

# RETUNING

documentary film by Sára Prokopová



The situation within a public broadcaster following the rise of a new political establishment.

# ABOUT PROJECT

A group portrait of employees of public television, which are currently facing attempts at political control.

|                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| genre:                   | time-lapse documentary film     |
| written and directed by: | Sára Prokopová                  |
| produced by:             | cinepunkt (SK), Tereza Tokárová |
| date of origin:          | 10/2026                         |
| duration:                | 60 minutes                      |



# THEMES

individuals vs. power / the media as a reflection of the current state of the country



values and principles vs. the arrogance of power

institution vs. state

conformism vs. non-conformism

# SYNOPSIS

In 2024, a new political power in Slovakia triggers radical shifts to bring independent public media under control. Amidst deep uncertainty and growing censorship concerns, a strike committee forms within the institution. The camera witnesses hallway micro-worlds and the resistance of journalists who, overnight, are forced to defend their profession. This Quixotic struggle against the machinery of power shows how ordinary people standing up for shared values maintain their own integrity.



# CHARACTERS

## STRIKE COMMITTEE



Soňa Gyarfášová

Ivan Brada

Vlado Amrich

Rozália Vlasková

Tomáš Bartoněk

Martin Bednářík

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Some films are born from inspiration. Others stem from irritation, anger, and the urgent need to react - to capture something that might never happen again. Suddenly, instead of a protest sign, you find a camera in your hand. That is where I found myself in early 2024, a few months after Robert Fico returned to power - the prime minister whose previous government was marked by the 2018 assassination of journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kušnírová. His new administration almost immediately began changing laws and undermining the rule of law, and the cultural and media sectors were among the first targets. Frustrated, I started to document the government's pressure to take control of public media - RTVS, where I also work as an external director. This clashed with the European Media Freedom Act and raised profound concerns about the independence a functioning democracy needs.

As the new legislation triggered symbolic protests and employee strikes, the film found its core: a collective portrait of the newly formed strike committee, filmed over three years. After the appointment of a new director in 2026, a wave of layoffs affected most of the protagonists. The documentary was presented as my graduation film in 2025, but filming continued, as these changes did not end with my studies.

My goal was not to construct a conflict - it was already there. I wanted to capture the gradual transformation of an institution and its people, who serve as a stage for the current state of our country. While the institution proved impersonal and bureaucratic, the courage of individuals standing up to power remained deeply personal. It is important to show that even small gestures matter when defending a free society.

This film invites the audience to reflect on the value of independent media and the price we are willing to pay to protect it. I chose to take responsibility, hoping to keep making films freely, without interference or self-censorship.

# CREATIVE TEAM

## SÁRA PROKOPOVÁ writer/director

Sára is a Slovak director based in Bratislava. She graduated from the Documentary Film Directing Studio at the Academy of Performing Arts (VŠMU) in 2025. In her work, she focuses on a variety of themes and is particularly interested in how the surrounding environment shapes human identity. She works not only on independent projects but also on television documentary formats. Her short experimental student film *Check in check out* (2025), conceived as a visual diary exploring the limits of artificial intelligence's emotionality, was recently screened at the Grenzland-Filmtage Selb festival in Germany.

As an assistant director and researcher, she is also collaborating with documentary filmmaker Peter Kerekes on a project about the Marathon. She is currently completing her film *Retuning*, in which she returns to the world of public service media - an environment she herself works in as a freelancer. Through the camera, she captures, in real time, its process of gradual transformation.



# TEREZA TOKÁROVÁ

## producentka

Tereza is an independent producer from Slovakia. In 2021, she founded the production company cinepunkt. Her films include Territory of Imagination by Paula Malárová (IFF BELDOCS 2023) and Seablindness, directed by Tereza Smetanová (simultaneous premiere at the DocLisboa and Ji.hlava 2025 festivals), which is currently being screened at festivals. In addition, since 2019 she has been working as a producer at kerekesfilm, where she is involved in Peter Kerekes's documentary Marathon, Vera Lacková's film Do Magic, and various international co-productions. Tereza is a graduate of the Emerging Producers, EURODOC, IDFAacademy and American Film Showcase programmes.

## CINEPUNKT

cinepunkt is a production company in Slovakia, founded in 2021 with the aim of creating a platform for new voices and original stories. Our films have been produced in collaboration with Slovak Television and the Academy of Performing Arts. They have been screened at international festivals such as BELDOCS IFF, Doc Lisboa IFF, Ji.hlava IDFF and others, and have been part of the international programmes DokIncubator 2022 and ExOriente 2024. We are currently developing several feature-length and short documentaries. In 2025, we also launched our sister company, postpunkt - a collective of talented editors from Slovakia.

TRAILER Seablindness: <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/1122352806>

TRAILER Territory of Imagination: <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/820419940>



# THANK YOU

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