



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
LA RÉSIDENCE

ATTENTION WHORES

a film by
Alica Bednáriková



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Festival de Cannes, La Résidence

Since 2000, La Résidence du Festival de Cannes has provided each year accommodation and support to 12 selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. These young filmmakers are selected on the basis of their short films, or even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project.

During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Festival de Cannes, to bring their project to co-production status.

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Technical Information

Title: Attention Whores
Screenplay: Alica Bednáriková
Nationality: Slovak
Genre: Dark comedy
Duration: 90 min

Shooting location: Slovakia
Production Companies:
Nutprodukcja (Slovakia)
Nutprodukce (Czech Republic)

Director's Information

Alica Bednáriková is a Slovak filmmaker currently based in Prague. She holds a BA in fiction directing from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, and is completing her MA in directing at FAMU.

Her film *Boredom* (2020) was screened at EnegraCamerimage and received the Ján Fajnor award at the IGRIC national competition in 2021.

Her next short, *Liquid Bread* (2021), was selected for La Cinéf in Cannes, Future Frames at Kalovy Vary, and Clermont-Ferrand, and was a semi-finalist at the Student Academy Awards.

Alica is an alumna of Les Arcs Talent Village. After completing a short version of her feature debut *Attention Whores* as her FAMU graduation project, she is now developing the film at La Résidence du Festival de Cannes.

Synopsis

Johana and Marika (both 16) are inseparable. Their bond thrives on rivalry and provocation. At an elite Slovak high school, they pull pranks and compete for attention, constantly testing how far they can go. Marika, already sexually experienced, flaunts it and treats Johana like she's still a child. Tired of living in her shadow, Johana becomes desperate to prove herself. When Marika proposes a dangerous game to see who can seduce their new teacher first, Johana agrees, unaware of how quickly the game will stop being one.

Statement of Intent

At my high school, teachers dating students was seen as normal. No one questioned it; adults laughed, students whispered, and life went on. Years later, I realized how many women from Central and Eastern Europe share similar memories: blurred lines, power disguised as romance. With this film, I don't want to moralize but to challenge the ideas of victim and perpetrator. Johana and Marika flirt, provoke, and test boundaries. And the teacher? Maybe one night he goes to a student party, gets too drunk, and crosses a line. It's a dark comedy that entertains whilst placing high school grooming at its center, framed by a toxic friendship that feels painfully universal.

“ Hell is a Teenage Girl ”

“ L'enfer est une adolescente ”

Synopsis

Johana et Marika (16 ans) sont inséparables. Leur amitié oscille entre rivalité et provocation. Dans un lycée slovaque prestigieux, elles font les quatre cents coups et ne manquent pas d'imagination pour attirer l'attention, testant sans cesse leurs limites. Marika, qui a déjà une expérience sexuelle, s'en vante et traite Johana comme si elle était encore une enfant. Fatiguée de vivre dans son ombre, Johana cherche désespérément à prouver sa valeur. Lorsque Marika propose un jeu dangereux pour voir qui séduira la première leur nouveau professeur, Johana accepte, sans se douter que ce jeu cessera rapidement d'en être un.

Note d'intention

Dans mon lycée, des professeurs fréquentaient des élèves et c'était considéré comme normal. Personne ne s'en étonnait; les adultes en riaient, les élèves chuchotaient, et la vie suivait son cours. Des années plus tard, j'ai réalisé que de nombreuses femmes d'Europe centrale et de l'est partageaient des souvenirs similaires: des limites floues, des relations de pouvoir déguisées en romance. Avec ce film, je ne veux pas juger, mais remettre en perspective les notions de victime et de coupable. Johana et Marika flirtent et provoquent. Et le professeur? Peut-être qu'un soir, il se rend à une fête d'élèves, boit trop et franchit la ligne. Cette comédie noire se veut divertissante avec en son centre la vie du lycée et un récit d'amitié toxique douloureusement universel.