

CRISS CROSS  
by Nina Rybářová  
& Tomáš Rybář

# Slovak short films 2023 – 2024



# Fiction

## Door to Sight

### Osvietenie

directed by Anna Ahaliieva  
SK, 2023, 18 min.

Lilia, a successful businesswoman with poor eyesight, reluctantly returns to her Ukrainian hometown to collect her belongings. Unexpectedly, this journey sparks memories of her parents and childhood, leading to a miraculous restoration of her eyesight.

## Gritty Eyes

### Oči plné piesku

directed by Juraj Janiš  
SK – CZ, 2023, 30 min.

When a fifteen-year-old boy from a broken home gets sucked into a burglary that goes terribly wrong, he is brutally forced to reconsider just whom he can really trust before it is too late.

## Lightvision

### Svetlónázor

directed by Lenka Fábryová  
SK, 2023, 19 min.

Teacher Dagmar Tichodolinska finds herself ill in the hospital and faces a big challenge. Her lifelong worldview suddenly stopped working. There is too much to face. Will her former student, therapist Tatiana, help her in this difficult situation, even if she does not have good memories of the teacher Tichodolinska?

## The Professional Parent

### Profesionálny rodič

directed by Erik Jasaň  
SK – RO, 2023, 14 min.

Ingrid lives in a small village in Eastern Slovakia, where the Roma population is the victim of a tenacious stigma. Despite this, Ingrid decides to become the legal representative of a young Roma girl, which upsets the fragile balance of her home.

## This Peculiar Day

### Tento divný deň

directed by Emília Ondriašová  
SK, 2023, 19 min.

Martin is an art curator who has it all – a niche gallery, a flat in a hip neighbourhood, and a beautiful, successful wife. However, the monotony of everyday life bores him. So, he fills the hole dug by the lack of understanding and passion in his marriage with yogurts and erotic fantasies. And once he is faced with a midlife crisis, he approaches it as a man – he runs away.

## Shedding the Mist

### Svlékat mlhy

directed by Kateřina Hroníková  
SK – CZ, 2023, 12 min.

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

## The Whisper of Freedom

directed by Anna Ahaliieva  
SK, 2023, 17 min.

Set in 1980s Czechoslovakia, the film's plot revolves around the necessity to conceal the love between two women, deemed socially unacceptable during that era. Certain circumstances force our two protagonists to keep their shared feelings a secret and adapt to a "traditional" life, which is against what their hearts feel.

# Documentary

## Cold and Dark

### Zima a tma

directed by Peter Hošťák  
SK – CA, 2023, 29 min.

This dreamy journey of a draft horse named Kubo and his logging community in rural Slovakia points at the ongoing energy crisis in Europe where firewood may become the only source of heat and energy.

## Constant – an Homage to the Apartment

### Konštanta – rozlúčka s bytom

directed by Paula Ďurinová  
SK – DE, 2023, 16 min.

A tribute to grandparents and an apartment on the top floor of a Bratislava apartment block overlooking the Danube and Austria takes the form of an intimate dialogue. Between generations, past and present, East and West. In the same space, through family experiences and traumas, the author's identity was also formed.

## dialogues

### dialógy

directed by Peter Podolský  
SK, 2023, 35 min.

A map of notes and diaries where we are searching for miracles of communication with the non-human.

## A Good Mind Grows in Thorny Places

### Dom Strom

directed by Katarína Gramatová  
SK, 2023, 20 min.

12-year-old Adam, a determined self-proclaimed lumberjack in the Slovakian economically depressed area, strives to break stereotypes and reveal his true identity in a community marked by differences and expectations.



# Animation

## House of Velvet

directed by Ivana Hucíková & Igor Smitka  
SK, 2023, 17 min.

*House of Velvet* is a short film that follows a day in the life of the Kiki House of Velvet members. Scattered moments from their everyday experiences in the outside world dissolve when everyone meets again in the safety within their chosen family. Scripted scenes merged with authentic and lived experiences of the characters show how the ballroom culture intertwines with their lives & vice versa.

## Poisoned Well Otrávená studňa

directed by Radek Ševčík  
SK, 2023, 14 min.

Although queer people in Slovakia are frightened to death, the well remains poisoned...

## VALE TUDO

directed by Tereza Smetanová  
SK, 2023, 37 min.

Lucia "Pretty Beast" Krajčovič is a 34-year-old professional MMA fighter and a mother of two. Despite recently giving birth, she is determined to be a champion at both. With her newborn in her arms, she prepares for the first fight after her pregnancy. Sleep-deprived and exhausted, she slowly crumbles under the immense pressure of her two identities. The question that once had an obvious answer takes over her. Is it possible to be both pretty and the beast? And for how much longer?

## Blue Teddy Bear

*Plaví medo*  
directed by Marina Andree Škop  
HR – SK, 2023, 10 min.

A boy got a blue teddy bear for his fifth birthday. Although he desperately wanted to open the gift, his mom wouldn't let him because bacteria and dust often live on plush toys. When he grew up and became a dad, he decided to do everything to make his son's dreams come true.

## Criss Cross Křížom krážom

directed by Nina Rybárová & Tomáš Rybár  
SK – CZ, 2023, 7 min.

*Criss Cross* is a short story about friendship and treason between a birdie, a baby goat and a fox.

## Electra

directed by Daria Kashcheeva  
CZ – FR – SK, 2023, 26 min.

Electra rethinks her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, mixing memories with dreams. Isolated in her fantasy world full of busty dolls, plastic men's body parts and dentist tools, she builds up her own relationships with her body and sexuality. Diving deeper into her childhood memories, Electra goes through the most painful memories to let her suppressed feelings come out.

**World premiere at Festival de Cannes 2023**

## Of Stars and Fables O hviezdach a bajkách

directed by Alla Dmitrievna  
SK, 2023, 7 min.

A short animated film follows a teenage boy who, feeling disconnected from the outside world, escapes into a bizarre and imaginative realm of his own creation.

## My Name is Edgar and I Have a Cow Volám sa Edgar a mám kravu

directed by Filip Diviak  
CZ – SK, 2023, 6 min.

While being on the excursion in local slaughterhouse, Edgar meets newborn calf which will dramatically change his ordinary life. When Edgar finds out, that the calf is meant to become a schnitzel one day, he decides to take it home, to his little apartment. Since then, everything turns upside down... quite literally.

## Na Výchyr

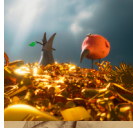
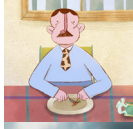
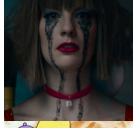
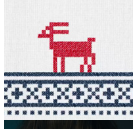
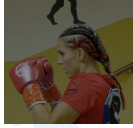
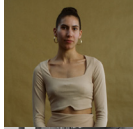
directed by Samuel Púchovský  
SK, 2023, 3 min.

The film follows Magpie, known for collecting shiny objects in her nest while mocking other birds with traditional nests made of wood. However, during a storm, she discovers the impracticality of her gold-stuffed nest, and as her tree teeters on the verge of collapse, Magpie faces a downfall.

## The Wasteland Pustatina

directed by Timotej Lukovič  
SK, 2023, 10 min.

In the arid desert, a woman sustains herself through a solitary tree, her constant companion. When mysterious pink petals fall from the sky, captivating her with their beauty, she sets out on a relentless journey to discover their origin. As the exhausting quest unfolds, the woman grapples with diminishing hope, realizing the harsh sand may be the only constant in her life.



# And more to come



## ... about twofolds floors and heavenly bonds

### ... a nebo má dve poschodia

directed by Kristián Grupač  
fiction, SK, 2024, 30 min.



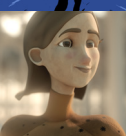
Quiet and introverted Gregor lives with his mother Hermína in a small village in Northern Slovakia. One day, his cousin Jano knocks on their door with an offer of a job in Hungary and, more importantly, the intention to mend irreparably damaged family relationships.



## The Bus

### Autobus

directed by Daniela Sláviková  
fiction, SK, 2024, 20 min.



During one day at the end of the school year, different generations of differently frustrated characters, the bus driver Ján, the teacher, the trainee and teenage Emma, meet on a bus trip. After a series of conflicts between the provocative Emma and the angry Ján, the backgrounds of their lives are gradually revealed in the interior of the bus, and the generation gap is replaced by an unexpected closeness.



## Eco Terro

directed by Matúš Vizár  
animation, SK - CZ, 2024, 15 min.

A group of four activists is on their way to rescue tens of hens struggling along in tiny cages at the chicken-farm. Maybe they do it for the first time, maybe not, but it seems like they know what to expect.



## Everything We Missed

### Všetko, čo sme nestihli

directed by Marta Prokopová  
animation, SK - CZ, 2024, 14 min.

She is too busy, while he needs more of her attention. She is a young woman, he is her dog. When the pandemic traps them in a small flat, it's the best time of his life. The flat becomes a capsule flying through empty and cold space. They land on an empty planet reserved just for the two of them. Trees, forests and miniature and giant animals populate their fantasy world. It is the time when they can do everything they missed before. Will it stay that way when they return to Earth?

## Hello Summer

### Ahoj leto

directed by Martin Smatana  
& Veronika Zacharová  
animation, SK - CZ - FR, 2024, 10 min.

Sea, sun, beaches and family holidays. Just pick your dream destination from the catalogue, pack your bags and hit the road. But what if the hotel isn't as stellar as promised, your room has a bit of a naughty view, the dinner is surprisingly exotic and your luggage travels independently. Family above all!

## Venus in Retrograde

### Venuša v retrográde

directed by Štefánia Lovasová  
fiction, SK, 2024, 16 min.

Video footage shot by two sisters portrays their escape from the real world through their phone while living with mother escaping the same world but with the help of alcohol. Their nice memories are interwoven with the struggles of the family.

## Orla

directed by Marie Lukáčová  
fiction, SK - CZ, 2024, 30 min.

A young girl, Jasna, grows up in a hierarchical kingdom isolated by magical nature. Blessed with the power of critical thinking and a fierce sense of justice, she comes into conflict with the authorities – the Ruler Volk, who condemns her to a difficult path from which there is no return. By overcoming her own fears, caring and friendly connection with the protector of the forest – Eagle, she finds the key to changing the system and setting the whole society free.

## A Sea to Remember

### Pohádka o cestě k moři

directed by Radek Ševčík  
documentary, SK, 2024, 10 min.

Can an old woman stand firmly on the ground while floating in the sea?

## Far Between Us

### Daleko mezi námi

directed by Vojtěch Javůrek  
fiction, SK, 2024, 13 min.

Alone, surrounded by deep forests, little boy Vašek sees something strange in the sky. His biological mother's unexpected request catches his adoptive parents Jan and Pavel by surprise. Can the adults understand the young child's emotions, or will Vašek have to face his fears all by himself? The dense film tells a story in an almost apocalyptic tone about the destructive power of fear and the painful path to mutual closeness.