

## Document Citation

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Thursday, November 10

9:30 PM

THE PRINCESS (Adj király katonát!)

1983. 113 min. Black-and-white.

Director: Pál Erdöss

Screenplay: István Kardos

Photography: Lajos Koltai, Ferenc Pap, Gábor Szabó

Cast: Erika Ozsda, Andrea Szendrei, Dénes Diczházy, Árpád Tóth

Production: Mafilm - Társulás Studio, Budapest

Print Source: Hungarofilm

Cannes Festival - "Caméra d'or" - best first feature.

Locarno Festival - first prize.

*Repeated Fri NOV 11, PFA Park*

Drawn by the eternal allure of life in the big city, thousands of young girls arrive in Budapest each year looking for jobs -- and for romance. Jutka is worse off than the others: her foster parents are dead, and her sense of her own isolation is heightened when an attempt at reaching an understanding with her real mother (who had given her <sup>up</sup> as an infant to a state care center) ends in failure. She falls in with Zsuzsa, a girl of her age, and, as a test of their friendship, agrees to pose as the mother of her companion's illegitimate baby. Eventually she agrees to adopt the child, and settles down with it happily until her girl friend, impelled by a surge of maternal feeling she can't comprehend herself, and encouraged by her new lover, calls off their agreement and takes the child away.

Over the past ten years, Pál Erdöss (b. 1947) has shot eight documentaries for television and theatrical distribution in Hungary. In the course of preparing one of these, he

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interviewed close to a hundred female workers in Budapest textile factories, most of them newly arrived from the provinces. One of them was a young woman whose story so captured his interest that she became the model for "the Princess." This lively narrative about her friendships and love affairs unfolds against a realistically sketched background, depicting daily life among the young workers of Budapest.

"I can't be sitting in my office to be able to write screenplays that breathe. For me, writing a film means starting out from a reality which is both experienced and deeply felt." (Pál Erdős)