



# REPORT ON THE SLOVAK AUDIOVISUAL SITUATION IN 2009

**MEDIA**

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## → INTRODUCTION

■ I would like to start by reflecting back on the introductory part of the 2008 Report on the Slovak Audiovisual Situation and quote from its last paragraph: *„The question, of course, which is being asked by everyone, is, whether the positive trends from 2008 will also continue in 2009 – a year markedly affected by the crisis.“*

■ Obviously, today we already know the answer to this question, and this answer is really encouraging: the development of Slovak audiovision in 2009 not only confirmed the positive trends, but it rose even higher above them.

■ Of course, the most important news of the period includes the establishment of the Slovak Audiovisual Fund (which, by the end of the year, opened its first call for proposals) and, the consequent optimistic response of the audiovisual industry (168 proposals submitted). The functioning of the Slovak Audiovisual Fund is the basic precondition for the normal operation of the Slovak audiovisual industry. The Fund has not only created a platform for producing domestic works of different genres and themes, but it has also been a tool facilitating deeper integration of Slovakia into European audiovisual sector by enabling co-productions, and, it has also had other positive effects, e.g. enabling Slovakia to organize international events in the country. MEDIA Desk Slovakia participated in defining criteria for the acceptance and evaluation of proposals, of the supportive scheme structure and also in resolving further issues of the Board of the Fund, as our primary interest is to make the Fund function in compliance with the European standards represented by the EU MEDIA Programme.

■ The first record statistics of 2009 were achieved in the field of full-length cinema film production. In 2009, 19 (!) full-length films were released, including 12 feature films (6 majority, 6 minority), 6 documentaries (4 majority, 2 minority) and one animation (minority project). Also gratifying is the fact that 8 out of all the films were debuts (3 of which were majority). The thematic and genre composition of the features was rather varied, including films on contemporary issues, historical epics and films from the recent (communist) past, films that could be described as independent, dramas, tragicomedies, and even a horror.

■ Traditionally, documentaries were, once again, very successful on the international scene and won many important awards at renowned festivals. In 2009, Slovak documentary makers also, once again, confirmed their position.

■ After a long period, Slovak films were again included in official competitions and/or selections of significant international festivals (Venice, Locarno, Karlovy Vary). However, of no less importance is the fact that they were also successful in domestic cinemas: two Slovak films rank among the 10 most attended films of the year three of them are among the Top 10 of the most attended Slovak films in history.

■ The distribution figures were also more than optimistic: Slovak cinemas were attended by a record number of 4,145,671 viewers, which is by far the highest number in the history of independent Slovak Republic. In comparison with 2008, the attendance rate in 2009 increased by 23.3 %, which is the second biggest increase in Europe! There is only one position better than second and that's first place, which was taken by the Slovak distribution in the field of revenues with an increase of 38.3%. In addition, Slovakia achieved a very flattering 12th position in Europe regarding the attendance rate of domestic films.

■ Slovak audiovision made it through the crisis even stronger than before, and is on the best path to becoming a self-confident and standard functioning member of the European audiovisual sector.

■ I only hope that we can keep it up...

*Vladimír Štric, Director MEDIA Desk Slovakia*

## → LEGISLATION

- The most important act in the field of audiovision in regards to the events of 2009 is **Act No. 516/2008 Coll. on the Audiovisual Fund and amendment and supplementation of certain acts** which was adopted on November 5, 2008 and which entered into effect on January 1, 2009 (except for §32 on the co-production statute, which entered into effect on January 1, 2010). As a result of this act, the volume of available funds shall be increased, the funding sources shall be extended, the flexibility of support in terms of time shall increase as well, and there shall be a broader range of different supports available within the scheme (the current subsidies shall be supplemented by scholarships and loans.) Thus, the Slovak Audiovisual Fund (SAF) shall become a modern systemic tool enabling steady support and development of Slovak audiovisual works, culture and industry. The fund shall be supported from multiple sources. In addition to state budget contributions, the fund shall also be contributed to by non-public entities operating businesses with audiovisual works. For the first time in history, the distribution of funds has been transferred from the Ministry of Culture to an independent entity with self-governing management and expert decision-making.
- Since, in 2009, the Fund was only still just preparing for its activities, the AudioVision granting program of the Slovak Ministry of Culture continued its activities in 2009 (for more information on this program see the chapter on State Support to Audiovision). In 2010, this granting program shall terminate its activities and the activities of the Audiovisual Fund shall start in full.
- On March 30, 2009, the Minister of Culture swore in the members of the Board of the Audiovisual Fund for a six-year office term. The Board includes authors, independent producers, distributors, statutory and licensed broadcasters and one member of the Board is appointed by the Minister of Culture. The current Board of the Slovak Audiovisual Fund consists of the following members: Jelena Paštěková and Miloslav Luther representing the production of Slovak audiovisual works; Petronela Kolečská-Vančíková and Patrik Pašš representing independent producers in audiovision; Michal Drobňý from the field of distribution of audiovisual works and operation of audiovisual technical facilities; Marta Gajdošíková from the area of television broadcasting by a statutory broadcaster (established by law); Tomáš Kamenec from the field of television broadcasting by licensed broadcasters; Robert Ťavoda representing the area of retransmission; and Nataša Slavíková as a board member appointed by the Minister. Patrik Pašš and Petronela Kolečská-Vančíková were elected the first chairman and the first deputy chairman of the SAF Board, respectively.
- On May 7, 2009, the SAF Board elected, by a secret ballot, Martin Šmatlák to be Director of the Slovak Audiovisual Fund for a five-year office term.
- On July 20, 2009 the SAF Board adopted the basic rules for support activity in the official document Structure of Support Activity in 2010. According to this document, the support activity of the Fund is divided into four programs.
- The first program is aimed at supporting development, creation and production of Slovak (also minority) audiovisual works, which consists of features, documentaries and animations; further audiovisual works primarily intended to be presented to the public in ways other than cinema distribution and television broadcasting; and audiovisual works designated for child viewers up to 12 years of age. The maximum amount of support for one project is 85,000 EUR for development and 1.2 million EUR for production.
- The support provided within the second program is aimed at the extension and release of audiovisual works to the public, which consists of the distribution of works and public events (film festivals and non-competitive film reviews at home as well as abroad). In this case, the maximum support for one project amounts to 100,000 EUR for distribution, and 200,000 EUR for a public event.

- The third program focuses specifically on supporting research, education, training and editorial activities. This program is further divided into 5 sub-programs, including publication and distribution of periodicals and non-periodicals, technical research, education and professional preparation, audiovisual education as a part of life-long education, and, finally, presentation of audiovisual works, culture and industry by the media. Maximum amount of support allotted for a project in the third program is 50,000 EUR.
- The last program within the structure of the support activity in Slovakia addresses a new field, namely support for the development of technologies focusing on the reconstruction and modernisation of cinemas with the priority participation of the local or regional self-governments in the project implementation; the maximum amount of support granted to a project is 200,000 EUR.
- In 2010, the Fund will provide funding in the form of subsidies and scholarships. The total funds available have been divided between particular programs in the following ratio: 85 percent has been allocated to the first program; 10 per cent for the second program; and the remaining two programs will receive 2.5 percent each. The applications for funds will be reviewed, evaluated and selected by six expert commissions, which will consequently make recommendations to the Director of the Fund regarding the amount to be granted to recommended applications. The decision regarding support to be granted from the Fund will be made by the director, who shall then inform the Board about his decision.
- Preliminary, there have been three deadlines established for the submission of applications to the Slovak Audiovisual Fund: December 15, 2009; March 1, 2010 and September 1, 2010. Individual grant applications will be evaluated by the competent expert commission. Program 1 will have three expert commissions, and all other programs of the support scheme will have a separate commission. Members of each commission were appointed by the SAF Board at its session on October 27, 2009. For more information on the support activities of the Fund including other documents please visit [www.avf.sk](http://www.avf.sk). Documents on the Fund in English are available at <http://www.avf.sk/english.aspx>.
- Upon the first call for submitting requests for funding published by the Slovak Audiovisual Fund with the deadline of December 29, 2009, the expert commissions received 168 complete applications subject to evaluation. Commissions recommended 88 projects, while the total amount to be granted amounted to EUR 1,266,300. The list and statistical overviews of all evaluated applications are available at [http://registracia.avf.sk/statistiky\\_verejne.php](http://registracia.avf.sk/statistiky_verejne.php).
- In October 2008, the Slovak Film Institute (SFI), in compliance with the plan of tasks stemming from the Resolution of the Government of the SR No. 441/2006, elaborated and submitted to the Ministry of Culture an **Update of the Project of Systematic Renewal of the Audiovisual Heritage of the SR**. The Ministry of Culture submitted the document for international review and, after incorporating the proposed suggestions (under the expert guidance of the SFI), the paper was submitted for government negotiation. The government adopted the proposal on January 14, 2009 with its Resolution No. 25/2009. The Update of the project and its approval by the government has been a binding baseline document for determining further tasks and activities relating to the mid-term implementation of the project (2009 – 2011).
- On May 20, the Government of the SR approved the proposal for the **Framework concept of a joint media complex of the Slovak Television and Slovak Radio, and the proposal for the material and time schedule of the pre-implementation phase of this construction**. Pursuant to the SR Government Resolution, the public procurement for the construction and operation of the joint media complex of the Slovak Television and Slovak Radio should start no later than on December 31, 2009, including its technological and technical parts.

- Following the approval by the National Council of the SR on June 30, the **Act on Various Measures Concerning the Slovak Radio and Slovak Television (No. 312/2009 Coll.)** entered into effect on September 1, 2009. This act introduced the institute of the „contract with the state“ in the Slovak legislation.
- In August, the Government of the SR submitted to Parliament a proposal for an amendment to the **Act on Broadcasting and Retransmission**, which the National Council of the SR on September 8 advanced to a second reading. The intention of the proposal was to implement in Slovak legislation the Guideline on the Audiovisual Media Services, which significantly amends and extends the Guideline „Television Without Borders“.
- Although the current basic legal framework for on-demand audiovisual services in Slovakia is created by the Slovak Audiovisual Act (No. 343/2007 Coll.), Act on Digital Broadcasting (No. 220/2007 Coll.), Act on Advertising (No. 147/2001 Coll.), Act on Electronic Communication (No. 610/2003 Coll.) and Act on Electronic Commerce (No. 22/2004 Coll.), the Ministry of Culture has decided to implement the Guideline exclusively by means of the Act on Broadcasting and Retransmission (No. 308/2000 Coll.). That means, that the Ministry does not intend to extend the existing legal framework, and it even includes on-demand audiovisual services (video on-demand) in the Act on Broadcasting and Retransmission, although none of these services (as they are defined by the Guideline and the Slovak legislation) are considered broadcasting nor retransmission.
- On October 13, the Ministry of Culture submitted to the inter-resort review a draft of the **Contract on the scope, objectives and provision of services to the public in the field of television broadcasting in 2010 - 2014**.
- On November 25, the Ministry of Culture submitted a proposal for the **Concept of medial education in the Slovak Republic within the context of life-long education** to be reviewed.

## → FILM EDUCATION

- Even the youngest generation has the possibility to develop its creative potential at two art schools in Bratislava – at **Ludovít Rajter’s Elementary School of Art and the Private Secondary Technical School of Animation, and also at the Private Secondary School of Film Art** based in Košice. Their works are presented at the **Animofest** festival.
- Even though there are currently several university level art schools in Slovakia, audiovisual art has, only marginally, been taught at them. They include, for example, the Faculty of Mass Media Communication at the University of St. Cyril and Method in Trnava, the Department of Photography and New Media at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bratislava, the Department of Fine Arts and Intermedia at the Faculty of Arts of the Košice Technical University, and the Faculty of Visual Arts of the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica.
- Students of the **Faculty of Dramatic Arts of the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica** (<http://www.fdu.aku.sk/>) can study Dramatic Arts and Film Art and Multimedia. The Head of the Department of Film and Documentaries is a special professor Asst. Prof. Mgr. Marcela Plítková, ArtD.; and the Head of the Department of Film Script Editing and Script Writing is Prof. Ing. Ivan Stadtrucker, CSc. During the academic year 2009/1010, Film and Documentaries were studied by 75 students, and Film Script Editing and Script Writing was studied by 29 students.
- In 2009, students of the Department Documentaries created 26 thesis (bachelor and masters) films with an overall budget of EUR 37,793; out of which EUR 23,000 came from public support. Awards were received by films **Shepherd Jano Červeň** (Bača Jano Červeň, 2008, directed by Ľubomír Viluda and Ivan Kršiak) for the Best Environmental Film at the IFF Tourfilm Plock in Poland, and

**Recycler** (Recyklátor, 2009, directed by Erik Praus), an award in the category of documentaries at the 13th Festival of Student Films ÁČKO in Bratislava.

■ Nevertheless, the **Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts** (hereinafter referred to as FTF VŠVU) in Bratislava has continued to play a crucial role in preparing future filmmakers and producers. FTF VŠVU is a member of the International Association of Film and Television Schools of the world, CILECT, and its European section, GEECT. Since October 2006, Asst. Prof. Leo Štefankovič, ArtD. has been the Academy's Dean. At present, there are 9 study programs running at the school:

1. Script Writing (Head of studio: Associate Professor Alena Bodingerová, ArtD.);
2. Directing (Head of studio: Prof. Stanislav Párnický);
3. Documentaries (Head of studio: Associate Professor Vladimír Balco);
4. Animations (Head of studio: Associate Professor PhDr. Eva Gubčová, ArtD.);
5. Cinematography and Photography (Head of studio: Prof. Jan Ďuriš, ArtD);
6. Editing (Head of studio: Associate Professor Darina Smržová, ArtD.);
7. Sound (Head of studio: Associate Professor Igor Vrabc);
8. Production and Distribution of Film Art and Multimedia (Head of studio: Associate Professor PhDr. Martin Šmatlák, since October Associate Professor Ján Oparty ArtD.);
9. Art Critic and Audiovisual Studies (Head of department: Prof. Václav Macek, CSc).

■ In June 2009, VŠMU in Bratislava, the specific faculties which prepare future professionals in the field of dramatic art, puppet theatre, music, dance, film and television works, celebrated the 60th anniversary of its establishment. On this occasion, a conference was organized on June 4-5 at the VŠMU on the topic *Phenomenon of Creativity: Creativity, Artistic Thinking, Aesthetic Evaluation and Intermediality*. On June 9, there was a ceremonial reunion of graduates, current and former lecturers and employees of the VŠMU.

■ In 2009, the overall number of students at the FTF VŠVU was 292; out of which 36 were studying for a doctorate degree (16 in external form of study). Over the year, 21 bachelor and 8 master films have been produced at the faculty. In 2009, there was a total number of 42 short and medium-length films produced by the VŠMU students with a total cost of 331,265 EUR; out of which 145,645 EUR was public support. Many of those films were also created as a result of an unspecified volume of financial and in-kind contributions by the students themselves.

■ As traditionally, the FTF VŠMU has again participated in several film festivals. In addition to Áčko – 13th International Festival of Student Films, which is organized by the faculty and which provides students, teachers, professional and general public with a possibility to follow and evaluate student works, and which also enables self-reflection as well as reflection on the current situation in this field of education and creative work, there have also been other screenings of festival films in the **Film Club 35 mm**, and discussions within the framework of Febiofest and Film Festival „Inakosť<sup>1</sup>“. The film marathon which took place at the VŠMU on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of its establishment consisted of the presentation of current student works as well as student works by former graduates, now renowned filmmakers – Martin Šulík, Vlado Balco and Juraj Johanides.

■ Students of Film Science at the FTF VŠMU publish a journal called **Frame**, which is a section of the *Kino-Ikon* journal dedicated to film science and moving pictures. The FTF VŠMU student works have, in recent years, belonged to the most representative productions of Slovak cinematography, as reflected in the broad spectrum of prizes received by student films at home and abroad. The most successful of them was the documentary **Arsy-Versy** (directed by Miroslav Remo), which received several awards (e.g. at the International Festival of Documentary Films in Jihlava, Etiuda & Anima Krakow, the ARRI Prize for the Best Documentary at the IF of Film Schools in Munich, and the Silver Lion at the IF

→ 1) „being different“

of Student Films Golden Lion in Taipei). Also successful were **User Manual** (Návod na použitie, directed by Jana Mináriková) – received the Best Foreign Short Film Award at the Festival of Short Films Cortopote Bergamo, **About Socks and Love** (O ponožkách a láske, directed by Michaela Čopíková) – was awarded the Best Student Film Prize at the IF of Animations in Stuttgart, and the Best Animation Award at the Mediawave Győr, and documentary **Afghan Women Behind the Wheel** (Afganské ženy za volantom, directed by Sahraa Karimi) – won a prize in the category of Documentaries at the IFF EKOFILM České Budějovice/Český Krumlov/Třeboň and for the Best Director at the IF of Documentaries Sole Luna Palermo. For other prizes and awards received by student films please see the chapter Awards of Slovak Films and Filmmakers Abroad.

■ In 2009, the FTF VŠMU organized the festival of student films **ÁČKO** for the 13th time. The competitive section included university and secondary school student films from all over Slovakia. The Grand Prix of the festival was awarded to **Light Breeze** (Lahký vánok, directed by Sahraa Karimi) and the Grand Prix for cinematography was given to Ivo Miko for the film **Father** (Otec, directed by Lukáš Hanulák). The prize in the category of feature films was awarded to the film **Lives for Sale** by Kristína Herczegová; the winner in the category of documentaries was **Recycler** by Erik Praus from Banská Bystrica; the award in the category of animated films was received by **Busy-Body & Boar Strike Again** (Čmúchal & Sviňa zasahujú, directed by Andrej Kolenčík), and the winner in the category of video-art was **Economics 2009** by Martin Baran.

■ Several Slovak students achieved great success at the 2nd IFF of Student Films **Early Melons**, which took place in March 2009. The VŠMU student Šimon Ondruš received the Viewers' Choice Award for the documentary **Grandfather, Tourists and Me in Brussels** (Starý otec, turisti a ja v Bruseli). The Videosekt section was won by the film from a VŠVU<sup>2</sup> student Lucia Sceranková **Always at Eight to Half Past Four** (Vždy o osem pol piatich). The Grand Prix of the international competition was won by the animated film **Rain** by the Hungarian student Viktória Traub.

## → FILM PRODUCTION

■ In 2009, 19 films were made, 9 out of which were majority Slovak productions (in 2008 it was 11 films including 6 majority Slovak films), which is the most since the foundation of the independent Slovak Republic in 1993.

→ It is very pleasing that 8 of those films (3 of which are majority films) were debuts:

Vlado Balko, from the script by Jiří Křížan, directed a drama about three people in their 40s, who find themselves at the crossroads of life – **Soul at Peace** (Pokoj v duši, SK/CZ). The film became the viewers' favourite in Slovak cinemas, and, after a five-year absence, represented Slovakia in the competition at the IFF Karlovy Vary.

→ The low-budget film from the 22-year old Jakub Kroner about the young for the young with a hip-hop soundtrack **BRATISLAVAfilm** (2009, directed by Jakub Kroner) quickly became, (also) due to its aggressive advertising, one of the 10 most attended domestic films in the history of independent Slovakia.

→ **Eye in the Wall** (Oko ve zdi, CZ/SK, directed by Miloš J. Kohout) is a thriller based upon the novel by Iva Hercíková, with international casting featuring Karel Roden and Jürgen Prochnow in the leading roles.

→ The debut by Tomáš Mašín **3 Seasons in Hell** (3 sezóny v pekle, CZ/DE/SK) is loosely based on the autobiography of the writer and philosopher Egon Bondy, and captures the period between 1947 and 1949, when the political changes in Czechoslovakia brutally affected the lives of ordinary people.

→ The young Slovak director Mira Fornay made **Foxes** (Líštičky, CZ/SK/IE) – a dramatic story of two

sisters in contemporary Dublin. The film was screened during the International Film Critic's Week at the IFF Venice.

→ The first of the three full-length documentary debuts of 2009 was screened within the section of the Critic's Week at the IFF Locarno as the very first Slovak film in the 20-year history of this section. Film **Moon Inside You** (Mesiac v nás, ES/SK/FR, directed by Diana Fabiánová) with humour and irony uncovers the rules of „menstruation etiquette“, which up till now, also apply to our modern society.

→ **Little Violent Robinson** (Malý zúrivý Robinson, directed by Tina Diosi) is an unusual portrait of the tragically deceased poet, writer of lyrics and a bohemian Jožko Urban.

→ Peter Begányi in **Erotic Nation** (SK/CZ) talks about a family, which, after the Velvet Revolution, opened the first sex-shop in Slovakia, and depicts erotic life of Slovaks in the swirl of political and societal changes.

■ In 2009, experienced filmmakers also completed their films. **Jánošík. A True Story** (Jánošík. Pravdivá história, PL/SK/CZ/HU) by a directing couple Agnieszka Holland and Kasia Adamik had been waiting for completion for eight years. This historical epic movie about the most famous Slovak folk hero, despite massive Slovak state support of 2,16 mil EUR, has only become a minority co-production.

→ Juraj Herz has, in **T.M.A.** (CZ/SK), returned to his favourite genre – psychological horror.

→ Miloslav Luther in **Mosquitoes' Tango** (Tango s komármí, SK/CZ), through the story of two emigrants, who after years away, return to their homeland for a couple of days, highlighted, among others issues, the situation in Slovakia and the problems of its citizens.

→ A contemporary psychological film **My Husband's Women** (Ženy môjho muža, SK/CZ/HU, directed by Ivan Vojnár) is a medley of stories about several people, taking place amidst the backdrop of a criminal plot.

→ The Slovak nominee for the Oscar was **Broken Promise** (Nedodržaný sľub, SK/CZ/US, directed by Jiří Chlumský) – a film based on a real story of a Jewish boy, who, forced by the events of 1939–1945, had to change his naive, juvenile football ideals and, to consequently deny his own identity.

→ The second film by Laura Siváková **Heaven, Hell... Earth** (Nebo, peklo... zem, SK/CZ) talks about discovering one's own strengths and the possibility to succeed in life despite the barriers of destiny.

→ Director Dan Svátek, took inspiration to make the film **Unknown Hour** (Hodinu nevíš, CZ/SK) from the real story of a Czech „heparin murderer“, who, as a member of the nursing staff in the hospital in Havlíčkův Brod, killed seven patients.

■ New films were also made by a trio of successful documentary filmmakers. A film by Marko Škop **Osadné** (SK/CZ) is an exceptional depiction of a small community on the outer fringes of Europe, which tries to revive its municipality by means of the great European dream. It received the Best Documentary Award at the IFF Karlovy Vary.

→ The film **Cooking History** (Ako sa varia dejiny, AT/SK/CZ) by Peter Kerekes about military cooks from different territories and historical periods was nominated for the European Film Award and received the grand prize Golden Hugo at the IFF Chicago.

→ The plot of the film **The Border** (Hranica, directed by Jaroslav Vojtek) is also original. It depicts fate of inhabitants of the village Slemence on the eastern border of Europe, which was, one night in 1946, divided by the Red Army into two parts – one remaining in the then Czechoslovakia, and the other becoming part of the Soviet Union. And today, the village has been divided once again, but this time by the Schengen border.

→ Thanks to co-production, almost 30 years after the **The Bloody Lady** (Krvavá pani, 1980, directed by Viktor Kubal), the list of Slovak audiovisual works was extended with a new full-length animated film. A stop motion animation **In the Attic: Who Has a Birthday Today?** (Na púďe alebo Kdo má dnes

narodeniny?, CZ/SK/JP) by the recognised Czech filmmaker Jiří Barta is a story about an old and dusty loft, inhabited by old and forgotten toys living in peace and harmony until the moment, when the sovereign of the dark Empire of Evil starts going after their girlfriend.

■ In 2009, several medium-length feature films were made as well. **Thanks, fine** (Ďakujem dobre, directed by Mátyás Prikler), **Father, The Lunch Box** (Obedár, SK/US, directed by Ľubomír Mihailo Kocka), **X=X+1** (directed by Juraj Krasnohorský), **Lives for Sale**.

■ In the field of documentaries, another full-length films were also made: **Guests – Hauerland (Hos-tia – Hauerland**, directed by Vladimír Štric), and medium length works **Mystery of Underground** (Tajomstvo podzemia, directed by Pavol Barabáš), **Before This Film is Over** (Kým sa skončí tento film, directed by Tomáš Hučko), **Koliba** (directed by Zuzana Piussi), **Hero of Our Time** (Hrdina našich čias, directed by Zuzana Piussi), **Light Breeze, Arsy-Versy**.

■ There were also several short animations produced: **Viliam** (directed by Veronika Obertová), **Bird of Pray** (directed by Peter Budinský), **Busy-Body & Boar Strike Again**, however, none of them is on a 35 mm print.

■ The largest producer of documentaries continued to be the Slovak Television, which, on its own and in cooperation with independent filmmakers, created 43 titles in 2009 (see the chapter on Television).

■ It is gratifying that the new Slovak films managed to continue their international successes achieved in 2008. Representatives of our cinematography were included in the programs of significant film festivals (Venice, Karlovy Vary, Locarno...), in which Slovakia had not been represented for a long time, and received further awards for Slovak film. And what is most important, they managed to attract viewers to cinemas. Three films have been included in the ten most attended Slovak films since 1993.

## → STATE AUDIOVISUAL SUPPORT

■ After the adoption of the Act on the Slovak Audiovisual Fund, the funds from the Granting Scheme of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic (MC SR) designated to support and develop the audiovisual culture in the Slovak Republic within the third program of AudioVision 2009 were allocated for the last time. From the budget of the Ministry, the initial amount allocated was **4,109,658 EUR** (to compare: in 2008, the MC SR allocated for audiovision funds an amount of 3,878,277.89 EUR), however, in reality, in **2009**, individual projects were finally supported with **4,179,450 EUR** (in 2008, this amount was 4,271,625.84 EUR).

■ Taking into consideration the fact, that starting in 2010, the financial resources will be divided by the Slovak Audiovisual Fund, only one call for submitting applications was opened in 2009. The commission evaluated submitted proposals during two sessions – on February 27 and April 7, 2009. Since this was the sixth year that the program had functioned according to similar principles, the MC SR insisted on strict fulfilment of the criteria established for the submission of applications, thus, 27 projects (as many as 90 in 2008) were excluded due to their incompleteness. This was also the fourth year of using electronic registration for applications.

■ Within the AudioVision 2009 programme, total of **170** projects were submitted (282 in 2008) within eight sub-programs; **104** of which (110 in 2008) were supported:

- Development of audiovisual works: **25** projects (12 of which were supported, 1 applicant withdrew the application);
- Production of audiovisual works: **63** projects (29 of which were supported, 5 applicants withdrew their applications);
- Production of full-length cinema films: **9** projects (4 of which were supported);

- Post-production and/or distribution of audiovisual works: **30** projects (23 of which were supported);
- Minority co-production of full-length cinema films: **7** projects (4 were supported);
- Distribution of non-national audiovisual works: **7** projects (all were supported);
- Events, educational activities and/or presentation of audiovisual works: **27** projects (23 of which were supported);
- Publishing activities in the field of audiovision: **2** projects (both were supported).

#### ■ DIVISION OF FUNDS TO SUBPROGRAMS OF THE AUDIOVISION 2009 PROGRAM

1. Development of audiovisual works: 272,250 EUR / 6.5%
2. Production of audiovisual works: 1,184,500 EUR / 28.4%
3. Production of full-length cinema films: 908,000 EUR / 21.7%
4. Post-production and/or distribution of audiovisual works: 770,300 EUR / 18.4%
5. Minority co-production of full-length films for cinemas: 209,000 EUR / 5.0%
6. Distribution of non-national audiovisual works: 20,900 EUR / 0.5%
7. Events, educational activities and/or presentation of audiovisual works: 791,500 EUR / 18.9%
8. Publishing activities in the field of audiovision: 23,000 EUR / 0.6%

#### ■ Overview of projects supported in 2009 with an amount of 100,000 and more:

- 410,000 EUR – **Visible World** (Viditeľný svet, directed by Peter Krištúfek; JMB Film & TV Production Bratislava, s.r.o.)
- 380,000 EUR – **Cherrie Boy** (Čerešňový chlapec, directed by Stanislav Párnický; JMB Film & TV Production Bratislava, s.r.o.)
- 295,000 EUR – **Old Town Crime Tales 1 – 7** (Kriminálka staré mesto; TRIGON Production, s.r.o.)
- 232,400 EUR – **IFF Bratislava 2009** – 11th year (Ars Nova, n. o.)
- 166,000 EUR – **17th IFF Art Film** (Art Film, n. o.)
- 130,000 EUR – **Slovaks in the World** (Slováci vo svete; Arconi, s.r.o.)
- 120,000 EUR – **DVD edition Slovak Film of the 1960's – II** (Petit Press, a.s.)
- 116,000 EUR – **4th IFF Cinematik Piešťany** (IFF Piešťany)
- 100,000 EUR – **Flying Cyprian** (Lietajúci Cyprián, directed by Mariana Čengel Solčanská; Magic Seven Slovakia, s.r.o.)
- 100,000 EUR – **Bathory** (directed by Juraj Jakubisko; Jakubisko Film Slovakia, s.r.o.)

#### ■ Literary Fund

The mission of the Literary Fund is to support development of artistic, scientific, and scholarly literature, journalism and creative activities in the field of drama, film, radio and television. In 2009, the Committee of the Section for Creative activities in the field of television, film and video works supported, through the ALFA program, the development of new original scripts for feature films, documentaries and animated films. The Committee of the Section has also worked on the evaluation of film and television productions in 2008 and, awarded the Igric Prize to successful authors (for more information of the Igric Prize see the chapter on National Festivals, Film Reviews and Awards).

→ Also in 2009, the Fund contributed to creative trips within Slovakia and abroad and, paid premiums to performing artists celebrating an anniversary. The Fund have not forgotten about performing artists, who are not productive any more, or who, due to illness, old age or, for any other objective reasons, have found themselves in financial need.

→ In 2009, the overall budget available to the Committee of the Section amounted to 119,500 EUR;

out of this budget, as of December 31, 2009, the Fund provided 118,399 EUR aimed at supporting creative authors and artists. More than half of this amount (63,100 EUR) was paid to 61 creative artists in the form of scholarships. In 2008, 66 authors received a creative scholarship amounting to 52,380 EUR.

## → MEDIA

■ In 2009, MEDIA Desk Slovakia continued, in line with the approved action plan and available budget, to fulfil its fundamental tasks: to provide information on the MEDIA Programme to all those interested, to consult with applicants applying for a grant from the programme, and, it also carried out activities aimed at improving the integration of Slovak audiovisual professionals within European audiovisual sector. The effects of the MEDIA Programme on Slovak audiovision can be directly measured by the amount of support allocated annually to Slovakia from the Programme, but, what is perhaps even more important, are the additional tools provided by the Programme in order to creatively shape Slovak audiovision. Our attempts, for example, were directed at creating support schemes within the new Audiovisual Fund, which were as close as possible to European standards as represented by the MEDIA Programme.

■ Particularly gratifying are the record achievements of Slovak companies, which in 2009 applied for funding from the Programme: in 2009, the MEDIA Programme supported Slovak applicants with a total of **605,226 EUR**, within the schemes: Project Development 25,000 EUR (Artileria); Promotion – Audiovisual Festivals 75,000 EUR (Prix Danube, IFF Bratislava), Training – Initial Training 169,343 EUR (VŠMU<sup>3</sup> as part of two consortiums), and within the schemes of Distribution 335,883 EUR. The total success rate of applicants applying for a grant has continued to be very high, reaching around 85% in particular schemes.

■ Indirect support within the network of Europa Cinemas for 14 Slovak cinemas associated in the network was **96,701 EUR**, thus the overall sum of support awarded to Slovak companies in 2009 totalled **701,927 EUR!** It is necessary to mention that this was by far the highest annual support provided to Slovakia since it became a member of the MEDIA Programme.

■ MEDIA Desk has continually distributed information on the MEDIA Programme, on new calls for proposals, application forms, results of various schemes, training programs, and has also provided additional supplementary information on the European audiovisual market through different communication channels including e-mail (approximately 6,000 sent e-mails) and internet (the [www.media-deskslovakia.eu](http://www.media-deskslovakia.eu) site was updated approximately 180 times in 2009), and also by means of distributing printed materials. In the **film.sk** monthly we have continued publishing articles containing information on the latest news in the Programme (11 articles). In addition, we issued three volumes of the MEDIA INFO information bulletin (circulation of 300), and, we sent the bulletin to all companies in the Slovak audiovision, to the directorate of the MEDIA Programme in Brussels and to all MEDIA Desks, moreover, we distributed the bulletins at the most prestigious domestic festivals and film events. MEDIA Desk has continued publishing and distributing an electronic newsletter; in 2009, MEDIA Desk issued 43 volumes.

■ MEDIA Desk organisationally as well as financially participated (in cooperation with the MEDIA Desk Austria) in the seminar on the Support of the MEDIA Programme for TV Broadcasting, which was held on January 22 in Vienna. The seminar was participated in by a representative selection of producers from Austria and Slovakia, with one of its goals being to launch the cooperation between companies from the two neighbour countries.

■ MEDIA Desk also organized a seminar on Film and Music (in March, in cooperation with the French

→ 3) Academy of Music and Dramatics Arts in Bratislava

Institute); it was one of the co-organizers (together with the Office of the Slovak Government, the Permanent Representation of the European Commission in the SR and Information Office of the European Parliament in the SR) of the Mini-festival of European Film 7x7, which presented seven European films supported by the MEDIA Programme in seven different Slovak towns.

■ In October, the MEDIA Desk staff participated in the 2nd residential workshop within the MAIA training programme in Modra, where they presented various supports available within the MEDIA Programme to international participants of the event. In November, MEDIA Desk organized, once again, the very successful seminar Strategic Film Marketing II with John Durie as a speaker (co-organized by the 11th IFF Bratislava, MEDIA Desks Czech Republic and Hungary). More than 100 participants from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Iceland and Slovakia took part in the seminar.

Overview of the MEDIA support granted to Slovak companies in 2009

Company	Project	Scheme	Amount in EUR
STV	Prix Danube	Audiovisual festivals	25,000
ASFK <sup>4</sup>	Trilogia II: I skoni tou hronou	Distribution: Selective Scheme	3,000
Atlantis Entertainment	Il Divo	Distribution: Selective Scheme	8,000
Atlantis Entertainment	Miracle	Development: Single Projects	25,000
SPI International	Home	Distribution: Selective Scheme	5,000
Ars Nova	11th IFF Bratislava	Audiovisual festivals	50,000
VŠMU	Midpoint	Training - initial	113,507
VŠMU	EFSN	Training - initial	55,836
ASFK	Un prophète	Distribution: Selective Scheme	4,000
Atlantis Entertainment	Leaving	Distribution: Selective Scheme	9,500
Atlantis Entertainment	Singularides de uma Rapariga Loura	Distribution: Selective Scheme	4,000
Atlantis Entertainment	Vinyan	Distribution: Selective Scheme	4,000
SPI International	Kdopak by se vlka bál	Distribution: Selective Scheme	5,000
ASFK		Distribution: Automatic Scheme	47,453
Continental Film		Distribution: Automatic Scheme	65,833
Garfield Film		Distribution: Automatic Scheme	20,637
Magic Box Slovakia		Distribution: Automatic Scheme	33,660
Pubres		Distribution: Automatic Scheme	33,200
SPI International		Distribution: Automatic Scheme	76,106
Tatrafilm		Distribution: Automatic Scheme	16,494
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>605,226</b>
Europa Cinemas			96,701
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>701,927</b>

## → EURIMAGES

- Eurimages – the cinematographic fund of the Council of Europe – is the only European fund supporting international co-productions of full-length films. The fund was established in 1988 and Slovakia joined it on April 15, 1996. On November 21, 2009, Mr. Jobst Plog from Germany became the new president of Eurimages. Since April 2005, Slovakia has been represented in Eurimages by Zuzana Gindl-Tatárová.
- Since September 1, 2009, Eurimages has had 34 member states. In 2009, the fund supported, at its four sessions, 55 films with 19,460,000 EUR. Since its establishment in 1988 until December 31, 2009, the fund supported 1,292 European co-productions with a total amount of around 385 million EUR.
- In 2009, only one Slovak project applied for support from Eurimages, and it succeeded. The full-length animated film **Alois Nebel** directed by Tomáš Luňák (CZ/DE/SK) is, based on participation, considered a minority production with a 10.1% share owned by the Slovak company Tobogang, 65% by the Czech company Negativ, and 24.9% by the German co-producer Pallas Films GmbH. The film, with an overall budget of 2,479,721 EUR, was supported with **350,000 EUR**. In 2009, Slovakia's contribution to the fund amounted to **103,275 EUR**.

## → FILM DISTRIBUTION

- 2008 was an exceptionally successful year, when we recorded a 20.01% increase in the number of viewers in cinemas, and a year in which a Slovak co-production film, **Bathory** (SK/CZ/GB/HU, 2008, directed by Juraj Jakubisko) with its 426,901 viewers, also became the most successful domestic film in the history of independent Slovakia. And, most importantly, the viewers continued to go to the cinemas even during this period of financial crisis.
- In 2009, **4,145,671** viewers attended Slovak cinemas, which was by **23.3% more** than in 2008, and the most since 1996. This is the second largest year-on-year increase in Europe! Moreover, with a year-on-year increase in the revenues of **38.03%** we even achieved a leading position in Europe! In addition, revenues amounting to **16,905,631 EUR** were the highest since 1993, i.e. in the period of independent Slovakia.
- The number of premieres increased as well. Twelve distribution companies released 199 films in our cinemas, which is 21 more than in 2008; 33 of those were screened in film clubs. In 2009, a total of 475 films were screened in our cinemas (106 of them in film clubs). 199 released films came from 26 countries, most of them from the USA (106; 4 of which were released in film clubs); second place belonged to the Czech Republic (25; 4 released in film clubs), and France was in third place (14; 5 of released in film clubs). The share of European films continues to be high; 85 films from European countries had their premieres in Slovak cinemas.
- According to the attendance (29.88%) and revenues (30.88%) and also thanks to the films **Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs** (US, 2009, directed by Carlos Saldanha) and **Avatar** (US, 2009, directed by James Cameron), Tatrafilm distribution company achieved, for the fifth time, the leading position. This company also had the most premieres (45). The second was Continental Film (18.49/18.58), which, in 2009, had its film **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince** (GB/US, 2009, directed by David Yates) ranked among the 10 most attended films. The third position was achieved by Itafilm (11.49/12.59). The lowest attendance rate was achieved by Magic Box Slovakia (1.34), and the lowest revenues by the Association of Slovak Film Clubs (0.85). The most successful title of

2009 with 399,454 viewers was **Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs**. The co-production **Jánošík. A True Story** with 151,845 viewers became not only the third most attended film in Slovakia in 2009, but also the third most successful domestic title in the history of our sovereignty. This film had the most prints (21), including 4 digital ones as a first domestic film in history.

■ In 2009, a record number of 10 Slovak films had their premieres in our cinemas (8 in 2008): feature films **BRATISLAVAFilm, Heaven, Hell... Earth, Broken Promise, Soul at Peace, Mosquitoes' Tango, Big Respect** (Veľký rešpekt, 2008, directed by Viktor Csudai), **My Husband's Women**; full-length documentaries **Osadné, Snapshots** (Momentky, 2008, directed by Peter Krištúfek), **The Border** and 7 minority co-productions (2 in 2008) – **Cooking History**, minority co-productions: **English Strawberries** (Anglické jahody, CZ/SK/UA, 2008, directed by Vladimír Drha), **Unknown Hour, Jánošík. A True Story, Foxes, In the Attic: Who Has a Birthday Today?, T.M.A.**

■ Thus the overall number of first releases in cinemas increased by 6 Slovak and co-production films in comparison with 2008, and the screenings were attended by **454,009 viewers**, which is a drop of only 11.16% in comparison with 2008 (for detailed figures see the enclosed table). All Slovak films screened in 2009 were attended by a total of 468,241 viewers, which represents an 11.29% share of total attendance (in 2008 it was 541,009 viewers and their share was 16.09%). Thanks to this, we hold an outstanding 12th place in the EU, right after Spain (15.4%) and Great Britain (16.5%).

■ As mentioned above, the most successful Slovak film was **Jánošík. A True Story** with 151,845 viewers (in 2008 it was **Bathory** with 426,901 viewers). Out of the 17 premieres of Slovak and co-production films, almost half managed to achieve a ranking amongst the 100 most attended films in 2009: **Soul at Peace** (5.), **BRATISLAVAFilm** (15.), **Mosquitoes' Tango** (28.), **Broken Promise** (39.), **Heaven, Hell... Earth** (61.), **My Husband's Women** (71.) and **Osadné** (80.). The last film, with 10,134 viewers, became the 3rd most successful domestic documentary film since 1993, and the most attended film in 2009 in film clubs.

■ In 2009, there were 33 different films exchanging position at the top of the cinema distribution ranking (22 in 2008). Six times it was **Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs** leading the ranking (in 2008 **Bathory** had 9 leads); five times **Jánošík. A True Story** and three times the lead spot was taken by **Angels & Demons** (US, 2009, directed by Ron Howard) and **Twilight Saga: New Moon** (US, 2009, directed by Chris Weitz). **Jánošík. A True Story** managed to remain within the 10 most attended films for entire 12 weeks! The most viewers per week saw the film **Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs**, namely 101,405. In 2008, **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (US, 2008, directed by Eric Darnell and Tom McGrath) was attended by 76,211 viewers. Among Slovak films, the threshold of 30,000 viewers was exceeded during premiere week by the films **Jánošík. A True Story** (52,365) and **Soul at Peace** (30,438).

■ An alternative form of distribution is the **Bažant Kinematograf** project, which was, in 2009, organized for the 7th time. In a professionally converted retro-bus (model Škoda RTO) equipped with 35mm projectors, 5 films were screened for free in historical centres of towns as well as during film and music festivals. For the first time in history, there was a prevailing number of Slovak films in the programme, including **Music** (Muzika, SK/DE, 2007, directed by Juraj Nvota – 10,250 viewers), **Mosquitoes' Tango** (9,870 viewers) and **Heaven, Hell... Earth** (11,860 viewers). These films were supplemented by **Grapes** (CZ, 2008, directed by Tomáš Bařina – 10,500 viewers) and **I Am All Good** (CZ, 2008, directed by Jan Hřebejk – 8,520 viewers). The films were preceded by the pre-screening of short films by Slovak animators and the video-clip *Lady Carnival*. In the summer of 2009, **Bažant Kinematograf** visited 31 sites, and the screenings were attended by a record number of 54,300 viewers.

**TOP 10 FILMS IN 2009 BY ADMISSION** (From January 1 to December 31, 2009)

Ranking	English Title	Original Title	Country of Origin	Distributor	Release Date	Number of viewers
1	Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs	Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs	US	Tatrafilm	02.07.09	* 399 454
2	Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince	Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince	GB/US	Continental Film	16.04.09	205 564
3	Jánošík. A True Story	Jánošík. Pravdivá história	PL/SK CZ/HU	Garfield Film	10.09.09	151 845
4	Angels & Demons	Angels & Demons	US	Itafilm	14.05.09	131 942
5	Soul at Peace	Pokoj v duši	SK/CZ	Anna Kováčová in coop. with Forza Production House	29.01.09	116 800
6	Avatar	Avatar	US	Tatrafilm	17.12.09	109 584
7	Fly Me to the Moon	Fly Me to the Moon	BE/US	Intersonic	15.01.09	107 679
8	Shameless	Nestyda	CZ	Garfield Film	05.02.09	93 470
9	Twilight Saga: New Moon	Twilight Saga: New Moon	US	SPI International	26.11.09	88 534
10	Twilight	Twilight	US	SPI International	15.01.09	87 331

\* out of it 83 393 viewers saw 3D version; source: Union of Film Distributors SR

**DISTRIBUTION/RELEASE OF SLOVAK FILMS AND MAJOR COPRODUCTIONS IN SLOVAKIA IN 2009**

Position	Film Title	Year of production	Country of Origin	Release Date	Number of Prints	Screenings	Number of viewers	Box office (in EUR)	Average admission per screen.	Average admission fee in EUR	Average No. of viewers per print	Distributor
1	Soul at Peace	2009	SK	29.01.09	15	1351	116 810	406 839,9	86,5	3,5	7 787,3	Anna Kováčová in coop. with Forza Production House
2	BRATISLAVA-film	2009	SK	30.07.09	8	956	60 454	238 581,4	63,2	3,9	7 556,7	Continental Film
3	Mosquitoes' Tango	2009	SK CZ	22.01.09	8	870	40 613	161 576,8	46,7	4,0	5 076,6	Continental Film
4	Broken Promise	2009	SK CZ/US	30.04.09	13	976	30 552	87 690,0	31,3	2,9	2 350,1	SPI International
5	Heaven, Hell... Earth	2009	SK CZ	16.04.09	8	678	13 808	51 166,4	20,4	3,7	1 726,0	Continental Film
6	My Husband's Women	2009	SK CZ/HU	25.06.09	7	533	12 274	42 144,0	23,0	3,4	1 753,4	SPI International
7	Osadné	2009	SK CZ	03.09.09	3	256	10 134	13 661,0	39,6	1,3	3 378,0	ASFC
8	Big Respect	2008	SK	05.03.09	5*	240	2 070	6 767,0	8,6	3,3	414,0	Magic Box Slovakia
9	The Border	2009	SK	12.11.09	2	64	1 698	2 414,0	26,5	1,4	849,0	ASFC
10	Snapshots	2008	SK	01.10.09	1*	16	298	740,7	18,6	2,5	298,0	Continental Film
<b>Total Slovak films and major coproductions</b>					<b>70</b>	<b>5 940</b>	<b>288 711</b>	<b>1 011 581,2</b>	<b>48,6</b>	<b>3,5</b>	<b>4 124,4</b>	

## DISTRIBUTION/RELEASE OF SLOVAK FILMS AND MAJOR COPRODUCTIONS IN SLOVAKIA IN 2009

Position	Film Title	Year of production	Country of Origin	Release Date	Number of Prints	Screenings	Number of viewers	Box office (in EUR)	Average admission per screen.	Average admission fee in EUR	Average No. of viewers per print	Distributor
1	Jánošík. A True Story	2009	PL SK CZ HU	10.09.09	21**	1962	151 845	569 694,0	<b>77,4</b>	<b>3,7</b>	<b>7 230,7</b>	Garfield Film
2	Cooking History	2009	AT/SK CZ	19.02.09	3	192	4 736	13 661,0	<b>24,7</b>	<b>2,9</b>	<b>1 578,7</b>	SPI International
3	Unknown Hour	2009	CZ SK	22.10.09	6	295	2 927	11 562,0	<b>9,9</b>	<b>3,9</b>	<b>487,8</b>	Magic Box Slovakia
4	In the Attic: Who Has a Birthday Today?	2009	SK/CZ JP	03.09.09	4	189	2 472	5 346,0	<b>13,1</b>	<b>2,2</b>	<b>618,0</b>	Continental Film
5	Foxes	2009	IE/CZ SK	10.12.09	6	137	2 207	9 353,0	<b>16,1</b>	<b>4,2</b>	<b>367,8</b>	Continental Film + PubRes
6	English Strawberries	2008	CZ/SK UA	02.04.09	7	161	1 104	3 643,0	<b>6,9</b>	<b>3,3</b>	<b>157,7</b>	Continental Film
7	T.M.A.	2009	CZ SK	10.12.09	1	10	63	176,0	<b>6,3</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>63,0</b>	SPI International
<b>Total minor coproduction</b>					<b>48**</b>	<b>2 946</b>	<b>165 364</b>	<b>613 435,0</b>	<b>56,1</b>	<b>3,7</b>	<b>3 444,5</b>	
<b>Total Slovak and coproduction films</b>					<b>118**</b>	<b>8 886</b>	<b>454 065</b>	<b>1 625 016,2</b>	<b>51,1</b>	<b>3,6</b>	<b>3 847,5</b>	

Notes: \* - film was screened from DVD, \*\* - including 4 digital copies of the film *Jánošík. A True Story*

Source: Union of Film Distributors SR, Association of Slovak Film Clubs

## → VIDEODISTRIBUTION

■ In 2009, **810 new titles** were released on the market, which is 9 percent more than in 2008 (743 titles). Since 1998, when the DVD format appeared on the Slovak and Czech markets, distributors have released a total of 7,397 titles. According to the information from DVD Group.cz, in 2009, a total of **552,075 DVDs** were sold on the Slovak market (which is 115,387 less than in the record year 2008). Out of these, 523,062 were sold in shops (619,319 in 2008), and only 29,013 to video rentals (48,143 in 2008; 80,940 in 2007). After a year-to-year increase in the sales of DVDs in shops by 53 per cent in 2008, in 2009 we recorded a decrease of 18 percent. During 2009, video rentals purchased 40 percent less DVDs (in 2008 the purchase dropped 41 percent).

■ In 2007, a new format, the Blu-ray disc (BD) was introduced to our market and it defeated, in the global technology competition, the HD DVD system. The historically first Slovak film released on a BD was the documentary **Unknown Antarctica** (Neznáma Antarktída, 2007, directed by Pavol Barabáš), which was released on October 1, 2008. In 2009, the historically first feature film released on BD was **Bathory**.

■ While in 2008, Bontonfilm (the largest publisher of film BDs on our market) released on the market almost 150 titles for 36.48 EUR each (which is similar to the price of a video DVD when it was first introduced), during 2009 the sales prices of BDs already began to drop, ranging from 26.52 EUR to

33.16 EUR. In 2009, Bontonfilm released 284 new titles on DVDs and 156 new titles on BDs (in 2008 it was 398 DVDs and 91 BDs). The best-selling DVDs of Bontonfilm in 2009 were 1. **Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs**, 2. **Bathory**, 3. **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa**, 4. **Laci Strike: Dance School** (Laci Strike: Škola tanca, 2009), 5. **Angels & Demons**; and the best-selling BDs were: 1. **Bathory**, 2. **Quantum of Solace** (US/GB, 2008, directed by Marc Forster), 3. **Inglourious Basterds** (US/DE, 2009, directed by Quentin Tarantino), 4. **Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs**, 5. **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (US, 2008, directed by Scott Derrickson).

■ In 2009, **80 domestic titles** were released, including **41** Slovak and co-production full-length films! (in 2007, 31 domestic titles were released on DVD, including 22 Slovak and co-production full-length films; in 2008, this number increased to 57, including 26 Slovak and co-production full-length films released on DVD).

■ In the fall of 2009, the Slovak Film Institute and the Petit Press Publishing House implemented, for the fourth time, the DVD project **Slovak Film**. After releasing 10 Slovak films from the 1980s, 1970s and 1960s, in 2009, they released the DVD edition of **Slovak Film of the 1960s II**. Similar to the 2008 edition of **Slovak Film of the 1960s I**, this second series also represents one of the most significant periods in our history, and includes the most fundamental works of Slovak cinematography: **Soccer Fans** (Skalní v ofsajde, 1960, directed by Ján Lacko), **Before Tonight is Over** (Kým sa skončí táto noc, 1965, directed by Peter Solan), **The Sheriff Behind Bars** (Šerif za mrežami, 1965, directed by Dimitrij Plichta), **The Bells Toll for the Barefooted** (Zvony pre bosých, 1965, directed by Stanislav Barabáš), **Master Executioner** (Majster kat, 1966, directed by Paľo Bielik), **The Wonder-Maid** (Panna záračnica, 1966, directed by Štefan Uher), **The Living Scourge** (Živý bič, 1966, directed by Martin Ťapák), **Three Daughters** (Tri dcéry, 1967, directed by Štefan Uher), **A Pact with the Devil** (Zmluva s diablom, 1967, directed by Jozef Zachar) and **Birdies, Orphans and Fools** (Vtáčkovia, siroty a blázni, 1969, directed by Juraj Jakubisko). Each film is preceded by a pre-film – *A Week in a Film* – from the period, and five films include narration for the visually-impaired. As part of the collection, a 16-page journal was issued with each DVD, illustrating the period when the respective films were produced, and, through biographies and interviews with the relevant filmmakers, reviews published in relation to the respective film and excerpts from articles published in the press at the time, introduce the historical context in which the film was made. The DVD edition of the **Slovak Film of the 1960s II** also includes a bonus DVD **November 1989 – As Seen by Slovak Documakers** (November 1989 – Očami slovenských dokumentaristov) which contains the following documentary films: **Flight Report 89 – 90** (Letová správa 89 – 90, directed by Ilja Ruppeldt), **All Together... (In a Slovak Way)** (Všetci spolu... (po slovensky), directed by Eva Štefankovičová) and **Probe 1/1990 – Velvet Revolution Train** (Sonda 1/1990 – Vlak Nežnej revolúcie, directed by Rudolf Ferko, Vladimír Mináč and Andrej Horák). The DVD was available in newsstands for 3.29 .

■ By the end of 2009, a total of **40,478 DVDs** of this edition were sold (in 2008, 57,984 DVDs of **Slovak Film of the 1960s**; in 2007, 105,746 DVDs with the **Slovak Film of the 1970s**). The best-selling titles included **Soccer Fans** (6,630), **Master Executioner** (5,874) and **The Living Scourge** (4,697).

■ In 2009, the best-selling DVD in the *Klapka.sk* shop operated by the Slovak Film Institute were: 1. **The Sun in a Net** (Sinko v sieti, 1962, directed by Štefan Uher), 2. **Pacho, the Brigand of Hybe** (Pacho, hybský zbojník, 1975, directed by Martin Ťapák) and **Salt More than Gold** (Soľ nad zlato, 1982, directed by Martin Hollý), and 3. **The Years of Christ** (Kristove roky, 1967, directed by Juraj Jakubisko).

■ In 2009, Plus Production, co-producer of the Slovak Television (STV), discontinued cooperation on the joint project of restoring and protecting the audiovisual cultural heritage **Digital Videotheque of Slovakia** (DVS). The best-selling DVDs from the Golden Fund of STV in 2009 included 1. **She Came**

**Out of the Blue Sky** (Spadla z oblakov I.- IV., 1978, directed by Radim Cvrček), 2. **Lasica, Satinský and Guests I.-III.** (Lasica, Satinský a hostia I.-III) , 3. **Painted on Glass** (Na skle maľované, 1980, directed by Karol L. Zachar), 4. **Don't Take Our Princess Away** (Neberte nám princeznú, 1981, directed by Martin Hoffmeister) and 5. **The Shepherds Watched** (Pásli ovce valasi, 1973, directed by Ladislav Čapek)

■ The documentary filmmaker Pavol Barabáš has continued releasing his films on DVDs. In 2009, he released the films **Bhutan** (Bhután - Hľadanie šťastia, 2008), **Mystery of Underground, Silence Above the Clouds** (Ticho nad oblakmi, 2009) and **Everest - Juzek Psotka** (2008). At the end of the year, the latter two films were sold with the daily paper Pravda in newsstands for 1.99 EUR, together with earlier films by Barabáš **Tepuy** (Tepuy - Cesta do hlbín Zeme, 2007), **Unknown Antarctica** and **Carstenz - The Seventh Summit** (Carstenz - Siedma hora, 2008).

■ Bontonfilm released a DVD of the full-length feature film **Half-Life** (Polčas rozpadu, 2007, directed by Vlado Fischer) and an interactive dance course **Laci Strike - Dance School** including a CD with hip-hop mixes by prestigious DJs.

■ The film **Bathory**, the most successful film among viewers in the history of independent Slovakia, has been released on the Slovak market in three different forms: as a classic DVD; a gift-package of a book with a violet velvet cover including a DVD and two CDs with the soundtrack of the film and other compositions which were not used in the film, and also in the form of a BD.

■ Saturn Entertainment released the film **Big Respect**; Arteria released the film **Blind Loves**, Andana Films released the film **The Moon Inside You** and Trigon Production released the film **Martin Slivka - The Man Who Planted Trees** (Martin Slivka - muž, ktorý sadiť stromy, 2007, directed by Martin Šulík).

■ Slovak and co-production films on DVD were also released by Magic Box Slovakia, namely the following minority co-productions: **In the Attic: Who Has a Birthday Today?, T.M.A., English Strawberries, All my Loved Ones** (CZ/SK, 1999, directed by Matej Mináč) and **Tobruk** (CZ/SK, 2008, directed by Václav Marhoul).

■ The Czech Řitka Video Company specialising in horror and war films has also continued releasing Slovak war films. Its 2009 offer included the films **The Edelstein Action** (Akcia Edelstein, 1986, directed by Zoro Záhon), **Searchers for Light** (Hľadači svetla, 1971, directed by Miroslav Horňák), **Liberty on the Other Side** (Na druhom brehu sloboda, 1984, directed by Jozef Medveď), **Broken Melody** (Prerušená pieseň, 1960, directed by Nikolaj Konstantinovič Sanišvili), **Traces on the Sitno** (Stopy na Sitne, 1968, directed by Vladimír Bahna).

■ The following medium-length documentaries were also released on DVDs: **The Journey of Magdalena Robinson** (Cesta Magdalény Robinsonovej, 2008, directed by Marek Šulík), **The Optimist** (Optimista, 2008, directed by Dušan Trančík) and **Mednyánszky** (2006, directed by Vladimír Štric). The Slovak Film Institute released a DVD **Slovak Animated Film** containing 16 animated films from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

■ There has been a marked increase also in the sales of DVDs inserted in journals and newspapers, as well as the paper-cover single copies sold in newsstands. While newsstands in the Czech Republic were selling Slovak films **The Bloody Lady, Pacho, the Brigand of Hybe, and The Fountain for Suzanne 1-3** (Fontána pre Zuzanu 1-3), a three-part TV film **Dido** (1991, directed by Dušan Rapoš) released by Atyfílm and **Suzanne** (1996, directed by Dušan Rapoš) released within the daily paper Aha!, releases in Slovakia included (in addition to the aforementioned Slovak Films of the 1960s II. and films by Pavol Barabáš) also the film **The Last Legion** (US/GB/FR/SK, 2007, directed by Doug Lefler) (released by the Film Club) and the films **False Prince** (Falošný princ, 1984, directed by Dušan Rapoš), **Rabaka** (1980, directed by Dušan Rapoš) and **Gipsy Virgin** (Cinka Panna, 2008, directed by

Dušan Rapoš) released in the *Nový Čas* paper. *Nový Čas* sold altogether 3,065,427 DVDs and 479 films. The best-selling ones included **Michael Jackson: Number Ones** (within five redistributions) and the animated films **Little Mole's Adventures 1** (CS, directed by Zdeněk Miler), **Stories About a Pooch and a Kitty** (Povídání o pejskovi a kočičce, CS, 1951, directed by Eduard Hofman), **Balto II: Wolf Quest** (US, 2001, directed by Phil Weinstein), and **Ferda the Ant** (Ferda Mravenec, CS, 1978, directed by Hermína Týrlová).

- The release of DVDs in Slovakia is monitored on a daily basis by the **DVD za facku** ([www.dvdza-facku.sk](http://www.dvdza-facku.sk)) site, which, in 2009, recorded **2,399 DVDs and CDs** released for newspaper stands. The average release is 8.19 new discs for newsstands per one distribution day. The „strongest“ month was October with 249 discs. The web site gathers information directly from the publishers and also from its network of collaborators and fans. According to the visitors of *DVD za facku* site, the best disc released in 2009 was the film **Leon** (FR/US, 1994, directed by Luc Besson) from the edition of Vapet company.

- The prices of DVDs in newspaper stands start from 1.49 EUR, which is similar to the rental fee in DVD rentals. This is one of the reasons why people more and more often buy DVDs rather than borrow them from rentals. What makes the situation of video-rentals even more difficult is the fact that digital television Magio operated by T-Com and Fiber TV operated by Orange also offer films to be downloaded. For example the video-rental at Fiber TV offered, as of December 31, 2009 approximately 940 titles (out of which 308 were educational videos). The average price for renting one title was 1.67 EUR and 2.46 EUR for renting a film. The offer of both companies includes films in Full HD quality as well.

- Slovak films were also released abroad. The Cinema Libre has continued releasing films by Pavol Barabáš in the NTSC format for Region 1 within the EarthNow edition. Releases in 2008 included the films **Omo – The Journey to the Primaeval Age** (Omo – cesta do praveku, 2002), **118 Days in the Captivity of Ice** (118 dní v zajatí ľadu, 1998), **Amazonia Vertical** (2004) and **Pururambo** (2005), and in 2009, they were completed with the films **80 Below the Summit** (80 metrov pod vrcholom, 1997) and **Mysterious Mamberamo** (Tajomné Mamberamo, 2000).

- In France, as a part of the Footbridge Project (Lávka) aimed at creating a kind of „footbridge“ between France and Slovakia in the field of producing independent documentaries, and also in an attempt to stimulate the exchange and circulation of works and their producers between the two countries, the following films were released on DVD: **Here We Are** (My zdes, 2005, directed by Jaroslav Vojtek), **66 Seasons** (66 sezón, 2003, directed by Peter Kerekes) and medium-length films **This is How People Have Always Run** (Takto ľudia utekali vždy, 2006, directed by Peter Kotrha) and **Loop** (2004, directed by Milan Balog).

- At the 20th Annual Awards of the Slovak Film Association, Union of Slovak Television Creators and the Literary Fund for Audiovisual Works *Igric 2009*, the premium for DVD and CD-ROM was received by Pavol Barabáš for the collection of 12 DVDs **Grand Prix**, and Dušan Hudec for the DVD **Love Thy Neighbour** (Miluj blízneho svojho, 2004).

## → CINEMAS

- In 2008, the number of cinemas in Slovakia dropped to a historical minimum. Overall, 199 cinemas were in operation, with 253 screens and 85,586 seats (including 22 outdoor summer cinemas with 27,675 seats) and four video-cinemas with 62 seats. As we have always begun this Report, we would also, once again, like to start this chapter with data on the total number of cinemas, screens

and seats, but, unfortunately, the Association of Slovak Cinema Operators and Staff have refused to supply us with any data whatsoever claiming that these data are considered to be of an „internal nature.“

■ No new multiplexes were added to the existing two in Bratislava – the Palace Cinemas Aupark with twelve screens (and 2,318 seats) and the Palace Cinemas Polus with eight screens (with 1,609 seats). However, On October 28, 2009, a new miniplex was opened in Košice – the City Cinemas with 4 screens operated by the Tatrafilm company in the Gallery Shopping Centre. The cinema has 562 seats and the largest screening room is also suitable for digital 3D projections.

■ Digital cinemas were, in fact, the biggest news in 2009 in regards to the structure of cinemas in Slovakia. No such cinema was in operation in 2008, but at the end of 2009, there were 10 of them in operation. The first digital cinemas meeting the DCI standards in Slovakia were opened on March 22, 2009 in the aforementioned multiplexes operated by Palace Cinemas. The first digital and also 3D film in our cinemas was the family animated film **Monsters vs Aliens** (US, 2009, directed by Rob Letterman and Conrad Vernon), first released for distribution on March 26, 2009.

■ After the first digital screening rooms in multiplexes in Bratislava, other digital cinemas were gradually opened in 2009 in the Centrum cinema in Žilina (March 24), five of them within the CINEMAX network (Košice – on June 28, Nitra and Žilina – on August 26, Trnava – on October 13, and Trenčín – on December 12). Viewers could enjoy digital projection also in the single-screening room cinema in the Andrej Hlinka Culture Centre in Ružomberok (as of August 27), in the Europa Cinemas in Banská Bystrica (as of October 15) and in the City Cinemas in Košice (October 29), the latter taking over the 3D technology from the Centrum in Žilina. All of the above cinemas meet the DCI standard and, also allow for 3D projections with 2K resolution.

■ The films presented in the 3D digital format included the following, mainly family films: **Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs**, **G-Force** (US, 2009, directed by Hoyt Yeatman), **Up** (US, 2009, directed by Pete Docter and Bob Peterson), **Coraline** (US, 2009, directed by Henry Selick), **Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs** (US, 2009, directed by Phil Lord and Chris Miller), **A Christmas Carol** (US, 2009, directed by Robert Zemeckis), **Avatar** and horror films **Bloody Valentine** (US, 2009, directed by Patrick Lussier), **The Final Destination** (US, 2009, directed by David. R. Ellis), **Night of the Living Dead 3D** (US, 2006, directed by Jeff Broadstreet), **Paranormal Activity** (US, 2007, directed by Oren Peli), but also a documentary **OceanWorld 3D** (GB, 2009, directed by Jean-Jacques Mantello). The Slovak co-production film **Jánošík. A True Story** also had four 2D digital copies.

■ As of December 31, 2009, there was a total of 11 miniplexes operating in Slovakia, with 43 screening rooms (including 10 digital) and two multiplexes with 20 screening rooms (including 2 digital). The adult admission fee in multiplexes was 6 EUR; for a 3D showing 8 EUR, and for a 3D premiere 8.5 EUR, which was also reflected in the increase of box-office revenues.

■ The attendance rate of multiplexes was 1,816,254 viewers, who, altogether, paid admissions amounting to 7,955,059 EUR. Their share of the overall attendance rate and box-office revenues was 43.81% and 47.06%, respectively. Although the attendance rate in multiplexes in 2009 increased to 1,278,429 (1,119,778 in 2008) and the share of multiplexes of the overall attendance rate of cinemas dropped to 30.84% (33.30% in 2008), the box-office revenues increased to 6,933,000, representing 41.01% of the gross revenues in 2009 in all cinemas (in 2008 this figure was 37.21%). In 2009, there was a significant increase in the number of miniplexes and multiplexes. Although they make up only about 25% of all screening rooms in Slovakia, their share of the attendance rate and box-office revenues reached 74.65% and 88.07%, respectively (compared to 70.91% and 75.67% in 2008)!

■ According to official records of the network, 13 Slovak cinemas with 38 screening rooms located in 12 cities are members of the **Europa Cinemas Network** (including 2,070 screening room in 42 countries). They include Cinema Mladost' and Charlie Centre in Bratislava (the latter has not been in operation due to the pending law-suit between the lessor and lessee), cinemas in Liptovský Mikuláš (Nicolaus), Martin (Strojár), Ružomberok (Kultúra) and Spišská Nová Ves (Mier) and CINEMAXes in Dunajská Streda, Nitra, Poprad, Prešov, Skalica, Trenčín, Trnava and Žilina.

## → FILM CLUBS

■ Film clubs in Slovakia still have an irreplaceable role in the education of film viewers. Especially gratifying is the fact that in recent years, arthouse films have not been screened only in film clubs (arthouse cinemas), but they have also been included in the programme of „classic“ cinemas and multiplexes. As of December 31, 2009, there were **44 film clubs** operating in Slovakia (the same number as in 2008), and all were associated in the Association of Slovak Film Clubs (ASFC).

■ The price of the membership was 3 EUR (2.33 EUR in 2008). The number of members in film clubs decreased. As of December 31, 2009 there were 6,292 registered members, which is 954 less than in the same period in 2008. The overall attendance of arthouse films decreased from **93,999** viewers in 2008 to **81,548** viewers in 2009, which is a decrease of 13.3%.

■ From January 1 to December 31, **2,822** film club screenings (2,854 in 2008) were attended by **63,781** viewers (75,724 in 2008), averaging **22.6** viewers per screening (the average attendance in 2008 was 26.53 viewers). In 2009, the share of arthouse films of the overall attendance of Slovak cinemas was 1.85 per cent. The average admission fee was **1.95 EUR** (1.83 EUR in 2008) in film clubs, and **1.84 EUR** (1.66 EUR in 2008) in all other cinemas screening arthouse films. Most film clubs are operated within regular cinema facilities.

■ Most film club members were registered in the FC Charlie Centre Bratislava (1,402); FC Europe Banská Bystrica (1,300) and FC Nostalgia Bratislava (671).

■ The most important events organized by the ASFC in 2009 included the Slovak section of the 16th International Film, Television and Video Festival Febiofest, and the touring film review Project 100 – 2008. Febiofest offered, in 9 Slovak cities and within 13 film sections, 135 films, which were attended by more than 12 thousand viewers.

■ As a part of Project 100 – 2009, the following films were presented: **The Aerial** (AR, 2007, directed by Esteban Sapir), **Time of the Gypsies** (YU, 1989, directed by Emir Kusturica), **The Class** (FR, 2008, directed by Laurent Cantet), **Lorna's Silence** (BE/FR/IT, 2008, directed by Jean-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne), **The Dust of Time** (GR/IT/DE/FR/RU, 2008, directed by Theodoros Angelopoulos), **Psycho** (US, 1960, directed by Alfred Hitchcock), **Requiem for a Dream** (US, 2000, directed by Darren Aronofsky), **Nightwatching** (GB/PL/CA/NL, 2007, directed by Peter Greenaway), **Seven Samurai** (JP, 1954, directed by Akira Kurosawa) and **Nosferatu** (Germany, 1921, directed by Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau).

■ The ASFC received the Slovak Film Journalists Award for the distribution of the best foreign film in Slovak cinemas in 2008 for the film **4 Months, 3 Weeks & 2 Days** (RO, 2007, directed by Cristian Mungiu), and, at the 5th annual awards of the Slovak internet film journal Kinema.sk, the Association was awarded the Best Arthouse Film of the Year Award for the film **The Class**.

■ After the leading position of **Blind Loves** (Slepé Lásky, 2008, directed by Juraj Lehotský), attended by 11,311 viewers in 2008, the most attended arthouse title in 2009 was, once again a Slovak film, and again a documentary, **Osadné** by Marko Škop, attended by 10,134 viewers.

■ **MOST SUCCESSFUL FILMS IN FILM CLUBS** (from January 1 to December 31, 2009)

No.	Title	Screenings	Viewers
1.	<b>Osadné</b> (SK/CZ, 2009, directed by Marko Škop)	256	10,134
2.	<b>Ivetka and the Mountain</b> (CZ, 2008, directed by Vít Janeček)	171	4,846
3.	<b>Gomorra</b> (IT, 2008, directed by Matteo Garrone)	154	4,043
4.	<b>After the Wedding</b> (DK/GB/SE, 2006, directed by Susanne Bier)	86	2,939
5.	<b>Elegy</b> (US, 2007, directed by Isabel Coixet)	85	2,429

→ **NATIONAL FESTIVALS, REVIEWS AND AWARDS**

■ In 2009, fundamental changes took place in the programming team of the two largest international festivals in Slovakia – Art Film Fest Trenčín / Trenčianske Teplice, and IFF Bratislava. Viewers' interest in the IFF Cinematik in Piešťany increased significantly as well.

■ **The 17th International Film Festival in Trenčín and Trenčianske Teplice** ([www.artfilmfest.sk](http://www.artfilmfest.sk)) was held on **June 20-27**. The festival has, once again, altered its name – the former Artfilm has changed to Art Film Fest, and Peter Nágel was named its program director (he has been in this position at the IFF Bratislava from 1999 till 2008). This change was also reflected in the programming of the event. The programme preserved only two competitive sections. In the international competition of feature films, opened this time for the first, second and third feature films of film directors, the main prize of the festival, the Blue Angel, was received by the film **Hunger** (GB, 2008, directed by Steve McQueen). The winner of the international competition of short films was the film **Everyday Everyday** (MY, 2008, directed by Chui Mui Tan). The Slovak Season – a section dedicated to domestic films, was reintroduced in the program again (presenting 13 films). The section also included the premieres of full-length films **My Husband's Women, Bratislavafilm** and short films **Mystery of Underground** and **X = X + 1**. The festival paid a tribute to the Czech director Petr Weigl, and awarded the traditional Actors Mission Award (to Jeremy Irons and Jaromír Hanzlík) and the Golden Camera Award (to Ettore Scola and Věra Chytilová). Moreover, the programme included two seminars organised in cooperation with the Slovak Film and Television Academy and the Slovak Film Institute. The title of the first seminar was Audiovisual Fund – A New Chance for Slovak Film, and the other was titled Film Distribution in Slovakia. More than 150 short films, full-length films, feature films, documentaries and animated films were attended by 23,281 viewers.

■ **The 4th IFF Cinematik 2009** was held on **September 10 – 15** in Piešťany ([www.cinematik.sk](http://www.cinematik.sk)). The festival is focused on young audience with an aim to develop its film literacy. The programme which included 121 films (56 full-length and 66 short films) was attended by 16,500 viewers. The competitive section Meeting Point Europe, organized under the auspices of the FIPRESCI organisation, once again, included a collection of the best European films produced in 2008 and 2009, selected based upon the voting of young European film critics from 15 countries. The Meeting Point Europe Award for the best film was awarded to **The Class**. The Respect section was dedicated to director François Ozon; the *Profile* section introduced the works of Ondrej Rudavský, a Slovak filmmaker living in the USA, and the programme of the section called *In the House* devoted to Slovak cinematography, consisted of 12 film titles, including the world premiere of the full-length documentary **Guests – Hau-erland**. The Audience Award was given to the film **Slumdog Millionaire** (GB/US, 2008, directed by Danny Boyle)

- **The 11th IFF Bratislava** ([www.iffbratislava.sk](http://www.iffbratislava.sk)) was held between **November 27 and December 4**. The festival entered the second decade of its existence with significant changes. Matthieu Darras from France became the new artistic director of the festival and, in the process of preparing the programme he was advised by an international team of seven experts. Another novelty was the extension of the programme with two competitive sections – the competition of documentaries and the competition of short films. In 2009 again, the programme of the festival was also presented in Banská Bystrica (competition of short films) and Košice (competition of documentaries). The programme of the 11th IFF Bratislava consisted of 175 full-length, medium-length and short films attended by almost 20,000 viewers.
- The Grand Prix of the competition of feature films (the competition also included **Foxes**, a minority co-production by the Slovak director Mira Fornay), was received by the film **The Day God Walked Away** (BE/FR, 2009, directed by Philippe Van Leeuw); the Best Documentary was awarded the film **Petition** (FR/CN, 2009, directed by Zhao Lang), and the winner of the short films competition was the film **Rita** (IT, 2009, directed by Antonio Piazza and Fabio Grassadonia).
- The FIPRESCI Award and the Special Mention of the Jury was awarded to the film **Northless** (MX/ES, 2009, directed by Rigoberto Perazcano), and the Prize of the Ecumenical Jury was received by the film **Eastern Plays** (BG/SW, 2009, directed by Kamen Kalev). Director Juraj Herz introduced the Slovak premiere of his film **T.M.A.** and was awarded the IFF Bratislava Award for Artistic Excellence in World Cinematography. In addition to **Foxes** and **T.M.A.**, Slovak films were also included in the sections of *Matter of Taste* – **Cooking History** – and *Made in Slovakia*, the latter presenting 10 domestic films which were not released for distribution.
- Below please find a chronological overview of other significant festivals, film reviews and workshops organized in Slovakia (for a complete list please visit [www.aic.sk](http://www.aic.sk)):
  - January 24-25: **6th CAMERA Slovakia** (Bratislava – Incheba Expo Arena) – [www.camerasklovakia.sk](http://www.camerasklovakia.sk)
  - February 26: **NORDFEST – Days of Northern Film, Music and Travelling** (Bratislava – FC Nostalgie / Café Scherz) – [www.nordfest.sk](http://www.nordfest.sk)
  - March 2: **Audiovisual Festival AzyI** (Bratislava – Theatre Astorka) – [www.festival.azyl.sk](http://www.festival.azyl.sk)
  - March 11-14: **2nd International Festival of Student Films Early Melons** (Bratislava – FC Charlie Centre / A4 – Nultý priestor) – [www.earlymelons.com](http://www.earlymelons.com)
  - March 20-27: **11th International Festival of the Francophone Films Bratislava** (Bratislava – Palace Cinemas Polus) – [www.fiffba.sk](http://www.fiffba.sk)
  - March 30 – April 30: **16th International Film, Television and Video Festival Febiofest 2009** (Bratislava – The Czech Centre, House of Culture Zrkadlový háj, Charlie Centre, cinema Mladost', FC Nostalgie, FC 35 mm VŠMU, A4 – Nultý priestor / Banská Bystrica / Košice / Martin / Nitra / Poprad / Prešov / Trenčín / Žilina) – [www.febiofestsk.sk](http://www.febiofestsk.sk)
  - April 2-4: **11th Workshop 2009 – Festival of Local TV Broadcasters in Slovakia** (Dolný Kubín – City Hotel Park) – [www.lotos.sk](http://www.lotos.sk)
  - April 23-26: **10th International Festival of Mountain Films and Adventure Mountains and City** (Bratislava – Palace Cinemas Aupark) – [www.horyamesto.sk](http://www.horyamesto.sk)
  - May 11-16: **15th International Festival of Environmental Film ENVIROFILM 2009** (Banská Bystrica / Banská Štiavnica / Zvolen / Kremnica) – [www.envirofilm.sk](http://www.envirofilm.sk)
  - June 5-7: **17th CINEAMA 2009** (Banská Bystrica – Múzeum SNP) – [www.nocka.sk](http://www.nocka.sk) and [www.amatfilm.sk](http://www.amatfilm.sk)
  - June 5-7: **Programming seminar for the representatives of film clubs registered**

- in the Association of Slovak Film Clubs** (Krpáčovo – Hotel Polianka) – [www.asfk.sk](http://www.asfk.sk)
- June 16: **4th International Festival of Animations produced by secondary school students Animofest 2009** (Bratislava – Secondary art school of animation, Vlastenecké nám. 1) – [www.uat.sk](http://www.uat.sk) and [www.spsat.sk](http://www.spsat.sk)
  - June 17-20: **15th International Festival of Local TV Broadcasters Golden Beggar 2009** (Košice – Hotel Centrum) – [www.festival.sk](http://www.festival.sk)
  - June 18-21: **The Visegrad Summer Film Festival** (Bratislava – cinema Mladost) – [www.hungary.art.pl](http://www.hungary.art.pl)
  - June 20 – September 15: **7th Bažant Kinematograf 2009** (29 Slovak cities) – [www.kinematograf.sk](http://www.kinematograf.sk)
  - July 3-4: **Festival of Korean Cinema** (Žilina – Cinemax) – <http://svk.mofat.go.kr>
  - July 24-26: **19th Summer Film Festival HAH 2009** (Dolná Strehová – premises of the thermal swimming pool) – [www.urtica.host.sk](http://www.urtica.host.sk)
  - July 27 – August 7: **2nd Summer Workshop MPhilms 2009** (Banská Štiavnica – House of Scouts) [www.mphilms.sk](http://www.mphilms.sk)
  - July 31 – August 2: **2nd International Festival of Animations Fest Anča 2009** (Žilina – Station Žilina-Záriečie) – [www.festanca.sk](http://www.festanca.sk)
  - August 6-9: **11th Summer Film Seminar 4 Elements** (Banská Štiavnica) – [www.4zivly.sk](http://www.4zivly.sk)
  - September 4-6: **Kinobus – (Not Only a) Film Festival** (Žilina / Záskanie / Papradno / Dolná Maríková / Horná Maríková / Beluša) – [www.kinobus.sk](http://www.kinobus.sk)
  - September 7-9: **Slovak Film Review** (Bratislava – Charlie Centre) – [www.sfta.sk](http://www.sfta.sk)
  - September 10 – December 31: **15th Project 100 – 2009** (34 Slovak cities) – [www.asfk.sk](http://www.asfk.sk)
  - September 23-27: **10th Barbakan 2009** (Banská Bystrica – cinema Pamätník / House of Thurza / Club 77) – [www.vresk.sk](http://www.vresk.sk)
  - September 24-27: **Days of Serbian Cinema** (Bratislava – cinema Mladost)
  - September 28 – October 2: **26th International Film Festival Agrofilm 2009** (Nitra – Slovak Agricultural Research Centre / Animal Production Research Centre) – [www.agrofilm.sk](http://www.agrofilm.sk)
  - September 30 – October 4: **Anasoft Litera Fest 2009** (Bratislava – cinema Mladost) – [www.anasoftlitera.sk](http://www.anasoftlitera.sk)
  - September 30 – October 4: **Film Festival Inakost'** (Bratislava – FC 35 mm) – [www.ffi.sk](http://www.ffi.sk) and [www.inakost.sk](http://www.inakost.sk)
  - October 2-4: **23rd Oravská osmička (Orava Eight)** (Nižná nad Oravou – Culture House) – [www.nocka.sk](http://www.nocka.sk) and [www.amatfilm.sk](http://www.amatfilm.sk)
  - October 7-11: **7th Ars Poetica** (Bratislava – A4 Nultý priestor / FC 35 mm) – [www.arspoetica.sk](http://www.arspoetica.sk)
  - October 14-18: **17th International Festival of Mountain Films Poprad** (Poprad – cinema Gerlach) – [www.mfhf.sk](http://www.mfhf.sk)
  - October 15-18: **13th Festival of Student Films Áčko** (Bratislava – FC 35mm) – <http://acko.vsmu.sk>
  - October 19-23: **36th Ekotopfilm** (Bratislava – Palace Cinemas Aupark / Hotel Tatra) – [www.ekotopfilm.sk](http://www.ekotopfilm.sk)
  - October 22-25: **12th Czech-Slovak Conference of Film Science** (Levoča) – [www.asfk.sk](http://www.asfk.sk)
  - October 22-25: **24th International Festival of Underwater Films** (Vysoké Tatry – Culture House Pribylina) – [www.mfpf.sk](http://www.mfpf.sk)
  - November 3-8: **10th International Documentary Film Festival One World 2009** (Bratislava – FC Charlie Centre / A4 – Nultý priestor / FC 35 mm / screening room of the SNG / cinema Mladost) – [www.jedensvet.sk](http://www.jedensvet.sk)

- November 12-15: **5th International Review of Documentaries and Features on Travelling, Landscape and Humans Eurotour Piešťany** (Piešťany – cinema Fontana) – [www.eurotourpiestany.sk](http://www.eurotourpiestany.sk)
- November 13-14: **5th International Review of Short Films The Old Man's Treasure 2009** (Dolný Kubín – cinema Choč) – [www.filmklub23.sk](http://www.filmklub23.sk)
- November 13-15: **Days of Greek Cinema** (Bratislava – cinema Mladost) – [www.sfu.sk](http://www.sfu.sk) and [www.aic.sk](http://www.aic.sk)
- November 13-15: **Programming seminar of the film club representatives registered in the ASFC** (Martin – cinema Strojár) – [www.asfk.sk](http://www.asfk.sk)
- December 4: **Slovak Films Around the World – Discussions** (Bratislava – Palace Cinemas Aupark) – [www.sfta.sk](http://www.sfta.sk)
- December 11-12: **4th VIDMO 2009** (Dolný Kubín – City Culture Centre) – [www.filmklub23.sk](http://www.filmklub23.sk)
  
- In 2009, there were several prizes awarded in the area of audiovision. The most important ones were awarded to:
  - **Vladimír Dubecký** – Crystal Heart of Gratitude for merits in the field of television and film (awarded by the Ferdinand Martinengo Society, Bratislava);
  - **Peter Kerekes** – Main prize in the category Audiovisual Works, Film and TV for directing the film *Cooking History*; 14th Art Prize of the Tatra Banka's Foundation, Bratislava);
  - **Milan Lasica** – Main Prize of SOZA – 13th Prize of the Slovak Performing and Mechanical Rights Society (SOZA);
  - **Juraj Lehotský** – Prize of the Minister of Culture SR for contribution to audiovision and cinematography (for directing and cooperation in the script of the documentary *Slepé lásky* and for exceptional international success and promotion of Slovak cinema abroad);
  - **Tomáš Mašťalír** – OTO 2008 in the category of Actor, 9th OTO 2008 competition based upon viewers' choice of a TV personality;
  - **Diana Mórová** – OTO 2008 in the category of Actress – 9th OTO 2008 competition based upon viewers' choice of a TV personality; Crystal Wing in the category Theatre and Audiovisual Art, 12th annual award of the Crystal Wing (prize for the most significant personalities of Slovakia);
  - **Viliam Polónyi** – Pribina's Cross, III. class, state decoration;
  - **Dušan Rapoš** – Crystal Wing in the category of Journalism and Literature, 12th award of the Crystal Wing (prize for the most significant personalities of Slovakia);
  - **Juraj Sarvaš** – Pribina's Cross, II. class, state decoration;
  - **Samuel Spišák** – Prize of Jozef Kroner for the most remarkable performance by an actor (in the role of Martin in **Broken Promise**, 9th award of Jozef Kroner Prize awarded by the Jozef Kroner Society, National Public Education Centre and the Culture Foundation of Kysuce, Piešťany);
  - **Marko Škop** – Appreciation for Young Creator in the category Audiovisual Work, Film and TV, for the script and directing of the documentary **Osadné**, 14th Art Prize of the Tatra Banka's Foundation;
  - **Božidara Turzonovová** – Prize of Jozef Kroner for lifetime achievement, 9th award of Jozef Kroner Prize awarded by the Jozef Kroner Society, National Public Education Centre and the Culture Foundation of Kysuce Piešťany);
  - **Emília Vášáryová** – Hall of Fame, 9th OTO 2008 competition based upon viewers' choice of a TV personality;

■ In 2009, the Prizes of the Association of Slovak Film Clubs (ASFC) were awarded for the first time. The drama directed by Cristian Mungiu **4 Months, 3 Weeks & 2 Days** became the best club film of 2008 and FC Nostalgia Bratislava became the best film club of 2008. The Annual Prize of the ASFC for contribution to the world cinematography was awarded to the Polish director Jerzy Skolimowski; The Annual Prize of the ASFC for contribution to Slovak cinematography and club movement was received by Peter Solan. The Special Prize of the ASFC for contribution to Slovak cinematography was awarded to the documentary **Blind Loves** directed by Juraj Lehotský, and to the short animated film **Four** (Štyri, SK, 2007) by Ivana Šebestová.

■ The 20th Annual Prizes of the Slovak Film Union, Union of Slovak Television Creators and Literary Fund of the SR – **Igric for Audiovisual Works in 2008:**

→ Feature film for movie theatres: Juraj Jakubisko for the visual concept of the film **Bathory**

→ Television dramatic works: Dušan Trančík for directing the film **The Optimist** (Optimista, 2008, directed by Dušan Trančík)

→ Animations: Boris Šima for directing the film **Catch Him!** (Chyťte ho!, 2008)

→ Film and television documentaries: Ladislav Kaboš for directing the film **Modern Slovak Architecture** (Moderná architektúra na Slovensku)

→ Acting performance in a film of television work: **Pavol Višňovský** for the character of Tomeček in the television series **The City of Shadows** (Mesto tieňov, directed by Róbert Šveda, Gejza Dezorz, Peter Bebjak)

■ **The 17th Prizes of the Slovak Film Critics** for audiovision works, publishing activities and film distribution in 2008 were awarded based on a survey participated in by the members of the Club of Film Journalists of the Slovak Syndicate of Journalists.

■ The prize of the Slovak film critic for a full-length film for movie-theatres was awarded to the film **Music** and for other audiovisual works to **Blind Loves**. The prize of the film critics in the category Film Critics and Journalism was received by a journalist **Miro Ulman**. According to Slovak film critics the best foreign film in Slovak cinemas in 2008 was the film **4 Months, 3 Weeks & 2 Days**. Slovak film journalists awarded their prize also to the distribution company presenting this film in Slovak cinemas – to ASFC. The prize of Slovak film journalists was awarded to the collection of DVDs **Slovak Film of the 60's** issued by the SFI and Petit Press; to K2 Studio and TRIGON Production for the cycles of films broadcasted on STV **Joy of Life** (Radosť zo života) and **GEN.sk**; to K2 studio for the collection of DVDs **Grand Prix**, and to amateur director Daniel Liška for directing a documentary **East Of Everest** (Na východ od Everestu, 2008). On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of publishing the *Film.sk* monthly, its editor-in-chief **Simona Nôtová-Tušerová** was also presented with an award.

■ In 2009, the **Prize of Zentiva** was awarded for the fifth time. This prize is given to young audiovisual creators up to 35 years of age, and was awarded by Zentiva in cooperation with the SFI and ASFC during the 16th International Film, Television and Video Festival Febiofest 2009. The winner of this prize in 2009 was **Ivana Zajacová**.

■ The main objective of the **Prize of Tibor Vichta** ([www.artsript.sk](http://www.artsript.sk)) is to facilitate the development of Slovak audiovisual works and writing of new screenplays. The 7th year of this screenwriter's competition for young writers up to 35 years of age was marked by a profound change in the categories. In the first category Full-length feature film – the main prize and advancement to the finals of the Polish scriptwriting competition ScripTeast was received by Mira Fornay for the screenplay **Brother –**

**My Dog's Name is Killer** (Brat – môj pes sa volá Killer). The jury awarded a special prize to Michaela Zakutanská for her screenplay **Havaj mene bejbe**. The winner of the second category Internet Series (up to 5 minutes) was Peter Deňár with the script **Old bojs**, and the winner of the category One episode for the TV series „Panelák“ was Jana Sýkorová.

■ The 5th year of awarding acknowledgements by the Slovak internet film journal Kinema.sk with the title **Kinema Film of 2009** took place during the IFF Bratislava. Prizes were awarded in nine categories. In addition to the main category Kinema film of 2009 – **Inglourious Basterds**, acknowledgements were also awarded to the Most attended film of the year – **Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs**, Translation of the year (Jaro Vančo – **Inglourious Basterds**), Advertising campaign of the year (distribution company Continental Film for **Bratislavafilm**), Club film of the year – **The Class**, and the Slovak film of the year **Cooking History**. The series from JOJ TV **Convicted** (Odsúdené) became the Television event of the year; **The Final Destination** was proclaimed the worst film of the year, and the Student film of the year was **Arsy-Versy**.

#### → AWARDS OF SLOVAK FILMS AND FILMMAKERS ABROAD

■ It is pleasing that Slovak films and filmmakers managed to continue their series of successes achieved in 2008. Slovak films were included in the programmes of renowned international film festivals all over the world (Venice, Karlovy Vary, Locarno), where Slovakia had not been represented for a long time, and, where they received additional recognition for Slovak cinema. It seems that Slovakia is, at last, becoming included among countries, which production is worthy of attention. The discussion forum of experts **Slovak Film Around the World**, which was one of the accompanying events of the IFF Bratislava 2009, among other issues, also discussed this topic.

■ In 2009, the greatest success was, once again, achieved by Slovak documentary filmmakers. **Cooking History**, a film by Peter Kerekes, was nominated for the European Film Award and received the Golden Hugo at the IFF in Chicago, the Vienna Film Award for the Best Documentary at the Vienne, a Special Mention of the Jury at the festival Hot Docs Toronto, and the FIPRESCI Prize at the IF of Documentaries and Animations DOK in Leipzig.

■ At the IFF Karlovy Vary, the film **Osadné** won the prize for the Best Documentary Film over 30 minutes, and **The Border** received the prize for the Best Documentary from CEE at the IF of Documentaries in Jihlava.

■ **Blind Loves** continued its series of successes achieved at international festivals all over the world in 2008, and received a number of awards, e.g. the Golden Taiga Grand Prix at the festival in Chanty-Mansijsk in Russia, a Special Mention of the Jury at the festival FICCO in Mexico City, and the Viewers' Award for the Best Documentary in Trieste.

During the annual award giving ceremony of the Czech Film and Television Academy, which presents the Czech Lion Award, the film **Nicholas Winton – Power of Good** (Nicholas Winton – Sila ľudskosti, SK/CZ, 2003, directed by Matej Mináč) received the prize for the Best Czech Documentary (1993–2007).

■ It has already become somewhat of a tradition, that Pavol Barabáš is one of the most awarded Slovak documentary filmmakers. This was also the case in 2009, when his works received 15 awards at renowned festivals and film reviews abroad, in particular those specialising on mountain films: **Bhutan** received the Prize of the International Jury at the festival TUR Ostrava, the film **Carstensz – The Seventh Summit** won the Adventure Prize – Destination at the Montreal International Adventure

Film Festival, his film **Unknown Antarctica** received the Grand Prix at the IF of Mountain Film in Domžale/Ljubljana, and the film **Mystery of Underground** was awarded the Prize of the Jury at the TOURFILM Karlovy Vary.

■ A documentary **The Journey of Magdalena Robinson** received a Special Mention of the Jury at the 6th Festival of Freedom in Brussels, Belgium, and the film **The Moon Inside You** was awarded a Special Prize of the Jury at the festival Gotham Screen in New York.

■ Among the awarded full-length feature films were **Bathory**, which received The Czech Lion for the Best Art Direction and the Most Popular Film at the Annual Awards of the Czech Film and Television Academy; **Foxes** received the Dialogue Prize at the festival in Cottbus; **Music** received the Prize of the Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic at the IF of Films for Children and Youth in Zlín; **Broken Promise** received the Audience Award for the Best Feature Film at the 4th Festival of Jewish Films in Los Angeles, and the Prize for the Best Actor at the IFF Festroia Setúbal; **Soul at Peace** won the Prize of the Jury for the Best Actor's Performance (Atilla Mocos) at the IFF CinePécs in Pécs; **Facing the Enemy** (Rozhovor s nepriateľom, 2007, directed by Patrik Laňčarič) was awarded a Golden Ladybug for the Best Feature Film Debut of the Visegrad Countries in 2007-2008 at the 1st Visegrad Summer Festival; **T.M.A.** received the Prize for the Best Director in the Feature Film category, and the Prize for the Best Photography in the Feature Film category (Jiří Macháně) at the 5th Horrorfest in Cape Town. The war drama **Tobruk** (CZ/SK, 2008, directed by Václav Marhoul) received, in addition to Czech Lions for cinematography, sound and music, the Main Prize of the Jury at the festival in Austin, USA.

■ The good reputation of Slovak films abroad has, already traditionally, been spread by student films. **Arsy-Versy**, which received 10 prizes abroad, was also the most acknowledged Slovak short film in 2009. It received the ARRI Prize for the Best Documentary at the 29th IF of Film Schools in Munich and the Special Mention in the category of Short Documentaries at the IF of Documentary Films in Jihlava. An animated film **About Socks and Love** received the prize for the Best Student Film in the category of Young Animator at the 16th IF of Animated Films in Stuttgart.

■ Director **Juraj Herz** received the annual award of the Czech Film and Television Academy Czech Lion for his lifetime contribution to Czech cinema, and the Special Prize for the development of Czechoslovak cinema at the 7th Festival of European Film Smiles in Mladá Boleslav. Juraj Jakubisko received the Czech Lion for the Best Art Direction in the film **Bathory** (Juraj Jakubisko – visual concept Jarka Pecharová – costumes). Nominations for the Czech Lion included **Ján Ďuriš** for cinematography in the film **Bathory**; **Vladimír Godár** for the music in the film **Country Teacher** (CZ, 2008, directed by Bohdan Sláma); **Zuzana Kronerová** for her supporting role in the film **Country Teacher**, and **Emília Vášáryová** for her supporting role in the film **Shameless** (CZ, 2008, directed by Jan Hřebejk). Other actors were also successful, including **Samuel Spišák**, who received the Silver Dolphin Award for the Best Actor at the IFF Festroia Setúbal in Portugal for his portrayal of the character of Martin in the film **Broken Promise**, and **Atilla Mocos** received the Prize of the Jury for the Best Actor for his role as Tóno Pánik in the film **Soul at Peace** at the IFF CinePécs in Pécs, Hungary. **Juraj Chlpík** received a Special Mention for cinematography in the film **Blind Loves** in the competition of full-length documentaries at the IFF PLUS CAMERIMAGE Lodz, Poland. The annual prize of the Association of Czech Film Clubs (ACFC) was awarded to **Ondrej Šulaj**.

## → SLOVAK FILM INSTITUTE

- The Slovak Film Institute (SFI) is the only public organization working in the field of audiovision in the Slovak Republic.
- The main tasks, activities and competencies of the SFI have been defined in § 23-25 of **Act No. 343/2007 on the Conditions for Registration, Public Distribution and Preservation of Audiovisual Works, Multimedia Works and Sound Recordings of Artistic Performances and on amendments and supplementations of certain acts (Audiovisual Law) effective since January 1, 2008.**
- The principal tasks of the SFI include the storage, protection and restoration of audiovisual heritage, its processing and enhancing, elaboration and distribution of knowledge in the field of audiovisual culture, in particular the cinematography and audiovisual art of the Slovak Republic. The basic activities mainly include professional storage, treatment, preservation and restoration of audiovisual heritage, making the audiovisual heritage available to the public for study, educational and scientific purposes, searching for, obtaining, collecting, cataloging, preserving originals or copies of audiovisual works and audiovisual recordings and making them available to the public including documentary and informational materials relating to audiovisual works and audiovisual recordings, theoretical and conceptual, research, documentation, coordination, education, bibliographic, research, methodical and consulting activities and editorial activities including the publishing of periodic and non-periodic publications and media with Slovak audiovisual works; the creation and operation of an information system, organization of cultural events, reviews and festivals, promotion of audiovision and cinematography including the promotion of audiovisual heritage, fulfilling the role of the national filmotheque and cooperation with international organizations in the field of audiovision and cinematography, and representing the Slovak Republic in those organizations.
- The SFI executes copyrights for audiovisual works produced before 1991 by public organizations managing audiovision. In relation to those works, the SFI executes the rights of executive artists to artistic performances performed in such works, it is the producer of their audiovisual recording and with its activities it enhances the property rights.
- The SFI executes public administration in the field of protecting the audiovisual heritage, provides methodological guidance for the cataloguing, protection and restoration of the audiovisual heritage fund, and assesses the audiovisual value of audiovisual works, audiovisual recordings and audio recordings in compliance with § 32; for the purposes of assessing the audiovisual value, the Director General appoints an advisory body for the protection of audiovisual heritage. (On June 2, 2008, Peter Dubecký was appointed the Director General based upon a competition announced by the Board of the SFI and in compliance with the provisions of the new Audiovisual Law).
- Since 2009, the SFI has been (and will continue to be) implementing its 3 priority projects: the **Project of systematic restoration of the audiovisual heritage and its availability** (the project was approved by the Government of the SR), the **Integrated audiovisual information system SK CINEMA** (the project was approved by the Ministry of Culture of the SR (hereinafter referred to as the MC SR), and the **Project of presenting Slovak cinematography abroad** (the project was approved by the MC SR).
- The basic long-term tasks of the SFI in the upcoming period include the execution of the role of a **legal repository** for audiovisual works, the comprehensive professional maintenance of the cinematographic section of the national cultural heritage of Slovakia, and, as part of this, a complex systematic retrieval and restoration of its collections including their transcription to digital and magnetic

carriers media, progressive digitalisation of archive collections for the purpose of long-term storage and availability by means of new media, professional cataloguing of archive items and collections and their informative and content description, and their consequent availability to the public.

■ From the viewpoint of organization, the SFI is divided into the **National Film Archive (NFA)** and the **National Cinematographic Centre (NCC)**, while the **MEDIA Desk Slovakia** constitutes a separate component of the SFI (its activities are subject to a separate chapter).

■ **The National Film Archive (NFA)** is, according to the resolution of the Ministry of Interior of the SR, a specialized public archive consisting of unique films and film-related archive funds and collections. Since 2001, the SFI has been a member of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAP).

■ **The National Cinematography Center (NCC)** coordinates the Audiovisual Information Center, Department of Film Events, Editorial Department and other activities associated with the presentation and sale of products of the SFI's editorial activity. Its main role is to collect and provide complex and up-to-date information, statistics and informational services relating to Slovak cinematography, as well as the promotion and presentation of Slovak films at home and abroad. The activity of the NCC, which particularly focuses on the actual creation and production of Slovak audiovisual works, is a natural supplement to the activities of the NFA, which focuses primarily on archiving, cataloguing and making the audiovisual heritage available. In 2009, the NCC coordinated the implementation of the priority project Presentation of Cultural Activities Abroad.

■ **The Audiovisual Information Center (AIC)** acts as the information center on the happenings within the audiovisual field in Slovakia and abroad. The AIC collects, processes and publishes information from the audiovision field that arrives at the Ministry of Culture of the SR or the SFI, and is intended for professionals within the field of Slovak cinematography and audiovision. All actual and relevant information is available on the internet site

■ In relation to the presentation of Slovak cinematography at international film forums, the AIC collected and processed background documentation for the production of promotional materials on the current situation of Slovak audiovision (Slovak Films 2007–2009, New/Upcoming Slovak Films 2010–2011).

■ The main projects aimed at the international presentation of Slovak cinematography in 2009 included, in particular, the joint stand of five countries (Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Poland) – the Central European Cinema Stand – at the European Film Market in Berlin, the joint pavilion of Slovakia and the Czech Republic at the film market Marché du film at the IFF Cannes, the presentation of the SFI and Slovak cinematography at the IFF in Karlovy Vary, the presentation of Slovak cinematography at the IFF Pusan (South Korea) and the presentation of projects of Slovak films at the IFF Mannheim – Heidelberg (Germany). Since 2006, the SFI has been a member of the international organization European Film Promotion. Thanks to this membership, Slovakia, in 2009, participated in the project Producers on the Move (Peter Kerekes) at the IFF Cannes.

■ The SFI manages the **Film Club Charlie Centre** in Bratislava. In 2007, the screening of archive films was temporarily discontinued in the learning cinema due to a lawsuit with the previous tenant of the premises.

■ The SFI also includes the only specialized library in Slovakia (10,650 book units; 176 CDs; 1,725 scripts; and 1,998 archived periodicals), and a mediatheque (9,683 VHS tapes and 2,308 DVDs).

■ The editorial department of the SFI publishes the film monthly **Film.sk**, and in cooperation with the ASFC the journal on film science **Kino-Ikon**. In 2009, the SFI published 3 book titles: **Narration on Narration** (Rozprávanie o rozprávaní) by Jelena Paštéková, which the SFI published in cooperation with the FTF VŠMU in Bratislava; the text by Mária Ferenčuhová **Postponed Time** (Odložený čas). **Film Sources, Historiography, Documentary Film** (Filmové pramene, historiografia, dokumentárny film), **Film Geography** (Filmový zemepis) by Viera Langerová, and, in cooperation with the Petit Press Publishing House, the SFI released 11 DVDs as a part of the edition *Slovak Film of the 1960s - II*. For more information please see the chapter on Video distribution.

■ In 2009, the **Klapka.sk** shop of the SFI, offering a broad range of literature on film science, CDs and DVDs and other film materials, entered its second year of operation. In 2009, the overall sales of the shop included 778 publications and 4,550 DVDs.

■ In 2009, the NFA continued the implementation of the comprehensive project of **Systematic restoration of the audiovisual cultural heritage**. The project tasks included the production of new 35 mm film reproducing and protecting materials, and combined copies of Slovak short-length and full-length films, and their transcription to electronic media. The ultimate result of these processes included the professionally treated or newly produced archive materials to audiovisuals, as well as completely restored film materials with the conversion of selected works with 2K resolution on new digital media.

■ One of the priorities of the NFA in 2009 was to move the film materials after their systematic restoration, which had been temporarily stored in the storage area of the laboratories of the Bonton Zlín Ateliers, to the new storage facility based in Pezinok, equipped in accordance with the technological requirements and standards of the FIAF for the long-term storage of film materials. Overall, 10,162 reels of film material were expedited to the new premises.

■ In 2009, the NFA obtained and registered a total of 147,029 metres of film materials as new acquisitions to the archive collection. Slovak films archived in the SFI as of December 31, 2009 represent a total length of **3,707,804 metres** (i.e. the length of individual works and fragments expressed in meters of film material). The total length of all types of film materials relating to Slovak works archived in the collections and funds of the SFI represent a total of **14,850,347 metres** of film material.

■ The main goal of the **SKCINEMA** information system project is the transition to a complex computerized processing of archive, documentation, library and information funds and the subsequent increase in the quality and promptness of service provision for professionals as well as the general public. Our intention is to increase the interoperability and integration of the SFI in European projects of film databases (European Film Gateway, Film Archives online). As of December 31, 2009, the total number of recordings was 178,967. Currently, the SFI makes information on Slovak films available within the **1st Slovak Film Database** ([www.sfd.sfu.sk](http://www.sfd.sfu.sk)).

■ Within the framework of executing its duties as a legal repository, the SFI, up until December 31, 2009, had purchased (upon offers of producers) **45** audiovisual works on media corresponding with the quality of the original to be included in its collections.

#### ■ **Events with Slovak Films Abroad**

■ In addition to organizing and co-organizing the majority of domestic events (47) indicated in the

chapter on National Festivals, Film Reviews and Awards, the SFI also promoted Slovak cinematography at film events abroad. Year 2009 was carried out in the spirit of the 80th birthday of director Peter Solan, and of the 20th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution. The most significant events abroad promoting Slovak cinematography in 2009 included the following:

- **44th IFF Karlovy Vary**, which presented, within various competitive and non-competitive sections, 10 Slovak films, and the film **Osadné** won the Main Prize in the competition of documentaries; the **7th Festival of Slovak and CEE Films** (Cran-Gevrier, France); and the **10th Summer Film Academy in Zwierzyniec, Poland**. Slovak cinematography was also, traditionally, amply represented at festivals in the Czech Republic: the **22nd Festival of Czech Films Finále Plzeň, Cinema at the Border** (Český Těšín, ČR and Cieszyn, Poland); the **17th Třinec Film Summer** (Třinec, Czech Republic); the **49th International Festival of Films for Children and Youth** (Zlín, Czech Republic); and, Slovakia was, again traditionally, massively represented at the **Summer Film School in Uherské Hradiště** (Czech Republic), which also included a Slovak Day. The organizers paid a tribute to Peter Solan, and, not only devoted a retrospective to a scriptwriter and director Ondrej Šulaj, but they also awarded him one of the Annual Awards of the ACFC. The spectrum of festivals cooperating with the SFI was enriched with the newly established **River Film Fest** in the south-bohemian city Písek. Slovak films were also presented at **festivals of the European Union** in different parts of the world, including Japan, India, South Africa, Canada, USA, China and Sri Lanka.

#### ■ Overview of events with Slovak films abroad in 2009

- **Number of events abroad:** 110
- **Number of presented films:** 301
- **Number of projections:** 757
- **Number of states:** 36

## → TELEVISION

- In 2009, Slovak television broadcasters recorded an increase in the share of viewing audience. Three nation-wide broadcasters in Slovakia with access to more than 80% of the population are the public Slovak Television (STV) with its three channels (Jednotka, Dvojka, Trojka); private television broadcasters TV Markíza, Doma, JOJ and JOJ Plus captured 86.3 % share during the whole day (in 2008 it was only 76.3%) and 87.8% in prime time (81.4% in 2008); while only 7.4% during the whole day and 6.5% in prime time is captured by the Czech Television. For the comparison – in the Czech Republic, national broadcasters have dominated (Nova, Nova Cinema, Prima, Prima Cool, TV Barrandov and four channels of the Czech Television), which, according to ATO – Media Research people meter measurements, has a 91.3% total share of the viewing audience during the entire day (93.79 % in prime time).

- In terms of a viewer share, TV Markíza maintained its leading position again in 2009, with 31.2% market share during the whole day (35.1% in 2008) and 34.4% in prime time (37.7% in 2008). TV JOJ maintained its second position in the market, since, in 2009, the share of its viewing audience increased from 16.9% in 2008 to 20.0% during the whole day, and from 19.6% to 22.6% in prime time. The third position was held by Jednotka, whose share of the viewing audience dropped from 16.4% to 15.0% during the whole day, and from 17.8% to 16.7% in prime time.

- The public Slovak Television has an obligation to broadcast programs which are in the public's interest, to dedicate a majority share of its broadcasting time to European productions, and to dedicate 20% of its production on each of its channels to productions by independent European producers.
- Dvojka, the second channel of Slovak Television, has continued focusing on so-called minority viewers, focusing primarily on documentaries, regional and topical programs, music, films, education, regional news and sports programs.
- Trojka – the sport channel of Slovak Television, started broadcasting on August 8, 2008, and it has also been broadcasted in HD quality.
- Last year, STV's highest ranked broadcasts were the Ice Hockey World Championships (**Slovakia – Belarus – 47.9% viewer share; Finland – Slovakia – 43.1% viewer share**), and the **OTO 2008 Awards** – an award-giving ceremony based upon viewers' choice of a TV screen personality (43.1% viewer share).
- In 2009, the number of documentaries produced by Slovak Television decreased to 43 (72 in 2008). This number included 5 full-length documentaries produced in co-production with independent producers – **The Moon Inside You, Slovak National Uprising 1944** (Slovenské národné povstanie 1944, directed by Dušan Hudec), **Guests – Hauerland, Osadné, Little Violent Robinson**. 14 medium-length documentaries included co-production projects **1968s Ján Midžiak** (Šesťdesiatosmičkář Ján Midžiak, directed by Peter Begányi), **Between 4 – 5,6** (Medzi 4 – 5,6, directed by Vlado Balco), **Koliba, Three Bibles, Two Destinies, One Love** (Tri biblie, dva osudy, jedna láska, directed by Ján Šuda), **Interview with Fidel** (Interview s Fidelom, directed by Ján Valent), **Decalogue 2010** (Desatoro 2010, directed by Pavol Korec), **Crystal Clear Water** (Voda čistá ako krištáľ, directed by Ľudovít Hanák), **Tales of Old Forest** (Príbehy starého lesa, directed by Zdeno Vlach).
- 6 films were produced as STV's own productions – **Story Almost Forgotten...** (Takmer zabudnutý príbeh..., directed by Drahomíra Kyslanová), **One Day at the South Pole** (Jeden deň na Južnom póle, directed by Rudolf Schuster), **Monument** (Pamätník, directed by Peter Navrátil), **Christmas in Hont** (Vianoce na Honte, directed by Juraj Galvánek), **Velvet 89: Courage and Fear** (Nežná 89: Odvaha a strach, directed by Peter Gerža), **Rocky Mountain National Parks** (Národné parky Skalistých hôr, directed by Rudolf Schuster).
- In 2009, STV also produced one short documentary – **Bratislava Castle for the 3rd Millenium** (Bratislavský hrad pre tretie tisícročie, directed by Gejza Ďurjak). In co-production with TRIGON Production, STV produced additional 13 episodes of the series **GEN.sk**, which portrays renowned living personalities of Slovakia. In addition, STV produced its own production of 10 mini-biographies of Slovak visual artists under the title **Inventions** (Invencie).
- Films participated in by the STV won awards at the IFF Karlovy Vary (**Osadné**) and at the Gotham Screen festival in New York (**The Moon Inside You**).
- Contrary to 2008, when STV did not produce any television feature films, in 2009 it produced two such productions – **Death of a Minister** (Smrť ministra, directed by Miroslav Košícký) about Vladimír Clementis, and a film for children and youth **The Taste of Summer** (Chuť leta, directed by Vlado Fischer).
- As a co-producer, STV participated in the production of the full-length feature films **My Husband's Women, Broken Promise, Heaven, Hell... Earth** and, also in the production of 7 episodes of the animated series for children **Jurošík** (directed by Jaro Baran).
- The entertainment program of STV **Eurovision Song Contest 2009** was nominated for the OTO 2009 award in the category Program of the Year.

- In compliance with the Act on Audiovisual Fund which entered into force on January 1, 2009, it is anticipated, that the share of commercials in the broadcasting of Slovak Television will gradually decrease from 3% in 2008 to 1% by the end of 2011.
  
- In 2009, **TV Markíza** broadcasted 2,012 film titles. Out of this number, 31 were Slovak productions, 667 European, 1,099 American and 215 titles were productions from other countries. In the field of dramatic productions, in 2009 TV Markíza continued its most successful series – **Doctor's Office in the Rose Garden** (Ordinácia v ružovej záhrade). In addition to that, TV Markíza also broadcasted a crime series **In the Name of the Law** (V mene zákona), **Radio** (Rádio) and the series of documentaries named **112**. The highest ranking shows among viewers were the entertainment programs **Let's Dance 3**, **Czecho-Slovak Idol** (Česko Slovenská SuperStar), **Blue from the Sky** (Modré z neba), **Improv Party** (Partička) and **Without Napkin** (Bez servítky).
- In 2009, some editors of TV Markíza's news and topical programs received several acknowledgements. The 1st place in the ranking of the Slovak Syndicate of Journalists in the category of Analytical Genres was awarded to Andrea Paulínyová, an editor of Paľba for a report on **Modern Slavery** (Novodobé otroctvo). The 3rd place in the category of TV News was awarded to Darina Mikolášová, a TV news editor, for breaking a story of **Fire Engines Have Problems in Bratislava** (Hasičské autá majú v Bratislave problémy). Editor of TV news Ján Maloch received the 2009 Prize of the Slovak Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing for his contribution to quality management – Best Topical Program **Absurdities at Bureaus** (Kocúrkovo na úradoch).
  
- On August 31, 2009, the **DOMA** television program service launched its nation-wide digital broadcasting. During its first four months in operation it broadcasted 344 films; out of which 155 were American, 131 European and 58 of other origin. The most successful programs broadcasted by DOMA in 2009 included the soap-operas **When You're Mine** (MX, directed by Martin Barraza) and **Hidden Passion** (MX, directed by Sergio Cataño).
  
- The private television broadcaster **JOJ** continued producing dramatic series **Convicted** (Odsúdené), **Prefab** (Panelák) (both were nominated for the OTO 2009 Award), and comedy series **Mafstory**, **Professionals** (Profesionáli) and **Jack-of-all-trades Ltd.** (Kutyil s.r.o.) (all three were nominated for the OTO 2009 Award). The production of the latter ended after the third season in spring 2010. The program called **The Courtroom** (Súdna sieň) was also successful.
- Since October 5, 2008, MAC TV s.r.o. (operator of JOJ) has, on a nation-wide scale, broadcasted a monotype program service called **JOJ Plus**. Films and TV series represented 80% of its program structure. In 2009, the highest ranking shows among viewers included **All the Way Trinity** (IT, 1972, directed by Enzo Barboni), **Who's That Soldier?** (CS, 1987, directed by Petr Tuček) and **30 Cases of Major Zeman** (CS, directed by Jiří Sequens). This is the only channel on the market where programs are announced by TV announcers.
  
- The signal of the news television TA3 is aired through the most cable distribution networks in Slovakia and also in the Czech Republic. It is freely available through digital satellite receivers (Astra 3A), and it can also be received through the multi-channel and multi-point distribution system MMDS. The signal of TA3 television can now be received by almost 70% Slovak inhabitants. In 2009, TA3 applied to the Board for Transmission and Retransmission for a digital frequency, and, is negotiating with the operator about being included into the DVB-T.

■ In 2009, the highest ranking programs among viewers included **No Comment** (Bez komentára), **Sport News** (Športové spravodajstvo) and **TA3 News** (Správy TA3). In addition to news programs, TA3 also broadcasted documentaries. In cooperation with the Slovak Film Institute, it broadcasted, among others, **A Week in Film** (Týždeň vo filme), a series of documentaries from Czech Television **The 13th Chamber** (Trinásta komnata), the series of documentaries **100 Years of Testimonies** (Sto rokov svedectiev), a documentary by DW about the fall of the Berlin Wall named **How the Wall Fell** (Ako Padol múr) and many others.

■ On February 2, 2009, Mgr. Matej Ribanský became the Director General of TA3 television. In 2009, TA3 Television won three prizes in the competition of journalists announced by the Slovak Syndicate of Journalists:

→ 2nd place in the category of Television News – Alžbeta Vlková, editor of TA3, for breaking a story on subsidies granted by the Environmental Fund;

→ 3rd place in the category of Analytic Genres – Peter Bielik, presenter of the Topic of the Day (Téma dňa), for his interview with General Prosecutor of the SR Dobroslav Trnka;

→ 3rd place in the category of belletristic genres – Peter Bohuš, presenter of the program named Portrayal (Portrét).

■ On December 22, 2009, the Towercom Company launched the **digital terrestrial television broadcasting** (DVB-T). Three programs of the Slovak Television and two commercial channels (JOJ and JOJ Plus) were included in the first multiplex. Broadcasting is available through a regular television aerial for around 80 percent of households. In order to receive the signal, a TV set with an integrated digital DVB-T is needed; in case of older TV models it is necessary to buy a set-top box for DVB-T broadcasting. By the end of March 2010 the coverage should extend to 90 percent of population. The signal is spread in an older compression standard (MPEG-2). The transition to DVB-T will affect about 50 percent of households, which, at present, receive the signal through private or common television aerials. As of 2012 broadcasting within the territory of Slovakia should be digital. The next package of commercial and public programs shall be launched by the end of June 2010.

■ The **TV Screen Personality Awards OTO 2009** were announced in March 2010. The highest number of awards (5) was taken by TV Markíza: Zlatica Puškárová – TV journalism, Adela Banášová – showmaster of entertainment programs; Doctor's Office in the Rose Garden – dramatic series of the year; Blue from the Sky – entertainment program; and Czecho-Slovak Idol – program of the year.

■ Televízia JOJ received 4 awards: Martin Mózer – journalist prize awarded by the Život weekly; Lucia Barmošová – personality of TV news; Lenka Čviriková Hriadelová – personality of TV sport news; Professionals – comedy series of the year; best female singer – Jana Kirschner; best male singer – Mário Kollár (Kuly); best actress – Petra Polnišová; best actor – Ján Kroner. Štefan Kvietik was introduced into the Hall of Fame. Adela Banášová won the absolute OTO 2009.

**TOP 10 MOST WATCHED FILMS IN 2009** (From January 1, 2009 till December 31, 2009)

Title	Channel	Genre	Country	Rating %	Share %
<b>Three Nuts for Cinderella</b> (1973, dir. by V. Vorlíček)	Markíza	fairytale	DE	25,0	47,2
<b>Father Frost</b> (1964, dir. by A. Rou)	Markíza	fairytale	RU	16,8	33,0
<b>The Feather Fairy</b> (1985, dir. by J. Jakubisko)	Markíza	fairytale	SK	15,6	36,5
<b>The Italian Job</b> (2003, dir. by F. G. Gray)	Markíza	action	FR	15,2	35,6
<b>The Triangle</b> (2005, dir. by C. R. Baxley)	Markíza	action	UK	15,1	43,5
<b>The Curse of King Tut's Tomb 1/2</b> (2006, dir. by R. Mulcahy)	Markíza	adventure	US	14,7	36,0
<b>Home Alone 3</b> (1997, dir. by R. Gosnell)	TV JOJ	family comedy	US	14,5	31,5
<b>How to Get Daddy to Reformatory</b> (Jak dostat tatínka do polepšovny, 1978, dir. by M. Poledňáková)	Markíza	family	CZ	14,4	37,6
<b>The Librarian: Return to King Solomon's Mines</b> (2006, dir. by J. Frakes)	Markíza	adventure	US	14,3	32,8

## → CONTACT POINTS – INSTITUTIONS, COMPANIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS OPERATING IN THE SLOVAK AUDIOVISUAL INDUSTRY

- For further information, addresses and contacts please visit:  
<http://www.aic.sk/aic/en/industry-database/>

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#### → ALEF FILM & MEDIA GROUP

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#### → ALEF JO FILMŠTÚDIO

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#### → C-GA FILM JURAJ GALVÁNEK

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→ **FORZA PH**

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→ **GENTA FILM**

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→ **INOUT STUDIO**

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→ **K2 STUDIO**

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→ **PUBRES**

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## → SPI INTERNATIONAL CZECH REP & SLOVAKIA

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## ■ FILM SCHOOLS

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### → PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOL OF FILM ART / SÚKROMNÁ STREDNÁ UMELECKÁ ŠKOLA FILMOVÁ

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### → FILM AND TELEVISION FACULTY AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DRAMATIC ARTS / FILMOVÁ A TELEVÍZNA FAKULTA VYSOKEJ ŠKOLY MÚZICKÝCH UMENÍ

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festivals@vsmu.sk (festivalové oddelenie), www.ftf.vsmu.sk

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## ■ FILM FESTIVALS

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Budova Omnipolis, Trnavská 100/II, SK-821 04 Bratislava, Tel.: +421 2 208 55 100,  
Fax: +421 2 208 55 101, artfilmfest@artfilmfest.sk, www.artfilmfest.sk

### → INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL BRATISLAVA / MEDZINÁRODNÝ FILMOVÝ FESTIVAL BRATISLAVA

Partners Production, s.r.o., Lovinského 18, SK-811 04 Bratislava, Tel.: +421 2 5441 0673,  
Fax: +421 2 5441 0674, iffbratislava@ba.sunnet.sk, www.iffbratislava.sk

### → INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL CINEMATIK PIEŠŤANY / MEDZINÁRODNÝ FILMOVÝ FESTIVAL CINEMATIK PIEŠŤANY

MFF Piešťany, o.z., Bitúnková 23, SK-900 31Stupava, Tel.: +421 914 266 911,  
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→ **UNION OF THE SLOVAK TELEVISION PROFESSIONALS / ÚNIA SLOVENSKÝCH TELEVÍZNYCH TVORCOV (ÚSTT)**

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→ **CREATV**

Channel: Music Box; Hutnícka 1, SK-0140 01 Košice, Tel.: +421 55 7979 111, Fax: +421 55 7979 112, musicbox@musicboxtv.sk, www.musicboxtv.sk

→ **JEL**

Channel: TV Televízo (Nautik TV); Pri Šajbách 1, SK-821 06, Bratislava, Tel.: +421 2 4910 9811, Fax: +421 2 4910 9812, info@televizo.sk, www.nautiktv.sk

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■ For a full list of TV companies with multiregional broadcasting, please visit [www.rada-rtv.sk/en](http://www.rada-rtv.sk/en)

■ **REPORT ON THE SLOVAK AUDIOVISUAL SITUATION 2009**

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