

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

CHARLA

A FILM BY AGNIESZKA HOLLAND

CAST IVAN TROJAN JURAJ LOJ JAROSLAVA POKORNÁ PRODUCTION DESIGNER MILAN BÝČEK COSTUMEDESIGNER KATARÍNA ŠTRBOVÁ-BIELIKOVÁ MAKE-UP RENÉ STEJSKAL GABRIELA POLÁKOVÁ SOUNDISIGNER RADIMHLADÍKJR. EDITOR PAVELHRDLIČKA MUSIC ANTONI KOMASA-LAZARKIEWICZ DIRECTOROF PHOTOSRAPHY MARTIN ŠTRBA EXECUTIVEPRODUCER ALEŠTÝBL WRITENBY MAREKEPSTEIN INCO PRODUCTION WITH CZECH TELEVISION BARRANDOV STUDIO ROZHLASA TELEVÍZIA SLOVENSKA CERTICON VLADIMÍR ANDTAŤÁNA MAŘÍKOVI MAGIC LAB STUDIO METRAGE MODERATOR INWESTYCJE CO-PRODUCERS MIKE DOWNEY SAM TAYLOR KLAUDIA ŚMIEJA-ROSTWOROWSKA LÍVIA FILUSOVÁ PRODUCERS ŠÁRKA CIMBALOVÁ KEVAN VAN THOMPSON DIRECTEDBY AGNIESZKA HOLLAND



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2020 - Czech Republic in co-production with Ireland, Poland & Slovakia Historical Drama - 2.35 - 118 min

with Ivan Trojan, Josef Trojan, Juraj Loj

INTERNATIONAL PRESS

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INTERNATIONAL SALES

FILMS BOUTIQUE

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CAST

Jan Mikolášek

Young Jan Mikolášek

František Palko

Mülbacherová

Zlatohlávek

Interrogator

Ivan Trojan

Josef Trojan

Juraj Loj

Jaroslava Pokorná

Jiří Černý

Miroslav Hanuš

CREATIVE TEAM

Director

Screenplay

Cinematography

Editing

Production Designer

Costume Designer

Sound Designer

Composer

Make-Up

Executive Producer

Agnieszka Holland

Marek Epstein

Martin Strba

Pavel Hrdlicka

Milan Bycek

Katarína Štrbová-Bieliková

Radim Hladik jr.

Antoni Komasa-Lazarkiewicz

René Stejskal, Gabriela Poláková

Aleš Týbl

Production company

Produced by

In Co-Production with

Marlene Film Production

Šárka Cimbalová, Kevan Van Thompson

Czech Television, Barrandov Studio,

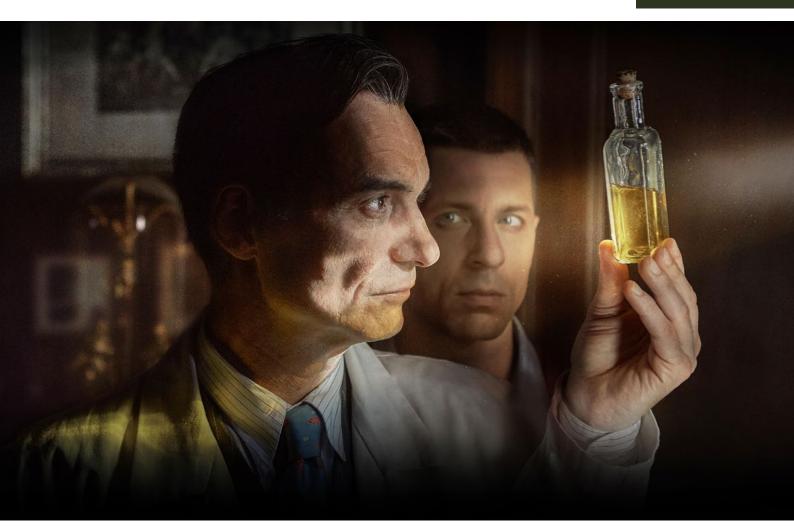
Rozhlas A Televízia Slovenska, Certicon, Vladimír and Taťána Maříkovi, Magic Lab,

Studio Metrage, Moderator Inwestycje

Co-Producers Mike Downey, Sam Taylor,

Klaudia Śmieja-Rostworowska,

Lívia Filusová



LOG-LINE

Based on the true story of Czech healer Jan Mikolášek who dedicated his life to treat the sick using medicinal plants. Throughout the war and turmoil of the 20th century he has to choose between his calling and his conscience.

SYNOPSIS

Few true stories tread the thin line between good and evil as precariously as that of Jan Mikolášek, a 20th century Czech herbal healer whose great success masked the grimmest of secrets. Mikolášek won fame and fortune treating celebrities of the interwar, Nazi, and Communist eras with his uncanny knack for "urinary diagnosis". But his passion for healing welled up from the same source as a lust for cruelty, sadism, and an incapacity for love that only one person could ever quell – his assistant, František. As a show trial threatens to pry open these secrets and undo him, Jan's dichotomies are put to a final test, with the fate of his life's only love in the balance. A personal tale as replete with twists as the century itself, and a reflection on the price one pays for single-mindedly following one's calling.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Jan Mikolášek was a very famous healer, an unusual medicine man, who was using unorthodox methods of diagnosis and treatment. Those special skills made him not only well known but also rich. In Czechoslovakia before World War II he became some kind of institution and even during the German occupation he was able to preserve his status by healing high Nazi officials.

He was sure that it would not be different after the war. The communists who took power were also humans. And humans fell sick, felt hopeless and needed the doctor; a special kind of a doctor as well, when others cannot help. But the situation changed when his main Stalinist protector died, and the regime decided to destroy him. He was too different, too rich, and too independent.

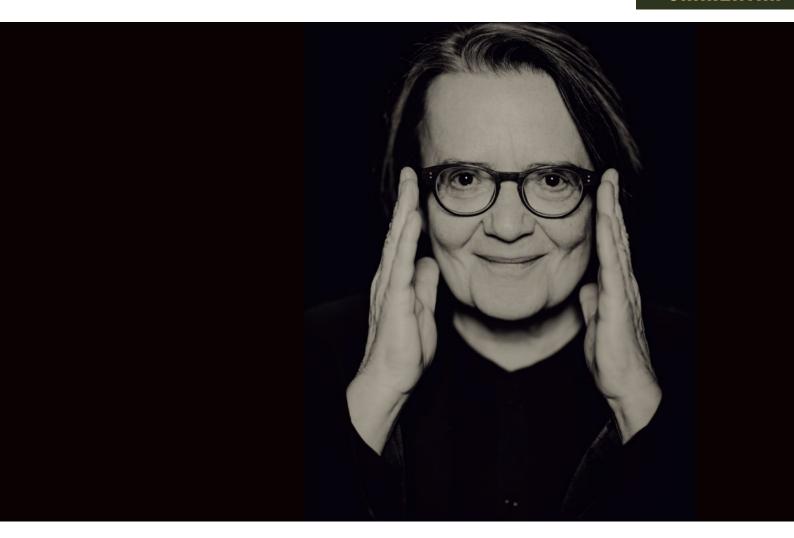
Charlatan tells the story of Mikolášek's rise and fall. Of his moral fall and of his constant fight with the darkness inside him. It is the story of the mystery of a man, of the mystery of his special gift, of the prize he was ready to pay for it; the story of the paradox of strength and weakness, of love and hate.



To tell this story with an epic scope - dozens of years, three different regimes, two World Wars - but one, that feels, at the same time, extremely intimate, I tried to find a sensual and minimalistic language. Static. Quiet. Spare dialogues. Hidden emotions. Extremely subjective passage of time: years are passing in few minutes, minutes are extended, feel like eternity.

I tried to show a human soul without entering into the depth of psychological analyses, express interiority through behavior. The faces of actors, the tension between the characters, their constant efforts to pass through the armors of each other are what drives the story forward; the background, the big History of the twentieth century is reflected in their fate.

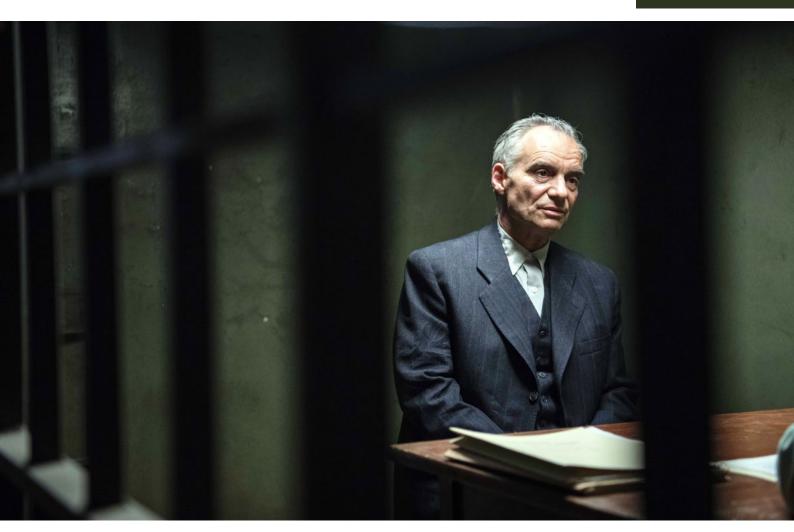
I was fortunate to have a wonderful group of people to make this film: cinematographer Martin Strba, production designer Milan Bycek, Editor Pavel Hrdlicka, composer Antoni Komasa Lazarkiewicz, actor Ivan Trojan, all of whom I have worked with previously on the miniseries Burning Bush. They are an extremely creative, original, and courageous team, and they had a large part in finding a way to tell this story in a strong, personal way; to find images which I hope will stay with the audience long after the screening.



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Agnieszka Holland was born in Warsaw and has directed and/or written over thirty films in her illustrious career. She studied directing at FAMU, the Prague Film and TV School of Academy of Performing Arts and started her professional life as assistant director for Krysztof Zanussi and Andrzej Wajda, for whose films she wrote several screenplays. Her directorial debut Provincial Actors was honored by the International Critics' Jury in its premiere at the Cannes Film Festival 1979.

Her film Fever (Gorączka) won the Polish Film Festival as well as a Silver Bear as Best Actress for Barbara Grabowska in the 1981 Berlinale Competition. Also in 1981, and shortly before the declaration of martial law in Poland, Holland moved to Paris. Her first film after emigrating, Bitter Harvest, was nominated for an Academy Award as Best Film in a Foreign Language in 1986. Europa Europa (1990) won a Golden Globe and a second Oscar nomination, this time for best original screenplay. In 1993, Holland made the first of many films in the US with The Secret Garden, produced by Francis Ford Coppola. In Darkness (2011) earned her a third Oscar nomination. Her last two feature films, Pokot (2017, winner of the Silver Bear for Innovation in the Art of Cinema) and Mr. Jones (2019), were both selected for the Berlinale Competition. Holland has also directed many episodes of renowned TV-Series such as The Wire, The Killing, House of Cards and The First.



THE CAST

IVAN TROJAN - JAN MIKOLÁŠEK

A prolific Czech theatre, film, television and dubbing actor, Ivan holds a record number of four Czech Lion awards for the best performance in the leading role and two for supporting actor. He studied at the DAMU theatre faculty in Prague. In 1988 he commenced the military service in the Army Art Ensemble, where he signed a petition for the release of Václav Havel from prison. Although his career started on stage, where his standing as one of the most prominent theatre actors (and recently directors) of his generation is proven by a plethora of important awards, for the last 20 years he has built a career as a major force in Czech film and television.

Trojan's first significant film role was a doctor in film Loners (Samotáři, 2000), directed by David Ondříček, for which he was nominated for Czech Lion in the best actor category. He's received the prize again two years later for his role in The Brats (Smradi, 2002). In the same year, he won the Czech Lion for the best performance as supporting actor in the dramedy I Have to Seduce You (Musím tě svést, 2002). Another Czech Lion Award followed the next year with One Hand Doesn't Clap (Jedna ruka netleská, 2003). Ivan also acts for



his directing brother Ondřej, for example in the historical drama adaptation Želary (2003), nominated for the Oscar in the best foreign language film category. Ivan Trojan is the prizewinner of the 2007 TýTý (audience survey for the best TV faces). In 2013 he received the Golden Nymph award for supporting actor for his role in the three- part TV drama Burning Bush at the International Film Festival in Monte Carlo. His most recent Czech Lion award is for his lead role in Nowhere in Moravia (Díra u Hanušovic, 2014).



JOSEF TROJAN - YOUNG JAN MIKOLÁŠEK

The second of Ivan Trojan's four sons, Josef is a Czech theatre and film actor. As a child, he played in the films Angel of the Lord (Anděl Páně, 2005) and Revival (2013). He played his first prominent roles in the films Price for Happiness (Cena za štěstí, 2019) and Abstinent (2019) and also starred in the series The Spot (Skvrna, 2019) and The World Under Your Head (Svět pod hlavou, 2017). In the film Charlatan he plays a younger version of Jan Mikolášek in turn played by his father Ivan Trojan.



JURAJ LOJ - FRANTIŠEK PALKO

Juraj Loj studied at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava (VŠMÚ) and had his first engagement in the theater in Nitra. In his native Slovakia, he became famous for his roles in the series Stormy Wine (Búrlivé víno, 2012), Doctors (Doktori, 2018), Behind the Glass (Za sklom, 2016), Nurses (Sestřičky, 2018), Immortals (Nesmrtelní, 2010), City of Shadows (Mesto tieňov, 2008), Surgery in the Pink (Ordinace v růžové zahradě, 2005) and the mystery thriller The Rift (Trhlina, 2019). The role of František´assistant marks his debut in a starring role in a feature film.



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