

F+ FEBIOFEST
Bratislava 2023



BRATISLAVA INDUSTRY DAYS

March 15 – 18, 2023

FILM PLUS, Holkarová, réžia: Nicolas Bedos

+BID BRATISLAVA
INDUSTRY
DAYS



The last pages of this catalogue lists the 51 successful projects pitched at our Works in Progress presentation since 2016 – films that premiered in Cannes, Venice, Rotterdam, Clermont-Ferrand, Busan, Jihlava, Krakow, at Berlinale, CPH:DOX, IDFA, Hot Docs, KVIFF, Tallinn Black Nights, and Doclisboa. I'm confident that the ten projects you're about to see this year all have the potential to follow suit.

Since the very beginning, we aimed to make Bratislava Industry Days the place where both domestic and international film professionals can systematically get to know contemporary Slovak cinema in its full bloom. The selection is therefore a mixture of fiction, documentary, and animation; cinematic approaches that include deeply personal experimental

essay, years-long observation, historical drama, and sci-fi. As you will see, the filmmakers reflect on topics like environmental disaster, the mass media, prejudice against queer people, global pandemic, and menstruation. I hope that you will find the projects as interesting as we did when making the selection – and maybe even start a fruitful collaboration.

I would like to thank all my colleagues who dedicate their effort and expertise to making this event happen; all our partners for supporting us; and all of you for being interested in Slovak cinema.

Tomáš Hudák

Head of Bratislava Industry Days

Table of content

Awards	4
Jury	6
Works in Progress projects	
Dom uprostred / The House in the Middle (fiction – in development)	9
dir. Dominik György / prod. Lívia Filusová (Furia Film)	
Kamene / Rocks (documentary – in production)	10
dir. Paula Ďurinová / prod. Matej Sotník (guča films)	
Miškov svet / My World Upside Down (fiction – in development)	11
dir. Daniel Rihák / prod. Martina Sakova, Daniel Rihák (What If Films)	
Na milú Jarmilu / The End of Jarmila (fiction, short – in development)	12
dir. Alica Bednáriková / prod. Jakub Viktorín (nutprodukcja)	
Period Drama (animation, short – in development)	13
dir. Michaela Mihalyi / prod. Jakub Rálek (BFILM.cz) / co-prod. Michaela Mihalyi (Worst Films)	
Pozor, padá SNG! / Hanging Without Walls (documentary – in post-production)	14
dir. Jana Durajová, Lena Kušnieriková / prod. Zuzana Mistríková, Ľubica Orechovská (PubRes)	
Redakcia / Редакція / The Editorial Office (fiction – in post-production)	15
dir. Roman Bondarchuk / prod. Darya Bassel (Moon Man), Darya Averchenko (South Films) / co-prod. Katarína Krnáčová (Silverart)	
Spievajúci dom / The Singing House (fiction – in development)	16
dir. & prod. Andrej Kolenčík (Admiral Films)	
Svlékat mlhy / Shedding the Mist (fiction, short – in post-production)	17
dir. Kateřina Hroníková / prod. Nataša Jurčová Findrová (FTF VŠMU)	
Údolie vdov / The Valley of the Widows (documentary – in production)	18
dir. Miro Jelok / prod. Katarína Jonisová, Miro Jelok (Vinťafilms)	
Works in Progress Tutor	19
Successful projects previously presented at Bratislava Industry Days	20
Program	26

Awards



Best Febio Pitch Award

Sponsored by IFF Febiofest, the main award of Bratislava Industry Days consists of € 3000 cash for the most promising project. The award is handed out by the international jury.



Cineuropa Work in Progress Award

One project is awarded the coverage throughout various stages of development and distribution by Cineuropa. The award is handed out by Martin Kudláč, a Cineuropa correspondent.



FILM RESIDENCY

Pop Up Film Residency Visegrad Award

One project is awarded a three-week residency in Warsaw in July 2023. This benefits from a tailor-made mentoring program alongside four more filmmakers from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Ukraine. The award is handed out by Matthieu Darras, director of the Pop Up Film Residency.

Industry Jury



Paolo Bertolin

Paolo Bertolin is a film programmer, critic, producer, and a member of the Venice Film Festival selection committee. He has worked for several international film festivals and institutions, including Cannes' Directors' Fortnight, Locarno Open Doors, IFF Rotterdam, Doha Film Institute, Torino FF, Mumbai IFF, Beijing IFF, and IFF Bratislava. He has production credits on Berlinale Competition entries *Big Father*, *Small Father and Other Stories* (dir. Phan Dang Di; 2014) and *A Lullaby to the Sorrowful Mystery* (dir. Lav Diaz; 2016). He is a member of the European Film Academy, the Asia Pacific Screen Awards Academy, and Film Independent.



Xavier Henry-Rashid

Xavier Henry-Rashid runs Film Republic, a London-based sales agency specialised in world cinema. Its catalogue includes Peter Bebjak's *The Line* (2017) and Tereza Nvotova's *Filthy* (2017). Xavier started his career as a photographer and freelance journalist, contributing to publications such as *Variety*, *Screen*, *Esquire*, and *GQ*. He then worked for a number of festivals in various positions, from previewer at Sheffield Doc/Fest to executive director of the Raindance Film Festival. He had a tenure on the board of Europa International – the pan-European sales association – until 2021, is an alumnus of the Berlin Talent Campus (now Talents), Screen Institute, and EAVE, and a member of the EFA.



Barbara Orlicz-Szczypuła

Head of the Krakow Film Festival programme department, one of the leading festivals in Poland. She graduated from the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Before joining the festival, she worked at a film distribution company with responsibility for film events. She is a president of the Krakow Film Foundation and CEO of KFF Sales&Promotion, the sales agency that internationally promotes Polish documentary, animated, and short films. She is a member of the Polish Film Academy.

Works in Progress

Selected projects



Dom uprostred The House in the Middle

Slovakia – Czech Republic – Germany | 150 min.
fiction | drama | in development

DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY: Dominik György

DOP: Vladimír Smutný

EDITOR: Matej Beneš

PRODUCER: Lívia Filusová (Furia Film, SK)

CO-PRODUCER: Julietta Sichel (8Heads Productions, CZ)

WORKSHOPS & FORUMS: Midpoint Intensive SK, Pop Up Film Residency

SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund

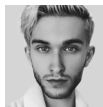
ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 1 900 000

PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY: January 2024

EXPECTED RELEASE: November 2025

CONTACT

Furia Film
www.furiafilm.sk
livia_filusova@yahoo.com
+421 905 568 099



Dominik
György



Lívia
Filusová

SYNOPSIS

It's the end of 1944, and young deaf Sam is preparing for the upcoming Christmas with his family amidst the Slovak hills. A German unit finds a refuge in the abandoned house next door and performs their mission, so Sam's unsuspecting family becomes the bait for the coming enemies – the Russians. Sam believes he can protect his family by using his supernatural power, but when this falls short he realizes that believe is not enough and starts to act to really change the narrative.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Being based on local testimonies, the story's an authentic look into historical local milestones beyond central events. At the symbolic level, it is a condensed World War II and deaf boy's Stations of the Cross, who is a metamorphosis of Jesus Christ the saviour. In the story, I work with the motifs of family, mysticism, and war, which have been with us since the beginning of mankind because we are defined by emotions. Although this world has changed, our human nature remains constant – and that's why I believe that everyone can connect with this story.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Dominik György studied film directing at FAMU in Prague. He is a six-time winner of the Talents of New Europe grant programme organised by the Central European Foundation. In 2019, he received a grant from the Filmtalent Zlín Foundation in the Czech Republic to make his first co-production film *The Touching* (2020). In 2021 he won

a bursary from the Slovak Audiovisual Fund to write the script for his debut feature film *The House in the Middle*. His films have been shown and received awards at many international film festivals, including Ca' Foscari SFF in Venice, International Children Care Film Festival in Paris (Grand Prix for best film), Festival Alto Vicentino in Italy (prize for best film), and the iFilm Festival in California (prizes for best direction and best film). Two of his films have worldwide distribution on Amazon Prime Video, DAFilms, and NQV Media.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Lívia Filusová – producer and chief executive at Furia Film – studied film and television production at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. She worked as head of production at the state-owned SFT Koliba. Since 1991, she has been involved in top management for Slovakia's leading film festivals: Forum IFF, Art Film Fest, Minority Film Festival, etc. She has led production for many film and television projects, and since 2000 has produced major documentary films, TV series, and feature films. In 2006, she founded Furia Film to support new and creative audio-visual works. Films produced and co-produced by Furia Film – *In Silence* (dir. Zdeněk Jiráský; 2014), *The Cellar* (dir. Igor Voloshin; 2018), *Charlatan* (dir. Agnieszka Holland; 2022), *The Pack* (dir. Tomáš Polenský; 2020) – were selected and awarded at international festivals including Berlinale, Karlovy Vary IFF, and Busan IFF.



Kamene Rocks

Slovakia – Czech Republic | 40 min.
documentary | in production

DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY: Paula Ďurinová

DOP: Paula Ďurinová, Denis Kozerawski

EDITOR: Daria Chernyak

PRODUCER: Matej Sotník (guča films, SK)

CO-PRODUCERS: Klára Mamojková, Wanda Kaprálová (Claw, CZ)

SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 60 000

PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY: February 2022 – May 2023

EXPECTED RELEASE: Early 2024

CONTACT

guča films
gucafirms.com
matej.sotnik@filmexpanded.com
+421 903 875 877



Paula
Ďurinová



Matej
Sotník

SYNOPSIS

Five stages are emerging, sometimes seven, sometimes more. While their indications may help us navigate, it's nevertheless just a never-ending period of mental upheaval. Sometimes loving, at other times frightening. There is no formula, no manual. Memories are not healing because they indicate the past. The reality of the past. *Rocks* is a film about empathy for the minerals shaped by mourning processes. A story about the influence of disappearing water on the formation of rocks, and the memory of director's grandparents who passed away in the pandemic. Paula Ďurinová's film blends the emotional and environmental, taking us on a journey to a life that is no more.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The story is led by the idea that when water disappears, rocks and earth are left unchanged, yet carved. Hard matter remains – the form which is a fact. In the process, I observe how we create a relationship, closeness, and bond, with the material represented by rock. *Rocks* is a homage, a tribute to my grandparents who shaped my life and identity. Their passing brought an impending feeling of instability, a deliberate postponement of new visions of the environment without their physical presence. *Rocks* strives to search for a new vision in this changing environment.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Paula Ďurinová is a filmmaker, visual artist and writer based in Berlin. She graduated in Documentary Film at the Academy of Arts in Slovakia, and participated at the IDFAcademy. She has been working on various projects in Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Moldova. Her short film *Interviews* (2016) premiered at Sarajevo FF. *Passing* (2016) was presented at CinéDOC Tbilisi and Ji.hlava IDFF, which also included her next film *Three weeks* (2019). Since 2021, Paula has worked as ACUD Galerie's artistic director in Berlin, and recently continued her studies in Thomas Arslan's class of Narrative Film at the Universität der Künste Berlin.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Matej Sotník is a producer at guča films, and creative director at Film Expanded distribution company. He is the producer of *Notes from Eremocene* by director Viera Čákanyová, which had its world premiere at Berlinale 2023. He is currently producing Lucia Kašová's upcoming film *World of Walls* shot in South Africa, as well as other international co-productions in various stages. guča films is an independent production company based in Bratislava. Its films have been screened and awarded at festivals such as Sheffield Dok/Fest, Ji.hlava IDFF, Dokufest Kosovo, Zagreb Dox, etc.



Miškov svet My World Upside Down

Slovakia – Poland | 90 min.
fiction | comedy | in development

DIRECTOR: Daniel Rihák

SCREENPLAY: Ján Štiffel, Peter Gašparík, Daniel Rihák

PRODUCERS: Martina Sakova, Daniel Rihák (What If Films, SK)

WORKSHOPS & FORUMS: Kids Kino Industry Warsaw 2022

SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 800 000

PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY: Spring/Summer 2024

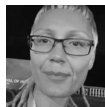
EXPECTED RELEASE: 2025

CONTACT

What If Films
www.whatif.film
daniel@danielrihak.com
+421 908 660 983



Daniel
Rihák



Martina
Sakova

SYNOPSIS

A comedy about an altar boy from a small conservative village in Slovakia. Miško (12) needs to solve a tricky problem. He wants to be just like his brother Lukáš (17) – big, strong and reasonable. Yet he's still small, naïve, and secretly in love with his brother's girlfriend Linda (16). While trying to impress her, a misunderstanding results in the village starting to think that Miško is gay. He vainly tries to shake off the accusation because nobody wants to play with or talk to him. The only one left is Jesus. Will they be able to overcome the prejudices together?

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Being a part of Christian youth feels great. You feel you belong, you're part of something important and right. Most young, active Christians live their lives sincerely and in good faith. But what if someone is different and doesn't fit into their conceptions of the world? We use the comedy genre to show serious topics about tolerance in our culture. We see how prejudice works in this small conservative community. But also, and more importantly, we see how tolerance can be born. And that's the whole point of the film – if a 12 year old boy can learn to think for himself, anyone can.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Daniel Rihák studied photography and cinematography at ESTC in Lisbon, and graduated in film directing at VŠMU Bratislava. His graduate short film, the thriller *The Trip* (2018), was screened at various international festivals and short-listed for the BAFTA Student Film Awards.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

What If Films is a new film production company created by a collaboration between Daniel Rihák and Martina Sakova. We aim to develop and produce films that combine audience reach with a socio-critical message. Martina is a German-Slovak producer. She has worked on animated shorts, fiction, and documentary films for Radio and Television Slovakia (RTVS), Czech Television, and HBO. Her feature *Summer Rebels* (2020) was theatrically released in Slovakia, Germany, Austria, and Czech Republic, acquired by RTVS, NPO, and Netflix, and screened in competition at over 30 film festivals worldwide. The film won the German Film Critics Award in 2021.



Na milú Jarmilu The End of Jarmila

Slovakia – Czech Republic | 20 min.
fiction | drama | in development

DIRECTOR: Alica Bednáríková

SCREENPLAY: Alica Bednáríková, Diana Dzurillová

DOP: Roman Šupej

PRODUCER: Jakub Viktorín (nutprodukcja, SK)

CO-PRODUCER: Tomáš Hrubý (nutprodukce, CZ)

SUPPORT: Creative Europe Media

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 114 000

PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY: Autumn 2023

EXPECTED RELEASE: Spring 2024

CONTACT

nutprodukcja
www.nutprodukcja.sk
info@nutprodukcja.sk
+421 948 050 189



Alica
Bednáríková



Jakub
Viktorín

SYNOPSIS

The End of Jarmila tells the story of a murder in reverse. Jarmila goes back in time to prove her innocence. As she leaves her prison cell, she returns to a train station where she is “unarrested” by the police; then to her mother’s funeral, where her sister, Júlia, accuses her of murder; then to a railway bridge, where she and Júlia dispose of their mother’s body; and, finally, to her living room, where a bullet exits her Mother’s forehead, finding its way back into the chamber of Júlia’s gun. All that’s left to do now is to return the winning lottery ticket, which started the whole mess and let the story end – or begin.

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

In a reverse-chronology world, everything is inverted. A wedding becomes a divorce; death, an awakening; and hitting the jackpot means returning the prize and falling back into the old rut. Which is really the only thing Jarmila wants – to go back to when things were simpler. Although the story revolves around the seductive power of money, I have chosen to frame it as a tragic comedy, a genre I find the truest to life. Rather than pitying the characters, I empathise with them – while striving to find the humour in where their desires have led.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Born in Slovakia, Alica Bednáríková studied film directing at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. Her latest film *Liquid Bread* screened as part of La Cínéf at the 2022 edition of Festival de Cannes and European Film Promotion’s Future Frames at the 56th edition of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

nutprodukcja focuses on cooperation with Slovak filmmakers and international co-productions. It recently completed *Victim* by Michal Blaško (2022), which was screened at festivals such as Venice, Toronto, and Busan; and *By a Sharp Knife* by Teodor Kuhn (2019) that received eight nominations for national awards and was awarded for Best Director at the Cottbus IFF. nutprodukcja co-produced the short film *Love, Dad* by Diana Cam Van Nguyen (2021), which, in addition to numerous awards from various festivals, received an EFA nomination in the Best Short Film category, and *Spoor* by Agnieszka Holland (2017) that won the Silver Bear at the Berlinale.



Period Drama Period Drama

Czech Republic – Slovakia | 17 min.
animation | dramedy | in development

DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY: Michaela Mihalyi

EDITOR: Katarína Pavelková

PRODUCER: Jakub Rálek (BFILM.cz, CZ)

CO-PRODUCER: Michaela Mihalyi (Worst Films, SK)

WORKSHOPS & FORUMS: NEF Animation Residency 2021, Anidox: Lab, MacDowell Residency, Animation Sans Frontières

SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Czech Film Fund, Slovak Literary Fund

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 180 000

PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY: Spring 2024

EXPECTED RELEASE: Spring/Summer 2025

CONTACT

BFILM.cz
www.bfilm.cz
jakub@bfilm.cz
+420 737 125 063



Michaela
Mihalyi



Jakub
Rálek

SYNOPSIS

She's young and ready for it. But when she finally gets her first period, it doesn't feel how it should. It's a nightmare. *Period Drama* is a short four-chapter animated film, with plot points referencing the biological events during the menstrual cycle. Menstruation connects the vignettes like a secret thread. Through the humorous gaze of a character, the film analyses menstruation's essential and often baffling presence in life. While commenting on adolescence, gender politics, sexuality, motherhood, and Orlando Bloom, she takes us on a surreal trip that begins with her first period and continues as she, much like an egg, matures.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The film employs contemporary language and a comical perspective of the protagonist to present an engaging overview of her experiences, using documentary nuances as well as mockumentary, autofiction, dramedy, and poetic allegory genres. We hope to convey the sense of a direct confession to the audience through voiceover and the character's frequent breaking of the fourth wall. The washed-out pastel colour palette is influenced by the aesthetic of menstrual product brochures and adverts, and acts as a narrative tool throughout the film.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Michaela Mihalyi studied animation at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava and FAMU in Prague, where she is now located. She has created a number of really short films throughout her studies that have been shown at

several film festivals. Her most recent film, *Sh_t Happens* (2019), co-directed with Dávid Štumpf, premiered at the 76th Venice IFF and since then has been screened at numerous international film festivals including Sundance, Clermont-Ferrand, and Palm Springs. The film was nominated for national film awards in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and was shortlisted for the 46th César Awards. Michaela usually collaborates with Dávid, having worked on numerous animated advertisements and festival idents together. She has a dog called Berta and equally loves films, coffee, and beer.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Jakub Rálek is graduate of film and TV production at FAMU in Prague. In addition to a number of school films, including the award-winning animated films *The Kite* by Martin Smatana (2019) and *Sh_t Happens* by Dávid Štumpf and Michaela Mihalyi (2019), which were co-produced with BFILM.cz, he has worked in independent, advertising, documentary, and TV production. He was line producer for the web-series *#martyisdead* (2019), which was the first Czech project to win the prestigious International Emmy Award in 2020. Since 2022, he has been the producer and MD of the animation studio Divize, and in 2023 was appointed MD of BFILM.cz where he previously worked.



Pozor, padá SNG! Hanging Without Walls

Slovakia | 80 min.
documentary | art/family drama | in post-production

DIRECTORS & SCREENPLAY: Jana Durajová, Lena Kušnieriková

DOP: Dominik Jursa, Ivo Miko

EDITORS: Alexandra Jonášová, Ivo Trajkov, Matěj Sláma

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

CO-PRODUCER: Radio and Television Slovakia (SK)

INTERNATIONAL DELEGATE: Arkaitz Basterra

WORKSHOPS & FORUMS: Thessaloniki Pitching Forum 2022,
Dok.incubator SK 2022, Thessaloniki Works in Progress 2023

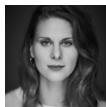
SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 217 700

EXPECTED RELEASE: Autumn 2023

CONTACT

PubRes
www.pubres.sk
pubres@pubres.sk
+421 2 5263 4203



Jana
Durajová



Lena
Kušnieriková



Arkaitz
Basterra

SYNOPSIS

The Kafkaesque process of Slovak National Gallery's renovation has lasted over a decade with no end in sight. For all those years Alexandra, the gallery's managing director, has fought alongside her father, the architect appointed to oversee the reconstruction, to deliver the dream of a modern cultural institution to the wider public. Between perpetually-postponed permits and on-going battles with constructors, this bureaucratic rollercoaster makes Alexandra wonder whether it's mission impossible.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The film depicts the Slovak National Gallery's reconstruction, which has taken over a decade and counting. We mainly focus on our main characters as they confront their challenges, failures, and dreams to create a better world. There are multiple storytelling layers: the protagonists, the building, and archive materials. Reflecting on the current situation, we feel strongly compelled to tell this story and support Alexandra's goal: the importance of building a space that embraces democratic values and critical thinking.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Both Jana Durajová and Lena Kušnieriková graduated from the Documentary Department of Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. They're focused on directing their own feature and short length creative documentaries and TV documentaries, and *Hanging Without Walls* is their debut feature documentary film.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

PubRes, with Zuzana Mistríková and Ľubica Orechovská as the main producers, focuses on developing and producing fiction, documentary, and animation projects of international potential.

Selected filmography: *The Teacher* (dir. Jan Hřebejk, 2016, Karlovy Vary IFF); *The Lust For Power* (dir. Tereza Nvotová, 2017, IDFF Ji.hlava, EFA Documentary Selection 2018); *Insect* (dir. Jan Švankmajer, 2018, IFF Rotterdam); *Alchemical Furnace* (dir. Jan Daňhel, Adam Olha, 2020, IFF Rotterdam), *The Painted Bird* (dir. Václav Marhoul, 2019, Venice IFF, Oscar shortlisted, EFA nominated), and *Reconstruction of the Occupation* (dir. Jan Šikl, 2021, Karlovy Vary IFF).



Redakcia / Редакція The Editorial Office

Ukraine – Germany – Czech Republic – Slovakia | 110 min.
fiction | drama | in post-production

DIRECTOR: Roman Bondarchuk

SCREENPLAY: Roman Bondarchuk, Darya Averchenko, Alla Tiutiunyyk

DOP: Vadym Ilkov

EDITORS: Viktor Onysko, Nikon Romanchenko

PRODUCERS: Darya Bassel (Moon Man, UA),
Darya Averchenko (South Films, UA)

CO-PRODUCERS: Tanja Georgieva-Waldhauer (Elemag Pictures, DE),
Dagmar Sedláčková (MasterFilm, CZ), Katarína Krnáčová (Silverart, SK)

WORKSHOPS & FORUMS: Connecting Cottbus 2020, Odessa Industry Pitch
2020, Ukrainian Films Now (Marché du Film, 2022)

SUPPORT: Ukrainian State Film Agency, Ukrainian Cultural Foundation,
Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung, Czech Film Fund,
Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Eurimages

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 1 164 863

EXPECTED RELEASE: 2023

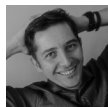
CONTACT

Silverart

www.silverartfilm.sk

katarina.krnacova@gmail.com

+421 905 384 615



Roman
Bondarchuk



Darya
Bassel



Katarína
Krnáčová

SYNOPSIS

Yura works at a local nature museum. While looking for rare species in the forest, he witnesses an arson. He takes the photos to a local newspaper, which offers him a job. In his new profession, it dawns to him that the reality around him is a far cry from that depicted in the newspaper.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

At 14, I dropped out of school and went to work for a commercial newspaper in Kherston, Southern Ukraine. We wrote about spiritual healers, accidents, prostitutes, market prices – topics which the readership was willing to pay for, according to the owner. When there wasn't enough news on these topics, we invented them. That's how I discovered that there were two parallel realities. The first one is the "façade" which looks like a democracy with regular elections, an alleged functioning police and a supposed court of justice. The second reality is in the shadows; people don't really talk about it. In this reality, decisions are made by those who have seized the resources and control the money flows. This second reality is much harsher and more dangerous. So, the first official reality often looks grotesque in comparison, like an imitation or even parody of itself. We positioned the film at the intersection of these two realities.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Roman Bondarchuk graduated from the Kyiv National University of Theatre, Cinema and TV. His teacher was

Yuriy Illenko – one of the founders of the Ukrainian Poetic Cinema school. Roman has created a number of short films, documentaries, and music videos. The award-winner of national and international film festivals. His famous films include *Volcano* (2018), *Cafe Voyage* (2013), *Euromaidan. Rough cut* (2014), and *Ukrainian Sheriffs* (2015).

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Darya Bassel has worked in the filmmaking industry since 2008. She's served on juries at numerous festivals, including IDFA, Krakow FF, and Visions du réel. In 2019 she started Moon Man, which produces fiction and documentary films with a strong author's approach. In 2022 Darya produced *Butterfly Vision* (dir. Maksym Nakonechnyi) for TABOR production, which premiered at Cannes 2022 in the Un Certain Regard section.

Silverart is a production company that focuses on feature films and TV series, striving for eco-friendly, sustainable, and gender-balanced film productions on-screen and off-screen. It was founded by producer Katarína Krnáčová, an EAVE graduate, Vice-President of Slovak Film and Television Academy, and a voting member of the EFA. She produced *Little Harbour* (dir. Iveta Grófová, 2017), the Berlinale Crystal Bear winner, and her line-up also includes *Stand Up* (dir. Juraj Bohuš, 2022), *Summer Rebels* (dir. Martina Saková, 2020), and *How I Learned To Fly* (dir. Radoje Andrić, 2022).



Spievajúci dom The Singing House

Slovakia – Czech Republic – Poland – Hungary | 90 min.
fiction | dramedy | in development

DIRECTOR: Andrej Kolenčík

SCREENPLAY: Jakub Medvecký

DOP: Tomasz Wierzbicki

PRODUCER: Andrej Kolenčík (Admiral Films, SK)

CO-PRODUCERS: Jordi Niubo (i/o post, CZ),
Andrzej Wyszyński (Water Color Studio, PL),
Anna Sípós (Futurizmus Kft. – Stranger Films Budapest, HU)

WORKSHOPS & FORUMS: Heart of Europe 2022, Poland

SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 700 000

EXPECTED RELEASE: 2024

CONTACT

Admiral Films
www.kolencik.org
admiral@kolencik.org
+421 904 639 359



Andrej
Kolenčík

SYNOPSIS

The conflict between a mysterious woman and her neighbours escalates when she installs a device on her house that plays an opera aria from dawn to dusk, 365 days a year, for 15 years... Based on true events.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Our story is a metaphor for the contemporary world in which we are always confronting new problems. Society is unprepared for new challenges, as are the residents in our film. They face a wholly new problem, and run up against the elites and system that should ensure that the plug is pulled on the aria's public blaring. But when they fail to act, locals take justice into their own hands. We believe that the radicalisation of "ordinary" people is something that poses a major threat to society as whole – both in Slovakia and globally.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Andrej Kolenčík is a film director and visual artist. Currently director and producer of fiction, documentary, and animation films at Admiral Films – his production company. In 2014 he was selected for Berlinale Talents. Short films he has directed have been awarded dozens of prizes at hundreds of international festivals (e.g. Golden Egg at the Kunstendorf film festival in Serbia), and domestically (Sun in the Net national film award). His films have been screened at festival such as Palm Springs, Atlanta, Guanajuato, Tallinn, DOXA, Cinequest, and IFF Riga.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Admiral Films is based in Slovakia. Founded in 2015 by film director and producer Andrej Kolenčík, the company produces feature films, short films, music videos, and documentaries – as well as animation, design, and illustration. The company aims to produce films sustainably and environmentally. New short film *Revelation of John* directed by Andrej Kolenčík (2022) is currently touring international festivals.



Svlékat mlhy Shedding the Mist

Slovakia – Czech Republic | 20 min.
fiction | sci-fi, drama | in post-production

DIRECTOR: Kateřina Hroníková

SCREENPLAY: Kateřina Hroníková, Kristína Žilínčárová

DOP: Adam Mach

EDITOR: Sebastian Kučkovský

PRODUCER: Nataša Jurčová Findrová (FTF VŠMU, SK)

CO-PRODUCERS: Markéta Pášmová,
Milan Krupička (Nadační fond Filmtalent Zlín, CZ)

SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 20 000

EXPECTED RELEASE: August 2023

CONTACT

Academy of Performing Arts –
Film and TV Faculty (FTF VŠMU)
www.ftf.vsmu.sk
festivals@vsmu.sk
+421 2 5930 3577



Kateřina
Hroníková



Nataša Jurčová
Findrová

SYNOPSIS

Shedding the Mist follows Johana and Ivo. They're a couple who are trying to navigate their desires in an anti-utopian world where access to images is severely restricted. The possibility of the literal clouding of their vision continually hovers over the film, creating a constant underlying sense of unease. The film targets the importance of images, and the emotion and value we attribute images in our lives. The story is a response to the general oversaturation of images in contemporary society, and our inability to properly process such images as they're often just a filler between us and reality.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The film was born out of a desire to consider the relationship between us and images through the audiovisual medium. My original intention was to explore the mirror as an object that constitutes the most basic opportunity for self-reflection. More importantly, I was curious about what would happen if mirrors were banned overnight. While creating the rules and logic of such a reality, we eventually decided to set the film in an anti-utopia. We asked ourselves how and to what extent do images enter our lives, and how do they influence our behaviour.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Kateřina Hroníková was born in Prague. Her previous work consists of short films, ranging from documentary and experimental films to fictional narratives that have been screened at various A-listed European film festivals. She graduated in Documentary Filmmaking at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. Together with her long-term collaborator (Kristína Žilínčárová), they wrote her bachelor's film *Rheum* (2021), and her master's film *Shedding the Mist* that is currently in post-production.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Nataša Jurčová Findrová is currently finishing her Master's degree in Production and Distribution at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. She received her Bachelor's degree in Documentary Film Directing from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, and her previous background is in acting and performance. Currently she's working on her first production debut under the umbrella of her company Murmur Films. She is the executive producer for several feature documentary films. She is also acting as a PR manager for both the Slovak Queer Film Festival and the NGO Otherness Initiative, and PR & Production Manager for Lumière cinema.



Údolie vdov The Valley of the Widows

Slovakia – Czech Republic – Romania | 90 min.
documentary | in production

DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY: Miro Jelok

DOP: Jaromír Kačer

PRODUCERS: Katarína Jonisová, Miro Jelok (Vinťafilms, SK)

CO-PRODUCERS: Erik Jasan (dog 95 film factory, SK),
Jordi Niubó (i/o post, CZ), Bálint Zagoni (Filmtett, RO),
Mátyás Prikler (Mphilms, SK)

SUPPORT: Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Slovak Literary Fund

ESTIMATED BUDGET: € 443 000

EXPECTED RELEASE: 2026

CONTACT

Vinťafilms
miro.jelok@gmail.com,
jonisova.katarina@gmail.com



Miro
Jelok



Katarína
Jonisová

SYNOPSIS

Geamăna is a small Romanian village in the Transylvanian valley. It's been sinking into toxic sludge for almost 40 years, incrementally buried by mud released from nearby opencast mining. Thousands of tonnes of waste flow into the valley every day. Near to a tailings pond, there live only a few widows and a young woman called Valerica who fled her despotic husband and moved into an abandoned house inherited from her father. She has drawn a line under her past life. Amidst a devastated surreal landscape, Valerica tries to live anew and finds her own little paradise.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The film silently follows Valerica's life and its twists and turns over five years. We are also witness to a gradually rising muddy water level and a changing landscape. In contrast to the massive destruction of nature, we tell Valerica's story as intimately as possible in a purely observational way. We accompany our protagonists in a rented house, and we shoot during long stays of several weeks. As a small film crew, we've been living in Geamăna for over two years.

The story of Geamăna's people greatly touches us, and it raises multiple questions – both in relation to the environmental crisis, and also seeking solutions to many other problems that we often postpone. The toxic sludge created by our ruthless activity has been

slowly rising over the years. We are running out of time, and as individuals there's nothing we can do about it. Oddly enough, even in these conditions our need to find inner peace and individual freedom is still important. Valerica revolted against social conventions and found the courage to seek happiness – alone and modestly – far from civilization.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Miro Jelok graduated from the Documentary Film Studio at The Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. Miro made a 52-minute documentary about women crossing the Schengen border in search for a better life in Europe (*Promised Land, Please, Get Out!*, 2012). His *Shhh!* short story was part of the *Slovakia 2.0* (2014) omnibus film, where Miro was selected as a promising director and among the 10 best directors in Slovakia. The film premiered at the Warsaw FF, and was officially selected for Cottbus FF, Art Film Fest, and Molodist Kyiv FF.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Slovakia-based Vinťafilms produces independent auteur documentaries. It is represented by young filmmaker and producer Katarína Jonisová (1997), who has already made several internationally well-received short documentaries and TV-series. She studied at the Documentary Film Studio at The Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava.



Danijel Hočevan

Film producer and CEO at Vertigo, a Ljubljana, Slovenia-based production company with a distinctive track record and extensive working experience on international co-productions, including award-winning feature films such as *Pero* by Damjan Kozole (2023; IFF Rotterdam), *The Happiest Man in the World* by Teona Mitevska (2022; Venice IFF – Orizzonti), *Wake Me* by Marko Šantić (2022; Tallinn Black Nights FF), *Small Body* by Laura Samani (2021; Cannes Critics' Week; European Discovery – Prix FIPRESCI at European Film Awards), *Reconciliation* by Marija Zidar (2021; CPH:DOX), *Father* by Srđan Golubović (2020; Berlinale Panorama Audience Award), *An Episode in the Life of an Iron Picker* by Danis Tanović (2013, Silver Bear: Grand Jury Prize at Berlinale), *Alexandrians* by Metod Pevec (2011; Best Documentary at Trieste FF), *Bread and Milk* by Jan Cvitković (2001; Lion of the Future at Venice IFF), and *Nightlife* (2016; Best Director Award at Karlovy Vary IFF), *Slovenian Girl* (2009; Toronto IFF), and *Spare Parts* (2003, Berlinale Competition) all by Damjan Kozole.

Danijel has been selected among Variety's Ten Producers to Watch in 2001. He is a voting member of the European Film Academy, and was the president of the Association of Slovenian Film Producers. Since 2005, he's been actively involved as a tutor with several European training initiatives such as Midpoint (since 2013, Head of Studies at Midpoint), EAVE, Nipkow Program, and Maia Workshops (2015 – 2018). Danijel is also a selection team member of the When East Meets West co-production project market in Trieste.

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Successful projects previously presented at

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Of the films presented at BID Works in Progress since 2016, 51 have been completed and many enjoyed a successful festival and distribution run.

Ako som sa stala partizánkou / How I Became a Partisan

SK – CZ | dir. Vera Lacková | prod. Media Voice
BID 2019 | WP: goEast Wiesbaden 2021

Amnestie / Amnesty

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

Architekt drsnej poetiky / Architect of Brutal Poetry

SK – CZ – BR | dir. Ladislav Kaboš | prod. EDIT Studio
BID 2021 | WP: IFF Cinematik Piešťany 2021

Backstage

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

Bolo raz jedno more... / Once There Was a Sea...

SK – PL | dir. Joanna Kožuch | prod. BFILM
BID 2017 | IP: Clermont-Ferrand ISFF 2022

Cenzorka / IO7 Mothers

SK – CZ – UA | dir. Peter Kerekes | prod. Punkchart films
BID 2016 | WP: Venice IFF 2021

Cesta do nemožna / The Impossible Voyage

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

Čiara / The Line

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

Čiary / Lines

SK | dir. Barbora Sliepková | prod. HITCHHIKER Cinema
BID 2018 | WP: Jihlava IDFF 2021

Dežo Hoffmann – fotograf Beatles / Dezo Hoffmann – Photographer of The Beatles

SK – CZ | dir. Patrik Lančarič | prod. Trigon Production
BID 2016 | WP: 2022

Diera v hlave / A Hole in the Head

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

Divoké bytosti / Wild Beasts

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

Dobrá smrť / The Good Death

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

Et j'aime à la fureur / Flickering Ghosts**of Loves Gone By**

FR | dir. André Bonzel | prod. Les films du poisson (FR)
BID 2016 | WP: Festival de Cannes 2021

Hluché dni / Silent Days

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

Hotel Úsvit / Sunrise Hotel

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

Invalid

SK – CZ | dir. Jonáš Karásek | prod. AZYL Production
BID 2022 | WP: 2023

Katedrála / The Cathedral

SK | dir. Denis Dobrovoda | prod. Kolsa Films SK
BID 2022 | WP: Krakow FF 2022

Kid

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

Letní rebeli / Summer Rebels

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

Loli paradička

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

Malá ríša / Little Kingdom

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

Moc / Power

SK – HU – CZ | dir. Mátyás Prikler | prod. MPhilms
BID 2021 | WP: IFF Rotterdam 2023

Nech je svetlo / Let There Be Light

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

Neviditeľná / Unseen

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

Nina

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

Obeť / Victim

SK – CZ – DE | dir. Michal Blaško | prod. nutprodukcia
BID 2020 | WP: Venice IFF 2022

Odchádzania / Leaving to Remain

SK – GB – CZ | dir. Mira Erdevicki | prod. PubRes
BID 2021 | WP: Ji.hlava IDFF 2022

Ostrým nožom / By a Sharp Knife

SK – CZ | dir. Teodor Kuhn | prod. nutprodukcia
BID 2016 | IP: Shanghai IFF 2019

Piargy / The Ballad of Piargy

SK – CZ – MK | dir. Ivo Trajkov | prod. ARINA
BID 2017 | IP: FF Cottbus 2022

Pivnica / The Cellar

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

Plastic Symphony / Plastic Symphony

SK – PL – CZ | dir. Juraj Lehotský | prod. ARYTMA
BID 2021 | WP: Tallinn Black Nights 2022

Po sezóne / Off Season

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

Prázdna množina / No Elements

SK | dir. Barbara Vojtašáková | prod. FTF VŠMU
BID 2022 | WP: Doclisboa 2022

Raj na zemi / Paradise on Earth

SK | dir. Jaro Vojtek | prod. MPhilms
BID 2018 | WP: Ji.hlava IDFF 2019

Samorast (O sliepkach a ľudoch) / Maverick (Of Hen and Men)

SK | dir. Peter Hoferica | prod. FTF VŠMU
BID 2021 | WP: 2021

Si aj to, čo si nepamätáš / Purple Is a Nice Color

SK | dir. Dorota Vlnová | prod. FTF VŠMU
BID 2020 | WP: 2021

Skutok sa stal / Never Happened

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

Služka / The Chambermaid

SK – CZ | dir. Mariana Čengel Solčanská | prod. Bright Sight
Pictures | BID 2017 | WP: Tallinn Black Nights 2022

Služobníci / Servants

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

Spoons

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

Správa / The Auschwitz Report

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

Strigov

SK | dir. Barbora Berezňáková | prod. Známa firma
BID 2021 | WP: Docaviv 2022

The Sailor

SK | dir. Lucia Kašová | prod. TOXPRO
BID 2019 | WP: Hot Docs Toronto 2021

Ticho na poli / Homeland of Silence

SK | dir. Štefánia Lovasová | prod. FTF VŠMU
BID 2019 | WP: 2022

To ta monarchia / King Bee

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

Turnaj snov / The Eagles from Taga

RO – SK | dir. Adina Popescu, Iulian Manuel Ghervas
prod. WE ARE BASCA (RO), LEON Productions (SK)
BID 2019 | WP: 2022

Tvojazem / Journey to Yourland

SK – BE – CZ | dir. Peter Budinský | prod. BFILM
BID 2017 | WP: Zlín FF 2022

Učiteľka / The Teacher

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

Villa Lucia

SK – CZ | dir. Michal Kollár | prod. KFS production
BID 2018 | WP: 2023

Zošalieť / Unbalanced

SK – CZ | dir. Zuzana Piusi | prod. VIRUSfilm
BID 2021 | WP: Tallinn Black Nights 2022

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Program

March 17

Works in Progress presentation

10:00 | Slovak National Gallery

Networking lunch

12:00 | Hotel Park Inn

Individual meetings

14:00 | Hotel Park Inn

Awards Ceremony & screening of Notes from Eremocene

19:30 | Slovak National Gallery

Afterparty

22:00 | Kafe Scherz