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GreenFilmTourism

Newsletter

no. 5 / 2022

Film Heritage of Spiš and Žilina Region

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KULÁŠ KOVÁČ
DIA BAGAČOVÁ

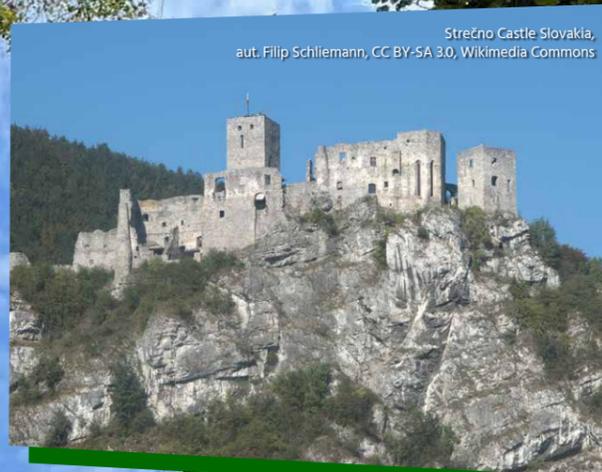
v hlavných úlohách
PAVEL NOVÝ ROBERT ŠURINA
JANA BŘEZINOVÁ ONDŘEJ PAVELKA

Postav odn, zasad strom, poster, Jakubisko Film Europe, SE, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

The Žilina region and its film and tourist potential

Stunning landscapes, historical monuments, an impressive network of cycling and running routes, numerous spas and water parks with thermal water, well-equipped ski resorts and high-quality traditional cuisine are the strong tourist assets of the Žilina region. It is located in the northwest of Slovakia, bordering the Czech Republic to the west and Poland to the north.

The Orava Castle is the biggest attraction in the region. It is also the setting for many famous movies and fairy tales. As early as 1922, the castle rooms were used in the first significant horror movie in the history of cinema - in the film "Nosferatu - a symphony of horror" dir. F. W. Murnau ("Upír Nosferatu"). The castle can also be seen in the classics of Slovak cinema, including the films: "Adam Sangala" (1972) dir. K. Spišák ("Adam Šangala") and fairy tales "King Thrushbeard" (1984), dir. M. Luther ("Kráľ Drozdia brada"), "King of Falcons" (2000) dir. V. Vorlíček ("Sokoliar Tomáš") and "The Prince and the Blacksmith" (2014), dir. M. Čengel-Solčanská ("Láska na vlásku"). The reconstructed ruins of the medieval Strečno Castle can be admired in the film "Dragonheart" (1996) by R. Cohen. The authenticity of this castle is highly appreciated by filmmakers from all over the world.



The surrounding countryside has delighted filmmakers many times. In the film "Bathory" (2008), dir. J. Jakubisko, viewers can see the landscapes of Kysuce and Liptov and the Museum of the Liptov Village in Pribylina. On the other hand, the Museum of the Kysuce Village in Vychylovka became the background of the film "Flying Cyprian" (2010), dir. Mariana Cengel-Solcanská ("Legenda o lietajúcom Cypriánovi"). The film was also shot in the Church of All Saints in Ludrova - Kúty in Liptov, whose history is connected with the Templars. The museum in Vychylovka promotes the development of regional film tourism. For this purpose, it has published "A Film Guide to the Open-Air Museum", in which it presents the backstage of making films such as "Želary" (2003) by O. Trojan ("Želary") and "Jašek's Dream" (2006) by E. Grečner ("Jaškov sen").

In Terchova (Malá Fatra region) was shot the two-part film "Jánošík" (1962) dir. P. Bielik. The rocks of Sulov appealed to the creators of the famous fairy tale "The Salt Prince" (1982), dir. M. Hollý ("Sol' nad zlato") and became the background of "The Feather Fairy" (1985), dir. J. Jakubisko ("Perinbaba").

The city of Žilina and its surroundings can be seen in several films. The most famous Slovak director, Juraj Jakubisko, shot here, near the Zlatné Bridge, the movie "Build a house, plant a tree" ("Postav dom, zasad strom" 1979). The shots for the film "Orbis Pictus" (1977) by Martin Šulík were taken on the railway bridge near Strečna, and the ELÁN group recorded the scene for the film "Rabaka" (1989) in the sports hall in Vičnice.



Movie themes of Spiš

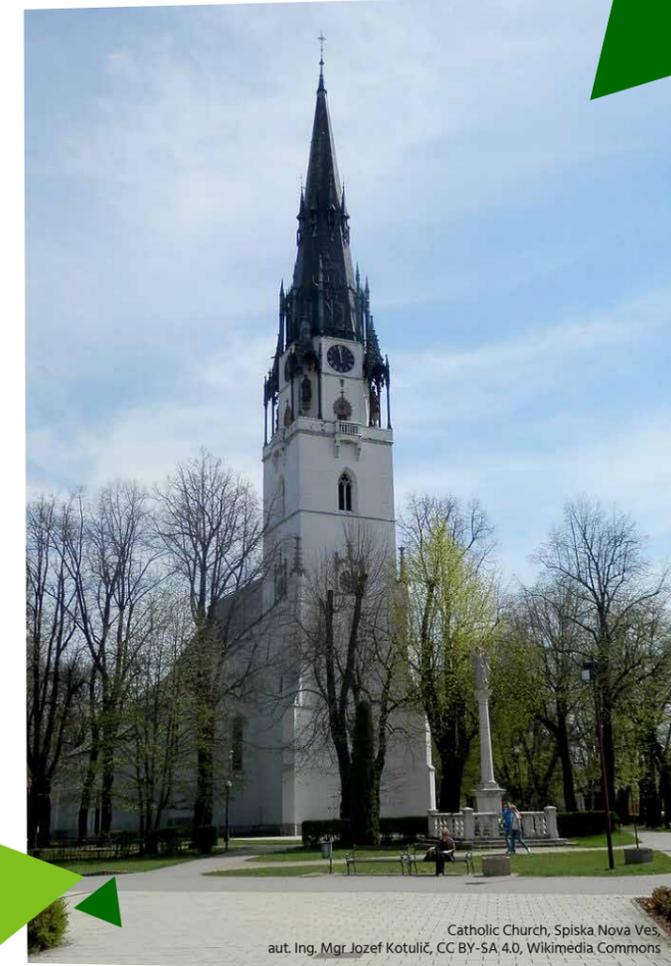
The centrum of Spiš is Spišská Nová Ves - one of the longest oval town squares in Slovakia, surrounded by many historic buildings and tenement houses. The square is dominated by the Gothic Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary with the tallest church tower and the largest number of clock faces in Slovakia. The Spiš market was used by Richard Staviarsky and Víťo Staviarsky in the film "Lola Paradička" (2019). At the market where the main character sells sweets, he meets a girl he falls in love with. The market theme is repeated several times in the film.

Tomášovský View is one of the most visited natural attractions in the area. The rock in the Slovak Paradise National Park attracts many domestic and foreign tourists every year. The views of the High Tatras, The White Creek valley or the Hornád gorge also delighted the filmmakers. In the American production "Dragonheart" (1996), dir. R. Cohen, against the background of forested hills, you can see a knight on a rock trying to start a fire accompanied by a dragon. Slovak Paradise and Tomášovský View can also be seen in the film "Eragon" (2006), dir. S. Fangmeier and in the film "Uncertain news about the end of the world" (1997) dir. J. Jakubisko ("Nejasná správa o konci sveta").

Do you know that

In the film "Uncertain news about the end of the world" (1997), directed by J. Jakubisko, Tomášovský View is shown as a rock around which water flows?

In fact, the height of the rock itself is 40 meters and it is located at the top of Ludmanka Mountain.



The Spiš Castle is not only the main monument of Spiš, but also a national cultural monument and one of the largest castle complexes in Slovakia. It is here that the actions of great foreign film productions took place, including the films "Dragonheart", "The Last Legion" (2007) dir. D. Lefler and "Kull the Conqueror" (1997) dir. J. Nicoletta.

Among the Slovak films shot at the Spiš Castle, it is worth paying attention to the production of "Radúz and Mahulena" (1970) by P. Weigl ("Radúz a Mahulena") and "Popolvar, Biggest in the World" (1982) by M. Ľapák ("Popolvár najväčší na svete").

Do you know that

In the movie "Dragonheart" Spiš Castle is depicted as the mythical castle Camelot of King Arthur, located in the immediate vicinity of the sea?

There is no sea in Slovakia, only green meadows surround the castle.

Do you know that

Fest Anča in Žilina is the only festival in Slovakia that mainly presents animated films for adults?

Every year, this international multimedia festival attracts filmmakers, musicians and artists from the world's leading creative industries. The festival takes place mainly in the Stanica Žilina-Záriečie cultural center, the New Synagogue and other cultural spaces of the city of Žilina. The festival is distinguished by the Game Days event, which attracts fans of video games.



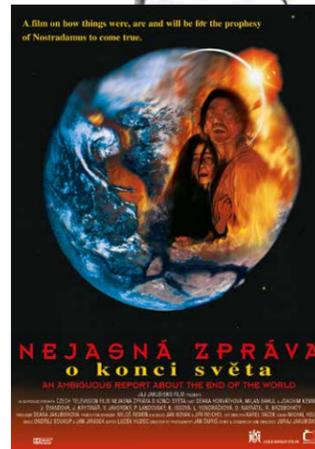
Juraj Jakubisko and his film work

Juraj Jakubisko is an outstanding Slovak screenwriter, cinematographer and, above all, director, whose career began over half a century ago. He co-created several dozen films. His work is characterized by bizarre and peculiar poetics. "Slovak Fellini", as he is usually called, has won many international awards for his films and for lifetime achievement, incl. the Slovak Hall of Fame for merits to art, the Spanish Lifetime Achievement Award for World Cinema, the Medal for Merit for Art in the Czech Republic.

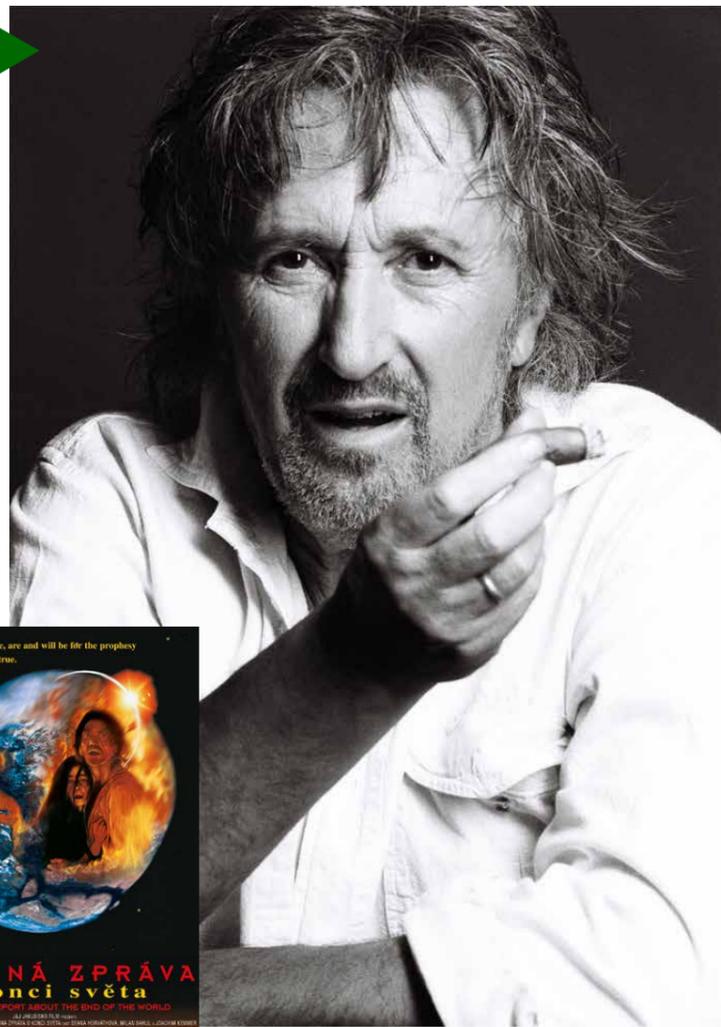
"Build a house, plant a tree" ("Postav dom, zasad' strom", 1979) is a film whose script Jakubisko reworked because he did not like the positive socialist hero. A tragicomedy about a young man who follows his dreams even in a dishonest way, caused a storm at the time and the film was withdrawn from distribution. The director himself was banned and could no longer produce films on topics relevant at the time.

"Uncertain news about the end of the world" ("Nejasná správa o konci sveta", 1997) is an apocalyptic story inspired by the prophecies of Nostradamus. In a bizarre, fantasy world, Jakubisko presents a sinful story about two lovers talking about the shape of the end of the world. The 150-minute-long film won awards for directing in the US, Canada, Italy and Slovakia.

His other award-winning films include "Infidelity in Slovak" ("Nevera po slovensky", 1981), "A thousand-year-old bee" ("Tisícročná včela", 1983) inspired by the book by Petr Jaroš, the fairy tale "The Feather Fairy" ("Perinbaba", 1985), for which a sequel is currently being prepared, and a co-production of the film "Bathory" (2008) in English.



Nejasná správa o konci sveta - official film poster, Jakubisko Film Europe, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons



Juraj Jakubisko, aut. Jakubisko Film. SE, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

How is Inovačné partnerské centrum Prešov (Prešov Innovation Partnership Center) involved in the promotion of film, cultural heritage and film tourism in the region?

- an interview with Jana Kuchárová

As a partner of the GreenFilmTourism project, we are involved in the development of film databases for the Žilina region and the Spiš area in the Kosice region, which are used to create an electronic database of film cultural heritage in the cross-border area and the greenfilmtourism.eu web portal. At the same time, we organize meetings in the form of social consultations and seminars on the film heritage of the Poland-Slovakia cross-border region and thus contribute to the establishment of the cross-border Film Heritage Trail (SFKD) in the program area.

At the same time, the Innovation Partnership Center of the GreenFilm-Tourism project is working on the implementation of sustainable practices and the development and implementation of common cross-border standards and guidelines to promote, preserve and protect the natural and cultural heritage of the program area.

The aim of IPC (Innovation Partnership Center) is to expand the potential for innovative entrepreneurship and to strengthen cooperation between universities, research and scientific-didactic institutions, and small and medium-sized enterprises at the regional, supra-regional and international level. IPC deals in particular with the preparation and implementation of innovative tools, creating a network of contacts with investors and conducting trainings.



As IPC, we are active in many areas: we engage in cross-border projects aimed at promoting tourism and electromobility. We are committed to building innovative infrastructure, creating a social economy cluster that brings together all social enterprises in the region, supporting creative industries and coordinating regions.

1

What is the title of the 1922 film by F. W. Murnau, shot at the Orava Castle, which was considered the first significant horror film in the history of cinema?

- A Dracula
- B Nosferatu, a Symphony of Horror
- C Interview with the Vampire



3

Which castle in Slovakia became the background of the film production of "Dragonheart" (1996), dir. R. Cohen ("Dragonheart")?

- A Orava Castle
- B Strečno Castle
- C Spiš Castle



5

Who is called the "Slovak Fellini", an outstanding screenwriter, cinematographer and director, whose work is characterized by bizarre and peculiar poetics?

- A Martin Šulík
- B Paló Bielik
- C Juraj Jakubisko



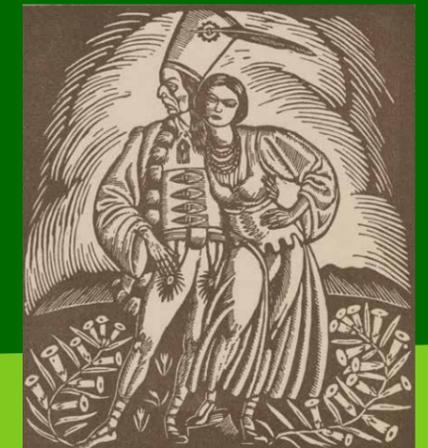
QUIZ

Film heritage of the Žilina Region and Spisz

2

What is the name of the town in the Žilina region, which is also the birthplace of Juraj Jánošík and the film location of the two-part film "Jánošík"?

- A Terchová
- B Liptová
- C Žilina



4

Which Slovak national park was the location of the film "Eragon" (2006) dir. S. Fangmeier?

- A Slovak Paradise
- B Tatra National Park
- C Little Fatra



The answers are on page 6.



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Who are the contributors?

The GreenFilmTourism project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund as part of the Interreg VA Poland-Slovakia Cross-Border Cooperation Program 2014-2020.

Tomášovský View - Slovak Paradise, JA_SOM, public domain, Pixabay

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Editorial information

Publisher: Podkarpackie Film Commission at the Provincial Culture Centre in Rzeszów

Editing: Damian Dąg, Ilona Dusza Rzeszowska

Cooperation: Małgorzata Broda, Paulina Daczowska, Anita Dąg-Rutkowska, Zuzana Hudacká, Beata Hulinka, Jozef Šimko, Magdalena Paszek, Iwona Wilk

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QUIZ - answers
1.B 2.A 3.C 4.A 5.C