

A FILM BY HAJNI KIS

WILD ROOTS

WITH GUSZTÁV DIETZ
& ZORKA HORVÁTH

M-APPEAL presents WILD ROOTS with the support of the HUNGARIAN NATIONAL FILM INSTITUTE INCUBATOR PROGRAM, SLOVAK AUDIOVISUAL FUND and MINORITY CULTURE FUND SLOVAKIA a PROTON CINEMA production in co-production with MPHILMS, VISIONTEAM and POST OFFICE FILMS
cast GUSZTÁV DIETZ, ZORKA HORVÁTH, ÉVA FÜSTI MOLNÁR and VIKTOR KASSAI | Screenwriter FANNI SZÁNTÓ, HAJNI KIS | Cinematographer ÁKOS NYOSZOLI | Music OLEG BORSOS
Production Designer ANNA NYITRAI | Costume Designer ILKA GILIGA | Sound Designer DÚŠAN KOZÁK | Editor VANDA GORÁČZ
Executive Producer VIKTÓRIA PETRÁNYI Co-Producer MÁTYÁS PRIKLER, ZORA JAUROVÁ | Producer JÚLIA BERKES, BALÁZS ZACHAR | Director: HAJNI KIS



A man and a woman are at a DJ booth. The woman on the left is wearing a blue jacket and a tiara. The man on the right is wearing a dark suit and is looking down at the DJ equipment. The background is dark with a shower of blue and white confetti falling. A large black speaker is visible behind the man.

WILD ROOTS

A film by Hajni Kis

Hungary - 2021 - 1.85 - 5.1 - 98 min

Logline

A father and daughter set off on a journey of discovery and forgiveness

Synopsis

When Niki finds out that her father is in town after being released from prison, she disobeys her grandmother's fierce objections and meets him in secret. Faced with his 12-year-old daughter, Tibor is forced to confront his role as a father and finally take responsibility. After 7 years without contact, the father and daughter get to know each other, whilst realising their strong connection and how powerful forgiveness can be.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have wanted to make a film about a complicated father-daughter relationship for a very long time. What played a big part in this desire is that my relationship with my father wasn't always trouble-free. When I was little, he disappeared from our lives for a long while, which was a difficult period, but much of this I couldn't process at such a young age. The story of the film is heavily inspired by my own life.

Since then, I have worked through these experiences, and perhaps that is the reason why I can define so clearly the emotional processes that went down within me. I hope that my story can provide help to others in processing their own personal traumas; acceptance of each other and forgiveness are unavoidable practices that emerge in most families in parent-child relationships, in one way or another. In this film I try to portray these processes from a very personal perspective and I try to understand how do parent and child reach the moment of facing the past and take responsibilities for their actions. How do we accept our fate, that we can't change, going back for the most part, and how do we learn to own it.

These are the paths that our drifting, strong-willed protagonists follow as well. The ex-convict father, Tibor, who can't keep his temper at bay and therefore stands in constant conflict with his surroundings. His stubborn, unruly daughter, Niki, who is brave enough to dive into the world of nightlife security guards just to meet her long-lost father again. What drives her is the basic human need to learn about her life, her past that actively affects her present.

Hajni Kis

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Born in 1990, Hungarian director and scriptwriter, Hajni Kis first studied philosophy before moving on to film. Hajni graduated from the University of Theatre and Film Arts (Budapest, Hungary) as a director.

She has won numerous awards with her short films entitled "Last Call" and "Beautiful Figure". The latter was nominated for the Student Academy Award and has been invited to more than a hundred film festivals all over the world. Her graduation movie, "Last Call" has also participated in prestigious film festivals such as the Sarajevo Film Festival winning the Heart of Sarajevo for Best Student Film Award in 2018; in addition, ARTE and, also HBO have broadcasted it.

She recently finished her first feature film with the title, "Wild Roots" as part of the First Feature program of the National Film Institute, Hungary. The film was already awarded at Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, and it won the main prize for the best "Work in Progress" film.



Filmography

- 2021: Wild Roots '98
- 2018: Last Call '27
- 2016: Beautiful Figure '16
- 2014: 2nd Floor '20
- 2013: Beauties '7



PRODUCERS

Born 1983, **Julia Berkes** is a Hungarian producer based in Budapest. After graduation at the University of Theatre and Film Arts Budapest and at the Eötvös Loránd University, she started working at Proton Cinema, as a line producer, where she made several international feature films. Since 2009 she produces her own films, starting with a handful of shorts like "On a Lower Level" by director Gábor Reisz, and the 2014 EFA nominee "Wall" by director Simon Szabó. She also produced a cult hit feature entitled "For Some Inexplicable Reason" (2014); one of the most respectable blockbusters in Hungary, with 13 international prizes. Helping upcoming filmmakers, mainly new voices in Hungarian Cinema, is a perfect way for Julia to find young talents. In EAVE 2016 Producer's workshop she participated with the 2nd feature film of Gábor Reisz, called "Bad Poems", which became a box office hit in Hungary and won 16 awards.

Balázs Zachar graduated in history and communications in Budapest in 1998, and got a law degree in 1999. From 2003, he worked for the Hungarian Ministry of Culture where he coordinated the preparation of the Film Law. From 2011, he was the head of legal and EU affairs at the Hungarian Film Fund where he got hands-on experience in film financing and the operation of film funds. In 2016, he joined Pioneer Stillking Films, as head of business affairs, and he co-produced the company's own feature film "Budapest Noir" (2017). From 2018 he works in several projects with Proton Cinema. "Wild Roots" is his first feature as producer. He is a graduate of EAVE Producers' Workshop of 2018.

CREDITS

Directed by: Hajni Kis

Written by: Fanni Szántó, Hajni Kis

Production company: Proton Cinema

Producer: Júlia Berkes, Balázs Zachar

Coproducers: Mátyás Prikler, Zora Jaurová

Cinematographer/DoP: Ákos Nyoszoli

Production Designer: Anna Nyitrai

Costume Designer: Ilka Giliga

Editor: Vanda Gorácz

Sound Editor/Mix: Dušan Kozák

Composer: Oleg Borsos

Supported by: Hungarian National Film Institute Incubator Program,
Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Minority Culture Fund Slovakia

Cast: Gusztáv Dietz, Zorka Horváth, Éva Füstí Molnár, Viktor Kassai



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