

107 Mothers won Best Screenplay Award of the Orizzonti Competition

Slovak-Czech-Ukrainian drama *107 Mothers* has been honored with the Best Screenplay Award of the Orizzonti Competition within the 78th Venice International Film Festival's awards ceremony. The film was co-produced by endorfilm and Hypermarket Film on the Czech side and it was supported by the Czech Film Fund.

On Saturday, the prize for Best Screenplay of the Orizzonti Competition was handed over to Ivan Ostrochovský (also the producer) and Peter Kerekes (also the director and a co-producer) who joined forces and wrote the script of *107 Mothers* together.

The film tells a story of Lesya who has committed a crime of passion which brings her a seven-year sentence in one of Odessa's women's correctional facilities. She has just given birth to her first child, and now she is entering a world populated only by women: inmates, nurses and wardens, women of all ages, wives and widows, daughters, sisters, pregnant women, and women with children. If not for the color of the uniform, it would sometimes be hard to tell who is who.

107 Mothers is Peter Kerekes' fiction feature debut. Established documentary director received nomination for the European Film Award for his documentary *Cooking History* (made in co-production with Czech company Negativ) in 2009. Another his doc, *Velvet Terrorists* (co-produced by Hypermarket Film and Czech Television), won the FEDEORA Award at the Karlovy Vary IFF and also caught the attention at the Berlinale's Forum, winning the Tagesspiegel Readers' Award.

The producer of this compelling drama is Slovak auteur Ivan Ostrochovský of Punkchart films who also co-wrote the screenplay. The co-production partners include established Czech production companies endorfilm (producer Jiří Konečný) and Hypermarket Film, Radio and Television of Slovakia (SK), Arthouse Traffic (UA) and Peter Kerekes Film (SK).

As a project in the making, the film received the Works in Progress Award at Karlovy Vary IFF 2017 (still under the title *Censor*). The film was also awarded the Sub-ti Award in the First Cut+ programme within Trieste's When East Meets West co-production market 2021, and it was supported by the Czech Film Fund, altogether with EUR 131 000.

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