

THE PIT

a short film directed by Markéta Smolíková Kubátová



THE HERO
...the biggest loser



→ What is The Pit? ←

Space Odyssey-style animated slapstick animation about a mix-up of proportions that can lead to a fatal mistake in viewer sympathies



JACKHAMMER
mechanical pick-hoe

in the back plan, we have a group of slackers

THE UNION LEADER

In a desolate landscape process strange creatures. The foreman of the group picks a suitable spot and the whole multiplying colony starts excavating a pit. They encounter various natural disasters that ruin their efforts – but the colonists always rise from the ruins and continue their work. We do unequivocally sympathise... till the moment when we return to the people's daily lives.

SYNOPSIS



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When shortly after graduating from FAMU's Department of Animated Film I gave birth to my daughter, I settled for working as an animator for quite a long time. Another reason was I really do enjoy animating. But in the last few years a longing has been growing inside me, a longing to narrate my own stories and tell them in my own way, with my own artistic approach, not just serve the concepts of other directors. I started collaborating with producer Martin Vandas of MAUR film and the short movie *The Pit* is our first completed project.

The core of the story is the eternal striving of a group of creatures to acquire enough food and thus enable the survival of the tribe. Their situation is constantly being complicated by a series of natural disasters, but the creatures don't slow down in their efforts. We can only admire their tenacity.

It is in fact a game played with the viewers. A story that all the time pretends one thing only to conclude with a surprising revelation. The extraterrestrial conquerors are depicted as likeable beings who support one another and cooperate, who are steadfast, have emotions and are empathic. I want the viewer to root for them, to wish them success in their work despite the many obstacles. And, towards the end of the film, think: Damn it, I have been cheering on these beasts!

This short movie is very important for me personally. It opened an opportunity to escape the box of being „only“ an animator and to move on. Given

...and another loser. Nickname “twenty-five”.



the fact that along with the scriptwriter Irena Hejdová we are preparing a script for a feature length animated movie, I thought it was a sensible idea to test out being the director on a smaller scale project.


The film has a subject understandable all over the world. Young children will learn a lesson and the adults will be amused by realising that it does not pay to take things at face value, and that a situation can be the exact opposite of what it seems at the beginning. And finally there is the message that life is really every-where, both in the deepest universe, and in...such other places. I am sorry but I can't reveal you the end of the story :).

Czech Republic has always belonged among the superpowers of animated film. And I would love to join these who carry the torch forward.

Markéta Smolíková Kubátová

...happy hero





...the Union leader admires the director

Markéta Kubátová Smolíková was born in 1977.

Between 1995 and 2000 she studied at FAMU in Prague, from which she graduated completing a Master's degree with a 2D animated film *The Trojan War (Trojská válka)*. After graduating she has co-worked as animator on many film and TV projects, mostly working with director Pavel Koutský. At the moment she is animating the project of Michaela Pavlátová *My Sunny Maad (Moje slunce Maad)* and preparing more of her future projects.

Filmography

Into the Fairytale I and II (Do pohádky I. and II.) – animated series, animation


Doctor Animo – animated series, animation

The Hussites (Husiti) – feature length film, animation


Undistorted Science V (Nezkreslená věda V.) – online animated series

in cooperation with Czech Academy of Sciences, director

The Egyptian (Egyptán) – a graphic novel, drawing, story



...this is not a director



another group of losers

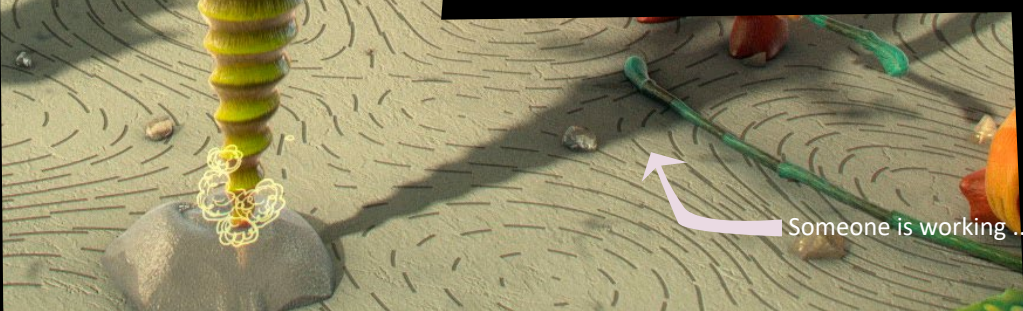


...The Pit


CREDITS

Director, writer	Markéta Kubátová Smolíková
Script editor	Edgar Dutka
Animators	Peter Harakaly, Stanislav Sekela, Jana Satoriová, Martin Pošta
DOP	Erik Eržin
Editor	Michal Kondrla
CG/VFX	Jan Rybář
Music	Martin Hasák
Sound	Matej Hlaváč
Producers	Martin Vandas, Alena Vandasová, MAUR film (CZ)
Coproducers	Simona Hrušovská, Veronika Kocourková, Super film (SK), Jiří Mika, PFX (CZ)

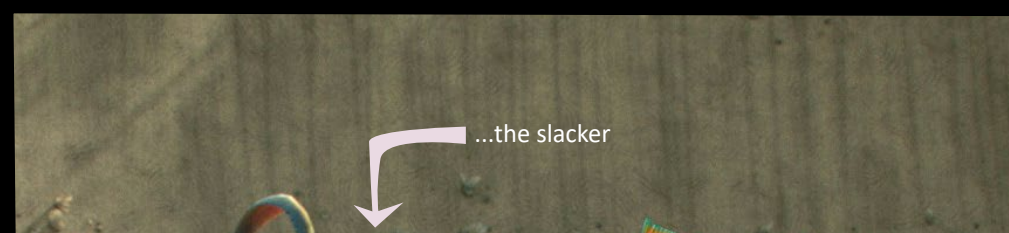
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Someone is working ...

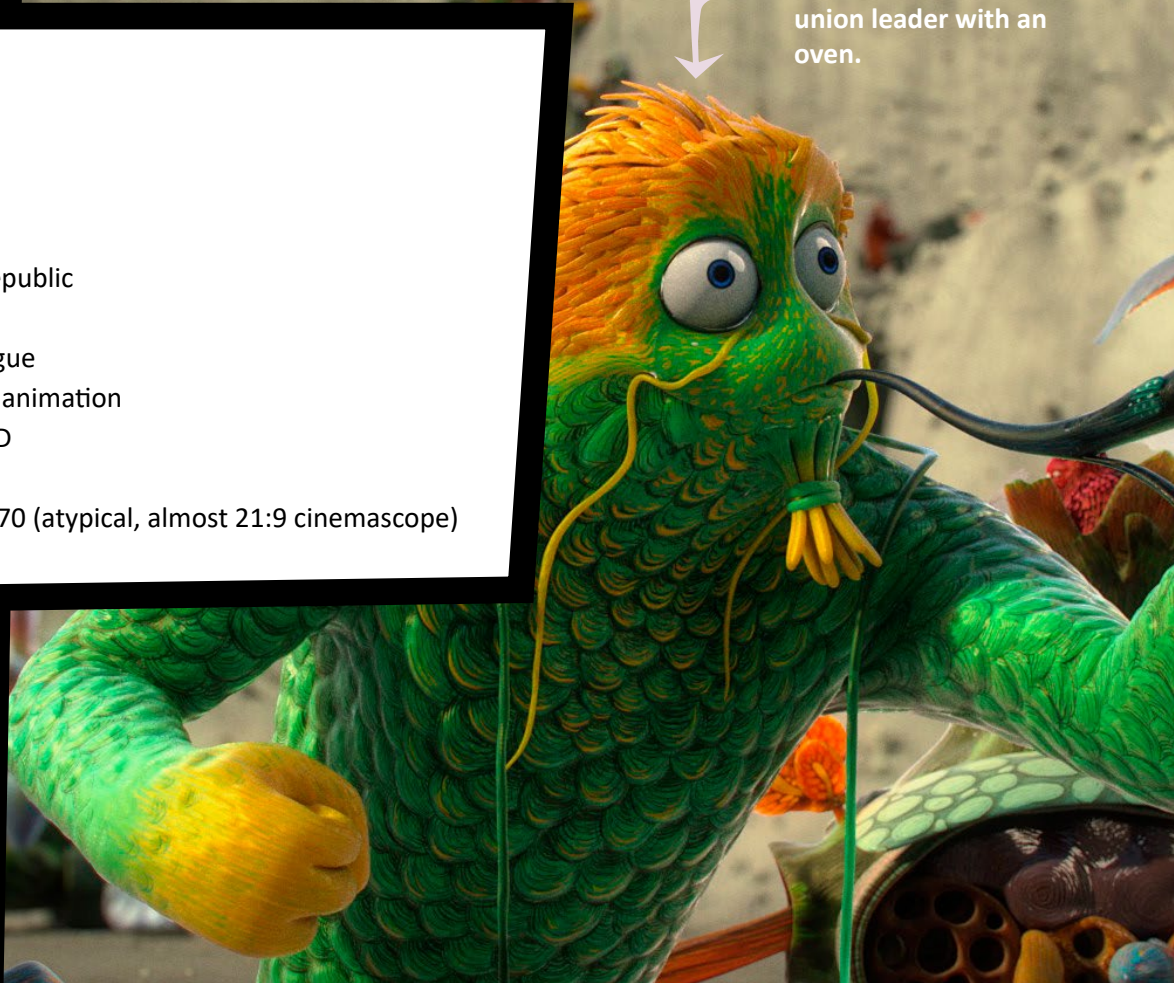


... and someone is having fun!



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Original title	Jáma
English title	The Pit
Year of production	2019
Country of origin	Czech Republic
Running time	6 min.
Language	no dialogue
Animation technique	3D & 2D animation
Format	digital HD
Screening format	DCP
Aspect ratio	2048 x 870 (atypical, almost 21:9 cinemascope)





| Director

— Markéta Kubátová Smolíková
E-mail marketakubatova@seznam.cz

| Press contact

— Marta Jallageas
E-mail marta.jallageas@gmail.com
Tel. +420 775 669 222

| Producer

— MAUR film | www.maurfilm.com
Martin Vandas, Alena Vandasová
E-mail vandasova@maurfilm.com
Tel. +420 775 117 646

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