


return to life

AM I WHAT MY HOUSE IS?

 Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně

Nadační fond

FILMTALENT ZLÍN
● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

[is] produkce

zero:in



APA
ASOCIACE PRODUCENTŮ
V AUDIOVIZI

dok.incubator



return to life

**First feature film by students
of the Audiovisual Arts Studio
at FMC TBU in Zlín, Czech Republic**

return to life

VÍTEJTE DOMA!

SHORT SYNOPSIS

This time-lapse documentary captures the fate of five homeless people who have gained a new chance in life thanks to the Housing First project in the Czech town of Otrokovice. Thanks to the help of social workers and a council flat, they try to reintegrate into society while continuing to fight the demons of the past. Will they be able to return to life?



return to life

LONG SYNOPSIS

One city, four social apartments, five life stories. *Return to Life* is a feature length time-lapse documentary following the participants of the Housing First, a worldwide project launched in 2020 in Otrokovice – a small czech town in South Morava near Zlín.

Through Housing first, the city provides socially vulnerable individuals with a full-fledged apartment. Social workers then help with finding a job. Through Housing first, the city provides homeless volunteers with a full-fledged apartment. Social workers then help with finding job opportunities and finance management. Such background provides a better chance to be socially re-integrated.

Return to Life takes the audience through the emotionally powerful life journeys of the selected participants,

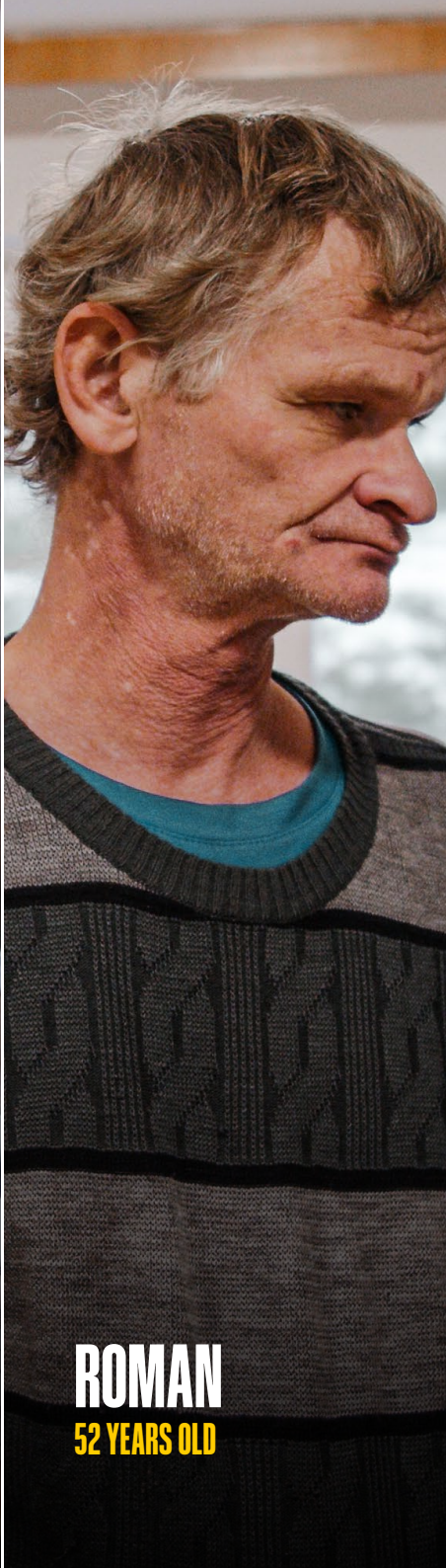
who have gone through a thorny past. The movie offers an in-depth look into a life of a 25 year old squatter who struggles with a continuous drug addiction relapse and a middle-aged man dealing with fatigue syndrome, depressive disorder and social phobia. Lastly, there are three people of age around 50 – a married couple moving into a social housing unit from a dilapidated storefront and a recovering alcoholic who used to survive in a rundown family home in a field off the highway.

Filmmakers chronicled the new experiences over a period of several years: from the social housing initiation they were entrusted with until their following more or less successful attempts at resocialization.

A profile shot of a middle-aged man with a beard and light brown hair, wearing a light blue and white striped button-down shirt. He is looking towards the right.

return to life

VLADIMÍR
56 YEARS OLD



ROMAN
52 YEARS OLD



PETR
45 YEARS OLD



ANDŘÝSEK
26 YEARS OLD



MARKÉTA
44 YEARS OLD



return to life

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"I have always been interested in the issue of social differences. While some live in luxury, others can't afford rent or even lack a roof over their heads. The fate of people on the absolute social margins attracts my attention the most. I often wonder why they are the ones who find themselves in such a borderline life situation. Is it because of the conditions in which they were raised? To what extent is their situation their own fault and to what extent is it the fault of their surroundings? Or are they victims of someone else's actions? The aim of our documentary is to show that these people are also given the opportunity of a second chance as well as to reflect their individual attitude towards it. We have approached the life hardships of the actors in our film empathetically. Hopefully, such sentiment will provoke a greater interest in understanding the situation of people whom we as a society often treat with prejudice."

Jaroslav Beran, director



return to life

PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

“In 2019, my then classmate, director Jaroslav Beran, approached me with the opportunity to make a film about the Housing First project, which was to be launched at the beginning of the following year in Otrokovice, a small Czech town near Zlín. Without knowing it then, he brought this topic before a huge world milestone, which soon afterwards became the pandemic of Covid-19. Indeed, the unexpected global crisis reopened the difficult topics of financial literacy, income and affordability, as well as housing costs. I am convinced that our film, with Adam Černich's poetic cinematography, provides a subtle insight into the project's protagonists and their personal struggle with the demons of the past. The theme of the documentary, which was originally intended as a twenty-minute graduation project reflecting on a year in the „new“ life of the participating individuals, proved to be so compelling and engaging that we decided to continue mapping their troubled fates with the support of our alma mater, Tomas Bata University in Zlín. After four years of production, our film is the first feature-length production of TBU to be released for cinema distribution. Professionals from the prestigious doc.incubator workshop were an essential guides and helpers on this journey. I believe that our work with the fitting title *Return to Life* will help to accentuate the important message of housing as an elementary part of human existence – not only for the audience in the Czech Republic, but also abroad.”

František eF. Horvát, producer

A portrait of Jaroslav Beran, a man with a beard and short dark hair, wearing a dark blue polo shirt. The portrait is set against a dark blue background and is partially torn by a white, jagged vertical line that runs down the center of the image.

return to life

ABOUT DIRECTOR

Jaroslav Beran graduated from the Secondary Industrial School of Communication Technology in Prague, majoring in Film and Television Production. Subsequently, he graduated from the Faculty of Multimedia Communications of Tomas Bata University in Zlín with a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Theory and Practice of Audiovisual Creation (specialization in Directing and Screenwriting), where he graduated with the short film *Trophy* (2021). During his studies, he started making a documentary film *Return to Life* – the stories of the protagonists were so interesting it then became a time-lapse project, which he continued to make after graduation.

return to life

ABOUT PRODUCER

František eF. Horvát

He graduated with a Bachelor's degree and then a Master's degree of the Theory and Practice of Audiovisual Creation (specialization Production) at the Faculty of Multimedia Communications at Tomas Bata University in Zlín, Czech Republic. During his studies he repeatedly led the production of the REC FEST film festival in Zlín and produced live broadcasts during the International Film Festival for Children and Youth in Zlín (Zlín Fest TV). In the years 2021 and 2022, he was the Head of Production at the Audiovisual Arts Studio at FMC TBU Zlín and took part in the production of dozens of student films. Nowadays, he's been working as a scriptwriter and script consultant for Czech Television (TV shows *Dobré ráno*, *Draci v hrnci*). In 2021 he founded the production company Zeroin. He is the line producer of award winning short movie *Island of Freedom* (directed by Petr Januschka), which won the Czech Film Critics Award in the Short Film category for 2022.





Faculty of Multimedia Communications, Tomas Bata University in Zlin, Czech Republic

The Audiovisual Arts Studio is one of the few university departments that offers comprehensive education in the fields of audiovisual production – short and feature films or advertising and promotional works. Teaching in the studio focuses mainly on modern methods, while preparing students for practice in the professional field of audiovisual communication, i.e. in fiction, documentary, film, television and advertising creation, production and post-production. During their studies, students focus on one of six specializations – Directing and Screenwriting, Production, Cinematography, Editing, Sound Design and Visual Effects.



return to life

TECHNICAL DETAILS

ORIGINAL TITLE **BYT ČI NEBÝT**

ENGLISH TITLE **RETURN TO LIFE**

YEAR OF PRODUCTION **2024**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN **CZECH REPUBLIC**

RUNNING TIME **72 MIN**

LANGUAGE **CZECH**

SCREENING FORMAT **DCP**

SOUND MIX **5.0**

return
to life



return to life

CREDITS

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JAROSLAV BERAN

PRODUCER FRANTIŠEK EF. HORVÁT

SCRIPT CONSULTANT JAN GOGOLA ML.

EDITOR DANIEL TRÖGLER

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ADAM ČERNICH

SOUND DESIGNER TOMÁŠ KOCOUREK

**© FACULTY OF MULTIMEDIA COMMUNICATIONS, TOMAS BATA UNIVERSITY IN ZLÍN,
FILMTALENT ZLÍN ENDOWMENT FUND, IS PRODUCTION, ZEROIN, PRODUCTION BERAN**

This film has been developed with the support of the dok.incubator workshop 2023.

return to life

AM I WHAT MY HOUSE IS?

PR & DISTRIBUTION

Jana Bébarová

bebarova@utb.cz

+420 777 962 749

PRODUCER

František eF. Horvát

f_horvat@utb.cz

+420 777 440 901

RETURN TO LIFE

 Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně

Nadační fond
FILMTALENT ZLÍN
● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

[is] produkce

zero:in



APA
ASOCIACE PRODUCENTŮ
V AUDIOVIZI

dok.incubator