released yet even though shooting was already completed in 2003. Production of the most expensive Slovak full-length fiction film in history – **The True History of Juraj Jánošík and Tomáš Uhorčík** has been interrupted. Among the shooting projects there is only a debut in script writing and directing by Katarína Šulajová **Two Syllables Behind**.

■ Concerning the production of documentaries, the leader continues to be Slovak Television nevertheless a share of the private production companies increases every year. This situation is most noticeable in student's production where some projects were developed due only to the co-operation of private studios.

■ After last year's commissioned project, *Tolerance. Unfamiliar Word?*, five documentaries – **The Factory** (directed by Marek Kuboš), **Lorry Driver** (directed by M. Kuboš), **Look at Folklore** (directed by Marko Škop), **Flowers of Evil** (directed by Róbert Kirchhoff), **Two Interviews** (directed by Ján Šebík) – were produced by Pitbull Production Company in 2003 for the Italian company RAI within a cycle *Centralexpress* about countries accession to the European Union. Pavol Barabáš, the most successful documentary man in recent years, produced a medium-length document **Tatry Mystery**. An interesting project **Three About Three** – the portraits of the directors E. Havetta, D. Hanák and J. Jakubisko as seen by M. Šulík, M. Šindelka and J. Johanides – after finishing a document about J. Jakubisko was stopped for financial reasons.

## → STATE AUDIOVISUAL SUPPORT

■ In 2002 the Ministry of Culture SR (MK SR) provided the finance in the amount of 121 009 000 SKK / 3 025 225 EUR for film production and other audiovisual activities execution of it 97 595 000 SKK / 2 439 875 EUR for full-length films, 5 676 000 SKK / 141 900 EUR for other cinematographic works and the amount of 17 738 000 SKK / 443 450 EUR financed the rest of the audiovisual activities.

### State support 2003

Full-length films	Other films	Other activities	Total	Currency
19 892 230	6 760 000	12 887 838	39 540 068	SKK
497 305	169 000	322 196	988 501	EUR

■ The total amount of allocated finances in 2003 from MK SR in comparison to the previous year was 39 540 068 SKK / 988 501 EUR. And that is about one third. However, we must remember that almost half of allocated investments (60 000 000 SKK / 1 500 000 EUR) in 2002 supported a project **The True History of Juraj Jánošík and Tomáš Uhorčík** of which 51 000 000 SKK / 1 275 000 EUR was used within special cultural events (finance allocated pursuant to Act No. 586/2001 Coll. of Laws on State Budget for 2002).

■ The programme Pro Slovakia, within a sub-programme for cinematography and video, supported 24 projects with an approved grant of 7 110 000 SKK / 177 750 EUR. The following projects had the highest support: **Wonderland of Animated Film** (ALEF Film and Media Group, s.r.o.) – 1 000 000 Sk / 25 000 EUR, the **5th International Film Festival Bratislava** – 800 000 SKK /

20 000 EUR, **Stones** (Katarína Kerekesová) – 750 000 SKK / 18 750 EUR, **Project 100** (the 9th Year of Touring Festival of First Released Films of Great Value) – 500 000 SKK / 12 500 EUR, **Devils and Kate** (Školfilm) – 480 000 SKK / 12 000 EUR, **Supper-man** (Školfilm) – 450 000 SKK / 11 250 EUR.

■ Within a sub-programme, radio and television broadcasting supported 12 applications in the total amount of 3 200 000 SKK / 80 000 EUR. The following projects received the highest support: **Terminal Station** (JMB Film and TV production, s.r.o. – Stanislav Štepká, Stanislav Párnický) – 1 000 000 SKK / 25 000 EUR; **7 Magic Years** (OZ Návrat – Marek Šulík) – 400 000 SKK / 10 000 EUR; **My Mission** (Lux Communication – Marek Poláček) – 300 000 SKK / 7 500 EUR; **As Seen by Earth Mountain Eyes** (K2 Film – Pavol Barabáš) – 250 000 SKK / 6 250 EUR; **Almost Forgotten Episodes** (OZ United Filmmakers – Renáta Šmatláková, Scarlett Čanakyová) – 350 000 SKK / 8 750 EUR.

■ Functional transfer of MK SR within a Cultural Development Programme and its sub-programme for full-length film creation and production supported 10 projects with the total approved amount of 21 600 000 SKK / 540 000 EUR: **Border** (Leon, s.r.o.) – 1 000 000 SKK / 25 000 EUR; **Jazuz** (TaO Production, s.r.o.) – 2 000 000 SKK / 50 000 EUR, **Keep Smiling** (Spot Production, s.r.o.) 2 000 000 SKK / 50 000 EUR, **King of the Thieves** (Charlie's, s.r.o.) – 2 000 000 SKK / 50 000 EUR; **Fox Cubs** (Miras, s.r.o.) – 500 000 SKK / 12 500 EUR; **Music** (ALEF Film and Media Group, s.r.o.) 6 000 000 SKK / 150 000 EUR; **Two Syllables Behind** (Trigon Production, s.r.o.) – 3 500 000 SKK / 87 500 EUR; **Cases for Simon Wiesenthal** (Trigon Production, s.r.o.) – 900 000 SKK / 22 500 EUR; **The Romany Holocaust** (TFT Studio, s.r.o.) – 1 000 000 SKK / 25 000 EUR; **Old Swimming Pool** (working title of the documentary **66 Seasons**) (Mgr. art. Peter Kerekes) – 500 000 SKK / 12 500 EUR; **Guilty without Sentence** (Spot Production, s.r.o.) – 1 000 000 SKK / 25 000 EUR; **It Will Stay Between Us** (Film Factory, s.r.o.) – 1 200 000 SKK / 30 000 EUR.

■ Functional transfer for civic associations, foundations and non-profit-making organizations within cinematography and audiovisual works allocated 1 935 000 SKK / 48 375 EUR to 28 projects of 14 applicants. The highest contribution to support their activity was given to the Association of Slovak Film Clubs – 420 000 SKK / 10 500 EUR, the Slovak Film and Television Academy – 400 000 SKK / 10 000 EUR and the Slovak Film Union – 294 000 SKK / 7 350 EUR.

■ Within the programme Pro Slovakia – technical and scientific literature – the following projects were supported: **Film Profiles I.** (Renáta Šmatláková, Martin Šmatlák – Slovak Film Institute) – 80 000 SKK / 2 000 EUR, **Use Me As a Book Page** (Juraj Mojžiš – Slovak Film Institute) – 60 000 SKK / 1 500 EUR, **Ivan Mistrík – Memories** (monography of Slovak actor – Media Institute) 80 000 SKK / 2 000 EUR, and **Television Documentary Film 1960 – 2000** (Centre for Documentaries) – 60 000 SKK / 1 500 EUR.

■ From a General Box Office Management was allocated 2 500 000 SKK / 62 500 EUR to IFF Art Film and 3 000 000 SKK / 75 000 EUR to IFF Bratislava. The project **Golemata Voda** (Great Water) – Artreal, s.r.o. was given a support of 1 000 000 SKK / 25 000 EUR and IFF Art Film was given a support of 2 500 000 SKK / 62 500 EUR within Special Cultural Activities.

■ At the end of 2003 a new grant system was prepared at the Ministry of Culture SR, where the audiovisual works would be allocated 60 000 000 SKK / 1 500 000 EUR to produce animated films, documentaries and fiction films. 40 000 000 SKK / 1 000 000 EUR would go to support festivals, publishing, film distribution and other activities.

■ The deadline for the grant commissions should not be in one, but three rounds on the 15th of

December 2003, 16th of February and 30th of April 2004 and that should bring about an important change. For within the present system the finances, after they had been approved, go to an applicant's account normally no sooner than in the last quarter.

### → MEDIA

- MEDIA programme came into force in January 2001 and its goal is to strengthen competitiveness of the European audiovisual industry and production. The Slovak Republic entered the MEDIA program signing the Memorandum on Understanding between the European Commission and Slovak government, and has been in effect from January 1, 2003.

- The MEDIA programme support is intended for independent European companies within audiovisual production concerning the following areas:

1. **MEDIA Plus Programme** – film and television project development, distribution of non-national European films, promotion, support for the audiovisual festivals, pilot projects.

2. **MEDIA Training Program** – further education for professionals in the audiovisual industry.

- On April 1, 2003 the information point MEDIA Desk Slovakia was open. It works to ensure distribution of information on MEDIA programmes, and their availability in a Slovak translation in printed and electronic forms, preparation and accomplishment of promotion programmes, then to notify of individual deadlines, provide administrative assistance to project applicants, offer advisory services and information on terms and conditions concerning the programmes in coordination with MEDIA Programme headquarters and other partners abroad.

- The Slovak subjects succeeded to get financial contribution in the amount of 293 836 EUR from MEDIA Programme in 2003. Within distribution support scheme it was 133 836 EUR (automatic support 75 836 EUR, selective support 58 000 EUR), within festival promotion scheme 40 000 EUR, and within project development support 120 000 EUR. A contribution of the Slovak Republic into MEDIA Programme was set out to 160 000 EUR, half settled from the Phare Programme. A statement of gained financial support is more than positive: the Slovak subjects got 3,6 times of an inserted amount.

- Slovakia as well became a part of European Digital D-ZONES Cinema Programme and Slovak professionals participate in training programmes.

- The Slovak part of the biggest European film festival CinEdays took part in two weeks in October under the control of MEDIA Desk. 28 films at 45 performances saw 1,200 viewers in nine Slovak cinemas. In addition, the MEDIA office co-operated in the organization of an International Seminar European Opportunities for Our Cinema II dedicated to film project development and international co-productions. The producers, not only from Slovakia but also from the Czech Republic, Hungary and Austria participated in the seminar.

- All information on MEDIA Plus and MEDIA Training Programmes, on MEDIA Desk Slovakia office, its activity, goals and results together with English and Slovak versions of all calls and application forms may be found on a website [www.mediadesk.sk](http://www.mediadesk.sk).

**Survey of Slovak Companies Supported by MEDIA Plus Programme 2003**

<b>Company</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Amount (in EUR)</b>
Alef Film & Media Group, s.r.o.	slate funding – 1st stage	Development – slate funding	60 000
Ars Nova	5. IFF Bratislava 2003	Promotion – festivals	15 000
Art Film	11. IFF Art Film Trenčianske Teplice 2003	Promotion – festivals	10 000
Association of Slovak Film Clubs	<b>Kops</b> (d. J. Fares, Sweden 2003)	Distribution – selective scheme	5 000
	<b>Se tie venstre, der er en Svensker</b> (d. N. Arthy, Denmark 2002)	Distribution – selective scheme	5 000
International House of Arts For Children Bibiana	Biennial of Animation Bratislava 2003 – International Festival of Animated Films for Children	Promotion – festivals	15 000
Intersonic	<b>La gran aventura de Mortadelo y Filemon</b> (d. J. Freser, Spain 2003)	Distribution – selective scheme	25 000
	<b>Swimming Pool</b> (d. F. Ozon, France 2003)	Distribution – selective scheme	12 000
SPI International Czech Republic & Slovakia	<b>Decalage Horaire – Jet Lag</b> (d. D. Thompson, France 2002)	Distribution – selective scheme	5 000
	<b>Choses secretes</b> (d. J.-C. Brisseau, France 2002)	Distribution – selective scheme	6 000
	support on the basis of a number of viewers in 2002	Distribution – automatic scheme	62 060
Trigon Production, s.r.o.	slate funding – 1st stage	Development – slate funding	60 000
Walter Nittnaus – WN Danubius Film	support on the basis of a number of viewers in 2002	Distribution – automatic scheme	13 776
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>293 836</b>

**→ EURIMAGES**

■ **Eurimages** is another support fund – a cinematographic fund of the Council of Europe focusing on co-production, distribution and presentation of European cinematographic works. In 2003 the Slovak projects in Eurimages obtained 434 006 EUR all together and that is almost 3,5 times of the Slovak annual contribution into this fund. Within a principal programme for a support of film co-productions two projects applied for support where Slovakia was represented by a minority co-

producer. Both projects received the support in the amount of 921 000 EUR (of which 382 000 EUR went for the Slovak party). Another five European films released into Slovak film distribution by companies ASFK and SPI International were granted by the time of the first two deadlines. The only Slovak cinema with a statute of European Film Cinema – cinema Mladost' in Bratislava has been again granted a yearly contribution for operation and programming in the amount of 19 000 EUR.

■ The possibility to obtain support from a supplementary distribution programme, Eurimages for European film distribution in our cinemas was closed for Slovakia in the second half of 2003. A change was related to the SR entry into MEDIA Programme, where our distribution companies may submit applications since the beginning of 2003. For all MEDIA member states Eurimages stays in the future the only European fund to support the establishment of transnational film co-productions. According to a present key for calculation of a membership fee for 2004 the Slovak amount is changing – reduced from the original 129 582 EUR to 76 100 EUR.

■ Eurimages Fund presentation was a part of a seminar European Opportunities for our Cinema II held on December 4, 2003, being one of an accompanying event of the 5th International Film Festival Bratislava.

### Slovak projects supported by Eurimages 2003

#### CO-PRODUCTION

Project Name	Co-producing Countries	Director	Slovak Co-producer	Support (in EUR)	SR Share (in EUR)	SR Share (in %)
No Snow	DE/AT/SK/UK	Robert Young	Trigon Productions	521 000	342 000	19
Robinson and Man Friday	BE/FR/IT/SK	Yvan Le Moine	C&C Partners	400 000	40 000	10

#### DISTRIBUTION

Film Title	Country of Origin	Director	Distributor in SR	Amount of Support (in EUR)
Ten Minutes Older: The Trumpet	UK/DE/ES	Various directors	ASFK	6 600
Experiment	DE	Oliver Hirschbiegel	SPI International	6 406
Man Without the Past	FI/DE/FR	Aki Kaurismäki	ASFK	7 000
Brats	CZ	Zdeněk Tyc	SPI International	7 000
Swing	FR	Tony Gatlif	ASFK	6 000

## → FILM DISTRIBUTION

- 186 films were first released in 2003 – of which 6 were in Orange IMAX cinema Bratislava and 28 in film clubs (the same in 2002). It is 9 films more than last year and the highest number of first releases after 1990. The number of intended first releases in the first half of 2004 (95) indicates about the same number next year.
- The films were released to the cinemas by 13 distribution companies (in 2002 there were 12 of them): Tatra Film (39 films), Continental Film (37), Association of Slovak Film Clubs (ASFK) (28), SPI International (24), ITAFILM (17), Intersonic (16), Saturn Entertainment (14), Metropolis Plus (six 2D and 3D films in the cinema Orange IMAX Bratislava) and one film Euforia Art Production, Film Factory, Bonton Home Video, Atlantis Entertainment Prague and Charlie's.
- According to the share of the number of admissions (33,98%) and box office results (35,57%) a straight victory belongs thanks, to the winners such as **Lord of Rings**, **Matrix** and **Harry Potter** to Continental Film. The second place belongs to Tatra Film (19,36% / 19,44%) and the third to Saturn Entertainment (16,52% / 17,36%). Just to compare ASFK would take seventh place with 3,66 numbers of viewers' share and almost 2 percent share in box office results.
- The number of countries where the films came from increased to – 28 (20 in 2002). The most were from USA (102 – of which 2 were in film clubs and 4 in Orange IMAX Cinema) and in several others the USA participated as co-producers. The second place belongs to France (17 – of which 4 ASFK and 1 Metropolis plus) and the third to Great Britain (11 – of which 2 ASFK).
- After the deduction of 2D and 3D titles which are not presented in statistics following the consultations with Mediasalles, in 2003, the ratio USA : Europe : Rest of the World was 98 : 65 : 17.
- Even though the first twenty films saw 25 729 viewers more than in 2002, generally we recorded another decrease in 2003. It did not concern only wide distribution (159 553 viewers less came to the films distributed by ÚFD – Union of Film Distributors – members) but also film clubs (by 44 272 viewers less came to the films distributed by ASFK). We are not counting in the data concerning the Orange IMAX Bratislava since its management refused to give any other information for 2003 but released films, and so the results are:
  - 2 968 162 viewers (199 682 less than in 2002) came to the cinemas and film clubs. It did not help that the number of performances was increased to 74 755 (508 more than in 2002). An average number of viewers per one screening reduced from 43,6 to 39,70. Anyway, thanks to an increased average admission from 78,1 SKK / 1,95 EUR (2002) to 86,3 SKK / 2,2 EUR (2003) the total box office results in 2003 were 256 139 397,4 SKK / 6 403 484,9 EUR and that is 3 229 578,4 higher than in 2002.
- While in 2002 we could say that the two Slovak releases out of 4, got among 100 viewer successful films in the Slovak cinemas and film clubs (**Cruel Joys** – 35th position and **Escape to Budapest** – 92nd position); this year among the first hundred films is only the Czech-Slovak fairytale **Devil Knows Why** (d. Roman Vávra), on 39th position with 18 400 viewers. It is quite well in the Slovak situation, but if we compare it, this number makes up only 7 percent of film attendance in the Czech Republic. No other Slovak nor co-production film succeeded to go over a 5 332 viewer limit that meant a position within the Top 100. Eventually, **Cruel Joys** with a first release already in 2002, got to the nearest point. A new film by Miro Šindelka **It Will Stay Between Us** got to 116, **Faithless Games** to 145 and **Forrest Walkers** to 157.
- It is cheerful that two Slovak medium-length films were shown in cinemas before the feature

films. An animated film **Origin of the World** (2002, d. Katarína Kerekesová) was presented prior to a French film **La folie...pas du tout** (d. Laetitia Colombani) and a dance film **I Haven't Written to You in Such a Long Time** (2003, d. Andrea Horečná) prior to **Far from Heaven** (d. Todd Haynes) – a first release on December 2 at the 5th IFF Bratislava.

■ The most successful European film was a Czech film **Pupendo** (d. Jan Hřebejk), that got to 11th position with 51 118 viewers.

■ The most successful film club title was **Year of the Devil** (d. P. Zelenka). Even though its first release was already in 2002 with 5 869 viewers it got to 92nd position. Other most popular films with the audience in the clubs – **Idiots** (d. L. von Trier, 4 007 viewers), **Ten Minutes Older: The Trumpet** (3 692), **Man Without the Past** (d. A. Kaurismäki, 2 915), **Y tu mamá también / And Your Mother Too** (d. A. Cuarón, 2 844) – ended within the third fifties.

■ The total attendance is significantly influenced by two Bratislava multiplexes – UCI Palace Cinemas (with 12 screens) and Ster Century Cinemas (with 8 screens) – which made 52,95% of whole box office in 2003.

## TOP 10 MOST POPULAR FILM

(FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2003)

Position	Title	Distributor	Number of screenings	Number of viewers	Box office receipts (in SKK)	Box office receipts (in EUR)
1	Matrix Reloaded	Continental Film	1 915	177 189	16 943 959,5	423 599
2	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets	Continental Film	1 772	155 580	12 178 568	304 464
3	The Lord of the Rings: Two Towers	Continental Film	1 808	155 580	14 919 495	372 987
4	Finding Nemo	Saturn	1 176	145 273	12 805 523,5	320 138
5	Matrix Revolutions	Continental Film	1 295	102 480	10 861 547	271 538
6	Pirates of the Caribbean - The Curse of the Black Pearl	Saturn	1 174	88 492	8 719 900	217 997
7	Bruce Almighty	Saturn	1 055	73 206	7 293 262,5	182 331
8	Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines	Itafilm	1 215	72 175	6 016 216	150 405
9	American Pie - The Wedding	Tatrafilm	975	63 867	5 853 961	143 349
10	Die Another Day	Tatrafilm	145	63 297	5 865 868	146 646

**THE RESULTS OF THE SLOVAK AND CO-PRODUCTION FILMS  
IN SR PRODUCED IN 2003 IN SLOVAK CINEMAS  
(FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2003)**

Position	Title	First release in SR	Distributor	Number of prints	Number of screenings	Number of viewers	Box office receipts (in EUR)	Hire fee (in EUR)	Number of viewers per 1 screening	Number of viewers per one print
39.	<b>Devil Knows Why</b>	27. 3. 2003	SPI International	6	456	18 400	22 682	-	40,35	3 066
116.	<b>It Will Stay Between Us</b>	9. 10. 2003	Film Factory	3	150	4 100	7 550	-	27,3	1 366
145.	<b>Faithless Games</b>	25. 9. 2003	ASFK	2	95	2 755	3 291	1 730	29	1 377
157.	<b>Forest Walkers</b>	28. 8. 2003	ASFK	2	69	2 096	1 937	1 030	30,37	1 048
	<b>Autumn (yet) Strong Love *</b>	t.b.a.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>King of the Thieves **</b>	19. 2. 2004	Charlie's	1	11	197	939	-	18	197

Note: \* *Autumn (yet) Strong Love* film first gala premiere was only for invited guests during 5th IFF Bratislava 2003  
 \*\* the film *King of the Thieves* went on only from 15th to 24th September in Bratislava cinema Mladost to meet the terms for possible Academy Award nomination  
 Source: ÚFD SR, ASFK, Charlie's, Film Factory

## + FILM CLUBS, ART CINEMAS AND DVD CLUBS

■ The film clubs in Slovakia play an irreplaceable role in film audience education. Every year they give access to the important works of European cinematography the works that would otherwise not get to ordinary viewers. It is gratifying that the club films in recent years have started to be shown not only in film clubs and art-cinemas but they are also offered in "classic" cinemas and multiplexes. The number of film clubs in Slovakia is growing every year. At present there are 66 of them (11 more than last year).

■ Slovak Film Club Association (ASFK) recorded 19 621 members in 2002/2003 (last year 20 941).

■ A price for a member card has increased by 10 SKK / 0,25 EUR to 60 SKK / 1,5 EUR.

■ Between January 1 and December 31, 2003, 91 978 viewers came to see 3 027 screenings in the film clubs an average is 30,3 viewers per a screening (in 2002 it was 49,7 viewers). Total attendance was reduced (in 2002 it would be 139 251 viewers) and an average attendance per club member went down from 6,6 to 4,7 screening per year. To compare, a Slovak resident goes to the cinema 0,5 times per year. In spite of higher attendance share in average per one screening, the box office receipts are rather low because of low admission prices, (an average price is 47 SKK

/ 1,175 EUR) which apart from Bratislava is around 35 SKK / 0,875 EUR. Most film clubs work within classic cinemas.

■ **Project 100 – 2003** (March 15 – May 31, 2003) – a touring film festival which is an extraordinary project not only within the former Czechoslovakia but also in the whole of Europe, experienced a decrease as well. The least number of viewers for the last three years came to the screenings. While in 2002 30 000 viewers saw 484 exhibitions, in 2003 only 18 000 viewers came to see 488 showings. During the 9th year of PROJECT 100, 155 448 viewers came and 2 751 showings went on.

## THE MOST SUCCESSFUL FILMS IN THE FILM CLUBS

(FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2003)

Position	Title	Director	Number of screenings	Number of viewers
1	<b>Year of the Devil</b>	Petr Zelenka	241	5 869
2	<b>Idiots</b>	Lars von Trier	81	4 007
3	<b>Ten Minutes Order: The Trumpet</b>	Various directors	116	3 597
4	<b>Man Without the Past</b>	Aki Kaurismäki	87	2 915
5	<b>And Your Mother Too</b>	Alfonso Cuarón	103	2 844
6	<b>Sex and Lucia</b>	Julio Medem	121	2 755
7	<b>Faithless Games</b>	Michaela Pavlátová	94	2 708
8	<b>Black Cat, White Cat</b>	Emir Kusturica	80	2 673
9	<b>Brazil</b>	Terry Gilliam	69	2 593
10	<b>The Pornographic Affair</b>	Frédéric Fonteyne	124	2 496
11	<b>Monty Python's Life of Brian</b>	Terry Jones	74	2 487
12	<b>The Great Dictator</b>	Charlie Chaplin	58	2 373
13	<b>Monsoon Wedding</b>	Mira Nair	72	2 170
14	<b>Wings of Desire</b>	Wim Wenders	68	2 110

■ The film, **Year of the Devil**, repeated a primacy of the last year when 20 573 viewers saw the film. In 2002 the tenth most popular film with audiences, saw 3 498 viewers in the film clubs that was almost as many as the third most popular film in 2003.

■ In February 2003 the **Association of Digital Film Clubs SR** was established (ADKK) – a civic society with a main goal to promote development within screening and distribution of artistic films

and audiovisual works by digital projection. ADKK tries to react to an unfavourable situation in film distribution in Slovakia and especially to a continuous decrease in the number of operating 35 mm cinemas and a growth in first releases mostly, commercial films. At present the project is in the preparation process and it should start working in May of 2004. ADKK registers about 100 applications for membership. It is expected that new films and other audiovisual programmes will be received through a satellite in a Bratislava centre and after decoding and master DVD production, another DVD will be made and distributed among the members. It is counting on support from European structures on technological equipment (at a price of around 280 000 SKK / 7 000 EUR) that should go up to 50% of the purchase price in Bratislava and 95% outside Bratislava.

## → NATIONAL FESTIVALS, REVIEWS AND AWARDS

■ In 2003 the International Film Festivals Art Film in Trenčianske Teplice and IFF Bratislava still belonged to the most significant events of the year.

■ **11. IFF Art Film** ([www.artfilm.sk](http://www.artfilm.sk)) with three competition sections of which a principal Art Fiction is aimed at feature art films and fiction documentaries stressing the new methods and visualisation was held from the 20th to the 28th of June 2003 in Trenčianske Teplice. It was held in Federico Fellini's name. Within a competition section On the road Slovakia was represented by the films **My Love** (d. I. Šebestová), **Origin of the World** (d. K. Kerekesová), **Kulturfabrik** (d. M. Balog) and **Journeys to Arles** (d. R. Šveda). Other Slovak films were introduced within the Slovak Season section.

■ **5. IFF Bratislava** ([www.iffbratislava.sk](http://www.iffbratislava.sk)) with an emphasis on the International Competition of First and Second Feature Films was held for the first time in the complex, Palace Cinemas in Bratislava's Aupark. Neither Slovak nor co-production films were represented in the competition. At the festival first releases were a medium-length film **I Haven't Written to You in Such a Long Time** (d. A. Horečná) and a full-length direction debut of Zita Furková **Autumn (yet) Strong Love**. Other Slovak films were introduced in the section Slovak and Czech Film 2002-2003.

■ **For other more significant festivals and workshops in Slovakia in a chronological order (full list on [www.aic.sk](http://www.aic.sk)):**

- 10. - 28. 2. The 10th International Film, TV and Video Festival Febiofest (Bratislava, Nitra, Žilina, Martin, Banská Bystrica, Poprad, Prešov, Košice) - [www.asfk.sk](http://www.asfk.sk).
- 4. 3. - 23. 6. Slovak Film 1970 - 1985 (SNG Bratislava)
- 15. 3. - 31. 5. Project 100 - 2003 - [www.asfk.sk](http://www.asfk.sk)
- 19. - 25. 3. 5. IF of Francophone Films (Bratislava) - [www.fiff-bratislava.sk](http://www.fiff-bratislava.sk)
- 11. - 13. 4. 4. IFF Mountains and City 2003 Bratislava) - [www.horymesto.sk](http://www.horymesto.sk)
- 17. - 21. 4. 2. Eurofilm 2003 (Bardejovské kúpele)
- 6. - 10. 5. 9. Envirofilm (Banská Bystrica, Zvolen, Banská Štiavnica) - [www.envirofilm.sk](http://www.envirofilm.sk)
- 23. - 25. 5. Central European Film Review my SCI\_Flication (Strečno) - [www.truc.sk](http://www.truc.sk)
- 6. - 8. 6. Cinema 2003 (Banská Bystrica) - [www.nocka.sk](http://www.nocka.sk)
- 21. - 24. 8. Summer Film Seminar 4 elements - Invisible Cities (Banská Štiavnica) - [www.4zivly.sk](http://www.4zivly.sk)
- 12. - 14. 9. Minority Film Festival 2003 (Bratislava)
- 12. - 14. 9. IF of Fantasy, Science Fiction and Modern Technologies ISTROCON (Bratislava) - [www.istrocon.sk](http://www.istrocon.sk)

- 21. – 27. 9. The 17th International Television Festival of Programmes for Children and Youth Prix Danube (Bratislava)
- 29. 9. – 3. 10. Agrofilm Nitra – [www.agrofilm.sk](http://www.agrofilm.sk)
- 8. – 12. 10. IF of Mountain Films (Poprad) – [www.mfhf.sk](http://www.mfhf.sk)
- 10. – 24. 10. CinEdays – European Cinema Days (Bratislava, Poprad, Galanta, Banská Bystrica, Martin, Prešov, Trnava) – [www.mediadesk.sk](http://www.mediadesk.sk)
- 3. – 17. 10. 30. IF of Scientific Films, TV Programmes and Video Programmes Ekotopfilm 2003 (Bratislava) – [www.ekotopfilm.sk](http://www.ekotopfilm.sk)
- 14. – 19. 10. The 6th IF of Animated Films for Children – Biennial of Animation Bratislava – [www.bibiana.sk/bab.htm](http://www.bibiana.sk/bab.htm)
- 5. – 9. 11. The 4th IF of Documentaries One World – [www.jedensvet.sk](http://www.jedensvet.sk)
- 10. – 14. 11. Slovak Film 2003 – non-competition review of domestic production
- 25. – 30. 11. Sound in Film – International Workshop and Conference – [www.scca.sk](http://www.scca.sk)
- 10. – 12. 12. Three Days of Documentaries – review of documentary production of young artists from Central Europe

■ **During the year within audiovisual works, several prizes were awarded**, out of which the most significant were given to: director Dušan Hanák – Minister of Culture Prize for extraordinary contribution to Slovak Cinematography director Juraj Jakubisko – Pribina's Cross of the 2nd Class, The Golden Camera (awarded on the 11th ArtFilm): cameraman Vincent Rosinec (SR), art director Roman Rjachovský (SR) and director Don Askarian (Armenia).

■ Annual SFU (Slovak Film Union), ÚSTT and LF (Literary Found) SR Awards *Igric* (awarded at the 11th ArtFilm Trenčianske Teplice – June 21, 2003):

- Fictions for the cinemas: Juraj Nvota – for directing a film debut – **Cruel Joys**
- Television adaptation: Laura Siváková – for an author's seizing of a chamber topic – **Quartétto**
- Performance: Pavol Mikulík – for a mature performance and professional representation of a character of Jasoer – **At The End Of A Play**
- Animation: Katarína Kerekesová – for pioneering work in the Slovak Animation Film – **Origin Of The World**
- Film and Television Documentary Production: Robert Kirchhoff – for the innovative capture of a controversial topic – **Hey, Slovaks**
- A prize of the Slovak Film Critics Award for Full-Length Feature Films for Cinemas – **Cruel Joys** (d. Juraj Nvota)
- A prize of the Slovak Film Critics Prize for Other Audiovisual Production ex aequo: **Omo – The Journey to the Primeval Age** (d. Pavol Barabáš) and **Origin of the World** (d. Katarína Kerekesová)

■ **Tibor Vichta Prize** tries to help with the development of the Slovak audiovisual production – it is a script writing competition for young authors to age 35. The motivation is to promote new screenplay writing. It should help to enrich a selection of such works and their future film production thus increasing a number of produced films in Slovakia. The main goal of the competition is to provide a space for talented authors to present their work, confront them with opinions of the film and television experts and with the help of financial support bring the literary topics into film scripts,

which should be offered to film and television producers for production. The competition has following categories:

- fiction
- documentary film
- animated film

■ On June 22, 2003 the 2nd year of the competition was announced at the 11th year of IFF Art Film 2003, and October 10, 2003 was the deadline for the 1st round for the 3rd year. In 2003 a jury did not award scholarships within documentary and animation film categories.

## → ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SLOVAK FILMS AND PRODUCERS ABROAD

■ For several years a documentary producer, Pavol Barabáš, has belonged to the most regarded domestic producers; his films gain prizes every year at significant foreign festivals and shows, dedicated mostly to mountain films. It was the same in 2003 when he was awarded at the Sport Movies and Television International Festival Milan (Italy), 3rd IF of Mountain Films Sliven (Bulgaria), Kendal Mountain Film Festival, IF of Adventure Films Montreal (Kanada) and at many other festivals and shows.

■ During the 10th Prague FEBIOFEST 2003, the prizes, *Kristián*, were awarded. Besides others it was a Czech-Slovak film, **Some Secrets** (d. Alice Nellis), for fiction production for the cinemas, TV or video and a Slovak director Martin Šulík for the best document – **The Key for Determining Dwarfs or The Last Travel of Lemuel Gulliver**.

■ **Some Secrets** also got the *Film Critics Award* (awarded in Prague on March 1, 2003).

■ Within ten *Czech Lions 2003*, a cameraman Miro Gábor (**Year of the Devil**) and an actress Jana Hubinská, for a supporting role in the film *Girlie*, were nominated. Finally Jana Hubinská and a Czech-Slovak co-production film, **Some Secrets**, were elated since the film got eight nominations for the *Czech Lion 2002* (in a cat. The best film, and best direction – Alice Nellis, The best actress – Iva Janžurová, the best actor – Igor Bareš, the best actress in a supporting part – Theodora Remundová, the best script – Alice Nellis, the best camera – Ramunas Greičius, the best costumes – Kateřina Štefková) and finally the film got two statuettes in these categories the best actress – Iva Janžurová and the best script – Alice Nellis.

■ The Slovak director Martin Šulík won the highest accolade – *The Golden Lily* – at the International Festival of Central and Eastern European Films in Wiesbaden at the beginning of April 2004 for the film **The Key for Determining Dwarfs or The Last Travel of Lemuel Gulliver**.

■ The film **Dance Studio** by Peter Fegányi (STV Banská Bystrica) gained the *Prize of the Dagmar and Vaclav Havel Foundation "Vision"* at the 40th ITF Golden Prague (May 2003)

■ The film **Quartetto** by Laura Siváková won a third position – *Bronze Grape* – at the 33rd IFF Lubushan Summer Film in Polish Lagow.

■ The co-production film **Forest Walkers** (d. Ivan Vojnár, CZ-SK-FR) won the *Prize of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic for a Feature Film from Visegrad countries* at the 43rd IFF for Children and Youth in Zlín.

■ **Faithless Games** (d. Alice Nellis) – *Don Quijote Prize* awarded by FICC jury – the 13th Cottbus Festival of East European Cinema.

■ The film **66 Seasons** (d. P. Kerekes) won the *Prize for the Best Central European film e.a.* at the 7th IF of Documentaries Jihlava 2003.

- **Nicholas G. Winton – Power of Good** (d. M. Mináč) acquired the *1st Prize* at the 1st Warsaw Jewish Film Festival and the *Special Prize* at the 19th IF Festroia Setúbal.
- The film **Rain is Falling on Our Souls** (d. V. Balco) won the *Prize for the best film of the festival* at the International Children's Film Festival Kinotavrik Soči.
- **Origin of the World** (d. K. Kerekesová) won the *Golden Plate – Prize of Jury for Animation* – at the 7th Ismaila International Film Festival (Egypt).
- The films of students of FTF VŠMU in Bratislava spread traditionally a good reputation of Slovak films abroad.

## → SLOVAK FILM INSTITUTE

- The Slovak Film Institute (SFÚ – [www.sfu.sk](http://www.sfu.sk)) is the only state institution comprehensively working with Slovak film and cinematography. The institute celebrated the 40th anniversary of its founding in 2003. Its main task is the role of a national film archive. The Film Institute carries out the production rights on Slovak films produced by organizations within exclusive state competence and evaluates these rights through commercial activities. This income creates an important part of the SFÚ budget.
- SFÚ serves as well as a methodological centre and provides information on audiovisuals and cinematography in Slovakia.
- SFÚ in a cinema Filmotéka – an educational SFÚ cinema in a film club IC.sk in Bratislava (former Charlie's) screens unique artistic works.
- SFÚ publishes the only monthly magazine in Slovakia Film.sk ([www.filmsk.sk](http://www.filmsk.sk)) and in 2003 published the film year book 2002 and publications Miro Ulman – Peter Ulman: **A Guide Through Club Film** and Ondrej Šulaj – Marek Leščák – Dušan Dušek – Martin Šulík: **5 Scripts**.
- Since December 1, 2002 SFÚ has made available information on Slovak films within the 1st Slovak Film Database (<http://www.sfd.sfu.sk>).
- At the end of the year there was extensive reconstruction in progress at SFÚ to improve the conditions for the SFÚ's dominant activity – the archive and documentary departments.
- **Events Linked to Slovak Films Abroad**

The Slovak Film Institute participated in the organization of events connected to film and cinematography in 2003. It arranged the Slovak film projections in the Slovak Institute in Moscow, Budapest and Prague Slovak films and producers participation in the Month of Slovak Culture in Montreal in the Film Classics 2003 in Split European Film Festival in Marnes (France) Slovak Film Days in Bayern – Munich Slovak Film Review in Regensburg Slovak Film Week in Sarasota (USA) the 2nd IF of Animated Film Anifest 2003 – Treboň Slovak Film Week in Pretoria, Amsterdam (the Netherlands), Vienna (Austria) and Warsaw (Poland), and other events.

## → CINEMAS

- In 2002 a long-term decrease in the number of cinemas in the Slovak Republic stopped (to compare in 1990 there were 703 and in 2001 only 276 cinemas). Thanks to a new multiplex with 12 cinemas (UCI Palace Cinemas) in Bratislava and the first 3D cinema in Slovakia – Orange IMAX Bratislava, a 3% increase was recorded. However, it is a history. At the end of 2003 only 265 cinemas were in use in Slovakia.

- Tatra Cinema in Bratislava was reopened after it was refurbished for around 10 000 000 SKK / 250 000 EUR in 2003. And a new cinema Primáš Myjava was opened. Its construction took ten years and the number of seats is 609. Nevertheless, it is rather an exception to the rule. Most cinemas outside Bratislava have old technical equipment. In case it comes to the end of its operational life (for example, sometimes a broken xenon-lamp costing 30 000 SKK / 750 EUR is the case) a cinema must be closed down. An average price for projection equipment is around one million crowns and that is a price not available in municipalities. Out of 265 cinemas over two hundred are owned by municipalities. And out of them one third work only during the summer since they do not have money for heating. The rest are owned or rented mostly by distribution companies. An interest in multiplex projections confirmed that a relatively high admission (149 SKK / 3,725 EUR, the Slovak average was by over 60 SKK / 1,5 EUR lower) does not discourage people if they get quality for it and so there is a decrease in traditional cinema attendance. That is why it is being considered to build a cinema with eight screens in Košice and cinemas with six screens in Banská Bystrica and Žilina already in 2004.
- The most important change arrived at the end of 2003 when the Metropolis Plus Company bought from Ster Century Company a multiplex in the Bratislava supermarket centre Polus City Centre.
- Financial difficulties partially prevent improvements to the cinema's technical facilities. Apart from VAT which will go up from 14 to 19 percent in 2004, the towns and villages may collect up to 10 percent of gross sales from the cinema operators according to the Local Fees Act.

#### → VIDEO DISTRIBUTION AND DVD

- Along with low attendance rate in domestic films (in 2002 the Slovak production participated in total admissions only by 0,93 percent) a very bad situation is also in Slovak audiovisual work spread on VHS and DVD. The market in recorded VHS has stabilized. The worse situation was within film spreading on DVD, since DVD discs are much more expensive in Slovakia compared to the wage rate than in neighbouring countries. Between 1998 – 2003 1997 DVD films with Czech or Slovak dubbing or subtitles appeared in our market. Most of them were released by Bontonfilm Company (876 films on DVD) followed by Warner Bros. represented in our country by Gregor Multimedia Company. Companies Intersonic, SPI International, MagicBox and Demar (representation Hollywood Classics Entertainment) contributed significantly. While at the end of 2002, on VHS there were about 30 Slovak feature films and 3 on DVD available (compared with over 130 domestic films on DVD in the Czech Republic), the year 2003 was a turning point concerning DVD videos in Slovakia. At the end of the year there were 10 full-length films on DVD on the market – e.g. **Janošík** (d. J. Siakel) + **Jánošík I.–II.** (d. P. Bielik), **Pacho, the Brigand of Hybe** (d. M. Ťapák), **Brigand Jurko** (d. V. Kubal), which were produced in co-operation with SFÚ and Dikrama, s.r.o. company, **Rabaka** (Dušan Rapoš) – by the way, the first Slovak film sold on digital disc (in 1997 this film appeared on VideoCD) and a total number of Slovak DVD (including musical DVDs **Elán – History of Legend I. 1981 – 1991**, **Elán – Detective Story**, **Elán – Dangerous Load**, **Elán – Megaconcert 2003**, **Richard Müller – Concert: Lucerna Prague** – also, the first DVD produced in the former Czechoslovak territory with a multi angle function, (i.e. an option to switch to different viewing angles) stopped at number 26 and according to an estimate this number could be doubled in 2004.

- In December 2003 a magazine PC\_SPACE in a limited edition, brought as the first one in Slovakia DVD film section – a classic Czech comedy from the Golden Fund of Czech Cinematography **Fire Ball**.
- Since 1997 491 000 DVD video discs were sold in Slovakia out of which 254 898 pieces were sold in 2003. That shows that it was more than between 1997 – 2002 all together.
- More significant is the growth in sales in video rental outlets where over 40 000 discs were sold in 2003 and that represents a growth of 180% compared to 2002.
- The best selling film in 2003 was the **Lord of the Rings: Two Towers** (Gregor Multimedia/WB). At the same time it was the best selling film between 1997 – 2003.
- Historically the most successful Slovak DVD is still **Slovak Gold**, on the hockey triumph of the Slovak team at the World Championship 2002. In the year 2003 the most successful title was **Pacho, the Brigand of Hybe** (Dikrama/SFÚ). Its success is much more significant, since it had been on sale in less than a month in 2003. The only Slovak golden DVD stays DVD **Elán: History of Legend I**. (BMG Slovakia) but mostly for lower sales quotas on musical titles than on DVD films.
- The price reduction concerning carriers and DVD recorders changes significantly the sales of VHS and DVD film rental rates. At present it is around 60:40 regarding sales and 70:30 regarding rental. An average price for DVD rental was 46 SKK / 1,15 EUR and VHS rental 35 SKK / 0,88 EUR in 2002. It is interesting that the purchase price in video shops is 30 SKK / 0,75 EUR lower for DVD films than for VHS films.
- Every month 40 to 70 new titles on DVD are released, mostly with Czech dubbing or subtitles. Experiences concerning DVD carrier sales show that in a case, 30 thousand units of one title are sold within the former Czechoslovak territory, it is about 5 000, i.e. 16 percent in Slovakia.

## → TELEVISION

- Recently several important changes took place in Slovak Television. In a secret ballot in NC SR on January 14, 2003, Richard Rybníček was voted as Director of STV gaining 125 coalition and opposition votes. On December 31, 2002, STV had 2 014 employees and the actual amount of STV debt was 689 000 000 SKK / 17 225 000 EUR.
- In May and June 2003 STV dismissed 1 200 employees of which 950 were in Bratislava, and 250 in Banská Bystrica and Košice. Out of the dismissed employees, 60% were clerical jobs. So STV should save 30 000 000 SKK / 750 000 EUR per year. In 2003, STV production was reduced by 1 000 hours – and that saved 224 000 000 SKK / 5 600 000 EUR.
- In 2003 the state contribution to STV was 370 000 000 SKK / 9 250 000 EUR for concessionary fees, STV will get 1, 62 billion SKK / 40 500 000 EUR. That went up from August 1, 2003. A new legal standard increases the monthly concessionary fee for a TV set to 100 SKK / 2,5 EUR and for a radio to 40 SKK / 1 EUR for the natural and legal entities. The natural entity pays only for one radio per household and he/she may own other radios. The legal entities and self-employed persons who pay for each radio they register on their accountancy book.
- Sweeping restrictions in the number of employees and production meant a lower share in domestic film production and that by far does not reach the neighbouring countries volume. An Act on Slovak Television should bring a change.
- An emergency programme has reduced STV production by 30%. Only 3% of the total hours of STV programmes were produced within outside facilities.

- STV broadcasted 5144 hours in a first half of 2003 on both programme circuits. Total broadcasting time on STV 1 was 3 144 hours and on STV 2 2 000 hours – that is only about 5% less than in the same period last year. Anyway, it was at the expense of often re-broadcasted older programmes.
- From the production point of view, STV produced within its own and outside facilities, a total of 1503 hours of programming in the first half of this year. It is 30% less in comparison to the same period of last year and that is due to an STV emergency programme however, the crisis management succeeded in reducing the STV half-year loss to 66 500 000 SKK / 1 662 500 EUR. In the second quarter of 2003 STV's economy was even slightly profitable (6 700 000 SKK / 167 500 EUR). Unfortunately, STV did not produce or support any Slovak full-length film in 2003.
- In September 2003 a gradual recovery in programme production, especially in connection with prepared new organizational structures in STV since January 2004 had started.
- The first big project in which STV participated was a 6-part TV series **Rescue Team** (d. Vladimír Michálek) and was first released on October 2, 2003.
- Unfortunately, we could not get the information for the whole year from individual television broadcasters, even though they promised to give them.

### CONTACT POINTS – INSTITUTIONS, COMPANIES AND OTHER SUBJECTS WORKING WITHIN AUDIOVISUAL FIELD IN SLOVAKIA

All information, addresses and contacts may be found on [www.aic.sk](http://www.aic.sk).

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