

Name of the organisation: **Slovak Film Institute BRATISLAVA**

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In 2005 the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic incorporated the SFI National Film Archive (NFA) into the group of specialised public archives . The NFA collections constitute part of the national audiovisual heritage of the Slovak Republic.

### 1) Acquisitions of the year

With regard to acquisitions, for the NFA the SFI purchased materials with unlimited licence rights to the Slovak project *LETOPIŠ 2005* (which is a newsletter documenting all the most important Slovak political, economic and social events in 2005) on the following types of media: 35 mm negative film material; Digital BETACAM and DVD transcribed from the 35 mm negative; Digital BETACAM with a transcription of the copy of the mini DV recording; mini DV and DVD with recorded interviews; also one copy of the new Slovak documentary *Celebration of a Lonely Palm* (*Slávnosť osamelej palmy*) on Digital Betacam with licence rights for fifty years. For the Film Archive (FA) foreign collections, the SFI purchased a new polyester 35 mm combined film copy of the restored version of *Metropolis* together with licence rights up to 30 November 2009.

As part of the supplementation of the Slovak film fund with videofilms, in all 23 Slovak full-length feature films on BTC SP were purchased. In addition to purchases, the transcription of films from combined 35 mm film to the BTC SP medium was carried out for the purpose of supplementing the Slovak film fund with videofilms –in all, 54 full-length feature films and short documentaries, as well as 31 animated films, were added to the film fund.

As for the compulsory provision of new Slovak films which are made in private productions with state financial support, a total of six new Slovak full-length feature films on 35-mm prints were provided to the FA – *Two Syllables Behind* (*O dve slabiky pozadu*), *Unburied Dead* (*Nepochovaný mŕtvy*), *Wrong Side Up* (*Príbehy obyčajného šialenstva*), *City of the Sun* (*Slnečný štát*), *Terminal Station* (*Konečná stanica*), *Lunacy* (*Šílení*), two new Slovak short films on BTC SP – *The Parachute* (*Padák*), *Ball-Point Pen* (*Gul'ôčkové pero*), one new Slovak documentary on DVD and DVCAM – *Painted by Ernest Zmeták* (*Maľované Ernestom Zmetákom*).

Additions resulting from the renewal of film material from acetate to polyester material in 2004:  
– 14 Slovak full-length feature films on 35 mm film; 35 mm duplicate negative and duplicate positive prints; Digital BETACAM; BETACAM SP; VHS and 3 Slovak short films on 35 mm film; a 35 mm duplicate negative print; Digital BETACAM; BETACAM SP and VHS.

76 full-length feature and 300 short films were added to the fund of foreign 35 mm films.

## 2) Progress and problems in the field of preservation

### **Production of new film materials**

In 2005 the project for the Systematic Renewal of Audiovisual Heritage continued. It consists of the rescue of SFI FA film collections and transcription from acetate to polyester material. The Film Archive commenced this project in 2002.

The restoration in 2005 comprised the Historical Materials Fund, newsreels A Week in Film and several full-length feature and short films. The Historical Materials Fund belongs together with the newsreel fund (A Week in Film) to those extremely precious film materials which capture the real picture of the given era which must be preserved due to their value as a national cultural and historical legacy.

The entire production, including the transcription to videocassettes, was carried out in the Film Laboratories of the Bonton Zlín Studios which specialize in working with archive film material. They possess a new film immersion step copier "DEBRIE TAI Archive". The work was done under the special professional supervision of a SFI FA staff member who is responsible for supervising the technological laboratory procedure (assessment of the state of the individual materials, choice of the most suitable procedure for remedying defects and the method of production of the new combined print). The entire procedure included the inspection, cleaning and repair of the original material, production of a duplicate negative print, production of the new film print; subsequently the transcription to a digital and magnetic medium was carried out (Digital BETACAM, BETACAM SP, VHS). In compliance with the SFI's Terms of Reference, state-of-the-art types of film raw material were used in the production process, namely:

Black & white positive – KODAK 2302, black&white duplicate positive print – KODAK 2366, black&white duplicate negative print – KODAK 2234, colour inter-negative – KODAK 2242, colour positive – KODAK 2393

Specific renewal data for 2005 – altogether 1,147 films restored – 202,275 metres of 35 mm duplicate negative print and 428,580 metres of 35 mm positive print –of this:

- ***Slovak full-length feature films*** - 8 films – 21,146 metres;
- ***Slovak short films*** - 16 films – 5,410 metres;
- ***Historical Materials Fund*** - 295 unique films and fragments from the period 1895-1945 – 118,647 metres;
- ***newsreels "A Week in Film"*** – 816 films – 283,377 metres;
- **diagnostics of reproduction materials** – 12 films – 31,597 metres.

In compliance with the ethical principles generally applicable to working with archive materials, the Slovak Film Institute observed the FIAF ethical code and did not permit any new artistic intervention in the image or sound components of the newly created archive materials.

### **Preservation**

In 2005, the systemic repackaging of the Slovak full-length feature and short film fund from paper into plastic containers continued, including a full technical check. A professional technical check of full-length Slovak and foreign films was carried out in the course of the year, combined with cleaning of copies of films. 3,787 films were inspected in the course of the professional technical check.

### **Provision of services of the FA Department**

As part of distribution to the public and presentation at events all over Slovakia and abroad in 2005, the FA loaned Slovak and foreign full-length feature and short films (documentaries, animated films and newsreels) 880 times. While providing professional services for ordering clients and co-production contracting parties on the viewing table, Slovak archive shots from a total of 437 films were selected, which amounted to 133 hours for 18 users. 128 student

screenings were held in the FA cinema in the SFI building; of this number 20 films were screened for external customers.

#### **Completion of database and processing of funds**

In 2005, data of the Historical Materials Fund (254 records) were corrected and supplemented in the ARL database, 2,881 Slovak documentaries were processed and entered in the database.

#### **Video Library**

The video library makes new acquisitions, archives, processes the film fund and subsequently makes it accessible to the professional and general public on VHS/DVD media. The fund is divided into the collection of Slovak and foreign films – feature films, documentaries, distribution and television films, full-length and short films. The video library owns in the collection fund over 1,000 VHS cassettes with Slovak films and almost 9,000 VHS cassettes with foreign films, altogether almost 21,000 full-length feature films. The video library fund is regularly augmented by compulsory prints from Slovak producers, purchases of original media (VHS/DVD), selected recordings from available TV channels, gifts and transcriptions from 35 mm films.

The video library is exclusively for study; it is available only to the professional public, film-makers, students, journalists, teachers and the SFI staff.

Additions to the collection fund are entered in the computer database – EXCEL files compatible with the SK CINEMA system. The list of Slovak full-length feature films to which the SFI owns rights is published on the SFI website.

The collection of DVD films has expanded significantly. From 239 films in 2004 to 380 films in 2005, which is an increase of over 140 DVDs. Lists of DVDs for purchasing have been drawn up and put forward by the head of the department.

The trend should continue where DVDs will gradually replace VHS cassettes, with regard also to their incomparably higher quality and storageability. This perspective should allow the storage of additions to the collections in the video library at least over the next five years (at an estimated 500 new DVDs a year).

The most significant task in 2005 was to enter the entire fund of Slovak films into the computer database based on the register of new acquisitions. 1,048 VHS cassettes were entered, i.e. almost 2,500 films. A physical check of the films was carried out, and data on the technical condition of the recording added. As this task is demanding, the check will continue in 2006. The supplementation and completion of the Slovak film fund will also carry on (about 75 films are missing from the Slovak full-length feature film fund) and the fund will also be supplemented with the most important works of world cinematography, award-winning films, etc., especially Czech films which are co-created by Slovak film-makers.

### **3) Cataloguing, documentation and research**

#### **Documentation and library services**

In 2005, the Documentation Department acquired and processed photographs, stills, posters, distribution and production letters mainly for foreign films distributed in Slovakia, catalogues and bulletins from film festivals and shows and cards from the Film Overview (*Filmový prehľad*). The section further cut out, selected and classified clippings from the daily press and cultural monthlies. The heritage funds of deceased filmmakers from the Slovak cinematographic environment were fully processed. The process of the creation of a database of Slovak film animation was started. The staff of the Department collaborated in the compilation of the 2004 Film Yearbook (*Filmová ročenka 2004*). 110 filmographies of Slovak filmmakers were processed. The Department collaborated on the preparation of basic documents for the website on Slovak films [www.sfd.sfu.sk](http://www.sfd.sfu.sk).

In 2005, the photodocumentation services provided 97 scans of photographs and loaned 205 original photographs for 30 internal users and 481 scans of photographs for 32 external users. The collection of photography was extended by 289 photographs and the poster collection by 471 posters.

In 2005, the Registrar Centre and the SFI internal archive were built and effectively put into operation with regard to the development of the new Registrar Rules and the SFI plan in compliance with the new Archiving Law of 2002. At the same time press clippings were digitized: preparation for the digitization of newspaper and magazine clippings for reasons of protection and preservation, preparation of the bibliographical description of clippings, acquisition of experience with the digitization of textual documents for the possible digitization of other text materials (e.g. scripts), pilot work with the PC client in the ARL system.

### **Library**

The SFI library is a specialised library of filmological literature, the only one of its kind in Slovakia. Every year it makes a list of new additions of foreign books for the University Library in Bratislava (CEZL) thanks to which readers all over Slovakia are kept informed about the film book fund.

The library is open daily. 12,899 books were loaned: of these, 4,287 in the absence and 8,612 in the presence of the borrower. At the current time the library has 1,049 registered readers; compared with 2004, the number of readers increased by 146. In 2005, the library recorded 412 new additions (new books, CDs). In 2005, scripts started to be registered separately for the first time. By the end of 2005 there were 1,694 scripts in the library.

#### **4) Film showings, exhibitions and publications (a short summary)**

The SFI shows and manages one screening room, Kino FILMOTÉKA, in a complex of movie theatres in the centre of Bratislava. In 2005, 1,077 regular film screenings were carried out in the FILMOTÉKA screening room. Besides regular film screenings in this movie theatre, the SFI organises or co-organises film showings and seminars for professionals as well as for non-professionals and the public.

The Film Archive also offers its film copies for the presentation of the Slovak cinematographic heritage. The SFI organised and co-organised approximately 80 exceptional showings of Slovak films abroad (for more information see: 4) International Relations).

In addition, last year the SFI participated in the co-organisation and direct organisation of over thirty local film festivals, events and professional seminars.

The SFI cooperates closely with the Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Music and Performing Arts and it enables the Faculty's students and experts to gain access to film and documentation collections. Cooperation with the Association of Slovak Film clubs and support for alternative film festivals and festivals and showings in Slovakia and abroad are also extensive.

### **Publications**

The objective of the SFI Editions Department and its Edition Plan was to issue, or at least to a great extent complete, seven books by the end of 2005. *Kameraman Stanislav Szomolányi*, devoted to one of the most significant photographer personalities in the entire history of Slovak cinematography, was published in the Camera Obscura edition. Film publicist, Richard Blech, is the author of this book.

At the end of June 2005, after a long and complex editorial preparation by its two young authors, Viktória Matáková and Petra Hanáková, a profile of the Spanish director *Pedro Almodóvar* was

published. This was the second part of the Camera Obscura edition series focused on the most important directors of current European cinematography (the first was the profile of Yugoslav director Emir Kusturica; a portrait of the German filmmaker Wim Wenders will follow next).

The Slovak Film Institute also participated to a great extent as co-publisher in the preparation of the book of scripts of films by director Dušan Hanák *3 scénáře*, in association with Prague publishing house Lika Klub and the Slovak Institute in Prague.

In addition to the publications completed and issued, other works were in preparation, such as the *2004 Film Yearbook (Filmová ročenka 2004)*, *Juraj Jakubisko* (P. Michalovič, V. Zuska, Orbis Pictus edition), *Filmové profily* (R. Šmatláková, M. Šmatlák, factographic literature edition), *Straty a nálezy 2* (P. Branko), *Wim Wenders* (P. Gavalier, Camera Obscura edition), DVD Havetta Collection, etc.

In 2005 film periodical publishing continued and in all 12 issues of *Film.sk* monthly, a magazine about Slovak film ([www.filmsk.sk](http://www.filmsk.sk)), and two issues of the specialized periodical dedicated to film theory, history and film aesthetics, *Kino-Ikon*, were published.

As for other output of the Editions Department, the DVD with the Slovak films: *Pictures of the Old World* (*Obrazy starého sveta*, dir. Dušan Hanák – 2nd edition) and *The Bloody Lady* (*Krvavá pani*, dir. Viktor Kubal) should be mentioned.

The Editions Department traditionally has taken care of the promotion of film events organised by the Slovak Film Institute. Probably the most important and most representative promotional materials that were prepared and produced in the first half of the year with the assistance of the Editions Department were the Slovak Films 1993-2005 and the Slovak Film Guide, which presented Slovak cinematography and the Slovak audiovisual environment at Cannes IFF 2005, on the stand shared with representatives of Czech and Polish cinematography.

#### **5) Budgetary matters, relation with governmental authorities**

The total budget of the Slovak Film Institute for 2005: 22,828,000 EURO; 85% of this amount is contributed by the Slovak Ministry of Culture (parent body of SFI).

#### **6) International relations**

The SFI collaborated in the course of the year with foreign embassies and cultural institutions in Bratislava in the organisation of screenings of national cinematographies, and at the same time the PR Department worked towards programming and organising, as far as it was able, presentations of Slovak films abroad. By tradition, the full list of events forms part of the SFI Annual Report.

From the vast number of film screenings in 2005, we would like to mention the film retrospective of director *Juraj Jakubisko* in Trieste (Italy) in January 2005. All the full-length feature films of this director and several short films were screened. In Olomouc (Czech Republic) an extensive profile presentation of another significant Slovak director, *Peter Solan*, was organised. Within this presentation, the film and television works of this director were presented. An extensive retrospective of films by *Dušan Hanák* was held at the Summer Film Academy in Zwierzynek, Poland and at the prestigious Golden Horse Festival in Taipei, Taiwan.

A notable presentation of Slovak films, features and documentaries formed part of the “Slovak Culture Days in Helsinki” which was held in the most important Helsinki cinema centre, Bio Rex.

By far the most important event in 2005 was the Slovak Film Week in Beijing which took place on 17-23 October 2005 as the reciprocal event to the presentation of Chinese films in

Bratislava in November 2004. In addition to 7 full-length feature films, the event was also attended by a representative delegation of representatives of Slovak cinematography.

In November 2005, an event with a tradition already stretching back ten-years took place, namely the 5th Slovak Film Festival in Cran-Gevrier, France. In addition to full-length feature films, a 100-minute show of students' films was also shown. On this occasion the SFI provided copies of *The City of the Sun* and *Two Syllables Behind* with French subtitles.

With regard to festivals of animated film, Slovakia was notably represented at ANIFESTE in Třeboň, Czech Republic, as well as at an important festival of animated film in Ottawa, Canada.

One year after accession to the European Union, festivals and screenings focusing on the EU Member States continued. Slovakia was represented at several of them, namely in Cairo, Alexandria, Moscow, Toronto, Seoul in South Korea, in the three largest cities in Thailand, in several cities in South Africa and in Brazil.

Since April 2005 the agenda of the Film Events Departments (FED) has also included the organisation of local film events. The most important local event was the Russian Film Days on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War Two, which the whole world commemorated in May 2005. Besides the presentation of a programme of very high quality, the festival was also attended by a top-level delegation, i.e. the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation and the General Director of Mosfilm.

In 2005 the FED prepared and collaborated in 77 events with Slovak films abroad, which took place in 63 towns and cities in 27 states of the world.

## 7) Special

7a) As of 1 March 2005 the position of Director of the *National Cinematographic Centre* of the SFI has been filled for the first time. **The National Cinematographic Centre of the SFI** includes the Film Events Department, the Editions Department and Audiovisual Information Centre. It is in charge of concentrating and providing comprehensive information and services in relation to Slovak cinematography, presenting Slovak films at home and abroad, supporting events with foreign films in Slovakia and of publishing general and professional film publications within the SFI edition activities.

The Director of the NCC-SFI is, at the same time, in charge of communication with FIAF.

7 b) In 2005 several legal proceedings were initiated and are still underway. These are between the SFI and the Slovak director Juraj Jakubisko, or his company Jakubisko Film, s.r.o. The issue in contention is, especially, the different interpretation of copyrights and producer's rights, which form the basis for the further dissemination of the films, their distribution on film and other types of media and ownership of the substrate – the negatives and film prints. In the course of the year the SFI also consulted the issue with colleagues from FIAF and we believe that all the disputes will shortly be settled in favour of the SFI and its National Film Archive.

Bratislava, 28 February 2006

In cooperation with the relevant SFI departments developed by:

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