

What's Slovak



in Berlin?

Katarína Krnáčová



Forum

Katarína Krnáčová is a film and TV producer dedicated to sustainable and diverse productions, both on and off the screen. She produced *Little Harbour* (dir. Iveta Grófová, 2017), winner of the Berlinale Crystal Bear, and the family film *Summer Rebels* (dir. Martina Saková, 2020), which received the German Film Critics Award. Moreover, she produced *Stand Up* (dir. Juraj Bohuš, 2022), the first Slovak film shot green, and co-produced a box office hit and the best European Children's Film *How I Learned to Fly* (dir. Radivoje Andrić, 2022). Her current slate includes seven fiction and documentary films and a high-end TV series. She is the president of the Slovak Film and Television Academy and a member of the EFA.

You are the co-producer of *The Editorial Office*, which will premiere at this year's Berlinale. What made you interested in participating in this project?

My decision to participate was strongly influenced by the director Roman Bondarchuk's profound understanding of the subject. It's his world, his home region, his people. I was convinced by the high level of authenticity he brought to the project, which, when combined with the film's satirical and somewhat absurd narrative tone, forms its core strength and uniqueness.

What were some of the biggest challenges you faced as a co-producer of this film?

As the last and fourth co-producer to come on board, our primary goal was to assist our Ukrainian partners in finishing the film. They needed to shoot the

film's epilogue, and we managed to do it in Slovakia. The biggest challenge was making it happen quickly and with a limited budget while still achieving the high quality we all aspired to. What is more, we were filming in April 2023 amidst the invasion of Ukraine, which required transferring the entire cast and part of crew from Ukraine to Slovakia. This proved to be a rather complicated process.

You have several projects in production right now. Can you share where these stand and which one you think will appeal most to international audiences?

We are currently wrapping up the editing of *Company of Steel* (dir. Yuliia Hontaruk), a documentary feature also co-produced with Ukraine. It's a very important and globally relevant story, especially resonant in these times of vari-

ous wars and conflicts. We are also moving into post-production with our next feature film, *Flood* (dir. Martin Gonda). Set in a remote Slovak rural area in the 80s, it tells the story of how the communist state authorities destroyed seven Ruthenian villages to build a water reservoir. It's a film about our roots, the concept of home, and the challenges of preserving a fading culture and heritage.

Forum

Forum

The Editorial Office Redaktsiya

In the wild steppes of southern Ukraine, a young nature researcher named Yura is looking for an endangered species of groundhog but instead witnesses a crime. Eager to expose the truth, Yura takes his photo evidence to the local newspaper's editorial office. However, he quickly realizes that nobody there cares about pursuing justice. While a big war is looming over the horizon, Yura's naive worldview is splintering in a storm of fake news, rigged political elections, and mysterious cult rituals. On his quest, the hero is about to find out who he really is—an endangered species of a good man or just a loser?

UA – DE – SK – CZ | 2024 | 126 min. |
detective drama

Director Roman Bondarchuk
Scriptwriters Alla Tyutyunnyk,
Roman Bondarchuk, Dar'ya Averchenko
DOP Vadym Ilkov
Production Moon Man (UA), South Films
(UA), Elemag Pictures (DE), Silverart (SK),
MasterFilm (CZ)

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SCREENINGS ►
FEB 16 | 21:00 | Delphi Filmpalast 1 *Premiere
FEB 17 | 17:30 | City Kino Wedding
FEB 18 | 15:00 | Kino Betonhalle@silent green
FEB 22 | 18:30 | Kino Arsenal 1
FEB 25 | 20:15 | Delphi Filmpalast

Jakub Viktorín



Panorama

Jakub Viktorín is a successful young Slovak producer and the chair of nutprodukcja, a company behind acclaimed films such as *Victim* (dir. Michal Blaško, 2022 Venice), *Tony, Shelly and the Magic Light* (dir. Filip Pošivač, 2023 Annecy), *Love, Dad* (dir. Diana Cam Van Nguyen, 2021 Locarno) or *Solitude* (dir. Ninna Pálmadóttir, 2023 Toronto). Viktorín, who has completed the Producers on the Move and EAVE programs, is also the founder and chair of the Visegrad Film Forum, an annual networking and educational event held each spring in Bratislava. The Berlinale festival will feature the premiere of the documentary *I'm Not Everything I Want to Be*, co-produced by him and directed by Klára Tasovská.

Why did you decide to get involved in this project? What made the offer attractive to you?

I decided to get involved in this project based on two key factors. Firstly, the previous works of producer Lukáš Kokeš and director Klára Tasovská were a major draw. Although our company does not typically focus on documentaries, the films created by Klára and Lukáš have inspired me to collaborate with them. Secondly, and just as importantly, the main protagonist and the film's overarching theme were incredibly compelling. Libuše Jarcovjáková is an exceptional storyteller who delves into deeply personal, sometimes painful, yet universally relevant subjects. She addresses her rejection of motherhood, her abortion, the relationship with her parents, her search for solace and inner peace in the exoticism of the social periphery, the exploration of

sexual identity, and coming to terms with her body's inevitable aging. All these layers that make up the story told through a feature collage of photographs of our protagonist craft a unique film experience. It has the potential to resonate with audiences beyond the specific festival circuit, especially for those open to exploring new perspectives.

The film largely depicts life in Prague behind the Iron Curtain in the 70s and 80s. How can such a film speak to contemporary Slovak and international audiences?

I believe the film's central theme of embracing oneself, irrespective of conventional standards of beauty and success, will resonate significantly with the audiences. Libuše's story is a testament to the bravery of putting your head above the parapet, of daring to be visibly and unapologeti-

cally different. It's about the courage to be exposed to yourself, your family, and to the wider public.

You are also collaborating with producer Lukáš Kokeš on two other films, *Summer School 2001* (dir. Dužan Duong) and *Velvet Generation* (dir. Ivana Hucíková). Can you tell us something about these projects and update us on their current state?

Regarding *Summer School 2001*, we have entered the post-production and editing phase. Depending on the progress of the creative process, viewers can expect to see this film either in the second half of this year or in 2025. As for *Velvet Generation*, we are in the process of securing finances for production, with pre-production already underway. Viewers will have to wait a bit longer for this film.

Panorama

I'm Not Everything I Want To Be

Ještě nejsem, kým chci být

Panorama

After the Soviet invasion of Prague, a young female photographer strives to break free from the constraints of Czechoslovak normalization and embarks on a wild journey towards freedom, capturing her experiences on thousands of subjective photographs.

CZ – SK – AT | 2024 | 87 min. |
creative biographical documentary

Director Klára Tasovská
Scriptwriters Klára Tasovská,
Alexander Kascheev
DOP Libuše Jarcovjáková,
Radka Šišuláková
Production Somatic Films (CZ),
nutprodukcja (SK), Mischief Films (AT)

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SCREENINGS ►
FEB 18 | 16:30 | Kino International *Premiere
FEB 19 | 21:30 | Cubix 8
FEB 20 | 18:30 | Cubix 5
FEB 24 | 22:00 | Zoo Palast 2

Mira Fornay



Co-Production Market

Mira Fornay, who has made four feature films and fourteen shorts, studied directing at FAMU in Prague and at the National Film and Television School in Beaconsfield near London. Her second feature film, *My Dog Killer* (2013), received the Tiger Award at Rotterdam. Its success continued at the Sun in the Net Awards, the Slovak national film awards, where it received accolades in categories including Best Script, Best Director, and Best Film. It was also Slovakia's official entry for the Oscars. After winning The Grand Prix of the *Generation Kplus* International Jury for the Best Film with her film *She - Hero* last year, Fornay is returning to Berlin with her new project *Twist the Rabbit*, which she will present at the Berlinale Co-Production Market 2024 within the *Berlinale Directors* section.

What is your new film about, and what inspired you to make it?

It is a dystopian love story that takes place in 2052. The main character, Leila, is a young lawyer who fights for freedom of choice. Freedom is a basic human need that we often take for granted in Europe. My new film will be about ordinary people without any celebrity status who have decided to live differently. However, it will be a drama, and the main character has a very disarming sense of humor. It is also my most personal film.

Your previous film *She - Hero* had a more realistic style and storyline, but *Twist the Rabbit* is set in the future. What motivated this decision?

I'm determined to maintain authenticity, as I've done in my previous films, considering it a crucial aspect of auteur cinema. Much like my earlier works, *Twist*

the Rabbit will embrace a minimalistic and visually dynamic cinematic approach. The choice to explore a futuristic setting was deliberate. In my view, while there may be advancements in technology affordable to the richer classes, the essence of humanity will not change significantly in the next 28 years. If we fail to change our behavior towards the planet and fail to implement effective environmental protection laws, the prospects for the future appear bleak. However, I still believe that positive changes can be made NOW.

What are your expectations for participating in the Co-production Market?

Viktor Schwacz (producer, CINEART TV Prague): Mira has a clear vision and a compelling thematic core with great co-production potential. Consequently, we are optimistic about connecting with suitable co-production partners, as well as

exploring opportunities with world sales and film distribution partners.

Mira Fornay: As an author, I am immensely grateful for this nomination, and I have high hopes it will significantly expedite the financing of this film, possibly even more so than my previous projects, even within our domestic film industry.

Co-Production Market

Co-Production Market

Twist the Rabbit Otoč králíka!

2052: Leila must "gain" a child. If Leila fails, she'll lose her freedom and the opportunity to be with her love Gábor.

SK – CZ | in development |
dystopian love story

Director & Scriptwriter Mira Fornay
Production MIRAFOX (SK), CINEART TV
Prague (CZ)

Slovak Producer Mira Fornay
MIRAFOX
mira.fornay@mirafox.sk
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Expected Release 2025





Hanging Without Walls

Pozor, padá SNG!

Alexandra is the Director General of the Slovak National Gallery. After decades of deterioration, the neglected main building of the gallery, whose visionary architectural concept was ruined by its execution and therefore never fully accepted by the public, is undergoing a full-scale renovation. For eight years, Alexandra has struggled with the authorities, contractors, naysayers, and a lack of resources. Can a single individual change the fate of an important cultural institution? What price will Alexandra have to pay for her efforts?

SK | 2023 | 80 min. |
creative documentary

Directors & Scriptwriters Jana Durajová,
Lena Kušnieriková
DOP Dominik Jursa, Ivo Miko
Production PubRes (SK), RTVS (SK)

Slovak Producers Zuzana Mistríková,
Ľubica Orechovská
PubRes
pubres@pubres.sk
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SCREENINGS ►
FEB 16 | 16:30 | Virtual Cinema 1
FEB 18 | 10:30 | Virtual Cinema 2

Market Screenings



Solitude

An elderly farmer moves to the city for the first time in his life and befriends a local paperboy. This unexpected bond significantly impacts both their lives and the boy's family.

IS – SK | 2023 | 75 min. | drama

Director Ninna Pálmadóttir
Scriptwriter Rúnar Rúnarsson
DOP Dušan Husár
Production Pegasus Pictures (IS),
nutprodukcja (SK)

Slovak Co-Producer Jakub Viktorín
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Festivals & Sales Théo Lionel
The Party Film Sales
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www.thepartysales.com

SCREENING ►
FEB 17 | 16:30 | Cinemax 16

Market Screenings



Brothers Bratři

#annaismissing

It is October 1953, and a small resistance group of five friends makes a daring decision to flee communist Czechoslovakia for West Berlin. At the beginning of the month, they all cross the heavily guarded border, but their presence is soon detected in East Germany. Unwittingly, they initiate the largest armed manhunt since World War II. Twenty thousand German Police and Soviet Army troops are mobilized, all because of five teenage boys. This is one of the most significant stories of the Cold War.

Market Screenings

Market Screenings

Anna is a controversial influencer and best known for her provocative online content, but suddenly she goes silent on her social media profiles and mysteriously stops posting any updates. When fifteen-year-old Nina finds a half-naked photo of Anna on her dad's phone, she decides to track down the missing influencer. The shocking events that follow will change not only Nina's life but also her family's. The thriller *#annaismissing* is a standalone film continuation of the successful series *#martyisdead*, which was honored with an International Emmy Award in 2020.

CZ – DE – SK | 2023 | 110 min. |
biographical drama

Director Tomáš Mašín
Scriptwriters Joseph Mašín, Barbara Masin
DOP Roland Stuprich
Production FilmBrigade (CZ), Czech
Television (CZ), Rohfilm Production (DE),
PubRes (SK)

Slovak Co-Producers Zuzana Mistríková,
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SCREENING ►
FEB 18 | 16:50 | CinemaxX 12

CZ – SK | 2023 | 109 min. |
coming-of-age thriller

Director Pavel Soukup
Scriptwriter Lucie Kryzová
DOP Miloslav Holman
Production Bionaut (CZ), Raketa (SK)

Slovak Co-Producer Zuzana Mistríková
Raketa
zuzana@raketa.watch
www.raketa.watch

SCREENINGS ►
FEB 16 | 16:00 | Virtual Cinema 7
FEB 18 | 18:20 | dffb-Kino
FEB 19 | 9:00 | CinemaxX 12

Emerging Producers 2024

Matej Sotník

Emerging Producers is a promotional and educational project of the Ji.hlava IDFF, designed to connect talented European documentary film producers. Since 2017, following the success of the previous five editions, the program was expanded to include an additional four-day meeting in Berlin and producers' presentations during the Berlinale. Slovak Emerging Producer 2024 is Matej Sotník.

Matej Sotník is a producer and partner at the **guča films** production company, and the co-founder and creative director at the **Film Expanded** distribution company. He is the producer of Viera Čákanyová's sci-fi documentary *Notes from Eremocene*, which had its world premiere at Berlinale 2023. The guča films portfolio includes award-winning films that have been screened at festivals such as Sheffield DocFest, RIDM Montreal, Ji.hlava, and many others. Matej is an alumnus of workshops such as MIDPOINT Series Launch, Emerging Producers, MFI Script 2 Film Workshop, and IDFAcademy and is a co-founder of the Slovak Documentary Film Association. He is currently co-producing six feature films and developing a TV/Online series project titled *Import Games*, which explores the video game industry in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

UPCOMING FILMS

Lapilli – dir. Paula Ďurinová | SK | 70min. | expected 2024

The Other One – dir. Marie Magdalena Kochová | CZ - SK | 80 min. | expected 2024

If Pigeons Turned to Gold – dir. Pepa Lubojacki | CZ - SK | 80 min. | expected 2024

It's Not Your Fault – dir. Paula Ďurinová | SK - CZ | 80 min. | expected 2025

600 Raids – dir. Kristína Leidenfrostová | AU - SK | 80 min. | expected 2025

World of Walls – dir. Lucia Kašová | SK - CZ - NL | 80 min. | expected 2026



Contact

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Emerging Producers

Slovak Children's Films Nominated for ECFA 2024

The European Children's Film Association (ECFA) will present awards for the best films of 2023 in three categories at the 74th Berlinale. Two Slovak co-productions, *Even Mice Belong in Heaven* and *Tony, Shelly and the Magic Light*, have been nominated for the 2024 ECFA Award as well. The winners will be determined by the members of the Association.

The film *Even Mice Belong in Heaven* (dir. Denisa Grimmová and Jan Bubeníček) tells the story of two outsiders whose vastly different personalities and ways of thinking help them overcome enormous obstacles. After an unfortunate accident, two mortal enemies, a Mouse and a Fox, meet in animal heaven. There, they lose their natural instincts and become best friends. Longing to stay together upon their return to Earth, their wish is fulfilled in an unexpected way: they are reborn in each other's bodies. Through the power of their friendship, they overcome even the seemingly impossible. This tale of hope, love, courage, and overcoming prejudices and past pains won the ECFA Award at the Smile International Film Festival in New Delhi.

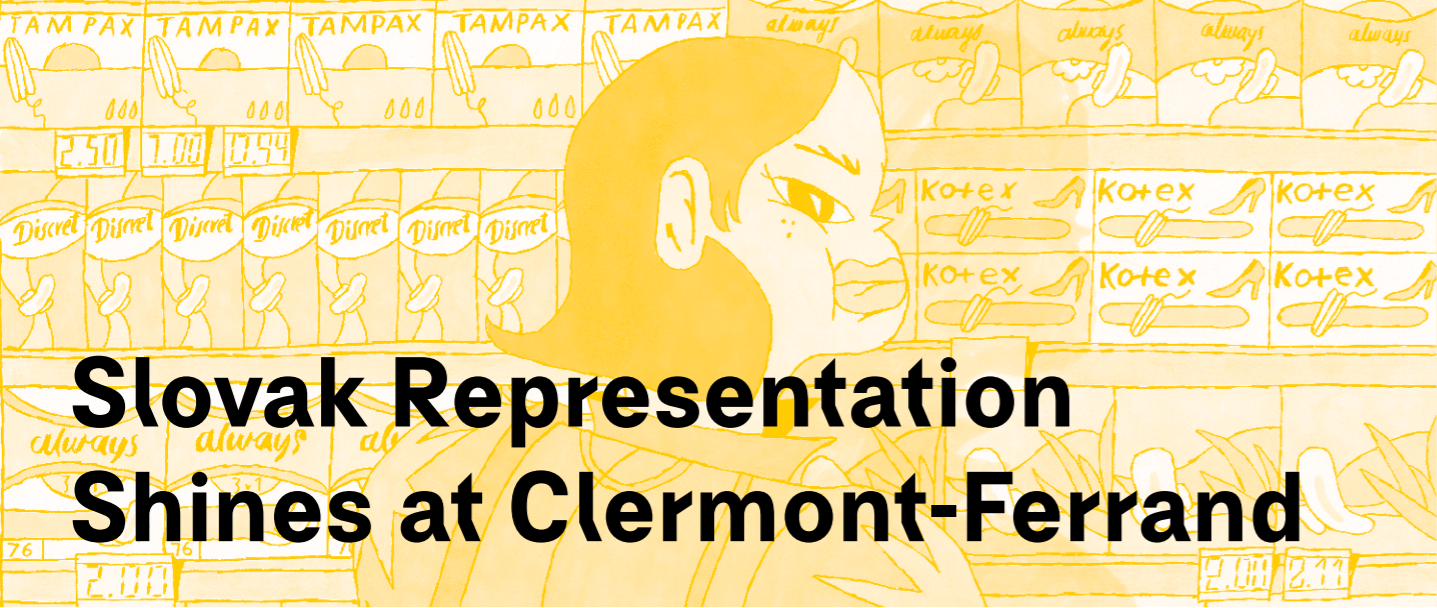
The film *Tony, Shelly and the Magic Light* (dir. Filip Pošivač) employs the stop-motion animation technique. Eleven-year-old Tony has something very unique about him: he has been glowing since birth. His overprotective parents, seeking to shield



him from the outside world, keep him confined at home. However, Tony's world is turned upside down with the arrival of the mysterious Shelly in their apartment building just before the Christmas holidays. He forges his first real friendship with her and embarks on an adventurous journey to

uncover the source of the enigmatic dark wisps draining sunshine from their building. Celebrating themes of friendship, fantasy, light, and darkness, this film won the ECFA Award at the Athens International Children's Film Festival.

ECFA Award



Slovak Representation Shines at Clermont-Ferrand

Peter Hošťák's documentary *Cold and Dark* takes viewers on a dreamy journey through the life of a draught horse named Kubo and his logging community in the Slovak countryside. The film raises awareness of the ongoing energy crisis in Europe, where firewood may soon become the primary source of heat and energy. Through impressive visuals, Hošťák's work sheds light on the challenges faced by communities relying on traditional methods in the face of modern energy challenges. Presented in the *International Competition* section, the film highlighted the intersection of environmental issues, traditional lifestyles, and Europe's broader energy challenges.

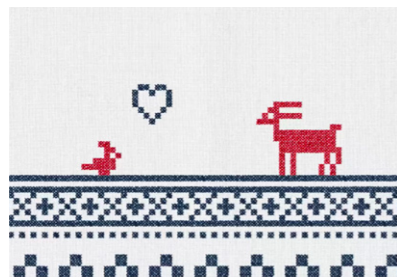


Nina Rybárová and Tomáš Rybár presented their animation *Criss Cross* in the 2024 Lab Competition. *Criss Cross* depicts a story inspired by popular culture, where animal heroes reside in a world where the values of good prevail over evil. The film explores the timeless wisdom embodied in the proverb 'A friend in need is a friend

Slovak filmmakers showcased their work at the prestigious Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival (February 2-10, 2024). Two Slovak shorts, *Cold and Dark* by Peter Hošťák and *Criss Cross* by Nina Rybárová and Tomáš Rybár, were selected for the festival's competitive sections, highlighting diverse talents in the field of short film production.

indeed,' making it universally accessible to audiences of all ages and nationalities. *Criss Cross* is not merely a children's film imparting moral lessons; it is also an engaging piece for adult viewers, produced in a unique manner — through cross-stitch embroidery.

The varied representation of Slovakia at the Clermont-Ferrand ISFF was complemented by Diana Cam Van Nguyen's award-winning short animated documentary *Love, Dad*. Featured in the *Eur♀Visions* section, a thematic retrospective dedicated to strong female

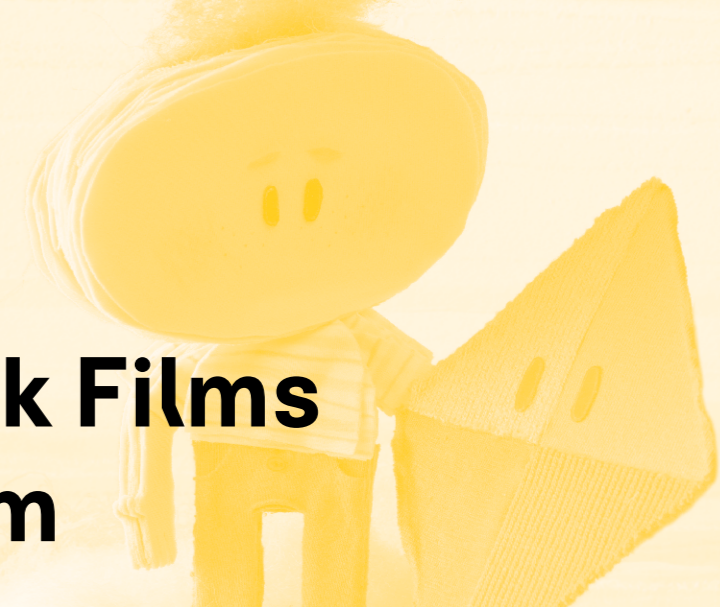


personalities, her film delves into the personal story of the director, who discovered a box of letters written to her years ago by her father. *Love, Dad* has already garnered recognition, winning the Festivals Connexion Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes award at the 2022 Clermont-Ferrand Festival.

At the Euro Connection co-production forum, part of the Clermont-Ferrand ISFF taking place from February 5 to 8, 2024, Slovak director Michaela Mihályi presented her animated short *Period Drama*. The film humorously explores the ordeal of a young protagonist experiencing her first menstruation.

Slovak Film News

Slovak Film News



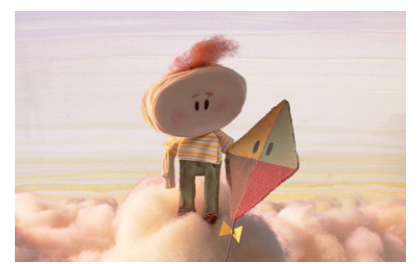
Three Slovak Films at Rotterdam

Once again this year, the program of the International Film Festival Rotterdam (January 25 – February 4, 2024) featured several Slovak films. *Explanation for Everything* was showcased in the *Harbour* section, and young audiences had a chance to see the animated shorts *The Kite* and *My Name Is Edgar and I Have a Cow*.

The Hungarian-Slovak film *Explanation for Everything*, directed by Gábor Reisz, about a high-school graduation that turns into a nationwide scandal was co-produced by Slovak company MPhilms. Students, teachers, parents, journalists, and politicians enter the story of unfulfilled love and a polarized society. This witty yet apt analysis of nationalism continues its successful festival run, which began last September with the Orizzonti Prize at the Venice Film Festival.



The Kite, directed by Martin Smatana and produced by BFILM, premiered at the 2019 Berlinale and went on to be showcased at more than 200 international festivals. The film depicts the passing of a loved one in a child-friendly metaphorical way and explains that none of us is here forever.



Filip Diviak's *My Name Is Edgar and I Have a Cow* has already been screened at festivals including Tallinn Black Nights, Dok Leipzig, AFI Fest, IndieLisboa, and Berlin's KUKI. Co-produced by the Slovak company Rake-ta, the film narrates the journey of Edgar, who, following a visit to the slaughterhouse, brings home a newborn calf. As the calf matures and inadvertently wreaks havoc in a confined space, Edgar's life takes a tumultuous turn.

**CENTRAL EUROPEAN CINEMA
STAND NO. 112 Gropius Bau**

Slovakia is participating at the European Film Market in Berlin for the 19th time. Visitors can locate us at the shared Central European Cinema stand, where the Slovak Film Institute, alongside friends and colleagues from the Czech Republic and Slovenia, provides an informative and promotional hub for Slovak cinema. It also serves as a networking venue for Slovak film professionals and their international counterparts.

Come & meet us at the EFM!
www.efm-berlinale.de

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BERLINALE



MARCHÉ DU FILM,
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

