



HUKKLE

by György Pálfi

- presskit -

Best First Film, Gene Moskowitz Prize of Foreign Critics – *33rd Hungarian Film Week, Budapest*
Special Prize of the Jury in New Director's ZABALTEGI section, *San Sebastian*
Special Prize, Special Mention of FIPRESCI, Prize of Student Jury, Audience Prize, *Cottbus*

Diploma of the Jury, *Kiev*

Milagro Prize, *Santa Fé*

European Film Award—Best First Film

Official entry of Hungary for the Academy Awards

Prize of East European section, *Cleveland*

Main Prize, Prize of Art Cinemas' Regional Association, *Mamers*

Main Prize, *Torun*

Golden Firebird Award, *Hong Kong*

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HUKKLE

selected quotes

"Luminous. If you're attracted to pure, exquisitely photographed cinematic depictions of the world, you could almost lie down in "Hukkle" as if it were a meadow and soak in its sun-drenched atmosphere. If you enjoy the challenge of solving difficult mysteries, "Hukkle" presents a tantalizing case waiting to be cracked"—Stephen Holden, *New York Times*

"A beautiful eyeful of puckish whimsy and dark-humored mystery that approaches genius . It's a delight"—Stephen Rea, *Philadelphia Inquirer*

"There's virtually no dialogue in this exceedingly curious, fiendishly clever Hungarian contraption devised by 28-year-old György Pálfi. A bizarrely associative montage proceeds from an old man's hiccups (hence the title) to a barnyard frolic to a murder mystery with a sardonic punchline. The movie's cartoon pantheism sometimes suggests an eccentric nature documentary (or a comic version of *Humanité*), but basically *Hukkle* is one of a kind."—J. Hoberman—*Village Voice*, Apr. 2-8, 2003

general information

Technical information:

Length: 75 mins
Format: 35mm, colour, 1:1,85
Language: Hungarian with English subtitles (but not much)

HUKKLE

- synopsis -

An old man has hiccups sitting on a bench; a drunken youth snores on the carriage; a kind old lady picks lilies of the valley; women sew in the dressmaker's shop; men play bowling in a pub, the bee keeper spins the honey; a mechanical harvester harvests the wheat, which in the mill will be made into flour, and then in grandma's kitchen into dumplings – and throughout all this the policeman investigates a murder...

Director's conception

My intention was to create a fiction-based documentary feature film that is made on original locations and characters.

The story itself is a fiction from the beginning to the end.

The film is basically a film style game in which, behind the idyllic locations and images lays the story.

As in a picture from the turn of the century, often you have to turn the images upside down, you have to forget the images to find the thing you are looking for.

Therefore, for me, it's important the way of telling the main story, namely how emerges the secret from the apparently random scenes; how the images of everyday events became coherent elements of a series of murders.

I think that the most important organizing elements of the film are the rhythm, different noises and voices that stand in for sentences stated in concrete situations. These generate some strange mixture, a kind of symphony of noises that appear as micro-stories that, compared with the spoken words, point to the real story, the human tragedy....

credit list

Written and directed by: György Pálfi
Photography: Gergely Pohárnok
Dramaturgy: Zsófia Ruttkay
Music: Balázs Barna, Samu Gryllus
Editor: Gábor Marinkás
Sound: Tamás Zányi
Production manager: Zoltán Galambos
Producers: Csaba Bereczki, András Böhm

Production company: MOKÉP Co.
Supported by: National Radio and Television Commission
Motion Picture Public Foundation of Hungary
MTM-SBS Television (TV2)
Hungarian Academy of Drama and Film Art
U.S. Distribution: Shadow Distribution

director**György Pálfi***Studies:*

Theatre and Film Academy, Budapest
Director of film 1995-2002-11-14

Filmography:

2002 **Hukkle** – 35mm, 75 mins, colour, fiction

2000 **Hello Baby** – 16mm, 4 mins, colour, clip for JAZZ+AZ

1999 **Round and Round** – 35mm, 17 mins, colour, fiction, 3rd year exam
45th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, 1999

1999 **Knock-knock: 7th roo, Devil's Knot** – Beta SP, 32 mins, colour, tv-series, 3rd year exam

1997 **The Fish – Ichthys** – Beta SP, 27mins, colour, fiction, second year exam
29th Hungarian Film Week, Budapest, 1998
Mediawave, Gy_r, 1998
International Shortfilm Festival Babelsberg, Potsdam, 1998
Special Award at the Unicaja Film Festival, 1999

1993 **Break & Csekk II.** – SVHS, 55 mins, colour, fiction
Special Award for Best Fiction, Independent Film and Video Festival, Hungary,
1995

1987-1990 – first experiments S8 format

cast

<i>Uncle Cseklik</i>	Ferenc Bandi
<i>Midwife</i>	Józsefné Rácz
<i>Police officer:</i>	József Farkas
<i>Bee-keeper</i>	Ferenc Nagy
<i>Bee-keeper's wife</i>	Ferencné Virág
<i>Böske</i>	Jánosné Nagy
<i>Grandmother</i>	Mihályné Király
<i>Grandfather</i>	Mihály Király
<i>Townswoman</i>	Ági Margitai
<i>Townsmother</i>	Eszter Ónodi
<i>Townsfather</i>	Attila Kaszás
<i>Townsgirl</i>	Szimonetta Koncz
<i>Townsboy</i>	Gábor Nagy
<i>Post officer</i>	Jánosné Gy_ri
<i>Shepherdess</i>	Edit Nagy
<i>Water carrier boy</i>	János F. Kovács
<i>Water carrier boy's mother</i>	Mihályné F. Kovács
<i>Pig owner</i>	István Baráth
<i>Rapsic</i>	István Kovács
<i>Rapsic's wife</i>	Istvánné Kovács
<i>Bride</i>	Ildikó Kovács
<i>Bridegroom</i>	Csaba Virág
<i>Housewife</i>	Gyuláné Fülöp

Hungarian folk song
of the film

If your husband has you seething
Belladonna you must feed him
Add some pepper, make it pleasing
He'll be laid out by the evening
If you love your husband dearly
Good meals will keep him cheery

I'll away to that far valley
I'll away to that far valley
Where even birds go very rarely
Where even birds go very rarely
As the stork I too am lonely
As the stork I too am lonely
I have no one to console me
I have no one to console me
Days of sadness, life of sorrow
Days of sadness, life of sorrow
Star of sadness scars the morrow
Star of sadness scars the morrow

