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28th Children's Film Festival, Gottwaldov
Czechoslovakia — 1988
Czechoslovak Film Award — the Silver Whistle
Special Award for Screenplay and Direction
The town Gottwaldov Award for Best Actor (Jaroslav Šmíd)
The Mladé letá Publishers Award



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(VLAKÁRI)

Story and script: Dušan Dušek

Directed by: Juraj Lihosť

Photography: Dodo Šimončík

Music: Pavel Daněk and Gábor Presser

Cast: Jaroslav Šmíd, Barbara Bobuřová, Jozef Krónér, Roman Ferienčík,
Pavel Nový and others.

Eastmancolor 35 mm

Classical size

The „Commuters“ is a tender, funny and touching story of the male family members being without ill mother for some time. The student commutes to the Technical school by train every day. He always travels with the same people, yet his fellow-student Kajka attracts him most. She is a temptation for the others as well. Hracho, leading the group of teenagers, Funach mocked by all... Through Vojto's eyes Kajka is admired by the whole world, however, she is the one who must take care of her little brother and do the housework. Vojto fights for her: mending the motor-bike to win her attention, thus competing with Hracho to gain her favour. He is lucky to contact her closer. When finally being alone with her, the girl reveals to him the existence of her boyfriend being on a military service now. He is profoundly hurt by the first disappointment, growing into manhood. Though deeply mourning, he can lovingly approach his father, brother and mother, thus finally winding to himself.



Born in 1944, JURAJ LIHOŠŤ was educated at the Technical film school and later on at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, majoring in the film and television drama theory. He entered the film and television first as a production manager and subsequently as an assistant director, since 1977 as a director. He created numerous TV programmes of various genres, some of which were awarded in the Czechoslovak film contests. In 1983 he made his debut in the Slovak film. His „Jing“ was also presented at the 1987 Berlin film festival in the section Panorama. „Commuters“ is his third feature.



DUŠAN DUŠEK, born in 1946, gained his education at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University in Bratislava. He is the author of both several successful collections of short stories for adults and children as well as screenplays for film and television. He enjoyed common work with the director Dušan Hanák (Pink Dreams, I love, you love), later with the director Juraj Lihosť (Jays in Head, Commuters). „He is ranged to a few authors of his generation who can delight himself and the audience by discovering the unexpected amidst everyday routine, presenting a piece of art with a brilliant-in short-description, thus revealing sudden secrets of our seemingly simple subworld“ (Ivan Šulík).



JOZEF KRÓNER, is the most popular Slovak actor. Since 1948 he has played in 50 Slovak, Czech and Hungarian films. He won the international recognition by the film *The Shop in the Main Street* directed by Kadar and Klos: at the same time awarded an Oscar.



... The creators evoked strong emotional feelings of teenagers underneath the ordinary story. The viewer can sense the author's honest desire to express the hidden poetry of just explored life experience, but also a unique authentic approach of heroes...

Barbara Králková, *Večerník*



... The authors show deep understanding for their characters, full of cheerful affection. The light performance of the adolescent world protected from false and moralizing superficiality created a refreshing film filled with love and joy, warmth and happiness... It represents an ideal film for youth nowadays.

Martina Slezáková, *Smena*



... Besides powerful genuineness of the plot, Dušek masters in depicting the atmosphere but mainly psychological nuances of his characters. These were even amplified in the film by Lihost's direction. The film displays a convincing and true-to life atmosphere, in this way making know the crucial issues with subtle accuracy and sensitivity...

Jozef Bobok, *Pravda*



... The authors perceptively conceived the world of seemingly everyday life issues, so as to show both the uniqueness of every moment and every human relation... There is hardly any other film where you can feel so much truth, sensibility and soft humour...

Štefan Vrašňák, *Život*



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