

## SLOVAK REPUBLIC

THE  
BORDER

[HRANICA]

Director: Jaro Vojtek



GENRE: [Documentary](#)  
 LANGUAGE: [Slovak](#),  
[Hungarian](#)  
 COUNTRY: [Slovak Republic](#)  
 YEAR: [2009](#)  
 LENGTH: [72 minutes](#)  
 FORMAT: [35 mm; 1:1,66](#)

WRITTEN BY:  
 Jaro Vojtek, Marek Leščák

DIRECTED BY: Jaro Vojtek

PERFORMANCES BY: Peter Lizák, Tibor  
 Tóth, Štefan Tóth, Pál Bocárszky ako  
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## SYNOPSIS

During the night of August 30, 1946, the village of Slemence on the eastern European border, was divided by the Red Army into two parts. One part, Velké Slemence, remained in Slovakia (former Czechoslovakia); the other part was renamed Malé Slemence and became a part of Ukraine (in the former Soviet Union). The absurdly demarked border, similar to the famed Berlin Wall, divides estates, the cemetery, and closest families up to this day. This documentary pictures the bitter experience of people from Slemence, who dream of the opening of the most closely-watched border of the European Union.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The film tells the story of Slemence – a village situated on the Slovak-Ukrainian border - which was, in 1945, violently divided into two parts. One part fell within the then Soviet Union and the other within Czechoslovakia. This situation has remained unchanged to these days.

The barbed wire, relentlessly stretched between the houses, not only divided the cemetery and land, but also the closest families for several decades, in some cases even forever. There were cases, when parents found themselves on one side and their children on the other. The borders were guarded by soldiers with automatic guns; the wire was electrified...

The theme of the film can be characterized by four paradoxes:

- The strictly watched border was not a border between enemy states, but between shields belonging to a "friendly" socialist camp.
- In 2008, when European states were uniting, this border becomes even more guarded, since it became a Schengen border.
- Even though after 60 years the border was finally open, the family relations may never recover, as it appears they have been severed for good.
- The border through the village is comparable to the Berlin Wall; the difference, however, is that the Berlin Wall eventually fell, while the border between the two Slemence's still exists.

The message of the film is that any border created between people only brings pain and suffering...

For more, go to [border.sk](http://border.sk)



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