



# REPORT ON THE SLOVAK AUDIOVISUAL SITUATION IN 2008

**MEDIA**

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## → INTRODUCTION

■ Year 2008 was extremely successful for Slovak audiovision. One of the greatest successes was undoubtedly the number of new Slovak films (11, of these 6 with majority share), while 4 of them were debuts. One of them, the full-length documentary **Blind Loves** (Slepé lásky, 2008, dir. Juraj Lehotský), has reached sky-high international success – a Slovak film in Cannes after 37 (!) years. The film was screened in the section *Quinzane des Réalisateurs* and won the prestigious CICA Award. It has started its international festival and distribution career (the film has already been sold for distribution in 10 countries), and, there is no doubt – it is the most awarded Slovak film abroad.

■ An immensely positive factor is also the record turnovers in the distribution of movies (EUR 12,228,386), resulting from the massive increase in the number of viewers in Slovak cinemas (compared to 2007, the number of viewers increased by 21.26%, which is the highest percentage increase in all member states of the EU). The number of tickets sold reached 3,362,513; the film with the highest attendance was the Slovak (!) blockbuster **Bathory** (SK/CZ/GB/HU, 2008, dir. Juraj Jakubisko), which had, in Slovakia, 426,901 admissions. The film, which was supported by a massive promotion campaign, also had a high attendance rate in the Czech Republic. So far, it has been seen in the Czech Republic and Slovakia by more than 1,5 million viewers! We can say, without exaggeration, that Jakubisko not only made the viewers return to cinemas, but he also attracted their new (and unexpectedly high) interest in Slovak films, which were, in 2008 attended by at least 541,009 viewers (16.26% of all viewers). This „Bathory effect“ has continued even further – all other Slovak films released in early 2009: **Mosquito's Tango** (Tango s komáři, SK/CZ, 2009, dir. Miloslav Luther) and **Soul at Peace** (Pokoj v duši, 2009, dir. Vlado Balko) have had, compared to previous years, unusually high attendance.

■ One of the most important changes in the Slovak audio-visual industry has taken place in the field of legislation. The Ministry of Culture submitted the Law on Audiovisual Fund, which, for many years, had been highly anticipated by the community of filmmakers. Following an intense discussion of the bill, in the autumn of 2008 the Slovak Parliament finally adopted it (it is to be added, that the law was adopted unanimously by the governing coalition as well as opposition). The Fund has been established based upon a combination of the best European experiences, and will be contributed to not only by public institutions (The Ministry of Culture), but also by all other significant players in the field of audiovision, including television broadcasters, cinemas, and distribution companies. The Fund is a principal change in the system and we expect it to resolve, if not all, than at least the most of „chronic“ problems concerning the financing of Slovak audiovision. It could also generate greater interest of television broadcasters, in particular the public Slovak Television, to join in co-productions with independent producers.

■ The situation in the cinemas continued to follow the trends we recorded in the previous years: the traditional cinemas with only one screening room are closing down; the cinemas with several screening rooms have maintained their leading position (70.91% of the overall attendance and 75.67% of turnovers), however with a difference, that the center of gravity of both indicators is shifting towards a new significant player in the market – the network of miniplexes CINEMAX (in 2008,

they were attended by 925,945 viewers, which is almost 1/3 of the market share).

■ The question, of course, which is being asked by everyone is, whether the positive trends from 2008 will also continue in 2009 or be markedly affected by the crisis. Maybe we can find the answer by taking a look back at history: cinemas were most visited during the great economic crisis in the 1930's.

Vladimír Štric  
Director  
MEDIA Desk Slovakia

## → LEGISLATION

■ **Act 343/2007 Coll. on the Conditions of Registration, Public Distribution and Storage of Audiovisual Works, Multi-media Works, and Audio Recordings of Artistic Performances and on the Amendment and Supplementation of Certain Acts (Audiovisual Act) entered into effect on January 1, 2008.**

■ It was adopted in order to implement the European Convention for Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage (effective also from January 1, 2008) and the Protocol on the Protection of Television Productions, as well as to provide support for the audiovisual environment with regard to information society conditions. The Act also took into consideration (especially in terms of concepts) the technological progress of the information society, including its international aspect and the public concern, to increase the protection of minors against inappropriate content of audiovisual works, audio recordings of verbal or musical works and multimedia works, especially computer games. It regulates the actions and responsibilities of natural persons and legal entities in the production, distribution and registration of audiovisual works, audio recordings of artistic performances and multi-media works, as well as the position of an independent producer. The Act further establishes a Single Grading System for the protection of minors (together with the Executive Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic published under No. 589/2007 Coll., which entered into effect on January 1, 2008), the conditions for the protection and restoration of the Slovak Republic's audiovisual heritage and, in this respect also, the mission, position and activities of the Slovak Film Institute as a contributory public organization receiving funds from the national budget through the budget chapter of Slovakia's Ministry of Culture.

■ The first works registered, in compliance with the new law, on the **List of Slovak Audiovisual Works** were the films **Blind Loves** (Slepé lásky, 2008, dir. Juraj Lehotský), **Four** (Štyri, 2007, dir. Ivana Šebestová) and **Glass Paintings** (Sklenené obrazy, 2008, dir. Lubor Dohnal). As of December 31, 2008, 58 Slovak audiovisual works were registered.

■ The most important law in the field of audiovision is the **Act 516/2008 Coll. on the Audiovisual Fund and the Amendment of Certain Acts** adopted on November 5, 2008, which entered into effect on January 1, 2009, with the exception of § 32 on the co-production status, which will take effect on January 1, 2010. This Act shall facilitate an increase in the amount of available financial resources, rearrange the way they are generated and distributed, increase the time flexibility of the granting, and introduce new forms within the granting scheme. Thus, the Audiovisual Fund shall become a modern systemic tool allowing for the stable support and development for

not only Slovak audiovisual productions, but also for culture and industry. There will be several sources of financing. In addition to the state budget, the Fund will be also contributed to by non-public entities active in the field of audiovision. The distribution of funds has, for the first time, been transferred from the Ministry of Culture to an independent entity with a self-governed management and professional decision-making. During 2009, the Fund will be preparing for its operation, establishing its managing and advisory bodies and its administrative system. Therefore, during this period time, the granting scheme of the Ministry of Culture *AudioVision* will continue (for more information on this scheme please see chapter State Support to Audiovision). This scheme should end its operation in 2010, at which time the activities of the Audiovisual Fund shall be launched.

- On March 30, 2009, Marek Maďarič, the Minister of Culture, appointed the Audiovisual Fund Board members. The Board includes creators, independent producers, distributors, and broadcasters by law as well as upon license; one member of the board is appointed by the Minister.

- According to the scheduled program declaration of the Slovak government within the competence of the Ministry of Culture of SR for 2008, in November the Slovak Ministry of Culture prepared a proposal for the amendment of the **Project of Systematic Renewal of the Audiovisual Heritage of the Slovak Republic**. The objective of the Project adopted by the Slovak Government at its session on May 17, 2006 is to rescue cinematographic and audiovisual works and to make them gradually available to the general public. This project should be implemented in several stages between now and 2020. The proposal included the schedule of assignments stemming from the Project of Systemic Renewal of the Audiovisual Heritage for the period from 2006 to 2008, as well as proposed recommendations, actions and tasks for the period from 2009 to 2011. It was adopted by the government in January 2009.

- Problems with the financing of public media and the improvement of the effectiveness of the controlling system shall be resolved by **Act 68/2008 Coll.** from 15 February 2008 **on Payment for Services Provided for the Public by Slovak Television and Slovak Radio and on the Amendment and Supplementation of Certain Acts**, which entered into effect on April 1, 2008.

- In 2008, the Ministry of Culture drafted the **Proposal for the Framework Conception for the Joint Medial Complex of Slovak Television and Slovak Radio**, and a proposal for the factual and time schedule for the pre-implementation phase of its development.

- On April 2, the Government of the Slovak Republic assigned the Minister of Culture to submit at its session, by September 23, 2009, a proposal for a legal regulation which will enable the acceptance of the **Guideline on Audiovisual Media Services** amending the previous Television without Borders Guidelines, and regulating the provision of audiovisual media services in their entirety.

## → FILM EDUCATION

- There is already a possibility for even the youngest generation to develop its creative potential at two art schools in Bratislava (**Ludovít Rajter's Elementary School of Art** and the **Private Secondary Technical School of Animations**) and at one art school based in Košice (**Private Secondary School of Art**). The works of their students are presented at the Animofest festival.

- Even though there are currently several university level art schools in Slovakia, audiovisual art has, only marginally, been taught at them. They include for example the **Faculty of Mass Media Communication at the University of St. Cyril and Method in Trnava**, the **Department of Photo-**

**graphy and New Media at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bratislava** and **the Department of Fine Arts and Intermedia at the Faculty of Arts of the Košice Technical University**. Students of the **Faculty of Dramatic Arts of the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica** can study **Dramatic Arts** and **Film Art and Multimedia**. The Head of the Department of the Film and Documentaries is Asst. Prof. MgA. Marcela Plítková, ArtD., and special professor, and Head of the Department of Film Script Editing and Script Writing is Prof. Ing. Ivan Stadtrucker, CSc. During the academic years 2007/2008 and 2008/2009, Film and Documentaries were studied by 64 and 69 students, respectively. Film Script Editing and Script Writing was studied by 22 students in both academic years. In 2008, students of the Department of Documentaries created 28 films with an overall budget of EUR 39,832.7, out of that EUR 23,235.74 was public support. Some of them received national awards, e.g. **Shepherd Jano Červeň** (Bača Jano Červeň, 2008, dir. Lubomír Viluda, Ivan Kršiak) – Viewers' Award at the Festival of Student Films in Trenčín; **The Wings of Miro Saniga** (Křídla Mira Sanigu, 2007, dir. Pavol Baláž, Vladimír Bobál) – Best Amateur Film Award at the Envirofilm in Banská Bystrica; and **Where Is?!** (Kde je?!, 2007, dir. Agnes Dimun) – received a creative gratuity for a student work from the Slovak Film Union, Union of Slovak Television Creators and Literary Fund, and the Honorary Mention at the IF of Student Films Áčko.

■ Nevertheless, the **Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts** (FTF VŠMU) in Bratislava has continued to play a crucial role in preparing future filmmakers and producers. FTF VŠMU is a member of the International Association of Film and Television Schools, CILECT, and its European section, GEECT. Asst. Prof. Leo Štefankovič, ArtD has been the Faculty's Dean since October 2006. At present, there are 9 study programs running at the school: 1. Script Writing and Script Editing (Head of Studio: Prof. Dušan Dušek was, at the end of the first semester of 2008/2009, replaced by Asst. Prof. Alena Bodingerová, ArtD.); 2. Film and Television Directing (Head of Studio: Prof. Stanislav Párnický); 3. Documentaries (Head of Studio: Asst. Prof. Vladimír Balco); 4. Animation (Head of Studio: Prof. Ing. Arch. František Jurišič, ArtD. was, at the end of the first semester of 2008/2009, replaced by Asst. Prof. Eva Gubčová, ArtD.); 5. Cinematography and Photography (Head of Department: Prof. Ján Ďuriš, ArtD); 6. Editing (Head of Studio: Asst. Prof. Darina Smržová, ArtD.); 7. Sound Composition (Head of Studio: Asst. Prof. Igor Vrabc) ; 8. Production and Distribution of Film Art and Multimedia (Head of Department: Asst. Prof. PhDr. Martin Šmatlák); 9. Art Sciences (Head of Department: Prof. Václav Macek, CSc).

■ In 2008, the FTF VŠMU had 312 students, out of which 48 were doctorate students (20 of them external). In this academic year, 22 Bachelor's degree and 13 Master's degree films were made at the faculty. In addition to 14 student films, the students accomplished an additional 419 practical exercises of all different kinds and scope (photo-exercises, sound recordings, team exercises, dubbing etc.)

■ The FTF VŠMU raised funds for its activities mainly through grants which are provided by the Ministry of Education SR and Ministry of Culture SR (in 2008, **EUR 109,705.9** was granted to FTF VŠMU from the AudioVision 2008 Program), but also through cooperation with many private companies. Many of the films are made thanks to a great deal of non-quantified financial and in-kind contributions from the students themselves.

■ FTF VŠMU has traditionally participated in several film festivals. In addition to the 12th IF of Student Films Áčko organized by the faculty, screenings of festival films, work sessions, discussions and workshops during the 10th Festival of Francophone Films, Febiofest, Festival of Anima-

tions BAB, Festival One World and Festival of Iberoamerican Films were also held on the premises of **Film Club 35\_mm**.

- In March and April, there was a series of 3 discussions held at VŠMU, organized by SFTA, with the aim to review, for the first time, the development of Slovak animations, documentaries and feature films from 1993 to 2007.

- In 2007 and 2008, FTF VŠMU participated in the international project **The Global Rivers Project** implemented under the auspices of UNESCO.

- Michaela Čopíková, student of animation, participated in the Talent Campus training program, which is part of the IFF in Berlin.

- Students of Film Science at the FTF VŠMU published their journal **Frame**, which is part of the journal on film science and moving picture Kino-Ikon.

- Works of FTF VŠMU students have, in recent years, belonged to the most representative part of the Slovak film production. This can be proved by the range of awards received by student films at home and also abroad. The most awarded ones included documentaries **Soňa and Her Family** (O Soni a jej rodine, 2006, dir. Daniela Rusnoková), **People by the Railway Track** (Ľudia na trati, 2008, dir. Arnold Kojnok), **Cold Joint** (Studený spoj, 2007, dir. Miroslav Remo) and the feature film **Maykomashmalon** (Majkomašmalon, 2007, dir. Mariana Čengel-Solčanská). Iveta Grofová received the creative gratitude for student work at the 19th annual awards of the Slovak Film Union, Union of Slovak Television Creators and Literary Funds for audiovisual works in 2007 for the script and directing of the film **Gastarbeiters** (Gastarbeiteri, 2007). For awards for student films please see chapter Awards for Slovak Films and Filmmakers Abroad.

- For the 12th time, the FTF VŠMU organized the Festival of Student Films **ÁČKO**, which, in the competitive section, presented productions by university and secondary school students from all over Slovakia (the majority of films came from the FTF VŠMU). The main prize of the festival, the Kodak Grand Prix for the Best Film, was awarded to the documentary **Cold Joint** by Miroslav Remo from VŠMU.

- Domestic student film production was also broadly represented at the 1st international festival of student films **Early Melons** in Bratislava, where the Main Prize for the Best Documentary was won by the film **Soňa and her Family**.

- On August 26, 2008, during the night-time hours, the commercial television TV JOJ broadcasted a two-hour bloc of films produced by the VŠMU students under the title Night of Talents. The bloc included 8 pictures, including 5 feature films – **They're Not Your Husband** (**Oni nie sú tvoj muž**, 2005, dir. Marta Ferancová), **Smoking Kills** (2007, dir. Kristína Herczegová), **Šimijé** (2005, dir. Mariana Čengel-Solčanská), **Summer Games** (Letné hry, 2007, dir. Marián Tutoky), **Envy** (Závisť, dir. Romana Rýdza), and three animations – **Woolf** (2006, dir. Juraj Kubinec), **Piglet's Fate** (Osud prasiatka, 2005, dir. Šimon Matrká), and **Anatomy of the Thought** (Anatómia myšlienky, 2000, dir. Peter Košťál). The broadcasting of the above films was one of the first fruits of the cooperation between TV JOJ and VŠMU.

- In 2008, Ivana Šebestová, doctorate student of the Studio of Animation at FTF VŠMU, defended (together with another 12 doctorate students) her dissertation thesis with her film **Four** (Štyri, 2007) and won the national film award Sun in the Net in the Best Animation category.

## → FILM PRODUCTION

■ In 2008, a total of 11 films were made, 6 of which had a Slovak majority share (in 2007 there were 10 films made, 7 of which had a Slovak majority share), which is the highest figure since Slovakia became independent in 1993. What is particularly gratifying is that four of these films were debuts:

■ **Blind Loves** (Slepé lásky, 2008, dir. Juraj Lehotský) became, after 37 years, the first Slovak full-length film selected for the IFF Cannes (section *Quinzaine des Réalisateurs*). This documentary about the love among blind people is a touching picture without a hint of sentimentality and full of loving humor. It has become one of the most awarded Slovak films, with the Slovak Film and Television Academy also nominating it for the European Film Award and the Academy Award (Oscar).

■ The documentary **The Last Caravan** (Posledná maringotka, 2008, dir. Peter Beňovský) captures four stories of free people, who, not only because of their love for the theatre of comedy, but also as a result of their strong bond to the tradition of family, have decided to live like wandering minstrels rather than in the warmth of a permanent home. **Big Respect** (Veľký rešpekt, 2008, dir. Viktor Csudai) is a tragicomedy taking place in the largest housing estate of Slovakia – Bratislava’s Petržalka, and its young heroes on screen finally live and talk as their contemporaries.

■ The youngest debutante was 20-year-old Tereza Nvotová, who, in her documentary **Take it Jeasy!** (Ježiš je normální!, CZ/SK, 2008), deals with the concept of religion, manipulation and the education of children in controversial Christian groups, and examines the border where freedom of religion ends and dangerous manipulation begins.

■ In 2008, experienced filmmakers also completed their new works. Juraj Jakubisko, celebrating his jubilee that year, shot, to date, the most expensive project in the history of Czech and Slovak film – **Bathory** (SK/CZ/GB/HU, 2008) with Anna Friel in the leading role of Elisabeth Bathory. In his film, Jakubisko tried to bring into question the cruelty of the „bloody“ countess presenting her as a noblewoman, who, because of being a wealthy, educated and independent woman, became the target of intrigues of others who aspired to acquire her property. It has become the most successful national film since the year Slovakia became independent.

■ The story of the next film takes place in the 18th century, and its main character is another strong woman, and a figure from Slovak history with international recognition. **Gypsy Virgin** (Cinka Panna, SK/HU/CZ, 2008, dir. Dušan Rapoš) tells the story of a legendary violin player who became the first female leader of a gypsy band.

■ **Small Celebrations** (Malé oslavy, SK/CZ/IT, 2008, dir. Zdeněk Tyc) offers us insight into our daily lives. The intimate story of a mother and her 14-year-old daughter speaks about the cruelty and absurdity of everyday life, but also about tenderness, love and hope which, in the end, save them from their difficult life situation.

■ In addition to the aforementioned documentary **Take it Jeasy!**, Slovakia in 2008 also participated as a minority co-producer, in additional four films:

■ **Tobruk** (CZ/SK, 2008, dir. Václav Marhoul) is the dramatic story of the soldiers of the Czechoslovak Infantry Battalion, which in 1941 defended a strategic port in the Libyan desert against Italian and German divisions.

■ Dariusz Jablonski shot the documentary **War Games** (Vojnové hry, PL/SK, 2008) about Polish Colonel Kuklinski, who saved Europe from nuclear catastrophe. **English Strawberries** (Anglické



jahody, CZ/SK/UA, 2008, dir. Vladimír Drha) is a dramatic story taking place during the occupation of Czechoslovakia on August 21, 1968. Film **The Great Thaw** (Sněženy a machři po 25 letech, CZ/SK, 2008, dir. Viktor Tauš) follows the lives of the main heroes of this successful 1982 comedy throughout an era, which changed everything.

■ The full-length documentary **East of Everest** (Na východ od Everestu, 2008, dir. Daniel Liška), released only on DVD, is a poetic narrative about life and death on the world's highest peak. The Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (FTF VŠMU) produced several mid-length feature films, including **Mill** (Mlyn, 2008, dir. Mariana Čengel-Solčanská); **Summer** (Leto, 2008, dir. Marta Ferencová). The following films were produced as independent productions: **Surprise** (Prekvapenie, 2008, dir. Gabriel Hoštaj); and **Smog** (2008, dir. Daniel Rihák).

■ Documentary productions also included the mid-length films by Pavol Barabáš: **Bhutan** (Bhutan – Hľadanie šťastia, 2008); **Carstenz – The Seventh Summit** (Carstenz – Siedma hora, 2008); **Juzek Psotka** (2008) and also other films: **Afghan Women Behind the Wheel** (Afgánské ženy za volantom, 2008, dir. Sahraa Karimi); **The Journey of Magdalena Robinson** (Cesta Magdalény Robinsonovej, 2008, dir. Marek Šulík); **I am a Tab** (Ja som bulvár, 2008, dir. Peter Begányi); **Jas is Jazz** (2008, dir. Peter Dimitrov); **Juraj Kubánka** (2008, dir. Mátyás Prikler); **Juro** (2008, dir. Lukáš Zednikovič); **Before This Film is Over** (Kým sa skončí tento film, 2008, dir. Tomáš Hučko); **Back Passing** (Malá domov, 2008, dir. Jaroslav Vojtek), and several dozen student films e.g. **Shepherd Jano Červeň** (Bača Jano Červeň, 2008, dir. Ľubomír Viluda, Ivan Kršiak); **Janík** (2008, dir. Daniel Zemančík); **Jano** (2008, dir. Peter Osuch); **Rural Round** (Rajón, 2008, dir. Diana Novotná).

■ In 2008, three short animated films were released on a 35 mm print: **About Socks and Love** (2008, dir. Michaela Čopíková); **Catch Him!** (Chyťte ho!, 2008, dir. Boris Šima) and **Clothes for Her** (Šaty pre ňu, 2008, dir. Jana Szabóová).

■ Slovak Television has continued to be our biggest producer in the field of documentaries, and in 2008, either as an independent producer or in cooperation with other independent producers, it produced more than ... titles. (see the chapter on Television).

## → STATE AUDIOVISUAL SUPPORT

■ The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic earmarked **EUR 3,883,689** in its budget for the granting program Audiovision 2008 (in 2006 and 2007 the MC SR supported audiovision with **EUR 4,856,000** and **EUR 3,393,283**, respectively). In 2008, the factual support granted to audio-visual projects amounted to **EUR 4,271,626**.

■ The nine-member grant commission, with the same make up as in 2007, assessed projects from two rounds (November 5, 2007 and March 5, 2008) over four sessions.

As the program has already operated on similar principles for five years, the MC SR insisted on the strict observance of the conditions for submitting applications thus 90 projects (in 2007 this figure was 92) had to be rejected as incomplete. Applications were registered electronically for the third successive year.

■ In the Audiovision 2008 program, **282** projects were submitted (318 in 2007) within eight sub-programs, out of which **111** were supported (120 in 2007):

– Production and Development of Audio-visual Works: **74** projects (of which 22 were supported; 5 applicants withdrew the application);

- Production of Audio-visual Works: **97** projects (32 of which were supported);
- Production of Full-length Films for Cinema: **19** projects (out of which 11 were supported and 1 applicant withdrew the application);
- Postproduction and/or Distribution of Audio-visual Works: **36** projects (14 of which were supported);
- Minority Co-production of Full-length Films for Cinema: **10** projects (1 of which was supported);
- Distribution of Foreign Audio-visual Works: **7** projects (3 of which were supported);
- Events, Educational Activities and/or Presentation of Audio-visual Works: **37** projects (26 of which were supported);
- Publishing Activities in Audio-visual Industry: **2** projects (both were supported).

■ **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS IN THE AUDIOVISION 2008 SUB-PROGRAMMES**

1. Production and Development of Audio-visual Works: EUR 270,530 / 6.3 %
2. Production of Audio-visual Works: EUR 1,215,362 / 28,4%
3. Production of Full-length Films for Cinema: EUR 1,568,413 / 36.6%
4. Postproduction and/or Distribution of Audio-visual Works: EUR 251,909 / 6.1%
5. Minority Co-production of Full-length Films for Cinema: EUR 82,985 / 2 %
6. Distribution of Foreign Audio-visual Works: EUR 11,618 / 0.3%
7. Events, Educational Activities and/or Presentation of Audio-visual Works: EUR 844,254 / 19,7 %
8. Publishing Activities in Audio-visual Industry: EUR 26,555 / 0.6 %

■ **Overview of projects which were granted the greatest financial support:**

- EUR 464,715 – **10th IFF Bratislava 2008**, Ars Nova
- EUR 398,327 – **The Corpse Must Die** (Mŕtvola musí zomrieť, 2009 – 2010, dir. Jozef Pašteka); Trigon Production, s.r.o.
- EUR 391,688 – **Flying Cyprian** (Lietajúci Cyprián, 2009 – 2010, dir. Mariana Čengel Solčanská); Magic Seven Slovakia, s.r.o.
- EUR 282,148 – **Apricot Island** (Marhuľový ostrov, 2009 – 2010, dir. Peter Bebjak); D.N.A., s.r.o.
- EUR 232,357 – **Brngalky (The Taste of Summer)** (Brngalky (Chuť leta), 2009 – 2010, dir. Vlado Fischer); JMB Film & TV production Bratislava, s.r.o.
- EUR 202,483 – **The Broken Promise** (Nedodržaný sľub, 2009, dir. Jiří Chlumský); Genta Film, s.r.o.
- EUR 165,970 – **EF K.O.** (2008, r. Jana Pirohová, Vlado Krajňák, Filip Fabián, Branislav Mišík, Pavol Pekarčík); Fresh Film production, s.r.o.
- EUR 139,414 – **Gypsy Virgin** (Cinka Panna, SK/CZ/HU, 2008, dir. Dušan Rapoš); ATTACK, spol. s r.o.
- EUR 132,776 – **Nicky's Family** (Nickyho rodina, SK/CZ, 2009 – 2010, dir. Matej Mináč); TRIGON Production, s.r.o.

■ **Literary Fund**

The aim of the Literary Fund is to facilitate the development of artistic, scientific and scholarly

literature, journalism and other creative activities in the field of drama, film, radio and television. In 2008, The Committee of the Section for Creative Activities in the field of television, film and video art supported, by means of the ALFA Program, the development of new original scripts for feature films, documentaries and animations. The Section's Committee also cooperated on the evaluation of film and television productions in 2007, and awarded the Igric Award to successful authors. (For more information on the Igric Awards please see the chapter on National Festivals, Reviews and Awards.) Once again in 2008 contributions to authors to cover travel expenses within the Slovak Republic as well as abroad were also given out, as well as gratuities for artists celebrating their jubilees. The performing artists who are not productive any more and those, who due to their medical condition, old age or for any other objective reason found themselves in financial distress, have not been forgotten either. The Creative Section granted the producers and artists a financial contribution totaling EUR 112,291.5. Almost half of this amount (EUR 52,380) was granted to 66 authors in the form of a scholarship.

## → MEDIA

- In 2008 MEDIA Desk Slovakia continued to perform its basic roles based on the formerly adopted action plan and budget. These tasks included distributing information on the MEDIA Programme to all interested parties, providing consultations to applicants for support from the programme and also performing activities aimed at more closely integrating Slovak audio-visual professionals into Europe. The efforts regarding this last task can be seen in the increasing number of co-productions participated in by Slovak independent producers.
- In 2008, MEDIA Desk Slovakia published and distributed a printed (3 issues), and an electronic newsletter (43 issues). In light of the feedback from Slovak audiovision, both have become a highly valued source of information about the happenings in the European audiovisual industry.
- In 2008, Slovak audiovisual entities received support from MEDIA Programme totalling **EUR 423,921**; out of this amount EUR 74,000 was allocated to Development – Interactive Works Scheme. This was a great success, since Slovakia was one of the few countries to successfully receive support from this newly introduced scheme with two projects, the Cinema Distribution Selective Support Scheme received EUR 71,500; already for the second time within the Training Scheme (Initial Vocational) the support was granted to a consortium La Femis – London International Film School and to the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in Bratislava for the project European Film Schools Network, totalling EUR 56,500; in the Cinema Distribution Automatic Support, Slovak distributors received support amounting to EUR 186,921, and as traditionally, support was also granted to IFF Bratislava (EUR 35,000).
- The overall success rate of applicants for support remains very high – reaching approximately 80 % in each scheme. If we add indirect support from the Europe Cinemas Network (totalling EUR 57,500) for Slovak cinemas to these figures, we get a total amount of support of **EUR 481,421**, which has been the second best result since 2003, when the Slovak Republic became a member state of the MEDIA.
- MEDIA Desk Slovakia co-operated, organisationally as well as financially, on two **workshops** in Prague organised by MEDIA Desk Czech Republic: Seminar for Distributors (March) and Seminar on Digitalisation of Cinemas (April). The MEDIA Desk office also participated in the organisation (together with the Office of the Slovak Government and the Permanent Representation of the Euro-

pean Commission in SR) on the Mini-festival of European Film 7x7, which, from April to June, presented 7 European films supported from the MEDIA Programme in 7 Slovak towns; the 49 film screenings during 7x7 was attended by a record number of viewers (3,486), which, on average means more than 78 viewers at each screening.

■ During the IFF Bratislava, MEDIA Desk office organised an extraordinarily successful international **seminar on Strategic Film Marketing**, facilitated by one of the best marketing specialists John Durie. The seminar took place in November and was attended by more than 70 participants from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Slovakia and other countries. In addition to this, MEDIA Desk also participated in the implementation of the international workshop on Creative Aspects of Development, the main organisers of which were Fabulafilm from Italy and IFF Bratislava (December 1-5).

■ MEDIA Desk also participated in the organisation of the panel of Slovak films in production, which took place during the IFF Bratislava on December 4.

■ All aforementioned facts convincingly testify to just how extraordinarily important the MEDIA Programme is to the audio-visual sector in small (and still new) European countries such as the Slovak Republic. These facts can also illustrate, that **MEDIA Desk Slovakia is always one of the first addresses where Slovak professionals stop on their way to European markets.**

#### Overview of Support Granted by the MEDIA Programme in 2008

Company	Scheme	Project	EUR
3D People	Development - Interactive Works	Play With Birds	50 000.-
Cypron Studios	Development - Interactive Works	Forgotten Legions	24 000.-
Magic Box Slovakia	Selective Distribution	Frontier(s) (FR/CH, 2007, dir. Xavier Gens)	2 000.-
ASFC	Selective Distribution	The Art of Negative Thinking (NO, 2006, dir. Bård Breien)	3 000.-
Atlantis Entertainment	Selective Distribution	Don't Think About It (IT, 2007, dir. Gianni Zanasi)	4 000.-
VŠMU	Training	European Film Schools Network	56 500.-
Ars Nova	Festivals	IFF Bratislava	35 000.-
ASFC	Selective Distribution	Angel (GB/BE/FR, 2007, dir. Francois Ozon)	2 000.-
ASFC	Selective Distribution	Persepolis (FR/US, 2007, dir. Vincent Paronnaud, Marjane Satrapi)	3 500.-
Atlantis Entertainment	Selective Distribution	Chaotic Ana (ES, 2007, dir. Julio Medem)	5 000.-
SPI International	Selective Distribution	The Wave (DE, 2008, dir. Dennis Gansel)	7 000.-
SPI International	Selective Distribution	Paris (FR, 2008, dir. Cédric Klapisch)	7 000.-
SPI International	Selective Distribution	The Broken (FR/GB, 2008, dir. Sean Ellis)	5 000.-
SPI International	Selective Distribution	Go West: A Lucky Luke Adventure (FR, 2007, dir. Olivier Jean Marie)	14 000.-
Atlantis Entertainment	Selective Distribution	The Zone (MX/ES, 2007, dir. Rodrigo Plá)	5 000.-
Atlantis Entertainment	Selective Distribution	Maradona by Kusturica (FR/ES, 2008, dir. Emir Kusturica)	5 000.-
SPI International	Selective Distribution	The Orphanage (MX/ES, 2007, dir. Juan Antonio Bayona)	5 000.-
SPI International	Selective Distribution	Happy - Go - Lucky (GB, 2008, dir. Mike Leigh)	4 000.-

## Overview of Support Granted by the MEDIA Programme in 2008

Company	Scheme	Project	EUR
ASFC	Automatic Distribution		16 110.-
Continental Film	Automatic Distribution		41 056.-
Magic Box Slovakia	Automatic Distribution		48 037.-
SPI International	Automatic Distribution		72 418.-
Tatra Film	Automatic Distribution		9 300.-
<b>Total MEDIA</b>			<b>423 921.-</b>
Europa Cinemas			57 500.-
<b>T O T A L</b>			<b>481 421.-</b>

## → EURIMAGES

■ Eurimages is the only cinematographic fund of the Council of Europe supporting multinational co-productions of full-length films. It has been in operation since 1988, with Slovakia becoming a join member on April 15, 1996. In July 2008, Roberto Olla from Italy became the new Executive Secretary of the fund. Since April 2005, Slovakia has been represented at Eurimages by Zuzana Gindl-Tatárová.

■ Since July 29, 2007, Eurimages has had 32 member states. In 2008, the fund supported 51 feature films with a total of EUR 19,525,000, and 6 documentaries with EUR 675,000. Since its establishment in 1988 through December 31, 2008, the fund supported 1,237 European co-productions with a total amount of approximately EUR 360 million.

■ In 2008, three Slovak projects applied for financial contribution from Eurimages. The full-length feature debut of Tomáš Mašín **3 Seasons in Hell** (3 sezóny v pekle, CZ/DE/SK, 2009, dir. Tomáš Mašín) is, based on the participation of Slovakia, a minority production, TRIGON Productions has an 11 % share, 69% belongs to the Czech partner (Dawson Production) and 20 % to a German co-producer (Babelsberg Film GmbH). The project received a grant amount of **EUR 450,000**.

■ A second minority project was also successful in obtaining support. The film **Surviving Life** (Přežít svůj život, CZ/SK, 2010, dir. Jan Švankmajer), with the Slovak partner having a 24 % share represented by the company of the cinematographer Juraj Galvánek C-GA. The film was granted **EUR 240,000**.

■ Support was not granted only to the full-length feature **Jazzus** (SK/PL, 2010, dir. Tomáš Krnáč) with the altered co-production scheme SK – PL (the majority 80 % belonged to the Slovak partner – company Tao Productions Ltd. of Tomáš Krnáč).

■ In 2008, Slovak co-production projects received a total of **EUR 690,000**, while the contribution of Slovakia to the fund in 2008 was **EUR 101,349.50**.

■ Dissatisfaction of countries with a higher annual contribution and lower success rate of majority and minority projects resulted in the establishment of the so-called „contributions working group“, which will be in charge of the amount of annual contributions of particular countries.

■ The novelty of 2008 was the cooperation with the Festival of European Film in Seville, Spain. The competitive section Eurimages was introduced for the first time during its 5th year (November

7-15, 2008). The section also included the films **Bathory** (SK/CZ/GB/HU, 2008, dir. Juraj Jakubisko) and **Small Celebrations** (Malé oslavy, SK/CZ/IT, 2008, dir. Zdeněk Tyc).

■ The Board of Eurimages approved the new terms and conditions aimed at supporting digitalization, which will take effect on January 1, 2009.

## → FILM DISTRIBUTION

■ Concerning cinema distribution last year was full of nice surprises. The Slovak Republic had the highest percentual increase in the number of viewers within the EU 27. In 2008, Slovak cinemas were visited by 3,362,513 viewers, which is an increase of 21.26 percent compared to 2007. The number of releases of domestic films and their attendance also increased. And the Slovak film by Juraj Jakubisko **Bathory** (SK/CZ/GB/HU, 2008) has, with its 426,901 viewers, become not only the most attended film in 2008, but also the most successful domestic film since Slovakia became independent.

■ The only decrease was in the number of releases – from the record number 200 in 2007 to 178 films and series in 2008, 32 of which were in film clubs. In 2008, Slovak cinemas screened a total of 522 films (183 of which were in film clubs). The 178 releases (1 of which was re-released) were from 24 countries, and were distributed, as in 2007, by 10 distribution companies (only Anna Kováčová distribution company was replaced by Denisa Biermannová – Garfield Film):

The Association of Slovak Film Clubs (32 films – 32 in 2007), Continental Film (36 – 41), Denisa Biermannová – Garfield Film (2 – 0), Intersonic (1 – 4), ITAFILM (7 – 10), Magic Box Slovakia (10 – 11), Palace Pictures (10 – 14), Saturn Entertainment (14 – 20), SPI International (19 – 17), Tatrafilm (47 – 48).

■ According to the share of audience (43.86%) as well as turnovers (46.58%), the top spot was once again, for the fourth consequent time, held, in large part due to films such as **Bathory**, **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (US, 2008, dir. Eric Darnell, Tom McGrath) and **Mamma Mia!** (GB/US, 2008, dir. Phyllida Lloyd), by the Tatrafilm distribution company. Continental Film took second place (18.74 / 19.08), having among its TOP 10 films **The Can** (Gyml, CZ, 2007, dir. Tomáš Vorel) and **Sex and the City** (US, 2008, dir. Michael Patrick King). The third position was taken by SPI International (14.47 / 12.87). Regarding the non-members of the Slovak Union of Film Distributors, the most successful was the Association of Slovak Film Clubs (ASFC), which, last year, had the third highest number of releases (32), and with its 2.8 percent share of viewers (in 2007 this figure was 2.55), it became the sixth most successful distributor.

■ The most releases in 2008 came from the USA (90 – 3 of which were in film clubs); the second rank belonged to films from the Czech Republic (22 – 5); and the third position was taken by French productions (12 – 3).

■ After an absence in 2007, the Ministry of Culture reintroduced a special annual public contribution in the form of cultural vouchers. Each student and teacher in a school participating in the program Culture Vouchers 2008 received one set of vouchers with a value of EUR 4,97 consisting of six vouchers, each with a value of EUR 0,82. One of the vouchers was printed in a different color and could be used to attend a film screening. This also slightly helped to increase the overall attendance, and thus to reach the second highest figure since 1998 (there were more viewers – 3,395,670 only in 2006) and the turnovers, which increased by 31.10 percent (from EUR 9,327,519.82 in 2007 to EUR 12,228,386 in 2008), were the highest since Slovakia became

independent. The average admission fee in Slovakia, for the second time, exceeded the threshold of SKK 100 ((EUR 3.64 / SKK 109.56 in 2008) while in 2007 it was SKK 101.34 / 2.97 ). The average number of viewers per screening increased from 30.31 (2007) to 34.95 (2008).

■ In 2008, there were 8 Slovak films released in Slovak cinemas, which is a record figure (in 2007 it was 5) – **Bathory, Gypsy Virgin** (Cinka Panna, SK/CZ/HU, 2008, dir. Dušan Rapoš); **Small Celebrations** (Malé oslavy, SK/CZ/IT, 2008, dir. Zdeněk Tyc); **Martin Slivka – The Man Who Planted Trees** (Martin Slivka – muž, ktorý sadil stromy, 2007, dir. Martin Šulík); **Music** (Muzika, SK/DE, 2008, dir. Juraj Nvota); **Pictures of the Old World** (Obrazy starého sveta, 1972, dir. Dušan Hanák); **The Last Caravan** (Posledná maringotka, SK/CZ, 2008, dir. Peter Beňovský); **Blind Loves** (Slepé lásky, 2008, dir. Juraj Lehotský); a series of mid-length films **Unknown Antarctica** (Neznáma Antarktída, 2007, dir. Pavol Barabáš) and **Bhutan** (Bhután – hľadanie šťastia, 2008, dir. Pavol Barabáš) and 2 minority co-productions (4 in 2007) – **Strawberry Wine** (Jahodové víno, SK/PL, 2007, dir. Dariusz Jabłoński) and **Tobruk** (CZ/SK, 2008, dir. Václav Marhoul). These productions have been seen by a total of 511,013 viewers, which is 3.5-times more than in 2007. For more details please see the enclosed table.

■ All 30 Slovak films (including minority co-productions) screened in 2008 have been seen by 541,009 viewers, which is 16.26% of all the viewers who attended Slovak cinemas (5.36% in 2007). Even after subtracting the attendance of minority co-productions (5), the attendance of domestic films was 520,563 viewers – a figure, which is still unbelievable in Slovakia – 15.64% (1.06% in 2007). The most successful Slovak film was the already mentioned **Bathory** its 426,901 viewers constitute 11.39% of the overall attendance. In 2007, the most successful Slovak film **Half-life** (Počas rozpadu, 2007, dir. Vlado Fischer) was, with its 21,730 viewers, on 35th place in the Top 100 in 2008.

■ Last summer was the 6th year that the **Bažant Kinematograf** project took place. The screening of films from a professionally adapted retro-bus Škoda RTO equipped with a 35 mm projector was provided for free in historical centers of towns, at film festivals ArtFilmFest and Cinematik, at the multimedia festival Bažant Pohoda, the music festival Country Lodenica and at the event Cinema On The Beach – Best of Jan Hřebejk. The screened films included **Teddy Bear** (Medvídek, CZ, 2007, dir. Jan Hřebejk) – 8,650 viewers; **Half-life** – 8,350 viewers; **Little Girl Blue** (Tajnosti, CZ/SK, 2007, dir. Alice Nellis) – 4,500; **Václav** (CZ, 2007, r. Jiří Vejdělek) – 8,050; **Empties** (Vratné lahve, CZ, 2006, dir. Jan Svěrák) – 7,500; and 5 short animations **Crocodile Doesn't Give a Shit** (Krokodíl sa neserie, 1996, dir. Matej Kladek); **If Not, Not!** (Keď nie, tak nie!, 1997, dir. Vlado Král); **In the Box** (V kocke, 1999, dir. Michal Struss); **Chess** (Šach, 1974, dir. Viktor Kubal); and **C'est la vie** (1981, dir. Viktor Kubal). 132 screenings were attended by a total of 43,700 viewers.

■ In 2008, 22 different titles took the lead. The top spot was held by **Bathory**, which held the lead 9 times (in 2007, it was **Ratatouille** (US, 2007, dir. Brad Bird) – 6 times in the leading position); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** held the lead position 7 times and it was held 5 times by the following films **Step Up 2 the Streets** (US, 2008, dir. Jon Chu) and **Asterix and the Olympic Games** (FR/DE/ES/IT, 2008, dir. Frédéric Forestier, Thomas Langmann). **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** had the highest attendance during the first week of screening – 76,211 viewers (in 2007, **The Simpsons Movie** (US, 2007, dir. David Silverman) had 62,942 viewers). The second most successful film, as measured by attendance per week, was **Bathory** with 64,154 viewers, which five times crossed the threshold of 30,000 viewers per week. The films **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (42,645), **Asterix and the Olympic Games** (32,076) and **Wall-E** (US, 2008, dir. Andrew Stanton)

(31,053) managed to cross this threshold only once. Out of the 12 released Slovak and co-production films and series, **Bathory** (1), **Music** (23), **Gypsy Virgin** (40), **Blind Loves** (64) and **Tobruk** (76) managed to get into the Top 100.

■ For the Top 10 most successful films as measured by attendance please see the enclosed table.

**TOP 10 FILMS IN 2008 BY ADMISSION** (for the period of January, 1 to December, 31 2008)

Ranking	English Title	Original Title	Country of Origin	Distributor	Release Date	Number of viewers
1	Bathory	Bathory	SK/GB/CZ/HU	Tatrafilm	10.07.08	426 901
2	Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa	Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa	US	Tatrafilm	13.11.08	196 560
3	Mamma Mia!	Mamma mia!	GB	Tatrafilm	21.08.08	120 478
4	Asterix at the Olympic Games	Astérix aux jeux olympiques	FR/DE/ES/IT	SPI International	31.01.08	112 586
5	Wall-E	Wall-E	US	Saturn Entertainment	14.08.08	97 359
6	Kung Fu Panda	Kung Fu Panda	US	Tatrafilm	03.07.08	89 766
7	Step Up 2 the Streets	Step Up 2 the Streets	US	SPI International	03.04.08	89 039
8	The Can	Gyml	CZ	Continental Film	10.01.08	80 150
9	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	US	Continental Film	12.06.08	75 135
10	The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor	The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor	US/DE/CA	Tatrafilm	31.07.08	66 131

**FIGURES OF SLOVAK AND COPRODUCTION FILM RELEASES IN SLOVAKIA IN 2007**

Position	Film Title	Director	Year of production	Country of Origin	Release Date	Number of Prints	Screenings	Number of viewers	Average admission per screen.	Average admission fee in EUR	Average n. of viewers per 1 print	Distributor
1	Bathory	Juraj Jakubisko	2008	SK/CZ GB/HU	10.07.08	16	3 343	426 901	127,70	3,75	26 681	Tatrafilm
23	Music	Juraj Nvota	2007	SK/DE	17.04.08	8	1 137	33 598	29,55	3,63	4 200	Continental Film
40	Gypsy Virgin	Dušan Rapoš	2008	SK/CZ HU	23.10.08	8	723	19 557	27,05	3,99	2 445	Tatrafilm
64	Blind Loves	Juraj Lehotský	2008	SK	27.03.08	4*	433	11 311	26,12	1,69	2 828	ASFC
141	Small Celebrations	Zdeněk Tyc	2008	CZ/SK IT	13.11.08	5	181	2 800	15,47	4,00	560	Continental Film
186	Unknown Antarctica + Bhutan	Pavol Barabáš	2007 2008	SK	23.10.08	2**	57	1 195	20,96	4,29	598	SPI International
207	Pictures of Old World	Dušan Hanák	1972	SK	11.09.08 ***	1	40	736	18,40	1,73	736	ASFC
225	Last Caravan	Peter Beňovský	2008	SK/CZ	02.10.08	1	23	559	24,30	0,82	559	ASFC



## FIGURES OF SLOVAK AND COPRODUCTION FILM RELEASES IN SLOVAKIA IN 2007

Position	Film Title	Director	Year of production	Country of Origin	Release Date	Number of Prints	Screenings	Number of viewers	Average admission per screen.	Average admission fee in EUR	Average n. of viewers per 1. print	Distributor
281	Martin Slivka – The Man Who Planted Trees	Martin Šulík	2007	SK	03.04.08	1	14	246	17,57	1,34	246	ASFC
	<b>Total Slovak Films</b>					<b>48</b>	<b>5 951</b>	<b>496 903</b>	<b>83,50</b>	<b>3,54</b>	<b>10 352</b>	
76	Tobruk	Václav Marhoul	2008	CZ/SK	04.09.08	12	625	8 908	14,25	3,53	742	Continental Film
105	Strawberry Wine	Dariusz Jabłoński	2007	SK/PL	10.04.08	5	341	5 202	15,26	3,26	1 040	Continental Film
	<b>Total minor coproductions</b>					<b>17</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>14 110</b>	<b>14,61</b>	<b>3,43</b>	<b>830</b>	
	<b>Total Slovak and coproduction films</b>					<b>65</b>	<b>6 917</b>	<b>511 013</b>	<b>73,88</b>	<b>3,54</b>	<b>7 862</b>	

Source: Union of Film Distributors SR, Association of Slovak Film Clubs

Notes: \* – The film *Blind Loves* that was screened together with a short film *Four* had only 3 prints during its first 10 weeks.,

\*\* – films were screened digitally, \*\*\* – re-release.

The third highest attendance in 2008 had a film *Half-life* (21 730 viewers), which has been seen by 34 487 viewers since its release on 6. December 2007

## → VIDEODISTRIBUTION

■ In 2008, **743 new titles were released**, which is 327 less than in 2007 (1,070 titles), and the fewest in the last 5 years. Since 1998, when the DVD format appeared on the Slovak and Czech markets, the distributors have released a total of 6,587 titles. According to information from DVD Group.cz, in 2008 a record number of **667,462 DVDs** were sold on the Slovak market (485,615 pieces in 2007), 619,319 of which were sold in shops (404,675 in 2007) and 48,143 to video-rentals (80,940 in 2007). Due to the decrease in prices, we recorded a year-to-year increase in the sales of video DVDs in shops by 53 percent however, during 2008, video-rentals purchased 41 percent less video DVDs.

■ In 2007, a new format – Blu-ray disk (BD) – was introduced on our market and it defeated, in the global technology competition, the HD DVD system. The first film released in 2007 on BD for both the Slovak and Czech markets was **Casino Royale** (US/GB/DE/CZ, 2006, dir. Martin Campbell); the historically first Slovak film released on BD was the documentary **Unknown Antarctica** (Neznáma Antarktída, 2007, dir. Pavol Barabáš), which was released on October 1, 2008. Till the end of 2008, Bontonfilm (so far the exclusive publisher of BDs on the market) had released almost 150 titles for EUR 36.48, which is similar to the price of a video DVD when it was first introduced. In addition to that, 30 music BDs have also been released on our market, including the first Slovak one. On December 3, 2008, the recording of the concert of the musical project **Chill Pill: One Night Only** was released, supplemented by two audio CDs.

■ In 2009, there were several companies operating in the field of video distribution. The most important ones included A.L.I., s.r.o., Bontonfilm, a.s., Continental Film, s.r.o., Davay s.r.o. Slovensko, Demar – Ing. Andrej Devečka, Gregor Multimedia, s.r.o., Intersonic, s.r.o., K2 studio, s.r.o., Magic Box Slovakia s.r.o., Palace Pictures Slovak Republic, s.r.o., Panther Trading SK, a.s., Plus Production, s.r.o., Saturn Entertainment, s.r.o. and SPI International Czech Rep. & Slovakia, s.r.o..

■ Two of them provided a list of most sold titles. Bontonfilm, which had the most new releases (398 DVDs and 91 BDs), the most sold DVDs were 1. **Mamma Mia!** (GB/US, 2008, dir. Phyllida Lloyd), 2. **Kung Fu Panda** (US, 2008, dir. Mark Osborne, John Stevenson), 3. **Laci Strike – A Dancer’s Journey** + CD (Laci Strike – Cesta tanečníka, 2008, dir. Branislav Jašš), and the most sold **BDs**: 1. **Hancock** (US, 2008, dir. Peter Berg), 2. **Peter Pan** (US/GB, 2003, dir. P.J. Hogan), 3. **Open Season** (US, 2006, dir. Jill Culton, Roger Allers, Anthony Stacchi).

■ **Demar Company**, which is the exclusive representative of HCE Prague, had the following titles within the Top 3 in 2008: 1. **Pulp Fiction** (US, 1994, dir. Quentin Tarantino), 2. **Angelica** (5 volumes, 1964-1968, dir. Bernard Borderie), 3. **Sin City** (US, 2005, dir. Robert Rodriguez, Frank Miller, Quentin Tarantino).

■ In 2007, **31 domestic titles were released; of which 22** were Slovak and co-production full-length films. In 2008, this figure increased to **54 titles; 25** of which were Slovak and co-production full-length films. Almost one-third of them were released as part of two projects considered exceptional for Slovakia.

■ In the fall of 2008, the Slovak Film Institute (SFI) and the Petit Press publishing house organized, for the third time, the DVD project **Slovak Film**. After releasing 10 Slovak films from the 1980’s and 10 from 1970’s, a new series was released, which allowed film lovers to buy, each week from September 26 to November 28, a DVD with one of 10 Slovak films from the **1960’s** in the newsstands for EUR 3.29. Each DVD also included a 16-page journal with interesting information, profiles, interviews and reviews concerning the respective film and excerpts from the contemporary press. The series edition included films **Jánošík I-II** (1962-1963, dir. Paľo Bielik), **A Song about the Gray Pigeon** (Pieseň o sivom holubovi, 1961, dir. Stanislav Barabáš), **The Sun in a Net** (Slnko v sieti, 1962, dir. Štefan Uher), **The Boxer and Death** (Boxer a smrť, 1962, dir. Peter Solan), **The Organ** (Organ, 1964, dir. Štefan Uher), **The Dragon’s Return** (Drak sa vracia, 1967, dir. Eduard Grečner), **Our Daily Day** (Deň náš každodenný, 1969, dir. Otakar Krivánek), **The Years of Christ** (Kristove roky, 1967, dir. Juraj Jakubisko), **Celebration in the Botanical Garden** (Slávnosť v botanickej záhrade, 1969, dir. Elo Havetta), **322** (1969, dir. Dušan Hanák), and, as a bonus, a DVD **August 1968** with the subtitle *Through the Eyes of Slovak Documentary filmmakers*. Up until the end of 2008, a total of **57,984 DVDs** from this edition were sold (in 2007, **105,746 DVDs** from the edition **Slovak Film** of the 1970’s were sold). The highest selling film was **Jánošík I-II**. (17,572) followed by **August 1968** (8,850) and the **A Song about the Gray Pigeon** (4,277).

■ Plus Production, in cooperation with Slovak Television (STV), has continued their joint project of restoring and preserving the audiovisual cultural heritage under the title of **Digital Videotheque of Slovakia** (DVS). In 2008, they released **3 titles** from the STV archives (17 in 2007) including

the animated fairy-tales **Harebell and Daisy** (Zvonček a Margarétka, 1995, dir. Valéria Takáčová, František Jurišič), **Jurošík I.** (1991, dir. Jaroslav Baran) and **Eagle Feather** (Orlie pierko, 1982, dir. Eugen Spálený), and one new release – a documentary called **100 Years of International Ice Hockey** (Storočnica hokeja, 2008, dir. Stanislav Štefánik) produced by STV in cooperation with IIHF. The highest selling titles of Plus Production were **Painted on Glass** (Na skle maľované, 1980, dir. Karol L. Zachar), **Bambul'ka's Adventures** (Bambul'kine dobrodružstvá, 1982, dir. Juraj Lihosit) and **Uncle Ragan** (Sváko Ragan, 1976, r. Martin Ľapák). These titles were (for the first two weeks) offered EUR 6.60, later the price increased to EUR 9.92.

■ The documentary film maker Pavol Barabáš has continued the publishing of his films on DVD. In 2008, he released the films **Unknown Antarctica** (Neznáma Antarktída, 2008), **Carstenz – The Seventh Summit** (Carstenz – Siedma hora, 2008) and **High Tatras – A Wilderness Frozen in Time** (Vysoké Tatry – Divočina zamrznutá v čase, 2007 – released in co-production with ArtPoint, s.r.o – Tomáš Hulík), and the collection **Grand Prix IV** including the film **Tepuy** (Tepuy – Cesta do hlbín zeme, 2007), **Unknown Antarctica** and **Carstenz – The Seventh Summit**.

■ Bontonfilm released DVDs with the full-length films **Cruel Joys** (Kruté radosti, 2002, dir. Juraj Nvota), **East of Everest** (Na východ od Everestu, 2008, dir. Daniel Liška), **Paper Heads** (Papierové hlavy, 1995, dir. Dušan Hanák), **Signum Laudis** (1980, dir. Martin Hollý) and **Little Girl Blue** (Tajnosti, CZ/SK, 2007, dir. Alice Nellis), and the DVDs **Laci Strike – A Dancer's Journey and the Story of the Slovak STREET DANCE**, the first volume of a prepared collection of dance DVDs.

■ Magic Box has continued the publishing of films by Martin Šulík with titles **Everything I Love** (Všetko čo mám rád, 1992) and **The Garden** (Záhrada, 1995). Another film by Dušan Rapoš **Run, He is Coming!** (Utekajme, už ide!, 1986, Sui Generis / Slovak Film Institute) was also released on DVD.

■ The Czech company **Řitka Video** specializing mostly in horror and war films, started to release Slovak war films. Its 2008 offer included the films **The Day Which Does Not Die** (Deň, ktorý neumrie, 1974, dir. Martin Ľapák), **Just Go, Don't Say Goodbye** (Chod' a nelúč sa, 1979, dir. Jozef Režucha), **Captain Dabač** (Kapitán Dabač, 1959, dir. Paľo Bielik), **Wolves' Lairs** (Vlčie diery, 1948, dir. Paľo Bielik) and **Tomorrow Will Be Too Late** (Zajtra bude neskoro, 1972, dir. Martin Ľapák).

■ The co-production film **St. Peter's Umbrella** (Dáždnik svätého Petra, SK/HU, 1958, dir. Frigyes Bán, Vladislav Pavlovič) was released on DVD in Hungary, unfortunately with only a Hungarian soundtrack. Also the following mid-length documentaries were released on DVD: **American-Slovak Pictograph. Portrait of a Village** (2006 SK/US, 2006, dir. Mišo Suchý) and **Glass Pictures** (Sklenené obrazy, 2008, dir. Lubor Dohnal).

■ **The Radošiná Naive Theatre** (Radošínske naivné divadlo) released on DVD its staging of **General** (Generál); the publishing house **Forza** released 15 independent DVDs with the episodes of the TV series **Mafstory** (2006, dir. Ivan Predmerský), published also as a collection DVD gift-box with **Mafstory, episodes 1.-54.**

- **Dimas Company** released a DVD with the documentary by Dušan Hudec **Love Thy Neighbour** (Miluj blížneho svojho, 2004). The DVD was not for sale, but intended only for cultural and educational purposes in Slovakia, EU, Israel, the USA and Canada.
  
- A great increase was also recorded in DVDs attached as additions to newspapers and journals. Although not as high as in the Czech Republic, where, in 2008, the newsstands sold 219 million DVDs and CDs (an average of 138 titles a month), but even the 80 new titles a month in Slovakia is a remarkable result. Also gratifying is that after the flooding of trash titles, titles with a higher artistic quality have started to appear on the market.
  
- While the offer of newsstands in the Czech Republic included Slovak films such as **Jánošík Part 1 and 2** and **Salt More than Gold** (Soľ nad zlato, 1982, dir. Martin Hollý) released by Atypfilm and the film **It Will Stay Between Us** (Zostane to medzi nami, 2003, dir. Miro Šindelka) released by DVD Hit, in Slovakia (besides the above mentioned edition of Slovak Films of the 1980's and the compilation of short-length films from the festival **Azyl 2006/2007**) only the film **Nebojsa** (1989, dir. Julius Matula) was released as an addition to the daily Nový čas. The DVD edition of the daily Nový čas (Ringier publishing house) began its weekly release in March 2007, and now they release 9 DVD titles each week. In 2008, the most sold DVDs were 1. **I'll Get You! 1** (No počkaj zajac! 1, RU, 1969, r. Vjačeslav Kotenočkin), 2. **I'll Get You! 2**, 3. **My Sweet Little Village** (Vesničko má středisková, CZ, 1985, dir. Jiří Menzel).
  
- Publishing house Ringier Slovakia published in 2008 no less than 358 titles on DVDs/CDs and the total number of sold DVDs/CDs reached 9,305,443.
  
- In May 2008, the Film Club Company entered the Slovak market. Its most successful titles offered in newsstands were 1. **Asterix and the Vikings** (FR/DK, 2006, dir. Stefan Fjeldmark, Jesper Møller), 2. **The Accidental Spy** (HK, 2001, dir. Teddy Chan), 3. **Caligula** (US/IT, 1979, dir. Tinto Brass).
  
- While the average price of a film on DVD in shops (according to the data from DVD Group.cz) is **EUR 6.23**, in newsstands it is offered from **EUR 1.49**, which is similar to the price of renting a film in a video-rental. This is another reason an increasing number of people would rather buy than borrow films on DVDs. The situation for video-rental is exacerbated by the fact that, due to expensive copyrights, the purchase of a DVD by a video-rental establishment costs from EUR 26.55 to 43.15. In addition, more than 40,000 households have taken advantage of the possibility to borrow a film from the digital television Magio from T-Com (offering more than 600 titles 270 in 2007), or through its portal Station, which was shut down in April 2008. You can get a 48-hour access to a standard film for EUR 1.80, a fairy-tale for EUR 0.40 an erotic film for EUR 2.60, and selected films for special low prices from EUR 0.60. In 2008, the most downloaded films were 1. **Hoodwinked!** (US, 2005, dir. Cory Edwards, Todd Edwards, Tony Leech), 2. **Taxi 4** (FR, 2007, dir. Gérard Krawczyk), 3. **Step Up** (US, 2006, dir. Anne Fletcher), 4. **Empties** (CZ, 2006, dir. Jan Svěrák), 5. **Asterix and the Vikings**.
  
- The VoD service is also included in the digital **Fiber TV** offered by Orange Slovakia as a part of the Orange Home service package. It offers 433 titles (230 in 2007). The offer from both companies also includes films in Full HD quality.

- At the 19th annual awards of the Slovak Film Union, the Union of Slovak Television Creators and Literary Fund, the Igric 2008 award for an audiovisual production on DVD and CD-ROM was received by Pavol Barabáš for the DVD **Tepuy**, and Ján Šicko and Martin Hasák for the DVD **Azyl 2006/2007**.
- According to the survey done by the Kinema Film of Year 2008, the film event of the year was the DVD project „Slovak Film of the 1960’s“ released by Petit Press – the Daily SME and the Slovak Film Institute.
- **The DaViD 2008** survey on the best film DVD in 2008 was not conducted.

## → CINEMAS

- The number of cinemas in the Slovak Republic continues to decrease. For the purpose of comparison: in 1990, there were 703 cinemas in 1993 – 456, in 2007 – 207 and in 2008 the number of cinemas reached a historical minimum: 199 cinemas were in operation with 253 screens and 85,586 seats (22 of which were summer cinemas with 27,675 seats) and 4 video-cinemas with 62 seats.
- In 2008, there was no additional multiplex opened, thus in operation there are only the existing two multiplexes in Bratislava: Palace Cinemas with 12 screens (2,316 seats) and Istropolis Cinema Center with 8 screens (1,619 seats). The latter was closed down on December 14, 2007, renovated and reopened again by a new operator on April 10, 2008 with the new name Palace Cinemas Polus.
- In 2008, investments in the renovations of cinemas totaled EUR 364,139.55. Although the number of cinemas decreased, there were two newly opened cinemas with several screening rooms, thus the overall number of screens increased, compared to 2007, by 2, reaching a total of 253. On March 29, a new 5-screen theatre CINEMAX cinema was opened in Prešov (861 seats); and on November 29, a 7-screen theatre CINEMAX (1,304 seats) in the shopping center Optima II in Košice. Those are the eighth and the ninth miniplexes of the CINEMAX a.s. company, which was established on July 1, 2006, and which also operates the 3-screen cinemas in Dunajská Streda, Poprad, Skalica and Trnava, the 4-screen cinemas in Nitra and Trenčín and a 5-screen cinema in Žilina. In addition to this, the 6-screen Cinema in Banská Bystrica and the Charlie Centrum, the first 4-screen cinema in Slovakia, which lags behind the others due to its technical facilities, are also in operation. A third multiplex in Bratislava (8 screens and IMAX) shall be opened in 2009. Now there are only 25 cinemas (9.88 %), which is 31 less than in 2007, all of which do not yet have the necessary scanners for the new type of analogue track (Cyan Dye Track), which has, since January 1, 2005, been used in 90 percent of films entering distribution.
- **5 most successful cinemas according to attendance in 2008:**
  1. Palace Cinemas Aupark (Bratislava – 12 screens) 838,925 viewers
  2. Europa Cinemas (Banská Bystrica – 6 screens) – 295,932 viewers
  3. Palace Cinemas Polus\* (Bratislava – 8 screens) – 280,853 viewers
  4. CINEMAX (Nitra – 4 screens) – 190,730 viewers
  5. CINEMAX (Trenčín – 4 screens) – 163,194 viewers

\* opened after reconstruction on April 10, 2008

■ **5 most successful single-screen cinemas according to attendance in 2008:**

1. Úsmev (Košice) 58,852 viewers
2. Centrum (Žilina) 49,879 viewers
3. Capitol (Košice) 46,811 viewers
4. Nicolaus (Liptovský Mikuláš) 38,147 viewers
5. Kultúra (Ružomberok) 34,870 viewers

■ In 2008, Slovak multiplexes were visited by 1,119,778 viewers (1,058,005 in 2007), which is 33.30% of all viewers (38.16 % in 2007), who paid admission fees amounting to EUR 4,550,793.17 (EUR 4,764,697.21 in 2007). This amount represents 37.21 % of the gross turnover in 2008 in all cinemas (in 2007 this figure was 51.08 %; and in 2006 – 48.72%).

In 2008, there was also a significant increase in the share of cinemas with several screening rooms. Together with multiplexes, they contributed 70.91% to the overall attendance (62.16% in 2007); and 75.67 % to the gross turnover (75.65% in 2007), which is three quarters, while the number of their screening rooms (67) constitutes only 26.80% of all screening rooms in Slovakia.

■ In the Slovak Republic, 13 cinemas located in 12 different towns, with a total of 38 screening rooms were members of the **Europa Cinemas** network (1,945 screening rooms in 43 countries). They include in Bratislava the cinemas Mladosť and Charlie Centrum, in Martin the cinema Strojár, in Ružomberok the cinema Kultúra, in Spišská Nová Ves the cinema Mier, and the CINEMAXes in Dunajská Streda, Nitra, Poprad, Prešov, Skalica, Trenčín, Trnava and Žilina.

## → FILM CLUBS

■ Film clubs in Slovakia play an irreplaceable role in the education of film viewers. Each year they make significant works of world cinematography available, which otherwise would not reach the average viewers. Also gratifying is the fact that in recent years, film clubs have not only been showing films within film clubs, but they have also been appearing on the program offers of „classic“ cinemas and multiplexes.

■ As of December 31, 2008, there were **44 film clubs operating in Slovakia** (49 in 2007), forming the Association of Slovak Film Clubs (ASFC). The price of a membership card was EUR 2.33 (the same as in 2007). The number of FC members slightly increased in 2008. As of December 31, 2008, it was 7,246, which is 202 more than at the same time period in 2007.

■ Following a decrease of 21.93% in 2007, the attendance of films distributed by ASFC once again reached the levels it had attained in previous years. The overall attendance of club films (screened not only in FCs, but also in other cinemas) increased from **70,649 viewers** in 2007 to **93,999**, which is an increase of 33.05%. This figure is 11.79% higher than in the wider distribution, where, in 2008, a 21.26% increase in the number of the viewers was recorded.

■ From January 1 through December 31, 2008, the number of viewers who attended **2,854** projections (in 2007 it was 2,673) in film clubs was **75,724** (57,741 viewers in 2007), which is an average of **26.53 viewers per projection** (in 2006 – 24.42 viewers and in 2007 – 21.60 viewers). In 2008, the club titles contributed 2.80 percent to the overall attendance of Slovak cinemas.

The average attendance per film club member also increased – from 10 to 10.45 projections a years (for comparison: a citizen of Slovakia goes to the cinema on average 0.62-times a year). The average admission fee in film clubs EUR 1.83 (EUR 1.37 in 2007), and EUR 1.66 (EUR 1.34 in

2007) for the screening of a club film in all other cinemas. (most of the film clubs operate as part of a classic cinema.)

■ Most of the viewers attended screenings in the Bratislava film clubs Charlie Centrum (20,061) and Nostalgia (8,640); in Banská Bystrica FC Europe (6,667), In Košice FC Cinefil (5,629) and in the Trenčín Artkino Metro (3,757).

■ The most significant events organized by the Association of Slovak Films Clubs in 2008 included the Slovak section of the 15th International Film, Television and Video Review Febiofest, which in 8 Slovak towns, in 12 screening rooms and on 264 screens offered 118 films in 14 sections, which were attended by 14,447 viewers; and the traveling film review Project 100 – 2008 presenting the following films: **4 months, 3 weeks and 2 days** (RO, 2007, dir. Cristian Mungiu); **The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari** (DE, 1920, dir. Robert Wiene); **Katyn** (PL, 2007, dir. Andrzej Wajda); **Turtles Can Fly** (IR/FR/IQ, 2004, dir. Bahman Ghobadi); **The Diving Bell and the Butterfly** (FR/US, 2007, dir. Julian Schnabel); **The Discrete Charm of the Bourgeoisie** (FR/IT/ES, 1972, dir. Luis Bunuel); **Holy Mountain** (MX/US, 1973, dir. Alejandro Jodorowsky); **You, the Living** (SE/DE/FR/DK/NO, 2007, dir. Roy Andersson); **Zabriskie Point** (US, 1970, dir. Michelangelo Antonioni), and the short film **Andalusian Dog** (FR, 1929, dir. Luis Bunuel). In Project 100 – 2008, Slovakia was represented by a film **Pictures from the Old World** (Obrazy starého sveta, 1972, dir. Dušan Hanák), which was screened together with his short film **Old Shatterhand Came to See Us** (Prišiel k nám Old Shatterhand, 1966).

■ The Slovak National Film Award *The Sun in a Net* for the best foreign film was awarded to **Grbavica: The Land of My Dreams** (BA/AT/DE/HR, 2006, dir. Jasmina Žbanić), which was distributed by the ASFC. At the 4th awards of the Slovak internet film journal Kinema.sk – Kinema – Film of the year 2008 – the ASFC received the Distributor of the Year Award for presenting the films **4 months, 3 weeks and 2 days**, **Pan's Labyrinth** (ES/US/MX, 2006, dir. Guillermo del Toro) and **Blind Loves** (Slepé lásky, 2008, dir. Juraj Lehotský).

■ In 2008, Elo Havetta's Award was awarded for the second time and it was received by Michal Bregant, Dean of the Prague FAMU, the Award was also awarded to the ASFC for their activities.

#### THE MOST SUCCESSFUL FILMS IN FILM CLUBS (From January 1 to December 31, 2008)

Ranking	Film title (Director)	Number of screenings	Number of viewers
1	<b>Blind Loves</b> (SK, 2008, dir. Juraj Lehotský)	433	11,311
2	<b>Pan's Labyrinth</b> (ES/US/MX, 2006, dir. Guillermo del Toro)	240	5,938
3	<b>The Country Teacher</b> (CZ/FR/DE, 2008, dir. Bohdan Sláma)	198	4,662
4	<b>The Art of Negative Thinking</b> (NO, 2006, dir. Bard Breien)	115	4,523
5	<b>The Karamazov Brothers</b> (CZ/PL, 2008, dir. Petr Zelenka)	198	4,120
6	<b>4 months, 3 weeks and 2 days</b> (RO, 2007, dir. Cristian Mungiu)	61	3,447
7	<b>The Diving Bell and the Butterfly</b> (FR/US, 2007, dir. Julian Schnabel)	73	3,027
8	<b>Katyn</b> (PL, 2007, dir. Andrzej Wajda)	61	2,979
9	<b>Adam's Apples</b> (DK, 2005, dir. Anders Thomas Jenses)	102	2,628
10	<b>Persepolis</b> (FR/US, 2007, dir. Vincent Paronnaud, Marjane Satrapi)	108	2,204

■ The title of the most attended club film was taken by a non-Czech film, for the first time in six years: after the **Year of the Devil** (CZ, 2002, dir. Petr Zelenka) in 2002 and 2003; **Boredom in Brno** (CZ, 2003, dir. Vladimír Morávek) in 2004; **Wrong Side Up** (CZ/DE/SK, 2005, dir. Petr Zelenka) in 2005, the Czech-German co-production **Something Like Happiness** (CZ/DE, 2005, dir. Bohdan Sláma) in 2006, and film by Věra Chytilová **Pleasant Moments** (CZ, 2006, dir. Věra Chytilová) in 2007, the top spot was taken, in 2008, by the full-length feature debut by Juraj Lehotský **Blind Loves**, which has been seen by 11,311 viewers. The film occupies the 64th position on the list of attendance of all films distributed in Slovak cinemas in 2008. Thus, for the first time, a domestic film became the most successful film in clubs as well as in the wider distribution (**Bathory** (SK/CZ/GB/HU, 2008, dir. Juraj Jakubisko)). In 2007, the second most successful film in film clubs, **The Samaritan Girl** (KR, 2004, dir. Kim Ki-duk), with its 2,442 viewers, occupied the 10th place in 2008.

## → NATIONAL FESTIVAL, REVIEWS AND AWARDS

■ Once again, in 2008, the most important events of the year included the IFF Art Film Trenčín/Trenčianske Teplice and IFF Bratislava.

■ **The 16th IFF Art Film Trenčín / Trenčianske Teplice** ([www.artfilmfest.sk](http://www.artfilmfest.sk)) took place from **June 27 to July 6**, and the new program and artistic staff, who took over in 2007, continued the implementation of the new program structure. The festival offered 3 competitive and 10 informative sections presenting more than 100 full-length films and 80 short films under the title of *Films from the Whole World*. The Chairman of the International Jury was the Romanian director **Cristian Mungiu**. Within the international competition, the Blue Angel Award was awarded ex aequo to **Summer Book** (TR, 2008, dir. Seyfi Teoman) and **Wolfsbergen** (BE/NL, 2007, dir. Nanouk Leopold). The Eastern Panorama Award for the Best Central and Eastern European Film was awarded to **I Am from Titov Veles** (MK/SI/FR/BE, 2007, dir. Teona Mitevska); the Best Short Film Award was received by **Terminus** (CA, 2007, dir. Trewor Cawood); and the Young and Critical Award, awarded this year for the first time, was received by **Flower in the Pocket** (MY, 2007, dir. Liew Seng Tat). The festival also presented 16 Slovak films: **Summer Games** (Letné hry, 2007, dir. Marián Tutoky) and **Four** (Štyri, 2007, dir. Ivana Šebestová); in the category of competitive films **Blind Loves** (Slepé lásky, 2008, dir. Juraj Lehotský), **Ladislav Chudík** (2008, dir. Patrik Lančarič), **Katka** (1949, dir. Ján Kadár, Elmar Klos), **Pictures of the Old World** (Obrazy starého sveta, 1972, dir. Dušan Hanák), **I Am a Tab** (Ja som bulvár, 2008, dir. Peter Begányi), **Glass Paintings** (Sklenené obrazy, 2008, dir. Lubor Dohnal) in the non-competitive section, and **Utopia** (Utópia, SK/FI, 2007, dir. Mikko Manuel Kamunen), **Superstar** (2007, dir. Henrich Banáš), **We are Women** (Sme ženy, 2007, dir. Natália Krajčiová), **Fuck** (2007, dir. Vladimíra Ferenčíková), **Cold Joint** (Studený spoj, 2007, dir. Miro Remo), **Maykomashmalon** (Majkomašmalon, 2007, dir. Mariana Čengel-Solčanská), **Where is?!** (Kde je?!), 2007, dir. Agnes Dimun) and **About Socks and Love** (2008, dir. Michaela Čopíková) in the category of student films. **Blind Loves** won the Mayor of Trenčianske Teplice Prize.

■ **Omar Sharif**, **Liv Ullmann**, **Ivan Palúch** and **Chiara Caselli** received the traditional Actor's Mission Award. The Golden Camera Award was awarded to the Polish director **Krzysztof Zanussi**, Czech photographer **Miroslav Ondříček** and Italian scriptwriter **Toni Guerra**.



■ Art Film also included a workshop called *New Pictures of the Old World* facilitated by the Serbian director and lecturer Želimir Žilnik. During the workshop, the participants produced micro-documentaries inspired by Dušan Hanák's film **Pictures of the Old World**. The festival and the accompanying events were attended by 27,142 visitors.

■ The jubilee **10th IFF Bratislava** ([www.iffbratislava.sk](http://www.iffbratislava.sk)), which was focused on the international competition of first and second feature films, took place, for the 6th time, from November 28 to December 5 in the Palace Cinemas multiplex, Aupark, Bratislava, and also for the first time, in Košice (November 30) and Banská Bystrica (December 4). The program included 206 films screened during 153 sessions, which were viewed by more than 23,000 viewers. The Grand Prize for the Best Film was received by **Mid-August Lunch** (IT, 2008, dir. Gianni Di Gregorio), Prize for the Best Director by Amat Escalante for **The Bastards** (MX/FR/US, 2008), Prize for the Best Actress by Nada Abou Farhat for her performance in **Under the Bombs** (LB/FR/GB/BE, 2007, dir. Philippe Aractingi), and Prize for the Best Actor by Zsolt Anger for his performance in **The Investigator** (HU/SW/IE, 2008, dir. Attila Gigor). The Ecumenical Jury Prize was awarded to **The Zone** (MX/ES, 2007, dir. Rodrigo Plá), and the FIPRESCI Prize for **Under the Bombs**. The Special Award for Artistic Excellence in World Cinematography was awarded to Hungarian director **István Szabó**. Other non-competitive sections: Made in Europe, Off the Mainstream, GMT, Focus: Music and Film, Asylum – short films, Special Events and VideoAart. The Slovak Films 2008 section presented the following full-length films: **Gypsy Virgin** (Cinka Panna, SK/CZ/HU, 2008, dir. Dušan Rapoš), **East of Everest** (Na východ od Everestu, 2008, dir. Daniel Liška), **The Last Caravan** (Posledná maringotka, SK/CZ, 2008, dir. Peter Beňovský), **Blind Loves, Tobruk** (CZ/SK, 2008, dir. Václav Marhoul) and **Big Respect** (Veľký rešpekt, 2008, dir. Viktor Csudai); mid-length films **Afghan Women Behind the Wheel** (Afganské ženy za volantom, 2008, dir. Sahraa Karimi), **Bhutan** (Hľadanie šťastia, 2008, dir. Pavol Barabáš) – Zlatý Bažant People's Choice Award, **Carstenz – The Seventh Summit** (Carstenz – siedma hora, 2008, dir. Pavol Barabáš), **The Journey of Magdalena Robinson** (Cesta Magdalény Robinsonovej, 2008, dir. Marek Šulík), **The Optimist** (Optimista, 2008, dir. Dušan Trančík), **Surprise** (Prekvapenie, 2008, dir. Gabriel Hoštaj), **Smog** and short films **About Socks and Love, Janík** (2008, dir. Daniel Zemančík), **Mill** (Mlyn, 2008, dir. Mariana Čengel-Solčanská), **Metamorphoses** (Premeny, 2008, dir. Lenka Pšenčíková), **The String** (Pružinka, 2008, dir. Michal Mészáros), **Rural Round** (Rajón, 2008, dir. Diana Novotná), and **Clothes For Her** (Šaty pre ňu, 2008, dir. Jana Szabóová). The section Focus: Music and Film presented the following films: **Jas is Jazz** (2008, dir. Peter Dimitrov), **Juro** (2008, dir. Lukáš Zednikovič) and **Snap Shots** (Momentky, 2008, dir. Peter Krištúfek). Slovak films were also included in the section Video-art and Asylum – short films, presenting the finalists of the 4th year of the international internet film Asylum ([www.azyl.sk](http://www.azyl.sk)).

■ The *New Slovak Films 2009–2010* – presentation of feature films, documentaries and animations in production – also took place for the 4th time and presented 28 feature films, 14 documentaries and 6 animations which should have their cinema premieres before December 31, 2010.

■ From **September 10-15**, Piešťany's Dom umenia, Kursalón and cinemas Fontána and Klub hosted, to date, the most successful **3rd IFF Cinematik 2008** ([www.cinematik.sk](http://www.cinematik.sk)). More than 10,000 viewers attended the 118 films, out of which 50 were full-length films. In addition to the main competition section *Meeting Point Europe*, the organizer extended the program offer by an

additional 9 sections: Respect: Ventura Pons; Italy Magnified; Cult & Beyond: Midnight Hero; Up and Down the Stream; Kinema Choice; DoCma: Austrian DoCs; Cinematik Jr.; A special screening of the Slovak film **In the Shadow of Time** (V tieni času, 2005, dir. Tibor Macák) and In the House section devoted to Slovak cinema. The latter section included the following films: **Demons** (Démoni, 2007, dir. Róbert Šveda), **Music** (Muzika, SK/DE, 2007, dir. Juraj Nvota), **Half-life** (Polčas rozpadu, 2007, dir. Vlado Fischer), **Blind Loves**, and short- and mid-length films **Jas is Jazz**, **Vzдор** (US/SK, 2008, dir. Anabela Žigová), **Smog** and films produced by the students of the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica: **Alice, the Males and a Few Euphemisms** (Alica, samci a pár eufemizmov, 2008, dir. Agnes Dimun); **Shepherd Jano Červeň** (Bača Jano Červeň, 2008, dir. Ľubomír Viluda, Ivan Kršiak); **Over the Bridge** (Cez most, 2008, dir. Ján Kász); **The Gospel According to Kučo** (Evanielium podľa Kuča, 2008, dir. Ľubomír Viluda, Ivan Kršiak); **Housing Estate Facts** (Skutočnosti zo sídliska, 2008, dir. Ľubomír Račko); and students of the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in Bratislava: **A Following Act** (Ďalšie dejstvo, 2006, dir. Mátýás Priker); **Izidor** (2007, dir. Andrej Kolenčík); **Subway** (Metro, 2006, dir. Martina Spurná); **Summer Games A Fable of a Nail** (Bájka o klinci, 2006, dir. Marián Staňo); **Of Soňa and Her Family** (O Soni a jej rodine, 2006, dir. Daniela Rusnoková); **Black-and-White Crow** (Čiernobiela vrana, 2005, dir. Jana Gombíková, Tereza Matkuliaková); **Lionardo mio** (2005, dir. Ivana Šebestová); **Chicken Life** (Zo života hydiny, 2005, dir. Lucia Dovičáková); **Abel's Black Dog** (Ábelov čierny pes, SK/CZ, 2006, dir. Mariana Čengel-Solčanská); **Piglet's Fate** (Osud prasiatka, 2005, dir. Šimon Matrka); **Cold Joint** (Studený spoj) **Closer** (V tesnej blízkosti, 2006, dir. Marta Ferencová), **Cheers!** (Nazdravíčko!, 2005, dir. Ivana Zajacová, Jozef Mital); **Pornoromantic** (Pornoromantik, 2005, dir. Peter Begányi); **Side Job** (Bokovka, 2005, dir. Tomáš Jančo), **Harmonica** (2008, dir. Leevi Lehtinen) and **1,35** (2003, dir. Milan Balog).

■ The festival's main prize – Meeting Point Europe Award – was awarded to the film **4 months, 3 weeks and 2 days** (RO, 2007, dir. Christian Mungiu). The Audience Award was received by the film **The Diving Bell and the Butterfly** (FR/US, 2007, dir. Julian Schnabel) and the Respect Award by the Catalan director **Ventura Pons**.

■ One of the oldest national festivals the **15th Etnofilm Čadca** ([www.etnofilm.sk](http://www.etnofilm.sk)) – an international biennale of ethnography, ethnology and social anthropology in the broadest sense of the word, took place from September 23-27, 2008, and from October 14-18 there was the **9th Biennale of Animations Bratislava** ([www.bab-slovakia.sk](http://www.bab-slovakia.sk)), which is, since 2003, an international festival of animations for children.

■ Below please find some of the additional important festivals, film reviews and workshops that took place in Slovakia organized in a chronological order (for the complete list please visit):

→ January 19-20: **5th CAMERA Slovakia** (Bratislava-Expo Arena Incheba);

[www.cameraslovakia.sk](http://www.cameraslovakia.sk)

→ February 15-16: **2nd Festival of high-mountain hiking, mountaineering and ski-alpinism Marmotafest 2008** (Bratislava – Culture House Dúbravka); <http://festival.marmota.sk>

→ February 17-20: Festival of European documentaries **Borders of Modern Europe** (Košice – Film Club Cinefil); [www.cinefil.sk](http://www.cinefil.sk)

→ February 27-29: **Festival Azyl 2008** (Bratislava – cinema Tatra); [www.azyl.sk](http://www.azyl.sk)

- March 5-8: **1st International festival of student films Early Melons** (Bratislava – cinemas Mladost and A4 nultý priester); [www.earlymelons.com](http://www.earlymelons.com)
- March 6-13: **Roman Polanski: 6 Cult Films** (Bratislava – cinema Tatra; Trenčín – ArtKino Metro); [www.artfilm.sk](http://www.artfilm.sk)
- March 31-30: **15th International film, television and video review Febiofest 2008** (Bratislava / Nitra / Banská Bystrica / Prešov / Košice / Martin / Poprad / Žilina); [www.febiofests.sk](http://www.febiofests.sk)
- April 10-20: **10th International festival of francophone films Bratislava** (Bratislava – cinema Tatra / Palace Cinemas Aupark / screening room of Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Music and Dramatic Art Bratislava); [www.fiffba.sk](http://www.fiffba.sk)
- April 24-27: **9th International festival of mountain films and adventure Mountains and City** (Bratislava – Palace Cinemas Aupark); [www.horyamesto.sk](http://www.horyamesto.sk)
- May 13-17: **14th International festival of environmental films Envirofilm** (Banská Bystrica / Banská Štiavnica / Kremnica / Zvolen); [www.envirofilm.sk](http://www.envirofilm.sk)
- May 30 – June 1: **16th Cineama 2008** (Banská Bystrica – Museum of SNU); [www.amatfilm.sk](http://www.amatfilm.sk)
- June 3- 6: **Contemporary Russian Film** (Bratislava – cinema Mladost)
- June 13-14: **4th Film festival of full-length feature and student films Under the Stars** (Bratislava – open air cinema at Štrkovec); [www.podhviezdami.sk](http://www.podhviezdami.sk)
- June 17: **3rd International festival of animations produced by secondary school students Animofest 2008** (Bratislava – SSPŠ of animation art); [www.uat.sk](http://www.uat.sk) and [www.spsat.sk](http://www.spsat.sk)
- June 18-21: **14th International festival of local televisions Golden Beggar** (Košice – Hotel Centrum); [www.festival.sk](http://www.festival.sk)
- June 30 – September 3: **6th Bažant Kinematograf 2008** (29 Slovak towns); [www.finematograf.sk](http://www.finematograf.sk)
- July 12: **3rd International festival of amateur films AmatFest** (Námestovo)
- August 1-3: **1st International festival of animations Fest Anča** (Žilina-Záriečie – Stanica); [www.ancafest.sk](http://www.ancafest.sk)
- August 1-3: **18th Summer film festival HAH 2008** (Dolná Strehová – Thermal swimming pool); <http://urtica.host.sk/hah>
- August 7-10: **10th Summer film seminar 4 Elements** (Banská Štiavnica); [www.4zivly.sk](http://www.4zivly.sk)
- September 5-7: **Kinobus – Festival on Wheels** (Žilina / Strečno / Kláštor pod Znievom / Belá-Dulice / Příbovce); [www.stanica.sk](http://www.stanica.sk)
- September 11-31: **14th Project 100 – 2008** (36 film clubs and cinemas in 31 Slovak towns); [www.asfk.sk](http://www.asfk.sk)
- September 29 – October 3: **25th Agrofilm Nitra** (Nitra – Slovak Agricultural Research Center / Research Institute for Animal Production); [www.agrofilm.sk](http://www.agrofilm.sk)
- October 7-12: **6th Ars Poetica** (Bratislava – A4 nultý priester / FC Nostalgia); [www.arspoetica.sk](http://www.arspoetica.sk)
- October 8-12: **16th International festival of mountain films Poprad** (Poprad – cinema Gerlach / Culture House Kežmarok – cinema Iskra); [www.mfhf.sk](http://www.mfhf.sk)
- October 9-12: **12th Festival of student films Ācko** (Bratislava – screening room of the Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, Bratislava); [www.acko.vsmu.sk](http://www.acko.vsmu.sk)
- October 16-19: **23rd International festival of underwater films** (Nový Smokovec – Hotel Palace); [www.mfpf.eu](http://www.mfpf.eu)

- October 16- 20: **Days of Bavarian Film** (Banská Bystrica)
- October 17-19: **22nd Chamois of the Tatras** (Liptovský Hrádok – Town Cultural Center); [www.nocka.sk/film-video/tatransky-kamzik](http://www.nocka.sk/film-video/tatransky-kamzik)
- October 20- 24: **35th International festival of films on sustainable development Ekotop-film** (Bratislava – Hotel Tatra / cinema Mladost' / Štúdio L+S); [www.ekotopfilm.sk](http://www.ekotopfilm.sk)
- October 28-29: **6th Prize of Tibor Vichta** (Bratislava – Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Music and Dramatic Art Bratislava / Palace Cinemas Aupark). [www.artscript.sk](http://www.artscript.sk)
- November 12-16: **9th International festival of documentaries One World 2008 /** (Bratislava – FK Charlie Centrum / cinema Mladost' / FC 35\_mm / A4 nultý priestor / screening room of Slovak National ;Gallery / Studio 12 / Central European House of Photography); [www.jedensvet.sk](http://www.jedensvet.sk)
- November 14-15: **4th International review of short films The Old Man's Treasure /** (Dolný Kubín – cinema Choč); [www.filmklub23.sk](http://www.filmklub23.sk)
- November 20-23: **4th Eurotour Piešťany** (Piešťany – Town Culture Center); [www.eurotourpiestany.sk](http://www.eurotourpiestany.sk)
- December 12-13: **3rd International review of mountain and adrenaline films VIDMO** (Dolný Kubín – Town Culture Center); [www.filmklub23.sk](http://www.filmklub23.sk)
- In 2008, several prizes were awarded in the field of audiovision, the most important of which were received by:
  - **Pavol Barabáš** – Prize of the Minister of Culture SR (for the film High Tatras – A Wilderness Frozen in Time / Vysoké Tatry – Divočina zamrznutá v čase, 2007, dir. Pavol Barabáš);
  - **Michal Dočolomanský** – Prize of Jozef Kroner In Memoriam (awarded by Jozef Kroner's Society);
  - **Zuzana Fialová** – OTO 2007 in the category of Actress (a competition based upon viewers' choice of a TV personality);
  - **Dušan Jamrich** – Prize of Jozef Kroner for the most remarkable performance of actor (prize awarded by Jozef Kroner's Society);
  - **Mária Kráľovičová** – Crystal Wing in the category Theatre and Film (prize for the most significant personalities of Slovakia);
  - **Eva Kristínová** – Order of Ľudovít Štúr, I. class;
  - **Juraj Lehotský** – Special Prize for Young Creators in the category of Audiovisual Work, Film and TV of the 13th Prize of Tatra Bank's Foundation for Art;
  - **Karol Machata** – OTO 2007 – Hall of Fame (a competition based upon viewers' choice of a TV personality);
  - **Tomáš Maštálir** – OTO 2007 in the category Actor (a competition based upon viewers' choice of a TV personality);
  - **Ivan Palúch** – Actor's Mission – 16th IFF Art Film Trenčín / Trenčianske Teplice;
  - **Tatiana Pauhofová** – Special Prize for Young Creators in the category Theatre of the 13th Prize of Tatra Bank's Foundation for Art;
  - **Vincent Rosinec** – Prize of the Chairman of the Slovak Parliament Pavol Paška for special contributions in the field of film;
  - **Robert Roth** – Main Prize on the category Theatre of the 13th Prize of Tatra Bank's Foundation for Art;

- **Kveta Stražanová** – Prize of Jozef Kroner for lifetime achievement (prize awarded by Jozef Kroner's Society);
- **Alexander Strelinger** – Camera 2008 Prize for lifetime achievement (prize awarded by the Association of Slovak Photographers);
- **Marko Škop** – Prize of the ČSOB – prize awarded to Slovak producers up to 45 years of age (awarded at the ceremonial opening of the Slovak section of Febiofest);
- **Božidara Turzonovová** – Pribina's Cross, II. class;
- **Rudolf Urc** – Albín Brunovský's Honorary Medal for special contribution in the field of animation presented at the 9th international festival of animations for children Biennale of Animations Bratislava;
- **František Zvarík** – Prize of Jozef Kroner In Memoriam (prize awarded by Jozef Kroner's Society).

■ The Association of Slovak Cinematographers awarded the following **Camera 2008 Awards**: to **Alexander Šurkala** for the full-length feature film **Music**, **Milan Balog** for the short television feature film **Smog**; **Juraj Chlpík** for the documentary **Blind Loves**, and **Mário Ondriš** for the student film **Cold Joint**.

■ It was already the second time, when on April 19, 2008, the Slovak Film and Television Academy (SFTA) awarded the national film awards **The Sun in a Net / Slnko v sieti** ([www.slnkovsieti.sk](http://www.slnkovsieti.sk)). The prizes were awarded in 15 categories for the period of two years (2006-2007). The highest number of nomination (14) was received by **Music**, the Slovak Film and Television Academy awarded 9 nominations to film **Little Girl Blue** (Tajnosti, CZ/SK, 2007, dir. Alice Nellis) and 5 nominations to both **I Served the King of England** (Obsluhoval jsem anglického krále, CZ/SK, 2007, dir. Jiří Menzel) and **Martin Slivka – The Man Who Planted Trees** (Martin Slivka – muž, ktorý sadil stromy, 2007, dir. Martin Šulík). Nine awards (for the best full-length feature film, best director, best screenplay, best editing, best sound, best original soundtrack, best art work, best actress in the supporting role, best actor in the leading role) were awarded to the film **Music**. The following films received one award each: **Other Worlds** ((Iné svety, SK/CZ, 2006, dir. Marko Škop) – best documentary), **Four** – best animation, **Martin Slivka – The Man Who Planted Trees** (Richard Krivda – best photography), **I Served the King of England** (Martin Huba for the best performance of actor in a supporting role), **Little Girl Blue** (Iva Bittová – best actress in the leading role) and **Grbavica: The Land of My Dreams** (BA/AT/DE/HR, 2006, dir. Jasmila Žbanić) – best foreign film.

■ The Prize for Special Contribution to Slovak Cinematography was awarded to **Vincent Rosinec** (cinematography and director) and **Maximilián Remeň** (editor). The Prize for Filmmakers up to 35 was awarded for the first time, and was received by **Ivana Šebestová**, director of animated film **Four**.

■ The 19th Annual Prizes of the Slovak Film Association, Union of the Slovak Television Creators and the Literary Fund of SR **Igric for audiovisual work in 2007**:

- Feature films for movie theatres: **Juraj Nvota for directing the film Music**.
- Television dramatic work: **Róbert Šveda for the screenplay and directing the film Demons**.
- Animations: **Ivana Šebestová for the screenplay, directing and animation of the film Four**.
- Film and television documentary work: **Martin Šulík for directing the film Martin Slivka – The Man Who Planted Trees**.

- Actor's performance in a film or television work: **Luboš Kostelný for the role of Martin in the film Music.**
- The presentation of *Igrices* also included the award of bonuses.
- **The 16th Award of the Slovak Film Critic** for audiovisual work, publishing activity and film distribution in 2007 (awarded upon the voting of the members of the Club of Film Journalists by the Slovak Syndicate of Journalists).
- Prize of the Slovak Film Critic for the full-length feature movie-film **Demons**;
- Other audiovisual works: **Martin Slivka – The Man Who Planted Trees**;
- Film critic and journalism: **Hana Beranová** – for long-year and continuing publishing activity
- Prize of the Slovak Film Critics for the best foreign film in the Slovak cinemas in 2007: **The Lives of Others** (DE, 2006, dir. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck)
- Prize of the Slovak film journalists for the distributor of the best foreign film in the Slovak cinemas in 2007: **Tatrafilm**
- Prize of the Slovak Film Journalists for the DVD collection: **Slovak Film of the 70's** and script-editing by **STV 2.**
  
- In 2008, the **Prize of Zentiva** was awarded for the fourth time (the prize is given to young audiovisual creators up to 35 years and it was awarded by Zentiva in cooperation with the Slovak Film Institute and the Association of Slovak Film Clubs during the 15th international film, television and video review Febiofest 2008). The award was won by documentary filmmaker **Juraj Lehotský.**
  
- **The Prize of Tibor Vichta** – the competition of screenwriters open to young authors up to 35 years aims to facilitate the development of Slovak audiovisual production and new scripts. 17 stories applied for the competition at its 6th edition. The winner in the category of full-length feature film was Zuzana Belková with screenplay **Polystyrene** (Polystyrén); Belková and her screenplay got selected for the American Hartley Merill Prize Competition.
  
- The 4th year of awarding the acknowledgements of the Slovak internet film journal Kinema.sk **Kinema – Film of the Year 2008** took place during the IFF Bratislava. The prizes were awarded in 10 categories. In addition to the main category Film of the Year 2008: **There Will Be Blood** (US, 2007, dir. Paul Thomas Anderson). Prizes were also awarded in the following categories: Most Attended Film of the Year: **Bathory** (SK/CZ/GB/HU, 2008, dir. Juraj Jakubisko); Best Translation of the Year: Jaro Vančo – **There Will Be Blood**; Distributor of the Year: Association of Slovak Film Clubs for films **4 months, 3 weeks and 2 days**, **Pan's Labyrinth** (ES/US/MX, 2006, dir. Guillermo del Toro) and **Blind Loves**; The Promotion Campaign of the Year: SPI International for **Asterix and the Olympic Games** (FR/DE/ES/IT, 2008, dir. Frédéric Forestier, Thomas Langmann and **Step Up 2 the Streets** (US, 2008, dir. Jon Chu); and Tatrafilm for **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (US, 2008, dir. Eric Darnell, Tom McGrath) and **Bathory**; Television Event of the Year: TV series **The City of Shadows** (Mesto tieňov); Film Event of the Year: Daily SME, Petit Press and Slovak Film Institute for the DVD project **Slovak Film of the 60's**; Worst Film of the Year: **Gypsy Virgin**; Club Film of the Year: **4 months, 3 weeks and 2 days**; Slovak Film of the Year: **Blind Loves.**

## → AWARDS OF SLOVAK FILMS AND FILMMAKERS ABROAD

■ Also In 2008, Slovak films were awarded several prestigious awards abroad. The most important of them were Art Cinema Award 2008 awarded by the International Confederation of Art Cinemas (CICAIE) at the IFF Cannes, and the FIPRESCI Award at the IFF Motovun awarded to the full-length documentary **Blind Loves** (Slepé lásky, 2008, dir. Juraj Lehotský). The film also won awards and acknowledgements at festivals in Zurich, Reykjavik and Essonne in France.

■ In the category of full-length feature films, the following were awarded: **Music** (Muzika, SK/DE, 2008, dir. Juraj Nvota) – Special Mention at IFF Warsaw; **Demons** (Démoni, 2007, r. Róbert Šveda) – Main Prize of Golden Debut; and **Strawberry Wine** (Jahodové víno, SK/PL, 2007, dir. Dariusz Jabłoński) – Viewers' Award at the 16th review of Polish, Czech and Slovak films *Trinecké filmové babí léto Trinec*, Jantar Award for cinematography (Tomasz Michałowski); Award of the Young Jury at the 27th IF of film debuts Young and Film Koszalin; **I served the King of England** (Obsluhoval som anglického kráľa, CZ/SK, 2007, dir. Jiří Menzel) – Golden Gladiator for the best film at the 1st international summer film festival in Durr's (Albania), and **Little Girl Blue** (Tajnosti, CZ/SK, 2007, dir. Alice Nellis) – Film Critics' Award, The Golden Kingfisher Award for the best full-length feature film, the Annual Association of Czech Film Club's Award for 2007 at the 21st festival of Czech films FINÁLE Plzeň, and also the annual award of the Czech Film and Television Academy Golden Lion for the best film and cinematography, and nominations for this award for director, best female performance, best male performance, actress in a supporting role, screenplay, editing, sound and soundtrack, and at the 5th IFF Syrfilm Syracuse awards for directing, editing and the best performing actor (Iva Bittová).

■ For several years, documentary maker Pavol Barabáš, has been one of the most awarded national filmmakers. This was also true in 2008, when his documentary works won 11 awards at significant festivals and reviews specializing particularly on mountain films, e.g. **Carstenz – The Seventh Summit** (Carstenz – Siedma hora, 2008) the Main Prize at the 4th meeting of mountain films in Zakopane (Poland); his documentary on **Juzek Psotka** (2008) received the Special Award for a historical documentary at the 6th International festival of outdoor films in the Czech Republic; **Unknown Antarctica** (Neznáma Antarktída, 2007) the Main Prize at the 25th International mountaineer film festival in Teplice nad Metují, and the 1st prize at the 10th Explorers Festival Artshow in Lodž; **Tepuy** (Tepuy – cesta do stredu Zeme, 2007) was awarded the Best Foreign Film Award at the 5th mountain festival in Fort William (Scotland), and **High Tatras – A Wilderness Frozen in Time** (Tatry – divočina zamrznutá v čase, 2007) the Main Prize at the 22nd International festival of documentaries on national parks in Sondrio (Italy).

■ The most awarded short films included **T-Shirt** (Tričko, SK/CZ, 2006, dir. Hossein Martin Fazeli), which won awards for the best short film at the Belgrade festival of documentaries and short films, and at IFF Spokane (USA); and IFF Badalona (Spain) and **Four** (Štyri, 2007, dir. Ivana Šebestová), which won e.g. the award for the Best European Short Film at the festival of Arcipelago Rome (Italy), the Main Prize ex aequo at Animatka Ljubljana (Slovenia), and the Bronze „Jabberwocky“ at the IFF Etiuda & Anima Krakow (Poland).

■ In addition to the aforementioned **Blind Loves**, other successful films included the documen-

aries: **Soňa and Her Family** (O Soni a jej rodine, 2006, dir. Daniela Rusnoková), which won the prize for the best documentary at the 5th IFF Syrfilm Syracuse (USA) **People by the Railway Track** (Ludia pri trati, 2008, dir. Arnold Kojnok) – Best Student Film award at the 6th IFF „Shaken Zhuldzydary“ Alma-Ata (Kazakhstan); **Jas Is Jazz** (2008, dir. Peter Dimitrov) – 1st place at the 4th IF of European film art Arts&Film Telč, Czech republic; and **East of Everest** (Na východ od Everestu, 2008, dir. Daniel Liška), which won awards at the festival of mountaineer and outdoor films in Teplice nad Metují and Prague.

■ Student films have traditionally spread the good reputation of Slovak films abroad. A few of those awarded, among others, include the following films: **Raven** (Havran, 2007, dir. Michal Baláž) – Kodak Vision Award at the 8th IF of student films in Písek, Czech Republic, and the Viewers' Award at the 6th IFF Bali, Indonesia; **Maykomashmalon** (Majkomašmalon, 2007, r. Mariana Čengel-Solčanská) – Honorary Mention at the Brno Sixteen, Brno, Czech Republic.

■ At the 43rd IFF in Karlovy Vary **Dušan Hanák** and **Juraj Jakubisko** were awarded the Special Award for Artistic Excellence in World Cinematography; **Jakubisko** also received the Association of Czech Film Club's Annual Prize for 2008. **Peter Dubecký** won the Golden Medal of the Academy of Musical Arts in Prague; received the Award for Outstanding Support of Czech Cinematography Abroad at the 21st festival of Czech films FINÁLE Plzeň, and also the Annual Award of the Association of Czech Film Clubs for 2008. **Ladislav Kaboš** was awarded at the 21st annual awards of Trilobit Beroun with an Honorary Mention for the documentary **Friends Till Death** (Kamarádky na smrt, 2007). **Emília Vášáryová** was acknowledged as the best performing actress in the film **Václav** (CZ, 2007, r. Jiří Vejdělek) at the 11th IFF Shanghai.

## → SLOVAK FILM INSTITUTE

■ The Slovak Film Institute (SFI) is the only national, supporting, scientific, research and archiving institution in the field of cinematography in Slovakia. In 2007, the irreplaceable position of the SFI was accentuated by adopting an audiovisual law which entered into effect on January 1, 2008. The new legal regulation represented a significant change for the SFI, as it reconfirmed the position, orientation of activities, organizational structure and direction of the development of the SFI after 1998, and, at the same time, it has also increased and legally defined the competencies and professional scope of the SFI's activities in two major areas: the audiovisual heritage of the Slovak Republic and distribution, presentation and promotion of the values of contemporary Slovak audiovisual culture and industry in the domestic, European, and also broader international context. The SFI is divided into the National Film Archive (FA), the National Cinematography Center (NCC) and the Office of the MEDIA Desk Slovakia is a specific component of the SFI (its activities are subject to a separate chapter).

■ The main tasks, activities and competence of the SFI have been defined in § 23-25 of Act No. 343/2007 on the Conditions for Registration, Public Distribution and Preservation of Audiovisual Works, Multimedia Works and Sound Recordings of Artistic Performances including Amendments and Supplements to some other Laws (Audiovisual Law) from June 20, 2007, effective since January 1, 2008.



■ The principal roles of the SFI include storage, protection and renewal of audiovisual heritage, its processing and enhancing, elaboration and distribution of knowledge from the field of audiovisual culture, in particular the cinematography and audiovisual art of the Slovak Republic. The basic activities mainly include professional storage, treatment, preservation and renewal of audiovisual heritage, making the audiovisual heritage available to the public for study, educational and scientific purposes, searching for, obtaining, collecting, cataloging, preserving originals or copies of audiovisual works and audiovisual recordings and making them available to the public including documentary and informational materials relating to audiovisual works and audiovisual recordings, theory and concept, research, documentation, coordination, education, bibliographic, research, methodical and consulting activities and editorial activities including the publishing of periodic and non-periodic publications and carriers with Slovak audiovisual works; the creation and operation of an information system, organization of cultural events, reviews and festivals, promotion of audiovision and cinematography including the promotion of audiovisual heritage, fulfilling the role of the national filmotheque and cooperation with international organizations in the field of audiovision and cinematography, and representing the Slovak Republic in those organizations.

■ The SFI executes the copyrights for audiovisual works produced before 1991 by public organizations managing audiovision. In relation to those works, the SFI executes the rights of executive artists to artistic performances performed in such works, it is the producer of their audiovisual recording and with its activities it enhances the property rights.

■ The competence of the SFI regarding the protection of audiovisual heritage is as follows: it executes public administration in the field of protecting the audiovisual heritage, provides methodological guidance for cataloguing, protection and renewal of the audiovisual heritage fund, and assesses the audiovisual value of audiovisual works, audiovisual recordings and audio recordings in compliance with § 32 for the purposes of assessing the audiovisual value, the Director General established (on June 2, 2008, based upon a tender announced by the Board of the SFI, and in compliance with the provisions of the new Audiovisual Law, Peter Dubecký became the Director General) an advisory body for the protection of audiovisual heritage.

■ **The National Film Archive (FA)** is, in the sense of the resolution of the Ministry of Interior of the SR, a specialized public archive, and it consists of unique films and film-related archive funds and collections. Since 2001, the SFI has been a member of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAP).

■ **The National Cinematography Center (NCC)** coordinates the **Audiovisual Information Center**, department of film events, editorial department and other activities associated with the presentation and sale of products of the SFI's editorial activity. Its main role is to collect and provide complex and up-to-date information, statistics and informational services relating to Slovak cinematography, promotion and presentation of Slovak film at home as well as abroad. The activity of the NCC, which particularly focuses on the actual creation and production of Slovak audiovisual works, is a natural supplement to the activities of the FA, which focuses primarily on archiving, cataloguing and making the audiovisual heritage available. In 2008, the NCC coordinated the implementation of a priority project Presentation of Cultural Activities Abroad.

- **The Audiovisual Information Center (AIC)** acts as the information center on the happenings in the audiovisual field in Slovakia and abroad. The AIC collects, processes and publishes information from the audiovision field that arrives at the Ministry of Culture of the SR or the SFI, and is intended for professionals within the field of Slovak cinematography and audiovision. All actual and relevant information is available on the internet site [www.aic.sk](http://www.aic.sk)
- In relation to the presentation of Slovak cinematography at international film forums, the AIC collects and processes background documentation for the production of promotional materials on the current situation of Slovak audiovision (Slovak Films 2006–2008, New Slovak Films 2009–10).
- The main projects aimed at the international presentation of Slovak cinematography in 2008 included, in particular, the joint stand of five countries (Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Poland) – the Central European Cinema Stand – at the European Film Market in Berlin, the joint pavilion of Slovakia and the Czech Republic at the film market *Marché du film* at the IFF Cannes (both in cooperation with the SAPA), the presentation of the SFI and Slovak cinematography at the IFF in Karlovy Vary, and the Panel of Slovak film projects *New Slovak Films 2009 – 2010* at the IFF Bratislava (in cooperation with the IFF Bratislava, MEDIA Desk Slovakia and SFTA). Since 2006, the SFI has been a member of the international organization European Film Promotion. Thanks to this membership, Slovakia, in 2008, participated in the projects *Shooting Stars* (Marko Igonda) at Berlinale and *Producers on the Move* (Marko Škop) at IFF Cannes.
- The SFI manages the **Film Club Charlie Center** on Špitálska street in Bratislava. In 2007, the screening of archive films was temporarily interrupted in the learning cinema due to a lawsuit with the previous tenant of the premises.
- The SFI also includes the only specialized library in Slovakia (10,436 book units, 153 CD – carriers, 1,710 scripts, 1,960 archived periodicals) and a videotheque (10,300 VHSs and 1,747 DVDs). The editorial department of the SFI publishes the film monthly **Film.sk**, in cooperation with the ASFC the filmology journal **Kino-Ikon** and publications in four editions. Releasing Slovak films on DVD carriers has become a regular edition activity of the SFI. For detailed information on the SFI please visit [www.sfu.sk](http://www.sfu.sk)
- On May 15, 2008, the newly established shop of the SFI *Klapka.sk* was ceremoniously opened, offering a broad variety of literature on filmology, CD and DVD carriers and other film materials.
- The SFI's long-term projects include the **Project of the Systematic Renewal of the Audiovisual Cultural Heritage and its Availability**, the implementation of which, in its current form, began in 2006 following approval from the Slovak government. It is a long-term project which is scheduled to run until 2020. The objective of the project is the systematic protection and gradual renewal, with an emphasis on preserving the original quality, of the audiovisual heritage fund, primarily on film stock, while also observing all standards of archiving activity. On January 14, 2009 the Government in its Resolution 25/2009 approved the Update of the project of systematic renewal of the audiovisual heritage of the SR, which became the binding basis for the elaboration of further tasks and activities relating to the project on the mid-term horizon (period from 2009 to 2011).

■ The FA considers the enrichment of film collections in 2008 by **13 new titles** as one of the most significant acquisitions. The titles were obtained in close cooperation between the FA and the National Film Archive in Prague (member of the FIAF). Through the NFA in Prague, the FA borrowed, from the copyright owners in the Czech Republic (FAMU Prague, NFA Prague), reproduction materials for **12 student films by Slovak directors** in order to add their works to the film collections. Overall, through acquisitions, the FA obtained and catalogued a total of 1,556 film materials (new acquisitions to the fund) and 476 electronic carriers.

■ Slovak films archived in the SFI as of December 12, 2008 represent a total length of **3,693,534 meters** (i.e. the length of individual works and fragments expressed in meters of film material). The total length of all types of film materials relating to Slovak works archived in the collections and funds of the SFI represent a total of **14,703,318 meters of film material**.

■ In 2008, the SFI carried out an investment action concerning modification of the storage premises, construction work on the ground floor of the storage facility – the SFI's archive in Pezinok – Panholec. The completed work was accepted on December 18, 2008, and, through the completion of construction and technological work, the SFI **obtained 840 m<sup>2</sup>** of new depositing area for the professional storage of audiovisuals including the necessary technological facilities meeting required standards (the overall capacity of the new depositing area is **104,736 rolls** of film material), and thus, created adequate conditions for the execution of the role of the legal depository of the audiovisual heritage of the Slovak Republic.

■ The main objective of the **SKCINEMA** information system project is the transition to a complex computerized processing of archive, documentation library and information funds and the subsequent increase in the quality and promptness of service provision for professionals as well as the general public. The SFI, in connection with the implementation of the Digital Cultural Information System and the IS SK CINEMA, ensures the elaboration of assumptions and possibilities for the interoperability of databases of the legal depositories with the aim to create a catalogue of the audiovisual heritage of the Slovak Republic as of December 31, 2011. At present, the SFI makes available information on Slovak films within the **1st Slovak Database of Films** ([www.sfd.sfu.sk](http://www.sfd.sfu.sk))

■ In 2008, the SFI published five book titles: a collection of lectures given by the participants of the 11th Czech and Slovak Filmology Conference with the title **Interpretation and Film**, monograph by Václav Macek **Ján Kadar** profile **Actor Ján Palúch** in cooperation with VEDA publishing house a publication by Jana Dudková **The Balkan or a Metaphor** and, in cooperation with the main publisher, the Association of Slovak Film Clubs, the 3rd updated volume of the **Club Film Guide**.

■ In 2008, the SFI, in cooperation with the Petit Press publishing house, published 11 DVDs within the edition *Slovak Film of the 1960's*. For more information please see the chapter Video-distribution.

■ **Events with Slovak films abroad:**

In addition to organizing and co-organizing the majority of domestic events indicated in the chap-

ter on National Festivals, Film Reviews and Awards, the SFI also promoted Slovak cinematography at film events abroad. In 2008, activities of the Department of Film Events were carried out in the spirit of anniversaries: the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the SFI, the 70th birthday of Dušan Hanák and Juraj Jakubisko – the two most significant Slovak film directors, and the 40th anniversary of the events in Czechoslovakia in August 1968. The most significant events abroad promoting Slovak cinematography in 2008 included the following:

- **Slovak Film Week** (Budapest, Hungary), **Exhibition of Slovak Film Posters** (Berlin, Germany and Budapest, Hungary), Review of films by Dušan Hanák and his students (Strasbourg, France), **Festival „Film and Politics“** (Paris, France), **Festival of Slovak Films** (Cran-Gevrier, France), and the Retrospective of documentaries by Martin Slivka at the „Crossroads of Europe“ festival (Lublin, Poland).

- In 2008, once again, Slovakia participated in European film reviews organized all over the world. Of the many cities let us mention at least Lyon, Brussels, Madrid, Buenos Aires, Toronto, Paris, Ottawa, Valetta, and Rome.

- A historically important event in the first half of 2008 was the inclusion of the Slovak documentary **Blind Loves** in the section Quinzaine des Réalisateurs at the most significant international film festival in Cannes.

- The second half-year started with a particularly broad representation by Slovakia at the 43rd international film festival in Karlovy Vary. Slovak films were screened within competitive as well as non-competitive sections of the festival. Two directors celebrating milestone birthdays, Dušan Hanák a Juraj Jakubisko, received the Crystal Globe for contribution to world cinematography.

- Traditionally, Slovak cinematography was also broadly represented at other festivals in the Czech Republic: at the **21st Festival of Czech Films Finále Plzeň**, during which Peter Dubecký, Director General of the SFI, received the prestigious Golden Kingfisher; award for significant support of Czech films abroad **Cinema at the Border** (Český Těšín, CR and Cieszyn, Poland); the **16th Třinec's Film Summer** (Třinec, Czech Republic), and a Tribute to Magda Vášáryová was part of the **15th International Film, Television and Video Review – Febiofest 2008** the **48th International Festival of Films for Children and Youth** (Zlín, Czech Republic), and the already traditional Slovak presence at the **Summer Film School in Uherské Hradiště** (Czech Republic), which also included a Slovak Day and a Retrospective of Juraj Jakubisko.

- The most significant events of the second half of the year also included the **Retrospective of Dušan Hanák** (Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, Israel), the **16th Film Seminar** (Budapest, Hungary), and the Slovak section at the prestigious festival of photographers **Plus Camerimage in Lodž, Poland**. The retrospective section included the screening of six full-length films by Dušan Hanák.

- In 2008, the SFI organized a total of 101 events, which took place in 73 towns in 32 countries.

- **Overview of events with Slovak films abroad in 2008**

- **Number of foreign events: 101**
- **Number of Countries: 32** (Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, People's Republic of China, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, USA)
- **Number of Towns: 73** (Aarhus, Bayreuth, Beijing, Berlin, Bielsko Biala, Břilina, Bordeaux, Brno, Brussels, Budapest, Buenos Aires, Bucharest, Cannes, Cieszyn, Chicago, Copenhagen, Cottbus, Český Tešín, Haag, Haifa, Helsinki, Irnsko, Jakarta, Jerusalem, Kalisz, Kaliningrad, Karlove Vary, Kragujevac, Kuwait, Lisbon, Lodž, Lublin, Lund, Luxemburg, Ljubljana, Madrid, Mauthausen, Milwaukee, Moscow, Našice, Nicosia, Olomouc, Ottawa, Paris, Panevezys, Pécs, Plzeň, Prague, Riga, Rouen, Saarbrücken, Sancy, St. Petersburg, Segovia, Sever do Vouga, Stockholm, Strasbourg, Taipei, Telč, Tel Aviv, Terst, Toronto, Trinec, Uherské Hradište, Valetta, Vancouver, Vienna, Warsaw, Wrocław, Washington, Zagreb, Zlín, Zwierzyniec).
- **Number of films screened at events abroad: 390**

## → TELEVISION

- The situation in 2008 was similar to that of the previous years. While in the Czech Republic national broadcasters have dominated (Nova, Prima and four channels of the Czech Television), which, according to ATO – Media Research people-meter measurements, had a 87.26% total share of the viewing audience during the entire day (90.27% in prime time), in Slovakia, the three nation-wide broadcasters with access to more than 80% of the population – the public Slovak Television (hereinafter as STV) with its two channels (three since August), and private television broadcasters Markíza and JOJ, together with the TA3 news television broadcasting via satellite, captured only a 76.3% share during the entire day (81.4% in prime time), while as much as 8.8% during the whole day and 7.2% in prime time is captured by the channels Czech Television. According to the ATO – Media Research, Markíza is in 6th place in the Czech market.
- In 2008, there were 138 holders of licenses registered (120 in 2007) for television broadcasting in the SR. Out of these 138, there were 8 broadcasters (6 in 2007) of multi-regional, full-format broadcasting; 14 broadcasters (9 in 2007) of multi-regional monothematic program service and 34 holders of licenses (28 in 2007) for regional broadcasting.
- Signals from STV, Markíza and JOJ are distributed terrestrially these channels, along with TA3, are also available in Slovakia upon contracts with individual cable operators. In addition, their broadcasting can also be followed through the ASTRA 3A satellite as part of the Sky Link program package. To receive the transmission, an ordinary citizen needs a satellite aerial with an approximately 80-cm diameter, a digital receiver and a Sky Link decoding card.
- The coverage in Slovakia by the signals of individual broadcasters is as follows: Jednotka 99%; TV Markíza 98%; and TV JOJ 86.5% of the population. The legal regulations, in the expectation of the digitalization of television broadcasting, do not permit the coordination of new frequencies.

■ At the end of 2008, there were 7 holders of licenses for **digital television broadcasting** in Slovakia. The process of transition from analogue to regular digital terrestrial broadcasting in Slovakia was launched on April 24, 2008 with the announcement regarding the issuance of a generally binding legal regulation Measures of the Telecommunications Office of the SR /TO SR/ in the Collection of Laws. In compliance with the Transition Plan and Act No. 220/2007 Coll. on Digital Broadcasting, the TO SR published, on August 20, 2008 the Call for Proposals for a joint tender granting permits for terrestrial operation, which assign the frequencies within economically bound frequency restrictions, to establish the first and the second terrestrial multiplex within the territory of the SR. However, its end cannot be anticipated, because after the objection of Telecom Corp, the District Court of Bratislava intercepted the tender with a preliminary measure. On December 31, 2012 at the latest, digital broadcasting should completely replace the present analogue television terrestrial broadcasting. At present, a pilot project of digital terrestrial broadcasting (DVB-T) operated in Bratislava, Malacky, Banská Bystrica, Košice and Prešov; digital TV broadcasting is spread by telecommunications (T-Com, Orange) and cable operators.

■ In 2008, the offer from Slovak cable operators and providers of television services included 73 televisions with Slovak, but primarily Czech dubbing. The three largest operators – the cable providers **UPC** and **Satro**, and the digital satellite television service **Digi TV** – have in their basic or extended package in Czech or Slovak language 28 channels (which is more than a third of all available): Jednotka, Dvojka, Trojka, Markíza, JOJ, JOJ Plus, TA3, RingTV, ČT 1, ČT 2, ČT 24, TV Lux, Minimax, Animax, Jetix, Óčko, Music Box, Film+, Hallmark, AXN, National Geographic Channel, Spektrum, Discovery Channel, Viasat Explorer, Viasat History, Zone Reality, Nova Sport, and Eurosport. The remaining channels can only be found in the offer of two of these service providers, or one of them, or in the offer of small operators.

■ In terms of viewer share, TV Markíza maintained its leading position again in 2008, with a 35.1% market share during the whole day and 37.7% in prime time. On the other hand, the first channel of STV – Jednotka (19%) lost its second position in the market in favor of TV JOJ (16.4% and 17.8%)

■ Public Slovak Television has an obligation to broadcast programs in the public's interest, to dedicate the majority share of its broadcasting time to European productions, and dedicate 20% of its production on each channel to independent European producers. On December 11, 2007, the STV Board recalled Radim Hreha from the position of Director General of STV. His successor was elected as late as April 16, 2008. Štefan Nižňanský became the Director General of STV for a five-year office term.

■ The second channel STV Dvojka has continued focusing on so-called minority viewers, focusing primarily on documentaries, regional and topical programs, music, films, education, regional news and sport programs.

■ The third channel of the Slovak Television Trojka is sports related, which is also available in HD quality, and started broadcasting in Slovakia on August 8, 2008 – on the day of the ceremonial opening of the 29th Olympic Games in Beijing. It had the highest share of the viewing audience (0.8%) during the Olympic Games its total share of viewers was 0.2%.

- The most popular shows amongst the viewers of STV were the programs **Mail for You** (Pošta pre teba) and transmissions from the OTO 2007 awards, Ice Hockey World Championship, and qualifications for the Football World Championship.
  
- Yet before the election of the Director General, the Slovak documentary-makers came up with an appeal to renew and extend the production of a high quality authorial documentary in public Slovak Television, which, in 2008, from the planned number of 90 documentaries (including those still in-production from the previous two years), 72 were completed. K2 Studio in cooperation with STV produced 35 documentary profiles of significant personalities from Slovak life, who passed away prematurely, with the title **Joy of Life** (Radosť zo života); 10 profiles of living personalities of Slovakia from the area of culture, science and sports were also created within the cycle **Escalator** (Eskalátor) and 27 documentaries were produced by STV either as its own productions, or in cooperation with independent producers: 4 full-length films **Ladislav Chudík** (dir. Patrik Lančarič), **National** (Národné, dir. Soňa Ferancová), **My Father Gulag** (Môj otec Gulag, dir. František Palonder), **Tattered Hopes 1968** (Zmarené nádeje 1968, dir. Dušan Hudec) and 23 mid-length films – including for example **Slovakia for Beginners** (Slovensko pre začiatovníkov, dir. Tina Diosi), **Modern Architecture in Slovakia** (Moderná architektúra na Slovensku, dir. Ladislav Kaboš), **The Optimist** (Optimista, dir. Dušan Trančík), **Juraj Kubánka** (dir. Mátyás Prikler), **Who Won In February 1948** (Kto vyhral vo februári 1948, dir. Marcela Plítková), **Men of the Year 1938** (Muži roku 1938, dir. Rudolf Urc), **Year 1918 – Illusions and Reality** (Rok 1918 – ilúzie a skutočnosť, dir. Marcela Plítková) and the film screened also in the cinemas **The Last Caravan** (Posledná maríngotka, dir. Peter Beňovský). In addition, STV has ordered from TRIGON Production 42 profiles of personalities from the cycle **Gen.sk**.
  
- Films participated in by the STV won awards at Etnofilm Čadca – **The Last Caravan, Martin Slivka – The Man who Planted Trees** (Martin Slivka – muž, ktorý sadił stormy, 2007, dir. Martin Šulík) at One World festival – **My Father Gulag** and also at the Slovak Film Awards Igřic – **The Night on a Swedish Bulwark** (Noc na švédskom vale, dir. Milan Homolka). STV won the Prize for Medial Cooperation for public fundraising **An Hour for Children** (Hodina deťom), and Dvojka the Prize of Slovak Film Journalists for broadcasting artistic films on a conceptual basis.
  
- The original series **Felicity Shop** (Obchod so šťastím) will, after an uneventful start, continue approximately from the second quarter of 2009. In 2008, Slovak television did not produce any feature television film, however, it was the co-producer of the most successful Slovak films **Bathory** (SK/CZ/GB/HU, 2008, dir. Juraj Jakubisko), and also of the film **Gypsy Virgin** (Cinka Panna, SK/CZ/HU, 2008, dir. Dušan Rapoš).
  
- In compliance with the Act on Audiovisual Fund which entered into force on January 1, 2009, it is anticipated, that the share of commercials in the broadcasting of Slovak television will gradually decrease from 3 percent in 2008 to 1 percent until the end of 2011.
  
- The signal of the news television **TA3** is spread through the most cable distribution networks in Slovakia and in the Czech Republic. It is freely available through digital satellite receivers (satelli-

te Astra 3A). In 2008, the programs followed by the most viewers included the **Main News** (Hlavné správy), **In Politics** (V politike) and the **Theme of the Day** (Téma dňa).

■ On February 2, 2009, the position of the Director General of the TA3 television was taken over by Mgr. Matej Ribanský, who replaced Ing. Ľubomír Belfi, who, at the end of 2008, requested to be released from his position.

■ Once again, in 2008, the leader was **TV Markíza**. It broadcasted 1,780 films, out of this number, 25 were Slovak productions, 610 European, 998 American, and 147 titles were other productions. In the field of dramatic productions, TV Markíza in 2008 produced the following successful series: **Doctor's Office in the Rose Garden** (Ordinácia v ružovej záhrade), **The City of Shadows** (Mesto tieňov), **Friends** (Priateľky), and a series of documentaries **112**. The most successful amongst the viewers were the entertainment programs **Let's Dance 2**, **Blue from the Sky** (Modré z neba), **Elán is Elan** (Elán je Elán). The Slovak version of the Got Talent show with the title **Slovakia Got Talent** (Slovensko má talent) even became the most viewed in the world.

In 2008, some editors of the news program Television News received acknowledgement for their work: Gábor Grendel – Literary Fund Award Contribution to the News and Martina Dratvová – the 1st place in the ranking of the Slovak Syndicate of Journalists. Editors of the journalist program **Fire** (Paľba) defended their position within the journalists competition of the Slovak Syndicate of Journalists in 2008 in the category of Television – 1. place Ján Pasiar for a series of reports, and 2. place Dušan Károlyi for a series of contributions.

■ On December 16, 2008 the Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission granted TV Markíza a license for the nation-wide digital broadcasting of television program service with the title **TV Doma**.

■ The private television **TV JOJ**, in 2008, moved into second place on the market. In December it had as much as a 22.2% share of the market in prime time. It has continued in the production of the TV series **Mafstory**, and also started broadcasting three new series – **Prefab** (Panelák), **Jack-of-all-trades Ltd.** (Kutyil s.r.o.) and **Professionals** (Profesionáli), which turned out to be very successful with the viewers. Also successful was the program **The Courtroom** (Súdna sieň).

■ On September 9, 2008, the operator of TV JOJ – MAC TV s.r.o. received a license for nation-wide television broadcasting of the mono-type program service with the title of TV JOJ Plus. The broadcasting started on October 5, 2008 at 7:55 p.m. with the film **My Sweet Little Village** (CZ, 1985, dir. Jiří Menzel). Films and series should form as much as 80 percent of the new channels programming the rest should consist of its own productions and documentaries. This channel wants to capture the interest of the viewers also by employing three well-known announcers who previously worked on the public STV.

■ In March 2009, the viewers' and professional OTO 2008 prizes (Personality of the TV Screen) were awarded. The highest number of little statues (8) was received by Markíza: Zlatica Puškárová in the category of journalism, Adela Banášová – hostess of entertainment programs, entertainment program Blue from the Sky series – Doctor's Office in the Rose Garden program of the year



Slovakia's Got Talent actor Tomáš Mašťalír, program branding Vilomeniny and Prize of Life The City of Shadows. Television JOJ received two awards in the categories of sport (Lenka Čviriková-Hriadeľová) and actors (Diana Mórová). The only award for STV was received by Jarmila Lajčáková-Hargašová in the category of TV News Personality. Emília Vášáryová was introduced in the Hall of Fame. Kuly, singer of Desmond, won the absolute OTO.

■ **The most watched programs in 2008:**

(title-date-rating %)

- **Jednotka – Mail for you** (Pošta pre teba) – 23. 2. – 16,2, **TV Personality / OTO 2007** (Osobnosť TV obrazovky / OTO 2007) – 12. 3. – 15,5, **Ice Hockey World Championship** (MS v hokeji) – 7. 5. – 13,6
- **Dvojka – Ice Hockey World Championships-live broadcast** (MS v hokeji – prenos) – 7. 5. – 13,6, **World Football Championship – a qualification match** (Kvalifikácia na MS vo futbale) – 15.10. – 13,1, **Ice Hockey World Championship** (MS v hokeji) – (7. 5.) – 12,1
- **Markíza – TV News** (Televízne noviny) – 6. 1. – 35,6, **TV News** (Televízne noviny) – 1. 1. – 35,0, **TV News** (Televízne noviny) – 5. 1. – 33,3
- **TV JOJ – News** (Noviny) – 30. 11. – 18,1, **News** (Noviny) – 6. 1. – 18,0, **News** (Noviny) – 25. 12. – 17,5
- **TA3 – Main News** (Hlavné správy) – 6. 1. – 2,3, **In Politics** (V politike) – 20. 1. – 2,3, **Main News** (Hlavné správy) – 17. 11. – 2,1
- **Trojka – Hockey match exhibition** (Exhibičné hokejové stretnutie) – 30. 9. – 2,3, **Football – UEFA Cup** (Futbal – Pohár UEFA) – 27. 11. – 2,1, **Football – UEFA Cup** (Futbal – Pohár UEFA) – 18. 9. – 1,7
- **JOJ Plus – Young Wine** (Mladé víno) – 16. 11. – 1,5, **Woman Behind the Counter** (Žena za pultom) – 30. 12. – 1,3, **Guardian Angels** (Strážni anjeli) – 23. 12. – 1,3

## → CONTACT POINTS – INSTITUTIONS, COMPANIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS OPERATING IN THE SLOVAK AUDIOVISUAL INDUSTRY

- All information, addresses and contacts may be found at [www.aic.sk/aic/en/industry-database/](http://www.aic.sk/aic/en/industry-database/).

### ■ PRODUCTION COMPANIES

#### → AG STUDIO

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#### → AGENTÚRA RND

Škultétyho 5, 831 04 Bratislava, Tel./Fax: +421 2 5556 3508, [rnd@rnd.sk](mailto:rnd@rnd.sk), [www.rnd.sk](http://www.rnd.sk). Ladislav Hubáček

#### → ALEF FILM & MEDIA GROUP

Pavlovičova 3, 821 04 Bratislava, Office: Tekovská 7, 821 09 Bratislava, Tel.: +421 2 5556 1045, Fax: +421 2 5564 4791, [alef@webdesign.sk](mailto:alef@webdesign.sk), [www.afm.sk](http://www.afm.sk), Marian Urban

#### → ALEF JO FILMŠTÚDIO

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#### → ARTILERIA

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#### → ATELIER.DOC

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#### → ATARAX

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#### → ATTACK

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→ **C-GA FILM JURAJ GALVÁNEK**

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→ **D.N.A.**

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→ **FÁMA PRODUCTIONS**

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→ **FEELME FILM**

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→ **FORZA PH**

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→ **FILM FACTORY**

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→ **FREE - COOL - IN**

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→ **FURIA FILM**

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→ **GENTA FILM**

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→ **IVO BRACHTL**

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→ **JAKUBISKO FILM SLOVAKIA**

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→ **JMB FILM & TV PRODUCTION**

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→ **K2 STUDIO**

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→ **KOLIBA PRODUCTION & SERVICES**

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→ **LEON PRODUCTIONS**

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→ **LUTHER&PARTNER**

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→ **LUX COMMUNICATION**

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