




a film by Andrea Szelesová

SISTERS

SESTRY





A decorative border in a dark blue or purple color frames the page. It features stylized leaves with serrated edges, small round berries, and elegant scrollwork. The background is a light cream or yellowish-tan color.

An allegorical tale about the hardships of letting go

Synopsis

The Big Sister, a person of colossal size, is trapped in the sand in a deserted landscape. With no way to take care of herself, this burden falls on her resentful little sister.

The Big Sister keeps growing and sinking deeper into her trap. Despite her sister's attempts to stop the inevitable, she is left with one night to say goodbye and let go.

Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/537679733>





Technical details



original title	Sestry
english title	Sisters
year of production	2021
country of origin	Czech Republic
running time	11 min. 27 sec.
animation technique	2D digital animation
screening format	DCP / HD file
sound mix	5.1 / stereo
resolution	Full HD
speed	24 fps
aspect ratio	16:9





Director statement

Sisters is a film about the hardships of letting go of things that burden us, but that are at the same time hard to part with. I wanted to make a film that viewers could deeply connect with on two fronts:

As an emotional story of two sisters, that go on a journey of reconnection, to ultimately have to say goodbye;

As an allegory of life, in which people can see their own stories and let go of burdens of their own.







About the film

As I saw this film as a metaphorical tale that reflects our struggles in life, the visuals became a mixture of new and old. I drew inspiration from modern digital techniques and the aesthetics of marker drawings, as well as from European folklore.

In folklore, I found a reconnection with my roots and an air of mythology that adds to the allegorical aspect of the film.





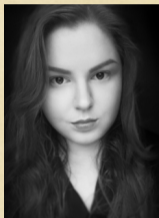
Technique

The technique of the film is a re-imagination of marker drawings in a digital space. As the early sketches of the visual development were done with markers on paper, I sought to find a way to replicate a similar feel through digital animation.

Experimenting with semi-opaque digital brushes, I created elaborate sketched textures that mirrored the way one would fill in space on paper with a color marker.

By changing the texture every few frames, a "live marker texture" was born. This secret animation in the background could even change in tempo to indicate suspense and moments of change in the film, thus bringing more life to the characters and the landscape.





About the director

Andrea Szelesová is a Slovak animator based in Prague.

During her studies at FAMU she created films such as the anidoc 19 20 18 or the stop-motion *Afternoon Tea*, that was screened at festivals such as Anifilm or OIAF.

She worked on the feature animation film *My Sunny Maad* (dir. Michaela Pavlátová) and created jingles for Anifilm and Anilogue 2019.

She is currently working with Alkay Animation and preparing her next animated short film.

Filmography

Malady (2014)

Dárek / The Gift (2018)

19 20 18 (2019)

Mon Ami / My friend (2019)

Odpolední čaj /Afternoon Tea (2019)



Film credits

director, script writer, art director, animator

editor

music, sound design

flute performed by

coloring assistant

executive producer

head of production of STUDIO FAMU

sales and distribution

Andrea Szelesová

Tereza Kozáková

Juras Karaka

Giulia Cataniova

Martina Dohnalová

Kristina Škodová

Tomáš Šimon, Adéla Matochová

Kristina Škodová, Alexandra Hroncová





Festival participation



<i>Graduation Films Competition</i>	Annecy International Animation Film Festival 2021
<i>Best Student Film Competition</i>	Viborg International Animation Film Festival 2021
<i>Student Competition</i>	Anibar International Animation Film Festival 2021
<i>Graduation Films Competition</i>	Bucheon International Animation Festival 2021
<i>Short Animation Competition</i>	Guanajuato International Film Festival 2021
<i>International Student Competition</i>	Animasyros International Animation Festival 2021
<i>Student Competition</i>	Balkanima European Animated Film Festival 2021
<i>International Student Competition</i>	Animest International Animation Festival 2021
<i>European Young Talents Competition</i>	Animateka International Animated Film Festival 2021
<i>Nexxt Student Competition</i>	FEST - New Directors New Films Festival 2021
<i>Student Competition Special Jury Award Winner</i>	ANIMAFILM International Animation Festival 2021
<i>ECFA Short Film Competition</i>	Filem'on International Film Festival For Young Audiences 2021
<i>Winner of Competition Programme 4: Being Human</i>	London International Animation Festival 2021
<i>International Competition</i>	Bogoshorts – Bogotá Short Film Festival 2021
<i>Short Films International Competition</i>	Stockholm International Film Festival 2021
<i>Short Animation Film Competition</i>	Olympia International Film Festival 2021
<i>Student Short Films Honourable Mention Winner</i>	The Kuandu International Animation Festival 2021
<i>Student Competition Best Student Film Award</i>	Thessaloniki Animation Festival 2021
<i>International Competition</i>	Roanne Animation Short Film Festival 2021
<i>Short Competition</i>	Indie Junior - Children's and Youth Film Festival 2021
<i>Student Animation Competition</i>	Kinoproba Festival 2021
<i>Out of Competition</i>	Finále Plzeň 2021



Festival participation



<i>International Competition</i>	Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival 2022
<i>International Competition</i>	Tricky Women Tricky Realities International Animation Filmfestival 2022
Student Animation Competition Jury Special Mention Winner	In the Palace International Short Film Festival 2022
YOUNG ANIMATION International Student Film Competition	Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film 2022
International Student Film Special Mention Winner	Monstra 2022
<i>International Student Film Competition</i>	Anifilm 2022
Student Film Best Sound Winner	FAMUFEST 2022
<i>Student Film Competition</i>	Animafest Zagreb World Festival of Animated Film 2022
<i>Short Film Competition</i>	Neisse Film Festival 2022
<i>Animation Program Official Competition</i>	Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2022
Best Slovak Animated Short Winner	Fest Anča 2022
<i>Competition Program New Beginnings</i>	Leiden Shorts Festival 2022
<i>Animation Competition</i>	BuSho Budapest Short Film Festival 2022
<i>Future Talent Competition</i>	ANIMAC International Animation Film Festival 2022
European Schools Best Short Film Award Winner	Mieres Film Festival 2022
Official Competition Winner	Terre da Film Festival 2022
<i>Speechless Program Competition</i>	ANIMIX 2022
Young Audience Jury Special Mention Winner	Festival du Film court en Plein air de Grenoble 2022
<i>World Student Panorama</i>	Ottawa International Animation Festival
CEE Animation Talent 2022	<i>Official Selection</i>
Elbe Dock 2022	<i>Nomination for the ELBE DOCK Award for the Best Central European Short Debut</i>

What they said about Sisters

"Sisters by Andrea Szelesová taps into the concept of family more as a metaphor than as a platform for messaging or emotional exorcism. Created at FAMU in the Czech Republic, the film draws directly from Hungarian folklore, reconnecting Szelesová with her background. It's a clever and stylishly elegant exploration of not just the bonds between siblings but the more jagged edges of where those bonds find their limits and the inevitable tumble of loss, renewal, regret, relief and indecision when those bonds snap or have to be cut so that life may continue beyond them."

Malcolm Turner, LIAF 2021 Article: Being Human, London International Animation Festival

"Vůbec nejpozoruhodnější svět stvořila Andrea Szelesová ve snímku *Sestry*. Půvabně kreslená dumka o blízkosti i blížícím se odloučení se odehrává v podivném písečném světě, kde žijí dvě sestry, z nichž jedna roste obří rychlostí. A čím víc roste, tím více se propadá do písku. Je to sci-fi z jakési vzdálené planety, které se přitom dotýká tradičních, až folklorních motivů. Ale především jde o silnou a univerzální metaforu komplikovaných mezilidských vztahů. Právě takový přístup umí tuzemskou tvorbu vyslat do světa."

Tomáš Stejskal, KAPŘÍ VÁNOCE A TEKUTÉ PÍSKY: Jak je na tom studentská animovaná tvorba?, A2 kulturní čtrnáctideník



A decorative border in dark blue ink surrounds the central text. It features stylized leaves, vines, and two large, heart-shaped floral motifs, one on the left and one on the right, each with a small heart inside. The background is a light cream color.

Contacts


Sales and Distribution

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