



LIŠTIČKY FOXES



CZECH-SLOVAK-IRISH CO-PRODUCTION

FILM BY **MIRA FORNAY**

WORLD PREMIER 9. 9. 2009



International Film Critics' Week
VENEZIA 2009
OFFICIAL SELECTION



66 MOSTRA
INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE
CINEMATOGRAFICA
VENEZIA 2009

www.listicky.cz

FOXES LIŠTIČKY

83 min, colour, 35mm, 16x9 widescreen, Dolby Digital 5.1

languages: slovak, english, czech

subtitles: english, czech, italian

filmed on location in Ireland and the Czech Republic



WORLD PREMIER

24. International Film Critics Week / 24' settimana internazionale della Critica,
Venice, 2-12 September 2009

www.sicvenezia.it

OFFICIAL SCREENING DAY

Wednesday, 9th September 2009 in Sala Perla 2



THEME

FOXES tells the story about envy, jealousy, and dependency between two sisters, but mainly about their love for one another. It is a simple story about betrayal, redemption and forgiveness. It's sister's love-story – a fiction film with mystery and the magic of memory, which is told in the form of character driven drama.

STORY

When Alžbeta (23), an au pair from South-East Slovakia] decides to stay at her own risk in Dublin, a secret from her past (shared with her older sister Tina, 27 and Tina's Irish fiancé Steve, 30) comes back to reveal the truth about two sisters and the real reason why they can never escape their home.

SYNOPSIS

ALŽBETA (23) is desperate to find a man and create a new home in Ireland. Her family home in Slovakia is being torn down to make way for a motorway. Her older sister, TINA (27) – engaged to an Irishman, STEVE (30) – wants to help her out, feeling she owes this to Alžbeta. Alžbeta categorically refuses her sister's help. It appears that Alžbeta is jealous of her sister's better life and her engagement to Steve. From the beginning, there is a sense something dark and unsaid exists between the two sisters, something that creates great tension and prevents them from getting closer. The only possibility for sisters to escape circle of lies and illusions is to face their common past and reveal the truth about an event no one has ever been speaking about since it happened.



FOXES



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"Foxes" is a character's driven drama in which reality is exposed and seen strictly from the point of view of the main character – Alžbeta. The main drama is based on an intimate line of the sisters' relationship with the dark past, however, there is also an important level of social reality.

The story takes place in Dublin, where sisters have immigrated. Dublin is used here as a universal example of any other contemporary European city dealing with the problems of the clash of cultures, immigrants and national stereotypes. The authentic places of the hotels, immigrants' pubs and flats as well as the use of dialogues in native languages of the characters emphasize the main tension of the drama.

We perceive the reality through Alžbeta's experience as a girl from "the other side" – the fox's side. Even though foxes live in Dublin for almost a century, most people still perceive them as aliens. Exactly like most of us still perceive immigrants in our neighbourhoods. Immigrants, as well as urban foxes, survive from the "leftovers". They're sitting on a fence – lives split between two homes or rather they are living in a gap between them. The invisible gap is full of dreams and fears.

The phenomenon of economic migration is central to the main topic – young girls reaching maturity in a foreign environment. This is why the film also deals with all aspects of sex, although sex does not cause the main conflict here.

The main tension arises from the society's apprehension of sexuality as a taboo. In Alžbeta's case, a particular event left unacknowledged and unspoken of leads to a personality disorder culminating in self-inflicted bodily harm. Alžbeta's inability to communicate with her sister and her incapability to find her place in the outside world close in on Alžbeta.

Foxes is a seemingly artless, raw docu-style mise en scène, characters followed by a shoulder-mounted camera, concealed subtleties, foreshadowed themes. I use this particular storytelling form and style to coax the audience to understand Alžbeta and to break our senseless habit of being judgmental towards others.

My main goal is to compel the audience to ponder the root of Alžbeta's behavior and reactions and to feel compassion for her when her secret is revealed. Foxes doesn't aim to make any moral statement, but to open our minds and hearts to "others".



MIRA FORNAY – DIRECTOR

Mira was born in Slovakia in typical Central European Family with Slovak – hungarian-austrian background. She attended film school at the Academy Performing Arts in Prague, Czech Republic (FAMU) in 1997, studying fiction directing. She graduated with her diploma film, *SMALL UNTOLD SECRETS*, in 2002. She continued her studies at the National Film and Television School in the UK (NFTS), completing her diploma film – a very low-budget exercise entitled *ALŽBETA* – in Fall 2004. It had its UK first showing in February 2005. She was selected to the workshop of Iranian Director Abbas Kiarostami in 2005. She works and lives in Prague and Berlin where she is developing her new feature film "Brother" (working title) under the auspices of the Nipkow Programm. Her shorts won and have been selected by numerous international film festivals.

Filmography

2004 – *ALŽBETA* (18min, mini DV color, dolby digital) The Advanced Programme diploma film NFTS
FESTIVALS: BIF Bristol 2005, IFF London etc.

2002 – *SMALL UNTOLD SECRETS* (22min, 35mm, colour) MA diploma film FAMU/CTVŮ, FESTIVALS: IFF Premier Plans, Angers (France), IFF Rotterdam, IFF Telluride, IFF New York, IFF Kiev, IFF Teheran etc.

2001–1991 – Mira made over 13 short films

AWARDS:

2003 THE BEST SHORT FILM, IFF COTTBUS (GERMANY)

2003 THE MAIN PRICE, ART FILM FESTIVAL TRENCIANSKE TEPLICE (SLOVAKIA)

2002 THE BEST DIRECTOR FAMU-FEST (Czech Republic)



FOXES



INFO

LIŠTIČKY / FOXES

83 min., color, 35mm, Dolby Digital SR, shot on RED ONE cameras

Language: Slovak, English, Czech

Subtitles: English, Czech, Italian

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PRODUCTION

SAMSON FILMS Ltd. (IR), (www.samsonfilms.com)
 Cineart TV Prague, s.r.o. (CZ)
 MIRAS, s.r.o. (SK)

CO-PRODUCTION

i/o post (CZ)
 Česká televize (CZ)

PRODUCERS

Viktor Schwarcz (CZ)
 Juraj Buzalka, Emil Fornay (SK)
 David Collins, Brian Willis (IR)

CO-PRODUCERS

Jordi Niubo (i/o post)
 Jaroslav Kučera (Česká televize)

CREW

Director of Photography: Tomáš Sysel (CZ)
 Set design: Jan Vlček (CZ)
 Sound design: Jan Němec (CZ)
 Editor: Hedvika Hansalová (CZ)
 Music: Tadeáš Věřčák (CZ), Aaron Goldberg (USA) www.aarongoldberg.com

CAST

Réka Derzsi (SK) – Alžběta, Rita Banczi (SK) – Tina, Aaron Monaghan (IR) – Steve, Jitka Josková (CZ) – Ducky, Jonathan Byrne (IR) – Travis, Christopher Simpson (UK) – Jeff, Nicholas Pinnock (UK) – Mike. / Bredan McCormac (IR), Dana Pribulová (SK), Cathy Belton (IR), Petra Nesvačilová (CZ) etc.



CONTACT

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