



THE TURIN HORSE

A film by Béla Tarr

Winner of



Selected



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Synopsis

In Turin in 1889, Nietzsche witness the mistreatment that a farmer inflicts on his exhausted carriage horse. The philosopher flings his arms around the horse, then loses consciousness and his mind for the rest of his life.

Somewhere in the countryside: a farmstead, the farmer, his daughter, a cart and the old horse. Outside, a violent windstorm rises.



Credits

Director Béla Tarr

Writers Béla Tarr, László Krasznahorkai

Co-director & editor Ágnes Hranitzky

Cinematography Fred Kelemen

Set construction Sándor Kállay

Music Mihály Víg

Line Producer Gábor Tényi

Producers por Gábor Tényi, Marie-Pierre Macia,
Juliette Lepoutre, Ruth Waldburger, Martin Hagemann

Executive production Werc Werk Works –
Elizabeth G. Redleaf, Christine K. Walker

Production companies de T.T. Filmműhely,
MPM FILM, Vega Film, Zero fiction film

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35mm. B/W. 146 min. 1:1,66 Dolby SRD.

Language: Hungarian. Year: 2011

Cast

Ohlsdorfer János Derzsi

Ohlsdorfer's daughter Erika Bók

Bernhard Mihály Kormos

Horse Ricsi



On “The Turin Horse”

In this, his self-declared last film, the renowned Hungarian filmmaker Béla Tarr collaborates again with his co-author, the writer László Krasznahorkai, on the screenplay of The Turin Horse. The film, made of 30 takes, is also committed to Tarr’s “remodernist cinema” that seeks to capture the rhythm of life in real time and to raise a sharp awareness of the moment.

Nominated to the Golden Berlin Bear, has won the Silver Berlin Bear – Jury Grand Prix and the Fipresci Prize at the Berlin International film Festival 2011.

“Our film follows up this question: What did in fact happen to the horse? Ohlsdorfer, the carter, and his daughter live out their lives on their farmstead. They subsist on hard work: their only source of income is the horse and cart - that’s what they live on. The father takes on carting jobs, his daughter takes care of the household. It’s a very meagre life and infinitely monotonous. Their practiced movements and the changes in seasons and times of day dictate the rhythm and routine which is cruelly inflicted on them. The film portrays mortality, with that deep pain which we, who are under sentence of death, all feel.”

Béla Tarr

On the director and his work

Tarr was born in Pécs, Hungary in 1955. He started in film directing at age 16 doing some amateur films. Most of his early works were documentaries, especially on the lives of workers and meek people. In 1977 he debuted with his first feature *Családi tűzfészek (Family Nest)* that would enable him to study in the Hungarian School of Theatre Arts and Film.

Tarr, who had written his first four works himself, began collaborating with Hungarian novelist László Krasznahorkai, for his film *Kárhozat (Damnation, 1988)*, where the music is already done by Mihály Víg, his regular musician. It was the first of many collaborations, among which are the adaptations from the novels of Krasznahorkai *Sátantáncgő (Satantango, 1994)* and *Werckmeister Harmóniák (Werckmeister Harmonies, 2000)*. In this film, Ágnes Hranitzky, editor of all Tarr's movies since *Szabadgyalog (The Outsider, 1980)*, signs for the first time as co-director, and it will happen again in all his later works up to the present one *A torinói ló (The Turin Horse, 2011)*.

Nominated to the Palme d'Or in Cannes 2007 for his work *A londoni férfi (The Man From London)*, Tarr's work has been recognized in festivals around the world, and he's been acclaimed by the critique and the profession as an essential author.

He is an associate professor at the Berlin DFFB.

“Béla's works are organic and contemplative in their intentions rather than shortened and contemporary. They find themselves contemplating life in a way that is almost impossible watching an ordinary modern film. They get so much closer to the real rhythms of life that it is like seeing the birth of a new cinema. He is one of the few genuinely visionary filmmakers.”

Gus Van Sant

““Béla Tarr's films remind us of the strange and beautiful potential of narrative cinema that so often lies hidden behind predictable conventions and formulas. (...)”

Jim Jarmusch

Filmografia selecta

- 2011 *A torinói ló / The Turin Horse* (1132min, b&w, 35mm)
- 2007 *A londoni férfi / The Man From London* (132min, b&w, 35mm)
- 2004 *Prológus / Prologue* (5min, b&w, 35mm)
- 2000 *Werckmeister harmóniák / Werckmeister Harmonies* (145min, b&w, 35mm)
- 1995 *Utazás az Alföldön / Journey On The Plain* (35min, colour, video)
- 1990-94 *Sátántangó / Satantango* (435 min, b&w, 35mm)
- 1989 *Citylife* (32 min, colour, 16mm blown up to 35mm)
- 1987 *Kárhozat / Damnation* (122 min, b&w, 35mm)
- 1983-84 *Őszi almanach / Almanac Of Fall* (120 min, colour, 35mm)
- 1982 *Macbeth* (64 min, colour, video)
- 1982 *Panelkapcsolat / The Prefab People* (82 min, b&w, 16mm blown up to 35mm)
- 1979-80 *Szabadgyalog / The Outsider* (122 min colour, 16mm blown up to 35mm)
- 1978 *Hotel Magnezit* (13min, b&w, video)
- 1977 *Családi tűzfészek / Nido Familiar* (100 min, b&w, 16mm blown up to 35mm)





On the cast

János Derzsi was born in 1954 in Njirábrány, Hungary. He finished his degree in acting in 1988 at the Budapest University of Theatre and Cinema. He has been repeatedly leading actor in the films of Gábor Bódy, György Fehér and Béla Tarr.

Erika Bók debuted at the age of 11 as Estike in the film *Satantango* in 1994. She starred also in *The Man From London* in 2007. *The Turin Horse* is her third film.

On the crew

László Krasznahorkai (co-writer) Born in 1954 in Gyula. His first novel, *Satantango*, was published in 1985. Since then a many of his novels and short stories have been published in English, German, French and Spanish language territories. He has also received several international and Hungarian awards and honours for literature. His a regular co-write with Tarr since his first work together, *Damnation* (1987).

Ágnes Hranitzky (Co-director & editor) Graduated from the Budapest University of Theatre and Cinema in 1972 as an editor. At the beginning of her career she participated in the films of Miklós Jancsó, István Szabó and Márta Mészáros. She is Béla Tarr's permanent associate since 1978.

Mihály Víg (Music) Born in 1957 in Budapest. Composer, screenwriter, poet and actor, Víg has been the lead musician of the beat band Balaton since 1979 and Béla Tarr's permanent composer since 1983. He also played the lead role in *Satantango*.

Fred Kelemen (Cinematography) Born in Berlin, West Germany. Fred Kelemen is a Hungarian/German national. In 1995 he received the German National Film Award for his first feature *Fate*. Since that time he has directed a number of films including *Frost* (1998), *Nightfall* (1999) and *Fallen* (2005) and collaborated as Director of Photography and Cameraman with film directors such as Béla Tarr, Rudolf Thome or Gariné Torossian. Since 2000 he has directed several plays at different theatres in Germany. He also produces or coproduces films with his production company Kino Kombat Filmmanufactur.



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