

HITCHHIKER CINEMA, RADIO AND TELEVISION SLOVAKIA AND BACKGROUND FILMS PRESENT



17737

PRISNE TAJNE!

Registračné číslo

ovný dňa

18. VI. 1984

ny dňa

Krycie meno



A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY JAKUB JULÉNY

THE COMMUNE

THE PAST IS CONSTANTLY AHEAD OF US

PRESSKIT



INFORMATION ABOUT THE FILM

Story	Ingrid Mayerová
Script	Jakub Julény, Pavel Smejkal
Director	Jakub Julény
Producer	Barbara Janišová Feglová, HITCHHIKER Cinema
Co-producers	Soňa Komová, Radio and Television Slovakia Radim Procházka, Background Films
Dramaturgy	Ingrid Mayerová
Head of documentary RTVS	Ondrej Starinský
Music and sound design	Miroslav Tóth
Sound mix	Maroš Olah
Cinematography	Peter Važan, Michal Koštenský, Juraj Mravec
Animation	Marián Vredík
Editing	Marek Bihuň, Peter Morávek
Editing supervision	Marek Šulík
Production	Nicole Brlej
Featuring	Konštantín Fecurka, Jozef Furman, Erik Groch, Alena Grochová, Ondrej Jurín, Ivan Jurčišin, Zuzana Kuzmová, Milan Maďar, Zbyněk Prokop, Martin Strýko, Erika Strýková, Miroslav Vodrážka, Helena Zaoralová
With the financial support of	Slovak Audiovisual Fund Bratislava Region
Partner of the project	Slovenská sporiteľňa, a.s.
Distributor in Slovakia	Association of Slovak Film Clubs



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Year of production	2020
Country of production	Slovak Republic, Czech Republic
Genre	documentary film
Length	88 min
Languages	Slovak, Czech
Subtitles	English
Rating	15+
Aspect ratio	16:9
Distribution format	DCP
Sound	stereo
Resolution	HD
Trailer	www.vimeo.com/486326187
Webpage	www.komunafilm.sk
Facebook	www.facebook.com/komunafilm/
National premiere	November 9, 2020, One World Slovakia
Slovak distribution premiere	May 6, 2021



TAGLINE

The past is constantly ahead of us.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

The desire for freedom in Communist Czechoslovakia led to the formation of a group of individuals who professed an inclination towards the principles of the underground movement. They became outsiders by their own choice, so that they could live freely. Today, they live predominantly in the past, unable to overcome suspicions of betrayal in the form of cooperation with the secret police. Throughout their story drifts the spirit of their tragically departed guru. In an effort to come to terms with the past, an old companion organizes a revival concert. Will these freethinkers reach a truce?



LONG SYNOPSIS

The yearning for a free life in an occupied country is what brings together a group of young individuals who profess a proclivity towards the principles of the underground movement. The basis of their existence is not to fight against the regime but the simple desire to live a life of truth. Their common activities become a thorn in the side of the communist establishment, whose sights are set on destroying the mutual trust which binds them.

The Commune is a portrait of this group of aging men and women, for whom life in this community in the 1980s has come to represent an era. One way or another, they find themselves back in the past, unable to face suspicions of betrayal. Obliterative secret police activities still resonate with them today.

Throughout their story drifts the memory of their tragically departed guru, Marcel Strýko. His decision to enter the political scene during the weeks of the Velvet Revolution in 1989 and his latter self-destructive, sealed his fate.

This group of freethinking individuals disintegrates and not much is left of the strong bonds that once held them together. After the Velvet Revolution, most of them live within the margins of society, unable to assimilate into the mainstream world. In an effort to come to terms with the past, an old companion organizes a revival concert in a Gothic cathedral. Will their reunion prompt a long-awaited moment of repentance and forgiveness?



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I was always ill at ease with the notion that freedom acquired through hardship possesses no real value within our society. I consider the manner in which the communist establishment pervaded the private lives of my parents' generation the pinnacle of treachery from this political mechanism, especially when I observe the consequences of communist secret police activities within the present day, 30 years after the fall of this regime. What interests me is how long it will take or if it is even possible to come to terms with this kind of totalitarian heritage.





JAKUB JULÉNY, DIRECTOR (*1985)

Jakub studied Documentary Film under Professor Dušan Hanák at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, Slovakia, graduating in 2011. His thesis film was **Life is More Beautiful Because of You**. After graduating, he directed the short films **HOUSE** and **In King Svätopluk's Shadow**. **The Commune** is his feature length debut. His projects focus on the theme of consequences of the totalitarian regime that are manifested in the present. Apart from directing, Jakub is also a freelance photojournalist.





ABOUT THE COMMUNE

Operation **Commune** was the biggest ongoing communist secret police case in Eastern Slovakia that focused on the so-called 'free youth' during the period of normalization in the 1980s. Eight secret service agents were assigned to Marcel Strýko alone and the recruitment of many other agents for cooperation was attempted, even among his close friends. The group of individuals surrounding this underground leader, unprecedentedly gifted philosopher and later on politician who adhered to personal principles at all costs, consisted of a broad spectrum of varied characters including: Erik Groch, presently one of Slovakia's leading and much lauded poets, sound artist and co-founder of the Faculty of Art in Košice, Zbyněk Prokop, or aspiring artist Zuzana Kuzmová. Other members who were also followed by the secret police were Mirek Vodrážka, Jozef Fecurka, Jozef Furman, Ondrej Jurín, Ivan Jurčišín and Milan Maďar. Archived secret files pertaining to Operation **Commune** case found in the Nation's Memory Institute include a number of reports, including the following:

"Operation Commune is an ongoing case observation of an underground group of individuals known as 'NACE' from Košice, Czechoslovakia. The grounds for opening this case was acquired intelligence of evident anti-social and anti-socialist direction of the subject and of the 'NACE' group, formed upon the subject's initiative. The group was created in 1981 with a focus on pro-western wanton social and musical styles known as the 'underground'. The ideological platform of this formation was founded on disagreement with official political culture, the effort to create an original and primitive musical style, unification on the basis of religion and philosophical discussions centered on political themes with a central motive of the suppression of human freedoms within our society."



CONTACTS

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Producer



Co-producers



BACKGROUND FILMS

Partner of the project



With the financial support of

