



Megafilm presents in association with M&M Film and RTL Klub

CHAMELEON

a film by KRISZTINA GODA

Total Running Time: 105 minutes

PRELIMINARY PRODUCTION NOTES

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SYNOPSIS

Gábor is an office cleaner. Wearing overalls and a baseball hat, he seems insignificant. Working on the night shift, Gábor rarely has any contact with his employers, yet he learns everything about them by thoroughly analyzing their garbage. Since he is almost invisible, nobody suspects that Gábor is, in fact, a con man who carefully chooses his victims by the trash they leave behind. His targets are mostly disillusioned, lonely women. In a few months he destroys all their romantic illusions by taking all their savings. Having an unusually high IQ and an ability to assume various personalities, Gábor is an expert in manipulation. When he gets a job at a psychologist's office, Gábor meets Hanna, an injured dancer who happens to be the daughter of a millionaire. Insecure and vulnerable, Hanna seems to be the perfect victim. Gábor pretends to be a doctor who can cure her body and her soul, an irresistible offer for a desperate woman. Everything goes according to plan until Gábor falls in love with Hanna and has to make a hard decision between her and the money.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

CHAMELEON explores the subject of compulsive lying. Those who suffer from it feel an irrepressible desire to become something more than what they are. Gábor, a bright, talented young man, was brought up in an orphanage. By lying, he invents a better past for himself in order to create a better future. He longs for a privileged life with all its luxuries: fancy clothes, good cars, expensive homes and most of all, the feeling of belonging to a different class.

Is he responsible or is society to blame? **CHAMELEON** is a suspenseful psychological drama that explores the intense pressure to become successful in today's society.

CAST

Ervin Nagy - Gábor

An accomplished theatre actor, Nagy is a member of the internationally renowned Krétakör Ensemble as well as Katona József Theatre. This season he plays the leading role in Maxim Gorky's "Barbarians" and George Bernard Shaw's "Arms and the Man." He gave an outstanding performance in Chekhov's "Ivanoff," which was performed throughout Europe and at the Sydney Opera House as well as the World Festival in Bogota. "Ivanoff" can be seen these days in New York.

Nagy made his film debut in 1998 in PROFESSOR ALBEIT and has since performed in such acclaimed movies as CLOSE TO LOVE (1999), THIS I WISH AND NOTHING MORE (2000), THE BRIDGEMAN (2002), GUARDED SECRETS (2004), THE UNBURIED MAN (2004), SEASON (2004), STOP MOM THERESA (2004), MANSFELD (2006), OVERNIGHT (2007) and PINPRICK (2009).

Gabriella Hámori - Hanna

One of the best known and most accomplished actors of her generation, Hámori is a member of the Örkény István Theatre in Budapest. This season she is appearing in five productions, including Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" and Chekhov's "The Seagull."

She frequently appears in film as well. She was the lead in ESZTER'S INHERITANCE (2008), STOP MOM THERESA (2004), HUNGARIAN BEAUTY (2003), I LOVE BUDAPEST (2001) and JADVIGA'S PILLOW (2000).

Her major awards include the Critics Award (2001), Theater Critics Award (2006) and the Jászai Mari Award (2007). She represented Hungary at the 56th Berlinale as a Shooting Star in 2006.

Zsolt Trill – Tibi

Born in the Sub-Carpathian region of Hungary, Trill was educated at the National University of Theatre, Film and TV in Kiev. He also studied at the University of Theatre, Film and Television, Budapest. After finishing his studies he was one of the founding members of Illés Gyula Hungarian National Theatre in Beregszász. There he performed with great success in such roles as Thomas Beckett in "Murder in the Cathedral" and Lucifer in Imre Madách's "The Tragedy of Men." He also performed in Chekhov's "Three Sisters" and István Örkény's "The Toth Family." Currently, he can be seen on stage at the Csokonai Theatre in Debrecen. In 2003 he received the Critics Award and the Jászai Mari Award for his acting. His screen performances include MARIO IL MAGO (2008), DOLINA (2007) and JOHANNA (2005). Trill is presently working with Károly Makk on his new film.

János Kulka – Dr. Marton

One of the most well known and respected artists on stage and on screen, Kulka is a member of the Hungarian National Theatre, but he also appears on many other theatre stages, as well as in films. Internationally, he is known for films such as MISS ARIZONA (1987), SUNSHINE (1999), JAKOB THE LIAR (1999), THE LAST BLUES (2002), YOUNG DUMB AND FULL OF LOVE (2006), KONTROLL (2006) and PRINCELY REPRIEVE (2006).

He is well known as the Hungarian voice of Dr. House and has been honored with a number of prestigious awards during his career, including the Kossuth Award in 2006 which is the most prestigious civil award given by the Hungarian Government.

THE FILMMAKERS

Krisztina Goda – Director

A graduate of the British National Film and Television School where she studied film direction, Ms. Goda also graduated from the screenwriting program at UCLA's Film School. She has directed several award winning short films, as well as a documentary and television commercials. On stage she directed David Auburn's, "Proof," at the Merlin Theatre in Budapest.

Her feature film debut, JUST SEX AND NOTHING ELSE (2005), was a major success. Subsequently she went on to direct Hollywood mogul Andy G. Vajna's internationally respected film about the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, CHILDREN OF GLORY (2006). Goda's third feature film, **CHAMELEON** (2008), has had a great local and international reception. The film is in competition at the Shanghai International Film Festival - Official Selection and is an official selection at the Moscow International Film Festival.

Gábor Kálomista – Producer

Variety has billed Kálomista as the "hit magician" of Hungarian cinema. He is the most productive producer in his country. In the last 12 years he has produced more than 20 films, all of which have consistently attracted large audiences, including the award-winning BLIND GUYS (2001), JUST SEX AND NOTHING ELSE (2005), YOUNG DUMB AND FULL OF LOVE (2006), NOSEDIVE (2007) and IMMIGRANTS – L.A. DOLCE VITA (2008). In the last 12 years in Hungary alone his movies have been seen by 4.5 million viewers and have been acknowledged by numerous international festivals. (Berlinale, Moscow IFF, Houston IFF, Shanghai IFF, etc.) Kálomista is the President of the Hungarian Producers Association.

Buda Gulyás – Cinematographer

An outstanding cinematographer in the crowded field of excellent Hungarian directors of photography, Gulyás has worked in a wide range of productions in the last 25 years, including feature films, music videos and TV commercials. As a CGI specialist he has collaborated on many domestic and foreign feature films, including some major Hollywood productions shot in Hungary. He also lent his expertise to FATELESS (2005), Oscar® nominated cinematographer Lajos Koltai's directorial debut, which was based on the Nobel-prize winning novelist Imre Kertész's work.

Réka Divinyi – Writer

One of the most prolific and acclaimed writers of her generation, Divinyi has written both for film and television and is a staff writer on *Barátok közt* (*Among Friends*), the most successful dramatic series on Hungarian television.

She is a long time collaborator of Goda's and was a co-writer of JUST SEX AND NOTHING ELSE (2005) and CHILDREN OF GLORY (2006).

CAST

Gábor	Ervin Nagy
Hanna	Gabriella Hámori
Tibi	Zsolt Trill
Dr. Marton	János Kulka
Szikszai	Zsolt László
Mark	Sándor Csányi
Ildikó	Andrea Söptei

CREW

Director	Krisztina Goda
Producer	Gábor Kálomista and Mónika Mécs, Ernő Mesterházy
Executive producer	György Sánta
Writer	Krisztina Goda, Réka Divinyi
Director of Photography	Buda Gulyás H.S.C.
Editor	Zoltán Kovács H.S.E.
Music	Gábor Madarász
Production Design	Balázs Hujber, János Szabolcs, Zsófia Végvári
Costumes	Andrea Flesch
Sound	Attila Tőzsér

PRESS REACTIONS

"Amazing, astounding, absolutely amusing!" – premierfilm.hu

"**CHAMELEON** is an outstanding movie. If we would replace the streets of Budapest with the ones in Paris or New York, the film would still work. An excellent, high-level work of art." - **ÉS** (weekly critical literary journal)

"Goda and co-writer Réka Divinyi created a plot in an enviably self-confident way. They shaped the colorful and tinted world of the swindler and of the country where he lives (Hungary) in which the winner is always one step ahead of his persecutors and/or loved ones." - **Pestiest** (a.k.a Hungarian Time Out)

"In this part of the world, where comedies usually resemble werewolf movies, and gloomy, socially sensitive films look like vivid operettas, the straight film language which is used in **CHAMELEON** is a real rarity." – **Magyar Narancs** (weekly political journal)

"The film is perfect! Regarding the critical aspects, the film is flawless. The actors' guidance is just right." - **VOX mozimagazin** (monthly movie magazine, like Empire)

"Trill is simply perfect. He entirely found the balance between the jokes, the funny side of the story and the pain of an orphan who lost his dear friend." – **www.origo.hu**

FESTIVAL REACTIONS

Raindance London, UK

Con-men Gabor and Tibi (played by Ervin Nagy and Zsolt Trill) at night pose as janitors in offices, digging through bins to find marks to help them pin down lonely victims. Gabor plays the slick gentleman, backed by Tibi, marrying women for access to their bank accounts. This brings them easy but not exorbitant amounts of money, but when Gabor starts to fall for a high-risk mark however, things begin to spiral out of control. Uncertain whether he is playing the beautiful dancer Hanna, or falling in love with her, he gets drawn into an increasing number of complex cons to keep their relationship up.

CHAMELEON, unlike many of its con-film American equivalents has a certain depth, capturing the pathos of the victims, who also build an anger and ability to push back at their manipulator. Developing characters with meticulous detail, the protagonists question their tendency towards deception, disguises and sense of achievements whilst it is also uncertain who is betraying whom.

The third feature from Krisztina Goda, after **JUST SEX AND NOTHING ELSE** and **CHILDREN OF GLORY**, **CHAMELEON** is this year's official Hungarian entry for the Best Foreign Language film category of the Academy Awards.