

Cinematik brings a wide range of film premieres. Success at the world's biggest festivals, hope and optimism is what these all have in common

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The fifteenth international film festival Cinematik will be full of titles that Slovak audiences have not yet been able to see in cinemas. Without exception, this will apply to films in the Walk of Fame section reflecting films that began their "walk of fame" at one of the world's largest film festivals. In the spirit of the premieres, the Hope section will also be held. It focuses on films full of optimism and positive messages, which are now perhaps more relevant than ever before.

Although the film world has had to do without many important events or premieres over the past year, more than enough great films have been born. You can see for yourself in less than two weeks at the Cinematik International Film Festival in Piešťany. Under the heading of the program section Walks of Fame, we will introduce an attractive selection of new titles that have already resonated at some of the world's most prestigious festivals. Not a single one of them has yet been shown to the Slovak audience.

The French-Belgian film *Slalom*, 2020 by debuting director and screenwriter Charlène Favier will even have one of the very first screenings of Cinematik in the world. The film was included in the official selection of this year's cancelled festival in Cannes. The film brings us the story of 15-year-old Lyz (extremely talented Noée Abita), who is to become a professional skier under the guidance of uncompromising coach Fred (played by Jérémie Renier). However, hard training is not only a physical stress test, but also the trigger for a disturbing relationship between an older man and an emotionally immature girl.

The Spanish-French psychological drama Rodrigo Sorogoyen's *Mother* (Madre, 2019) premiered at the Venice International Film Festival, where its lead actress Marta Nieto won the Orizzonti Award. In the picture, she portrayed a mother who, after years, returns to the place where her six-year-old son disappeared. A meeting with a young man who resembles him remarkably triggers an avalanche of unexpected events.

From Venice to Cinematik also comes the film *Babyteeth*, 2019 - Australian director Shannon Murphy made her debut with the main competition for the Golden Lion award and won several secondary awards. The family drama is an original love story between the dying Milla (Eliza Scanlen) and the junkie Moses (Toby Wallace). In the film, the carefreedom of youth meets the chilling, but in a way also liberating closeness of death.

And the star-studded drama *La vérité*, 2019, in which the well-known Japanese director Hirokazu Kore'eda, with the help of Catherine Deneuve, Juliette Binoche and Ethan Hawke, tells the story of an aging actress and her adult daughter who, under the pressure of chance, are forced to recapitulate their complicated relationship and seek their way to each other again.

The Danish family drama *En helt almindelig familie*, 2019 premiered at this year's festival in Rotterdam. It is pleasantly relieving, but certainly a superficial story about a family in which the father feels like a woman. His transformation especially disturbs one of his daughters. How to come to terms with losing a father and getting a "second mother" at the same time? The extremely sensitive and precise immersion into the souls was filmed and written by the Dutch director Mala Reymann.

Bacurau, 2019 is a multi-genre unique film that takes the viewer to the most remote corner of Brazil, where the inhabitants of the exploited settlement take justice into their own hands. The original film by the duo of directors Kleber Mendonça Filho and Juliano Dornelles, against the background of bizarre, sometimes magical-realistic events, returns strength to the hands of the marginalized and unrecognized. They won the Jury Prize at the Cannes International Film Festival.

And it was in Cannes that **Little Joe** (2019) was the world premiere of the sci-fi drama by Austrian director Jessica Hausner, in which the discovery of a magical plant that brings happiness gradually changes from a blessing to a curse. The Thai-Irish film **Cave** (Nang Non, 2019), first screened at the Busan Festival, is reminiscent of a real 2018 event in which a 13-member football team got stuck in a flooded cave for two long weeks. The drama, using stylized documentary techniques, was shot by Tom Waller.

The diverse selection of images that met in the Hope program section comes from various parts of the world, includes various genres and various, often difficult and painful themes. However, as the name of the section suggests, they are united by optimism and "feel-good" emotion, which, in ideal case, the viewer takes with them from the cinema. It is also true for the films in the Hope section that viewers will be able to see them in the Slovak premiere at Cinematik festival.

Hope is not only the title of the whole section, but also of one of its films (Håp, 2019). The main characters in the drama of Norwegian director Marie Sødahl are Anja and Tomas, a middle-aged couple with a large family of their own and adopted children who re-evaluate their marriage when confronted with Anja's deadly illness. The film had its world premiere at the Toronto Film Festival, with Andrea Bræin Hovig and Stellan Skarsgård playing the central duo.

On board! (À l'abordage, 2020) is a smiling road-movie from France, in which the ride of a trio of different young men turns into an unexpected adventure in the setting of a holiday camp. Each of the heroes will bring their problems "on board", but in a carefree summer atmosphere, even the most difficult of them can be effectively diluted by the sun, random encounters and selfless friendship. The title of French director and screenwriter Guillaume Brac won the FIPRESCI Jury Honorable Mention at this year's Berlinale.

The Kindness of Strangers, 2019 by Danish director Lone Scherfig is the story of Clara (Zoe Kazan), who finds herself homeless with two sons on the run from her violent husband. Although the situation may seem hopeless, random encounters will show that even the most difficult problems can be solved by happy coincidence and elemental humanity. Rose, the heroine of the musical drama **Yellow Rose** (2019), has to face a similar situation. A young Filipino living in Texas has only one dream - to become a country star. However, when her mother is detained by the immigration police, she stays on her own plans, but not always the friendly world around her alone. The musical drama was filmed as her first feature film by Filipino-American documentary filmmaker Diane Paragas.

The film Debut by the producer Dan Friedkin, **The Last Vermeer** (2019), brings to life the story of what is said to be the most successful art con man of all time - Han van Meergren (played by Guy Pearce), who pulled millions out of Nazis' pockets during World War II. about famous works of art. When he finds himself in court after a war, does he have the possessive opportunity to prove who he is: a collaborator, an opportunist, or perhaps a hero?

Werner Herzog's Family Romance, LLC (Family Romance, LLC, 2019) has a bitter-sweet taste - the famous German filmmaker describes Japanese business with the illusion of reuniting families with families who have lost their loved one. In the film, reality blends with fiction, not only formally but also in the narrative. The film premiered at last year's Cannes Film Festival.

The drama ***Forgotten*** (Zabuti, 2019) takes us back to eastern Ukraine, where teacher Nina (Maryna Koshkina) has to adapt to new conditions in occupied Luhansk. However, when he has the opportunity to help an orphaned teenager who was arrested for lifting an Ukrainian flag, he does not hesitate to risk his own life for him. An urgent, second feature film by Ukrainian director and screenwriter Daria Onyshchenko.

The Hope section will be closed by the Lithuanian-Irish drama ***Castle*** (Pilis, 2020), in which banning from a pragmatic mother or kidnapping the own grandmother does not stop thirteen-year-old singer Monika on her way to her dream performance. The second feature film by the ambitious Lithuanian director and screenwriter Lina Lužytė. The Cinematik Festival will present this novelty among the first on the world festival map.

In these two sections alone, this year's Cinematik will present films by up to nine directors from nine countries.

The fifteenth Cinematik International Film Festival will take place in Piešťany from 10 to 15 September 2020. Accreditations are available on the website www.cinematik.sk until 31 August for a discounted pre-sale price.

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