

HITCHHIKER CINEMA, RADIO AND TELEVISION SLOVAKIA, TOXPRO, VIDNO, ATELIER 213 AND FILM EXPANDED  
PRESENT



A FILM BY  
BARBORA SLIEPKOVÁ

# Lines

**"This is how I imagine a city on the Moon."**

PRODUCER BARBARA JANIŠOVÁ FEGLOVÁ DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY MAXIM KĽUJEV, MICHAL FULIER, BARBORA SLIEPKOVÁ  
EDITED BY MÁTÉ CSUPORT SCRIPT CONSULTANT INGRID MAYEROVÁ MUSIC JONATÁN PASTIRČÁK SOUND DESIGN MICHAL HORVÁTH  
CO - PRODUCER NAZARIJ KĽUJEV HEAD OF DOCUMENTARY DEPARTMENT RTVS ONDREJ STARINSKÝ LINE PRODUCER NICOLE BRLEJ



# Logline



**„This is how I imagine a city on the Moon.”**





# Synopsis



Bratislava is an exemplary post-socialist city. Its massive construction replaces the old with the new. The changing features of the city speak to us not only through the silhouettes of new buildings but also through its inhabitants. Blanka fights with loneliness on the balcony of her Petržalka apartment. The city is dotted with billboards as municipal elections await. Matúš wants to become a municipal councilor. Real estate agent Michal shows his clients images of a happy life through Bratislava apartments and two road workers paint traffic markings that guide passersby. After work, they drink beer in their boarding house and muse about life. A timid Danko observes the city, which is changing too fast for his taste. He listens to it and wishes to capture the rhythm of normalcy, the flow of the days. Where does public space cease and where does intimacy begin? This is what everyday sociology comprises.

# Information about the film



**written and directed by:**

Barbora Sliepková

**producer:**

Barbara Janišová Feglová, HITCHHIKER Cinema

**co-producers:**

Nazarij Kl'ujev, ToxPro; Soňa Horváthová, RTVS

**cinematography:**

Maxim Kl'ujev, Michal Fulier, Barbora Sliepková

**editing:**

Máté Csuport

**music:**

Jonatán Pastirčák

**dramaturgy:**

Ingrid Mayerová; Ondrej Starinský, RTVS

**sound design:**

Michal Horváth

**consultants:**

Pernille Bech Christensen, Erich Winkler, Phil Jandaly

**line producer:**

Nicole Brlej

**featuring:**

Katarína Andrášová, Maroš Bango, Matúš Čupka, Zuzana Čupková, Roman Ďuriš, Ľuboš Gajdoš, Petra Haganová, Michal Hulík, Daniel Remeň, Andrea Rošková, Blanka Rošková, Augustín Runglík, Helena Takácsová

# Director's statement



*„I am fascinated by timeless city symphonies. They were part of the inspiration for my feature film debut Lines. I perceive Bratislava, the city where I was born and where I grew up, as a place of thick lines. There are lines between public and private, past and present. In my conception, it is an exemplary post-socialist city. I notice the everyday, the rhythm and atmosphere of the city through the ordinary stories of its inhabitants. I also notice my place within this city. I am a timid person. As is known, during the creative process, a documentary filmmaker must step closer to people. In order for protagonists to share their intimacy, I must open myself to them. This is a line I cross every time I film. The protagonists of my film are my alter egos and they represent different relationships and attitudes towards their surroundings.“*

Barbora Sliepková

## About the director

Barbora graduated from the Documentary Film Department's Direction of Documentary Film at the Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. She is regularly involved in the creative process of auteur documentary films, and radio and photo projects. She directed **Xenophobia** (2018) as one episode of the documentary series **Unsung Heroes** produced by HITCHHIKER Cinema. Her film **About My Sister** (2016) won the main prize of the jury and the audience award in the competition section IN THE MIDDLE OF EUROPE at the 24th IFFC Febiofest. In 2020, she finished her film **Symbiosis**, about the architect Viera Mecková for the documentary series **ICONS**. At the moment she is collaborating with filmmakers Viera Čákányová and Lucia Kašová on the anthology film about ecological catastrophes in Slovakia.

# Technical specifications

<b>year of production:</b>	2021
<b>country of production:</b>	Slovak Republic
<b>genre:</b>	documentary film
<b>length:</b>	80 min
<b>language:</b>	Slovak
<b>subtitles:</b>	English
<b>rating:</b>	15+
<b>aspect ratio:</b>	16:9
<b>distribution format:</b>	DCP, mp4
<b>sound:</b>	5.1
<b>resolution:</b>	2K
<b>producer:</b>	HITCHHIKER Cinema
<b>co-producers:</b>	Radio and Television Slovakia ToxPro Vidno Ateliér 213
<b>partners:</b>	Tatra banka, a.s. J&T Real Estate, a.s.
<b>distributor:</b>	FILM EXPANDED Distribution Company
<b>with the financial support of:</b>	The Slovak Audiovisual Fund The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic Bratislava Region Ars Bratislavis Bratislava City Foundation
<b>world premiere:</b>	27. 10. 2021 IDFF Jihlava, competition section Opus Bonum
<b>distribution premiere:</b>	11. 11. 2021



# 3 questions for the director Barbora Sliepková



**What would you like viewers to experience when watching your film? What feeling should they leave the theater with?**

*It was a great challenge for us as creators and residents to film notoriously known things in the city – streets and buildings that we walk through and around every day - the historic center and other similar spots. However, this also included the problems of the city; various obstacles, barriers or, for example, visual smog. We looked for unseen angles, views, disrupted perspectives and other rules in order to abstract a specific feeling from the perception of our surroundings. My habit was to look upside down while bending forward. During shooting, my cinematographer Maxim Kl'ujev and I talked about how we see shots for the film everywhere. Lines appeared anywhere around us, everything was essentially significant and transformable. I would like the film to interpret this feeling for the audience as well. I would like them to notice things around them, to look for their own insights and their micro-stories. To identify their own lines. I think that this little change in point of view could also help us live better here.*

**What is Bratislava like for you? What does life in this city mean to you?**

*I recently went for a walk a few kilometers from Bratislava in the forests that were planted as per instructions of Maria Theresa. In the evening I sat in a bistro in Palisády, which used to be a pharmacy. Bratislava is a compact city full of stories. Because it's not that big, it's recognizable, and that's what I like about life here. I feel that if I want to make a film about something, to comment on something, I really need to know the context so that I don't talk nonsense. The more I learn about my themes, the more I see how much I don't know. The poet Katarína Kucbelova, whose work I like very much, told me that she was in a similar mood when she wrote her wonderful collection Small Big City. She also said she needed to capture-pronounce-express perceptions of that which surrounds her. I also had the need to notice and describe this city. Ours. Small, large - beautifully dirty - noisily quiet - fast and asleep. A city.*

**Why did you choose this genre?**

*The form of a visual essay intertwined with micro-portraits of the protagonists was an intention from the beginning. I could name many inspirations, and I will mention at least the timeless urban symphonies that fascinated me during my studies at the Academy of Performing Arts. At the same time, I filmed several portraits at school and I really enjoy the sensitivity of crossing into the intimacy of other people's stories. During editing, we then looked for the right balance of these two lines. It is still a portrait of a city. For me, however, this city does not have to be just Bratislava. From the beginning, I wanted it to become a kind of model city, which we could find in several countries with similar historical experiences. This is where the decision to manipulate some shots, use double exposures, or press perspective is rooted. In a similar manner, we also worked creatively with the sound and much of the mix is done in post-production. The music is based on bustle dramaturgy and vice versa. We talked about recording peoples' conversations in cafes, sitting at the next table or about the rhythm of passers-by's footsteps. Michal Horváth (sound) and Jonatán Pastirčák (music) surpassed my expectations and at the same time taught me a lot about their professions.*

# Producer's note

*The film Lines is a visual essay about Bratislava, an ordinary city. However, as a place to live, it is changing extremely fast. You can hate and love it at the same time. Our film captures this unique change at a time when Bratislava is becoming a modern European metropolis.*

Barbara Janišová Feglová



## Lines and its multimedia project



The site specific idea evolved in collaboration with Film Expanded in the process of creating a distribution and marketing strategy. We perceived that the theme of the film went beyond its scope and we looked for a use that would have an innovative overlap. Therefore, it is not only a film that exists, but also a multimedia work of the same name. Both are intertwined, captivate the viewer's sensitivity and invite you to the cinema and to the gallery. The unique art installation combines the object, stage and lighting design, an experimental sound score, a movement performance and a film. It is a subtle execution of motifs and themes that resonate with contemporary Bratislava. This work invites you to experience the capital differently, it looks for the intersection of public and intimate space, which is formed by real or imaginary lines. It is the stage of a play and the audience becomes a part of it.





**trailer**

**stills** (source: Hitchhiker Cinema)

**webpage**

**Facebook**

**Instagram**

**producer webpage**

**distributor webpage**

<https://vimeo.com/556248964>

<https://www.ciaryfilm.sk/#media>

<https://www.ciaryfilm.sk>

<https://www.facebook.com/ciarylines>

[https://www.instagram.com/ciary\\_the\\_lines\\_film/](https://www.instagram.com/ciary_the_lines_film/)

<http://www.hitchhikercinema.sk>

<https://www.filmexpanded.com>

producer



co-producers



ATELIER 213

partners



with the financial support of



distributor



media partners



## CONTACTS

**producer**

**PR & marketing**

**distribution**

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