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PANELSTORY OR HOW A HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IS BORN

FILM BY VĚRA CHYTILOVÁ

BACK ON SCREENS

In the second half of the 1970s, Czechoslovak cinema entered a phase of a kind of revival and relaxation. Alongside František Vláčil and Dušan Hanák and others, Věra Chytilová was also able to return to making feature films. Shortly after *The Apple Game*, she made another similarly critical portrait of unstable interpersonal relationships. In *Panelstory or how a housing development is born*, she uses a residential estate to represent a microcosm of society during the normalization period, a time in which nothing works because of laziness, apathy and communication barriers. All generations and different social groups are represented in this web of micro-stories. Amongst the actors and non-actors on screen, one of the roles is played by the co-author of the script, Eva Kačírková, who, as the wife of a builder, had a lot of inside information about how residential estates were built in Czechoslovakia. One of them, Prague's Jižní Město (South City), was also the location of the filming. The image of a community whose members pursue only their individual goals instead of shared socialist ideals was so telling and biting that the premiere was initially postponed, and even when it was screened it was only shown in a limited number of cinemas outside the big cities. Early audiences were able to see *Panelstory or how a housing development is born* at the San Remo Film Festival in Italy, where it won the Grand Prize in 1980.

Czechoslovakia 1981 • 101 min. • comedy morality • DCP, MP4 • accessible

Director Věra Chytilová
Screenplay Eva Kačírková, Věra Chytilová
Photography Jaromír Šofr
Set designer Aleš Voleman
Editing Jiří Brožek
Cast Antonín Vaňha, Lukáš Bech, Eva Kačírková, Jiří Kodet, Alena Rýcová, Michal Nesvadba and others

The new digitization of this film was funded by Milada Kučerová and Eduard Kučera.

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