



**BID** BRATISLAVA  
INDUSTRY  
DAYS

**F+** FEBIOFEST  
Bratislava 2026

# BRATISLAVA INDUSTRY DAYS

March 15 – 17, 2026

PITCHINGS / PANELS / CO-PRO MEETINGS / NETWORKING WITH THE FILM INDUSTRY FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

# KFF INDUSTRY

SAVE THE DATE

1.06 – 6.06.2026

KRAKOWSKI  
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KFF  
INDUSTRY

ACCREDITATIONS AVAILABLE FROM MARCH 2026

[www.krakowfilmfestival.pl/en/industry/](http://www.krakowfilmfestival.pl/en/industry/)

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# AWARDS



## Best Febio Pitch Award

Sponsored by IFF Febiofest, the main Bratislava Industry Days award is €1000 cash for the most promising project. An international jury decides the award.



## Cineuropa Work in Progress Award

One Slovak project is awarded coverage throughout various development stages and distribution by Cineuropa. The award is decided by Martin Kudláč, Cineuropa's correspondent.



## TATINO FILMS Award

One Slovak project is awarded a consultancy according to its needs as part of the Slovak Pop Up programme. The award is decided by Matthieu Darras, TATINO FILMS' director.



## MIDPOINT Consulting Award

One project is awarded an in-depth script consultancy with a MIDPOINT Institute expert. The award is decided by Anita Pócsová, MIDPOINT Institute's program coordinator.



## Krakow Film Festival and DocLab Poland Award

One project is awarded participation at Krakow Film Festival's CEDOC Co-Production Market. The award is decided by Anita Piotrowska, Krakow Film Festival artistic director.



## DAE Talent Encouragement Award

One project is awarded a one-off consultation with one of our senior consultants and free membership to the Documentary Association of Europe for one year for the producer and director of the project. The award is decided by Julianna Ugrin, chair of the board of the Documentary Association of Europe.



## Ji.hlava New Visions Market Award

One project is awarded participation at Ji.hlava New Visions Market. The award is decided by Adriana Čížek Belešová, Ji.hlava IDFF programme manager.

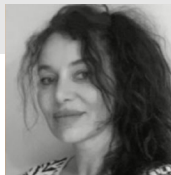


**INDUSTRY JURY**



## Cecilia Barrionuevo

Cecilia Barrionuevo is the Co-Head of Programme at Doclisboa and Programmer-at-Large at Film at Lincoln Center. She was Artistic Director of the Mar del Plata International Film Festival and co-programmed *Neighboring Scenes: New Latin American Cinema* at Film at Lincoln Center. She was also curator of Documenta Madrid and has organized programs for major institutions including UnionDocs, MACBA, Museo Reina Sofía, Viennale, and Harvard Film Archive. She is co-editor of the bilingual publication *Las Naves Cine* and holds an MA in Documentary Filmmaking (UAB, Spain), with training in film restoration from FIAF/ACE, Cineteca di Bologna, and L'Immagine Ritrovata. She was an Associated Fellow and Visiting Scholar at Harvard University and was awarded the title of Chevalier of the Arts and Letters by the French Ministry of Culture.



## Ewa Szabłowska

Ewa Szabłowska is the artistic director of New Horizons IFF in Poland, where she has been working as a programmer and a curator of the moving image since 2009. There she founded The Visual Front – a showcase for experimental cinema and films made by visual artists – and The Third Eye – a program exploring film and feminism from different angles. She has curated a number of retrospectives, thematic programs and country focuses. She also curates expanded cinema exhibitions and writes about cinema, art, and visual culture.



## Sofia Tocar

Sofia Tocar is a film distributor and festival agent, leading the short film distribution slate at Square Eyes – a Vienna-based agency known for bold, non-mainstream cinema. Previously, she was part of the Institute of Documentary Film in Prague, where she coordinated the East Silver Caravan and East Doc Market. With a background in art history, Sofia also works as a curator and co-creator of craftivist and activist projects.

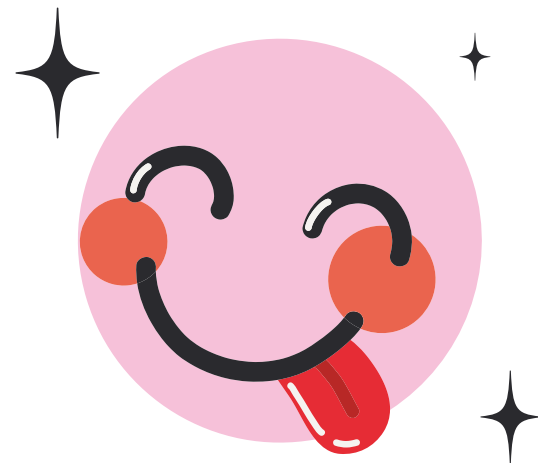
# DAE is the members network for documentary professionals working inside and outside of Europe.

Find like-minded, open, empathetic and internationally-engaged people making up our 900 members in 60 countries.

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**WORKS IN PROGRESS**



## 9 mesiacov 9 Months

Slovakia | 20 min.  
fiction | drama | in pre-production

**DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY:** Anna Ahaliieva

**DOP:** Samuel Telúch

**EDITOR:** Filip Šablatura

**PRODUCERS:** Tereza Kravecová, Emília Širotníková (FTF VŠMU, SK)

**SUPPORT:** Tatra banka Foundation (SK), Slovak Audiovisual Fund

**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 20 000

**PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** April 2026

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** February 2027

**LOOKING FOR:** co-producers, industry platforms, festivals

### CONTACT

FTF VŠMU

[www.vsmu.sk/en/ftf/](http://www.vsmu.sk/en/ftf/)

[erika.paulinska@vsmu.sk](mailto:erika.paulinska@vsmu.sk), [tereza.kravecova@gmail.com](mailto:tereza.kravecova@gmail.com)

+421 904 848 291, +421 944 978 310

### SYNOPSIS

Inspired by true events, *9 Months* sheds light on the ongoing deportations of Ukrainian children to Russia – an atrocity still happening today. When 18-year-old Ksenia learns that her younger brother has been adopted by a Russian family, she embarks on a dangerous journey to reclaim him, facing borders, bureaucracy, and propaganda that has turned him against her. Her fight is not only for her brother, but for his stolen childhood and the bond that war tried to erase.

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As a Ukrainian filmmaker, I address the deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia – one of the gravest crimes of the ongoing war. Since February 24, 2022, over 19,500 children have been taken. In collaboration with the Save Ukraine organization, *9 Months* is inspired by a true story of orphaned siblings reunited after nine months in Russia, where propaganda has reshaped the younger brother's view of his sister. Drawing from my own experience of growing up in occupied Crimea, the film explores how ideology invades childhood and fractures families long before war reaches the battlefield.

### ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Anna Ahaliieva is a Ukrainian film director and screenwriter. From 2020 to 2022, she studied documentary directing at the Kyiv National University of Theatre, Cinema and Television. After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, she relocated to Slovakia as a refugee. She continues her studies in narrative film directing at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. Her films – *The Door to Sight* (2023), *The Whisper of Freedom* (2023), *35 mm from the Storm* (2024), and *Two Tickets to Mars* (2024) – have been screened at festivals in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Poland, and Australia.

### ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Tereza Kravecová is currently completing her MA in Film Studies at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. She works as a junior producer at nutprodukcia and is also active as a film critic and part of Visegrad Film Forum.

The Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava is the leading film school in Slovakia, with recent student films premiering at major festivals such as San Sebastián and Cannes. In 2025, the student documentary *Confession* (dir. Rebeka Bizubová) received a Student Academy Award (Silver Oscar).



Anna  
Ahaliieva



Tereza  
Kravecová

§175: Fornication between men - A man who commits sexual acts with another man, or allows himself to be misused for sexual acts by a man, will be punished with prison.

§175a: Serious fornication between men - With imprisonment up to ten years, with mitigating circumstances with imprisonment not less than three months shall be punished:

- a man who initiates fornication with a male subordinate or employee;
- a man over 21 years who seduces a male person under the age of 21 to drive with him fornication;
- a man who drives a commercial basis with men fornication or of men can be abused for a sex offense or offers to do so.

§175b: Fornication with animals - A man who commits fornication with an animal or allows himself to be abused by an animal for fornication animal must be killed and its

## 66852/Reimagined 66852/Reimagined

Slovakia | 20-30 min.  
documentary | essay | LGBTQ+ | in production

**DIRECTOR:** Radek Ševčík

**DOP:** Matej Jánošík

**EDITOR:** Petr Chromčák

**PRODUCER:** Natália Uhrinová (FTF VŠMU, SK)

**CO-PRODUCER:** Radek Ševčík (tucnak.art, SK)

**WORKSHOPS & FORUMS:** TAIFAS Film Residency 2025, Festival Áčko 2025

**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 12 700

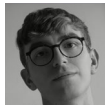
**PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** February – April 2026

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** June 2026

**LOOKING FOR:** distribution possibilities – festivals, broadcasters

### CONTACT

tucnak.art  
www.tucnak.art  
radek@tucnak.art  
+420 732 534 364



Radek  
Ševčík

### SYNOPSIS

In 1941, Leo Kowal, a Slovak Nazi officer, was sent to a concentration camp for having sex with his male colleague. His death left no evidence. Essayistic collage of personal letters, Gestapo interrogation transcripts, and parodic adaptation of SS gay-persecution manual reveal how homophobia lives in the language to this day. A young gay filmmaker retraces Kowal's story, filling the gaps in memory and cold evidence with his intimate thoughts. He asks what it means to inherit such documents – and how to confront shame around gay sex while examining a figure who was both criminal and victim.

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The core of the film is Kowal's story. While fragmented and ambivalent, without the contextualization its problematic aspects could easily be overlooked. I have only a single photograph of Kowal and a large body of textual material, written in an impersonal and tendentious Nazi language. To tell a story, I must add something between these facts – to imagine. But imagining along the lines suggested by Gestapo records would only reproduce their gaze. Since I do not want the audience to see Kowal through a Nazi prism, I must re-imagine him. This is where the adventure of the essay format begins.

### ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Radek is pursuing a master's degree at the FTF VŠMU. Through the poetic language and playfulness of his films, he addresses social issues – such as disrespect for otherness, the anxiety epidemic among young people, and (un)processed historical traumas. His films have been screened at festivals worldwide, such as FIPADOC, DOK Leipzig, and Kassel Dokfest, as well as at numerous queer festivals. He has participated in film residencies in Taiwan, Portugal, and Romania. He recently launched a boutique production and festival distribution company in Bratislava – tucnak.art.

### ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

tucnak.art, based in Bratislava, is a boutique film production company established in 2025 by life partners and creative collaborators Radek Ševčík and Petr Chromčák, with the goal of bringing a fresh and poetic perspective to socially important topics. The company focuses on simple, short, and non-fiction films with an auteur-driven approach – and welcomes international co-productions. Beyond production, tucnak.art is now building its first slate of handpicked films for strategic festival distribution.



## Attention Whores

Slovakia, Czech Republic | 90 min.  
fiction | dark comedy | in development

**DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY:** Alica Bednáriková

**DOP:** Roman Šupej

**PRODUCERS:** Jakub Viktorín (nutprodukcía, SK), Valeria Borkovcová, Tomáš Hrubý (nutprodukce, CZ)

**WORKSHOPS & FORUMS:** connecting cottbus 2025, Les Arcs 2023

**SUPPORT:** Creative Europe MEDIA

**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 1 100 000

**PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** Autumn 2027

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** 2028

**LOOKING FOR:** co-producers, industry platforms, sales agents

### CONTACT

nutprodukcía  
nutprodukcía.sk  
jakub.viktorin@gmail.com  
+421 948 050 189



Alica  
Bednáriková



Valeria  
Borkovcová

### SYNOPSIS

Johana and Marika (both 16) are inseparable. Their bond thrives on rivalry and provocation. At an elite Slovak high school, they pull pranks and compete for attention, constantly testing how far they can go. Marika, already sexually experienced, flaunts it and treats Johana like she's still a child. Tired of living in her shadow, Johana becomes desperate to prove herself. When Marika proposes a dangerous game to see who can seduce their new teacher first, Johana agrees, unaware of how quickly the game will cease to be one.

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The film captures teenage life as I knew it in Slovakia: messy, vulgar, hilarious, and cruel. Set between panel housing estates and school corridors that felt like entire universes, the film follows Johana and Marika, whose friendship swings violently between intimacy and betrayal. Their dangerous bet with Palúch, a teacher desperate to feel young again, exposes desire as a question of power that seeps even into friendship. Comedy and danger coexist: vulgar humour and reckless dares are survival tools, not distractions. The film avoids heroes and victims, blending raw realism with a colourful, surreal teen world where pop songs, VHS fantasies, and rituals turn everyday life into something larger than itself.

### ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Alica Bednáriková is a filmmaker and screenwriter from Slovakia. Her short film *Boredom* (2020) won the Slovak IGRIC Award for Best Short Film. Her following

short *Liquid Bread* (2022) premiered in La Cinef at the Cannes FF, screened at Clermont-Ferrand, and was a semifinalist at the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Academy Awards. She is currently developing her feature debut *Attention Whores*, which participated in Les Arcs Talent Village (2023) and Connecting Cottbus (2025), and is now being developed at the Cannes Film Festival Résidence.

### ABOUT THE PRODUCERS & PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Jakub Viktorín is a producer and founder of nutprodukcía, focusing on Slovak and international co-productions such as *Victim* (dir. Michal Blaško, 2022) presented at La Biennale di Venezia and TIFF, or *Spoor* (dir. Agnieszka Holland, 2017) which won the Silver Bear at Berlinale. He also founded the international educational and networking platform Visegrad Film Forum.

Valeria Borkovcová is a producer at nutprodukce, currently finishing her studies at FAMU. She collaborates with AZN kru, worked on *Summer School*, 2001 (dir. Dužan Duong, 2025), and is producing the animated short film *Hot blood* (dir. Jan Piskač).

Tomáš Hrubý is a producer and co-founder of nutprodukce, whose credits include *Wasteland* (dir. Ivan Zachariáš, 2016), *Spoor* (dir. Agnieszka Holland, 2017) and the award-winning documentary *Better Go Mad in the Wild* (dir. Miro Remo, 2025).



## Dakto Dakto

Slovakia | 5 min.  
animation | psychological horror, folk horror | in production

**DIRECTOR, SCREENPLAY & EDITOR:** Alisa Ladeyshchikova

**PRODUCER:** Samuel Pivarči (FTF VŠMU, SK)

**SUPPORT:** Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Tatra banka Foundation (SK)

**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 6380

**PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** September 2025 – February 2026

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** June 2026

**LOOKING FOR:** industry platforms, festivals, sales agents

### CONTACT

FTF VŠMU  
www.vsmu.sk/en/ftf/  
festivals@vsmu.sk  
+421 259 303 577



Alisa  
Ladeyshchikova



Samuel  
Pivarči

### SYNOPSIS

Lonely and ill, Anna spends the carnival night in isolation, rejected by the villagers. In desperation, she calls upon the mysterious "Dakto," a being standing between worlds. He draws her into a haunting dance that promises belonging but leads her toward the final embrace of death. By morning, the house is empty, and only the snow quietly drifts inside through the open door.

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

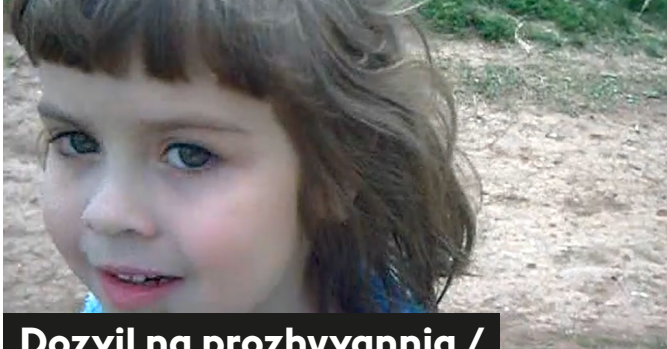
The film is inspired by Slavic culture and folk rituals, but it is not a direct retelling of tradition. It is a personal reflection on today's world, where anxiety and inner fears are often hidden behind celebration, noise, and collective joy. At the center of the film is Fasching, a carnival before the fasting period. It exists on the border between abundance and lack, joy and emptiness. This contrast reflects the inner state of the main character. The backgrounds and characters will be created using analogue techniques, such as watercolor on paper. And traditional 2D animation with digital cut-out. This method gives the film a strong sense of texture and creates a quiet feeling of nostalgia and unease.

### ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Alisa Ladeyshchikova is an animation artist working with original animation and comics. Her visual language is defined by strong contrast, bright saturated colours, and expressive drawing. She draws inspiration from Slovak and European culture, politics, and symbolic imagery. She graduated from secondary school with a specialization in traditional graphic arts. During her studies, she worked as an animator and art director on the music video *Night Garden* (2020) for Universal Music Group. In 2023, she began studying animation at the Faculty of Animation of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava.

### ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Samuel Pivarči is a producer and artist working in film and music production. His filmmaking practice focuses on creating the right working environment for the entire crew and encouraging collaboration across the team, while music projects focus on combining an artistic approach with the director's vision. He studied photography at the Secondary School of Applied Arts in Nitra and received third prize at the CINEAMA amateur film competition. Since 2023, he has been studying audiovisual production at the Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava and works within the production company FTF VŠMU.



## Dozvil na prozhyvannia / Дозвіл на проживання Residence Permit

Ukraine | 75 min.

documentary | personal essay, observational | in development

**DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY:** Alla Mitiukova

**PRODUCER:** Alla Mitiukova (UA)

**CO-PRODUCERS:** Giorgi Mukhadze, Giorgi Kobalia (Terra Incognita, GE)

**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 147 500

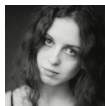
**PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** December 2026 – March 2027

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** March 2028

**LOOKING FOR:** co-producers, industry platforms, festivals, sales agents

### CONTACT

Alla Mitiukova  
mitukovaall@gmail.com



Alla  
Mitiukova

### SYNOPSIS

A Ukrainian filmmaker born in Siberia travels across the Caucasus, Moldova, and Eastern Ukraine to confront the ruins left by her country of birth, meeting people marked by occupation, erasure, and fractured identity – reflections of her own story.

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*Residence Permit* grew out of a conflict I could no longer ignore. I live in Ukraine and belong to this country, yet I carry a Russian passport, a document I never chose and have long felt ashamed of. Since the full-scale invasion, I have been searching for a cinematic language to speak about the war, eventually realizing that the most honest path begins with my own experience. Blending a personal essay with an observational approach, the film connects my story with lives lived under the threat of erasure, weaving together stories from Georgia, Armenia, Moldova, and Ukraine to explore a sense of identity.

### ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Alla Mitiukova is a Ukrainian film director based in Kyiv. Primarily working in documentary cinema, Alla has presented her films at Ukrainian and international film festivals and has received awards and special recognition. In particular, her documentary films *House No. 359* and *Oasis* were awarded by hromadske.ua in the LIFT short documentary film competition in 2023 and 2024. Alla's goal as a director is to create socially impactful cinema that engages ethically with reality and has an influence that extends beyond the screen.

### ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Process Films is an independent film production company based in Kyiv, Ukraine, founded in 2025. The company develops and produces short and feature films across documentary, fiction, and hybrid forms, with a strong focus on internationally driven projects and festival circulation. Process Films works closely with directors at early development stages, shaping projects with clear artistic vision and strong market potential. Committed to bold cinematic languages and authentic storytelling, the company aims to connect stories from Ukraine and beyond with global audiences while maintaining high artistic and production standards.



# Glauben Believing

Austria, Germany | 100 min.  
fiction | drama | in development

**DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY:** Özgür Anil

**PRODUCER:** Christian Bachmann (Wega Film, AT)

**CO-PRODUCER:** Dorothe Beinemeier (Red Balloon Film, DE)

**WORKSHOPS AND FORUMS:** Filmfest Hamburg – ENCOURAGE Film Talents 2025,  
ZFF Academy 2025, eQuinox Europe 2025

**SUPPORT:** € 61 000

**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 3 000 000

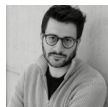
**PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** Autumn 2027

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** 2028

**LOOKING FOR:** industry platforms, festivals, sales agents, co-producers

## CONTACT

Wega Film  
wega-film.at  
christian.bachmann@wega-film.at  
+43-1-98 25 742



Özgür  
Anil

## SYNOPSIS

After Ibrahim and Emre lose their family in a fire, the brothers try to overcome their trauma through their strict faith in God. They receive support from the secular couple Leyla and Bernhard, who take the brothers in. While Emre becomes part of a new community with the help of his foster parents, Ibrahim completely isolates himself. He becomes increasingly radicalized and believes he can bring order back into his shattered world by carrying out a terrorist attack.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I'm convinced that we humans need to believe in something – to be able to deal with the chaos that surrounds us in the world. Believing doesn't necessarily have to refer to a religious god, but we also believe in the thing that has the highest priority in our value system. Western countries believe in human rights, parents in their children, and artists in the power of art. What interests me is how the desire for a redemptive belief can turn into a destructive ideology. How this human need for a higher order defines our personal relationships and shapes our societies.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Özgür Anil was born in 1994 in Vienna. During his directing studies at the Film Academy Vienna, he realized several short films that were screened and awarded at numerous international film festivals, including the BFI London FF and the Sarajevo FF. For *The Verdict in the Case of K.*, he received the Award for Best Young Director at the Diagonale in 2020. He was also selected for the talent development programs of the Les Arcs and Zurich FF. His graduation feature film *Who We Wanted to Be* received the Max Ophüls Prize for Best Actor in 2023.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Since 2008, Christian Bachmann has been working in film productions in Austria, Germany, and Luxembourg. In 2019, he joined Wega Film. Wega Film was founded in 1980 by Dr. Veit Heiduschka. Between its breakthrough with the crime comedy *Müller's Office* (dir. Niki List, 1986) and the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film for *Amour* (dir. Michael Haneke) in 2013, Wega Film has produced more than 50 feature films, over 20 television films, and more than 20 documentaries over the past thirty years.



## Hodina medzi psom a vlkom The Hour between Dog and Wolf

Czech Republic, Slovakia | 100 min.  
fiction | road movie, drama | in late development

**DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY:** Terézia Halamová

**DOP:** Dušan Husár

**EDITOR:** Simona Donovalová

**PRODUCERS:** Natália Pavlove (Other Stories, CZ),  
Matej Sotník (guča films, SK)

**SUPPORT:** Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Czech Audiovisual Fund,  
Czech Television, Creative Europe MEDIA

**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 1 000 000

**PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** September 2026

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** Summer 2027

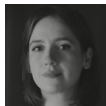
**LOOKING FOR:** gap financing, co-producers, festivals, sales agents

### CONTACT

Other Stories  
natalia@otherstoriesfilms.com  
+420 737 776 585



Terézia  
Halamová



Natália  
Pavlove

### SYNOPSIS

Rudo is an irresponsible male stripper who is about to go on his first dance tour through small towns of Central-Eastern Europe. He finds comfort in his new profession, where people pay for his company, granting him a temporary escape from his fear of abandonment and hurt. But his world begins to crumble, as the other group members seem to be going their separate ways. Spontaneous romantic experiences on the road don't fulfil him, so he starts looking for euphoria somewhere else, mainly in drugs and endless parties.

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The environment of male striptease serves as a metaphor for a character's search for his identity; a character whose daily routine is changing costumes and pretending. The road movie reflects constant movement – escape and search. Rudo's feeling of loneliness represents a testimony of a young hopeless generation – nihilism and the lust to live in the present moment without responsibility, as the future seems to be nonexistent. I want to bring forth a different view on masculine fragility and its place in today's society. The strippers are very confident in their appearance and behaviour, but their profession also requires immense openness and vulnerability. I want to explore the boundaries where cynicism meets apathy, the difference between dog and wolf, good and bad.

### ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Terézia Halamová is a Slovak director and graduate of the Directing Department at FAMU in Prague. Her short films have been screened at festivals around

the world. *Sing for Us* (2020), a co-production with Czech Television, premiered at the Kaohsiung FF in Taiwan and went on to win several awards, including the Film New Europe Talent Award, Best Cinematography at the Zubroffka Festival, and the Jury Award at the Kinoproba IFF. Her latest short film *Dog and Wolf* premiered in 2025 in the Future Frames section of the Karlovy Vary IFF. It has travelled to festivals such as SEMINCI in Spain, PÖFF in Tallinn, and Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur in Switzerland, recently winning the Audience Award at the Kyiv Short FF and Best Directing at Fine Line Film Fest.

### ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Natália Pavlove holds an MA in Producing from FAMU and an MA in International Relations and Management. She gained valuable experience through internships in cities like Paris, Berlin, and Mexico City. She founded Other Stories in 2021 after collaborating on various feature films, series, and documentaries with production companies in the Czech Republic. She produced the award-winning short film *Vinland* (dir. Martin Kuba, 2022) and the Czech-Lebanese-Qatar coproduction *Sea Salt* (dir. Leila Basma, 2023), both celebrated at international film festivals such as Venice IFF, Santa Barbara IFF, Karlovy Vary IFF, or Cairo IFF. Currently, she is collaborating and developing projects with emerging female directors. She is an IDFA Academy, EAVE and EURODOC alumna, and was nominated for the Czech National Film Awards.



## Hranice našej bolesti Limits to Our Pain

Slovakia, Czech Republic | 18 min.  
documentary, experimental | hybrid | in post-production

**DIRECTOR:** Kvet Nguyễn

**SCREENPLAY:** Kvet Nguyễn, Alexander Kashcheev

**DOP:** Igor Smitka

**EDITOR:** Katarína Pavelková

**PRODUCERS:** Michaela Kaliská, Erika Paulinská (NINJA film, SK)

**CO-PRODUCERS:** Wanda Kaprálová, Klára Mamojková (CLAW films, CZ)

**WORKSHOPS AND FORUMS:** Dok Leipzig – DOK Short n' Sweet 2025

**SUPPORT:** Slovak Audiovisual Fund, KULTMINOR (SK),  
Bratislava City Foundation

**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 59 000

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** Autumn 2026

**LOOKING FOR:** festivals, sales agents

### CONTACT

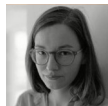
NINJA Film  
m.kaliska@gmail.com  
+421 917 640 496



Kvet  
Nguyễn



Michaela  
Kaliská



Wanda  
Kaprálová

### SYNOPSIS

Oanh, a Slovak-Vietnamese woman, recalls her 1990s childhood with Hana in Czechoslovakia, where xenophobia began shaping post-socialist life. *Limits to Our Pain* is a mosaic documentary combining archival materials, photographs, and staged scenes to reconstruct an individual past against the backdrop of historical change. The film gives voice to a minority experience and shows how even a small story can hold up a mirror to society.

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I saw myself as no different from my classmates, yet I sensed something was “wrong.” On the street, children mocked my eyes; I did not want to be seen as Vietnamese – not by my father, nor by others. In this film, I move beyond my personal experience toward the community, believing small histories matter as much as grand narratives. By combining archival materials with reconstructed moments, I trace the emergence of racism during the transformations of the 1990s.

### ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Kvet Nguyễn is a visual artist and photographer. Her multidisciplinary work primarily explores the theme of otherness in the context of post-socialist countries in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as in broader geopolitical relations. She is the author of the book *Everything That Connects Us (Všetko, čo nás spája, 2024)*, depicting the story of her family's migration.

### ABOUT THE PRODUCERS & PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Michaela Kaliská is a producer based in Bratislava. She graduated from the Film and TV Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. She is currently studying Gender Studies at Charles University in Prague. In addition to short films, commercials, music videos, and festival experience, she was part of Cannes Producers Network, IDFAcademy, Green Filming Workshop, and East-West Talent Lab. In 2021, she co-founded the production company NINJA film, which focuses on young voices and bold approaches in audiovisual.

Wanda Kaprálová studied Film Theory and History at Masaryk University in Brno and production at FAMU. Since 2020, together with Klára Mamojková, she has co-founded the production company CLAW films, focusing on ambitious auteur-driven projects by emerging filmmakers, primarily addressing contemporary social, environmental, and queer themes. Their latest producing work includes the short film *Orla* (dir. Marie Lukáčová, 2026) premiered at IFFR Rotterdam and the feature documentary *If Pigeons Turned to Gold* (dir. Pepa Lubojacki, 2026) premiered at Berlinale.



## Hullámok csendje Underneath the Waves

Hungary | 75 min.  
documentary | creative documentary | in development

**DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY:** Daniel Washington

**DOP:** Luca Fürst

**EDITOR:** Sesilia Turdziladze

**PRODUCER:** Timea Huszár (ULab, HU)

**WORKSHOPS AND FORUMS:** Dox In Vitro 2025, Heart of Europe 2025, Ji.hlava New Visions Forum 2025, NEM Zagreb 2024

**SUPPORT:** Hungarian Academy of Arts, FilmJUS (HU)

**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 125 000

**PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** 2026–2027

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** 2028

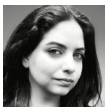
**LOOKING FOR:** co-producers, industry platforms, sales agents

### CONTACT

Timea Huszár  
www.ulab.tv  
timea.huszar@yahoo.com



Daniel  
Washington



Timea  
Huszár

### SYNOPSIS

Upon digging herself out a mass grave, Angéla Lakatos becomes the matriarch of the only Roma family to survive the extermination of her city's community during the Holocaust. Her story, told through her descendants who themselves grapple with inherited trauma, weaves together with an amateur historian's efforts to shine a light on the nearly-forgotten grave site. Through their struggles, *Underneath the Waves* traces the echoes of this killing into the modern day.

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Lake Grábler is idyllic, surrounded by lush reeds and willow trees, but knowing what's there transforms the space entirely. There are over one hundred people there with you, frozen in their horrific final moments. Standing over them, you find the barrier between past and present breaking down, the distance between their deaths and your arrival vanishing entirely. You're both on the same timeline, and in recognizing their presence, you realize that you're now part of their story. I want to understand how the resting place of so many people could have ended up so utterly forsaken. This film is my attempt to do so, and my contribution to the story of the victims – a story that is still being written.

### ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Daniel Washington is an American-Hungarian filmmaker currently based in Budapest. After completing Cinema Studies at San Francisco State University, he gained experience working on

movies like *Dune: Part One* (dir. Denis Villeneuve, 2021), *X-Men: Dark Phoenix* (dir. Simon Kinberg, 2019) and *Red Sparrow* (dir. Francis Lawrence, 2018), before working as a casting coordinator on films such as *The Brutalist* (dir. Brady Corbet, 2024). Daniel has directed both fiction and nonfiction projects around the world, including his latest short documentary film *Tbilisi to Tennessee* (2018). He is currently working in-house at Pilvax Films, a Budapest-based production company, and developing his first feature documentary, *Underneath the Waves*.

### ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Timea Huszár is a producer involved with short films, documentaries, and features. After graduating from the NFTS, she has worked as a personal assistant to producers on serviced productions. As a producer her credits include *Sátán* (dir. Marcell Belso, Arion Csihar, 2023) and *Vita Mía* (dir. Edoardo Winspeare, 2025). In 2025, she was part of the Short Film Jury at the 31<sup>st</sup> IFF Art Film in Košice.

ULab is a film production company that is a creative branch of Umbrella Collective in Hungary. Since 2018, we have searched for, developed, produced, and co-produced both short and feature-length animations, fictions, and documentaries. We focus on cutting-edge storytelling and innovative forms of narratives with authentic personal voices.



## Imenem Ukrainy / Іменем України In the Name of Ukraine

Ukraine, France | 20 min.  
fiction | black comedy | in development

**DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY:** Vyacheslav Turyanytsya

**DOP:** Roman Khimey

**PRODUCERS:** Inna Lastochkina (Contemporary Ukrainian Cinema, UA),  
Quentin Just (Vents Contraires, FR)

**WORKSHOPS AND FORUMS:** Festival International Music & Cinema  
Marseille – Lab on Mars 2026, European Short Pitch 2025,  
Let's Pitch Some Shorts! 2025, Linz ISFF Talent Academy 2024/2025

**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 120 000

**PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** Spring – Summer 2027

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** 2028

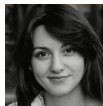
**LOOKING FOR:** co-producers, festivals, sales agents

### CONTACT

Contemporary Ukrainian Cinema  
Innalasto4kina@gmail.com  
+380 634 455 990



Vyacheslav  
Turyanytsya



Inna  
Lastochkina

### SYNOPSIS

Timur, a 35-year-old National Police officer in Kyiv, goes undercover to a private kinky party to gather video evidence against its organizers for allegedly running a place of debauchery. Struggling with the tension between duty and desire, he navigates a world of masked hedonism. As the lines between his professional role and personal experience blur, Timur confronts unexpected emotions. Against the backdrop of Ukraine's political landscape, the investigation takes an unforeseen turn, challenging his sense of morality and identity.

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

For me, this story exposes the fragile state of my country and the degradation of its political system, where the individual becomes expendable. Timur is neither hero nor villain, but a mirror of a society that is brave and ambitious, yet burdened by guilt and inferiority. Blending drama, farce, and absurd humour, the film traces his regression into a frightened child crushed by the state. Visually, the film contrasts sterile high-tech spaces with blackout darkness, reflecting a legal system caught between modernity and archaic instincts.

### ABOUT THE DIRECTOR


Vyacheslav Turyanytsya joined the film collective Contemporary Ukrainian Cinema in 2020. He holds a master's degree from the Directing Faculty of Kyiv National Karpenko-Kary University and is currently pursuing a PhD in Film Studies. In 2022, he and

his producer Inna Lastochkina made the student short *Kharkiv Music Fest Did Happen*. They collaborated again on *Thoughts on Peace in an Air Raid* (2025), which premiered at IFFR and won the Scythian Deer for Best Short Film in National Competition at Molodist Kyiv IFF. They are currently developing *In the Name of Ukraine*, marking their third collaboration.

### ABOUT THE PRODUCERS & PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Inna Lastochkina is a Ukrainian producer, working with Contemporary Ukrainian Cinema since 2021, focusing on emerging filmmakers and international co-productions. Her latest short film *Unavailable* (dir. Kyrylo Zemlyanyi) premiered at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Venice IFF in 2025 and was selected for Clermont-Ferrand ISFF.

Quentin Just founded Vents Contraires straight out of film school. At 25, he produced his first feature film *The Hill Where Lionesses Roar* (dir. by Luana Bajrami), which premiered at the Directors' Fortnight at Cannes FF in 2021. His second feature is in post-production, and he is developing international shorts and feature films.



# Kijv pod mojmi kolesami / Київ під моїми колесами Kyiv Under My Wheels

Ukraine | 20 min.  
documentary | creative docu-fiction | in production

**DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY:** Marina Baibarza

**DOP:** Wera Englot

**EDITOR:** Maria Bălănean

**PRODUCER:** Marina Baibarza (Process Films, UA)

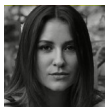
**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 25 000

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** Winter 2025

**LOOKING FOR:** co-producers, industry platforms, festivals, sales agents

## CONTACT

Process Films  
theprocessfilms.com  
process.films.prod@gmail.com  
+38 097 321 05 66



Marina  
Baibarza

## SYNOPSIS

A Ukrainian film director drives a taxi through a war-torn Kyiv. As she and her passengers speak to the city with their fears, memories, and hopes, she searches for one quiet moment to hear herself again.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This film is born from my lived experience as a taxi driver in Kyiv during wartime, when constant noise, financial instability, and emotional exhaustion have become the new normal. Silence feels almost unreachable. Driving through the city and carrying strangers, I search for a quiet moment to hear myself again. The passengers speak to Kyiv through their stories, fears, jokes, and hopes. Their voices merge with mine, creating an intimate portrait of a city seen from the driver's seat. It's a film about listening to yourself when the world is shouting.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Marina Baibarza is a producer, director, and the founder of Process Films. She holds a master's degree in Film Directing from the Academy of Art and Design in Łódź, Poland. Marina develops short and feature projects, providing comprehensive project guidance. She works closely with directors and international partners, with a focus on strong authorial vision, clear production strategy, and international co-production potential. Her films blend character-driven storytelling with visually rich, experimental approaches.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Process Films is an independent film production company based in Kyiv, Ukraine, founded in 2025. The company develops and produces short and feature films across documentary, fiction, and hybrid forms, with a strong focus on internationally driven projects and festival circulation. Process Films works closely with directors at early development stages, shaping projects with clear artistic vision and strong market potential. Committed to bold cinematic languages and authentic storytelling, the company aims to connect stories from Ukraine and beyond with global audiences while maintaining high artistic and production standards.

# THE ZONE

A FILM BY MICHAL BALÁŽ

## Pásmo The Zone

Czech Republic, Slovakia | 95 min.  
fiction | eastern, drama | in development

**DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY:** Michal Baláž

**PRODUCERS:** Ivan Ostrochovský (escadra, SK),  
Vanessa Biermannová (IN Film Praha, CZ)

**WORKSHOPS AND FORUMS:** Midpoint Intensive SK 2022

**SUPPORT:** Slovak Audiovisual Fund

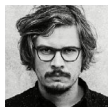
**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 750 000

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** Winter 2028

**LOOKING FOR:** co-producers, festivals, sales agents, TV partners

### CONTACT

IN Film Praha  
infilm.cz/en/  
produkce@infilm.cz  
+420 602 237 168



Michal  
Baláž



Vanessa  
Biermannová

### SYNOPSIS

In a desolate border zone of a totalitarian state, a priest turned smuggler leads a fallen professor and a hunted young outlaw through hostile wilderness toward freedom. Pursued by soldiers led by a sadistic and vengeful Captain, and driven by their own guilt, they face betrayal, violence, and a fierce young woman of the land – Deva – whose presence blurs salvation and doom. *The Zone* is a stark, poetic, political western about survival, faith, and the borders men build to keep others out – and themselves trapped within. It is about crossing the line beyond which there is no way back.

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The directorial approach is minimalism and lo-fi, utilizing intense Western-style acting inspired by films like *Bone Tomahawk* (dir. S. Craig Zahler, 2015). A desaturated palette of muted browns, low lighting, and claustrophobic locations (forests, ruins) creates a fatal, raw aesthetic. Widescreen format and shooting with anamorphic lenses elevates the landscape to a character itself. The minimalist experimental score uses primitive acoustic sounds – stones, wood, and vocals. Makeup artistry emphasizes physical deterioration, with characters appearing dirty and wounded, culminating in a finale defined by brutal, realistic violence.

### ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Michal Baláž studied screenwriting and film directing at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. He writes scripts for TV series and films, theatre plays, poems, short stories, graphic novels, and song

lyrics. He made his directorial debut with the live-action animated docudrama *True Štúr* (2015). He has contributed as a screenwriter to feature films such as *The Impossible Voyage* (dir. Noro Držiak, 2019) and *Avalanche of Love* (dir. Jakub Machala, 2022). He has directed the documentary series *ŠtB: Top Secret* (2022). He has won awards both for his movies and his literary works.

### ABOUT THE PRODUCERS & PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Vanessa Biermannová studied law at Oxford Brookes University and intellectual property law at Maastricht University. She is a graduate of the Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris programme (2025), during which she produced a French short film in collaboration with ARTE. In 2024, she produced her first film, *Once Upon a Time in the East*. Her second feature, *Another Round* (2025), is an adaptation of the Oscar-winning 2020 film of the same name by Thomas Vinterberg. In 2024, she also founded IN Film Bratislava, a sister company to her father's long-established company, IN Film Praha. She is based in Berlin.

Ivan Ostrochovský is a director and producer. He made his feature film debut as co-director, alongside Pavel Pekarčík and Peter Kerekes, with the docudrama *Velvet Terrorists* (2013), which received the FED-EORA Award at the Karlovy Vary IFF and the Slovak Film Critics Award (ex aequo). His successful fiction film with strong documentary elements, *Koza* (2015), was screened at Berlinale, in Karlovy Vary and Toronto. His film *Servants* (2020) saw him working as screenwriter, director, and producer. The film premiered at Berlinale.



## Práve som prišla do izby a neviem prečo som to urobila

### She Just Walked into the Room and She Doesn't Know Why She Did It

Slovakia | 15 min.

documentary | experimental | in production

**DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY:** Eva Sajjanová

**DOP:** Tereza Havadejová

**EDITOR:** Petra Štefancová

**PRODUCERS:** Michaela Kaliská, Erika Paulinská (NINJA film, SK), Hana Adámiková (FTF VŠMU, SK)

**SUPPORT:** Slovak Audiovisual Fund

**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 20 500

**PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** February – March 2026

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** Spring 2027

**LOOKING FOR:** industry platforms, festivals, sales agents

#### CONTACT

NINJA film  
m.kaliska@gmail.com  
+421 917 640 496



Eva  
Sajjanová



Michaela  
Kaliská

#### SYNOPSIS

*She Just Walked into the Room and She Doesn't Know Why She Did It* explores Alzheimer's disease and the care of elderly family members from the perspective of a young woman, a family member "who doesn't yet have to worry about it." The short film-performance explores the dilemma of staying or leaving and the issue of unpaid care work through the metaphor of stones. Until when is a memory lapse funny and innocent, and at what point does it have the power to change absolutely everything?

#### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The pharmaceutical industry is constantly evolving, and people are living longer. The world is globalized and the young ones no longer want to stay in one place. No one ever asks you whether you want to take care of someone. It is simply expected of you. And why is it always daughters who end up in this role?

#### ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Eva Sajjanová is currently finishing her master's studies in documentary film directing at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. Her bachelor's film, *How to Listen to Fountains*, had a world premiere at the Nest section of San Sebastian IFF 2025, where it won the main prize. Before film, Eva studied composition at the Bratislava Conservatory. She wrote music for the feature-length

documentary film *Ms. President* (dir. Marek Šulík, 2024) and several short films. At the moment, she's developing a sound map of Bratislava's fountains and preparing her graduation film, *She Just Walked into the Room and She Doesn't Know Why She Did It*, in co-production with NINJA film.

#### ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Michaela Kaliská is a producer based in Bratislava. She graduated from the Film and TV Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. She is currently studying Gender Studies at Charles University in Prague. In addition to short films, commercials, music videos, and festival experience, she was part of Cannes Producers Network, IDFAcademy, Green Filming Workshop, and East-West Talent Lab. In 2021, she co-founded the production company NINJA film, which focuses on young voices and bold approaches in audiovisual.



# RAW RAW

Slovakia, Czech Republic, France | 85 min.  
documentary | in development

**DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY:** Veronika Kováč

**DOP:** Sophia Boydová

**EDITOR:** Martin Kasala

**PRODUCER:** Maia Martiniak (Mediapulz, SK)

**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 120 000

**PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** September 2026 – June 2028

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** October 2028

**LOOKING FOR:** co-producers, sales agents

## CONTACT

Mediapulz  
maiamartiniak.com  
maia@maiamartiniak.com  
+421 907 463 006



Veronika  
Kováč



Maia  
Martiniak

## SYNOPSIS

*RAW* explores the complexity of surrogacy – a practice in which a woman carries a child for intended parents. Moving between the lived reality of a surrogate mother, the memories of a daughter born through surrogacy, and the intimate testimony of an infertile woman longing for a child, the film offers a raw experience of what it means to desire a child, to carry one, and to be born within an agreement where intimacy and commerce collide. Three women who never meet are linked by emotions and memories, offering a female-centred perspective on the value of children and women's bodies, and on how seemingly simple decisions can impact many lives in their small world.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*RAW* is a poetic film-essay shaped as a visual, symbolic dialogue among three women. Through memories, emotions, and challenges observed in real time, it invites viewers to understand what it means to rent one's body to others, to long for a child, to part with a child, to be entangled in a transaction. Beneath these intimate stories, the film broadens the dialogue by asking whether surrogacy repeats patriarchal logic that only values women when they sacrifice to fulfil others' desires. *RAW* offers no verdicts, only space for honest, personal reflection on surrogacy, and transgenerational female experience.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Veronika Kováč is the director of *RAW*, her first feature documentary. She is currently pursuing her PhD at the Department of Media Studies and Journalism at Masaryk University in the Czech Republic, researching documentary filmmaking ethics. She places particular emphasis on women directors, exploring how their values, reasoning, and gendered experiences differ from the predominantly male-designed norms and preferred values of the industry. As part of her doctoral studies, she co-organizes the annual Conference on Ethics in Documentary Film at the IDFF Ji.hlava.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Maia Martiniak is a Slovak documentary filmmaker and producer known for her debut film *Unseen*, which reveals the traumas of childbirth and the violation of women's rights. The film premiered at the prestigious CPH:DOX festival in 2020 and won several awards at international festivals, including the Audience Award and the International Jury Award at the One World Slovakia 2020 festival. Her work focuses on social and environmental issues, development cooperation, and respect for the rights of children and women.



## Razia Raid

Austria, Slovakia | 90 min.  
documentary | in post-production

**DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY:** Kristína Leidenfrostová

**DOP:** Marie Zahir

**EDITOR:** Marek Bihuň

**PRODUCERS:** Jürgen Karasek, Alice Karasek (Soleil Film, AT)

**CO-PRODUCER:** Matej Sotník (guča films, SK)

**WORKSHOPS AND FORUMS:** Ji.hlava New Visions Forum: Europe 2023,  
East Doc Market 2026, DOK.forum München 2024

**SUPPORT:** Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Slovak Cash Rebate, KULT MINOR (SK),  
Austrian Ministry of Culture and Arts, ÖFIplus (AT),  
City of Vienna: Culture, Zukunftsfonds of the Republic of Austria,  
Land Burgenland Culture (AT)

**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 350 000

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** July 2026

**LOOKING FOR:** festivals, sales agents

### CONTACT

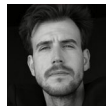
Soleil Film  
soleilfilm.at/en/  
office@soleilfilm.at  
+43 699 123 974 78



Kristína  
Leidenfrostová



Jürgen  
Karasek



Matej  
Sotník

### SYNOPSIS

When disturbing testimonies of police brutality against Roma settlers spread from a nearby village in eastern Slovakia, Igor – a Roma survivor of a 2013 police raid – steps in to help. He must face not only images of violence that begin to return to his mind, but also the limits of what someone on the margins of society can do, including his efforts to get his young nephew Martin out of the settlement. Through children's battle games and the magical dimension of recurring nightmares, the film highlights the importance of collective memory and understanding in a deeply divided society.

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I learned about Igor's case from the newspaper seven years ago, years before it ended up in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in favour of the beaten Roma. I decided to work with an observational approach with the aim of revealing the traces that violence has left. *Razia* penetrates to its essence. After learning that a similar raid was carried out just 20 km away during the shooting of the film in 2025, we ultimately witness in the film how the police system of fear works, especially in a community that lacks information and support from outside.

### ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Kristína Leidenfrostová is a graduate of Documentary Directing at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava and works both in Slovakia and Austria. Her short film *The Nest* (2015) has been

shown at various European festivals, such as Krakow FF and Docudays. For Slovak Television, she created episodes for *Ex-Prime-Ministers* (2018) and *Icons* (2020) documentary series. Kristína also received a start-up grant for film art from the Austrian Ministry of Culture and guest lectured at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna on film as anti-racist and feminist practice. *Razia* is her debut feature documentary.

### ABOUT THE PRODUCERS & PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Jürgen Karasek is lead producer at Soleil Film, a Vienna-based Austrian production company with a strong focus on documentaries and international co-productions. Since its founding in 2008, the company has produced more than twenty films, many of which have been screened at major festivals and honoured with awards.

Matej Sotník is a producer at guča films (SK) and Somatic Films (CZ), member of the European Film Academy. Films he has produced premiered at Berlinale, IFF Rotterdam, Karlovy Vary, IDFA, etc. guča films focuses on auteur cinema and international co-productions, involving partners like ARTE, Czech TV, Deutsche Welle.



# Szczelina The Crack

Poland, Switzerland | 90 min.  
fiction | music, drama | in development

**DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY:** Katarzyna Iskra

**DOP:** Tomasz Wierzbicki

**EDITORS:** Piasek & Wójcik (Bartłomiej Piasek, Piotr Wójcik)

**PRODUCER:** Dorota Schleiss (ASF Studio, PL)

**CO-PRODUCER:** Giacun Cadiff (ZAS Film AG, CH)

**SALES AGENT:** Keiko Funato (Alpha Violet, FR)

**WORKSHOPS AND FORUMS:** Polish Days 2025, Arras Days 2025,  
Script Circle 2023; New Horizons Studio+ 2023

**SUPPORT:** Polish Film Institute

**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 1 165 600

**PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** August 2026

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** May 2027

**LOOKING FOR:** industry platforms, festivals

## CONTACT

ASF Studio  
www.asfstudio.pl  
d.schleiss@asfstudio.pl  
+48 509 713 732



Katarzyna  
Iskra



Dorota  
Schleiss

## SYNOPSIS

Róża, an aspiring pianist, leaves Switzerland and unexpectedly retreats to the Polish mountains, where she tries to prepare her old, empty family house for sale. There she reconnects with her childhood friend Teresa, who leads a girls' Lemko choir. Teresa's voice has a calming, almost hypnotic effect on Róża, yet Teresa sings only when she is alone. Without her consent, Róża secretly records her. Rebuilding trust proves difficult. Teresa keeps Róża at a distance, and Róża tries to slip back into her life through the choir girls. Under Teresa's guidance, the girls imitate melodies inspired by the sounds of their surroundings, shaping a unique and organic musical language. Convinced that Teresa's extraordinary voice deserves to be heard, Róża blames the provincial community for holding her back. But during a mysterious and deeply emotional night the two women spend alone together, Róża finally begins to understand Teresa's unique relationship with sound – and how it might also heal her own inner crisis.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I grew up in the Polish mountains believing my potential depended on how far I could go. In *The Crack*, I explore what happens when that forward motion stops. Róża, an aspiring pianist, faces a health crisis that silences her music and forces her back to her mountain village. There she meets Teresa, whose freedom challenges Róża's idea of success. Fascination and jealousy blur as Róża secretly records Teresa's haunting voice, discovering a different kind of healing through sound.

A psychological drama with thriller elements, the film uses music as a living character, contrasting city and countryside to reveal the need for stillness in a culture obsessed with movement.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Katarzyna Iskra is a director and screenwriter raised in the Polish mountains. She studied Psychology, Hebrew Studies, and Directing at Gdynia Film School. Her film  *Casting* (2017) won awards at festivals like Hamptons and Monterrey.  *Untouched* was shortlisted at New Horizons 2023. Her latest short *Zmierz*, awarded in a contest inspired by *Night Train* (dir. Jerzy Kawalerowicz, 1959), is in postproduction. *The Crack*, her feature debut, was awarded at New Horizons Studio+ and was a finalist in Script Wars.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Dorota Schleiss is a Polish film producer based in Wrocław and co-founder of ASF Studio. She has produced acclaimed short films, including the award-winning *Maria Is Not Alive* (dir. Martina Majewska, 2020), and is developing documentaries and features focused on female-driven storytelling, sports psychology, and contemporary social themes. Founded in 2010, ASF Studio creates shorts, documentaries, commercials, and debut features, supporting emerging talent and promoting women directors internationally.



## Zvíře Animal

Czech Republic, Slovakia | 90 min.  
fiction | horror, tragicomedy | in post-production

**DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY:** Milada Těšitelová

**DOP:** Filip Marek

**EDITOR:** Marek Královský

**PRODUCERS:** Julie Marková Žáčková (NOCHI Film, CZ),  
Barbara Janišová Feglová (HITCHHIKER Cinema, SK)

**CO-PRODUCER:** Czech Television

**WORKSHOPS AND FORUMS:** dok.incubator BUZZ 2026,  
Berlinale Talent Project Market 2023, Sofia Meetings 2023, FRONTIÈRES market 2023,  
EAVE producers workshop 2022, Castellinaria Pitching Lab 2021

**SUPPORT:** Czech Film Fund, Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Creative Europe MEDIA,  
Karlovy Vary Region

**ESTIMATED BUDGET:** € 1 259 000

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** October 2026

**LOOKING FOR:** co-producers, industry platforms, festivals, sales agents

### CONTACT

HITCHHIKER Cinema  
hitchhikercinema.sk  
boruska@hitchhikercinema.sk  
+421 905 858 808



Milada  
Těšitelová



Barbara  
Janišová  
Feglová

### SYNOPSIS

Fany is trying hard to fit into the suburbs full of perfect families, but her world turns upside down when she gives birth to a cat. Faced with the cult-like ideal of perfect motherhood, she quickly discovers just how unbearable this pressure can become.

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I became a mother, I realized how fragile and transformative this milestone truly is. No matter what path a woman chooses, she is inevitably confronted with societal pressure and unsolicited advice. Horror, comedy, and tragedy best describe my experience of motherhood: the loss of control, the absurdity of everyday care, and the weight of irreversible decisions. *Animal* is not a realistic portrayal of pregnancy, but a subjective exploration of unseen emotions. At its core, it is a universal story about falling for an illusion, recognizing one's otherness, and choosing authenticity over conformity – even at a cost.

### ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Milada Těšitelová graduated from FAMU's Department of Screenwriting and Dramaturgy. Following her debut feature *Animal*, she is now developing her second film, *Mountains in the Mist*, a dystopian story exploring the impact

of the state and rigid traditions on the individual and their inner world. She works as a screenwriter, script editor, and script consultant. She has long collaborated with Czech Television on children's programming and also teaches screenwriting at FAMU International.

### ABOUT THE PRODUCERS & PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Julie Marková Žáčková is a Czech producer and founder of NOCHI FILM, focusing on debut features and international co-productions. She produced the award-winning feature *Occupation* (dir. Michal Nohejl, 2021), winner of Best Film at the Czech Film Critics' Awards, and was nominated twice for the Czech Lion for Best Film – latest for *Promise, I'll Be Fine* (dir. Katarína Gramatová, 2024).

Barbara Janišová Feglová is a Slovak producer and founder of HITCHHIKER Cinema, focused on auteur-driven films with strong social relevance and supporting debut filmmakers. She has produced internationally acclaimed documentaries including *Ms. President* (dir. Marek Šulík, 2024), *Lines* (dir. Barbora Šliepková, 2021) and *A Hole in the Head* (dir. Robert Kirchhoff, 2017), and is currently developing fiction projects by emerging female filmmakers. She also teaches at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava.



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Panenská 7, 81103 Bratislava, tel.: +421 947 972 676

**avf** audio  
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The background features several faint, stylized symbols. These symbols consist of a central cross or plus sign enclosed within a square frame that has inward-pointing corners, resembling a window or a decorative element. The symbols are scattered across the page in various sizes and orientations, with some appearing more prominent than others.

# PITCHING TUTOR



## **Anastasia Hoppanova**

Anastasia Hoppanova is a Slovakia-based screenwriter and creative producer working across European film and TV development. Since 2022, she has collaborated with Tatino Films to facilitate development consultations for Netflix creators across Europe, supporting projects through expert feedback, craft-focused sessions, and development strategy. She also runs Fictiva, a consulting and design studio that helps creators and production companies shape pitch deck content and deliver premium, market-ready materials, combining story clarity, positioning, and strong visual execution.

## Successful projects previously presented at

# BRATISLAVA INDUSTRY DAYS

Of the films presented at BID Works in Progress since 2016, 76 have been completed and many enjoyed a successful festival and distribution run.

### Ahoj leto / Hello Summer

SK – CZ – FR | dir. Martin Smatana, Veronika Zacharová  
prod. Studio Bororo | BID 2022 | WP: Animafest Zagreb 2024

### Ako som sa stala partizánkou /

#### How I Became a Partisan

SK – CZ | dir. Vera Lacková | prod. Media Voice  
BID 2019 | WP: goEast Wiesbaden 2021

### Amnestie / Amnesty

SK – CZ | dir. Jonáš Karásek | prod. AZYL Production  
BID 2019 | WP: 2019

### Architekt drsnej poetiky / Architect of Brutal Poetry

SK – CZ – BR | dir. Ladislav Kaboš | prod. EDIT Studio  
BID 2021 | WP: IFF Cinematik Piešťany 2021

### Backstage

SK – CZ | dir. Andrea Sedláčková | prod. ARINA  
BID 2016 | WP: Zlín IFF 2018

### Bolo raz jedno more... / Once There Was a Sea...

SK – PL – CZ – UA | dir. Joanna Kožuch | prod. BFILM  
BID 2017 | IP: Clermont-Ferrand ISFF 2022

### Cenzorka / IO7 Mothers

SK – CZ – UA | dir. Peter Kerekes | prod. Punkchart films  
BID 2016 | WP: Venice IFF 2021

### Cesta do nemožna / The Impossible Voyage

SK – CZ | dir. Nora Držiak | prod. MEDIA FILM,  
KABOS Film & Media | BID 2019 | WP: 2019

### Čiara / The Line

SK – UA | dir. Peter Bebjak | prod. Wandal Production  
BID 2017 | WP: Karlovy Vary IFF 2017

### Čiary / Lines

SK | dir. Barbora Sliepková | prod. HITCHHIKER Cinema  
BID 2018 | WP: Jihlava IDFF 2021

### Dežo Hoffmann – fotograf Beatles / Dezo

#### Hoffmann – Photographer of The Beatles

SK – CZ | dir. Patrik Lančarič | prod. Trigon Production  
BID 2016 | WP: 2022

### Diera v hlave / A Hole in the Head

SK – CZ | dir. Robert Kirchhoff | prod. HITCHHIKER Cinema  
BID 2016 | WP: Ji.hlava IDFF 2016

### Divoké bytosti / Wild Beasts

SK – CZ | dir. Marta Prokopová, Michal Blaško  
prod. Super film, MAUR film  
BID 2017 | IP: Uppsala Short FF 2020

### Dobrá smrť / The Good Death

SK – CZ – FR – DE – AT | dir. Tomáš Krupa | prod. Hailstone  
BID 2017 | WP: Ji.hlava IDFF 2018

### Duchoň

SK – CZ | dir. Peter Bebjak | prod. D.N.A. Production  
BID 2025 | WP: Karlovy Vary IFF 2025

### Ema a smrtihlav / The Hungarian Dressmaker

SK – CZ | dir. Iveta Grófová | prod. PubRes  
BID 2022 | WP: Karlovy Vary IFF 2024

### Et j'aime à la fureur / Flickering Ghosts

#### of Loves Gone By

FR | dir. André Bonzel | prod. Les films du poisson  
BID 2016 | WP: Festival de Cannes 2021

### Fantasy

SK | dir. Samuel Vičan, Anastasia Hoppanová  
prod. BeOnMind | BID 2020 | WP: 2024

### Hluché dni / Silent Days

SK – CZ | dir. Pavol Pekarčík | prod. partizanfilm  
BID 2017 | WP: Karlovy Vary IFF 2019

### Hore je nebo, v doline som ja / Promise, I'll Be Fine

SK – CZ | dir. Katarína Gramatová | prod. DRYEYE Film  
BID 2024 | WP: Tokyo IFF 2024

### Hotel Úsvit / Sunrise Hotel

SK | dir. Mária Rumanová | prod. Punkchart films  
BID 2016 | WP: IDFA 2016

### Invalid

SK – CZ | dir. Jonáš Karásek | prod. AZYL Production  
BID 2022 | WP: 2023

### Katedrála / The Cathedral

SK | dir. Denis Dobrovoda | prod. Kolsa Films SK  
BID 2022 | WP: Krakow FF 2022

### Kid

SK | dir. Gregor Valentovič | prod. FTF VŠMU,  
ARTICHOKE BID 2018 | WP: Karlovy Vary IFF 2019

### Lapilli

SK – DE | dir. Paula Ďurinová | prod. guča films | BID 2023  
WP: Karlovy Vary IFF 2024

### Letní rebeli / Summer Rebels

SK – DE | dir. Martina Saková | prod. Silverart, PROJECTOR23  
BID 2016 | WP: BIKY Busan 2020

### Loli paradížka

SK | dir. Richard Staviarsky, Víto Staviarsky  
prod. STAVIARSKY | BID 2018 | WP: Art Film Fest Košice 2019

### Malá ríša / Little Kingdom

SK – IS | dir. Peter Magát | prod. FilmFrame  
BID 2019 | WP: 2019

### Miki

SK – CZ | dir. Jakub Kroner | prod. PubRes  
BID 2020 | WP: 2024

### Moc / Power

SK – HU – CZ | dir. Mátýás Prikler | prod. MPhilms  
BID 2021 | WP: IFF Rotterdam 2023

### Nech je svetlo / Let There Be Light

SK – CZ | dir. Marko Škop | prod. ARTILERIA  
BID 2018 | WP: Karlovy Vary IFF 2019

### Neplatené voľno / Action Item

SK – CZ – DE | dir. Paula Ďurinová | prod. guča films | BID 2021  
WP: FIDMarseille / Karlovy Vary IFF 2025

### Neviditeľná / Unseen

SK | dir. Maia Martiniak | prod. ARINA  
BID 2020 | WP: CPH:DOX 2020

### Nina

SK – CZ | dir. Juraj Lehotský | prod. Punkchart films  
BID 2017 | WP: Karlovy Vary IFF 2017

### Obeť / Victim

SK – CZ – DE | dir. Michal Blaško | prod. nutprodukcja  
BID 2020 | WP: Venice IFF 2022

### **Oči plné piesku / Gritty Eyes**

SK – CZ | dir. Juraj Janiš | prod. HITCHHIKER Cinema  
BID 2022 | WP: 2023

### **Ochádzania / Leaving to Remain**

SK – GB – CZ | dir. Mira Erdevicki | prod. PubRes  
BID 2021 | WP: Ji.hlava IDFF 2022

### **Olympijský medzičas / Olympic Halftime**

CZ – SK – GR – HK | dir. Haruna Honcoop  
prod. Dífilm | BID 2020 | WP: Ji.hlava IDFF 2023

### **Ora**

CZ – SK | dir. Marie Lukáčová | prod. CLAW | BID 2025  
WP: IFF Rotterdam 2026

### **Ostrým nožom / By a Sharp Knife**

SK – CZ | dir. Teodor Kuhn | prod. nutprodukcja  
BID 2016 | IP: Shanghai IFF 2019

### **Piargy / The Ballad of Piargy**

SK – CZ – MK | dir. Ivo Trajkov | prod. ARINA  
BID 2017 | IP: FF Cottbus 2022

### **Pivnica / The Cellar**

SK – RU – CZ | dir. Igor Vološin | prod. FURIA FILM  
BID 2017 | IP: Busan IFF 2018

### **Plastic Symphony**

SK – PL – CZ | dir. Juraj Lehotský | prod. ARYTMIA  
BID 2021 | WP: Tallinn Black Nights 2022

### **Pokiaľ ja žijem / Fakir**

SK – CZ – PL | dir. Roman Ďuriš | prod. Bright Sight Pictures  
BID 2022 – Best Fabio Pitch Award | WP: DOK.fest München 2024

### **Po sezóne / Off Season**

SK | dir. Andrea Kalinová | prod. Archimera  
BID 2018 | WP: IFF Cinematik Piešťany 2018

### **Potopa / Flood**

SK – CZ – PL – BE | dir. Martin Gonda | prod. Silverart,  
CINEART TV Prague | BID 2021 – Best Fabio Pitch Award  
WP: Mar del Plata IFF 2025

### **Pozor, padá SNG! / Hanging Without Walls**

SK | dir. Jana Duraiová, Lena Kušnieriková  
prod. PubRes | BID 2023 | IP: Thessaloniki IDF 2024

### **Prázdna množina / No Elements**

SK | dir. Barbara Vojštašková | prod. FTF VŠMU  
BID 2022 | WP: Doclisboa 2022

### **Prezidentka / Ms. President**

SK – CZ | dir. Marek Šulík | prod. HITCHHIKER Cinema  
BID 2024 | WP: Ji.hlava IDFF 2024

### **Raj na zemi / Paradise on Earth**

SK | dir. Jaro Vojtek | prod. MPHilms  
BID 2018 | WP: Ji.hlava IDFF 2019

### **Redaktory / The Editorial Office**

UA – DE – SK – CZ | dir. Roman Bondarchuk  
prod. Moon Man | BID 2023 | WP: Berlinale 2024

### **Samorast (O sliepkach a ľudoch) / Maverick (Of Hen and Men)**

SK | dir. Peter Hoferica | prod. FTF VŠMU | BID 2021 | WP: 2021

### **Sanatórium Nádej / Replanted**

SK | dir. Andrea Kalinová | prod. Super film | BID 2024  
WP: IDFF One World Slovakia 2025

### **Seablinndness**

SK | dir. Tereza Smetanová | prod. FTF VŠMU, CinePunkt  
BID 2025 – Best Fabio Pitch Award  
WP: Doclisboa / Ji.hlava IDFF 2025

### **Si aj to, čo si nepamätáš / Purple Is a Nice Color**

SK | dir. Dorota Vlnová | prod. FTF VŠMU | BID 2020 | WP: 2021

### **Skutok sa stal / Never Happened**

SK – CZ | dir. Barbora Berezňáková | prod. LEON Productions  
BID 2018 | IP: Warsaw FF 2019

### **Slúžka / The Chambermaid**

SK – CZ | dir. Mariana Čengel Solčanská | prod. Bright Sight  
Pictures | BID 2017 | WP: Tallinn Black Nights 2022

### **Služobníci / Servants**

SK – RO – CZ – IE | dir. Ivan Ostrochovský  
prod. Punkchart films | BID 2016 | WP: Berlinale 2020

### **Spoons**

SK | dir. Jana Smokoňová | prod. Teren production  
BID 2018 | WP: 2019

### **Správa / The Auschwitz Report**

SK – CZ – DE | dir. Peter Bebjak | prod. D.N.A.  
BID 2018 | WP: 2020

### **Strigov**

SK | dir. Barbora Berezňáková | prod. Známa firma  
BID 2021 – Special Mention | WP: Docaviv 2022

### **Svíkat mly / Shedding the Mist**

SK – CZ | dir. Kateřina Hroníková | prod. FTF VŠMU  
BID 2023 | WP: 2024

### **Šťastný človek / A Happy Man**

SK – CZ | dir. Soňa G. Lutherová | prod. AZYL Production  
BID 2021 | WP: Hot Docs Toronto 2023

### **The Sailor**

SK | dir. Lucia Kašová | prod. TOXPRO  
BID 2019 | WP: Hot Docs Toronto 2021

### **Ticho na poli / Homeland of Silence**

SK | dir. Štefánia Lovasová | prod. FTF VŠMU  
BID 2019 | WP: 2022

### **To ta monarchia / King Bee**

SK | dir. Vladislava Sárkány | prod. sarkany  
BID 2019 | WP: IDFF One World Slovakia 2020

### **Tvojazem / Journey to Yourland**

SK – BE – CZ | dir. Peter Budinský | prod. BFILM  
BID 2017 | WP: Zlín FF 2022

### **Učiteľka / The Teacher**

SK – CZ | dir. Jan Hřebejk | prod. PubRes  
BID 2016 | WP: Karlovy Vary IFF 2016

### **Územie fantázie / Territory of Imagination**

SK | dir. Paula Malárová | prod. CinePunkt  
BID 2020 | WP: Beldocs 2023

### **Venuša v retrográde / Venus in Retrograde**

SK | dir. Štefánia Lovasová | prod. NINJA FILM  
BID 2024 | WP: Aegean FF 2024

### **Villa Lucia**

SK – CZ | dir. Michal Kollár | prod. KFS production  
BID 2018 | WP: 2023

### **Vtáčnik / The Birdhill**

SK – CZ | dir. Eva Križková | prod. Dayhey  
BID 2022 | WP: 2024

### **Vulturi din Taga / The Eagles from Taga**

RO – SK | dir. Adina Popescu, Iulian Manuel Ghervas  
prod. WE ARE BASCA | BID 2019 | WP: 2022

### **We Have to Survive**

SK – FR – AT | dir. Tomáš Krupa | prod. HAILSTONE | BID 2022  
WP: Thessaloniki IDF 2026

### **Zenit / Zenith**

SK – CZ – HU | dir. György Kristóf | prod. Dynamo Productions  
BID 2019 | WP: IFF Art Film Košice 2024

### **Zošalieť / Unbalanced**

SK – CZ | dir. Zuzana Piussi | prod. VIRUSfilm  
BID 2021 | WP: Tallinn Black Nights 2022

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First Cut Lab

Pop Up Film Residency

# TATINO FILMS

TATINO leads film and talent development initiatives worldwide. As a proud partner of Bratislava Industry Days, we will award one participating project.



Find out more about our flagship programs *First Cut Lab*, *Full Circle Lab* and *Pop Up Film Residency* in our annual TATINO Catalogue 2025/26!

**TATINO FILMS**  
CATALOGUE  
2025/26

Wladimir Turner

**DENMARK**  
Michelle Brøndum

**EGYPT**  
Marwa Tammam

**ESTONIA**  
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Einar Arvett  
Gierman Golub  
Leana Jakukse  
Andreas Kaski  
Jaak Kõmi  
Jaan Laugamõts  
Marta Lepaj  
Ove Musting  
Nan Pavlusšikov  
Kristen Taska

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Laura Fendroff  
Markku Haakiminen  
Sunna Nousuaniemi  
Aarni Pieski  
Hannu-Pekka Vitkainen

**GERMANY**  
Margarete Arminova-Jester  
Jonas Bak  
Maximilian Bungarten  
Julia Cohen  
Luise Doraschen  
Moritz Gessler  
Philipp Gieseler  
Yaelis Kuyam  
Karsten Krause

Ricarda Pivovarnik (Germany)  
Inoffilier

Maria Pihlakivi (Finland)  
2,4 M

Katja Winkler (Germany)  
Dreaming Differences

After completing a full development plan for their film, participants will receive a grant of 2,4 million euros to be used for the production of their film.

Only films in the 16:9 aspect ratio are eligible for the grant.

For more information, please contact: info@tatino.com

Full Circle Lab

Pop Up Film Residency Special Program

PROJECT SELECTION: Tomáš Hudák, Monika Lošťáková, Ondrej Starinský, Rastislav Steranka, Tereza Tokárová

CATALOGUE: Anna Ďurišiková

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Milan Stolár, [www.intuitio.studio](http://www.intuitio.studio)

BID CREW: Tomáš Hudák, Tereza Tokárová, Monika Lošťáková, Rastislav Steranka, Ondrej Starinský, Peter Dubecký, Barbora Šályová,  
Barbora Zelisková, Nataša Findrová Jurčová, Radomír Brhlík, Daša Parížková, Kristína Majorošová,  
Michal Vojsovič, Zita Hosszúová, Veronika Krejčová, Barbara Nováková

ORGANIZED BY:

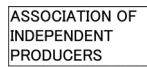


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The project Bratislava Industry Days 2026 is co-financed by the governments of Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia through Visegrad Grants from the International Visegrad Fund. The mission of the fund is to advance ideas for sustainable regional cooperation in Central Europe.

PARTNERS:



# Programme

**March 15**

**Industry Dinner  
(by invitation only)**

19:00 | Štefánka by Pulitzer

**March 16**

**Works in Progress  
presentation, session I**

10:00 | Cinema Lumière

**Networking lunch**

12:30 | Viecha pod hradom

**Individual meetings**

14:30 | Falkensteiner Hotel

**Between a person and a film.  
Ethics in documentary practice  
(discussion, in Slovak)**

16:00 | Cinema Lumière

**Febiofest awards ceremony  
+ screening of *Little Thief***

18:30 | Cinema Lumière

**Closing party + BID party**

20:00 | Backstage Bar

**March 17**

**Works in Progress  
presentation, session II**

10:00 | Cinema Lumière

**Networking lunch**

12:30 | Viecha pod hradom

**Filmmaking copyright contracts:  
What to look out for before signing  
(discussion, in Slovak)**

14:00 | Cinema Lumière

**Individual meetings**

14:30 | Falkensteiner Hotel

**How to produce a Slovak film today  
(discussion, in Slovak)**

16:00 | Cinema Lumière

**BID awards ceremony  
+ Industry drink with Ji.hlava IDFF**

19:00 | Backstage Bar