

## HAF 17 Saving One Who was Dead



**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Czech Republic

**GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:** Drama | Digital Format | English | 90 mins

**DIRECTOR:**

Václav KADRŇKA

**PRODUCER:**

Václav KADRŇKA

**HAF GOALS:**

Funds, Co-producers, Sales agents, Pre-sales

**BUDGET:**

US\$ 770,000

**SECURED BUDGET:**

US\$ 42,000

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

2017 *Little Crusader*

2011 *Eighty Letters*

## **ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS**

When the father falls into a coma, the mother and son silently concentrate all their powers; they meekly accept the diagnosis but resist the verdict.

## **SYNOPSIS**

An intimate family drama of guilt and self-forgiveness is portrayed through day-by-day linear episodes from the lives of a forty-year-old son and his seventy-year-old mother at the time of the father's illness – a severe stroke – and the resultant coma from which they both try to awaken him. That awakening and the father's healing require them to overcome fear together, to refuse a senseless sacrifice and to acquire absolute belief in a miracle that simply needs not to be impeded.

In his choice of autobiographical material, the filmmaker Václav Kadrnka has reacted to a convergence of circumstances, to a resonance of fundamental experience and cinematographic depiction.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

The project has evolved from the diary entries I made during the summer and autumn of 2016, when my father had suffered a severe stroke. They provide a day-by-day record of the time he was fighting for his life. The main focus of the account and of the future film is the subjective view of the son, who, for the first time sees his aging parents in a situation that he would previously not have associated them with. A situation in which the expectation would be of suffering and despair turns out to be one full of life and a shared experience of happiness.

Eliminating past guilt and removing fear of the future become the defensive strategies of the mother and son in coping with grief and doubt. When combined with other effects they help bring about the miracle of recovery. The mother and son will not attack or accept any attack, but refuse and reject any kind of conflict in order to save the father. The film will depict a resurrection, which all the main characters of the story will share.

## **DIRECTOR**

### **Václav KADRŇKA**

Václav Kadrnka (born 1973 in Zlín, Czechoslovakia) emigrated with his family to the United Kingdom where he studied theatre in 1988 and studied feature film directing at the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts (FAMU) in Prague, 1999-2008. His feature debut, *Eighty Letters* (2011), premiered in the Forum section at Berlin and was successful on the festival circuit (Thessaloniki, Vancouver, Denver, Linz, Copenhagen, Buenos Aires, Istanbul, KVIFF, Gijon, etc.) The film won the Silver Alexander, the Grand Jury Award and FIPRESCI Award at the Thessaloniki 2011 and other awards. In 2017, his second feature *Little Crusader*, premiered at Karlovy Vary International Film Festival and won the Grand Prix – Crystal Globe for Best Feature Film. Since 2014 he has taught at FAMU.

## **PRODUCER**

**Václav KADRŇKA** (same as director)

## **PRODUCTION COMPANY**

### **Sirius Films s.r.o.**

Being a film director Václav Kadrnka has established his own production company in order to protect his vision and sustain his creative freedom.

The projects Sirius Films seeks should always strive towards two essences: to look and to wonder.