

# ENVIROMAGAZÍN

## Special edition 1/ 2004

*Issued on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Films, TV Programmes and Video Programmes ENVIROFILM 2004 focused on environmental protection and improvement.*

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### **László Miklós – Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic**

#### ***Slovakia's entry in the European Union – the main motive of the 10th ENVIROFILM***

The Minister of Environment of SR rates the international festival ENVIROFILM as a positive and valuable instrument of environmental education. He reminds that historical entry of Slovakia in the European Union became the main motive of the jubilee festival, which takes place within the traditional event - Environmental Spring.

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### **Alena Kostúriková / SEA Banská Bystrica**

#### ***Miroslav Tončík: ENVIROFILM has good international reputation, but more than a success it is a commitment for us***

Miroslav Tončík, the General Director of the Slovak Environmental Agency, evaluates events from the birth of the festival in 1995 up to this year's jubilee festival. From the point of view of the festival's position and profile, he considers ENVIROFILM the most significant festival of its type in Slovakia, with a good international reputation. ENVIROFILM is a member of the network of European environmental festivals ECOMOVE International that was established in Banská Bystrica during Envirofilm 2002. Besides ENVIROFILM it includes festivals from Portugal, Germany, Czech Republic, Russia and Japan.

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### ***Inquiry***

#### ***ENVIROFILM is a meeting place of people who have not lost a sense for environmental interests of mankind***

Several outstanding ENVIROFILM participants contributed to the inquiry of the jubilee 10th ENVIROFILM – jury members, filmmakers, artists, mayors of festival cities and others. The beginning of the inquiry belongs to the first jury chairman, the Czech film director Otakar Skalski, who was the jury member in 1996, 1997, 1999 and also this year. He is remembering the beginnings of the festival and acknowledges his love not only for ENVIROFILM but also for Slovakia that entered in his heart long ago, when he was coming here as a tramp and climber and later on as the film maker.

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### **Katarína Javorská / international jury member**

#### ***ENVIROFILM 2004 or what the international jury has seen***

The author of the article, who, as the chairwoman of the pre-selection committee has seen all films, evaluates their quality. She writes about positive facts, does not evade criticism of films and their authors and also of the Slovak Television that sent no film to the competition. The pre-selection committee selected 30 films that will be judged before the festival by the international film jury.

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### ***The competition film of ENVIROFILM 2004***

#### ***Viva Aqua (Slovakia)***

8-minute long fabulous story made on the motives of drawings from the last year's children's art competition Green World. Jarmila Rusinková, the film director, has made this animated cartoon on the basis of almost 200 drawings of small artists, the main topics of which was water.

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### **Jozef Dupej / SEA Deputy General Director**

#### ***Festival reminiscences of the ENVIROFILM X***

Recollections of the beginnings of ENVIROFILM in Banská Bystrica, people, who were at its birth, course of events connected with the first festival, creation of logo and the grand prix of the festival. The plaque „A Bird's Wing“ by the sculptor Mikuláš Palko was the grand prix of all previous nine festivals. The author of the article expresses the idea and conviction that ENVIROFILM will remain an opportunity for people who care about the world around them. „I hope and believe that while Acts X will stay for ever X, ENVIROFILM X will be in ten years ENVIROFILM XX with the visit rate XXL“, the SEA's Deputy General Director says at the end of the article.

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### **Martina Badidová / Greenpeace**

#### ***Slovakia has a unique chance to help whales***

Whales, the intelligent biggest animals that ever lived at the Earth are on the brink of total extinction. Slovakia also can significantly contribute to the world-wide conservation of whales, in spite of the fact that it has no sea. Any country can become the member of the International Whaling Commission (IWC, 1949), which, as the only in the world, decides about whales' fate. The author of the article, the coordinator of the Greenpeace project „Let's save whales“ presents in the article the International Whaling Commission, its history and activity, which, in the first decades of its existence, did not focus on whales protection but on

the maximum exploitation of whales stock. At present, countries striving for the cancellation of moratorium on whale-fishery (came into force in 1986) and those that want to preserve it are the members of the Commission. Keeping moratorium in force is the last opportunity to save whales from extinction.

(page 8 – 9).

***World's premiere in Banská Bystrica***

***The competition film of ENVIROFILM 2004 – The Dance of Blue Angels***

The Czech film maker Steve Lichtag introduced himself to the festival audience for the first time three years ago. He became well-known by the films Moray III – the Ugly Beauty, The Dust of Fish Traps and mainly by the story about the great white shark Carcharias – The Great White. In 2002 and 2003 he was the member of the international jury. This year he participates for the first time in ENVIROFILM's film competition. In the world's premiere he will present his film The Dance of Blue Angels, a story of whales and physically handicapped Veronika, who is escaping through her drawings of whales and sea from the difficult reality of life to the world of blue angels.

***Anna Gudzová / SEA Banská Bystrica***

***Children always find original solutions enchanting professionals***

A report from the jury meeting of the international competition of children's and youth's artistic creativity Green World that takes place during Envirofilm for the ninth time already. The main theme of this year's Green World was „The Country of My Dreams“. The jury was evaluating more than 3000 works (drawing, painting, graphics, animated cartoon and photography) sent by children from Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Austria, Czech Republic and India and recommended to award 31 prizes.

(page 10).

***Jaroslav Uhel / Chairman of the Green World's jury***

***Humility and spontaneous joy***

This year the subject of the Green World was landscape. Landscape filled with spontaneity and marked with humility of its creators. Landscape full of life, landscape of wonderful dreams, possibilities and desires.... “When evaluating the works we can state that Green World retains its stable level of quality, what is very good and encouraging. It is a satisfaction and liability as well”. The significance of this competition does not follow only from the fact that it is a certain type of a ritual but also from the fact that it has double mission.

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***Inquiry***

***Jaroslav Uhel, artist, pedagogue, chairman of the Green World's jury***

In previous ten years ENVIROFILM became for me a school, experience and challenge. I appreciate the existence of Green World competition and the possibility to present my posters and design works at ENVIROFILM. During ten years of its existence ENVIROFILM brought me expectations, disappointments, surprises and also new hopes and a pleasure.

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**Dagmar Rajčanová / main dramaturgist of the festival, SEA**  
***ENVIROFILM today – the reputable international festival***

The author of the article emphasizes the international significance of the festival. The first step was the cooperation with the Italian festival of documentary films focused on national parks and protected landscape areas, which takes place for almost 20 years in Sondrio. In 1998, the film *The River of My Dreams* (produced by the Slovak Environmental Agency, director and photographer Ladislav Czukas) won a prize. Some international jury members from Sondrio, among them the Mayor of the city, became regular guests of Envirofilm. The article brings also information about the objectives of the association Ecomove International, the member of which also Envirofilm is.  
(page 12-13).

***Competition film of Envirofilm 2004***  
***Grizzly (Germany)***

The documentary made by the director Andreas Kieling, produced by ZDF television, takes the audience to Kamchatka, to observe, together with filmmakers, the life of grizzly bears. Although this animal, because of its height and strength, raises respect, filmmakers managed to get to its close vicinity without any problems.

**Štefan Vraštiak / Slovak Film Institute, Bratislava**  
***Landscape and people in films of the Slovak Film Institute's archive***

Projection of films from the Slovak Film Institute's archive became a traditional component part of Envirofilm. This year, archive films focus on environment – the film *Man's Roots in the Country of his Life* and on life of people at regions of the Slovak National Uprising – the film *Earth Sprinkled with Blood*. Landscape and people are also reflected in the cycle of feature films for children and youth.  
(page 14 – 15)

**Tomáš Kizek / SEA**  
***Festival comes to life every year thanks to the high visit rate of children and youth***

ENVIROFILM is not only the film competition but it also provides floor for other competition and presentation activities for children and youth. The author of the article presents successful festival events, exhibitions, competitions, games. In 1998 such event was, for example, the workshop „How to Proceed in Environmental Education“, which culminated by the exchange of ideas named „ŠIŠKA“. In the same year for the first time during the festival, the oldest national nature competition of primary schools pupils „Learn and Protect the Nature of Your Country“ culminated. The nature protection activity „Let's Save the Ant-Hill“ was the symbol of the seventh Envirofilm.  
(page 16-17)

**Katarína Kosková / SEA Banská Bystrica**  
***Travelling through EU countries***

An invitation for students to wander in EU countries. During this competition participants can acquaint themselves with nature and landscape protection in EU, its nature potential, history, culture and curiosities.  
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**Ingrid Krištofová / SEA**

***Environmental sector of Slovakia, the component part of environmental Europe***

The accompanying exhibition of ENVIROFILM 2004 provides many information about environment, and activities of individual organisations of the Ministry of Environment of SR.  
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***Envirofilm 1996-2004***

***Festival's come-backs***

A brief statistics of ten Envirofilms. Films, juries, accompanying events.  
(page 18-21)

**Mária Lásková / Literary-Musical Museum (LMM) B. Bystrica**

***"Splinters" of environmental awareness in the works of outstanding personalities of the Slovak culture***

This accompanying event of ENVIROFILM is an invitation to the exhibition about the history of Banská Bystrica, about interesting musical instruments and historical documents. The author of the article presents the Bible by Martin Luther from 1555, the second volume of Notitie Hungariae novae historico-geographica by Matej Bel from 1736 and also the novel by Peter Kováčik about the life and work of Jozef Dekret-Matejovie „The Saint from Handle“.  
(page 22-23)

**Jana Borguľová / LMM B. Bystrica**

***Natives of Čierny Balog***

An interview with Peter Kováčik, the author of the book The Saint from Handle. The writer as well as his main hero come from the village of Čierny Balog.  
(page 24-25)

**Inquiry**

***Anton Hykisch, writer, diplomat, jury chairman of the literary competition The Earth for Everybody. (2002, 2004)***

The international festival ENVIROFILM wants to help people in seeing and hearing the hidden space, hidden wealth of our planet, our native country.  
(page 25)

**Katarína Javorská / Union of Slovak TV Programmes Makers**

***Seminar "Film and Environment" or a few words about the power of mass media***

The task of this year's international seminar on problems of environmental audio-visual works is to answer, for example, the question whether the media are powerful enough also in case of films about environment. Seminar participants will also ask questions: what type of audience is interested in environmental films, can these topics attract also the youngest generation, how films are used after the festival, etc. Seminar participants will probably be interested also in the information what are plans of the Slovak Television in this important field of work.

### *Inquiry*

**Katarína Javorská, newspaperwoman, publicist, member of the Union of Slovak TV Programmes Makers**

How do I evaluate this festival? The film projection is of a high standard. I am missing film distribution in other Slovak cities and television. I also think that more discussions between the state administration and wide public concerning topical environmental issues should be organised.  
(page 26)

### *Inquiry*

**Jozef Klinda, MoE SR:** Not only in our country we speak about the requirement „to build a house and plant a tree“. Majority of us have in mind our own house and our own cherry-tree or, say a lime-tree of freedom. However, this need has much deeper significance. It is a symbol of creation – a cultural message for each of us. For me, ENVIROFILM means one brick in the house and one branch in the tree.

**Ján Králik, Mayor of Banská Bystrica:** ENVIROFILM, during ten years of its existence, became an inseparable part of cultural activities in Banská Bystrica. The festival is interesting for filmmakers and experts and attractive for audience.

**Dušan Hanák, a film director, international jury chairman (2003):** I understand ENVIROFILM in our cultural context as an activity supporting and developing the quality of life. I see its future and perspective in active cooperation with similar festivals in abroad.  
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### **Peter Jančura**

***Three topics about a landscape or a wider context of ENVIROFILM***

Within the 10th ENVIROFILM the international conference Landscape-Man-Culture will be held. It is a continuation of the 8-year tradition of meetings of various experts, landscape ecologists, architects, ethnologists, historians and also mayors of towns and villages and representatives of the state administration. This year's conference will focus on the subject „Landscape Significance for Sustainable Tourism“.  
(page 28-29)

### *Inquiry*

**František Urban – President of Ecomove International, Czech Republic**

I rate ENVIROFILM very highly. It has an excellent organisation and you can see everywhere the support of governmental bodies, what makes the existence of the festival easier.

**Ol'ga Lauková, Director of the State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica, the member of the festival committee (1995-1999):**

I will never forget one of the first winning films of ENVIROFILM “Sofrosyne” from Sweden. It was a wonderful experience. Those, who saw the film, cannot stay indifferent. If we shall not take care of the Earth and its future, consequences can be catastrophic. This film gave me strength and also hope that the work I was doing with a team of colleagues makes a sense.

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### **Ján M. Barica /UN University, Hamilton, Canada**

***Environment at the threshold of the new century***

Ján Barica, the native of Slovakia, a scientist, living since 1969 in Canada, is a regular visitor of Envirofilm during the last years. In the article he analyses the issue of water from the universal point of view. He asks and at the same time answers questions: What is going on with our planet? How much water do we have? On the example of Large Lakes he describes ecological surprises and the most important tasks we have to solve according to the World's Water Forum.

(page 32-34)

***Competition film of ENVIROFILM 2004  
The Water Thinking (Czech Republic)***

Searching for reasons of catastrophic floods in 1997 and 2002 with beautiful sights of water level, play of light and shadow. Water surface was the first mirror, in which a man saw himself, this was a long time ago. Water reflects our technocratic and short-sighted behaviour towards landscape and towards the reality around us. The film by the Czech director Tomáš Škrdlant.

***ENVIROFILM 2004 in Banská Štiavnica***

The outline of programmes and events taking place in Banská Štiavnica during ENVIROFILM. Many of them are intended for children and youth.  
(page 35).

***Competition film of ENVIROFILM 2004  
Dalirium (Spain)***

A fantasy of images and music by the Spanish director Leandro Blanco. The author has been inspired by the work of Salvador Dali. Although not a single word resounds in the film, the impression is unforgettable.

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