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present a new film by Dan Svátek in a Czech-Slovak Co-production

BRASCA with HOLIDAY FILMS, FILMPARK, TV BARRANDOV AND AVION

# UNKNOWN HOUR



A story of a hospital murderer

A not quite imaginary story of a man, known in fact as the „heparin murderer“.

based on the book „Murders With Envy“ by Miroslav Skačáni

Directed by  
Dan SVÁTEK

Script by  
Dan SVÁTEK and Miroslav SKAČÁNI

OPENING ON AUGUST 27th, 2009

Distributor

**BIOSCOP**

[www.hodinunevis.cz](http://www.hodinunevis.cz)

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# PRESSKIT

## CREATIVE TEAM

When selecting the creative team for the movie *Unknown Hour...*, all participants were concerned especially in gathering young, vigorous and inspired people with artistic experiences, engaged in the branch already for a longer time and successful all over the world. Due to the Czech-Slovak co-production we chose authors in both the countries. The theme was brought in by Miroslav Skačáni, a native Slovak, now a psychiatrist in Jihlava, the author of a book about it, *Murders With Envy* (Parola, 2008). Directed by Dan Svátek (born 1975), who came successfully out with a feature film début *The Damned* (2002) and an English narrated movie *Close to Heaven* (2005). Photography directed by a sought after picture maker Jakub Šimůnek (born 1973), who succeeded in three feature films (*Holiday Makers*, *Roming*, *Václav*). The artistic concept of the prepared work was made up by the academic painter, designer Ivo Návrat (1976), together with the director Svátek and the operator Šimůnek.

The music composer is Varhan Orchestrovič Bauer (1968), the author of music for the last Miloš Forman's movie *Goya's Ghosts*.

The opening music will be composed by an outstanding Slovak musician Richard Müller.

## CREW

Story

**Miroslav Skačáni**

Script

**Dan Svátek**

Miroslav Skačáni

Director

**Dan Svátek**

Producers

Brasca, Holiday Films, Filmpark Slovakia

Director of Photography

**Jakub Šimůnek**

Production Designer

**Ivo Návrat**

Costumes

**Zuzana Návratová**

Make-up Artist  
**Pavčina Žďánská**

Music  
**Varhan Orchestrovič Bauer**

Title song  
**Richard Müller**

Line Producers  
**Zdeněk Obůrka, Peter Nevedal, Marek Mackovič**

Executive Producer  
**Lukáš Kaplan**

## CAST

Vaclav Jiracek .... Hynek  
Ivan Franek .... doctor Valencik  
Marian Geisberg .... doctor Havelka  
Stanislav Zindulka .... Sladek  
Jana Krausova .... Jana Valencikova  
Zuzana Kronerova .... head nurse  
Petra Nesvacilova .... Marketa  
Marko Igonda .... doctor Ptacek  
David Svehlik .... doctor Simek  
Jaromir Dulava .... doctor Maly  
Miroslav Taborsky .... hospital director  
Jaroslava Adamova .... Vilemova  
Dana Syslova .... Hynek´s mother  
Vlastina Svatkova .... Tereza  
Lucia Luzinska .... Hanka  
Jarek Hylebrant .... Petr  
Jan Vlasak .... doctor Misek  
Libuse Svormova .... Mrackova

And special guest Zita Kabatova ... grandmother

## THE STORY

A not quite imaginative story of a man, known in fact as „the heparin murderer“. What was the reason and what was happening in mind of the young man who decided to perpetrate the most heinous crimes, in doing so often feeling he was actually making good? What hustled the promising and intelligent medicine studies adept into a fundamental change of himself and commission of evil against

people? It is a horrible vision, that the man, who you know well, you meet everyday, you actually like and who is helpful, disposed and devoted even at the expense of his own comfort and private matters, is a murderer.

We watch a story that could and unfortunately at any time can happen. Yes, it could also happen in fact. And the first idea, you get after the finding you knew such a bugger, is how much was missing for any of your near and known or even for yourself to fall his victim. It was just the recently published story of „the heparin murderer“ that hit our sensitive sites. Yes, it could really happen to each of us. It was no more „somewhere in the world“. It was very close to us indeed!

Thus, the story of a devoted, intelligent and sheepish fallen angel-faced young man, making and attempt, and later on several others, to gain acceptance at medicine studies. But his character, despite of his abilities and cleverness, doesn't allow him to make the entrance exams, either now or whenever thereafter. Thus, he enters a hospital as an ambulance-man, taking it naturally as a changing station, because HE has a claim on to become a doctor. HE definitely more than any doctor, who finished his studies just because of an uncle engaged somewhere or there, eventually helped money in the right place. And moreover, he has to suffer their superiority, disgrace... HE, who is more than a match for them, has suddenly obeyed them, undergo injury and act as the most inferior man under the sun. Like a scrub. Especially the doctor Valenčík! He treats me as a doormat. If only I were able to do something to wreak. To finish the battle as a winner with him beaten! So that even Markéta could see I am better than the doctor.

And then, the day comes, when a dying old man asks HIM to help finishing his suffering and to get him to the other side. And HE does it and suddenly feels glow. He realizes, he is actually having God's possibilities. He is one, deciding either on living or death of patients. Besides, the primary reason is fulfilled as well! The doctor Valenčík, who defended the treatment, that was quite new and surely not applauded by the chief physician, was at once the bad, the offender, the loser. What a heady happiness to win for HIM. I am wielding, finally I am wielding!

Thus, he tries it again... and again. More and more frequently, often on the edge of disclosure. Sometimes, the beholder catches himself crossing fingers for the outsider, in accordance with the human nature. If only he were not disclosed before having done it. And after he did it (often under dramatic circumstances and conditions, when the prospective victim is fighting for naked life, identifying the murderer's eyes), we suddenly realize the horrible thing he did. Nevertheless, it is late. And HE murders again and again and feels himself to do good. He has actually become God, deciding on human lives...

Each murder is different, each happens under different circumstances, with different persons involved. Just the way remains the same. And the murderer's feelings... Despite of the increasing danger of disclosing. But the yen to kill more and other unprotected people is like a drug. Nevertheless, something like this can't be done over and over again. Sometimes and somewhere he must stumble. Thank heavens! There is set a trap for the murderer. Does it mean his end or will there be a new victim – a skill, innocent, immaculate, seriously ill man with great lust for life.

In a brilliant, bright and dramatic way written thriller (Murders With Envy, Miroslav Skačáni, 2008), shows us the murderer's intentions and the aboriginal passion to kill. Approximately Like this it could happen in fact. In all likelihood. How many such people are living next door to us... with us?

## AUTHORS

### **DAN SVÁTEK, director, screenwriter**



The final school work, Dan Svátek's film *The Owl River* (*Soví řeka*) won numerous prizes both in the Czech Republic and in foreign film festivals. As a production intern took part in shooting the American movie *Mission: Impossible* directed by Brian de Palma, with Tom Cruise in the leading role. In 2002 came out with his own feature film *The Damned* inspired by a real story of Czech heroin pushers. In 2005 finished his next author's project, the English narrated film *Close to Heaven* (*Blízko nebe*), where he was concerned not only as the screenwriter and director, but also as a co-producer. The feature film *Unknown Hour* is Svátek's third movie and his return back to stories based on real events.

### **JAKUB ŠIMŮNEK, photography**



After successful finishing a secondary school of photography entered a job in the Czech Technical University studio, where acted as a cameraman and later on a director of training films for universities. At the Prague Film and TV School, where he studied at the department of photography, there started his cooperation with directors Jiří Vejdělek, Aurel Klimt, Theodora Remundová, Jan Bubeníček, Marian Polák and others. He passed out in December 2002 with a colour etude „Rukameron“ and the diploma work „Activities of the Cameraman in the Process of a Film Work Implementation“.

Since acting as a cameraman. Oriented mainly onto feature films ( *Holiday Makers*, *Romig*, *Václav*, *Meeting in Prague - With a Murder...*), documents (*Standard*, *Prague between Star and Half-Moon*, *Forgotten Transports*, *In the Track of Josef Seidel...*) and commercials. His specialty is underwater shooting (SSI).

### **MIROSLAV SKAČÁNI, screenwriter, producer**



MUDr. Miroslav Skačáni graduated at the Faculty of Medicine UK in Bratislava, then worked in the specialization of psychiatry in Trenčín and Bratislava, since 1996 private psychiatrist in Jihlava. Authorized expert in psychiatry.

Literary production: "The Biest Must Die..." ( Parola 2003) – a set of three war stories, "From the Other Side" (Madagaskar 2005) – a documentary novel from 1945–1991, "Murders With Envy" (Parola 2007) – a detective novel based on hospital murders, "Help! I Suffer from Depression!" – (Parola 2007) – a belletristic elaboration of a serious psychical illness in the form of a woman suffered from it. Member of the Corporation of Writers since spring 2008.

#### **VARHAN ORCHESTROVIČ BAUER, music**



Varhan Orchestrovič Bauer is a Czech musician, harmonist, arranger and conductor. Applies himself to composing of film and scenic music, recently brought to the Czech public attention thanks to his work at the movie Goya´s Ghosts by an American director of the Czech origin Miloš Forman. Besides, he doesn´t remain away composing of commercial, promotional and other diminutive music of utilitarian character. He often both performs and records his music with a by himself established Momentary Film Orchestra (Okamžitý filmový orchestr).

#### **RICHARD MÜLLER, title song**



Began as a music journalist. After 1990 entered his solo path. Immediately at the beginning he managed something impossible until then – as a Slovak he was very successful with „federal“ Czech – Slovak megahits – songs in Czech (Šťěstí je krásná věc, Rozeznávám), written by Petr Hapka and Michal Horáček for the album "In the World Pension". In 1999 his first concert album Müllenium Live was published (the very first album in the SR and CR mixed in the space sound system Dolby Surround). In 2000 there were published the so-called Czech album with texts by Michal Horáček – "Richard Müller and Guests" and a year later the by numerous Slovak annual prizes awarded album "01", where Ivan Tásler from the group I.M.T. Smile acted as the main music partner and co-producer. Richard Müller definitely took up the same position as his father, a well-known Slovak actor Vlado Müller had. He became a living Slovak legend.

#### **IVO NÁVRAT, designer/architect**



Graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts Prague. Piano and pipe player. Exhibits his works all over the world and teaches at SUŠG Jihlava. Worked on the movies The Damned (properties), Close to Heaven/Blízko nebe (designer), Unknown Hour/Hodinu nevíš (designer).

#### **ZUZANA NÁVRATOVÁ, costumes**

Graduated from the gymnasium in Telč and SPŠT Helenín, department Costume Designing. Worked on the movies Close to Heaven/Blízko nebe and Unknown Hour/Hodinu nevíš (costumes).

#### **PAVLÍNA ŽDÁNSKÁ, make-up**



Make-up artist and stylist. Worked on the Dan Svátek's movies Close to Heaven and Unknown Hour. Further on a film by Jan Prušinovský František the Womanizer. Works for commercials, theatre and fashion.

#### **LUKÁŠ KAPLAN, executive producer**



Previously working as a co-production assistant on the movies Children of Dune, La Cittadella, Cime Tempestose, Maigret, Clever Phillip/Mazaný Filip, Dirty Soul/Duše jako kaviár, Shadows of the Deceased/Krev zmizelého. Since 2005 was working as a deputy chief producer on the films Grandhotel, Best Wishes/Všechno nejlepší, Václav, Saxana – Fair of Ghosts. For years he worked on TV serial stories, worth mentioning are Village Green/Náves, Very Fragile Relations/Velmi křehké vztahy, Branch Office/Expozitura. At present has finished the feature films Same To You, Boss!/Vy nám taky, šéfe! and Unknown Hour/Hodinu nevíš as the executive producer.

#### **ZDENĚK OBŮRKA, producer**

For twenty years have been working as a cameraman. Since 2002 external teacher at the Higher Professional School of Graphics Jihlava, department Multimedial Audiovisual Production. At present, his main job is activity in production. Participated in the origin of a promotional clip for Playboy (2007), a clip for Kostecké uzeniny, a.s., a presentation DVD for President Václav Klaus (2007), now films stage plays at the Horácké Theatre Jihlava and collaborates with the Czech TV. A co-owner of the tagaDesign.cz company, oriented onto multimedial activities – advertisement in the field of graphics, video and web.

## PRODUCER



## CO-PRODUCERS



## PARTNERS



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THE NEW FEATURE FILM **UNKNOWN HOUR** IS A PROJECT OF A CO-PRODUCTION BETWEEN THE CZECH FILM COMPANY **BRASCA AND HOLIDAY FILMS** AND THE SLOVAK FILM COMPANY **FILMPARK**

ANTICIPATED DATE OF THE **VIDEO** - **PREMIERE FALL 2009**

ANTICIPATED DATE OF THE **TV** - **PREMIERE SPRING 2010**