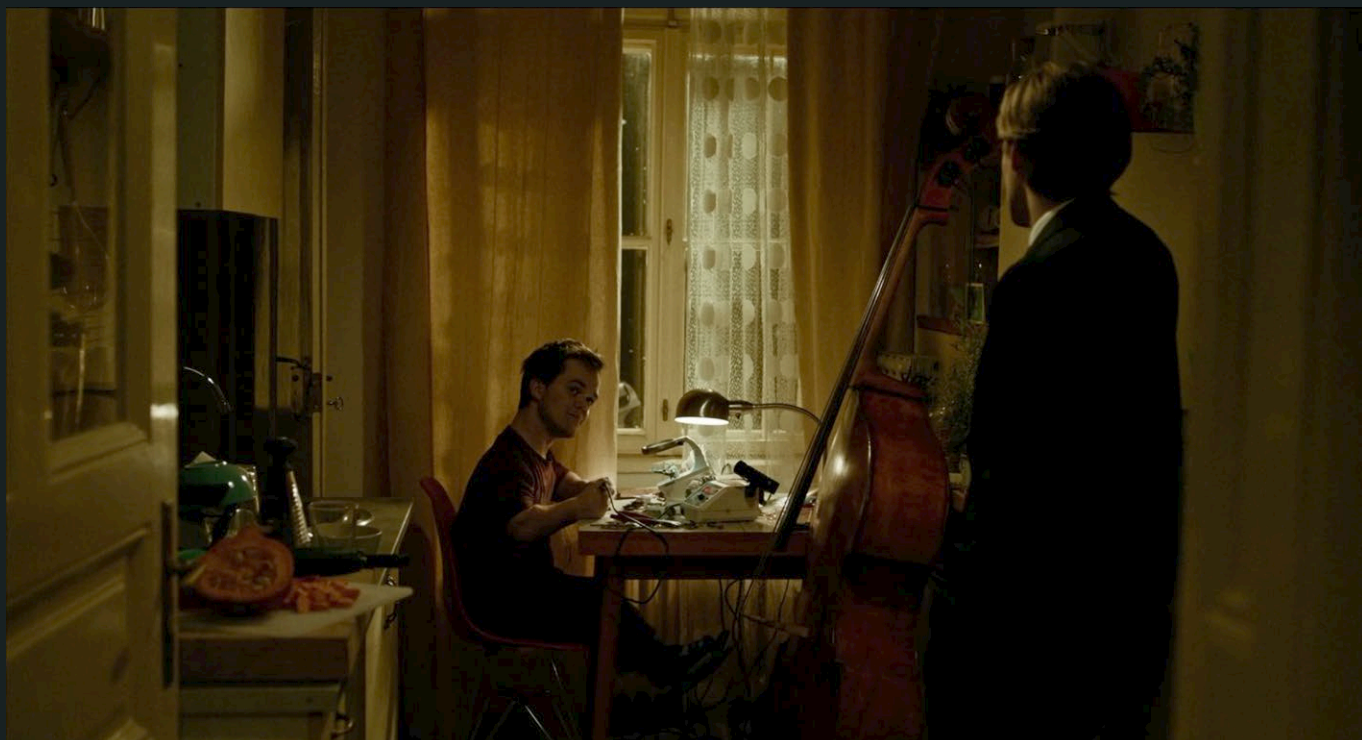


A FILM BY JURAJ LEHOTSKÝ



# PLASTIC SYMPHONY

About the little things in a big world



Stepbrothers Matúš and David lead the modest life of a pair of street musicians. Joined together by a huge double bass and an uneasy fate, they rely on each other for support. However, as each of them pines for a different kind of happiness, they both set out on diverging paths.



## SYNOPSIS

Matúš is a talented musician who abandoned his promising career after the death of his adoptive mother. While his stepbrother, Dávid, takes whatever life gives him, Matúš feels frustrated by his unfulfilled ambitions. When he unexpectedly runs into an old schoolmate, Albert, it suddenly appears that Matúš's life is about to take a long-awaited turn for the better. But unlike Dávid, who finds contentment working at a seniors' home, Matúš struggles to attain happiness even despite the success he enjoys in his new, "better" world. He gradually realises that happiness is a state of mind, that it's hidden in the little things, and that a life well lived is also about whom one lives for.



## FILM SPECIFICATIONS

### ORIGINAL TITLE

Plastic Symphony

### INTERNATIONAL TITLE

Plastic Symphony

### WORLD PREMIERE

Tallinn Black Nights FF - Official Competition

### LENGTH

87 min.

### GENRE

Drama

### COUNTRIES

Slovakia, Poland, Czech Republic

### LANGUAGES

Slovak, German, English, French

### YEAR

2022

### PICTURE

Color

### ASPECT RATIO

1,77:1

### SOUND

5.1

### FORMAT

DCP

# CAST

MATÚŠ

Bartosz Bielenia

DÁVID

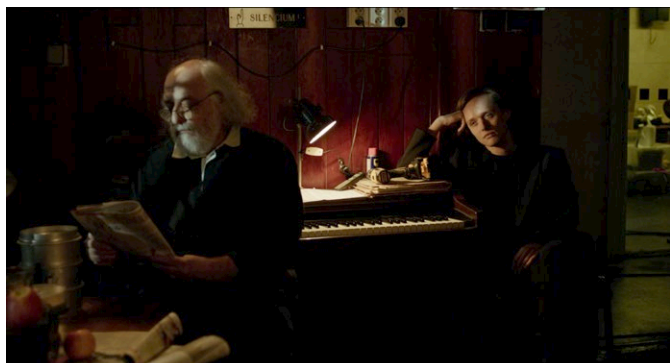
Vojtěch Zdražil

ALBERT

Sabin Tambrea

LENKA

Judit Bárdos



# PRODUCTION

STORY

Timotej Križka

SCREENPLAY

Timotej Križka, Juraj Lehotský

DIRECTOR

Juraj Lehotský

CINEMATOGRAPHY

Timotej Križka

EDITOR

Radoslav Dubravský

MUSIC

Aleš Březina

SOUND

Ján Krnáč

PRODUCERS

Michaela Jelenek, Juraj Lehotský

DELEGATE PRODUCER

Katarína Tomková

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Palo Jelenek

CO-PRODUCERS

Zuzana Balkóová, Tomáš Weinreb, Petr Kazda, Izabela Igel, Katarína Tomková, Palo Jelenek, Beata Ryczkowska, Magdalena Zimecka

PRODUCTION COMPANY

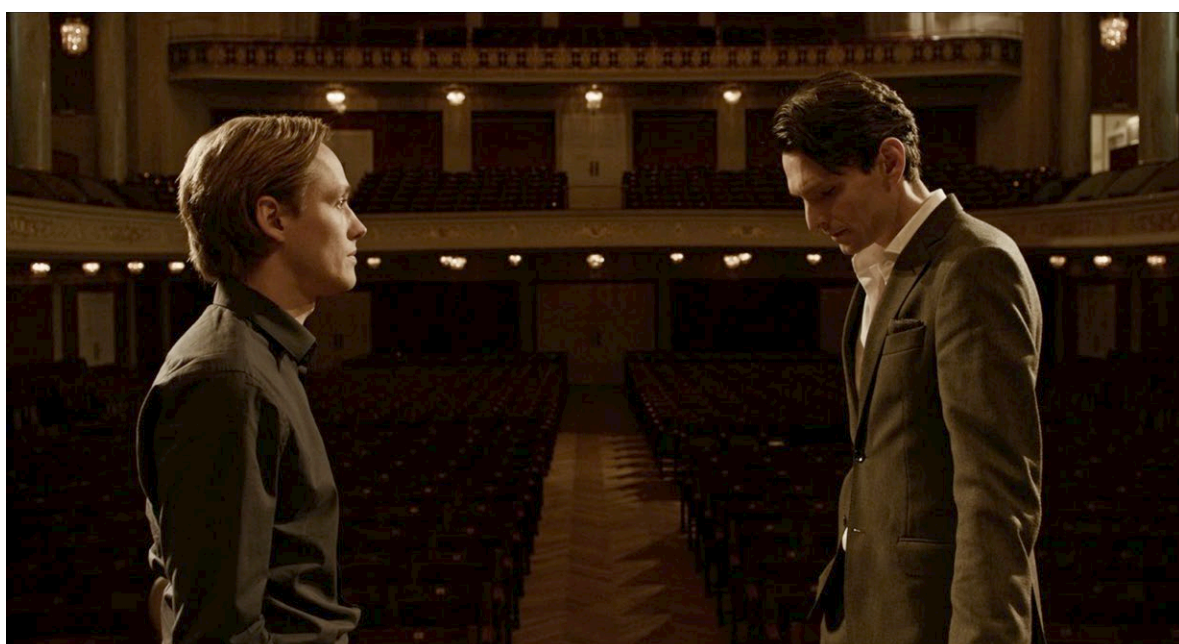
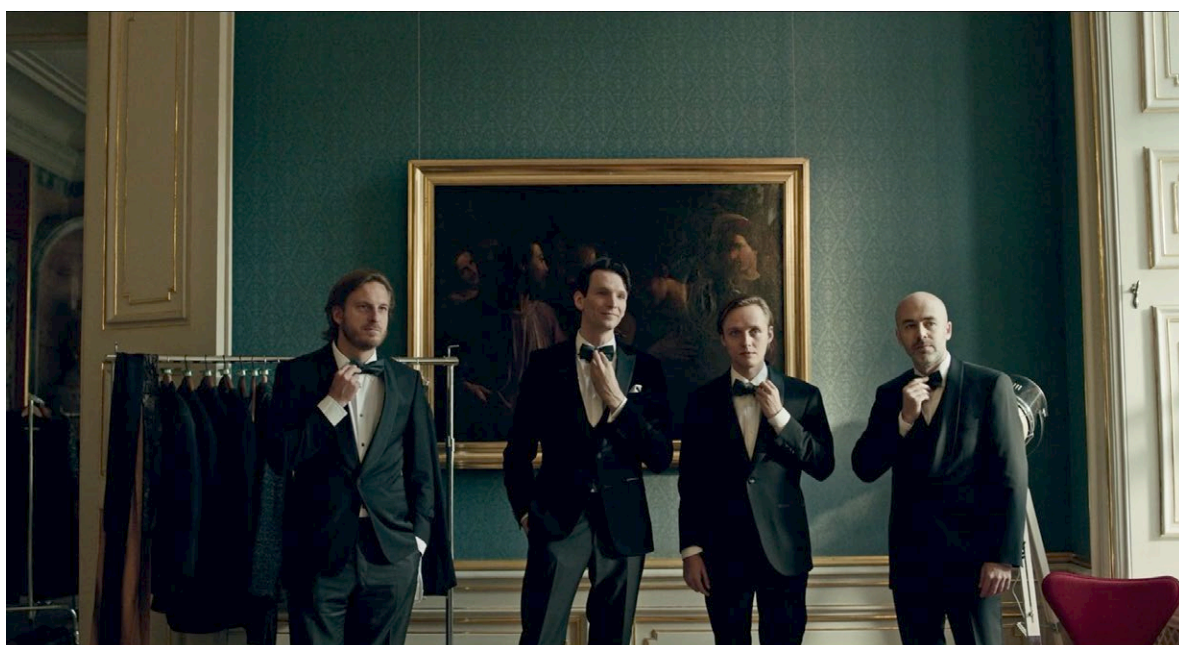
ARYTMIA (SK)

CO-PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Radio and Television of Slovakia (SK), Black Balance (CZ), Harine Films (PL), kaleidoscope (SK), Art4 (SK), Canal+ Polska (PL), Studio Produkcyjne Orka (PL)

SUPPORT

Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, Czech Film Fund, Polish Film Institute





## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The film *Plastic Symphony* is about the path to self-acceptance – a path that is often difficult and painful. It is about finding one's place in the world and learning to appreciate the goodness and beauty that surrounds us.

DoP Timotej Križka and I wanted to craft a pure, visually consistent story told through long, uninterrupted shots. Every scene and situation is shot in a single take, resulting in an appealing aesthetic that draws us into the narrative. Thanks to a thoughtful mise-en-scene, each scene contains all the necessary cinematic ingredients – close-ups as well as wide shots; moments of dynamism as well as moments of calm. This, I believe, produces an authenticity that engages the audience with the film and allows them to truly experience the story. We wanted to transport the viewer into an authentic time and space and enjoy the film from an inner, undisturbed perspective.

The story of the film revolves around the human desire to reach the pinnacle of fame. Vienna becomes the backdrop to the main character's path towards self-discovery, as well as an ideal environment for depicting his dreams and desires, triumphs and tribulations. We filmed in spectacular locations, such as the Liechtenstein City Palace, the magical Konzerthaus, or the bell tower of the majestic St Stephen's Cathedral. Vienna represented the perfect setting for the story, becoming a metaphor of beauty, success, and the promise of happiness. It also lent an international dimension to the film, which thus features dialogues in Slovak, German, French, and English.

We came across Bartosz Bielenia while on a train ride, browsing the website of a casting agency. I was immediately charmed by his picture – a young man with distinctly feminine features. I was captivated by his strange allure, the hidden

desire in his facial expression, his tenderness and vulnerability. Working together was initially quite difficult – the decision to cast a Polish actor as the lead in a Slovak film was audacious, to say the least. Nevertheless, Bartosz's presence continued to fascinate me and draw me in. I realised that he was exceptional.

When we began rehearsing in Slovak, I realised that I actually enjoyed Bartosz's accent and that it would make his character even more unique. Because the protagonist runs into a former classmate from Berlin, it was also necessary to employ German in the film, meaning that this role was certainly one of Bartosz's more challenging ones. As if all that wasn't enough, he also had to learn to play the violoncello.

Our German actor, Sabin Tambrea, is a consummate professional – an actor as well as an outstanding musician-violinist. This combination of skills was necessary for the role. Sabin grew up in a musical family and spent time in the world of

classical music, gaining experience that he could seamlessly translate into the film. Sabin portrays an ambitious musician at the peak of his career, but his character is somewhat ambivalent, exuding an unspoken uneasiness with his fate. As he himself has confessed, it was challenging to imbue the ostensibly black-and-white, negative character with a much-needed shade of grey – with a certain humanity and hope.

Finding a young actor with achondroplasia was not easy. We were looking for an ordinary, agreeable man who displayed a love of life despite his condition. After a long search, we found the talented Vojtěch Zdražil. His character required a certain inner strength, insofar as his distinctive feature is his willingness to put others' needs before his own. Vojtěch surprised both Bartosz and me with his unbelievably believable acting. He radiated a certain lightness of being and was very civil in his performance, drawing on his own life experiences – he did not play someone else, and that was his greatest forte.



About the Director

## JURAJ LEHOTSKÝ

Juraj was born in Bratislava in 1975. He studied photography at the Fine Arts School and documentary filmmaking at the Academy of Performing Arts, both in Bratislava. Since completing his studies, he has worked as a screenwriter and director, creating documentaries, features, advertising spots, and music videos.

Juraj's documentary **Blind Loves** (2008) premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in the Quinzaine des Réalisateurs section, where it won the CICAÉ Art Cinema Award. The film was then screened at various festivals across the world, winning several further awards (Golden Eye for Best Documentary at Zurich FF, Audience Award for Best Documentary at Trieste FF, Special Mention for Cinematographer at Plus Camerimage, and others).

His fiction feature debut, **Miracle** (2013), premiered at Karlovy Vary IFF in the East of the West section and was awarded the Special Jury Mention. The film was also screened at Toronto IFF, Haifa IFF, Thessaloniki IFF, Cottbus FF (Award for Outstanding Actress), Arras FF (Grand Prix), Tallinn Black Nights FF, Vilnius IFF (Award for Best Actress), and many others.

**Nina** (2017), Juraj's second fiction feature, celebrated its world premiere at Karlovy Vary IFF, again in the East of the West section, and its North American premiere at Toronto IFF. It won awards at two A-list festivals: Warsaw FF (FIPRESCI Award) and Cairo IFF (Bronze Pyramid).

**Plastic Symphony** (2022) is Juraj's third fiction feature and stars Polish actor Bartosz Bielenia. It is set to have its world premiere in the Official Competition section at Black Nights Tallinn FF.



### FILMOGRAPHY

#### **Plastic Symphony**

2022 • FEATURE FILM

#### **Dracula on Rails**

2019 • TELEVISION FILM

#### **The Birth of the Theatre: 1984**

2019 • TELEVISION FILM

#### **The Birth of the Theatre: The Bible**

2019 • TELEVISION FILM

#### **The Birth of the Theatre: Russian Diaries**

2019 • TELEVISION FILM

#### **Nina**

2017 • FEATURE FILM

#### **Miracle**

2013 • FEATURE FILM

#### **Customs – episode “Foreigners”**

2013 • TELEVISION FILM

#### **Blind Loves**

2008 • DOCUMENTARY FILM

#### **I Wouldn't Have Thought I'd Like You so Much**

2000 • SHORT FILM

#### **Portraits of Juraj Kukura, Martin Hollý, Milan Lasica, Ján Lehotský, Jozef Gertli Danglár, Miroslav Marcelli**

1999-2010 • DOCUMENTARY SERIES

#### **Twins**

1999 • SHORT FILM

#### **Unwanted Children**

1998 • SHORT FILM

#### **A Funeral Is Actually a Premiere**

1997 • SHORT FILM

#### **With Enough Effort, We'll Have Diplomas**

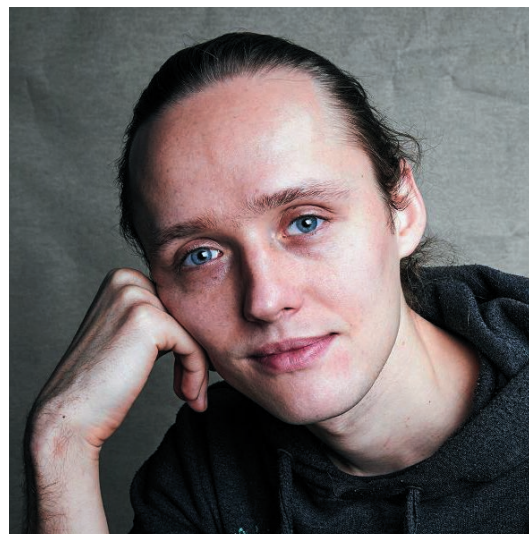
1996 • SHORT FILM

## Main Character Cast

**BARTOSZ BIELENIA**

Bartosz Bielenia, born in 1992 in Poland, studied acting at the Krakow Film School. Having started off as a stage actor, Bartosz is well known for portraying Shakespearean characters. He made his television screen debut in 2012, with 2015 marking his first appearance in a feature film, **Disco Polo**.

Since then, Bartosz has been regularly cast by Polish directors. He starred in the first Polish Netflix show, **1983** by Kasia Adamik and Agnieszka Holland. His film **Corpus Cristi** (2019), directed by Jan Komasa, premiered in the Venice Days section of the Biennale and went on to achieve great international success, including a nomination in the Best International Feature Film category at the Oscars. Bartosz returned to the film screen as the lead in **Prime Time** (2021), presented at Sundance IFF. In 2022, his first feature produced outside of Poland, **Plastic Symphony** (2022), is set to premiere in the Official Competition section at Black Nights Tallinn IFF.

**FILMOGRAPHY****Plastic Symphony**

2022 • FEATURE FILM • Juraj Lehotský

**Prime Time**

2021 • FEATURE FILM • Jakub Piatek

**Corpus Cristi**

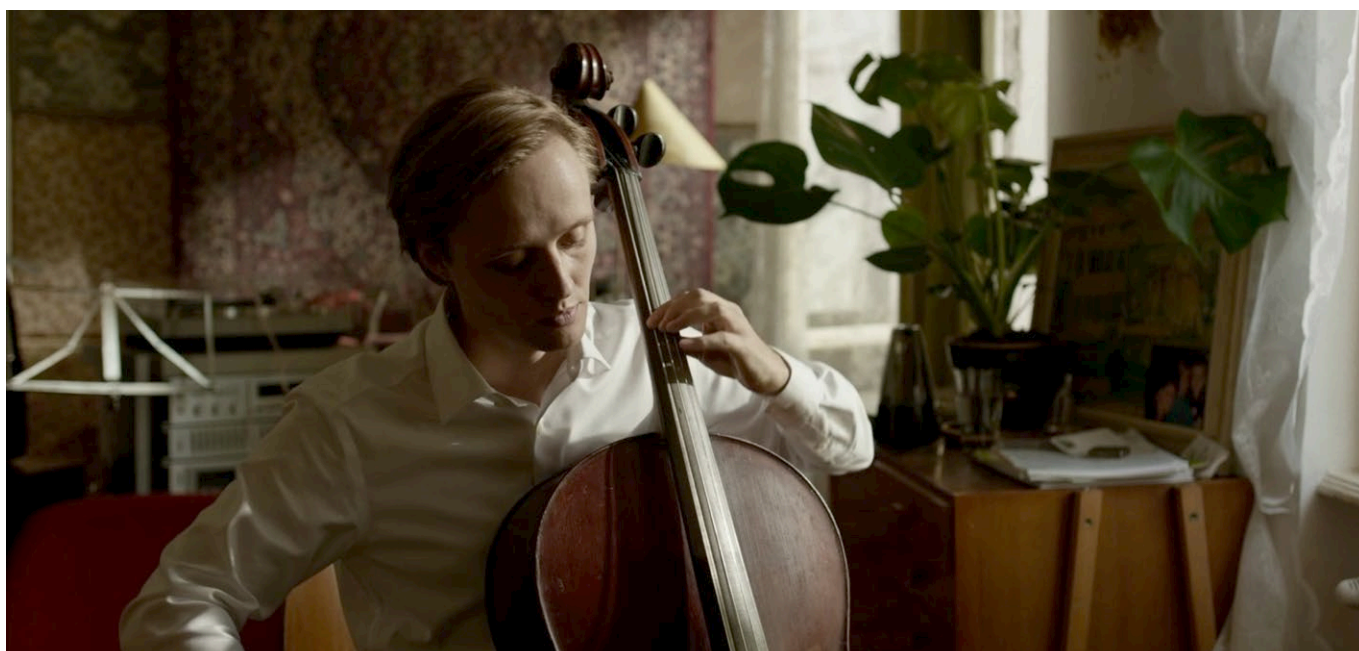
2019 • FEATURE FILM • Jan Komasa

**Ondyna**

2019 • SHORT FILM • Tomasz Sliwinski

**1983**2018 • TELEVISION SERIES • Kasia Adamik,  
Olga Chajdas, Agnieszka Holland, Agnieszka Smoczyńska**The High Frontier**

2016 • FEATURE FILM • Wojciech Kasperski





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