

# SNAKE GAS

## PRODUCTION NOTES

Stanislav **Majer**

Martin **Pechlát**

Václav **Vašák**

Mara **Lukama**



Karlovy Vary  
International Film Festival  
Zvláštní uvedení

film **David** *Jařaba*

# HADÍ PLYN

*Cesta do temnoty lidské duše*

HRÁJÍ: STANISLAV MAJER, MARTIN PECHLÁT, VÁCLAV VAŠÁK, MARA LUKAMA, DALIBOR BUIŠ, BRIAN MOSNY, BRIAN CASPE, DANIEL FISCHER, JOVIAL MBENGA, ROBERT MIKLUŠ, TOMÁŠ JERÁBEK  
VÝKONNÝ PRODUCENT: RAFAELA RADOJČÍK, MŮŽKY: RIA PONTIKIS, KOSTYMY: SYLVA ZIMULA HANÁKOVÁ, STŘIH: JAN DANHEL, ZVUK: RICHARD MÜLLER, HŘUBKA: JAKUB KUOLÁČ, KAPROVODIČKY: ČESKÁ TELEVIZE, TPS ALENY MÜLLEROVÉ  
PRODUCENTI: VIKTOR SCHWARCZ, SILVIA PANAROVA, BOGDAN GEORGE APETRI, KAMERA: OLEG MUTU, SCÉNÁŘ: RĚŽE: VÝKONNÝ: DAVID JAŘABA

V KINECH OD 21. ZÁŘÍ 2023



ARINA  
film production



home media



of  
CINEMA  
FILM, TV



TOTALFILM

CinemArt

DESIGNED BY: JAN FOUKAR / POUKARDESIGN / 2023

## Filmic odyssey inspired by Joseph Conrad's iconic novel *The Heart of Darkness*



Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania / 2023 / 113 min

**Director:** David Jařab  
**Writer:** David Jařab  
**Photography:** Oleg Mutu  
**Music:** Jakub Kudláč  
**Editor:** Jan Daňhel  
**Costume:** Sylva Zimula Hanáková  
**Masks:** Ria Pontikis  
**Art Design:** David Jařab  
**Sound:** Richard Müller  
**Cast:** Stanislav Majer (*Robert Klein*), Václav Vařák (*Emanuel Klein*), Mara Lukama (*Saada*), Martin Pechlát (*Engel*), Dalibor Buř (*Aleř „Lobo“*), Braňo Mosný (*Rudolf*), Daniel Fischer (*Anton*), Brian Caspe (*driver*), Jovial Mbenga (*Amir*), Robert Mikluř (*fisherman NAG*), Tomář Jeřábek (*Ludvík*), Aneřka Kubátová (*secretary Unagi*), Tets Ohnari (*Hitachi*), Lea Čárska (*girl in camp - waitress*), Damian Odess-Gillet (*Nelson NAG*), Robert Polo (*Chadwick NAG*), Lenka Libjaková (*Michaela*), Jiří Černý (*Lochmann*), Duřan Hřebíček (*domovník*) Petr Marek (*Winkler*), Johana Matouřková (*officer NAG*), Nasi Motlagh (*chambermaid*), Agi Jókai (*Nikol*),  
**Producers:** Viktor Schwarcz – Cineart TV Prague  
Silvia Panáková – ARINA Film Production  
Bogdan George Apetri - The East Media Production  
**Co-Producers:** Czech Television – creative producer Alena Müllerová  
HomeMedia Production

The film *Snake Gas* was created with the support of Czech Film Fund and Slovak Audiovisual Fund.

## Log line

Filmic odyssey inspired by Joseph Conrad's iconic novel *The Heart of Darkness*.

## Brief synopsis

Robert Klein leaves his partner Saadu behind in France to return to Prague and find his stepbrother eventually somewhere in the Balkans. He is driven by the intuition that he will find him in those places where Europe is losing its contours and falling into its colonial past, limned by its xenophobic present. Robert Klein is forced to think about himself, his relationship to violence, sex, and the otherness of cultures. He is forced to confront his ego and eventually even accept its dark side.

## Detailed synopsis

A filmic odyssey about a trip into a closed zone on the border between the oriental and occidental worlds, into the core of emotional memory and the dark corners of the mind, into those places where the human need to surrender to nature comes into conflict with oneself, to bleed Nature of its soul and natural resources, and hunt or subjugate every living thing within Her. A parable about traveling to those places where the rules of civilization no longer apply, where reality oscillates between rationality and dreams. A parable about one's qualms regarding violence, about searching for a healthy and non-destructive relationship toward love and sexuality, about the willingness to come to an understanding in order to distinguish between who is a refugee and who an intruder. An adventure inspired by Joseph Conrad's novel *The Heart of Darkness*, about searching for oneself in the heart of the impenetrable "European wilderness", and an understanding of the necessity of mentally accepting responsibility for the consequences of European colonialism.



## Director's notes

Searching for natural gas in forbidden zones, like the confrontation with African refugees searching for a new place to live in Europe, may seem absurd at first glance, but is also deeply contemporary and real. In the original story, a white man penetrates the heart of the dark continent in order to subjugate it and its people and at the same time immerse himself in his own impenetrable darkness. In this new interpretation, the situation is reversed: Africa comes to the white continent in order to evoke various responses in people: fear, hatred, contempt – and also self-awareness. In the heart of impenetrable nature, the colonial concept of sanctimonious cultural expansion and illumination comes into conflict with a pragmatic defiance to any kind of penetration of disparate cultures. The voyage of Robert Klein into the heart of the shadowy side of the European soul is a deliberate one, and examines our deepest prejudices. His personality is a kind of metaphor of the necessity of Eastern Europe to reckon with its frustrations. His persona has within it a still deeply-rooted patriarchy and cultural superiority; at the same time, he is also aware of the need to alter these tendencies.



## David Jařab, director and screenwriter



Czech playwright and screenwriter, theatre and film director, stage designer, teacher at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. A graduate of the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts in theatre directing. He was the managing co-director of Hadvadlo Theatre in Brno (1993–1997), Komedie Theatre in Prague (2002–2012), and was the core director at Prague’s famed Divadlo na Zábřadlí Theatre (2018–2022). He has also directed plays at the National Theatre in Prague and the Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava. He is the writer/director of 4 feature films: *Vaterland – a Hunting Logbook* (2004), *Head–Hands–Heart* (2010), *Vratislav Effenberger – The Hunt of the Black Shark* (2019) and *Macbeth – Too Much Blood* (2022).

He has written some 50 original plays and adaptations for theatre, directed some 60 theatre plays, is the stage designer of more than 30 plays and short television and documentary films, and has taken part in a number of exhibitions in group shows by the Group of Czech-Slovak Surrealists.

### Contacts:

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