

Great Slovak documentaries as well as dark titles dealing with the theme of family. Cinematik is already revealing its programme

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The seventeenth edition of the Cinematik International Film Festival starts in Piešťany in less than two months. In the varied offer of its competition and non-competition sections, visitors can look forward to almost a hundred great new films, many of them in an exclusive Slovak premiere. As usual, lovers of quality documentaries should not miss the festival. The festival also dedicates one of its competitions, Cinematik.doc, to great new films by domestic documentarians.

This year, the Cinematik.doc section brought together eleven extremely varied titles with both content and processing. One of them will be *Purgatory* (2021) by Zuzana Piusi, which holds a mirror to the Slovak judiciary in the face of the biggest cases of our time. Scandalous revelations, internal struggle between judges, people's chronic distrust of justice. *Purgatory* comes to Piešťany with a special Jury Award from the IFF Jihlava 2021.

The film *Ouca* (eng. *Sheep*, 2021) with the subtitle *(Un)true story* also touches on a lively contemporary theme. In the movie, director and screenwriter Peter Pavlík recapitulates the pandemic through the eyes of "Luboš", who refuses to believe information from the mainstream media and seeks the truth from alternative sources.

On the contrary, Slavomír Zrebný's *Slobodní* (eng. *The Free*, 2022) is a movie about the past. It will show the friendship of Silvester Krčméry and Vladimír Jukl, important figures of the fight against totalitarianism, who participated in the Slovak Velvet Revolution.

In Erik Praus' film *Trančík* (2022), a portrait of director Dušan Trančík, we get the opportunity to think about the role and responsibility of the artist in difficult social times, and we can continue these reflections with the film *Odpočítavanie*, Ivan Palúch's last film (eng. *Countdown*, 2022). The life story of the actor, who starred alongside world stars, but practically stopped his career upon returning to socialist Czechoslovakia, is brought to Cinematik by his son, Martin Palúch.

A few more portraits of exceptional personalities entered this year's competition. Pavol Barabáš, for example, in the film *Dhaulágiri je môj Everest* (eng. *Dhaulágiri is my Everest*, 2021) invites us to the extreme environment of the Himalayas in the company of the legend of mountaineering Zoltán Demján. Patrik Lančarič brings to Piešťany the story of Dež Hoffmann – photographer of the Beatles (2022) with a lot of previously unpublished facts and archival materials about the world-famous native of the Slovak town Banská Štiavnica.

In her film work, Anna Grusková mainly focuses on powerful female characters. This time, in the film *Žena novej doby* (eng. *Woman of the New Age*, 2022), she took aim at the fate of Alžbeta Göllnerová-Gwerková, the heroine of the SNP (Slovak National Uprising) and a pioneer of Slovak democracy.

Alena Čermáková, on the other hand, brings to the competition a portrait of the poet and novelist Rudolf Dobiáš under the title *Svetlo na konci dňa* (eng. *Light at the end of the day* 2021).

The documentary competition will also be complemented by the film *Drsné a nežné* (eng. *Rough and soft*, 2022) by Ľubomír Štecko. Its protagonists are psychiatric patients bearing testimony about their inner worlds through works of art. The protagonist of Denis Dobrovoda's film *Katedrála* (eng. *Cathedral*, 2021) also has his own world. A former monk near Madrid has been building a cathedral as

big as the famous Sagrada Familia on his own for 60 years. He doesn't give up, even if the locals think he's crazy.

The organizers of Cinematik also reveal details about the programme of one of the traditionally most popular sections of the festival Cult & Beyond. This time, the family will be the bond of the films shown, and you can look forward to truly unusual, disturbing or downright terrifying variations on this classic manifestations. In Jonathan Cuartas's dark drama *My Heart Can't Beat Unless You Tell It To* (2020), two siblings have to face unexpected situations while caring for their sick younger brother. The original independent horror film with a vampire theme became a hit on the American festival scene.

Also in the film *To the Moon* (2021), Scott Friend's peculiar brother shuffles the cards. After years of separation, Dennis and his girlfriend Mia's weekend together unexpectedly disrupts it and turns it into a nightmare full of hallucinations and horror.

The teenage heroine of the Austrian film directed by Peter Hengel *Family Dinner* (2022) definitely cannot complain about having a traditional family. Since her vacation in the countryside with her aunt, Simi promises herself a chance to lose weight. However, a much more difficult and terrifying challenge awaits her.

Even *Bull* (2021) does not have it easy with his relatives. Years ago, he married into the family of a feared gangster and it almost ended fatally for him. However, he survived his own execution and now it's time for revenge. The British genre film directed by Paul Andrew Williams will bring tension, but also a few unexpected twists.

Danish cinema has traditionally been a reliable source of disturbing psychological dramas. It will be represented in the Cult & Beyond section this year by Christian Tafdrup's film *Do Not Summon Evil* (Gæsterne, 2022). In the narrative, the meeting of two families who accidentally became friends during a vacation results in a truly unpleasant, demonic experience.

However, Czech creators will also contribute with a dark thriller from a family environment. In the film *Repulse* (2021) by Emil Křížka, the destinies of two dysfunctional families are intertwined: an unstable millionaire husband and a weirdo living with his mother in a crumbling cottage. You can look forward to an oppressive atmosphere and an original style of storytelling.

The seventeenth edition of the Cinematik International Film Festival will be held from September 13 to 18, 2022, and will also bring a number of other original and intense film experiences. Accreditations are currently on sale at a bargain price at www.cinematik.sk.

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