

ENVIROMAGAZÍN

Special edition 1/ 2005

Issued on the occasion of the 11th International Festival of Films, TV Programmes and Video Programmes ENVIROFILM 2005 focused on environmental protection and improvement.

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Inspiration for foreign countries

László Miklós, Minister of Environment of SR

Minister of Environment of the SR László Miklós underlines the fact that Envirofilm, which enters into its second decade, became the inspiration also for other countries. And this means that the way the festival goes is a correct one. It is important the experiences from nature caught on film carriers, do not stay just "album" experiences and ideas of problems addressing do not stay just recipes how to do it. Nature and environmental protection should become a part of life and existence of each of us.
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Envirofilm starts its second decade

Alena Kostúriková, SEA

Hindsight on previous Envirofilms and invitation to this year's festival that will be trying to find the answer of the question – Is mankind capable of using the rich history and natural heritage for the benefit of present and especially future generations? The Mayor of Banská Bystrica Ján Králik appreciated the festival by awarding it The Mayor's Prize for 2004.
(page 4-5)

Competing film of Envirofilm 2005

Carpathians (Germany), directors Andrzej Klamt and Ulrich Ryzewski

This more than 2-hour long document made by a classic technology on 35 mm material discovers secrets of landscape and people of the Carpathian arch. Looking for nature and man in whole its depth, in the context of centuries.
(page 4)

Festival 's relishes

A statistics and matters of interest of the 11th Envirofilm to which filmmakers from 27 world countries sent 127 films (number of countries and films is record in the festival's history). Argentina and Syria participated for the first time.

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A qualitative film deserves esteem but especially the audience attention

Katarina Javorská

The author of the article, who was the member of the international festival jury and of the pre-selection commission that was evaluating 127 films and chose 36 of them for the "large" festival jury, evaluates the work of the pre-selection commission and also competing films. She refers critically to the fact that the Slovak Television created nothing during the two years of the new TV management, which would fulfil the letter of the law – to lead by its programmes Slovak citizens to environmental responsibility.

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Competing film of Envirofilm 2005

In the kingdom of the Tatra chamois

Zdeno Vlach belongs to outstanding Slovak filmmakers and photographers who focus on author's documents about Slovak nature. The film, thanks to several-year cooperation of a cameraman and a zoologist, shows natural life of chamois, marmots and other inhabitants of the High Tatras in unique scenery.

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Hanák: The most I esteem films made at the Danube

Anna Gudzová, SEA

Ludovít Hanák – a painter, script writer, director and cameraman of documentaries on environmental subject, a diver, nature lover and conservationist is not a newcomer in Envirofilm. He esteems all films he made, but mainly those made at the Danube river. Also the film Born by Water, which is competing in this year's Envirofilm, is devoted to the Danube. The film depicts the Dunajské luhy Protected Landscape Area, so called inland Danube's delta, its functioning and frequent changes that affect the water dam Gabčíkovo.

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Films from the archives of the Slovak Film Institute – an integral part of Envirofilm

Štefan Vraštiak, SFÚ Bratislava

Non-competing projections of films from the archives of the Slovak Film Institute (SFI) became the integral part of Envirofilm. This year, collection funds of SFI offer festival visitors films that relate with festival's theme. They include such series of films as Nature pollution in Slovak moving pictures, High Tatras in films, cartoons (not only for children) Landscape and we, Slovak short films, World cultural heritage and 35 mm films Natural catastrophes and elements in Slovakia. The audience will have the possibility to see Emília Vášáryová - the festival's guest of honour - in the films The dragon comes back and Who is leaving in rain.

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The jubilee of the Green World – Pleasure out of life, desires and ambitions of children

Jana Šimonovičová, SEA

International competition of artistic creativity Green World accompanies Envirofilm from its second year, which means that this year it celebrates the tenth anniversary. In the beginning of the article, the author evaluates previous 9 years, participation of children, schools and countries in the competition,

individual topics (every year a different topic). The theme of the 10th competition is My town, my village, my house. 5,045 works were sent to the competition by more than 2,740 authors, 269 photos by 93 little photographers and 14 animated cartoons by more than 20 filmmakers from Slovakia, Latvia, Poland, Serbia, Monte Negro, Slovenia, Indonesia, Romania, Czech Republic and China. 435 pedagogues (174 primary schools, 39 primary art schools, 16 special schools, 57 nurseries and 13 secondary schools) were helping children.

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Green World's splinters

During its existence the Green World competition got almost 24 thousand works of children from Slovakia and other countries of the world, i.e. 2,400 works per year on average. This year was the most successful as far as the number of works from abroad concerns (169). And this year for the first time the Prize of Christine Parks Environmental Foundation will be awarded, which includes a diver's certificate and a 10-day stay at the Bimini Island in Bahamas. Also the Audience Award will be given for the first time. (page 11)

Jaroslav Uhel: Children's art creation and work of pedagogues is a serious matter **Anna Gudzová, SEA**

An interview with the creative artist and pedagogue Jaroslav Uhel, who is the co-author of the Green World idea. He was at its start and during ten years he has been involved in the competition as an expert guarantee and the jury chairman. He also participates in its organisation. In 1999, 2000 and 2001 he was the author of the Envirofilm 's poster.

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Inquiry of Envirofilm 2005

Marián Slovák: The children, they are a miracle!

The Slovak actor Marián Slovák will be this year again (for the second time) a member of the international jury of Envirofilm. In the inquiry he speaks about his relation to nature and returns back to Envirofilm 2004 when he was fascinated especially with children and their Green World.

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750 years ago the settlement of Banská Bystrica became a royal town

Peter Farárik

Banská Bystrica is a centre of festival happenings since the Envirofilm origination. This year, Banská Bystrica celebrates its 750th anniversary of obtaining privileges of a free royal town that were granted to it in 1255 by the 18th Hungarian king Belo IV. Banská Bystrica was the fifth town at the territory of present Slovakia to obtain these privileges (earlier than Bratislava and Košice). The article is mapping the town's history and the present; it focuses on valuable historical objects, outstanding personalities who were living and working here as well as on nature „jewels“ in the town and its surroundings.

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50 years of the state nature conservancy

Alena Kostúriková, SEA

An interview with the general director of the Environmental Concepts and Law Division of the Ministry of Environment, Jozef Klinda. In connection with the 50th anniversary of the state nature conservancy enactment, Jozef Klinda has been answering questions about the history and the present times of the state nature protection in Slovakia. He states, besides others, that nature protection existed in Slovakia already before its enactment. Within the Hungarian legal article on monuments No. 39/1879 (valid in Slovakia till 1960), conditions for an enactment of nature protection were created, mainly thanks to the doyen of Hungarian nature protection Karol Kaán.

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Inquiry of Envirofilm 2005

Družina: Slovak folk songs are wonderful

The music group Družina has been successfully presenting the ethno beat style not only in Slovakia but also abroad. Although its members come from various regions of Slovakia, the band has its „central“ in Banská Bystrica. It plays arranged Slovak folk songs and, according to the bass guitarist of the group Aty Béreš, it is a fusion of Slovak folklore with rock, pop and jazz. He also says that Slovak folklore is so manifold that it is possible to draw from it another 100 years. All Družina members are nature lovers.

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ZOO Bojnice celebrates, or the wild boar Mišo is to be blamed for everything

Ivan Kmet', ZOO Bojnice

On the 1st January, 50 years lapsed from the day of the establishment of the zoo park in Bojnice as an independent organisation. On the 1st April 50 years ago, the zoo was opened for public. In July 1955, the zoo bred 30 pieces of predators and in the first year of its existence 45 thousand people visited it. In 1962, zoo Bojnice succeeded in the first breeding of northern lynx in central Europe, and in 1972 the zoo as the first in Europe and third in the world succeeded in Paraguay anaconda reproduction in captivity. Since 1994, the zoo is a member of the European Association of Zoological Gardens and Aquariums and since 2003 the member of the prestigious World Association of Zoological Gardens and Aquariums. It has 300 species and 1,700 animals, more than 300 thousand visitors visit it per year and it prepares about 260 events for public, including programmes for blind, deaf and immobile visitors. This year, the zoo wants to welcome its 19-millionths visitor.

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Competing film of Envirofilm 2005

Memory of water or message from Jakub Krčín (Czech Republic), director: Martin Skyba

A document made by the regular visitor of Envirofilm Martin Skyba is a combination of wonderful shots of the system of fish ponds in South Bohemia from the earth and from the air. At the same time it is a source of interesting information about their history.

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Primary Art School in Fil'akovo: Beauty, nature and creative art cannot exist one without another

Anna Gudzová, SEA

A visit in the Primary Art School in Fil'akovo that participates every year in the international children's art competition Green World. This school, its students and pedagogues received several awards in the Green World competition. As it follows from the discussion with them, they have a positive relation to nature and life.

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Treasures of Slovakia

Luboš Čillag, SEA

As Slovakia is a country with many natural and cultural attractions, Envirofilm's organisers prepared for children a competing exhibition Treasures of Slovakia. Its objective is to bring young generation the information about natural and cultural monuments of Slovakia that have been inscribed in the World Cultural and Natural Heritage List and also about other monuments. The exhibition is connected with a competition for children and youth.

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What is it that creates and changes landscape's value?

Peter Jančura

The conference Landscape-Man-Culture is an event traditionally accompanying the film festival Envirofilm. Slovak Environmental Agency – Centre of Landscape Creation in Banská Bystrica - organises this conference in cooperation with the Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Sciences in Banská Bystrica. This year, the conference focuses on the implementation of the European Convention on Landscape, it analyses basic terms and processes, including legislation, such as axiomatic relations, visual impact, semiotic aspect, etc.

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Competing film of Envirofilm 2005

Time after time (Australia), script, music and production: Mairéid Sullivan, Ben Kettlewel

The film is a celebration of the valuable heritage of Celts, Americans and Australians. It depicts nature, landscape, sacred places, ancient symbols and icons from Ireland, North America and Australia.

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EXPO 2005 in Aichi in the token of the respect for nature

Ján Lichý

The visitor of the world exposition Ján Lichý invites readers to visit EXPO 2005 in Japan Aichi. The main theme of EXPO 2005 is Nature's Wisdom. Sub themes include: Art of Life, Nature's Matrix and Development of Eco-Communities. Aichi is the name of one of Japan provinces and EXPO 2005 spreads at the territory of three cities of this province – Seto, Nagoya and Toyota. With its area and contents, EXPO 2005 is probably the biggest in the history of world expositions. It can be marked as the exposition of robots, mammoth, ecological education, cultural and social events and presentation of world countries in Japan. It is intended for visitors of any age, but it is mainly EXPO for children and youth.

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Films by Barabáš are about love for nature, energy and mentality

Anna Gudzová, SEA

Narration about the most successful Slovak film maker – the documentarist Pavol Barabáš, his films and mainly about his latest document Amazonia Vertical that competes in Envirofilm 2005. The film premiere was at the International Festival of Mountain Films in Poprad, where he won the Prize for the Best Expedition Film and the Audience Prize. This year Pavol Barabáš participated in the successful speleological expedition of Slovak, Czech and Venezuelan scientists Chimantá 2005. During the expedition they discovered the largest grit cave in the world named Cueva Charles Brewer. Barabáš's documents express, besides love and reverence to nature, huge mental strength and moral consciousness.

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For the first time in Envirofilm

Argentina – the country of silver and immigrants

The majority of Argentines come from Europe. In 1516, Spanish came here to look for treasures. Their domination lasted 300 years. Since 1816, Argentina is independent. Argentina ... the country of silver and immigrants. The Argentinean film maker Ulises de la Orden (the native of Buenos Aires, 1970) describes, in his film Rio arriba, stories of European immigrants. This is the first time an Argentinean film was sent to Envirofilm. Ulises de la Orden, the scriptwriter, cameraman, photographer and film producer participated, besides making documentaries, in shooting such films as Evita (1996, director Alan Parker) and Seven years in Tibet (1997, director Jean Jacques Annaud).

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Competing film of Envirofilm 2005

Rio arriba (Argentina), direction and production: Ulises de la Orden

The film joins two stories – a story of European immigrants who landed in Argentina at the beginning of the 20th century and a story of destroying the culture of original population Kolla-Aymará in the Iruya region. The film brings two views on the present times – the view of the immigrants' descendants and the view of Kolla-Aymará descendants. The contradiction between these two cultures reflects the dilemma of people. It is about tolerance, egoism and freedom.

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New trends in the presentation of the Slovak Mining Museum's (SMM) exposition

Rastislav Marko, SMM Banská Štiavnica

The Slovak Mining Museum in Banská Štiavnica has currently seven expositions – Open-Air Mining Museum, Old Castle, New Castle, Bergergericht – mineralogical exhibition, Kammerhof – mining in Slovakia and Jozef Kollár Gallery. It operates the Geopark Information Centre and has a key position in the field of tourism in Banská Štiavnica. The author compares the position, significance and current situation in SMM and other museums in Slovakia, presents the activity of the SMM and individual successful programmes. They include, besides others, environmental education products named the School in Museum presenting habits, traditions, history and art techniques.

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We do not know to complain aloud

Mária Čelková, J. Kollár Gallery in Banská Štiavnica

27 schools from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary (425 works from 391 authors) participated this year in the competition of children's and students' art creation with the characteristic name "We do not know to complain aloud" with ecological theme. The professional jury chose 60 best works of 5 categories. All works charmed mainly with their naturalness, originality, sincerity and variety of materials. The exhibition We do not know to complain aloud has been included among the events of Envirojar (Environmental Spring) and Envirofilm.

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Competing film of Envirofilm 2005

The Living Forest (Hungary), cameraman, director: Tamás Becse

The film shows the life of forest the film director remembers from his young days. He asks worrying questions about the forest, its protection and use.

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School, in which they have "discovered" the significance of waste sorting

Anna Gudzová, SEA

The Pavol Dobšinský Primary School in Rimavská Sobota participates in the Green School project and from the last year its pupils have been intensively sorting and recycling waste. They can choose from several optional courses, one of them is environmental education. It is intended for pupils of the second stage of primary school and this year 28 pupils attend it. During a school year students collect up to 30 tons of paper. Beverage cartons (Tetra Pak) they have been collecting for one year and up till now they have collected 200 thousand pieces. They collect also plastic bottles and kitchen waste they use for compost.

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Inquiry of Envirofilm 2005

Zuzana Smatanová: Nature is very inspiring for me

“Nature of my native region – and nature at all, is very inspiring for me, its peace is irreplaceable. I clean my ideas and gain energy in nature...” - says the most popular Slovak singer at present Zuzana Smatanová. In 2003, she won the Coca Cola Pop Star competition, released the debut album (now very successful) Entirely Good with 13 songs of her own (music and texts, Slovak and English) and became “the discovery” of the year. Last year in the “Nightingale” she was among the five best and in Grand Prix Radio 2004 she became the winner in the category of female singer. This year she won the Aurel award for the best woman’s performance in 2004 and OTO 2004 in the category of female singer that is awarded to most popular personalities of the TV screen. She plays guitar, composes songs and sings them alive.

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Last mountain gorillas?

Adrian Warren exclusively for Enviromagazín

A biologist, commercial pilot, photographer and film maker Adrian Warren was working for BBC in many countries of the world as a cameraman and producer. At present, he has been working under the patronage of his own company. During 30 years of travelling, photographing and filming of wild animals and anthropological researches he saw many changes that took place on the Earth. The objective of his company is to document and archive the disappearing natural world. His personal archive of photographs contains about one hundred thousand pictures of wild animals, countries, and people. His pictures are published all over the world in books, magazines, calendars, posters, postcards In the article he writes about the life of gorillas from their oldest times 20 million years ago up till now. The article originated on the basis of his personal experiences as a filmmaker, besides other also during shooting the competing film of Envirofilm 2005 The gorillas of my grandfather.

(page 32-34)

Competing film of Envirofilm 2005

The gorillas of my grandfather (Austria), direction and production Adrian Warren and Harald Pokieser

In 1902, the German army captain Robert von Beringe shot a mysterious black creature while climbing an unexplored volcano in Central Africa. From this incidental encounter, a dramatic story began to unfold. The creature was a newly discovered species, a mountain gorilla. Decades of conflicts and tragedies followed before the terrifying icon of King Kong was shown to be a myth by researchers such as George Schaller and Diana Fossey. Hundred years after the discovery, Robert's grandson, Andreas von Beringe, sets out on a journey to retrace his grandfather's adventures and to reveal the whole story of the mountain gorilla.

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Enviro(i)forum

An information about the 1st conference focused on the presentation of environmental information availability and use of information technologies in their processing. The organisers of the conference are the Slovak Environmental Agency in Banská Bystrica and the Technical University in Zvolen and it will be held on 15 – 17 June 2005 at the Technical University in Zvolen.

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Editor's Office: SAŽP, Tajovského 28, 975 90 Banská Bystrica,
tel./fax: ++421-48-4230 694, tel. 4713718

e-mail: enviro@sazp.sk.

Editor in Chief: Miroslav Tončík

Editor: Alena Kostúriková

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