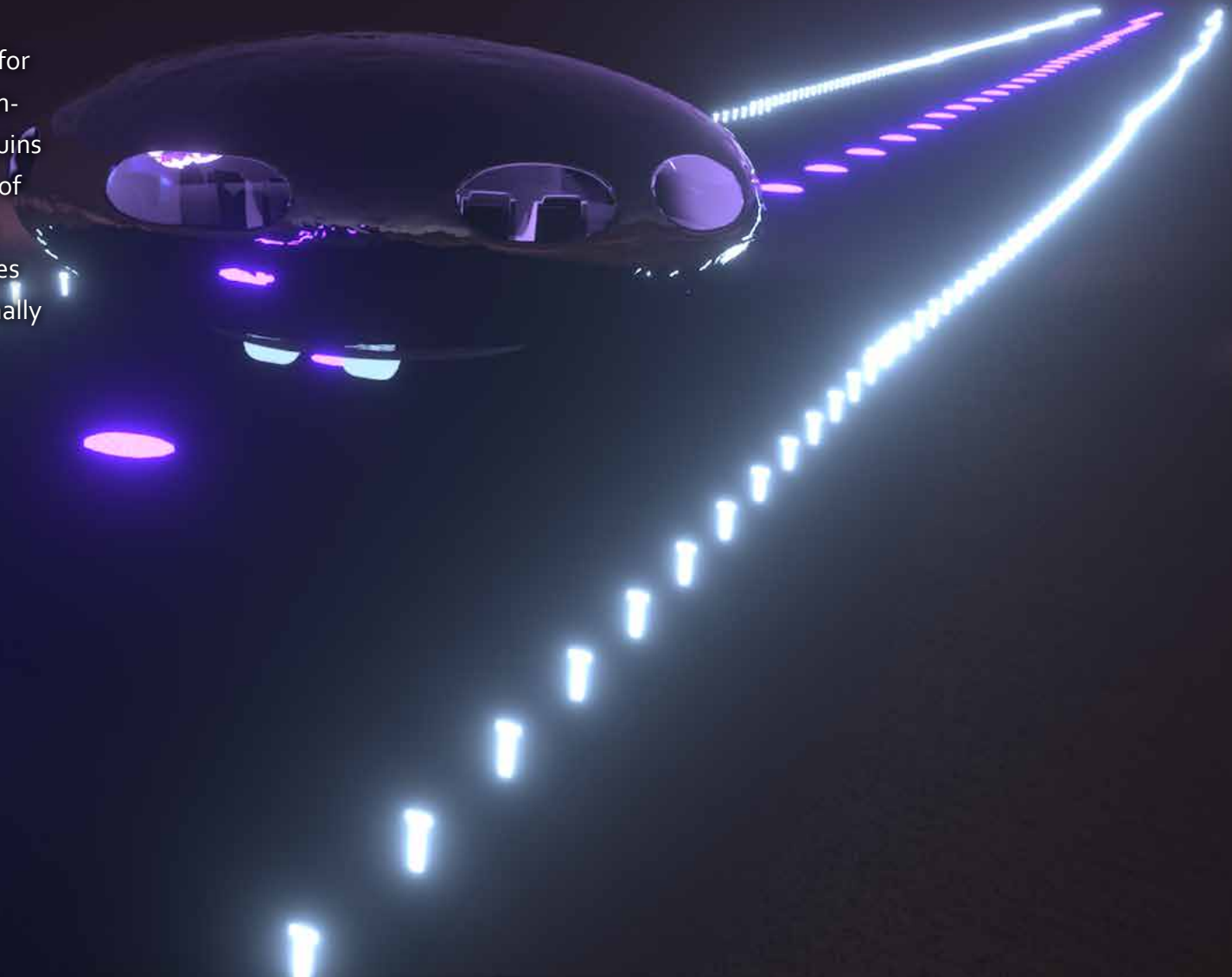


# RELEASING SPELL

a short animated sci-fi by Markéta Magidová

# SYNOPSIS

A small group of aliens from the future arrives on Earth for a unique birth celebration. They embark on a colorful, enchanted journey across a mountain range and find the ruins of monuments made by humans representing a variety of family constellations. As the aliens encounter the stone figures, they cast a spell releasing the gender stereotypes encoded within them. In doing so they allow them to finally live as they wish, not as they were sculpted to.



# TECHNICAL DETAILS

2020

Czech Republic

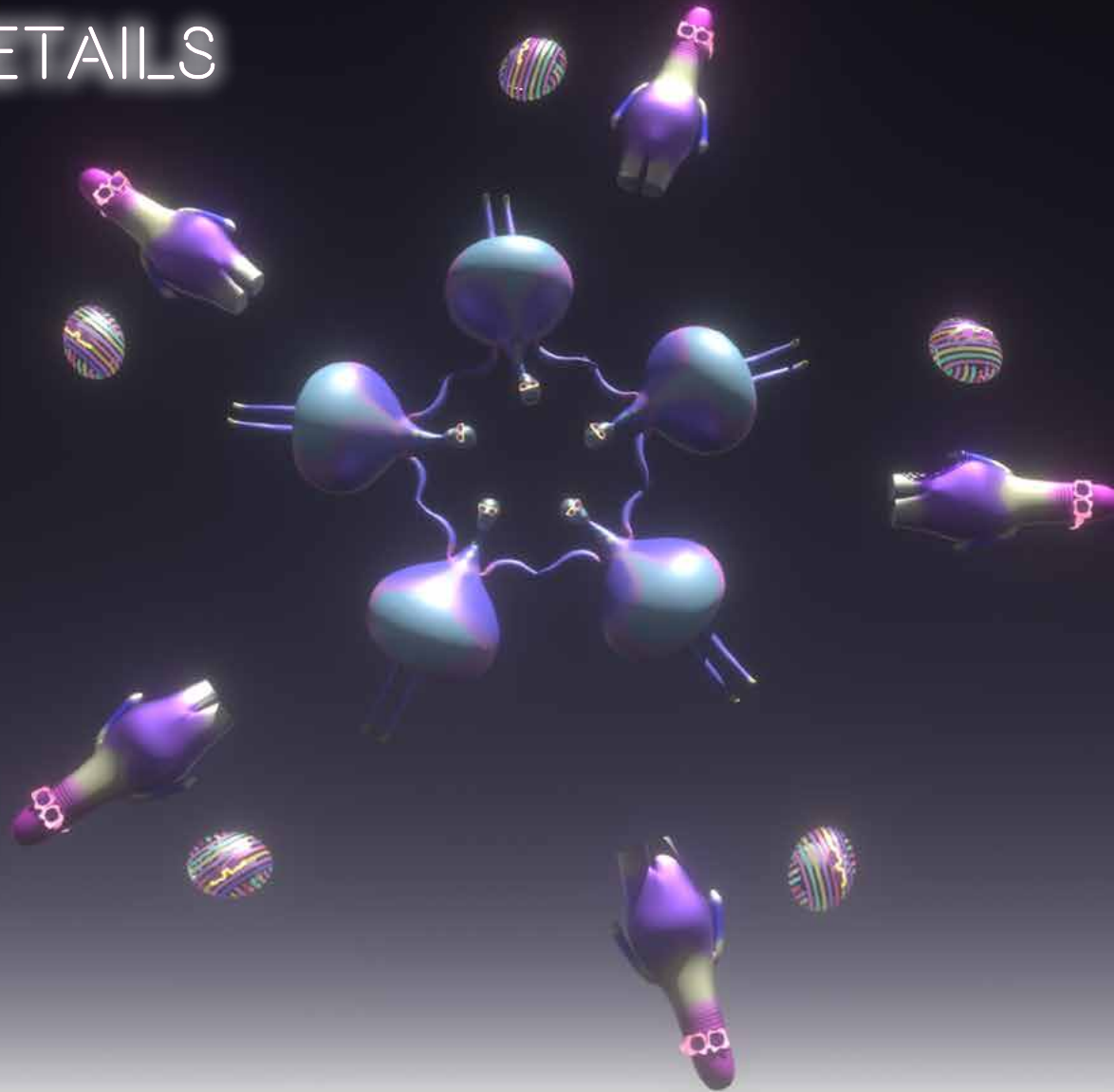
10:45 s

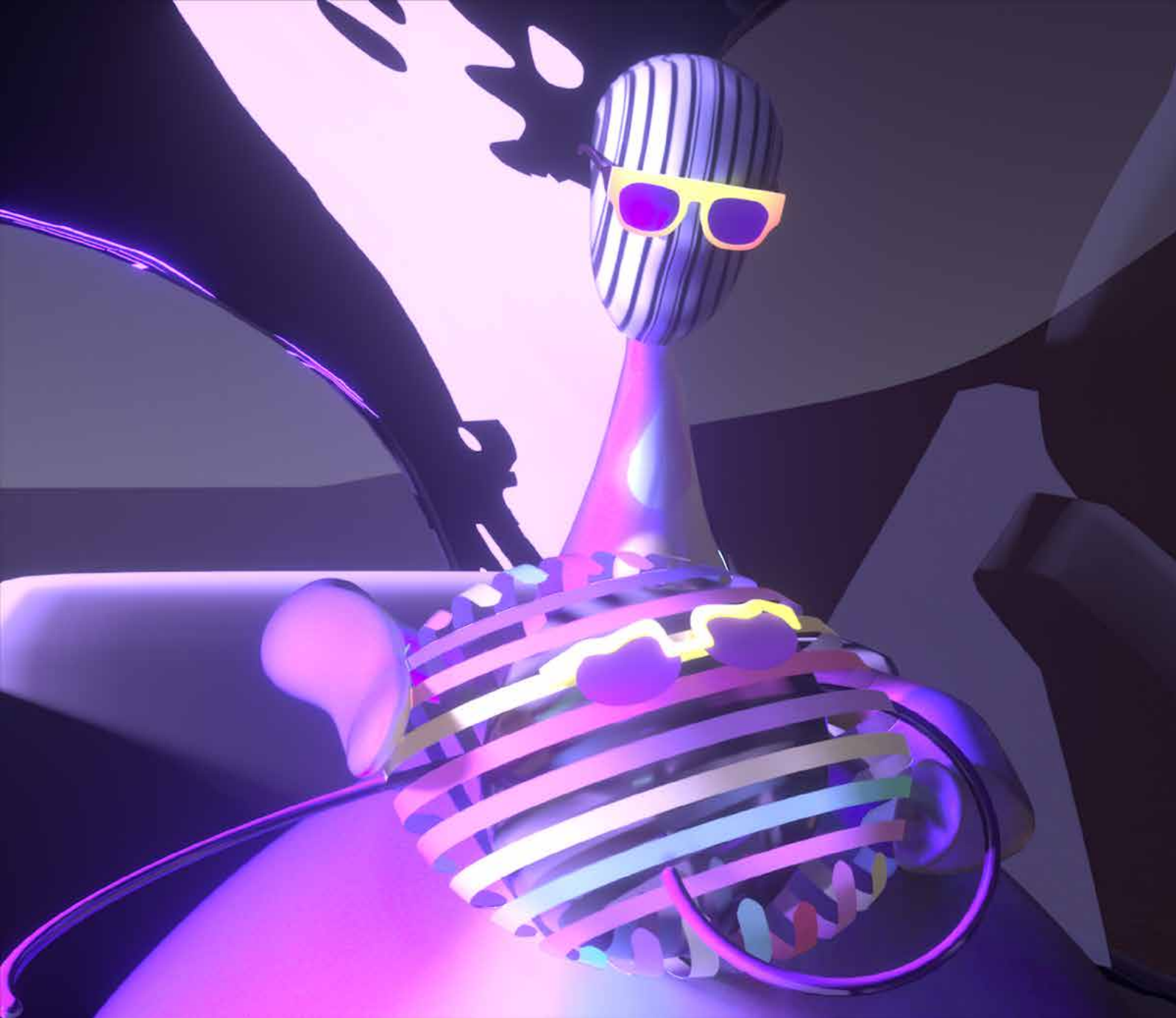
3D animation

Full HD, 16 bit, 48 kHz

16:9

25 fps





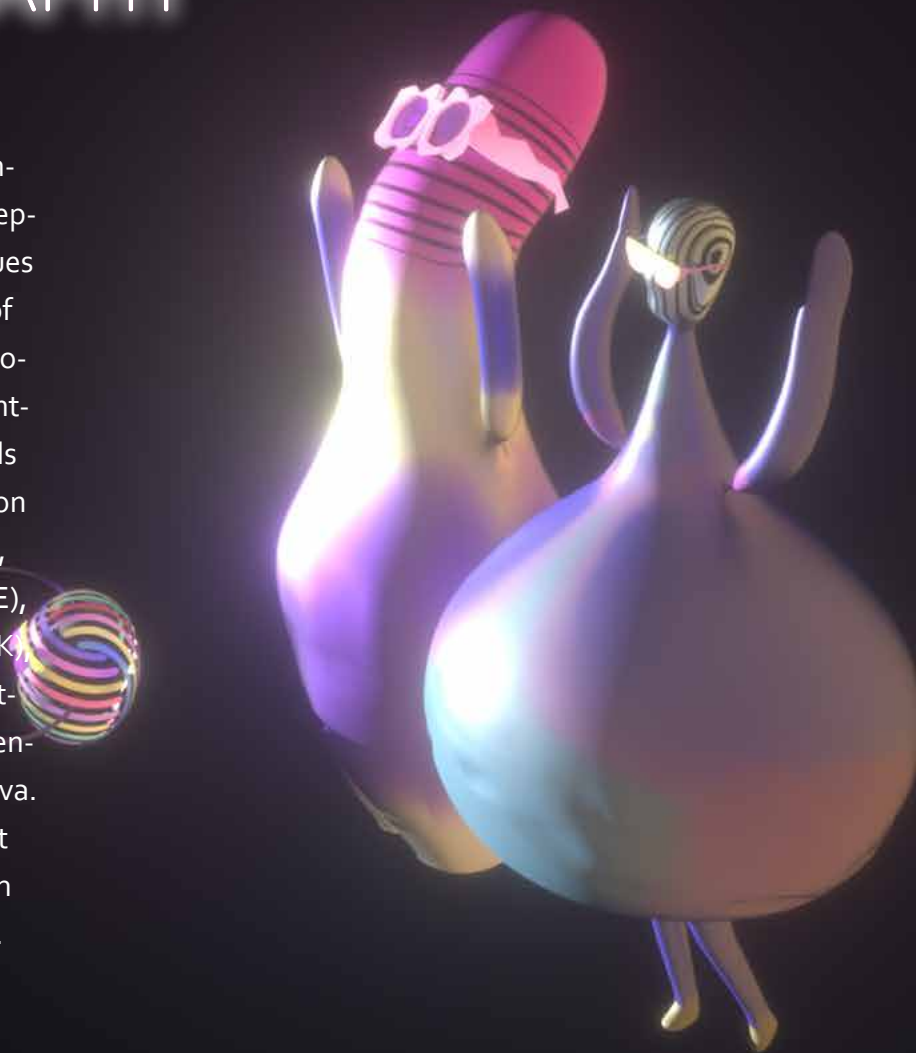
## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I wanted to show a possible, yet fictional image of a society, where freedom, care, empathy and togetherness stand at the core of (not only) family relationships. With the arrival of a baby, every family must face gender and social norms, expectations and inherited stereotypes much more intensively than during the childfree period. Such prejudices have also been strongly built into public sculptures and monuments representing society's values and preferences. For this reason, I have decided to create and portray an alien celebration which is joyful, sensual, loving and endowed with the enchanted power to change the structure of hierarchies, fear and lack of choice in human families. I have always been interested in different kinds of celebrations, because they allow us to reflect on and experience elements of our history. This creates an awareness that can allow us to move towards real change.



# DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Markéta Magidová is a Prague-based visual artist and director working with (animated) film, sculpture and installations. Her interest lies in reshaping sedimented representations of life and fiction. She reflects gender issues from a feminist perspective and highlighting the role of social and visual imagination while analysing contemporary society's stereotypes. Her works have been presented at numerous European and US galleries and festivals – for example at CÉAAC (FR), Art in General, The Denton Gallery, The Plexus Project (USA), Futura, FAIT Gallery, MeetFactory, PLATO (CZ), The Czech Centre Berlin (DE), Bunkier Sztuki (PL), National Gallery of Macedonia (MK), National Palace of Culture (BG). She has also participated in diverse visual art, literary and performance residencies in Berlin, Strasbourg, Prague, Kortrijk and Bratislava. Her art videos were nominated among finalist works at the "Other visions" competition at PAF: Festival of Film Animation and Contemporary Arts in 2014, 2017, 2019. [www.marketamagidova.com](http://www.marketamagidova.com)



# KEY CO-WORKERS

SYBIL MONTET (3D direction and 3D animation)

Sybil Montet is a French artist and digital creative. She was a member of the artistic duo “core.pan” (2017–2020, with Šimon Kounovský) and she now runs her own creative studio. The artist engages in digital media in order to investigate the dynamics between science fiction, mysticism and physicality. She explores the qualities of CGI as a means of creating mirage projections, delving into her fascination for painting and sculpture by creating entities and sceneries in states of metamorphosis, at the edge of magical realism.

Sybil Montet has exhibited at numerous European galleries such as FUTURA (CZ), Exile (DE), Art Athina (GR), Assembly Point (UK), Macao (IT), Vunu (SK). She has also worked for various artists and musicians such as Travis Scott, Young Girl Reading Group or Julie Béna. Her illustrations and videos have been shown at audiovisual manifestations in Shanghai, Seoul, Berlin, Bruxelles, Paris or Prague, as well as in Numéro Berlin or Trax magazine. <http://sybilmontet.eu>

AI FEN (music, sound design)

Ai fen is a Polish/Chinese composer, musician and producer based in Prague. The artist’s namesake project unravels the Self, exploring her identity as a biracial, multinational woman growing up millennial. Through sweeping tracks and visceral performances combining soprano flute, keys and a dramatically fluctuating vocal, Ai fen engages audiences with her particular blend of “screamo-pop” or “trauma-pop,” blending experimental pop together with techno, neoclassical, drone and ambient elements with live incorporation of keys, soprano flute, samples and of course vocal performance. At the beginning of 2020, Ai fen released her debut album *postforever*, made up of ten tracks flickering across an experimental pop approach featuring screamo, ambient, classical and techno elements. <https://ai-fen.com>





KARINA KOTTOVÁ (film dramaturgy, story editor)

Karina Kottová is a curator based in Prague. She is interested in the psychological and emotional impact of current socio-political challenges as well as in feminist theory and the subversive potential of the so-called "feminine". From 2012–2015, she was the main curator of the international exhibition program at MeetFactory in Prague. In 2011 she founded an experimental process-based project space INI Project in Prague and in 2013 she co-founded the Věra Jirousová Award for art critics. Since 2015, she has been the director of the Jindřich Chalupický Society, a platform for Czech post-revolutionary and contemporary art in an international context. As the head of this organisation, she has prepared diverse international events and exhibitions – at SAVVY Contemporary (DE), ForumBOX (FI), Katzen Arts Center, Art in General (USA), Delfina Foundation (GB), etc.. She has collaborated on newly commissioned artworks with Czech and international artists such as Pauline Boudry and Renate Lorenz, Clemens von Wedemeyer, Dan Perjovschi, Barbora Kleinhamplová, Markéta Magidová, Lukáš Hofmann and others. In 2019 she published the book *Institution and the Viewer*.



# PRODUCTION

The film was commissioned for the exhibition project *Beyond the Nuclear Family*, as part of the Jindřich Chalupecký Society's long-term project *Islands: Possibilities of Togetherness*. The chapter *Beyond the Nuclear Family* assesses the family as one of the basic units of togetherness in human communities. It is aimed primarily at providing a critical review of the modern, western family model and assessing its historical and contemporary, geographical and cultural, utopian and fictitious alternatives. A nuclear family, defined as the marital partnership of a man and a woman living with their biological children, has so far represented an unwritten status quo in western civilization. As such, it has become a kind of benchmark against which other family constellations have been measured.

The film was produced by Jindřich Chalupecký Society and Markéta Magidová.

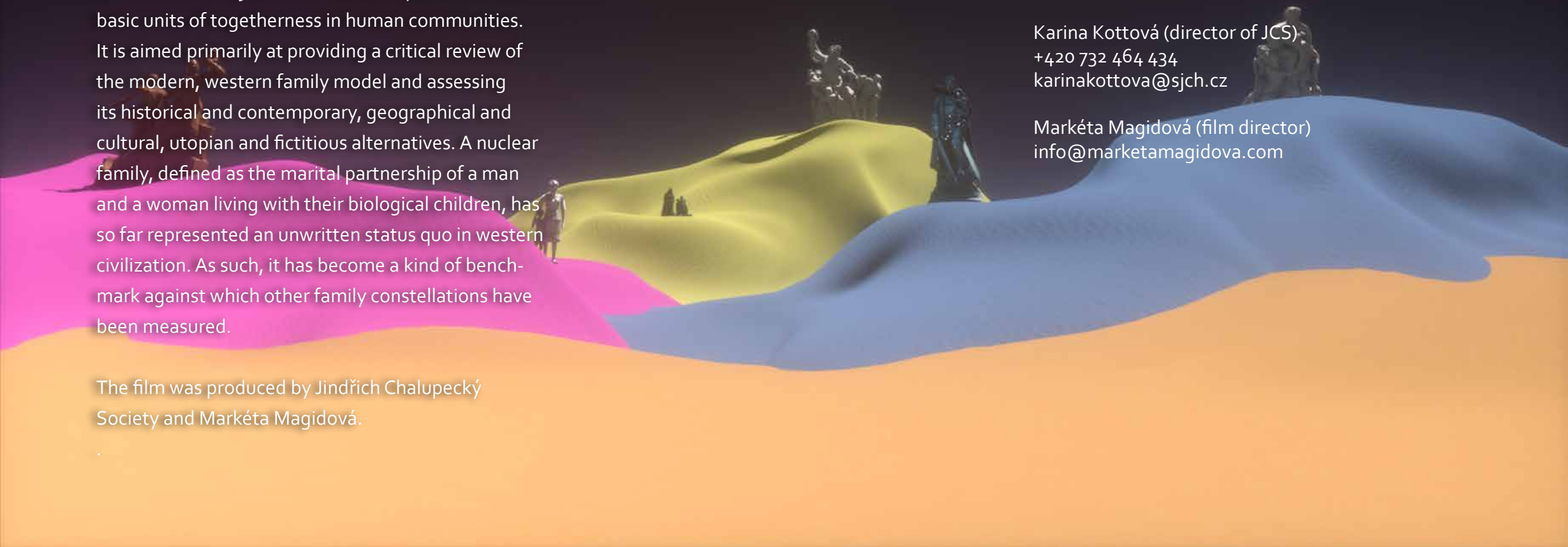
## Contacts:

Veronika Čechová (PR)  
+420 728 934 942  
veronikacechova@sjch.cz

Jakub Lerch (production)  
+420 724 868 695  
jakublerch@sjch.cz

Karina Kottová (director of JCS)  
+420 732 464 434  
karinakottova@sjch.cz

Markéta Magidová (film director)  
info@marketamagidova.com





# FILM CREDITS

Direction, story, screenplay, visual concept, editing  
MARKÉTA MAGIDOVÁ

Film dramaturgy, story, story editing  
KARINA KOTTOVÁ

3D direction, 3D animation, 3D textures  
SYBIL MONTET

3D models  
SYBIL MONTET  
JIŘÍ HANZLÍČEK  
JAKUB ROČEK  
VISUALITO

3D character rigs  
JIŘÍ HANZLÍČEK

Music, music production, sound design  
AI FEN

Sound post-production  
TOMÁŠ KNOFLÍČEK

## CAST

Alien baby  
GRETA THALASSA NOBLE  
HERBERT RIVER NOBLE

Man  
TYLER BRIAN NOBLE

Producer  
JINDŘICH CHALUPECKÝ SOCIETY  
MARKÉTA MAGIDOVÁ

The film was supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, State Fund for Culture Czech Republic, Prague City Hall and Prague 7 City District.

