

# Kawasaki's Rose



Behind every lie  
hides a truth...

FROM ACADEMY AWARD  
NOMINATED FILMMAKERS  
JAN HŘEBEK AND  
PETR JARCHOVSKÝ  
(DIVIDED WE FALL)



MENEMSHA FILMS AND IN FILM PRAHA PRESENT KAWASAKI'S ROSE  
STARRING MARTIN HUBA DANIELA KOLÁŘOVÁ LENKA VLASÁKOVÁ ANNA ŠIMONOVÁ  
ANTONÍN KRATOCHVÍL MILAN MIKULČÍK PETRA HŘEBIČKOVÁ MARTIN SCHULZ AND LADISLAV CHUDÍK  
COSTUME DESIGN KATARINA BIELKOVÁ MAKEUP ARTIST ZDENĚK KLIKA 1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DAVID JANČAR  
PRODUCTION MANAGER LUDVÍK MAREČEK PRODUCTION DESIGN MILAN BÝČEK SOUND MICHAL HOLUBEK  
EDITOR VLADIMÍR BARÁK MUSIC BY ALEŠ BŘEZINA DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MARTIN ŠACHA  
SCREENPLAY BY PETR JARCHOVSKÝ PRODUCED BY RUDOLF BIERMANN TOMÁŠ HOFFMAN DIRECTED BY JAN HŘEBEK  
 WWW.MENEMSHAFILMS.COM

North American Distributor and World Sales Agent

Menemsha Films

Neil Friedman

213 Rose Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Venice, CA 90291

Tel: 310-452-1775

Fax: 310-452-3740

neilf@menemshafilms.com

NY Publicity Contact:

Susan Norget

Susan Norget Film Promotion

212-431-0090

susan@norget.com

Based on an Idea by: Petr Jarchovsky and Jan Hrebejk

Director: Jan Hrebejk

Screenplay: Petr Jarchovsky

Producers: Rudolf Biermann, Infilm and Tomas Hoffman, Infinity

Camera: Martin Sacha

Editor: Vladimir Barak

Music: Ales Brezina

Production designer: Milan Bycek

Costume designer: Katarina Bielikova

Sound: Michal Holubec

Cast:

Lenka Vlasakova: Lucie

Daniela Kolarova: Jana, Lucie's mother

Martin Huba: Pavel, Lucie's father

Milan Mikulcik: Ludek, Lucie's husband

Antonin Kratochvil: Borek, an artist

Petra Hrebickova: Radka, a TV reporter

Ladislav Chudik: Kafka, an ex-secret police investigator

Anna Simonova: Bara, Lucie's daughter

Martin Schulz: Kristian, a television news editor

Isao Onoda: Mr Kawasaki

## **Behind every lie hides a truth, and behind that an even deeper truth**

Who can judge past wrongdoings? Who can forgive them? Can time make them less clear-cut? Can penitence subsequently redeem the wrongdoers? Jan Hrebejk's drama, based on a Petr Jarchovsky's award-winning screenplay, weaves a tangled web of similar questions and offers a whole range of often-contradictory answers.

Following a series of bittersweet comedies from the present day, the successful filmmaking duo have made a return to the style of their Oscar-nominated picture *Divided We Fall*. *Kawasaki's Rose* is the first ever Czech or Slovak feature film dealing with the subject of cooperation with the communist secret police and informing. Today, 20 years after the fall of the communist regime, not a month passes without the media bringing new reports about people whose lives were affected by the notorious "STB." These stories can still shock society and ruin the lives of those concerned. Behind the impersonal codenames in old STB files lie individual human failings, dramas and tragedies. In this film, the tenth they have made together, the Hrebejk-Jarchovsky tandem explore this theme through the emotional story of the family of 40-year-old Ludek Josek.

Television sound engineer Ludek has an ill wife who is thought to have cancer; he has a lover at work; and his father-in-law is a respected and widely acknowledged moral authority. When Ludek's affair comes to light and his wife wants to throw him out, he turns his anger against his father-in-law. By chance Ludek finds out that his father-in-law – this virtuous hero he saw as a rival for his wife's adoration – evidently has a huge stain on his heroic image, a stain that was concealed in the dossiers of the secret police. But investigating his father-in-law's past can have major repercussions, including shaking the foundations of this tight-knit and respected family...

The Hrebejk-Jarchovsky team explain: "We spent a long time thinking about and discussing this theme, partly in the light of newspaper articles like the most recent media uproar around the case of Joska Skalnik. We also had personal reasons for choosing this subject, albeit not directly linked to our own families. The excellent German film *The Lives of Others*, which presented a very accurate depiction of the secret police's work and methods, gave us the courage to take it on. We went down a different path, though: we assemble the story through the memories of the individual protagonists without using flashbacks. However, our interest in the suffering caused by the revelation or accusation that someone was a secret police informer was not aroused by well-known personalities but rather by people we actually know."

"There has not been sufficient reconciliation with the communist past since 1990 – for many people this is linked to personal reasons. Because many people knew something about someone else, and many cowards and many heroes were not clear-cut. We don't want to relativize guilt: we want to present a realistic story about it, not just for those who remember those times but also for young people who have no experience of the totalitarian past," director Jan Hrebejk hopes.

Director Hrebejk continues: “A while ago I came across a fascinating research study by the historian Jiri Suk about the overthrow of the communist government in 1989. The work won the Magnesia Litera Book of the Year award. This study presents the interesting idea that the memories of the firsthand protagonists are unreliable when investigating events of the past. Confronting people’s statements about events that took place 20 years ago with records from the time leads to considerable ambiguity. And it is the theme of individual memory and its pitfalls that underpins this film.”

“At the start of the film a serious accusation is made. A man who is jealous of his father-in-law accuses him of having been an informer. We do not know whether the accusation is founded in truth or not. And if there is some truth to it, we do not know whether events took place exactly in the way they are presented. As we watch, information that at first seems to be slander and a transgression that took place in the past gradually begin to change people’s lives and give rise to a paradoxical situation. We see how the various protagonists respond to this accusation, either believing it or doubting it. We seek to add depth to the audience’s response to the unfolding events by giving a realistic portrayal of the protagonists’ characters and lives. We watch the film’s heroes, re-assess our opinions on them and, as the plot develops, our understanding of the individual protagonists’ characters becomes deeper.”

The cast of *Kawasaki’s Rose* is strong and interesting. Besides Martin Huba (Pavel, the father-in-law), the film features Daniela Kolarova as his wife, Lenka Vlasakova as their daughter, Milan Mikulcik (their son-in-law), and Ladislav Chudik, in a very unusual role for him. As is his usual practice, director Hrebejk also cast non-actors: the internationally renowned photographer Antonin Kratochvil, experienced journalist and Radio Free Europe commentator Martin Schulz, and young artist Anna Simonova.

### **About the shooting:**

The shooting of *Kawasaki’s Rose* began on June 7, 2009, in Gothenburg, Sweden. “Sweden directly inspired the film. This film was written for Sweden,” the film’s director says. A few years ago Petr Jarchovsky attended the Gothenburg Film Festival, and when, a year later, he returned there with Jan Hrebejk, they met the entire community of the local art scene. For the filmmakers, the building in which Gothenburg artists work and live was such a unique and photogenic place, with such a strong genius loci and an unparalleled view of the city, the harbour and the open maritime horizon, that this location became the ideal place to shoot. It offered a perfect combination of typically urban architecture and nature, so the film’s screenplay could be written for a real setting. The crew finished shooting in Sweden on June 17 and then continued in Czech locations until July 22.

When filming *Kawasaki’s Rose* Hrebejk’s film crew used digital technology for the first time and shot using two cameras. This overcame the traditional limitations of the raw film material and allowed them to shoot scenes that were not essential to the story; alternatives were created that the director could not have accessed if he had been constrained by the material.

## **Cast, director and screenwriter:**

### **Lenka VLASAKOVA – Lucie**

Lenka Vlasakova, a graduate of DAMU (Theatre Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts) in Prague, works with the ABC Theatre, Bez zbradli Theatre, Na Jezerce Theatre, and others. Best-known film and television roles: *The Swell Season*, *Lea*, *Parallel Worlds*, *Hvězda života*, *Escape to Budapest*, *Of Parents and Children*, *I'm All Good*; television serial *Hraběnky*. For her portrayal of Lea in the film of the same name she won a Czech Lion for Best Actress in 1997.

### **Martin HUBA – Pavel, Lucie's father**

Martin Huba is an eminent Slovak actor and director and a respected university professor. An actor and director of drama and opera at the Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava, he is also known from Czech films, and a participant in the Summer Shakespeare Festival in Prague. Best-known roles: *Fanny*, *The Melancholic Chicken*, *Divided We Fall*, *Up and Down*, *Shadows of the Deceased*, *Something Like Happiness*, *Lunacy*.

### **Daniela KOLAROVA – Jana, Lucie's mother**

Daniela Kolarova is a leading Czech actress, a graduate of DAMU in Prague, a member of the Divadlo Na Vinohradech and Divadlo Komédie theatre companies; and recipient of the Alfred Radok Award. Best-known film roles: *A Night at Karlstein*, *Summer with a Cowboy*, *Seclusion Near a Forest*, *Ball Lightning*. She is also unforgettable for her portrayal of Eliska, Zdenek Sverak's wife, in the film *Empties*. *Kawasaki's Rose* is her first collaboration with director Jan Hřebejk.

### **Milan MIKULCIK – Ludek, Lucie's husband**

Milan Mikulcik is a Slovak actor and a former member of the Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava, where he worked for 8 years. He has performed as a guest actor with the National Theatre in Prague, Ha-Divadlo in Brno and also in Hungary. He has appeared in several television films and serials in Slovakia. His best-known film to date is *Cruel Joys*.

### **Antonin KRATOCHVIL – Borek**

Born in Czechoslovakia, Antonin Kratochvil is a respected photographer who lives and works in the US. His photographs have appeared in the most prestigious newspapers and magazines all over the world. His work is on display in the collections of La Bibliotheque Nationale de France in Paris and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. He has also had exhibitions in Milan, Munich, Cologne, Prague, Houston, New York, Perpignan and elsewhere. He has won a number of awards for his reportage photography, including Photojournalist of the Year from the International Center of Photography in New York and the Leica Medal of Excellence for outstanding achievement in documentary photography.

**Petra HREBICKOVA – Radka, TV reporter**

A very talented young actress, Petra Hrebickova is a graduate of JAMU (Janacek Academy of Performing Arts) in Brno, and a member of the Zlin City Theatre company. In 2002-2003 she was a guest actor with the Cinoherni klub Theatre and ABC Theatre in Prague. Her screen roles include Jaruska in Jiri Menzel's film *I Served the King of England*. She is a recent winner of the Thalie Award.

**Ladislav CHUDIK – Kafka, ex-secret police investigator**

Ladislav Chudik is a legendary Slovak actor, a holder of the Order of Merit (2003); he is also a respected drama teacher. He has worked in the Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava since 1944. He has performed countless theatre, film and television roles, most recently in *All My Loved Ones*. In *Kawasaki's Rose* he plays a negative character, which may be a shock for Czech audiences who will always associate him with his role as the charismatic head physician Dr. Sova from the legendary serial *Hospital on the Edge of Town*.

**Martin SCHULZ - Kristian, television news editor**

The commentator, scriptwriter, television host and director Martin Schulz was forced to emigrate to West Germany in 1982. From 1983 he worked for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Munich. Since returning to the Czech Republic in 1995, he has been the deputy director of the Czech broadcasting service of RFE. Since 1990 he has worked with Czech Television as a scriptwriter, director and programme host (*Na hrane, Snezi*).

**Isao ONODA – Mr Kawasaki**

Isao Onoda is a Japanese artist and consultant living in Prague.

**Jan Hrebejk – director**

Jan Hrebejk is one of the most successful Czech film directors and also an occasional theatre director. His most successful films have included: *Cosy Dens* (a retro comedy set in the 1960s), *Divided We Fall* (6 Czech Lions and an Oscar nomination), *Pupendo* (a retro comedy set in the 1980s), *Up and Down*, *Beauty in Trouble*, *Teddy Bear*, *I'm All Good*, and his most recent film, *Shameless*, shot in 2008. About his new film he says: "I am confident that *Kawasaki's Rose* will appeal to audiences, despite the strict individuality of the theme and the fact it deals with issues rooted in a particular period of time. Strong characterisation will make the film interesting for audiences and will enable them to identify with the characters without needing to have gone through similar experiences in life."

**Petr Jarchovsky – screenwriter**

Petr Jarchovsky studied screenwriting and dramaturgy at FAMU in Prague and is currently also a teacher in the same department. As a screenwriter he is closely linked to director Jan Hrebejk. He has won two Czech Lions for scripts for their collaborations *Divided We Fall* and *Up and Down*. Petr Jarchovsky wrote the screenplay for *Divided We Fall* (directed by Jan Hrebejk) and *Zelary* (directed by Ondrej Trojan), which were nominated for Oscars in the best foreign film category.

## **CO-PRODUCER**

### **TV NOVA**

TV Nova has enabled the shooting of a number of high quality but wide-appeal films either by producing them, co-producing or buying up advance television broadcasting rights. These films include *Big Beat*, *Byl jednou jeden polda*, *The Firebird*, *Queen of the Lake*, *Valka barev*, *Playgirls*, *Andelska tvar*, *Helluva Good Luck*, *Kamenak 1, 2 and 3*, *Non plus ultras*, *Panska jizda*, *The Poets Never Lose Hope*, *Dirty Soul* and *Wrong Side Up*.

TV Nova also produced and shot the comedy *From Subway with Love*, based on Michal Viewegh's bestselling novel and directed by Filip Renc; this was the biggest Czech box-office success of 2005 and won a Czech Lion for Most Popular Film. In 2006 TV Nova co-produced the films *Taming Crocodiles*, *Raftaci* and *Holiday Makers* – all three ranked among the five most popular films of the year.

In 2007 other TV Nova co-productions were box-office hits: *I Served the King of England*, adapted from a book by Bohumil Hrabal and directed by Jiri Menzel, Karel Janak's *The Ro(c)k Con Artists*, *Bestiarium* by director Irena Pavlaskova, Jan Hrebejk's *Teddy Bear*, and, most notably, Jan Sverak's smash hit *Empties*, which won three Czech Lions and became the second biggest box-office success in Czech history.

Films supported by TV Nova that premiered in 2008 include *Wedding on the Battle Field* by director Dusan Klein, *At Your Own Risk* directed by Filip Renc, *Citizen Havel* directed by Pavel Koutecky and Miroslav Janek, *O zivot* by Milan Steindler, the fairytale *The Loveliest Riddle* directed by Zdenek Troska, Vladimir Michalek's poetic film *Of Parents and Children*, Tomas Barina's comedy *Grapes*, Jan Hrebejk's film adaptation of Petr Sabach's short stories *I'm All Good*, and a comedy by first-time director Jan Prusinovsky *Frankie Is a Womaniser*. The most recent films TV Nova has been involved in are Martin Kotik's *Same to You, Boss!*, the continuation of a famous comedy *The Great Thaw*, the film *Operation Danube* on which Jiri Menzel collaborated as direction supervisor, and the continuation of the successful comedy *Grapes 2*. The latest film TV Nova has co-produced is Jan Hrebejk's *Kawasaki's Rose*.

TV Nova is currently involved in the production of a comedy called *Doktor od jezera Hrochu* based on a story by Miloslav Svandrlik and directed by Zdenek Troska, a new film by Jiri Vejdelek *Zeny v pokuseni* and a detective thriller set in the 1950s *Ve stinu kone* by director David Ondricek. TV Nova is also holding negotiations about coproducing other Czech films.