



A FILM BY JAN VEJNAR AND TOMÁŠ PAVLÍČEK

A COMEDY ABOUT A HORROR THAT  
EACH OF US MAY ENCOUNTER

# She Came at Night

Are moms and mothers-in-law always right? Do they have good intentions toward us? And isn't that why they are the scariest monsters of them all?

This intimate black comedy by the creative duo of Jan Vejnár and Tomáš Pavlíček enjoyed a successful world premiere at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. It tells the story of a couple of thirty-somethings whose peaceful life is thrown into disarray when the mother of one of them invades their home. *She Came at Night* will come to Czech cinemas on 2 November.

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## SYNOPSIS

### The year's best film

JINDŘIŠKA BLÁHOVÁ, RESPEKT



#### Let the right one in!

When a couple of thirty-somethings let the mother of one of them cross the threshold into their home, they have no idea that they have just entered a claustrophobic purgatory. Their peaceful life is slowly transformed into a chaotic wreck. Valerie, a well-groomed woman in her sixties, is an energetic diva who little by little conquers not only the space of the apartment, but also the minds of its occupants. As the creeping home invasion gains force, certainties are undermined and the boundaries of privacy are demolished. Are moms and mothers-in-law always right? Do they have good intentions toward us? And isn't that why they are the scariest monsters of them all?

By treading the thin line between black humour and home-invasion horror, *She Came at Night*, a film by Jan Vejnár and Tomáš Pavlíček, explores a situation that each of us has experienced in one form or another.

The film's producers are Eva Pavlíčková, Pavel Vácha, Tomáš Pavlíček, Jan Vejnár and Šimon Dvořáček. Co-producers: PFX, Soundsquare, Artcam Films, Czech Television and Drive film factory. The film's original visual identity was created by Bohdan Heblík.

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## AWARDS

**Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2023** – Special Screening

**Finále Plzeň International Film Festival** – University of West Bohemia Student Jury Prize for Best Feature-Length Live-Action or Animated Film

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## THE FILMMAKERS ON THE MAKING OF SHE CAME AT NIGHT

The filmmaking duo of Pavlíček and Vejnár first collaborated on the script and directing of the Czech Film Critics' Awards. It was then that they decided to join forces and make an independent film together as quickly as possible. Due to the complicated and time-consuming financing of their other projects through various co-productions and grants, Pavlíček and Vejnár chose to take an alternative route and set out to finance the film themselves. *She Came at Night* was thus made thanks to funding contributed directly by the directors and producers, as well as the personal commitment of the entire crew, led by cinematographer Šimon Dvořáček.



*"The two of us are united by our desire to make a film faster than the current system in the Czech Republic usually allows. It can take three to five years, and sometimes much longer, until a filmmaker can gather the required funding to make a film. However, a lot of ideas should be realised much faster due to their nature – otherwise, the relationship to the given subject or theme is lost, along with its relevance to the given time,"* says **Jan Vejnár**. *"Together with cinematographer Šimon Dvořáček,*

# If She Came at Night doesn't become the next comedy cult classic, there is something wrong

MARTIN SVOBODA, KINOBOX

we decided in February 2022 that we would shoot a film and subsequently made everything subordinate to that. We chose from several different subjects and ultimately gave preference to the one that could mostly be shot at home or, if necessary, in other locations that we have access to through family and friends."

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**Tomáš Pavlíček** adds: "I most fondly recall the moment in June of last year when we finished the first draft of the screenplay in a supermarket parking lot in Sedlčany. The sun was beating down, our whole project was improbable, but we both believed that it would work and that we would actually shoot the film in November."

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## A JOINT CREATIVE ADVENTURE

"Collaboration with Jan Vejnar is laid-back, smooth and natural. I'm very glad that we found each other in this collaboration and I firmly believe that She Came at Night is just the beginning of a shared creative adventure. The film's main crew and cast were made up of close friends or people for whom this project represented a personal opportunity rather than regularly paid work," **Pavlíček** adds.

## The scariest Czech horror movie

JONÁŠ ZBOŘIL, SEZNAM ZPRÁVY

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"The aim was to make a film whose plot and theme would fully legitimise the intimate setting and the austere conditions under which it was made. From that perspective, the home-invasion thriller genre seemed like a jumping-off point – in terms of genre, however, the result would have a more varied form that would be a bit closer to dark comedy," says **Jan Vejnar**.

## The most pleasantly surprising Czech comedy in a long time

RADIM ŠLECHTA, REFRESHER

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"It was fascinating to see how friendly and synergistic the whole creative process was, from drafting the screenplay to editing. No one pushed us to compromise; the final form of the film was created after long, productive discussions. The result is a film that evokes a broad range of emotions and reactions, a film that is truly independent with everything that entails," says co-producer and distributor **Vít Schmarc**.



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**Simona Peková** (the mother), **Annette Nesvadbová** and **Jiří Rendl** appear in the lead roles. "Simona Peková puts everything she's got into the Valerie character. Here own personal experience and memories are present in Valerie. I firmly believe that this is Simona Peková's greatest film role," says Tomáš Pavlíček. Viewers can also look forward to seeing Vladimír Kratina, Judit Bárdos, Denisa Barešová and Michal Kern in the film. "All three of the central protagonists were our first choice from the very beginning. We intentionally did not want to cast entirely familiar faces, but rather actors who would most thoroughly merge with the characters that they were playing," says Jan Vejnar.

## THE FILMMAKERS



**Jan Vejnar** (1987) studied directing and screenwriting at the Film Academy of Miroslav Ondříček in Písek. He first gained attention with the remarkable short film *Figurant* (2019) with Denis Lavant in the lead role. Jan's feel for directing became apparent in that formalistically brilliant and atmospheric work. He collaborated with director David Ondříček on the screenplay for *Zátopek*. He is currently preparing his stand-alone debut, *Sestra Hana*.

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**Tomáš Pavlíček** (1988) has two feature films under his belt, the call-centre mumblecore movie *Totally Talking* (2014) and the idiosyncratic rural family fresco *Bear with Us* (2018). In addition to that, he also works in the Department of Directing at the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts and is a successful screenwriter (Jan Hřebejk's *Non-Stop Deli*, among other films).

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This is the first leading role in a film for stage actress **Simona Peková**, who is primarily known for her work with the HaDivadlo theatre in Brno, where she has been active since 2007. She previously played smaller roles in the films *Forgotten Light*, *Walking Too Fast* and *Boredom in Brno*, among others. Simona graduated from high school in Třebíč and later attended the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts in Brno. After graduation, she worked at Divadlo Husa na provázku and, in the early 1980s, joined Divadlo Bratří Mrštíků, where she remained until 1990. In 1993, she joined the management of the Archa Chantal Foundation, where she served as the director until 1998. She subsequently returned to theatre, first at Divadlo Husa na provázku and, from 2007, HaDivadlo, where she is currently performing in productions of *Fire in Felix Austria*, *Provincials*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Expulsion of Gerta Schnirch* and *Maryša*, among other plays.

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**Jiří Rendl** first stood in front of the camera at the age of 13 in short amateur films made by his brother Jan. He graduated from the Higher Professional School of Journalism and later worked for Czech Television. He returned to acting with a small role in Tomáš Řehořek's film *PIKO* (2010) and went on to appear in dozens of roles in Czech films and series, e.g. Petr Zelenka's *Lost in Munich*, David Ondříček's *Zátopek* and, most recently, in the role of David in Tomasz Wiński's *Borders of Love*.



**Annette Nesvadbová** comes from an artistic family; her grandfather was the well-known Czech artist, actor and writer Miloš Nesvadba. She focused on sports and music as a child, but ultimately studied acting at the Faculty of Theatre of the Academy of Performing Arts. After completing her studies, Annette worked or continues to work at Divadlo Antonína Dvořáka in Příbram and the National Theatre in Brno, and she is a member of the Činoherní studio in Ústí nad Labem. She is currently appearing as a guest performer in a production of *NordOst* at Divadlo v Řeznické in Prague. She has also appeared in several television series, such as *Bohéma*, *Kukačky* and *Terapie sdílením*, and in the film *Hany*.

SIMONA PEKOVÁ, ANNETTE NESVADBOVÁ A JIŘÍ RENDL

V NOVÉM FILMU JANA VEJNARA A TOMAŠE PAVLIČKA

Karlovy Vary  
International Film Festival  
Zvláštní uvedení

# PŘÍŠLA VNOCI

ČERNÁ KÓMEDIE O HORORU, KTERÝ MŮŽE ZAŽÍT KAŽDÝ

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Logo of Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (Zvláštní uvedení)

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# She Came at Night

Original title	Přišla v noci
Directors	Jan Vejnar, Tomáš Pavlíček
Screenwriters	Jan Vejnar, Tomáš Pavlíček
Producers	Eva Pavlíčková, Pavel Vácha, Tomáš Pavlíček, Jan Vejnar a Šimon Dvořáček
Co-producers	PFX, Soundsquare, Artcam Films, Česká televize, Drive film factory
Kamera	Šimon Dvořáček
Sound	Michaela Patriáková
Editor	Jakub Vansa
Music	Aid Kid
Cast	Simona Peková, Annette Nesvadbová, Jiří Rendl, Vladimír Kratina, Judit Bárdos, Denisa Barešová, Michal Kern a další
Year of production	2023
Country	Czech Republic
Language	Czech
Age rating	12
Runtime	85 min
Genre	Comedy, horror
Premiere	2 November 2023



FILM CLIP

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INFO AND PHOTO  
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