



KOOKY

Written and directed by Jan Svěrák

**Biograf Jan Svěrák
Portobello Pictures
Phoenix Film
Česká televize
RWE**

International sales:

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Awards:

Crystal Globe, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, Czech Republic (2010, Karlovy Vary) - A Special Jury Award

Ota Hofman Children Film Festival, Czech Republic (2010, Ostrov) – The Best Picture in age category by 15 for an innovative approach in film production for young audience

Czech Film Review's Awards, Czech Republic (2010): The Best Cinematography (Vladimír Smutný, Mark Bliss)

Czech Lion for the Best Film Editing, Best Music, Best Sound, Best Film Poster, Czech Republic (2010)

Finale Film Festival, Czech Republic (Pilsen, 2011): The Main Prize (Golden Kingfisher) for The Best Feature Film

Kinodiseea Festival, Romania (Bucharest, 2011): Special Mention ECFA (European Children Film Association)

Cairo International Film Festival (Cairo, 2012): Golden prize



Synopsis

ONDRA is forced to throw away his favourite teddy bear KOOKY, a scruffy, sawduststuffed toy which triggers his asthma. That night he prays for the safe return of his furry friend... Across town, Kooky is lying on top of a huge rubbish dump and about to be crushed when he suddenly comes to life, making his escape into a mysterious forest. The naive, cuddly Kooky needs help to survive in the rough-and-ready world of the forest and he finds it when he meets the crotchety forest guardian HERGOT. But Hergot has his enemies too – the malevolent ANUSHKA and his goons plan to take over the forest, trying to prove that the short-sighted but good-hearted Hergot is not up to the job of guardian.

Things come to a head when, after an action-packed, death-defying car chase to save a bird's nest filled with eggs from the roof of a runaway tractor, Anushka steals the eggs from Kooky and takes credit for the rescue. As Nightshade starts a dangerous fire, and blames Hergot for the devastation, it is left to Kooky to save the day and find his way home to his beloved Ondra, who is becoming unwell....

Using puppetry and live action, KOOKY is an inventive, thrilling family adventure and a celebration of the childhood imagination from Academy Award-winning director Jan Sverák (KOLYA, DARK BLUE WORLD, EMPTIES).

Technical Specifications

Film	35mm
Ratio	Cinemascope
Running time	95 mins
Length	2600m
Reels	5
Sound	Digital Surround EX
Frame rate	24 fps
Year of production	2010
Country of origin	Czech Republic
Language	Czech



Cast and crew

Kooky's Crew

Director: Jan Svěrák

Screenplay: Jan Svěrák

Producers: Jan Svěrák, Eric Abraham

Co-producers: Česká televize (Magdalena Sedláková), RWE

Czech distributor: Biograf Jan Svěrák

Art Director: Jakub Dvorský

Cinematographer: Vladimír Smutný, Mark Bliss

Composer: Michal Novinski

Editor: Alois Fišárek

Production Designer: Jan Vlasák

Costume Designer: Simona Rybáková

Sound: Jakub Čech, Juraj Mravec, Pavel Rejholec

Cast – live action

Homeless man - Oldřich Kaiser,

Ondra - Ondřej Svěrák

Mother - Kristina Nováková-Fuitová

Father - Filip Čapka

Cast - voices

Kooky – Ondřej Svěrák

Hergot – Zdeněk Svěrák

Anuška – Jiří Macháček

Pytlík Vidlička – Petr Čtvrtníček

Pytlík Zapík – Jiří Lábus

Rohánek – Pavel Liška

KOOKY

PORTOBELLO
FILM SALES





Jan Svěrák filmography

Director Short documentaries

- 1984 Sbohem nadrazicko (Goodbye Little Station)
- 1985 Vsak su vinar (Wine-Maker)
- 1986 Vesmirna odyssea II (Space Odyssey II)
- 1988 Ropaci (Oilgobblers)

Features

- 1991 Obecna skola (Elementary School)
- 1994 Akumulator 1 (Accumulator 1)
- 1994 Jizda (The Ride)
- 1996 Kolja (Kolya)
- 2001 Tmavomodry svet (Dark Blue World)
- 2004 Tatínek (Papa)
- 2007 Vratné lahve (Empties)
- 2010 Kuky se vrací (Kooky)
- 2014 Tri bratri (Three Brothers)

Producer

- 2007 Tajnosti (Little Girl Blue), dir. Alice Nellis

Actor

- 1978 Kulovy blesk (Fire-Ball; a child by the dust-bin) Z.Podskalsky, L.Smoljak
- 1987 Nejista sezona (The Season without Security; theatre-goer) L. Smoljak
- 1995 Valka barev (The War of the Colours; director) Filip Renc
- 2001 Rebelove (Rebels; customs officer) Filip Renc
- 2005 Roman pro zeny (Novel for Women; waiter) Filip Renc



Jan Svěrák biography

Jan Sverak studied the documentary film course at the Prague Film Academy (FAMU), and graduated in 1988. While at the Academy he directed several short films (among them *Goodbye Little Station*, *Wine-Maker* and two television films: *Conversation* and *How the Chimney-Sweeps Bring Good Luck*). Jan Sverak's talent first attracted attention through his short film *Space Odyssey II*, a dramatic story of two retired women living on a snow-bound estate. Here he paid his first ironic homage to mainstream American commercial film genres.

Jan's ability as a film-maker was confirmed by his "sci-fi ecology" documentary dealing with a "newly discovered species", supposedly flourishing in the devastated region of the then Northern Czechoslovakia. In 1989, *Oilgobblers* received the most prestigious prize in its category, the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Student Oscar® for the best foreign film.

Two years later Jan Sverak completed his feature debut *Elementary School*. His father, Zdenek Sverak, wrote the screenplay and acted in the film. In 1992 this heart-warming period film set in post-war Czechoslovakia was nominated for the Academy Award® for Best Foreign Language Film.

Jan Sverak directed *Accumulator 1*, an action fantasy about television's vampire-like capacity to suck out a person's life-force and deplete their energy, which he wrote with Jan Slovak, a member of the theatre company Sklep. Zdenek Sverak worked with the two young authors on the dialogue for the final version. At the time, the film with its budget of over forty million crowns, was the largest scale Czech production ever. It was awarded the Media Prize at the 1994 Venice International Festival and received the Grand Prix at the International Festival at Yubari Fanta in Japan. On home territory the popularity of the film brought Jan Sverak the Czech Lion Prize, awarded by the Czech Film and Television Academy for the most popular film of the year.

Jan Sverak's road-movie *The Ride* was also a hit with audiences in the Czech Republic. He wrote the screenplay of this ultra low-budget film with his college mate Martin Dostal. Since its first release, the film acquired an almost cult status and for more than a year it was one of the top Czech box-office hits. *Jizda* received the Crystal Globe, the main prize at the 30th International Film Festival in Karlovy Vary in 1995.



Kolya, Jan's first collaboration with Eric Abraham, was scripted by his father Zdenek Sverak, who also stars. It won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 1997 as well as taking home 7 Czech Lion awards.

Another movie written by his father, *Dark Blue World*, was premiered in May 2001. Year 2007 was a prolific year for Jan Sverak, as he premiered his film *Empties* and produced a movie by Alice Nellis *Little Girl Blue*. Jan Sverak's first film for young audience, featuring both live action and puppetry sequences, *Kooky* (May 2010), is an enjoyable adventure for both children and adults. Sverak's latest film, fairy tale *The Three Brothers* (August 2014), presents traditional marvels of Central Europe within musical background.

He is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Czech Film Academy. He is married with three children and lives in Prague.