

# HOUBA

a short film by Magdalena Hejzlarová

## TAGLINE

Dancing with chaos.

## LOGLINE

A personal journey into the heart of chaos, both tough and beautiful.

## SYNOPSIS

A young woman measures her strength against the king of chaos himself. The more she wants to win, the less she succeeds. Through a mythological story, the author looks back to the time when she discovered that there are things in life she will never control.



PRODUCTION: 13ka, Protest Studios  
COUNTRIES: Czech Republic, France  
PRODUCTION DATE: 08/2024  
FINAL LENGTH: 14 minutes 58 seconds  
CATEGORY: animation, documentary, experimental  
GENRES: hybrid, psychology, mythology,

TOPICS: coping with inner chaos, insomnia, can't control life,  
the strength of a company, peek into the today's sensitive soul

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FUNDED BY:



IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH:

UMPRUM Préludes

## INDUSTRY EVENTS

European Short Pitch - Projects in development 2022

CEEA Forum

Ji.hlava New Visions 2022

Short Film Corner | Rendez-vous Industry — Focus WiP 2023

## CREW

SCRIPTWRITER: Magdalena Hejzlarová

CAST: Alica Minár

IMAGE / CINEMATOGRAPHY: Zdena Sýkorová

ANIMATION: Eliška Kerbachová, Anna Belová, Magdalena Hejzlarová

EDITING: Alexander Kashcheev

ORIGINAL SCORE: Gosheven

SOUND DESIGN: Alexander Kashcheev

SOUND MIX: Gilles Benardeau

COSTUME DESIGN: Natálie Rajnišová

PRODUCER: Karolína Davidová, 13ka

CO-PRODUCER: Romain Bent, Protest Studios

LINE PRODUCER: Ester Valtrová

VISUAL PRESENTATION: Darjan Hardi

PR AND MARKETING: Adriana Belešová



## ABOUT HUN TUN (HUN DUN)

Hun Tun is an old Taoist story about the creation of the world. Hundun (Chinese: 混沌; lit. 'muddled confusion') is a legendary faceless being, emperor of chaos. He was very generous and kind and he was often inviting his friends (Shu and Hu) over. They wanted to repay him for his kindness and as he had no openings in his body, they got an idea to bore the holes in him. Every day they bored another hole, and on the seventh day Hun Tun died.













## BIO & FILMOGRAPHY



MAGDALENA HEJZLAROVÁ is a visual artist and stop-motion animation expert. She graduated from Prague's Academy of Applied Arts and Design with her student short HYPNAGOGIA (2017), premiered at Ji.hlava IDFF, depicting animated accounts of people describing their experiences of falling asleep. Magdalena worked at several art and animation studios in Prague.

She is a commissioned artist and animator and has collaborated on remarkable films like LA TRAVERSÉE directed by Florence Mialhe (Honourable Mention at Annecy 2021) or APART by Diana Cam Van Nguyen (BAFTA Student Film Award finalist).

She assists artists with disabilities in a Prague-based art studio. Along with Hun Tun, Magdalena created a radio documentary and a podcast series for Czech Radio both concerning sleep and insomnia.

## FILMOGRAPHY

Until exhaustion, 2021, 3:36 min, Gosheven  
Anifilm, Best Music Video, 2022

HYPNAGOGIA, 2017, 5 min, UMPRUM  
Ji.hlava IDFF, Official Selection, 2017  
Animateka, Official Selection, 2018  
Anifilm, Official Selection, 2018

## LONG & DETAILED SYNOPSIS

Magdalena is an ordinary millennial. Her life is full of little twists and adventures: work, friends and love. The only thing she misses is sleep. Where has it disappeared? Her life gets swallowed by chaos. Hun Tun, an ancient chaos king. She wants to escape. The more she tries the more she gets stuck. Only in the moment when she surrenders, she sees the chaos clearly. And suddenly, there are other people with their “chaoses” too. Hun Tun won't go away, making her realize that chaos has ever been. And the two will forever stay frenemies. A visually poetic and personal journey into the heart of chaos, both tough and beautiful.

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

**SHOOTING FORMAT:** Digital 4K

**ANIMATION TECHNIQUE(S):** Animated object, Live Action, Powder Animation, Sand Animation, Scanner animation

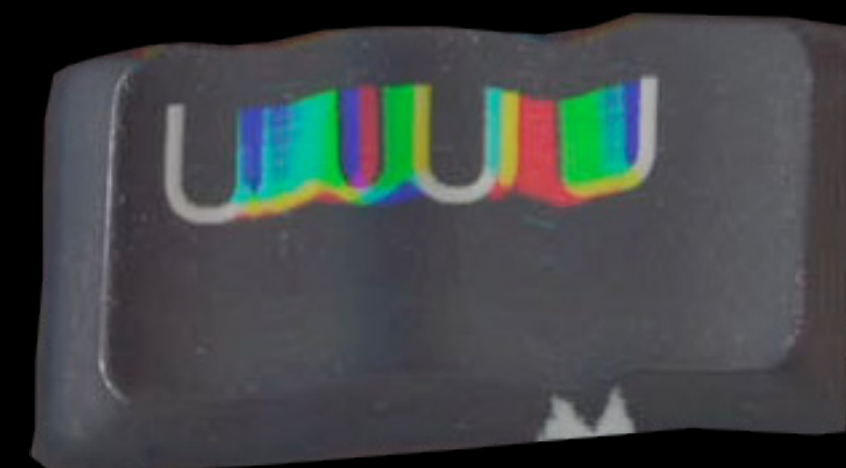
**DCP :** 24 FPS

**IMAGE RATIO:** 16:9 (1:78)

**SOUND:** 5.1, stereo

**ORIGINAL LANGUAGE:** Czech

**SUBTITLES:** English, French







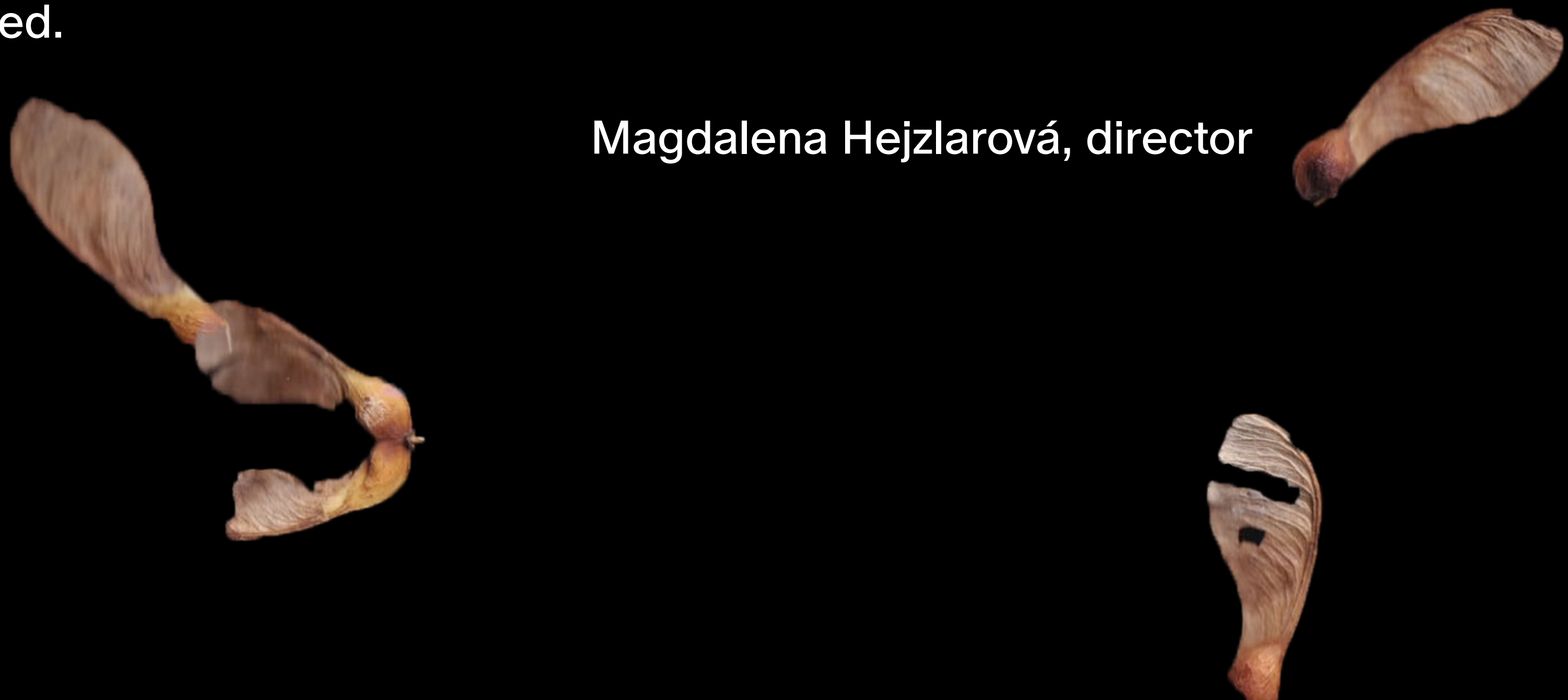
## STATEMENT OF INTENT

I have dealt with insomnia for several years. In the tougher times, there was mainly chaos in my head. The fact that Taoists see chaos as a neutral thing, as a condition for life, changed my perception. It helps me to accept that I will never have either my sleep or my life in control. In the film, I examine chaos as a state of mind that can only be bearable when frankly recognized and patiently observed.

I combine stop-motion animation and live-action. Sleepless nights follow dizzy days. In the nights we dive into the protagonist's inner world, captured through animation. During days, our heroine gets overwhelmed and gradually swallowed up by Huntun.

I sleep much better these days. But it is hardly a happy end. Nevertheless, some vital change takes place in both my and the heroine's life. I tell the audience about that shift and hope they will leave the cinema gently empowered.

Magdalena Hejzlarová, director



## YOUNG PEOPLE AND SLEEP

34 % female and 22 % male university students deal with insomnia. There is a significant increase since 2010. Similarly it is with young adults generally.

Possible factors impacting sleep with this age group:

1. Bad sleeping habits: difference between sleep on working days and week-ends, high pressure on establishing oneself, on performance and career-building, urge to make “the most out of life“
2. Digital devices, social media, flood of information and their increasing use
3. Growing mental health issues throughout global population (might be affected by general openness to share and deal with mental health of younger generations).



## CONTACTS

DIRECTOR: Magdalena Hejzlarová  
*magdalena.hejzlar@gmail.com*  
*magdalenahejzlarova.com*

PRODUCER: 13ka  
Myslivečkova 1798/53, 162 00, Prague 6, Czech Republic  
CONTACT: Karolína Davidová  
+420 721 011 357  
*karolina@13ka.eu*  
*13ka.eu*

CO-PRODUCER: Protest Studios  
CONTACT: Romain Bent  
*romain@proteststudios.com*  
*proteststudios.com*

DISTRIBUTION & SALES: Protest Studios  
CONTACT: Florian Fernandez  
+33 6 59 53 40 18  
*florian@proteststudios.com*  
*proteststudios.com*

