

SLOVAK FILM

THE EARLY

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LOSING AND FINDING HIS HAPPINESS,
ONLY TO LOSE IT AGAIN
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IT ONCE
MORE.

SEASON



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SLOVENSKÝ
FILMOVÝ ÚSTAV
SLOVAK FILM
INSTITUTE

THE EARLY SEASON

The film narrates a poetic story of an old man losing and finding his happiness, only to lose it again and probably find it once more.

1st Creative Production Group Headed by Meritorious Artist Peter Jaroš. Laureate of the State Prize of Klement Gottwald. Story and Script: Jozef Baroš. Dramatist: Olga Feldeková. Production Manager: Vilém Čínský. Architect: Roman Rjachevský. Artistic Make-Up and Costume Design: Anna Hrasňová. Sound: Pavol Šišák. Music by: Dušan Ragoš. Edited by: Maximilian Remel. Bearer of the Award for Outstanding Work. Director of Photography: Viktor Svoboda. Directed by: Zoro Záhon. Cast: National Artist Karol L. Zachar, Martin Jenča, Meritorious Artist Jozef Dúzy, Meritorious Artist Magda Paveleková, Karol Čalik, Kamilla Magalová, Alžbeta Piatorová, Milan Kříž, and others.

Director Zoro Záhon was born on January 7th, 1943 in Piešťany. After graduating from the Academy of Dramatic Arts where he pursued the professional career of an actor, he started working as an assistant-to-the-director with the Slovak Film. He collaborated on several feature films directed by Martin Hollý, Dušan Hanák, Andrej Lettrich, and others. In 1973, he finished shooting a TV film *The Price of Life* which was his first film directed independently and it was award-

ded the InterVision Prix at an International Television Festival in Prague in 1977, and after its featuring in the Czechoslovak TV, the film was awarded the Prize of the TV Viewer in the field of dramatic programs for the year 1974.

A year later, Záhon narrates the story of a young man and his first contacts with life and love in a film *Tattooed by Time* (1975). The film was awarded the Honourable Mention at the Czechoslovak Film Festival in

Brno in 1976. Then he worked on the film *The Poem About Conscience* (1978), an artistic fresco of the struggle of the communists against the reactionists and in 1981, on a film adaptation of the popular novel by Ladislav Ballek *The Helper*, narrating a dramatic story of the Slovak southern borderland shortly after World War II was over. This notable film was awarded the Prize of Czechoslovak Film at the 20th Festival of Czechoslovak Film at Ústí

nad Labem (1982). The Prize for Film Creation, an annual prize of the Union of Slovak Dramatic Arts and the Slovak Literary Fund for the year 1981 and a prize to Zoro Záhon for direction (1982), a Special Grand Prix of the jury of the 23rd International Film Festival at Karlovy Vary (1982). The Prize of Czechoslovak Critique (1982), the Prize of the Film Festival of the Working People in 1982, the State Prize of Klement Gottwald with a honorary



little of the Laureate of the State Prize of Klement Gottwald to Z. Záhon for direction (1983), and the Prize of the Union of Czechoslovak Dramatic Arts at the 22nd Festival of Czechoslovak Film at Banská Bystrica (1984). Z. Záhon also collaborated on the historic film *Lev Tolstoy* directed by Sergey Gerasimov (1984) and in 1984, he shot *Operation Edelstein*, a thriller with a criminal plot, with Slovak actor Lobo Roman playing the lead.

The poetic and impressive story *Early Season* is the latest film released from the creative workshop of director Zoro Záhon (1987).

The film narrates the story of old Vico, a merry villager who is happy with his wife Karla, his vineyard, and his mates. But only to the moment Karla passes away. Her death totally changes his life. He no more shows interest in things he used to enjoy before. On top of that his daughter and his son-

in-law try to talk him into selling his house and move to their's in the town. Vico feels if he went he would lose the last thing that remained with him, to which his memories were bound. He refuses to talk about the sale of his house. Just then, there arrives a small boy from the town. Together with his parents, he has moved out to the countryside because of his illness.

Old Vico's will to live is restored, his young friend helps Vico find his true self.

But this harmony is disturbed by a heavy blow. Old Vico falls ill, he cannot stay on his own. He moves into the town, to his daughter's. The two friends, the grown-up and the youngster, must depart. Life goes on, the future is with the youngsters. The moment the old man realizes this, his life balance is restored.

