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Adoption
(Örökbefogadás)
Hungary, 1975

5th Hong Kong Int'l Fest

Director:
Márta Mészáros

Screenplay:
Márta Mészáros, Gyula
Hernádi, Ferenc Grun-
walsky

Photography:
Lajos Koltai

Editor:
Éva Kármentő

Art Director:
Tamás Banovich

Music & Sound:
György Kovács

Cast:
Monika Csentes ('Kata')
Kati Berek

Anna Bálint
Gyöngyvér Vigh

Sanyi
Péter Fried

Goska
László Szabó

Produced by Studio
Hunnia.

89 minutes.
Hungarian dialogue/
English subtitles.

Source: Hungarofilm,
1054 Budapest, Báthori
u. 10, Hungary.

The Film

The 42-year-old Kata, a divorced, childless factory worker, wants a child by her occasional lover Goska; he, however, being happily married, refuses for fear of repercussions. The teenager Anna Bálint has been in state care since childhood, and seeks a way out so that she can marry her boyfriend Sanyi. When their paths chance to cross, these two women begin a relationship that promises to fulfil both their needs: a probationary adoption is arranged. Anna becomes the daughter Kata has never had (although Kata continues to hanker for a baby), while Anna herself finds both a way to get closer to her boyfriend and to bring her prospects of marriage nearer.

Comment

Adoption returns to the worlds of Mészáros' first two features: the Erzebet of *The Girl* is enlarged into two personalities, 42-year-old Kata, a divorced, childless factory worker, a loner desirous of a child by her comfortably married lover (who adamantly refuses for fear of future repercussions), and the teenage Anna Bálint, in state care since childhood and looking for a way out in order to marry her boyfriend Sanyi. The changing relationship between these two women of different generations and outlooks forms the core of the film: both, in their varying ways, are seeking emotional stability and orientation, since both have for a long time led solitary lives with few attachments (either sought or permitted). The meeting of these two souls is imbued with more than a touch of inevitability: Mészáros' roaming camera, and the script's rejection of unnecessary dialogue, creates a powerful sense of the two being drawn together by a force neither fully comprehends...

Adoption is Meszaros' most accomplished work to date: the visual style is invitingly fluid, the passion residing in the camera and the eyes of the protagonists (Anna's wedding reception viewed through the faces of her institution friends; the touching night-time reunion of Kata and her lover Goska).
— from an article by D. Elley, published in the 1979 International Film Guide

MÉSZÁROS Márta

was born in Budapest, 19 September 1931. Her family was forced to evacuate to the USSR in 1936, and she was raised and educated there. After a brief return to Hungary in 1946, she entered the VGIK film school in Moscow (where she married her first husband, a Romanian), and then went on to work on newsreels and short documentaries in Budapest and Bucharest. In 1959, after divorcing, she settled in Budapest working as director of numerous short films and documentaries. She joined Mafilm Group 4 in the mid-1960s, and made her first feature for the studio in 1968. There she met Jancsó Miklós, who became her second husband soon after. *Adoption*, her fifth feature, won her the Grand Prix at Berlin in 1975, and her subsequent films have won numerous further international awards. Her most recent film, the French-Hungarian co-production *The Inheritors*, was the official Hungarian entry at Cannes in 1980.

Feature films: *Eltávozott Nap* (*The Girl*, 1968), *A 'Holdudvar'* (*Binding Sentiments*, 1969), *Szép Lányok, Ne Sirjatok* (*Don't Cry, Pretty Girls*, 1970), *Szabad Lélegzet* (*Riddance*, 1973), *Örökbefogadás* (*Adoption*, 1975), *Kilenc Hónap* (*Nine Months*, 1976), *Ök Ketten* (*The Two of Them*, 1977), *Olyan, Mint Otthon* (*Just Like at Home*, 1978), *Utközben* (*On the Move*, 1979), *Öröksej/Les Héritières* (*The Inheritors*, 1980).



Supporting Short:
BLUEBEARD (*Barbe bleue*)
France, 1978

Director: Olivier Gillon. **Photography (colour):** Michel Sibra. **Editor:** Cecile Decugis. **Music:** Georges Delerue. **Sound Effects:** Jonathan Liebling. **Sound Mix:** Dominique Hennequin. **Produced by** C.I.P.H.E.D. Joussemet et Cie. 15 minutes.

A first film by Olivier Gillon (born 1947), a puppet animation based on the famous tale by Charles Perrault, made with puppets presented to Gillon by Jiri Trnka.