



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION
UN CERTAIN REGARD

Caravan

a film by Zuzana Kirchnerová

Producers



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Co-Producers

t e m p e  t a



Slovak Television and Radio

Amygdala Pictures



/ Powered
by MVM

Caravan

CAST

ESTER Aňa Geislerová
DAVID David Vodstrčil
ZUZA Juliána Brutovská

CREW

DIRECTOR Zuzana Kirchnerová
WRITER Zuzana Kirchnerová
Tomáš Bojar
Kristina Májová
CINEMATOGRAPHY Simona Weisslechner
Denisa Buranová
SOUND RECORDIST Klára Javoříková
PRODUCTION DESIGN Cristina Bartoletti
COSTUME DESIGN Zuzana Mazáčová
MAKE-UP Martina Janotová
GAFFER Rost Vasylyev
Jiří Navrátil

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1 st AD Petr Samec
David Strangmüller
EDITOR Adam Brothánek
MUSIC Aid Kid
Viera Marinová
SOUND DESIGN & SOUND MIX Martin Ženíšek
Michal Deliopoulos
COLOR GRADING David Koubík
CASTING Maja Hamplová
Léa Gazzurra
LINE PRODUCER Zuzana Jankovičová
Michele Saragoni
PRODUCERS Dagmar Sedláčková
Jakub Viktorín
CO-PRODUCERS Tempesta
Czech Television
Slovak Television and Radio
Amygdala Pictures
innogy

Caravan



Caravan

Technical Data

Running Time:	102 min
Original Language:	Czech, Italian, Slovak, English
Subtitles Language:	English
Shooting Format:	HD
Screening Format:	DCP
Aspect / ratio	1.85:1
Pictures/sec:	24 fps
Colour:	colour
Sound Format:	5.1 (Linear PCM, 48 kHz, 24 bit) Stereo 2.0 (Linear PCM , 48 kHz, 24 bit)

Further Data

Genre:	Road-movie, Drama-Romance
Production Country:	Czech Republic, Slovakia, Italy
Shooting Locations:	Italy, Czech Republic
Shooting Period:	May-October 2023
Completion:	April 2025
Production:	MasterFilm (CZ), nutprodukcia (SK)
Co-producers:	Tempesta, Česká televize Slovenská televízia a rozhlas Amygdala Pictures, innogy
Executive Producer:	Aňa Geislerová

DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF THE FILM SUPPORTED BY



Caravan



Caravan


LOGLINE

Overwhelmed by motherhood, Ester steals a caravan and flees to southern Italy with her son David with an intellectual disability. They meet a young drifter whose open heart transforms their makeshift family into something freer, lighter, and full of unexpected hope.

SYNOPSIS

Ester, 45, has devoted her life to caring for her son David, who has Down syndrome and autism. Their bond is fierce—but so is her exhaustion. While visiting friends in Italy, tensions rise—David's behaviour unsettles the household, and they're asked to sleep in a caravan. That night, Ester takes off. In the old camper winding through southern Italy, Ester dares to want more from life. But David begins to change too—gradually opening up to the world, and to Zuza, a vibrant drifter who becomes their companion. Together, the trio discovers a fragile joy, a new rhythm, and the possibility of freedom.

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The theme of *Caravan* is deeply personal to me. My son was born with Down syndrome and later also developed autism. However, the story of *Caravan* is not autobiographical in its plot. What resonates with my personal experience is the desire to escape—the longing to rebel against the role that is

often imposed on the mother of a disabled child. This theme of rebellion is reflected in the choice of genre. For me, the road movie is the most vivid expression of Ester's urgent and aggressive longing to live.

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I wanted to make a film that offers hope, despite its heavy subject matter—a film infused with lightness and humour, albeit of a bittersweet kind. I was drawn to the character of Ester for two reasons. She is a strong, adult woman—not a young girl

still trying to find herself. Ester is searching for a new direction in life, but her search is not the trial-and-error of adolescence. It is the profound, existential journey of a middle-aged woman and mother, shaped by responsibility and care.

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

From the very beginning of the project, I knew we had to cast a neurodivergent actor in the role of David—not only to play the character, but to bring his own presence to the film through improvisation. His influence extended to the other actors and even to the crew. It was essential that he not be reduced to

a magical or eccentric figure, but be portrayed as a fully realized character with agency—someone who could shape the narrative. I aimed to develop a unique cinematic language for his character, so that the audience could experience the world through his perspective.

Caravan



Zuzana Kirchnerová

Bába

2008, short film, Cinéfondation award

Four Of Us

2013, docuserie

The Magnificent Five

2018, docuserie

Hospitals in the Front Line

2020, docuserie

Zuzana Kirchnerová graduated from FAMU and the Faculty of Law at Charles University. Her graduation film *Bába* won first prize in the Cinéfondation section at the 62nd Cannes Film Festival.

In recent years, she has focused primarily on documentary filmmaking. As both director and screenwriter, she has worked on several acclaimed documentary series for Czech Television, including *Four of Us*, *The Magnificent Five*, and *Hospital on the Front Line*. She also directed several standalone documentaries, such as *Marie in Her Head* and *Ambassadors of Baroque Music*.

Zuzana is the writer and director of the feature film *Caravan*. The screenplay received the award of *Filmová Nadace*/Film Foundation, won one of the top prizes at the prestigious Torino Feature Lab, and was selected for the Cannes Film Festival's L'Atelier program.

She has worked as a script consultant for the Pop Up Film Residence and also as a script consultant she contributed to the animated feature *Tony, Shelly and the Magic Light*, which has received numerous international awards.

Zuzana teaches in the directing department at FAMU Prague. She is currently filming a miniseries for Oneplay about the life of writer Simona Monyová.

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Aňa Geislerová

Aňa Geislerová is a Czech internationally award winning actress whose work has earned acclaim both at home and abroad. Her powerful performance in *Happiness* earned her prestigious Concha de Plata at the San Sebastián Film Festival in 2005, and she has since received numerous accolades, including five Czech Lion Awards. Aňa was honored as a Berlinale Shooting Star and received the Angela Award at the Subtitle Film Festival in Kilkenny.

She is known by international audiences for her role in the historical thriller *Anthropoid*, where she starred alongside Cillian Murphy and Jamie Dornan, as well as for her performance in the acclaimed UK television series *The Ipcress File*, alongside Joe Cole and Tom Hollander. This year, she appears in two major film projects. *Caravan*, directed by Zuzana Kirchnerová, is premiering in the Un Certain Regard section at the Cannes Film Festival. The second film, *Pramen*, directed by Ivan Ostrochovský, features her alongside Vlad Ivanov. Aňa also serves as executive producer on both

films, further showcasing her creative versatility. She also completed filming *&Sons*, directed by Pablo Trapero, which is now in post-production.

Aňa recently joined the L'Oréal family as an ambassador—an honor she holds with pride, and is thrilled to walk the red carpet at Cannes.

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David Vodstrčil

David Vodstrčil is an active young man, almost 18 years old, who loves sports, music, and spending time with his friends. He attends a special sports class for children with Down syndrome, where he trains in athletics every day and regularly competes in international competitions—already bringing home several medals.

David is a big fan of the bands Kiss and Queen, plays the drums, and can spend hours immersed in anti-stress coloring books.

The role of David in *Caravan*, a feature film by Zuzana Kirchnerová, marks his acting debut. He was chosen from more than 150 children who auditioned across the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

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Juliána Brutovská

Juliána Brutovská is a Slovak actress who studied acting at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava under the guidance of Emília Vášáryová and Zuzana Kronerová. Since 2016, she has been a member of the City Theatre in Žilina, where she continues to build a strong stage presence. Alongside her theatre work, she has appeared in a wide range of films and documentaries. Her film credits include *Želary* (2003, dir.

Ondřej Trojan), the anthology *Slovakia 2.0* (2014), *Eva Nová* (2015, dir. Marko Škop), *Johanna's Mystery* (2015, dir. Juraj Nvota), *Filthy* (2017, dir. Tereza Nvotová), *Nightsiren* (2022, dir. Tereza Nvotová), and *Caravan* (2025, dir. Zuzana Kirchnerová). She has also worked in documentary film, notably in *New Life* (2012, dir. Adam Ol'ha) and *Once I Got In, It Was Hard to Get Out* (2024, dir. Nora Štrbová).

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COMPANY'S PROFILE

MasterFilm

MasterFilm is Prague based production company dedicated to developing and producing auteur-driven fiction, creative documentaries and international co-productions. We work across formats, with focus on distinctive directorial voices and films that are both artistically driven and socially engaged.

Recent projects include *A Sensitive Person* by Tomáš Klein (Main Competition, Karlovy Vary IFF 2023) and *The Kramný Case* (2024), a true-crime docuseries directed by Petr Hátle, which became a top-performing title on OnePlay, the leading Czech streaming platform.

We also support short-form work, including *Reconstruction* by Ondřej Novák (Locarno 2018, European Film Award nomination) and *Fruits of Clouds*, an animated short by Kateřina Karhánková (Annecy 2017), which has screened at over 250 festivals worldwide. Our recent minority co-productions include *Butterfly Vision* directed by Maksym Nakonechnyi (Un Certain Regard, Cannes 2022), and *The Editorial Office* by Roman Bondarchuk (Forum, Berlinale 2024).

We are currently developing *Bodies*, a new feature by Zuzana Kirchnerová, based on the acclaimed novel by Czech author Klára Vlasáková.

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COMPANY'S PROFILE

nutprodukcja

The company's editorial line is defined by high quality projects rich in audience appeal, artistic originality, and international potential. Nutprodukcja recently completed the film Victim (2022) by Michal Blaško, which was part of the program of prestigious festivals such as Venice, Toronto or Busan or animation feature film Tony, Shelly and the Magic Light (2023) by Filip Pošivač that won Jury Prize in Contrechamp competition in Annecy.

The company co-produced short film Love Dad (2021), which in addition to numerous awards from various festivals, received a nomination from the European Film Academy in the Best Short Film category, or Icelandic-Slovak-French co-production Solitude premiered at TIFF, or Spoor (2017) by Agnieszka Holland, which won the Silver Bear at the Berlinale.

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COMPANY'S PROFILE

Tempesta

Tempesta was founded by Carlo Cresto-Dina in 2009, after years spent producing films under the umbrella of major production companies in Italy and London.

Tempesta has produced all of Alice Rohrwacher's feature films, *Corpo Celeste* (Quinzaine des Réalisateurs Cannes 2010), *Le Meraviglie* (Jury Grand Prix Cannes 2014), *Lazzaro Felice* (Best Script Cannes 2018), *La Chimera*, (Cannes 2023 International Competition) as well as the short films *De Djess* (Miu Miu Women's Tales 2015) and *Le Pupille* (nominated for an Oscar in 2023).

Tempesta has produced all of Leonardo Di Costanzo's feature films, *L'Intervallo* (Venice 2012), *L'intrusa* (Quinzaine des Réalisateurs Cannes 2017) and *Ariaferma* (Venice 2021). In addition, there are numerous films by young European authors such as Chiara Bellosi's *Palazzo di giustizia* (Generation 14Plus Berlinale 2020), Margherita Vicario's *Gloria!* (Main Competition Berlinale 2024) and Irene Dionisio's *Le Ultime cose* (Settimana della Critica, Venezia 2014), selected and awarded at major international festivals.

TV projects include *Love Club* (Amazon 2023) and *Studio Battaglia*, an adaptation of the BBC series *The Split* for RAI.

Tempesta UK, the London branch of tempesta, produced *Wildfire*, the debut film by Irish director Cathy Brady (Toronto 2020).

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