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Press release: **Nvotová's Filthy at IFF**

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## Film festival Rotterdam to present debut of Tereza Nvotová *Filthy*. *Personal Shopper*, shot in Prague, also to be released

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The 46th International Film Festival Rotterdam which will run January 25 - February 5, will present the feature debut of Tereza Nvotová *Filthy*. The movie will be released in the world premiere out of competition in the Bright Future section. In the Limelight section will be screened Olivier Assayas' latest film *Personal Shopper*, partly shot in Prague.

Film "Filthy" is the coming-of-age story of seventeen-year old Lena. In love with a boy for the first time, Lena longs for freedom and adventure. Her magic world is shattered instantly when her teacher, whom all her classmates have a crush on, rapes her in her own home. Instead of sharing her trauma, Lena keeps it a secret, even from her best friend. Her pent up feelings drive her to attempt suicide. Her family in shock, Lena ends up in a psychiatric ward.



In the middle of wild and similarly misunderstood kids, she discovers she is not alone in her experience. But when her close roommate hangs herself, Lena hits bottom. She agrees to electroconvulsive therapy. At first, it seems to help and – apart from memory loss – Lena is well again. But the attempt to live her old life doesn't last long. Gradually, her

memories come to the surface, bringing a realization that is unbearable. This time, however, she does not fall into the same abyss of self-hate and instead tries to face the trauma.

*“The theme of alienation is popping up increasingly in debut works by Czech and Slovak directors. Whatever subject the young filmmakers tackle in in their films, their protagonists are often uprooted individuals, struggling with a lack of understanding from the surrounding world. Director Tereza Nvotová and screenwriter Barbora Námerová, in the Czech-Slovak coproduction *Filthy*, focus on sexual abuse, but at the same time the film uncovers the feelings of young people in general, their attitude toward the world and, metaphorically, the state of society as a whole,”* said Tomáš Stejskal in Magazine of Czech Film Center.

## **ABOUT TEREZA NVOTOVÁ**

Tereza was born in 1988 Trnava, The Slovak republic, and grew up in Bratislava and currently lives in Prague, The Czech republic. She is about to graduate from FAMU as with a Master's in Direction. *Filthy* is her feature film debut. She also directs documentary movies for Czech and Slovak Public TV and is recently working on her second feature documentary about former Slovak PM Vladimir Mečiar in coproduction with HBO Europe. Tereza also writes and works as an actor in feature films.

### **Filmography**

2017 *Filthy*, feature film

2013 *Discoland*, short film (FAMU)

2011 *Gypsy Superstar*, short documentary

2010 *In the garage*, short documentary

2010 *Players*, mid-length fiction film

2009 *Take it Jeasy*, feature documentary, HBO

2009 *Artificial Insight*, short film



*"I feel the need to tell the story of Lena and Róza, as my first feature fiction film not just because it's inspired by the experiences, which strongly formed me. The period in between childhood and adulthood fascinates me, because it's the first time when you have to fight hard for your truth even nobody listens, first time you have to admit that the world is not acting as you wish and therefore you are changing fast. When this age is distracted with such trauma as rape, the world turns upside down. This topic is in our country still a taboo, and nobody wants to speak up honestly with all the rage of cruelty and insight. But we do,"* said Tereza Nvotová during making of the film.

More about the screenings at the IFFR you can find here: <https://iffr.com/en/2017/films/filthy>

The film is a Czech-Slovak co-production produced by Miloš Lochman (moloko film) and Peter Badač (BFILM).

### **Personal Shopper in LimeLight section**

In the Limelight section will be screened also Olivier Assayas' latest film Personal Shopper, which was produced with the Czech participation and was partly shot in Prague. The film was premiered at Cannes Film Festival 2016 and it won there prize for the Best Director.



*Maureen (starring Kristen Stewart) is a young American in Paris making her living as a personal shopper for a celebrity. Also, she may have the psychic ability to communicate with spirits, just like her twin brother, Lewis, who recently passed away. Maureen soon starts receiving mysterious messages coming from an unknown source.*

### **Tiskový servis:**

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