

Berlinale
75th Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Berlinale Shorts

LILLA
KIZLINGER
ÁRPÁD
SCHILLING

LIVING STONES

A FILM BY JAKOB LADÁNYI JANCsó



LIVING STONES SYNOPSIS

A troubled young woman undergoes therapy at an unorthodox rehabilitation center far from the city. Her sessions with her therapist are slow and uneasy, as she is reluctant to trust him.

Tormented by long-buried memories, she reveals only fragments of her past and her dreams to him, while he pushes her to confront truths she is struggling to face. When the therapist introduces her to horse therapy, she finds a fragile sense of connection and acceptance that gives her the courage to revisit her darkest moments.

The boundaries between therapist and patient blur, and their interactions grow increasingly intimate, triggering an emotional unraveling.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

In my previous work, I was mainly interested in exploring the underlying tragedy of interpersonal relationships, loneliness, and alienation, as well as the responses people give to them. In this project I wanted to explore the same issues in a therapeutic situation.

Prior to my film directing studies, I studied psychology, which has a great influence on the themes I choose and how I approach them, but also on the way I work with actors. The most important thing for me all along was to create vivid and complex characters.

This required, among other things, that the actors were not only actors, but also co-creators. In the film, I wanted to show, among other things, the vulnerability and helplessness experienced in an unbalanced relationship, like the therapist-patient relationship. This sensitive relationship can heal as much as it can destroy. Throughout the creative process I was fortunate to have the support of Béla Tarr, who has been my mentor for years. He and the whole creative team were of great help to find a minimalist, subtle imagery to create a world in which the viewer can simultaneously delve into the characters' inner lives while remaining alert and asking questions. The sound mixing, the music, the colours of the film play a huge role in not only making us understand the characters and the story, but also in getting to the depths of our emotions.



JAKOB LADÁNYI JANCSÓ

I began my studies in psychology at the Freie Universität in Berlin. In 2019, I was accepted into the University of Theatre and Film Arts in Budapest to pursue an MA in film directing. During my second year there, I withdrew from the university to protest the undemocratic restructuring it was undergoing. I completed my degree in 2023 at FreeSZFE and the Filmakademie Wien. I have worked closely with Béla Tarr, serving as his assistant in his workshops. Currently, I'm developing my first feature film while working on Ruben Östlund's upcoming feature as a casting associate. As a filmmaker, I strive to craft honest, uncompromising and impactful cinematic experiences.







CAST & CREW

Starring: Lilla Kizlinger, Árpád Schilling

Director: Jakob Ladányi Jancsó

Director of Photography: Ádám Fillenz, H.C.A.

Production Designer: Zsófi Tasnádi

Editor: László-Csongor Csurka

Sound: Gábor Kerekes, Szabolcs Gáspár

Music Composer: Petra Szászi

Line Producer: Anita Nemes

Co-Producer: Hermina Fatyol, Márton Berecz, Zsuzsa Román

Producer: István Major

Creative Producer: Gül Togay

Executive Producer: Béla Tarr





SCREENING INFO / BERLINALE SHORTS 3

SAT / 15.2.

13:30 ————— Cubix 5 : Press & Industry, no Q&A

TUE / 18.2.

18:30 ————— Urania : Premiere

WED / 19.2.

15:45 ————— Cubix 8 : Repetition

22:00 ————— Zoo Palast 2: Repetition

THUR / 20.2.

12:00 ————— Silent Green : Shorts Take Their Time

FRI / 21.2.

18:30 ————— Colosseum : Repetition

CONTACT INFORMATION

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