

Cinematik will offer space for the latest Slovak documentaries and non-traditional film perspectives on children

Press release, 24 July 2023

The International Film Festival Cinematik in Piešťany invites you to its 18th edition on 12 September. More than a hundred unique film experiences, discussions, masterclasses and events will be presented. Its programme cannot miss the popular "midnight section" **Cult & Beyond**. This year, the latter will bring unconventional perspectives on the theme of children and childhood.

Among other things, the festival will also give space to new documentaries by local filmmakers. This year they will compete for the favour of the audience and the jury in the **Cinematik.doc** competition.

Cinematik.doc is a film competition of new documentaries by local filmmakers. This year, eight titles will compete. Visitors to Cinematik will be able to see most of them on screen as Slovak or festival premieres.

One of the competing titles will be a portrait of screenwriter, director, essayist and poet Eduard Grečner, which was made by Maroš Brázda under the title **The Truth Is All There Is** (2023). Michal Fulier and Jana Bučka Kovalčíková will present **What Have You Done to the Russians?** (2023), which depicts the humanitarian activities of the non-profit organisation Depaul on the territory of war-torn Ukraine.

Ľubomír Ján Slivka's **Andy Warhol - American Dream** (2023) offers a biography of the famous Slovak-born artist. The competition will also feature the latest film by Jara Vojtek, **Turnus** (2022), which follows the fate of Slovaks travelling abroad for work, or Robert Kirchoff's **All Men Will Be Brothers** (2023), which explores the personality of Alexander Dubček and his impact on the present day.

The **Happy Man** (2023) is a title from a completely different category: Soňa G. Lutherová traces the gender transition in the context of everyday family life. The competitions top eight is rounded off by **Territory of Fantasy** (2023), in which director Paula Maľárová explores how society's understanding of war changes in a period of long-term peace. Pavol Barabáš is one of the regular participants in the Cinematik.doc competition. This time, he will bring the film **The Grand Canyon** (2023), which is his personal memoir of director and river rafter Jožko Černý.

Is having children and being a child a blessing or a curse? Are the expectations to bring children into the world, which society has placed on women since the beginning, in line with what the individual woman truly desires? How do children cope with the difficulties of adolescence,

bullying or prejudice? And where do they look for role models when those closest to them fail them? The six films to be screened in **Cult & Beyond: Kids Are Not Alright** explore the seemingly idyllic subject of childhood from both surprising and frightening perspectives.

In her first horror film, **Huesera/The Bone Woman** (Mexico/Peru, 2022), filmmaker Michelle Garza Cervera offers a dark look at the subject of motherhood, which does not always come easily or joyfully into a woman's life. The classic film-noir **The Night of the Hunter** (dir. Charles Laughton, USA, 1955) depicts the fate of orphans who are pursued by a fanatical preacher obsessed with a tale of love and hate.

The heroine of the drama **Kommunioun** (Wolfkin, dir. Jacques Molitor, Luxembourg, 2022) is a mother who tries to save her son from the hereditary curse of his father. In **Piggy** (Cerdita, Carlota Pereda, Spain/France, 2022), on the other hand, the teenage heroine reluctantly rescues a trio of female peers from a psychopathic killer to get revenge for bullying them.

The midnight section will close with **2551.01: Kid** (2021) and **2551.02: Orgy of the Damned** (2023) by Austrian director Norbert Pfaffenbichler. This is a dystopian interpretation of Charlie Chaplin's classic grotesque, composed of nightmares, which draws the viewer into the action and atmosphere without a word.

Accreditations for the 18th Cinematik International film Festival are on sale at the official website of the festival www.cinematik.sk.

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