

## And more to come

### **Bardo**

directed by Viera Čákanyová  
animation/documentary, SK – CZ,  
2025, 27 min.

According to Tibetan tradition, Bardo is the state of existence after death before the next birth. In the eponymous film, director Viera Čákanyová visualizes the experience of being in darkness, where one can experience the continuous morphing of matter into surprising forms. This journey includes the consciousness of living and non-living entities. Neural network-generated images, crafted into subtle animation, depict transformations into a giant sequoia, the Earth's core, or the eye of a hurricane.

### **Greetings from Rhodes**

#### **Pozdravy z Rodosu**

directed by Viera Čákanyová  
documentary, SK, 2025, 20 min.

Tourists lie carefree on the beach while the island is engulfed in flames. In her short film, director Viera Čákanyová ironically, and with a touch of kitsch, reveals our talent for ignoring crises. Real vacationer comments and glossy travel agency advertisements complete this tragicomic scene, challenging viewers to wonder — how far will we go to keep up appearances?

### **Kill, Kokesh, Kill!**

#### **Kill, Kokeš, Kill!**

directed by Jan Míka  
fiction/animation, CZ – SK, 2025, 15 min.

If I had the power to kill anyone and the certainty that no one would ever know, would I live it? And under what circumstances?

### **Orla**

directed by Marie Lukáčová  
fiction, CZ – SK, 2025, 20 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.

### **Tabula Rasa**

directed by Tomáš Danay  
animation, SK, 2025, 9 min.

Our main hero was born as unwanted and rejected by his creator. However, he heroically seeks his place in a society that ruthlessly rejects him because of his appearance. Despite the adversity of fate, he doesn't lose hope and strives to see only the good in all beings. Quickly, though, he pays the price for his naivety and pure soul, but leaves an undeniable mark in the world.

### **This Room Is Impossible to Eat**

#### **Táto izba sa nedá zjesť**

directed by Emília Ondriašová  
fiction, SK, 2025, 12 min.

To a 14-year-old Tereza, the love of her teacher — a groomer in his fifties — tastes like a rough plaster; and her father just sits there, knowing all along there's a despicable hair in his throat.

### **Tourists**

#### **Turisti**

directed by Mária Kralovič  
animation, SK – FR – CZ, 2025, 14 min.

Kornel (55) and Hana (50), are fixing hiking trail. Kornel feels like woodsman discovering new, unexplored places. He is secretly hoping that this adventure will save their stagnant relationship, but at the same time, he has no courage to depart from the marked trail. Hana's personality has dissolved during her partnership with Kornel. She only tries to make her husband happy. It doesn't take long for the couple to get lost. Scared and lonely Kornel and Hana must learn how to survive.

### **The Wayfarer**

#### **Cestovateľ**

directed by Veronika Jelšíková  
fiction, CZ – SK, 2025, 20 min.

Albert has spent his whole life wanting to travel but he has been stuck at home, living in a small town making enamel signs. He has saved up everything he has and reluctantly sells his home and livelihood to embark on this trip, a lifelong dream that will honor a deceased friend. But the journey he will embark on is not what he has anticipated.

## HELLO SUMMER

by Martin Smatana  
& Veronika Zacharová



# Slovak short films 2024 – 2025

# Fiction

## The Bus Autobus

directed by Daniela Sláviková  
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 provocative Emma and 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.

## Far Between Us Daleko mezi námi

directed by Vojtěch Javůrek  
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.

## Hot Flush

directed by Hana Hančínová  
SK, 2024, 26 min.

Elena, a social curator, is entering a new phase of her life as she approaches climacterium. As if it were not enough, Erik, a troubled teenager abandoned by his mother, who she mentors, misinterprets some of her gestures and initiates an unexpected sexual encounter at the workplace restroom. This moment throws them into existential crises, where they both find out their own inappropriate way to cope. Will Elena pretend nothing happened, or will she finally face the world on her own terms?

## Nights and Days Noci a dni

directed by Daniela Sláviková  
SK, 2024, 7 min.

A brief exploration of the joys and struggles of girlhood, focusing on the lives of two sisters who, through intimate dialogue in a hotel room, reveal the secrets of their relationship, their first menstruation, their first sexual experiences, and a fateful sentence that has forever remained etched in the memory of the younger sister.

## Shedding the Mist

**Svlékat mlhy**  
directed by Kateřina Hroníková  
SK - CZ, 2024, 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.

## Till Tomorrow Tak zajtra

directed by Hannah Dale  
SK, 2024, 17 min.

One day in the life of two brothers reveals the harsh contrast between the cold four walls of their home and fleeting moments of peace. On their way from school to home, they have no idea what challenges await them behind closed doors. Amidst constant conflict and a broken family, they discover that despite their differences, their bond is their greatest certainty.

## Venus in Retrograde Venuša v retrográde

directed by Štefánia Lovasová  
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.

# Documentary

## Bosphorus Kid

directed by Martina Buchelová  
& Debora Pastirčáková  
SK, 2024, 28 min.

University student Azime has an emancipated heart. She thought, that in Istanbul, she would be able to finally find her home and sense of belonging, but some challenges in her country don't seem to have an end.

## Confession

**Spoveď**  
directed by Rebeka Bizubová  
SK, 2024, 29 min.

The word trauma has many shades. The documentary opens up the topic of sexual harassment in the church, which the director has experienced first-hand. She looks back at the world before the trauma, and searches for answers herself to the questions of whether she will be able to come out of it after some time, and whether she will find the courage to tell her parents about it.

## A Sea to Remember Pohádka o cestě k moři

directed by Radek Ševčík  
SK, 2024, 10 min.

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

## A Good Mind Grows in Thorny Places

**Dom Strom**  
directed by Katarína Gramatová  
SK, 2024, 20 min.

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

## Seablindness

**Pristavy**  
directed by Tereza Smetanová  
SK, 2024, 30 min.

In a civilization without ships, dreams dry up. Can those who are blind to the sea imagine a different world?

## Queen From the Village Kráľovná z vesnice

directed by Emik Hirschnner  
SK, 2024, 15 min.

In the small village, Dávid, an ambitious performer, is preparing for an important concert. The film focuses on his relationship with his parents, whose attitude toward his identity is complex. Dávid seeks a way to cope with their expectations while trying to be himself. As the day of the performance approaches, he discovers the power of love and identity. The film explores the theme of authenticity in an environment that does not always understand him.

# Animation

## Everything We Missed

**Všetko, čo sme nestihli**  
directed by Marta Prokopová  
SK - CZ, 2024, 11 min.

An affectionate, humanistic film that tells the story of Eva Marty, an overwhelmed toymaker, and her dog Kubko, who find each other again through an unexpected catastrophe. They're given the opportunity to have an incredible, literally cosmic experience together. Through their heartwarming journey, they remind us of the beauty of the ordinary moments we share with those we love.

## Feast

**Hostina**  
directed by Rebeka Vagrčková  
SK, 2024, 5 min.

A story about courage and willingness to fight in difficult times.

## Free the Chickens

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

A rescue mission to free chickens from a factory farm goes radically wrong and a group of four activists is forced to escape into the inhospitable wilderness to experience a series of borderline situations and ethical dilemmas that lead to new insights, such as that nature is not a safe place for animals.

## Hello Summer

**Ahoj leto**  
directed by Martin Smatana  
& Veronika Zacharová  
SK - CZ - FR, 2024, 11 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!

## How the Bear Composed a Song

**Ako medveď zložil pieseň**  
directed by Kristína Bajaníková  
SK, 2024, 7 min.

The fairy tale portrays the creative process and friendship between a contemplative bear and loud animals.

## Hurikán

directed by Jan Saska  
CZ - FR - SK - BA, 2024, 12 min.

Beer is running out at Hurikán's favourite beer stand. Hurikán has a crush on bartender and thus, he offers to get her a new keg. He sets out to get it in one of the wildest districts of Prague, where he is forced to deal with local folks as well as police officers. Robbed, chased and beaten-up Hurikán finally succeeds and manages to get the keg. But he is at the end of his tether and so thirsty he can't help himself...

## I Died in Irpin

directed by Anastasiia Falileieva  
CZ - SK - UA, 2024, 11 min.

On 24th of February, in the morning my boyfriend and I decided to go from Kyiv to Irpin to his parents. It is hard for me to recall the chronology of those days, my mind blocks and undervalues all the memories, erases them, but the only thing I know for sure is that every day everything rapidly became worse. We were there for 10 days, sleeping in the basement, hiding from bombings, totally isolated. The film reconstructs this true story of survival through a personal and subjective lens.

