

# REPORT ON THE SLOVAK AUDIOVISUAL SITUATION IN 2005



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# INTRODUCTION

MEDIA Desk Slovakia has initiated and published the Report on the Slovak Audiovisual Situation for the third time now, this time for the year 2005. Already three years ago, when the Slovak office of the European Union's MEDIA Programme began operating, we realised that there was no institution in Slovakia which would develop and publish such a document. As one of the basic objectives of the programme and our office is to develop activities leading to an integration of the national (Slovak) audiovisual sector into the European audiovisual industry, we took on this task. The significance of the Report for the local and international scene is indisputable. The Report presents, in a transparent structure, comprehensive information about the current state and development trends in all areas of the local audiovisual industry.

The Slovak audiovisual industry is currently undergoing an unambiguously positive development despite certain divergences and despite some unresolved issues (relations between the public television and independent producers) and negative trends (dropping number of audiences in cinemas).

State support has grown arithmetically (this year the subsidies total EUR 3,886,715 which is practically double the support received in 2005), more and more feature films, documentaries and animated films are being made and many are made (even thanks to the Eurimages and MEDIA Programmes) in international co-productions; the works of film academy students continue to be internationally acclaimed (especially documentaries and animated films).

With a little optimism we may state that the Slovak audiovisual sector has proven its viability, it has taken off from the ground and is slowly getting to a level at which we would all like to see it.

I believe that the Report on the Slovak Audiovisual Situation in 2005 is a document which will help you form a comprehensive idea of the Slovak audiovisual industry, its development trends and its position in the European context, and will answer all your questions in detail.

Vladimír Štric Director of MEDIA Desk Slovakia

#### LEGISLATION

The funding of public service media was the main topic in the area of media legislation in 2005. The Bill on Broadcast Receiver Licences (Bill on Licence Fees) which was already drafted in 2004 by the Ministry of Culture, was not submitted to the Government due to a lack of political will, and funds from the national budget definitely ceased to be earmarked for public media (in the case of the Slovak Radio even for activities which are to be state-funded pursuant to the Act on the Slovak Radio). The Slovak Radio started generating a loss and as for the Slovak Television (public service broadcaster), it began to be clear that the Slovak Television is able to maintain an eventual balanced budget only at the expense of failure to perform its public duties. Therefore, in the course of 2005 proposals to amend the Act on Slovak Television regulating its obligations or the obligations of the Slovak Television Council (two proposals, none of which was adopted) appeared in Parliament, there were three attempts to amend the Act on Licence Fees (the last one brought the so-called general pardon and it reacted to the exaction of charges on the delay of payments of

licence fees several years backwards – by the Slovak Television as well as Slovak Radio – Act 96/2006 Coll.). By the end of the year the parliamentary Bill on the Television and Radio Licence Fees, prepared by the Slovak Television together with the Slovak Radio, was put forward to the legislative procedure. It partially followed up the original initiative of the Ministry of Culture which substantially altered the philosophy of payment of fees (the payment stopped being related to the ownership of a radio or TV set) and which strove to make the payment collection system more efficient and easier. However, Parliament did not read the bill in the end due to the shortening of the election term.

In the course of 2005 Members of Parliament repeatedly tried to amend the Act on Radio and Television Broadcasting as well. Altogether four drafts were submitted, whereby the first one was adopted in May and subsequently returned by the President on the initiative of the Ministry of Culture (the Ministry pointed out its non-compliance with the Television without Frontiers Directive). Parliament adopted two of the other three drafts in the end and they were published in the Collection of Laws under numbers 95/2006 and 121/2006.

The most significant legislative activity in the area of audiovision in Slovakia, however, was the drafting of the Bill on Audiovision which should replace the 1996 Act on Audiovisuals.

The Bill was especially based on the requirement of ensuring protection of Slovakia's audiovi-sual heritage in connection with the adoption of the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage and the Protocol to the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage, on the Protection of Television Productions, as well as on the full membership of the Slovak Republic in FIAF (International Federation of Film Archives) - which is a federation associating the most important national filmotheques and film archives of the world. At the same time the Bill took into consideration - especially in its concepts - the technological progress of the information society, including its international aspect and the requirement of the public to increase the protection of minors against unsuitable content of audiovisual works, verbal or music sound recordings and multimedia works, especially computer games. The Bill represents a comprehensive regulation of the duties of natural persons and legal entities in the selection, distribution and registration of audiovisual works, sound recordings of artistic performances and multimedia works, and the position of an independent producer. The Bill further stipulates a Single Labelling System for the Protection of Minors, conditions of protection and recovery of the audiovisual heritage of the Slovak Film Institute as a partially state-funded organisation, which is connected to the national budget through the budget chapter of the Ministry of Culture. The Bill does not include the proposal to create a cinematographic fund for the support of Slovak audiovisual works, as this area will be regulated by a separate law.

The Bill on Audiovision was submitted to the National Council of the Slovak Republic for discussion, however, given the shortened election term it will have to be submitted to the legislative procedure again in the second half of 2006.

#### FILM EDUCATION

Although there are several art schools in Slovakia, including the Academy of Arts (AKU) in Banská Bystrica and the University of St. Cyril and Method (UCM) in Trnava, the Faculty of Mass Media Communication – the Department of Artistic Creation – audiovisual art has been taught only marginally. Most recently increased attention has been paid to exploring the creative potential of the youngest generation, in particular at two schools of art in Bratislava – L'udovít Rajter's Elementary School of Art and the Private Secondary School of Animation. The works of these students were presented at the Art Film International Film Festival 2005 in Trenčianske Teplice. From October 4 to December 20, the Tatra Movie Theatre in Bratislava hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of a unique **Film School** project open (without age limitation) primarily to those fans of cinematography who have not yet been involved in professional film-making. This project allowed the participants to take a look behind the scenes of film making by attending meetings, participating in discussions, film projections, talks and presentations by film makers.

Nevertheless, the Film and Television Faculty at the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (FTF) in Bratislava, headed since 2003 by Dean Stanislav Párnický, has continued to play a crucial role in preparing future filmmakers, script editors and producers. FTF is a member of CILECT – International Association of Film and Television Schools, and its European section GEECT – European Grouping of Film and Television Schools.

At present, there are 9 study programmes running at the film school: 1. Film Studies – Head of Studio Václav Macek; 2. Script Editing and Script Writing – Head of Studio Dušan Dušek; 3. Film and TV Directing – Head of Studio Martin Šulík (who was replaced by Dušan Trančík); 4. Documentaries – Head of Studio Vladimír Balco; 5. Animation – Head of Studio Rudolf Urc (who was replaced by František Jurišič); 6. Cinematography and Photography – Head of Studio Stanislav Szomolányi (who was replaced by Ján Ďuriš); 7. Editing – Head of Studio Ľudovít Labík; 8. Sound – Head of Studio Juraj Lexman (who was replaced by Igor Vrabec); 9. Production and Distribution of Film Art and Multi Media – Head of Studio Peter Nižňanský.

The Faculty has finally moved to its new premises on Svoradova street, but still needs to be equipped with advanced high-quality technology to prepare the students for their profession. The first step in this respect was the setting up of a sound studio and two cinema theatres. On October 27, 2005, one of the cinema theatres hosted the first projection of the new school film club under the title of **35 mm**.

The FTF acquires the funds necessary for the financing of its activities primarily from the grants offered by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture (allocating EUR 60,115 in 2005), and it also generates some resources in cooperation with a number of private companies. However, the film school has assumed some commercial activities of its own in the future to generate funds allowing the school to fully utilize and operate its new premises, thus improving conditions for the students.

In the last couple of years, works created by FTF students have constituted the most representative part of Slovak film making. This has been proven by a broad range of national and international prizes awarded to student films. The most successful films included the graduation feature film Night in a Hotel (Noc v hoteli, 2004) by Matúš Libovič awarded by Students of Angers Award in the category of European Student Films at the 17<sup>th</sup> Edition of Premiers Plans Festival D'Angers, France; the Best Fiction Video Award in the category of Feature Video Films at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Black & White Audiovisual Festival Porto, Portugal; the Silver OFF in the Category of Feature Films at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the OFFensiva International Film Festival in Wroclaw, Poland; and an Honourable Mention of the Jury at the 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Milano Film Festival. Further films that were successful at international festivals include Natural Death (Prirodzená smrť, directed by Michal Krajňák, 2004), Supper-man (directed by Albert Vlk, 2005) and Dancer (Tanečník, directed by Kristína Herczegová, 2004); documentaries on the circle of hackers H4XOR (directed by Samuel)

Jaško, 2004) and on a refugee camp **Looking for Illusions** (H'adanie ilúzií, directed by Sahraa Karimi, 2005); the film **LooP** (directed by Milan Balog, 2004) of the **Europe Around Us? – We in Europe!** Project; as well as animated films **Lionardo Mio** (directed by Ivana Šebestová, 2005) and **Super Superman** (directed by Michal Uhrín, 2004). You will find the awards and prizes won by these films in the chapter "Acknowledgement of Slovak Films and Filmmakers Abroad".

Two films of FTF students – Natural Death and Cheers! (Nazdravíčko!, directed by Ivana Zajacová and Jozef Mitaľ, 2005) have even been included in broad-scale distribution and are screened prior to full-length feature films.

In 2005, students of FTF participated in the Berlin International Film Festival – at the 3<sup>rd</sup> gathering of young film makers Berlinale Talent Campus Slovakia was represented by Samuel Jaško; at the Cannes International Film Festival, Zuzana Wallnerová, a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student of Film Studies at FTF, participated in the project Prix de la Jeunesse.

Andrzej Wajda, the world-famous Polish film director, visited the Faculty during the International Film, Video and TV Festival Febiofest in April. During the Bratislava International Film Festival in December, the students of the Academy of Fine Arts and FTF had an opportunity to meet Sylvain Despretz, film designer and storyboard artist of Hollywood films. In November, there was a 3-day workshop facilitated by Jan Fleischer, scriptwriter and professor of NFTS national film school in Beaconsfield near London, organized within the granting programme of the Ministry of Education SR KEGA – Best Kept Secrets. The next significant event held on FTF was a 3-day seminar on Development Skills organized by the MEDIA Desk Slovakia in cooperation with Arista Development Training Programme, Ministry of Culture SR, Školfilm Foundation and FTF. Its main objective was to help Slovak audiovision professionals adjust their projects to the needs of the European audiovisual market. The seminar was facilitated by Stephen Cleary, British film producer, founder and director of Arista Development. From October 11-13, FTF hosted a workshop and the closing event of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the competition of scriptwriters for the Tibor Vichta Prize, open to young authors up to 35 years of age.

The 10<sup>th</sup> ÁČKO International Student Film Festival was rescheduled for March 2006, and the films made by Slovak students, for the first time, competed with foreign films included in the same category.

# FILM PRODUCTION

Following a decrease in 2004, when only two full-length feature films were made, in 2005 we again recorded an increase in production. Six Slovak and co-production films were copyrighted 2005 - Terminal Station (Konečná stanica, d. Jiří Chlumský, SK), Here We Are (My zdes, d. Jaroslav Vojtek, SK), Friday or Another Day (Piatok alebo iný deň, d. Yvan Le Moine, BE/FR /IT/SK), Wrong Side Up (Príbehy obyčajného šialenstva, d. Petr Zelenka, CZ/SK/DE), The City of the Sun (Slnečný štát, d. Martin Šulík, SK/CZ) and Lunacy (Šílení, d. Jan Švankmajer, CZ/SK). In addition, in November 2005, the shooting of a further three films was completed, and the production of six new titles began. This increase in production activities was influenced primarily by the accession to the European Union and the economic reforms that raised the credit of Slovakia, along with the increased state subsidies (we were advised of subsidies amounting to EUR 3,886,715 to be received in 2006).

Terminal Station was screened for the first time at the 6<sup>th</sup> IFF Bratislava 2004. This absurd comedy was based upon a play of the same name by Stanislav Štepka, successful with audiences, from the repertoire of Radošina Naive Theatre: its leitmotiv is the investigation of a murder in a small, godforsaken and desolate railway station. At the 40<sup>th</sup> IFF Karlovy Vary, the main competition included Martin Šulík's new film The City of the Sun - a story of four workers who suddenly find themselves unemployed. The film is a rare example of the domestic reflection of the era we live in. The Slovak Film and Television Academy has, already for the fifth time, selected Šulík's film to be the national candidate for the American Film Academy Award (Oscar). The documentary competition included a performance of a full-length documentary. Here We Are, telling the story of a family which, after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, decided to return to Europe - to Slovakia, which they knew only from the tales of their parents. The film Friday or Another Day was nominated to the IFF Locarno; it is a special adaptation of the classic story of Robinson Crusoe in the spirit of French culture, telling the story of an old man who has to live on an abandoned island. Petr Zelenka, a cult scriptwriter and director of recent popular hits, shot a film based upon his own successful play, Wrong Side Up, a comedy-like love story about different forms of love, awarded at the IFF Moscow. The last film made in 2005 is the philosophical horror **Lunacy** set in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, freely inspired by the short stories of E. A. Poe - The Premature Burial and The System of Dr. Tarr and Prof. Fether.

The significant decline in the field of documentaries has ceased. The Slovak Television has continued to be the biggest producer. In 2005, it also produced the full-length feature film **Silence** (Ticho, d. Zuzana Liová) about a man trying to find the way to his estranged children and wife. Nevertheless, the share of private production companies increases from year to year. This situation is most notable in the area of students' works, where some of the projects were accomplished only thanks to cooperation with private studios. In 2005, Pavol Barabáš, the most successful director of documentaries of the recent period, completed the adventurous documentary **Pururambo** and the short film **Journey through Slovakia** (Putovanie Slovenskom). Milan Balog participated in the **Europe Around Us? – We in Europe!** Project with his film **Loop**.

# STATE AUDIOVISUAL SUPPORT

The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic allocated EUR 2,202,472 in its budget for the AudioVision 2005 programme (in 2004, funds available to the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic amounted to EUR 1,523,586). After subtracting the amount of EUR 0.10 tied-up at the Ministry due to late or incorrect project clearing, the Ministry had available funds totaling EUR 2,202,370 designated for supporting audiovisual projects. Following the budget modifications during the year, the projects within the AudioVision 2005 programme were ultimately granted an amount of EUR 2,280,084.

A commission of nine members evaluated the projects in two grant rounds (December 13, 2004 and April 25, 2005) over four sessions. In the AudioVision 2005 programme, a total of 202 projects applied for funding (in 2004 it was 327) within eight sub-programmes (in 2004, there were ten sub-programmes, in addition to sub-programmes aimed at protection of and/or access to audiovisual heritage, and support of cultural policy activities within audiovisuals and cinemato-graphy); 81 projects were supported (83 in 2004):

- 01 Development of Audiovisual Works: 45 projects (of which 17 succeeded),

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- 02 Production of Audiovisual Works: 68 projects (of which 24 succeeded),
- 03 Production of Full-length Films for Cinema: 18 projects (of which 7 succeeded),
- O4 Postproduction and/or Distribution of Audiovisual Works: 16 projects (of which 8 succeeded),
- O5 Minority Co-production of Full-length films for Cinema: 9 projects (of which 2 succeeded and 2 were suggested by the commission for funding in 2006),
- 06 Distribution of Foreign Audiovisual Works: 4 projects (of which 2 succeeded),
- O7 Events, Educational Activities and/or Presentation of Audiovisual Works: 37 projects (of which 18 succeeded), and
- 08 Publishing Activities in Audiovisual Industry: 5 projects (of which 3 succeeded).
- Two projects Anna (Loving Hell) under sub-programme 05 and CINEAMA 2005 under subprogramme 07) – were selected for funding; however, the applicants withdrew from the contract.

The new and stricter criteria for project application and evaluation worked well, and therefore the commission finishing its two-year term has not recommended any changes to the structure of the AudioVision programme.

Number and title of sub-programme	Amount (in EUR)	Percentage of the total amount
01 Development of Audiovisual Works	126,966	5.6
02 Production of Audiovisual Works	198,137	8.7
03 Production of Full-length Films for Cinema	1,326,665	58.2
04 Postproduction and/or Distribution of Audiovisual Works	81,466	3.6
05 Minority Co-production of Full-length films for Cinema	129,557	5.7
06 Distribution of Foreign Audiovisual Works	8,033	0.4
07 Events, Educational Activities and/or Presentation of Audiovisual Works	394,491	17.3
08 Publishing Activities in Audiovisual Industry	14,770	0.5

#### Distribution of funds to sub-programmes within the AudioVision 2005 programme

Amount (in EUR)	Project Title	Subject	Sub-programme
336,849 Bathory		Jakubisko Film Slovakia, Ltd.	Sub-programme 03
285,026	Music (Muzika)	ALEF Film & Media Group, Ltd.	Sub-programme 03
233,203	International Film Festival Bratislava 2005 (7 <sup>th</sup> edition)	Ars Nova	Sub-programme 07
207,291	Jazzus	TaO Productions, Ltd.	Sub-programme 03
207,291	Sfumato	Trigon Production, Ltd.	Sub-programme 03
181,380	Keep Smiling	Tyzam, Ltd.	Sub-programme 03
90,690	Cooking the History (Ako sa varili dejiny)	Peter Kerekes, Ltd.	Sub-programme 03
77,734	Galician Tales (Halíčske príbehy)	Trigon Production, Ltd.	Sub-programme 05
64,779	13 <sup>th</sup> International Film Festival Art Film	Art Film, n.o.	Sub-programme 07
51,823	l Served the King of England (Obsluhoval jsem anglického krále)	Magic Box Slovakia	Sub-programme 05
25,911	By Labyrinth of Revolution (Labyrintem revoluce) (full-length documentary)	M smile, Ltd.	Sub-programme 02
24,849	Other Worlds (Iné svety)	Artileria – cultural society, association	Sub-programme 04
24,616	12 <sup>th</sup> International Film, Video and TV Festival Febiofest 2005	Association of Slovak Film Clubs	Sub-programme 07
20,729	Small Celebrations (Malé oslavy)	ALEF Film & Media Group, Ltd.	Sub-programme 01

# The highest financial support was granted to the following projects:

#### Literary Fund

The mission of the Literary Fund is to support artistic, scientific and technical literature, journalism and creativity development within theatre, film, radio and television sector. In 2005, the Creativity Section for TV, Film and Video production supported the production of new scripts for feature and documentary films within the ALFA Programme. The Section Committee has also evaluated the 2004 film and TV production, and has awarded successful film makers with an Igric Award and Kamera 2005 Award. You can find more on the Igric Award in the chapter "National Festivals, Screenings and Awards". Some allowances were paid for business trips abroad, and as rewards at anniversaries, not forgetting the performing artists who have retired. The Creativity Section for TV, Film and Video production supported producers and artists, providing EUR 68,611 to them. Almost half of this amount (EUR 33,892) was provided for 57 film makers in a form of scholarships.

#### MEDIA PROGRAMME

The Slovak Republic has been a member of the MEDIA Programme since 1 January 2003 and since 1 April 2003 MEDIA Desk Slovakia, the Programme's information and consultation office, has been operating as well. Hence, 2005 was the third year in which Slovak companies could apply for support within various schemes of the MEDIA Programme and it was an exceptionally successful year.

The overall support totalled a record EUR 439,112, of which the biggest share was held by support provided within the MEDIA Distribution scheme (EUR 369,112) and a smaller one within the MEDIA Promotion scheme – Festivals (EUR 30,000). With regard to these figures, it is necessary to understand that one of the basic objectives of the MEDIA Programme is to improve the circulation of European audiovisual works, to increase their share in the distribution network, either the traditional one (cinemas) or video distribution. The percentage of European films is growing effectively in Slovak distribution (the share of European films in the total number of films distributed in 2003 reached 39.60%, in 2004 it was 42.40% and in 2005 it was already 44%); it is evident that this growth has been boosted especially by the positive effects of the MEDIA Programme, regardless of whether we take into account the possibilities within the distribution schemes or the indirect support within the Europa Cinemas network (which is all in all supported by the MEDIA Programme).

If we add the contracted support for Slovak cinemas within the Europa Cinemas network (EUR 70,000) and the total scholarships granted by MEDIA Desk Slovakia to Slovak participants in trainings (EUR 8,865) to the aforementioned amount, the direct or indirect support totals EUR 477,977.

Thus, over all three years (2003-2005) Slovak companies were granted a total of EUR 1,006,197 in support.

The given figures clearly demonstrate the importance and significance of the MEDIA Programme for the audiovisual industry of such a small country with a low audiovisual capacity as Slovakia undoubtedly is. However, even more important than financial flows are all the activities leading to the integration of the Slovak audiovisual sector into the European audiovisual industry, regardless of whether this concerns the arithmetically growing number of Slovak participants in international trainings or contacts acquired by Slovak professionals at various seminars, workshops and markets. For this reason, in the course of 2005, MEDIA Desk Slovakia organised or co-organised seve-

ral professional seminars. In April it was the **Arista Development Skills** seminar for screenwriters, producers and film project development experts (attended by approximately 40 professionals from Slovakia, Austria, Poland and the Czech Republic), in September MEDIA Desk Slovakia participated in the organisation of the seminar on **The Financing of Public Service Televisions and Its Influence on the Content of Programme Service and on the Original Audiovisual Production** (about 30 participants, the concepts of the individual television companies were presented by experts from EBU, BBC – United Kingdom, ZDF – DE, ORF – Austria, TVP – Poland) and in December the office organised the **MEDIA Distribution** seminar as part of the IFF Bratislava (about 20 participants from Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Austria).

Company	Project	Scheme of support	Amount (in EUR)
Art Film	14 <sup>th</sup> IFF Art Film Trenčianske Teplice – Trenčín	Promotion - Festivals	30 000
Asociácia slovenských filmových klubov (Association of Slovak Film Clubs)	Support upon the number of viewers in 2004	Distribution – Automatic Support	24 489
Bioscop	Cinema Mladosť	Europa Cinemas	15 000
Bonton film	Support upon the performance on the field of video/DVD distribution in 2004	Distribution - Video/DVD Distribution	5 666
	Support upon the number of viewers in 2004	Distribution – Automatic Support	82 891
Continental Film	Factotum (d. B. Hamer, 2005, NO/USA)	Distribution - Selective Support	4 000
	<b>The Beat That My Heart Skipped</b> (d. J. Audiard, 2005, FR)	Distribution - Selective Support	3 000
	Cinema Tatra	Europa Cinemas	15 000
	<b>My Summer of Love</b> (d. P. Pawlikowski, 2004, GB)	Distribution – Selective Support	27 000
Intersonic	Renart the Fox (d. T. Schiel, 2004, LU)	Distribution - Selective Support	40 000
	Emperor's Journey (d. L. Jacquet, 2004, FR)	Distribution - Selective Support	40 000
	Hidden (d. M. Haneke, 2005, FR)	Distribution – Selective Support	30 000

#### Slovak projects supported within the MEDIA Programme

# Slovak projects supported within the MEDIA Programme

Company	Project	Scheme of support	Amount (in EUR)
Istropolis Cinema	Film club ic.sk (Charlie Centre)	Europa Cinemas	25 000
	Cinema Tatra Košice	Europa Cinemas	15 000
Ita agentúra	Support upon the number of viewers in 2004	Distribution – Automatic Support	20 832
(Ita agency)	Terkel in Trouble (d. K. V. Andersen, T. Christoffersen, S. Fjeldmark, 2004, DA)	Distribution - Selective Support	7 000
Magic Box Slovakia	Support upon the performance on the field of video/DVD distribution in 2004	Distribution - Video/DVD Distribution	8 486
Magic Box Slovakia	Support upon the number of viewers in 2004	Distribution – Automatic Support	6 436
Saturn Entertainment	Support upon the number of viewers in 2004	Distribution – Automatic Support	2 798
	Support upon the number of viewers in 2004	Distribution – Automatic Support	39 514
	<b>Brasileirinho</b> (d. M. Kaurismäki, 2005, FI)	Distribution – Selective Support	2 000
SPI INTERNATIONAL Czech Republic & Slovakia	Les Poupeés Russes (d. C. Klapisch, 2005, FR/GB)	Distribution – Selective Support	8 000
a olovanu	Match Point (d. W. Allen, 2005, GB)	Distribution – Selective Support	4 000
	<b>Dear Wendy</b> (d. T. Vinterberg, 2005, DA)	Distribution - Selective Support	6 000
	<b>The Sea Inside</b> (d. A. Amenábar, 2004, ES/FR/IT)	Distribution – Selective Support	7 000
TOTAL:			469 112

# Scholarships granted by the MEDIA Desk Slovakia

Name of the grantee	Company	Training	Date	Venue	Amount of gran- ted scholarship (in EUR)
Patrik Pašš	Trigon Production	Global Negotiations	April 2 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Athens (GR)	1 000
Ina Martinová	Trigon Production	Global Negotiations	April 2th – 5th, 2005	Athens (GR)	1 000
Zuzana Richterová		Global Negotiations	April 2 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Athens (GR)	1 000
Silvia Panáková	Arina	European Films Crossing Borders	July 1 <sup>st</sup> - 7t <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Karlovy Vary (CZ)	360
Vladimír Burčík	mír Burčík IdDesign Instructors Wo shop on Intera Storytelling		July 8th – 10th, 2005	Salzburg (AT)	325
Branislav Matis		Transistor	August 29th – Sep- tember 11th, 2005	Prague (CZ)	1 200
Lucia Miklášová	Derek and Nomar	Global Negotiations	September 24 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Athens (GR)	900
Silvia Panáková	Arina	Global Negotiations	September 24 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Athens (GR)	900
Deana Jakubisková- Horváthová	Jakubisko Film Slovakia	European Co-production: Legal and Financial Aspects	November 2nd – 6th, 2005	Palma De Mallorca (ES)	780
Zuzana Wallnerová		Arista Development Story Workshop	November 7 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Sirolo (IT)	700
Gerhard Weag	PLOP Slovakia	Arista Development Story Workshop	November 7th – 11th, 2005	Sirolo (IT)	700
TOTAL:	1				8 865

# EURIMAGES

Eurimages is the only cinematographic fund of the Council of Europe supporting transnational co-productions of full-length films. It has functioned since 1988, and Slovakia has been a member since April 15, 1996. In 2005, it consisted of 32 member states. From 2004, modified directives of the Eurimages fund have been in effect. The main change was the cancellation of two schemes originally divided into films with strong commercial and distribution potential, and films with a rather low budget and artistic nature reflecting the cinematographic and cultural diversity of the European countries. Considering that in Slovakia, the distribution of European films has - from mid 2003 – been supported through the MEDIA Programme, the substituting role of Eurimages in this respect has ended, and the return rate of finances invested in the fund on our end is directly proportional only to the success of the Slovak co-production projects. In 2005, three projects applied for funding within Eurimages. Galician Tales (Haličské príbehy, directed by Dariusz Jablonski), the minority 20% producer of which is the Trigon Production company, was granted the amount of EUR 230,000; the project **Music** (Muzika, directed by Juraj Nvota), the majority 53.6% producer of which is the ALEF Film & Media Group, was granted EUR 180,000; and the project Bathory (directed by Jurai Jakubisko), the majority 34% producer of which is the Jakubisko Film Slovakia company, was granted an amount of EUR 650,000, which is less by only EUR 50,000 than the upper limit of the contribution by Eurimages – EUR 700,000. That means that all Slovak applicants were successful.

In 2005, Slovakia made a deposit to the fund amounting to EUR 77,711.89; and the Slovak coproduction projects were granted a total of EUR 1,060,000.

In Eurimages, Slovakia is represented by Zuzana Gindl-Tatárová, who took over this position from Ľubica Orechovská in April 2005.

#### FILM DISTRIBUTION

In 2005, 177 films were released: out of them 28 in film clubs and five 2D and 3D films in Orange IMAX Bratislava (including **The Polar Express** and **Robots**, however, according to the rules of the European Audiovisual Observatory these are not included in the total number of releases, as they have already been screened in conventional cinemas). That is 3 films more than in 2004. In addition to an increase in the average admission fee, however, this was the only increase that we experienced last year in Slovakia in film distribution. Nine films were screened from DVDs and in fourteen cases (7 in 2004) the films were actually re-releases.

The films were released by 10 distribution companies: Continental film (30 films – 31 in 2004), Tatrafilm (37 – 31), SPI International (21 – 33), the Association of Slovak Film Clubs (ASFK) (28 – 30), ITAFILM (9 – 17), Saturn Entertainment (24 – 15), Intersonic (4 – 7), Magic Box Slovakia (16 – 5), Metropolis Plus (three 2D and 3D films – 4) and WN Danubius Film (6 – 0).

According to the attendance (32.76%) and box office revenues (34.87%), the top position is unambiguously held by Tatrafilm which replaced Continental film after two years at the top. The latter ranked second (19.94% / 21.11%) and the third rank is held by SPI International (18.69% / 16.49%). Non-member of the Union of Slovak Film Distributors, the Association of Slovak Film Clubs ranked sixth with a 4.10% share in attendance and 2.37% share in box office revenues. The number of countries of origin of films dropped as well, to 21 (22 in 2004).

Most of the released films came from the US (93 – of which 6 were shown in film clubs and 3 in Orange IMAX Bratislava). The second place was held by France (19 – of which 4 were in ASFK) and the third place by the Czech Republic (15 – of which 3 were in ASFK).

After subtracting the 2D and 3D films, which have not been included in the statistics after consultations with MEDIA Salles, the USA : Europe : the rest of the world ratio in 2005 totalled 93:78:6 (this ratio was 93:73:6 in 2004).

In 2005, the smallest audience in the history of independent Slovakia attended film screenings in cinemas and film clubs. As of 30 June, 2005, 38.23% less viewers visited Slovak cinemas than in 2004. After the Summer with Cinema event, which actually signified a reduction in the admission fee of up to 30% on average in almost all cinemas in Slovakia during the summer holidays, as of 30 September, 2005, the audience numbers increased again, and the overall decline totalled only 28.03%. As of 31 December, 2005, the number of viewers reached 2,201,258, which means a decline by 24.14% when compared with 2004 figures (2,901,554). The decline concerned classical theatrical distribution (24.59%) and film clubs (6.6%). The box office was also at its lowest in the last five years. In 2005, audiences spent EUR 5,192,640 on admission fees, which is 23.45% less than the EUR 6,781,453 achieved in 2004. The average admission fee increased to EUR 2.40 (EUR 2.30 in 2004) and the average number of viewers at one screening dropped from 39.91 to 30.08.

Seven Slovak and co-production full-length feature films were released in 2005 (4 in 2004), of which two were documentaries. A record number of these films – four – were among the Top 100 Films in Slovak cinemas and film clubs by admission. Rank 48 was held by Wrong Side Up, rank 71 by Two Syllables Behind (0 dve slabiky pozadu, d. Katarína Šulajová, 2004), rank 85 by The City of the Sun and rank 91 by Terminal Station. Detailed results can be found in the table below. Altogether 37,278 viewers saw releases of Slovak and co-production films in 2005. Just for comparison, that is 391 less than the number of viewers who saw Želary (d. Ondřej Trojan, 2004, CZ/SK/AT) in 2004 and 7,278 viewers less than the number of viewers at all four releases of Slovak films in 2004. In 2005, 37,242 viewers attended screenings of Slovak and coproduction films (not only 2005 releases) (48,752 viewers in 2004), which is 1.69% of the total number of viewers (1.68% in 2004).

In 2005, four Slovak and co-production films were released in the Czech Republic. Three of them ranked in the Top 100: Wrong Side Up ranked 7 (225,911 viewers), The City of the Sun ranked 67 (35,183) and Lunacy ranked 98 (19,987 viewers). The film It Will Stay Between Us (Zostane to medzi nami, d. Miro Šindelka, 2003, SK/CZ) was seen by 2,796 viewers.

It is gratifying that in 2005 two Slovak mid-length feature films were distributed in Slovak cinemas, namely the animated film Cheers! with The City of the Sun and Natural Death together with The Snowboarders (Snowboard'aci, d. Karel Janák, 2004, CZ).

The already mentioned co-production film Wrong Side Up was the most successful film released in film clubs.

The two multiplex cinemas in Bratislava – Palace Cinemas (12 screens) and Istropolis Cinema Center (8 screens) contribute greatly to the total cinema attendance. Even though their aggregated 20 screens constitute only 9.08% of all cinema screens in Slovakia (7.17% in 2004), 44.59% of all viewers visited them in 2005 (39.76% in 2004) and their share in the total box office was 59.68% (57.72% in 2004).

TOP 10 FILMS IN SLOVAK CINEMA	<b>BY ADMISSION</b> (from	1 January to 31 December 2005)

Rank	Film Title	Distributor	Number of screenings	Number of viewers	Box office (EUR)
1.	Madagascar	Tatrafilm	2,212	140,521	293,704
2.	Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire	Continental film	1,077	119,514	327,235
3.	Alexander	SPI International	1,255	79,571	200,407
4.	Mr. & Mrs. Smith	Tatrafilm	1,274	74,000	181,132
5.	War of the Worlds	Tatrafilm	1,312	66,281	159,845
6.	Sin City	SPI International	1,042	55,578	117,956
7.	Chicken Little	Saturn Entertainment	887	51,365	119,279
8.	National Treasure	Saturn Entertainment	1,162	50,886	148,289
9.	Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith	Tatrafilm	1,252	46,452	123,876
10.	Kingdom of Heaven	Tatrafilm	1,160	38,585	104,011
Source.	: Union of Film Distributors of the Slova	k Republic	·	·	

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire had the biggest audience in the opening week (47,015 viewers).

#### DISTRIBUTION OF SLOVAK AND CO-PRODUCTION FILMS IN SLOVAKIA IN 2005

Rank	Film Title	Director	Country	Number of prints	Number of screenings	Number of viewers	First run	Distributor		
48.	Wrong Side Up	Petr Zelenka	CZ/SK/DE	7	502	12,618	14.4.2005	ASFK		
71.	Two Syllables Behind	Katarína Šulajová	SK	6	418	8,060	10.2.2005	SPI International		
85.	The City of the Sun	Martin Šulík	SK/CZ	5	356	6,695	21.4.2005	Continental film		
91.	Terminal Station	Jiří Chlumský	SK	4	281	5,528	3.3.2005	Saturn Entertainment		
130.	The Unburied Man	Márta Mészáros	HU/SK/PL	3	66	2,789	10.3.2005	ASFK		
204.	Amazonia Vertical	Pavol Barabáš	SK	DVD	25	679	7.4.2005	Continental film		
210.	Here We Are	Jaro Vojtek	SK	1	41	656	15.9.2005	Continental film		
Sol	ırce: Union Film Distri	Source: Union Film Distributors of the Slovak Republic, Association of Slovak Film Clubs								

# VIDEO DISTRIBUTION AND DVD

In addition to the low attendance at domestic films (in 2005, the share of Slovak productions in the total attendance was only 1.69%, representing an increase by only one hundredth of a percent compared to 2004), the situation is rather bad also in the area of Slovak audiovisuals distributed on VHS and DVD. The situation regarding the issue of Slovak and co-production full-length feature films on different formats as of 12 December 2004 was following: 106 titles were issued on VHS, 13 on DVD and 1 on Video CD. In 2005, another fifteen DVDs with Slovak audiovisual works were issued, which included also a full-length feature film – Suzanne (d. Dušan Rapoš, 1996), and one box set containing 5 DVDs.

PlusProduction and STV issued the fourth and fifth parts of the collection of Let's Return the Fairy Tale to the Children, containing episodes from the animated series Shepherds are Grazing Sheep (Pásli ovce valasi, d. Ladislav Čapek, 1972) and Mat'o the Snail and Klinček the Elf (Sli-mák Mat'o a škriatok Klinček, d. Jaroslav Cita, 1976). The Slovak Film Institute, in cooperation with Global Network Distribution, issued the full-length animated film by Viktor Kubal The Bloody Lady (Krvavá pani, 1980). Company K2 Studio issued the documentaries by Pavol Barabáš Pururambo (2005) and Amazonia Vertical (2004). Nine full-length feature fairy-tales from Atan Film Production from the cycle of The Most Beautiful Fairy-Tales were issued in cooperation with Creomedia: Little Red Riding Hood (Červená čiapočka, d. Pavol Povoda, 2005), Puss in Boots (Kocúr

v čižmách, d. Pavel Gejdoš, 2004), **Rumpelstiltskin** (Martinko Klingáč, d. Ľuba Vančíková, 2004), **Hansel and Gretel** (Medovníkový domček, d. Lucia Šebová, 2005), **The Brave Little Tailor** (Odvážny krajčírik, d. Pavol Povoda, 2002), **Lady Winter** (Pani Zima, d. Lucia Šebová, 2005), **Cinderella** (Popoluška, d. Lucia Šebová, 2005), **Magic Little Table** (Stolček prestri sa!, d. Lucia Šebová, 2005), **Sleeping Beauty** (Šípková Ruženka, d. Lucia Šebová, 2002).

The introductory part of the Visualization of Slovakia Project (www.vizualizaciaslovenska.sk), a 5 DVD album of Slovensko – Slovakia, includes also a DVD ROM with databases and information on the Slovak Republic and 4 DVDs with recordings by Peter Dvorský, the Slovak Chamber Orchestra conducted by Bohdan Warchal, the folk-dance ensemble Lúčnica and the Diabolic Violin of Ján Berky-Mrenica.

In 2005, the DVD format in both the Czech Republic and Slovakia achieved total dominance of the market. While in 2004 the ratio of DVDs to VHS tapes sold was 52:48, in 2005, the 2,614,134 DVDs sold clearly prevailed over the 966,770 copies of VHS, representing a ratio of 73:27. The increase in sales was also enhanced by a significant decrease in the price of DVDs, which fell as low as EUR 4.10 during the sales. A significant and rapid decrease in the DVD price still remains one of the most important forms of the distributors' defense against digital piracy. In general, the best selling title on DVD in 2005 was the film **The Snowboarders** (Bontonfilm) with a total of 41,027 copies sold to retail shops and/or film rentals in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, becoming thus the first best selling Czech DVD in history in competition with foreign films. In 2005, the best selling VHS film was **The Incredibles** (Warner Bros.) with 20,957 copies sold. In Slovakia, the best selling DVD films included **The Incredibles** (Warner Bros.) followed by **Bambi** (Warner Bros.) and **Robots** (Bontonfilm).

In 2005, 932 new DVD titles were introduced to the market (in 2004 it was 956). The majority of them were presented by Bontonfilm (29%), which also has the greatest share of the total number of DVDs sold in Slovakia. Gregor Multimedia (Warner Bros.) with a 22% share of newly presented DVDs has taken second place and third place; was taken by Demar Liptovský Mikuláš (HCE) with an 11% share. Since the introduction of DVD format to the market in 1997, a total of 3,885 new titles have been presented in our country with either Czech or Slovak dubbing or subtitles.

A double disk of Jánošík (d. Jaroslav Siakeľ, 1921) and Jánošík (d. Paľo Bielik, 1962-1963) received the 2004 David Award – an annual award for DVDs, presented by DVD Group.cz and PC\_Space – in the category of Historically Most Successful Slovak DVD issued before 12 December 2004. The second rank was taken by Pacho the Brigand of Hybe (Pacho, hybský zbojník, d. Martin Ťapák, 1975) and the third by Thomas the Falconer (Sokoliar Tomáš, d. Václav Vorlíček, 2000).

In October 2005, the internet portal www.station.sk of Slovak Telecom was extended by the virtual video rental, Video on Demand. The customers can, from the comfort of their home, find and choose a desired programme on the website of the VoD service provider, and view it in full quality directly on the screen of their computers.

#### CINEMAS

The decrease in the number of cinemas in the Slovak Republic represents a long-term trend, which has been interrupted by a slight increase only twice since 1989. To draw a comparison, in 1990, there were 703 cinemas in Slovakia (in 1993 and 2004 it was 456 and 256, respectively).

In 2005, the number of cinemas dropped to a historical minimum. There were 220 movie theatres in operation with 245 screens and 108,740 seats (out of which 22 were open air movie theatres with 46,553 seats and two video-movie threatres with 56 seats) employing 1,459 persons. The drive-in movie theatre in Košice was closed down.

Unlike in neighboring countries, in 2005 there was no new multiplex opened in Slovakia. There are only the two Bratislava multiplexes in operation – Palace Cinemas with twelve screens (2,316 seats) and Multikino Metropolis with eight screens (1,619 seats); the latter changed ownership on 9 November 2005 (the new owner is the Istropolis Cinema), and was also renamed Istropolis Cinema Center. The only new movie theatre (opened on 8 December, 2005) was the Istropolis Cinema Center in Poprad – a miniplex with three screens equipped with Dolby A, Dolby Surround and Dolby Stereo sound systems (in individual cinema theatres) with an overall capacity of 577 seats. The miniplex in Trnava was opened in 2004 and in 2005 it has already become the third most attended cinema. In 2006, new miniplexes will be opened in Trenčín, Nitra, Banská Bystrica and Žilina.

The situation of the classic single-screen cinemas is getting worse year after year. According to the statistics of the Association of Cinema Operators and Staff, as of 31 December, 2005, out of 220 cinemas, 157 had a mono sound system, 49 a stereo sound system and only 14 (which is 6%) had DTS, Dolby SR, SRS; 102 movie theatres (less than 50%) were equipped with an analogue sensor and 74 movie theatres still had wooden seats. Since 1 January 2005, 90% of films for distribution have had a new type of analogue track (Cyan Dye Track). A consequence of this for cinemas is that without new sensors, the cinemas will not be able to project these films in high quality. An upgrade for one pair of MEO 5 projectors costs approximately EUR 1,814; 46 cinemas – in particular open air cinemas – still use MEO 4 projectors, the production of which ended in 1973. The poorness of technical facilities is also proved by the fact that only 91 cinemas can sell tickets through a computer system. Therefore, despite the high price of tickets (maximum EUR 4.40 average EUR 3.50), there is an increasing interest in projections in multiplexes; or, the viewers prefer the higher quality image, and in particular the sound of home cinema.

#### The five most successful movie theatres according to attendance in 2005:

- 1. Palace Cinemas (Bratislava) 570,322 viewers
- 2. Multikino Metropolis/Istropolis Cinema Center\* (Bratislava) 411,284 viewers
- 3. SONYcineMAX (Trnava) 106,187 viewers
- 4. Capitol (Košice) 52,963 viewers
- 5. Úsmev (Košice) 47,229 viewers
- \* change of name and owner as of 9 November 2005

In 2005, a total of 981,606 viewers visited the Slovak multiplexes (in 2004 it was 1,153,555, representing 37.01% of all viewers (in 2004 it was 39.76%), who paid a total of EUR 3,098,277 for tickets (in 2004 it was EUR 3,914,525). This amount represents 59.68% of gross box office in 2005 in all movie theatres (in 2004 and 2003 it was 57.72% and 52.94%, respectively).

The cinemas Mladosť, Tatra and FC (film club) ic.sk (from April 2005 Charlie Centre) in Bratislava, Družba in Košice, Korzo and Urpin in Banská Bystrica, Strojár in Martin, Lipa and Orbis in Nitra, Klub in Prešov, Kultúra in Ružomberok, Mier in Spišská Nová Ves, SONYcineMAX in Trnava and Mier in Zvolen, belong to the European cinema network of Europa Cinemas. Among the other things, Europa Cinemas supports digital film projection not only by helping cinemas to change to digital technology or by providing information on the development and application of digital technologies in cinemas, but also by direct funding.

#### FILM CLUBS

Film clubs play an irreplaceable role in the education of cinema-goers in Slovakia. Every year, film clubs introduce significant works of world cinematography that would otherwise not be accessible to general audiences. It is pleasing to see that in the last couple of years, club films have not only been screened in film clubs, but they have also appeared in the programs of "classical" cinemas and multiplexes. After 1993, the number of film clubs in Slovakia has recorded an upwards trend. In 2003, there were 66 film clubs in Slovakia, but in November 2004, their number dropped to 56. The youngest film club FC Pod hviezdami in Bratislava was registered in Association of Slovak Film Clubs on 1 October 2005 nevertheless, there were only 53 film clubs operating in Slovakia as of 31 December 2005. The membership fee amounted to EUR 2.10 (in the 2003/2004 season it was EUR 1.60). By 2005, the expiry date of the membership card was set to the beginning of the school year (i.e. September); however, this season it was extended until the end of 2005. The number of film club members has gradually decreased (in the 2001/2002 season it was 20,941; in the 2002/2003 season it was 19,621; in the 2003/2004 season it was 15,400; and as of 31 December 2005, there were only 13,485 members registered).

In the period from 1 January to 31 December 2005, the total number of viewers who attended 3,248 film club screenings (in 2004 there were 2,791 screenings) reached 72,826 (in 2004 it was 81,187), averaging 22.42 viewers per screening (in 2003 and 2004 it was 30.30 and 29 viewers, respectively). The overall attendance of film clubs has also dropped to 90,174 (in 2004 it was 96,548). The average attendance rate of a film club member dropped from 5.50 to 4.15 screenings per year. (For comparison: a citizen of Slovakia goes to the cinema 0.40 times a year). The average admission fee in film clubs amounted to EUR 1.30, and EUR 1.40 in the event of club film screenings in regular cinemas (in 2004 it was EUR 1.50). The majority of film clubs are incorporated in classical cinemas.

The most significant events organized by the Association of Slovak Film Clubs in 2005 included the Slovak section of the 12<sup>th</sup> International Film, Video and TV Festival Febiofest and the touring film review Project 100 – 2005; the latter included the films Vera Drake (d. Mike Leigh, 2004), Coffee and Cigarettes (d. Jim Jarmusch, 2003), Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf? (d. Mike Nichols, 1966), Metropolis (d. Fritz Lang, 1927), Modern Times (d. Charles Chaplin, 1936), When Father Was Away on Business (d. Emir Kusturica, 1985), The Tin Drum (d. Völker Schlöndorff, 1979), Midnight Cowboy (d. John Schlesinger, 1969), Control (d. Nimród Antal, 2003) and Taking Off (d. Miloš Forman, 1971).

A Czech film was the most attended club film for four years in a row. After two primacies of Year of the Devil (d. Petr Zelenka, 2002) in 2002 and 2003, and Bored in Brno (d. Vladimír Morávek, 2003) in 2004, the leading position was taken by the Czech-Slovak-German film Wrong Side Up; a total of 12,618 spectators has already seen this film (in 2004, 16,467 spectators saw Bored in Brno), which is more than the number of cinema-goers who saw The Island, Blade, Trinity or The Legend of Zorro. The film occupies the 48th place in the Top 100 films in Slovakia by admission.

In 2004, 1,595 spectators saw the 10<sup>th</sup> most attended club film, which is by only 195 spectators more than the number who saw the film of the same ranking in 2005.

Rank	Title of the film	Director	Number of screenings	Number of spectators
1.	Wrong Side Up	Petr Zelenka	502	12,618
2.	Coffee and Cigarettes	Jim Jarmusch	129	3,448
3.	Pink Floyd: The Wall	Alan Parker	76	3,157
4.	The Unburied Man	Márta Mészáros	66	2,789
5.	The Cuckoo	Alexander Rogožkin	64	2,238
6.	The Triplets of Belleville	Sylvain Chomet	68	2,149
7.	When Father Was Away on Business	Emir Kusturica	54	1,791
8.	Exiles	Tony Gatlif	83	1,612
9.	Control	Nimród Antal	50	1,608
10.	Kitchen Stories	Bent Hamer	68	1,400

#### The most successful films in film clubs (from 1 January to 31 December, 2005)

Source: Association of Slovak Film Clubs

# NATIONAL FESTIVALS, REVIEWS AND AWARDS

The International Film Festival Art Film in Trenčianske Teplice and the International Film Festival (IFF) Bratislava were among the most significant events of the year even in 2005.

The 13<sup>th</sup> IFF Art Film Trenčianske Teplice/Trenčín (www.artfilm.sk), with the main competition of feature films and full-length fiction documentaries with emphasis on the best performance in a leading role and on innovative procedures and visual means – The Blue Angel Award – the Art Fiction section, and Artefacts and On the Road competitions, was held between 17 and 25 June, 2005. Non-competition sections included for instance Balt!, Slovak Season, 50 Years Ago, or an Homage to Marcello Mastroianni. In the Artefacts competition Slovakia was represented by Visions from the Inferno (Vízie z Inferna, d. Peter Dimitrov, 2004, SK/DE) and in the On the Road section by One More Chance (Druhá šanca, d. Marta Ferencová, 2005), LooP and On the Fifteenth... (Pätnásteho..., d. Ľubomír Viluda, 2004). Slovak full-length feature films The City of the Sun, Two Syllables Behind, The Boxer and Death (Boxer a smrt, d. Peter Solan, 1962), The Case of Barnabáš Kos (Prípad Barnabáš Kos, d. Peter Solan, 1964), mid-length and short films Amazonia Vertical (d. Pavol Barabáš, 2004), The Wholes and Details of Tibor Biath (Celky a detaily Tibora Biatha, d. Peter Hledík, 2005), The Day (Deň, d. Jozef Vlk, 2004), The Making of Two Syllables Behind (Film o filme O dve slabiky pozadu, d. Miriam Petráňová, 2005), Noach (d. Jozef Fruček, Miriam Petráňová, 2004), Ulysses' Journeys (Odysseove cesty, d. Milan Milo, 2004), Juraj, Katanakaji (Juraj, Katanakadži, d. Jaro Rihák, 2004), Graceless Country (Bezbožná krajina, d. Zuzana Piussi, 2004), the Slovak episode **The Miracle** (Zázrak, d. Martin Šulík, 2004) in the project **Visions of Europe, Cheers!**, **Slovak Fairy Tales** (Slovenské rozprávky, d. Ivo Brachtl, 2005), **Jiří Křenek – Photographer** (Jiří Křenek – fotograf, d. Juraj Krásnohorský, 2005) and **Children's and Students' Animated Films** (private Secondary School for Animated Film, Primary Art School of Ľudovít Rajter, Fine Arts Department – both in Bratislava) were presented at the Art Film Festival. The Golden Camera Award was presented to cinematographer Tibor Biath and director Miklós Jancsó, the Actor's Mission Award went to Dagmar Havlová-Veškrnová and Nastassja Kinski.

The 7<sup>th</sup> IFF Bratislava (www.iffbratislava.sk), with emphasis on the International Competition of First and Second Full-length Feature Films, was held for the third time in the Palace Cinemas multiplex at Aupark, Bratislava. 180 films from 49 countries were included in the programme; the films were viewed by over 23,000 spectators. The Belgian-Italian-Slovak-French co-production Friday or Another Day was presented in the competition, and other Slovak films were screened in the Slovak Film section - The 7 Magical Years (7 magických rokov, d. Marek Šulík, 2005), The Crying of Angels (Anjeli plačú, d. Zuzana Piussi, 2005), Here We Are, Pururambo, The Celebration of the Lonely Palm (Slávnosť osamelej palmy, d. Marko Škop, Juraj Johanides, 2005), Let's Shoot That Sunset (Natočme ten západ slnka, d. Maroš Hečko, Daniel Rihák, 2005), Cheers!, Silence, The City of the Sun, F.T. On the Road (F. T. Na cestách, d. Dušan Rapoš, 1988), Propeler I.-VI. - Subcultures of Youth (Propeler I.-VI. - Subkultúry mládeže, d. Pavol Korec, 2003), Thirst (Smäd, d. Martin Repka), My First 75... Egon Bondy (Mojich prvých 75... Egon Bondy, d. Martin Hanzlíček, 2005), Kontrafakt (d. Braňo Vincze, 2005). Slovak films were also presented in the section of one-minute and five-minute films - Azyl - Short Films, where the finalists of the first international internet film festival AzvI (www.azvI.sme.sk) were presented. The special Award for Artistic Excellence in world cinematography was granted for the first time at the IFF Bratislava. Actress Vanessa Redgrave personally accepted this Award. A further novelty was the panel of projects called Prepared Slovak Feature. Documentary and Animated Films which should become a regular part of the Festival.

- Other significant festivals, screenings and workshops in Slovakia in chronological order (you can find the complete list at www.aic.sk):
- 13 January 20 March The World of Stars and Illusions One Hundred Years of World Cinematography in Posters (Bratislava – Mirbach Palace GMB) – www.gmb.sk
- 11 19 March 7<sup>th</sup> IF of Francophone Film (Bratislava Istota cinema) www.fiff-bratislava.sk
- 17 19 March Workshop 7<sup>th</sup> Competition of Productions by Local Television Channels in Slovakia (Martin – Hotel Turiec) – www.lotos.sk
- 11 29 April 12<sup>th</sup> International Film, Video and TV Festival Febiofest 2005 (Bratislava / cinemas Tatra, Hviezda, Mladosť, Czech Centre, FC Nostalgia, Charlie Centre / Nitra, Martin, Žilina, Prešov, Košice, Banská Bystrica, Poprad) www.asfk.sk
- 3 7 May 11<sup>th</sup> IFF Envirofilm 2005 (Banská Bystrica, Zvolen, Banská Štiavnica) www.envirofilm.sk
- 26 29 May 6<sup>th</sup> IF of Mountain Films and Adventure- Mountains and City 2005 (Bratislava – Aupark) – www.horyamesto.sk
- 3 5 June National Competition of Amateur Films and Videofilms CINEAMA 2005 (Banská Bystrica – SNP Museum) – www.amatfilm.sk

- 8 11 June 11<sup>th</sup> IF of Local Broadcasters the Golden Beggar (Košice Dom techniky) www.festival.sk
- 18 21 August 7<sup>th</sup> Summer Film Seminar 4 Elements Transformations of the Body (Banská Štiavnica – Akademik cinema, open-air cinema, Klopačka Tea House, Art Café) – www.4zivly.sk.
- 15 September 15 December 11<sup>th</sup> Project 100 2005 (32 Slovak towns and cities) www.asfk.sk
- **22 28 September 18<sup>th</sup> Prix Danube** (Bratislava Charlie Centre) www.prixdanube.stv.sk
- 26 30 September 22<sup>nd</sup> IFF Agrofilm 2005 (Nitra Animal Production Research Institute) www.agrofilm.sk
- 12 16 October 13<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Mountain Films Poprad (Poprad Gerlach, Tatran cinemas) – www.mfhf.sk
- 20 23 October 20<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Diving Films (Nový Smokovec Hotel Átrium / Hotel Kriváň) – www.mfpf.sk
- 24 28 October 32<sup>nd</sup> International Festival of Scientific Films Ekotopfilm 2005 (Bratislava – Tatra cinema and Hotel Tatra) – www.ekotopfilm.sk
- 9 13 November 6<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Documentaries One World 2005 (Bratislava - Charlie Centre / A4 - zero space / Academy of Drama and Musical Arts) www.jedensvet.sk and www.clovekvohrozeni.sk
- → Several prizes were awarded in 2005, the most significant ones were won by:
- Pavol Barabáš 2005 Tatrabanka Art Prize for Extraordinary Creative Art Work of the Year for Amazonia Vertical
- Tibor Biath Ľudovít Štúr Order of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree – 2005 Golden Camera Award for "Life-time Achievement in Film Art" (granted at the IFF Art Film)
- Lubor Dohnal Elo Havetta Award for the development of Czech and Slovak cinematography and mutual cooperation
- Marian Filadelfi Elo Havetta Award for the development of Czech and Slovak cinematography and mutual cooperation
- Maximilián Remeň Pribina's Cross of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree
- Stanislav Szomolányi Pribina's Cross of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree

#### Annual awards of the Slovak Film Union, Union of Slovak Television Professionals and Literary Fund of the Slovak Republic – Igric Award

For the first time in the sixteen-year history of the Igric Awards and Special Prizes one person – Stanislav Štepka – won two Igric Awards and one Special Prize and the TV film **Človečina** (d. Juraj Nvota, TV, 2004) won six awards.

Feature films for cinema: the Igric Award was not granted.

Television drama: Stanislav Štepka "for the unconventional author's view of moral and social prob-Iems" – **Človečina** 

Animation: the Igric Award was not granted.

Film and television documentaries: Dušan Hudec "for the deep immersion into the history of a nation's memory and for the brave spirit shown in the defence of his message in the film **Love Thy**  Neighbour (Miluj blížneho svojho, TV, d. Dušan Hudec, 2004)"

Best actor/actress in a film or TV production: Stanislav Štepka "for the plastic creation of the tragicomical character of the father" – **Človečina** 

Igric Award for life-time achievement - Tibor Biath

13<sup>th</sup> Slovak Film Critics Award for Audiovisual Production, Publications and Film Distribution in 2004 (granted in Bratislava on 15 June, 2005 based on the votes of Club of Film Journalists at the Syndicate of Slovak Journalists members)

The Slovak Film Critics Award for a Slovak or coproduction full-length feature film for cinemas was not granted.

The Slovak Film Critics Award for other audiovisual production - Amazonia Vertical

The Slovak Film Critics Award for long and continuous publication film activity – Richard Blech The Slovak Film Critics Award for the best foreign film in Slovak cinemas in 2004 – **Dogville** (d. Lars von Trier, 2003)

The Slovak Film Journalists Award to the distributor of the best foreign film in Slovak cinemas in 2004 – SPI International

The ZENTIVA Award (for a young creator of audiovisual works under the age of 35 years announced by company Zentiva in cooperation with the Slovak Film Institute and the Association of Slovak Film Clubs during the 12<sup>th</sup> International Film, Video and TV Festival – Febiofest 2005) was granted for the first time in 2005. It was won by Marek Šulík.

The Tibor Vichta Award also seeks to support Slovak audiovisual production. It is a scriptwriting competition for young authors under the age of 35 years. Its primary idea is to help young authors write new scripts. The main objective of this competition is to provide an opportunity for talented authors to present their works, to have their ideas confronted with the opinions of film and television experts and, with financial support, to transform literary treatments into film scripts which will subsequently be offered to filmmakers and television producers for production. 35 authors entered in the third year (21 authors in 2004). Slavena Pavlásková with her script Sakura Flowers (Kvety sakury) won in the Full-length Feature Film category, Juraj Lehotský with his script The Searching (Hľadanie) in the Documentary category and Martin Snopek with his script The Last Bus (Posledný autobus) in the Animation category.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SLOVAK FILMS AND FILMMAKERS ABROAD

The most significant awards granted in 2005 were an Emmy Award in the category Makeup for a Miniseries, Movie Or a Special (non-prosthetic) presented to Beatrix Dollingerová for Frankenstein (d. Kevin Connor, 2004, USA), which was awarded by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and the David di Donatello Award for Best Actress to the Slovak actress Barbora Bobulová for her performance in Sacred Heart (d. Ferzan Ozpetek, 2005, IT).

Documentarist Pavol Barabáš has been one of the most award winning Slovak filmmakers for several years. 2005 was no exception when his works won over twenty awards at significant festivals and screenings dedicated especially to mountain films. Among these are the Grand Prix at the 5<sup>th</sup> Sliven International Mountain Film Festival (Bulgaria), the Wanaka Mountain Film Festival (New Zealand) and the 37<sup>th</sup> International Les Diablerets Mountain Film Festival (Switzerland).

Among full-length feature films, the most awards were received by Two Syllables Behind – Award of the Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic (45th International Film Festival for Children and Youth, Zlín, Czech Republic), the Students' Jury Award (Pécs International Film Celebration, Hungary), the Ota Hofman Award for Best Film in the category of films for young people aged 13 to 18 years (37<sup>th</sup> Ota Hofman Children's Film and Television Festival, Ostrov, Czech Republic) – and by **Wrong Side Up** – Special Mention of the F.I.C.C. Jury (18<sup>th</sup> Festival of Czech Film, "Finále Plzeň", Czech Republic), the Jury of Russian Film Critics Award for Best Film in the competition (27<sup>th</sup> Moscow International Film Festival, Russia), F.I.C.C. Award – Don Quijote (15<sup>th</sup> Eastern European Film Festival, Cottbus, Germany).

The City of the Sun won the Golden Kingfisher for Best Full-length Feature Film (18th Festival of Czech Film, "Finále Plzeň", Czech Republic) and Aňa Geislerová took the Award for Best Actress for Želary (tied with Annette Bening for Being Julia, d. István Szabó, 2004, CAN/USA/HU/GB) at the 7th Bangkok International Film Festival, Thailand.

The King of Thieves (Kráľ zlodejov, d. Ivan Fíla, 2003, SK/CZ/DE/AT/FR) dominated at the 11<sup>th</sup> Czech Lion Awards of the Czech Film and Television Academy. From ten nominations – Best Film (producer Rudolf Biermann), Best Director (Ivan Fíla), Best Screenplay (Ivan Fíla), Best Actor (Yasha Kultiasov, Lazar Ristovski), Best Supporting Actress (Katharina Thalbach), Best Photography (Vladimír Suchý), Best Music (Michael Kocáb), Best Editing (Ivana Davidová), Best Sound (Zdeněk Taubler), the Golden Lion was finally won by Y. Kultiasov, V. Suchý, M. Kocáb and Z. Taubler. As for Slovak actors and filmmakers, the Golden Lion for Best Actress was won by Emília Vášáryová for Up and Down (Horem pádem, d. Jan Hřebejk, 2004, CZ) and Katarína Bieliková was nominated for the same film in the Best Design Achievement category (together with Milan Býček) and Ingrid Timková in the Best Supporting Actress category.

The most successful documentaries were as follows: Loop from the Europe Around Us? – We in Europe! Project – Honourable Mention in the Documentary section (2<sup>nd</sup> International Students' Film Festival – Fresh Film Fest Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic), Grand Prix (8<sup>th</sup> Kyoto International Student Film and Video Festival, Japan), The Power of Good – Nicholas Winton (Sila ľudskosti – Nicholas Winton, d. Matej Mináč, 2003, SK/CZ) – Spirit Award (Pacific Jewish Film Festival San Antonio, USA), 66 Seasons (66 sezón, d. Peter Kerekes, 2003, SK) – Award for Best Director (Punto de Vista Documentary Film Festival of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain) and Award for Best Film, tied with The Dealer (d. Benedek Fliegauf, 2004, HU) (2<sup>nd</sup> Eastern European Film Festival Baltyk-o-Balkan, Paris, France).

Students of the Film and Television Faculty at the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in Bratislava have continued to spread the reputation of Slovak films abroad. Awarded were for instance the feature films Night in a Hotel (awards that the film was given can be found in the chapter "Film education") and Natural Death – Special Award by the Jury (3<sup>rd</sup> International Students' Festival of Film Art, Balchik, Bulgaria), 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Feature Film category (2005 International Student Film Event "Zlín Dog" – accompanying event of the 45<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival for Children and Youth, Zlín, Czech Republic). The Song About the Little Rooster (Kohútik jarabý, d. Marian Tutoky, 2004) – Bronze Medal (67<sup>th</sup> World Festival of Amateur Film, Blankenberge, Belgium), The Dancer – Sarasvati Award for the Student's Spirit (3<sup>rd</sup> Bali International Film Festival, Indonesia), From the Street (Z ulice, d. Stano Petrov, 2004) – Bronze Bear (33<sup>rd</sup> Festival of Nations, Ebensee, Austria), the animated film Lionardo Mio – DAMS Prize for Best Film (8<sup>th</sup> Bologna European Festival of Film Schools, Italy) and many other awards.

#### SLOVAK FILM INSTITUTE

The Slovak Film Institute (SFI) is the only national, supporting, scientific-research and archiving institution focusing on cinematography in Slovakia. It is divided into two components - Film Archive and the National Cinematographic Centre (NCC). It collates, conserves and protects the national cinematographic heritage and makes it available to the public. It is the administrator of the archive of films of special importance, it archives unique documentation materials, photographs and posters, it executes the rights of the producer to distribute and use Slovak films made by organisations which are fully and exclusively managed by the state, and it enhances the value of these rights by carrying out business activities. The Film Archive constitutes part of the SFI; by decision of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic this archive is an archive of special importance. The SFI has been a member of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) since 2001. Since 2005, the NCC has comprised the Film Events Department, AIC and the Editions Department of the SFI. Its main role is to collate and provide comprehensive information and services relating to Slovak cinematography, to promote and present Slovak films both in Slovakia and abroad. At the same time it is in charge of publishing general and professional filmological publications and DVDs of Slovak films within the publishing activities of the SFL as well as of presenting the results of publishing activities, organising gala openings of publications and press conferences.

The Audiovisual Information Centre works on the premises of SFI. It collates, processes and distributes among Slovak entities information on audiovision which comes to the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic or the SFI and which is intended for experts in Slovak audiovision. All up-to-date and relevant information is freely accessible on the AIC website, www.aic.sk. The SFI provides comprehensive information and documentation materials about Slovak film, it organises and co-organises film events both in Slovakia and abroad, and it screens Slovak archival and artistically demanding films in the "Filmotéka" study cinema within the premises of film club ic.sk (Charlie Centre since April 2005) in Bratislava. The only specialized library in Slovakia and a videotheque are part of the SFI. The SFI Editions Department issues the film monthly Film.sk and publications in four editions. Issuing Slovak films on DVDs has become a regular publishing activity of the SFI. Detailed information about the SFI can be found on the Institute's website, www.sfu.sk.

Even in 2005, the basic role of the SFI was to take care, in a professional manner, of the cinematographic component of the national cultural heritage of the Slovak Republic and within this care, first of all, to completely and systematically rescue and renew the film collection funds – to transcribe them to digital and magnetic media, to prepare a professional catalogue, to prepare informative descriptions of their content and subsequently to make them accessible to the public. The collection fund of the Film Archive contains approximately 70,000 reels of film material; of this 43,927 reels are of Slovak films.

The main role of the SKCINEMA information system project is the transition to complete computer processing of archival, documentation, library and information funds and the related faster rendering of services of higher quality to the professional and lay public. By the end of 2005, 49,088 records had been processed. The SFI makes information on Slovak films accessible within the 1st Slovak Film Database (www.sfd.sfu.sk).

The SFI coordinated the preparation of the Slovak mission at the Cannes Film Market 2005. For the second time already, Slovakia had a share of one-third in the joint Czech-Slovak-Polish exhibition hall. The mission was co-organised by the Slovak Audiovisual Producers' Association (SAPA) and SFI.

As for edition activities in 2005, the SFI issued the profile of the Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar by two young authors, Viktória Matáková and Petra Hanáková, the monography Juraj Jakubisko by Peter Michalovič and Vlastimil Zuska, the traditional 2004 Film Yearbook, in cooperation with the Slovak Film and Television Academy the publication Cinematographer Stanislav Szomolányi, and in cooperation with the Association of Slovak Film Clubs (ASFK) the brochure called The Small Golden Fund of Cinematography. Two issues of the Kino-Ikon magazine, published in cooperation with the ASFK, were dedicated to archived and animated films.

With regard to promotion materials for instance, two bulletins were published on the occasion of Slovakia's participation in the presentation-contracting fair at the 2005 IFF Cannes, namely the Slovak Film Guide 2005 and Slovak Films 1993-2005, which provide the user with all necessary information about Slovak audiovision and Slovak filmmaking, as well as contact information about important institutions and organisations in the Slovak audiovisual environment.

In 2005, the SFI published two DVDs with Slovak films: a re-edition of the Pictures of the Old World (Obrazy starého sveta, 1972) by Dušan Hanák and the full-length feature animation The Bloody Lady.

The SFI co-produced the mid-length film about director Elo Havetta The Celebration of the Lonely Palm.

#### Events with Slovak films abroad

In addition to organising and co-organising most of the local events mentioned in the chapter "National Festivals, Reviews and Awards" (34) the SFI also promoted Slovak cinematography at film events abroad. Even though in 2005 activities in Europe prevailed, cooperation on other continents continued, especially the presentation of Slovak films in Asia. Cooperation with the US and Canada continued.

Of the three extensive screenings of Slovak films held in the first half of the year, the first one, which took place by the end of January, was the retrospective of films by director Juraj Jakubisko in Trieste, Italy. All full-length feature films and several short films by the director were presented there. An extensive profile screening of the films of another significant Slovak director, Peter Solan, was organised in Olomouc, Czech Republic. A screening of Slovak feature films and documentaries was also part of the Slovak Culture Days in Helsinki. Slovakia was represented also at several festivals focused on EU Member States (in Cairo, Alexandria, Moscow, Toronto, Soul, Thailand, South Africa, Brazil).

Slovakia was markedly represented at the 40th IFF Karlovy Vary too. Slovak films were screened in the main competition (**The City of the Sun, The Unburied Man**) and in the documentary competition (**Here We Are**). Traditionally abundant was the Slovak presence at the Summer Film School in Uherské Hradiště. All newly made films were screened at the Slovak Day in which a large delegation of filmmakers and film workers took part. The retrospective of films by Dušan Hanák within the Summer Film Academy in Zwierzynec, Poland, in August was a significant foreign event. The Slovak representation at the Třinec Film Summer, which so far has been known as the Těrlice Film Summer, was also abundant. Slovak animation got space for a broader presentation at Anifest in Třeboň, Czech Republic, and at the International Animation Festival in Ottawa, Canada. Slovak Film Weeks were held in Sofia, Bulgaria, Frankfurt am Main, Germany and Szeged, Hungary. The most significant event of 2005 at all was the Slovak Film Week in Beijing which was a reciprocal

event to the Chinese Film Days held in Bratislava in November 2004. The Slovak Film Week offered seven Slovak and co-production films. In November a retrospective of full-length feature and short films by director Dušan Hanák was held at the prestigious Golden Horse Festival in Taipei. The Slovak productions of the past few years were presented in Katowice, Poland, under the title New Slovak Cinema and the 5<sup>th</sup> Slovak Film Festival was held in Cran-Gevrier, France.

#### Summary of events with Slovak films abroad in 2005

#### Number of events: 77

**States:** Bulgaria, Brazil, Czech Republic, China, Egypt, Finland, France, Croatia, India, Indonesia, South Africa, South Korea, Cambodia, Canada, Laos, Hungary, Malaysia, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Austria, Romania, Russia, Spain, Taiwan, Italy, Thailand – **27 states** (just as in 2004)

**Cities:** Alexandria, Amstetten, Augsburg, Balchik, Bangkok, Barcelona, Berlin, Boskovice, Budapest, Bucarest, Brasilia, Cieszyn, Cran-Gevrier, Český Tešín, Delhi, Durban, Edmonton, Frankfurt an Main, Helsinki, Chiang Mai, Jakarta, Johannesburg, Jyväskylä, Cairo, Capetown, Cracow, Kuala Lumpur, Lisbon, Marseille, Munich, Montreal, Moscow, Olomouc, Ottawa, Paris, Pécs, Beijing, Penang, Phnom Penh, Phuket, Plzeň, Prague, Pretoria, Rome, Szeged, Sofia, Soul, Taipei, Terst, Toronto, Torun, Třeboň, Třinec, Uherské Hradište, Vancouver, Vientian, Wiesbaden, Winnipeg, Zagreb, Zlín, Zwierzynec – **63 cities** (69 in 2004)

**Most frequently shown films:** 66 Seasons, Pictures of the Old World, Two Syllables Behind, The City of the Sun

#### TELEVISION

People-meters, reality shows, changes of ownership, discussions about the position, activities and funding of public television and Slovak television series were the major topics in 2005.

In 2005, there were three national broadcasters in Slovakia with a coverage of over 80% of the population – the public service Slovak Television (STV) and private television stations Markíza and JOJ. These three broadcasters are complemented by the newscasting television channel, TA3. Altogether, in 2005, six broadcasters of multi-regional mono-thematic programme services and 77 licence-holders for regional or local broadcasting were registered in Slovakia

The STV, TV Markíza and TV JOJ signals are transmitted terrestrially. They are also available in Slovakia, together with TA3, on the basis of contracts with individual cable operators. Satellite broadcasting via the Eurobird 1 satellite ceased on 22 September 2005. Currently, STV, TV Markíza, TV JOJ and TA3 programmes are broadcast from the ASTRA 3A satellite in the Slovak Link programme package. Officially, only TA3 can be received abroad, as this programme is not encrypted.

The so-called people-meters – an electronic audience measurement system – were introduced in Slovakia in October 2004 and the measurements are collected by Taylor Nelson Sofres SK (TNS). They have become the basis for a more objective monitoring of the position of the individual entities. Previously, audiences were evaluated based on surveys of the STV Daily Continual Research (DCR) and of the agency VISIO (TV Markíza). After the people-meters were introduced, it transpired that fewer people watched television than was previously estimated.

In 2004, the first reality show was broadcast in Slovakia. It was Girl for a Million (Dievča za milión, TV JOJ) and the team of scriptwriters and dramaturgists behind the project was entirely Slovak. STV started broadcasting its own version of Pop Idol called Slovakia Seeks a Superstar (Slovensko hľadá SuperStar). This was followed by further reality shows, such as The Mojsej's and Big

#### Brother (TV Markíza), Dance for a Million (Miliónový tanec), The Chosen (VyVolení, TV JOJ) and Slovakia Seeks a Superstar 2 (STV).

There was a change in ownership relations within the first national private television – Markíza – when the international corporation, CME, became the controlling shareholder of TV Markíza. Grafobal Group became the sole owner of TV JOJ. Hence, the previous connection to the Czech TV Nova was terminated. While, thanks to changes in its programme structure, TV JOJ's market-share is gradually growing, the formerly dominant position of TV Markíza is slowly weakening. Both television stations have had their television broadcasting licences extended for another 12 years (TV JOJ from December 2005 and TV Markíza from March 2006).

The situation of the public service broadcaster, **Slovak Television**, has stabilized following a crisis. With regard to the fact that Jednotka, Channel 1 of Slovak Television may function outwardly as a commercial channel, discussions have commenced with regard to the position and activities of a public television service and about the significance of public service broadcasting. The amendment to the Act on Slovak Television No. 16/2004 Coll. came into effect on 1 February 2005. The amendment to the Act on Television and Radio Licence Fees and the draft Act on Digitization of Broadcasting, which should amend the conditions for terrestrial digital broadcasting, are to be submitted to Parliament in 2006.

Digital terrestrial broadcasting should begin in Slovakia in 2012. By the end of 2005 two television transmitters were put into operation in Bratislava. As a result of these transmitters, a metropolitan synchronous digital network was created which covers approximately 600 thousand citizens. These can receive four programmes – Jednotka, TV JOJ, TV Markíza and TA3. Košice, Banská Bystrica and Zvolen have been covered with digital broadcasting within its pilot operation since 2004.

There is only a minimal quantity of original Slovak television drama programmes. Over the past ten years, five TV series have been made, and the fate of the two latest TV series, which, by coincidence, have both been broadcast since September 2005 – Among Us (Medzi nami) on TV Markíza and Family Secrets (Rodinné tajomstvá) on STV – does not in any way indicate that the Slovak audience is yearning for an original TV series. TV Markíza produced the pilot film and 148 episodes of the first series of the TV series Among Us (the 148<sup>th</sup> part was broadcast on 30 April 2006). STV has so far made 34 episodes of the Family Secrets, each episode being 26 minutes long. In addition, in 2005, STV made the television feature film Silence. It is a film about a man seeking a way through to his alienated children and wife.

In 2005, fourteen mid-length and full-length documentaries were made in STV – ... And Hell Lay in Wait for Them (... a čakalo ich peklo, d. Milan Milo), Beethoven and Slovakia – What Schindler Withheld about the Composer (Beethoven a Slovensko – Čo zamlčal Schindler o skladateľovi, d. Blažena Hončarivová), The Lower Váh (Dolný tok Váhu, d. Ľudovít Hanák), Mednyánszky (d. Vladimír Štric), The Town of the Flying Words (Mesto lietajúcich slov, d. Martina Diosi), My First 75... Egon Bondy (Mojich prvých 75... Egon Bondy, d. Martin Hanzlíček), Conversations with Father (Rozhovory s otcom, d. Ján Šuda), The Power of Emotion (Sila emócie, d. Ján Oparty), Slovaks on the Battlefields (Slováci na bojiskách, d. Milan Milo), A Slovak Dream (Slovenský sen, d. Jaro Vojtek), Let US Sing, Slovaks (Spievajme, Slováci, d. Ivan Hansman), Testimonies 1945 – 1948 (Svedectvá 1945-1948, d. Ľuboš Midriak), The Big Jasov Adventure (Veľké jasovské dobrodružstvo, d. Milan Homolka), The Will and Ideas of Mr. and Mrs. Andrássy (Vôľa a predstava manželov Andrássyovcov, d. Alois Ditrich) and 17 short documentaries.

In cooperation with the Bavaria Media and other significant European television providers, TV Markíza took part in the making of **1200** – **The Truth Will Survive** (Tunel smrti, d. Dominique Othenin-Girard, DE/IT/AT/CZ/SK) and **A Pirate's Heart** (Pirátovo srdce, d. Miguel Alexandre) about the German pirate Klaus Störtebeker. As for local productions, TV Markíza produced the feature film **Personal Mistake** (Osobná chyba) and the documentaries **The Scent of Cuba** (Vôňa Kuby), **Mexico** (Mexiko), **The Deadly Wave** (Smrtiaca vlna), **Clandestino**, **Rodos Impressions** (Rodoské impresie), **The Slovak Mission** (Slovenská misia) and the documentary series **The Dozen '04** (Tucet '04).

Television films won several awards in 2005. Človečina – two Igric Awards and four Special Prizes of the Slovak Film Union, Union of Slovak Television Professionals and the Literary Fund; Small Warriors (Malí bojovníci, d. Martina Saková) – Honourable Mention for a documentary – 18<sup>th</sup> Prix Danube Bratislava; Love Thy Neighbour – Igric Award in the Film and Television Documentary category and the Visegrad Award (granted during the 7<sup>th</sup> International Festival on Human Rights, One World, Prague, 2005); Visions from the Inferno – Special Mention of the Jury and Honourable Mention of the F.I.C.C. Jury – 13<sup>th</sup> IFF Art Film Trenčianske Teplice. To date,TV Markíza has been the only Slovak television provider to be nominated at the international festival, the 45<sup>th</sup> Rose d'Or 2005 in Lucerne, in the Reality Show category with the Crazy Game (VILOmeniny), and, at the 26<sup>th</sup> Emmy Awards 2005, in the area of newscasting and documentaries, the Bush – Putin Summit report was nominated in the Breaking News category. Zlatica Puškárová, the moderator and member of the authors' team accepted the Certificate for the Exceptional Contribution to Global Journalism in the Breaking News category at the gala announcement of the results. And the Director of STV, Richard Rybníček, became the winner of the survey of the weekly magazine Trend called "Manager of 2005".

In 2005, TV Markíza broadcast 1,084 films, of which 634 were American, 374 European, 21 Slovak and 55 of other origins. TV JOJ broadcast 1,100 films, of which 645 were American, 320 European, 84 Slovak and 61 of other origins.

# Development of average monthly share in the Slovak TV market (around the clock and prime time)

	-				St	nare %			
Time zones	Months	Jednotka STV1	Markíza	TV JOJ	TA3	Dvojka STV2	Czech TVs	Hunga- rian TVs	SK/CZ cable TVs
	January 05	20.9	34.9	12.5	1.2	4.2	10.9	8.5	4.3
	February 05	21.6	34.1	11.8	1.2	4.8	10.8	8.8	4.4
	March 05	20.7	33.2	12.3	1.1	6.3	11.1	8.3	4.5
	April 05	20.3	33.5	11.9	1.9	6.9	10.8	7.6	4.4
	May 05	16.6	33.1	11.7	1.1	9.8	11.0	7.8	6.2
	June 05	18.5	32.7	13.7	1.2	4.7	10.7	8.1	7.2
around the clock	July 05	19.5	29.2	13.7	1.4	5.3	11.6	8.6	7.5
	August 05	18.6	29.8	14.3	1.6	5.6	11.6	8.2	7.1
	September 05	17.3	29.3	16.0	1.5	5.7	12.3	8.0	7.0
	October 05	17.7	27.7	19.9	1.2	4.8	11.5	7.7	6.4
	November 05	18.9	27.3	19.9	1.2	5.1	11.4	7.6	5.7
	December 05	19.8	28.5	19.2	1.3	5.4	11.6	7.7	4.0
	1.1.2005 to 31.12.2005	19.3	31.2	14.7	1.3	5.7	11.3	8.1	5.6
	January 05	23.1	38.0	12.8	0.7	2.9	10.4	7.9	2.5
	February 05	25.6	35.9	12.6	0.7	3.7	9.7	7.9	2.5
	March 05	23.5	35.4	13.0	0.7	5.4	10.1	7.8	2.7
prime time (19:00-22:00)	April 05	22.4	36.4	12.7	1.0	6.0	9.8	7.2	2.6
	May 05	18.1	35.8	12.5	0.7	8.8	10.4	7.5	4.4
	June 05	19.4	36.8	13.9	0.8	4.2	9.9	7.5	5.2
	July 05	20.1	31.3	15.3	1.0	4.5	11.9	8.5	5.4
	August 05	18.6	31.0	16.3	1.1	5.6	11.9	8.1	5.0

# REPORT ON THE SLOVAK AUDIOVISUAL SITUATION IN 2005

			Share %						
Time zones	Months	STV1 Jednotka	Markíza	TV JOJ	TA3	STV2 Dvojka	Czech TVs	Hunga- rian TVs	SK/CZ cable TVs
	September 05	19.4	29.8	17.5	0.9	4.9	12.3	7.9	5.1
	October 05	20.3	26.7	22.3	0.8	4.1	11.1	7.6	4.7
prime time (19:00-22:00)	November 05	21.9	26.8	22.0	0.7	4.1	10.8	7.3	4.1
(	December 05	20.7	29.9	21.7	0.7	4.4	10.9	7.5	2.5
	1.1.2005 to 31.12.2005	21.3	32.9	16.1	0.8	4.8	10.7	7.7	3.8
Source: PM	Source: PMT/TNS SK								

# Top 5 films: 1 January to 31 December 2005

Name	Channel	Date	Day of week	Start time	Duration	Rating (%)		
Three Nuts for Cinderella (1973, CZ)	Markíza	1.1.2005	Saturday	17:21:00	01:25:27	29.3		
Three Nuts for Cinderella (1973, CZ)	Markíza	24.12.2005	Saturday	19:02:37	01:29:11	27.0		
Lagardère (2003, FR)	Markíza	6.1.2005	Thursday	20:00:00	02:31:42	26.8		
Je serai toujours près de toi (2004, FR)	Markíza	26.2.2005	Saturday	20:05:39	02:13:27	21.6		
Kamenak (2003, CZ)	Jednotka	4.3.2005	Friday	20:13:46	01:40:39	21.1		
Source: PMT/TNS SK								

# Top 5 Slovak films: 1 January to 31 December 2005

Name	Channel	Date	Day of week	Start time	Rating (%)		
Silence (2005)	Jednotka	28.12.2005	Wednesday	20:07:30	10.7		
Salt More Than Gold (1982)	Markíza	6.1.2005	Thursday	10:25:13	10.6		
Jánošík I. (1962)	TV JOJ	9.1.2005	Sunday	14:42:26	9.1		
Jánošík II. (1963)	TV JOJ	16.1.2005	Sunday	14:37:10	8.9		
Lost Valley (1976)	Markíza	1.5.2005	Sunday	16:52:08	6.9		
Source: PMT/TNS SK							

#### **REPORT ON THE SLOVAK AUDIOVISUAL SITUATION IN 2005**

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

All information, addresses and contacts may be found at www.aic.sk/en/adresar.html.

#### PRODUCTION COMPANIES

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