

A Slovak film

SÝKORKA

A film about the time
that severed not only
friendly ties between children.

STORY by: Pavla Kováčová

SCRIPTPLAY by: Pavla Kováčová, Pavel Gejdoš Jr

DIRECTED by: Pavel Gejdoš Jr

DIRECTOR of Photography: Peter Beňa

MUSIC by: Vilém Zloslav Kubička

CAST: Anína Arpášová

Martin Kováč

Svatopluk Matyáš

Viera Topinková

Jana Zvariková

Eva Matejková

Pavel Bartůnek

Peter Jezný

and others.

 SLOVENSKÝ
FILMOVÝ ÚSTAV
SLOVAK FILM
INSTITUTE



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In a pre-war old small town under the Tatra mountains in the Spiš region where people of various nationalities, races, social layers and opinions tolerate each other and live peacefully together, there takes place a story about children who similarly as today have their games, worries, dreams and hopes. Most of them come from modest or medium social conditions. One of the few wealthier is the ten-year-old son of a Jewish businessman Grossmann, Teo. The diligent and eager boy grows up in a severe burgher family, under the influence of the stiff and conventional morality of his mother, a teacher of piano, and his father, a capable businessman, as well as a wise man with a wide range of knowledge. The majority of children Teo meets mainly at school keep a distance from him. Many of them accept him among themselves only when they need him: when he gives them candles, nuts or when he helps them with their homework. Others avoid him altogether. He is not one of them. He is rich, different and they think him spoiled. Moreover, he is an unbaptized Jew. Danka Zatloukalová, one of Teo's schoolmates, is a daughter of a Czech printer and a Slovak female worker. The Zatloukal family live altogether with the grandfather who is a carpenter and a grand-mother in a modest house in one of the side streets of the townlet. Danka, as any other poorer child, is fascinated by "marvellous things" among which her school-mate Teo lives. It is the sumptuously furnished flat with a display cabinet full of decorative objects, the shop with delicatessen, dates, figs and other unheard-of goods. She moves around Teo's room in amazement and touches the piano with respect. She would like to have all that, too. The parents and the grand-parents of Danka are doing their best to fulfill the wishes of their only daughter and grand-daughter, but it is very hard for them to equal the rich merchant family.

The Munich betrayal is soon to happen, the newspapers bring Hitler's picture more and more often, on summer holidays show-off boys in the uniforms of the Hitlerjugend come to Kežmarok, the grocery stores are getting empty, the small town lives in a stifling atmosphere, but Danka and Teo are becoming closer and closer. Teo has a piano but Danka has an ear for music. Teo receives a coloured globe and a collection of stamps but Danka knows more about the natural sciences, Teo gets a bicycle but Danka manages to ride it much better. The children become close friends because they know, in contrast to others, how to give each other unselfishly themselves...

One morning Danka wakes up and finds Teo's bicycle in front of the house. She hurries to the Grossman's shop and finds it empty. She does not find any one in the plundered house either.

