

We Met at Last

Director: Barbora Aradská
Genre: auteur experimental documentary
Stage of Production: in postproduction
Country: Czech Republic

Runtime: 20’
Estimated date of premiere: February 2027
Total Budget: 26 000 EUR

Synopsis:

In a poetically styled and fragmentarily edited film, the author learns that her uncle Dušan is suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, and sets out on repeated journeys to the abandoned intergenerational house where nine family members once lived, and today only he remains. Her returns to the space of her childhood, however, turn into a confrontation with an inner emptiness, which she tries to fill by delving into family archives and old photographs, in a desire to bring back the people who have long since left it. Gradually, as the author changes her perspective on the reality of the empty rooms, she creates within herself the space and strength for genuine closeness and its preservation in the moments she spends with her uncle – even if only for a moment, which immediately becomes, in turn, a memory itself.

Director’s Statement:

I remember the route home very well. After crossing the railway tracks, our family house was just down a long, straight road lined with huge chestnut trees. It is a multigenerational home, so we all lived there - my grandparents, my father with his family and his brother with his family. There was always someone in the home and I never have felt lonely. But as life moves and relationships breaks - everyone moved out. The rooms

gradually gathered dust. The only person left is my uncle Dušan. He is alone and I found myself far away from the home - and lonely.

Perhaps my grandma’s death two years ago deepened his solitude and triggered his Alzheimer’s disease. When my cousin told me about his sickness it was a harsh realization - I always thought I could return and nothing

changes there. But I found out that is not the reality and many questions arises.

I don't know how much longer he will be able to take care of himself and the house, or what will happen to it when he is gone. These questions awaken ambivalent feelings in me toward the place and my adolescence - feelings I suppressed for a long time. There is a sense of chaos and the breakdown of the family after my parents' divorce. Many micro-moments of fear and loneliness have become embedded in me like bricks in a foundation, which I still carry. At the same time, it is also my foundation; it made me who I am.

Through journey of this film, I wanted to revisit my adolescent memories and changed my perception on the house and perhaps on the relationships in my family. Maybe also get a glimps of our wholeharted relationship with my uncle before he completely forgets about who I am. And as well maybe close the door after time and place which is no longer serving me.

I hope the film will help me say goodbye and dissolve the loneliness and abandonment I carry within me.

Production Company: FAMU, FILMTALENT ZLÍN
Looking for: festival editors, sales agents