



FILM RESIDENCY

PRESS RELEASE

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SLOVAK POP UP 2025 PROJECTS ANNOUNCED! & INTERNATIONAL FILMMAKERS @ POP UP FILM RESIDENCY BRATISLAVA 2025

THE 7th EDITION OF SLOVAK POP UP

A key component of the Pop Up Film Residency in Bratislava, the Slovak Pop Up initiative - launched in 2019 - is now in its 7th edition. **27 Slovak film projects** have benefited from the program so far, and **already 6 films were completed** - including 2 debut feature films in post-production, *Twentyseven* by Gregor Valentovič and *Flood* by Martin Gonda, to premiere in late 2025/early 2026.

At the Pop Up Film Residency, we were thrilled to receive a **record number of applications** for this 2025 edition: 20 film projects - 13 Features, 5 Shorts, and 2 Docs. This is a clear testimony to the diverse and vivid filmmaking community currently active in Slovakia!

After careful consideration and a series of interviews, **7 promising projects (5 feature & 2 short films) were chosen to participate in the program** this year, which will consist in a series of project consultations with international mentors taking place in Bratislava from July to November 2025.

The projects and participants of the Slovak Pop Up 2025 Edition are:

#NOFILTER - Short Hybrid Film
Wr./Dir.: Roman Pivovarník
Prod.: Barbara Janišová Feglová

2,4 M - Feature Film
Wr./Dir./Prod.: Mária Pinčíková
Wr.: Marek Lečšák

DREAMING DIFFERENCES - Feature Film / *Tatino Award @ Febiofest 2025*
Wr./Dir.: Kateřina Hroníková
Prod.: Nataša Jurčová Findrová

REALITIES - Feature Film
Wr./Dir.: Teodor Kuhn
Prod.: Nazarij Kl'ujev

SUMMER LAMB - Short Animation
Wr./Dir.: Olívia Jánošíková & Marty Müller
Prod.: Marty Müller

THE FALL - Feature Film
Wr.: Patrik Pašš ml. & Laura Siváková-Paššová
Prod.: Juraj Krasnohorsky

THIS IS OUR HOUSE - Feature Film
Wr.: Adam Pavlovič

The 2025 Edition of Slovak Pop Up will take place over 3 sessions of several days each. Each session will accommodate 2 or 3 projects that will work with designated international mentors **Philippe Barrière, Mert Dilek, and Mmabatho Kau** – coming respectively from France, South Africa, and Turkey.

1st Session

Projects: *REALITIES* and *THE FALL*
Consultant: Philippe Barrière (France)
Location & Dates: Bratislava, 2.-5. July 2025

2nd Session

Projects: *#NOFILTER*, *SUMMER LAMB* and *THIS IS OUR HOUSE*

Consultant: Mert Dilek (Turkey)

Location & Dates: Bratislava, 28.-31. July 2025

3rd Session

Projects: *2,4 M* and *DREAMING DIFFERENCES*

Consultant: Mmabatho Kau (South Africa)

Location & Dates: Bratislava, 3.-5. November 2025

EMERGING TALENTS & GENRE FILM PROJECTS

Matthieu Darras, CEO of Pop Up Film s.r.o., comments on the Slovak Pop Up line-up:

« The Slovak Pop Up intends to accompany and support filmmakers active in Slovakia in all the diversity of their practices and experiences. Whether they work on a fiction, a documentary, or an animation, on a feature or a short film, whether they are students or already wrote many films, Slovakia-based filmmakers are welcome to join the Slovak Pop Up. So, we are very glad they answered this year's call in great numbers. The selection, which was challenging to make, reflects our attention to both emerging talents and more established ones.

The most junior creative duo of this edition, **Olívia Jánošíková & Marty Müller**, already got noticed with a couple of bold shorts selected in festivals despite still being animation students at the VŠVU Academy of Fine Arts. An intriguing animated short film project, *Summer Lamb* defines itself as a sci-fi romance about a scientist time-travelling to the 19th century! With *#NoFilter*, **Roman Pivovarník** is working on a hybrid short that explores the question of authenticity through the cinematic portrait of a teenage boy living in Bratislava. A recent graduate of the VŠMU Film School as well, **Kateřina Hroníková** won the TATINO Award at Febiofest last March for her feature debut *Dreaming Differences*. This project reveals an unlikely romance between a man and a woman whose relationships to sleep greatly differ...

Far away from the regular social drama, we were thrilled to receive a couple of exciting genre film proposals - both of them tackling in their own way the pressing issue of the Slovak real estate and the right for a home: the black comedy *This is Our House* written by **Adam Pavlovič**, a young screenwriter, who attended three film schools in Italy, Spain, and the UK, before recently returning to Slovakia; and *Realities*, a fairy-tale comedy of redemption by **Theodor Kuhn**, his second feature project after *By A Sharp Knife*.

A unique project that defines itself as a blend of cinema-verité intimacy and stylized art performance, **Mária Pinčíková's** *2,4 M* is an absurd road movie about two people, who agree to be physically bound together by a rope for one year while crossing the USA as part of a radical art project. Last but not least, *The Fall* is an English-speaking international co-production initiated by producer **Juraj Krasnohorský** and co-written by **Patrik Pašš ml.** and **Laura Siváková-Paššová**. In this chamber piece tragicomedy about two elderly siblings, an actor returns to the family mansion where only his reclusive sister lives. »

For reference, alumni projects of the Slovak Pop Up initiative include the following completed films:

- *The Nightsiren*, by Tereza Nvotova (Locarno FF 2022)
- *The Chambermaid*, by Mariana Čengel Solčanská (Black Nights Tallinn FF 2022)
- *Zenith*, by György Kristóf (Art Film Fest Košice 2024)
- *Birdhill*, by Film Festival (4 živly FF 2024).

INTERNATIONAL FILM RESIDENTS IN BRATISLAVA IN 2025

The Slovak Pop Up initiative takes place in the frame of the Pop Up Film Residency Bratislava, which is organizing **5 International Film Residencies in Bratislava in 2025**. Two of them, with talents from Bulgaria, France, and Germany, already took place earlier this year, while three of them are still expected with filmmakers from Brazil, Kazakhstan and South Africa.

The Pop Up Film Residencies Bratislava 2025 are:

- **BUMPER CARS** – Feature Film
Wr./Dir.: Max Bungarten (Germany)
Residency in February 2025
Bumper Cars is the feature debut project by Max Bungarten, an alumnus of the HFF Munchen film school whose shorts were screened in festivals globally, including Clermont-Ferrand. This intimate drama takes place in the outskirts of Cologne and centers around themes of queer love, friendship and loss. The project participated in the Munich Film Up! program.
- **EROTIC LIVES OF THE SUPERHEROES** - Series
Wr.: Ruddy-Williams Kabuiku (France), Nadya Todorova (Bulgaria)
Prod.: Eric Dupont (France)
Residency in April/May 2025.

An Adaptation of the best-seller Italian novel by Marco Mancassola, *Erotic Lives of The Superheroes* is a crime thriller series that took part in TATINO's Pop Up Series Incubator Program. The project will be pitched at the Karlovy Vary FF's Industry Days on the 8th of July 2025.

- **BERGIES** – Feature Film
Wr./Dir.: Dian Weys (South Africa)
Residency in July 2025
Dian Weys' last short film *Vultures* recently premiered in Cannes Film Festival competition in May 2025. Thanks to a cooperation with the Festival de Cannes' Focus CoPro initiative, Dian will spend July in Bratislava to write his first feature. *Bergies* will be a real-time, ninety-minute film in which we try to keep up with a law enforcement officer carrying out the eviction notice of over a fifty homeless people.

- **SLATE OF PROJECTS** – Documentary & Fiction
Prod.: Luiza Paiva (Brazil/UK)
Residency in July 2025
Luiza Paiva is a Producer and Filmmaker based in between Brazil and London. Thanks to a cooperation with the Ji.hlava Documentary FF, and the Emerging Producers Program in which she participated in 2024/25, Luiza Paiva will benefit from a Pop Up Film residency to work on her slate of projects as a producer.

- **14.5** – Feature Film
Wr./Dir.: Aizhana Kassymbek (Kazakhstan)
Residency in October/November 2025
14.5 is the 3rd feature film project by Aizhana Kassymbek, after *Fire* and *Medina* premiered respectively in Busan FF in 2021 and in Tokyo FF in 2023. Thanks to a cooperation with the Alternativa Film Project that supports Central Asian filmmakers, Aizhana will be able to develop further her sensitive portrait of 14-year-old Ayman, as she navigates the struggles of teenagehood.

The Slovak Pop Up and the Pop Up Film Residency Bratislava are programs managed by **Matthieu Darras**, **Antonia Girardi**, and **Ivana Huciková**.

Organizers:

Pop Up Films s.r.o. and Tatino Films

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