

SSIFF
OFFICIELE SELECTIE
San Sebastián Filmfestival
2025

— EERVOLLE VERMELDING —
tiff5 Platform
Award
TORONTO FILMFESTIVAL 2025

HEN

EEN FILM VAN GYÖRGY PÁLFI



cinéart

cinéart

PERSMAP



— EERVOLLE VERMELDING —
tiff5 Platform
Award
TORONTO FILMFESTIVAL 2025

HEN

EEN FILM VAN **GYÖRGY PÁLFI**

Drama,Thriller - 2025 - Griekenland - 97 minuten
Bioscooprelease: 12-11-2026

Meer informatie: [cineart.nl/films/hen](https://www.cineart.nl/films/hen)
Download persmaterialen: [cineart.nl/pers/hen](https://www.cineart.nl/pers/hen)

Distributie

Cinéart Nederland
Herengracht 328-III
1016 CE Amsterdam

Contact

Film Incompany
Tel: +31 20 737 1356
pers@filminc.nl

Synopsis

Met grote macht komt grote verantwoordelijkheid. Maar wat als de heldin een kip is? De film HEN laat zien dat je overal humor en hoop in kunt vinden. Regisseur György Pálfi verruimt je blik op de wereld door deze door de ogen van een kip te laten zien.

Na haar ontsnapping uit een kippenboerderij vindt een kip onderdak op de binnenplaats van een restaurant. Daar ontdekt ze de liefde, trotseert ze de pikorde en vecht ze om haar eieren te beschermen tegen een hebzuchtige eigenaar. Haar grappige maar ontroerende zoektocht naar moederschap weerspiegelt de uitdagende compromissen en stille worstelingen van het menselijk bestaan.

HEN werd geselecteerd voor het Toronto Filmfestival waar de film een eervolle vermelding kreeg. Pálfi liet zich inspireren door de klassieke Griekse tragedies, waarin het lot van het individu universele vraagstukken blootlegt. De film is een zowel absurd als schrijnend sprookje waarin je wel móét meeleven met het kakelende hoofdpersonage.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



Director: György Pálfi

György Pálfi is an award-winning Hungarian film director and screenwriter, born on April 11, 1974, in Budapest. A graduate of the Academy of Drama and Film in Budapest, Pálfi is known for his visually inventive and genre-defying works that have garnered international acclaim. His debut feature *Huckle* (2002) marked him as a unique voice in contemporary European cinema, followed by the bold and surreal *Taxidermia* (2006), and the experimental collage film *Final Cut - Ladies & Gentlemen* (2012). His diverse filmography also includes *Freefall* (2014), *His Master's Voice* (2018), and VR projects like *One Will, One Nation* (2016). Pálfi's work often blends fiction, documentary, and experimental forms, pushing the boundaries of cinematic storytelling. His latest fiction feature film, *Hen*, is set to premiere at Toronto IFF in Platform competitive section.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Using the basic mechanisms of ancient Greek tragedies my film shows individual fates, but it deals with a universal problem that is at the core of all humanity: whether individuals can be absolved of moral responsibility if they are only passive participants in events.

The story is multi-layered, like a hologram, showing the same picture in different planes and dimensions, through two different fates. One is the life of a hen, the other of a man. Of course, the two are interdependent, intertwined and, although driven by different goals and motivations, inseparable. The smallness and 'peace' of the hen's existence meets in this film a tragedy of human lives in the midst of a global problem.

In the film *Hen*, I played with the idea of what happens when the human story is not at the centre. What if we humans are the "side thread" in the story?

So far, all my films have featured animals. From the beginning, I have seen the world as a place where everything that exists man, animal, plant, stone, has equal importance, because their existence interacts in the moment between past and future. And then, of course, in retrospect, we humans build stories from this - our own stories.

One of the biggest challenges of making this movie was deciding to work with real animals, not using CGI or AI to create them. This is an organic chicken movie. Although the film features a single lead hen, we worked with eight different hens, indistinguishable to the human eye. Their preparation for the role began months before filming. This means that first they had to get used to the human presence, the proximity of humans. On the other hand, with the help of the animal trainers, we had to discover their innate abilities, i.e. which hens are good at what. Some of them were good at pecking, some were good at running, some were good at slow shuffling, jumping or sitting for long periods of time.



Afterward, the language of the film had to be developed, and the scenes had to be staged in such a way that the animals could exist as naturally as possible in the filming conditions, which were usually extraordinary for humans as well.

Fortunately, chickens are easily motivated, smart animals. However, they forget easily and tire quickly. A hen can concentrate in front of the camera for about 20-30 minutes. After that they get bored and unmotivated. The shooting schedule had to be set up accordingly.

And we had to find our human cast accordingly. We needed professional actors with extensive experience of filming, who understood and identified with the aims of the film and were able to subordinate themselves to the rules set by the non-human protagonist.

Furthermore, what was particularly gratifying about working with the animals: as chickens are very sensitive to all types of tension, they ensured a calm and cheerful shooting environment for the whole crew.



About the cast

THE HEN(S)

The eight starring hens and two roosters were trained by internationally renowned animaltrainer Árpád Halász the main guarantee that our protagonist, the Hen, could do her job. Living in Budapest, Árpád and his team travelled with the animals to Greece by truck after preparing them for the production for several months. With a wealth of international film experience with credits including *Alien: Romulus*; *Poor Things*; *Crawl*; *Midsommar* and *Blade Runner 2049*, when he is not making films, Árpád Halász runs an animal shelter and trains animal trainers. Primarily teaching dog trainers, one of his students' first tasks is to teach a trick to a hen, as Árpád's philosophy is 'If you can't train a hen, don't even try it with dogs.'

STARRING HENS

With special thanks to corn, patience and good girls....

Feri – Lead Hen 1 – The leader, the genius, the fearless heroine.

Feri was the brain and the heart of the character. She learned any path, crossed any terrain, and always knew what to do. Brave, clever, and the fastest learner — the soul of the role.

Anett – Lead Hen 2 – Script Consultant

The tactician, precise and calm. Smart and thoughtful. Her sitting-still scenes? Unshakeable.

Nóra – Lead Hen 3 – On Camera Talent

The best actress of them all — with almost humanlike expressions. She didn't just look around... she acted with her eyes. A true on-screen presence.



SUPPORTING CAST

Eti – Stunt Coordinator

She ran, she flew, she jumped — tirelessly, for over an hour. Master of the nest jump, up and down, take after take. A real athlete.

Szandi – Stillness Consultant

Could lie motionless on her side like a pro. Not much else in her skillset — but when you needed a hen to play dead, she delivered 100%.

Enci – Assistant Director

She never rushed. When a slow, deliberate walk was needed, Enci stepped in — gracefully... eventually. For moments that needed grace, calm and... delay.

Eszter – Drone Safety Officer

Perched through gusts, drones and spinning fans – unflappable.

Enikő – Special Effects Crew

The passionate one. Could peck on command — or rather, on anything. She didn't care what was in her way. If a window was closed, she'd try it anyway.

Loud, chaotic, unstoppable.

No hens were harmed during filming. Several objects were. Enikő apologizes.

ROOSTERS

Árpi – Lead Rooster

Supposed to be the king of the coop — but refused to fall for anyone but Laura, the bald-neck hen of his dreams. Committed to his role as a one-love-only rooster. Emotionally unavailable. Intensely loyal. Possibly misunderstood genius.

Rozsdás – Backup Rooster / Crowd Coordinator

Held his own harem and proudly believed every hen was his. Initiated all background crowing on cue to gently encourage Árpi's thoughtful crowing. Always ready to perform. Always a little too ready.



Cast

The Hen
Restaurant Owner
The Girl
The Boy
Little Girl
Smuggler
Bodyguard
Smuggler - Boss

Eszti, Szandi, Feri, Enci, Eti, Enikő, Nóra, Anett
Ioannis Kokiasmenos
Maria Diakopanagioti
Argyris Pantazaras
Eleni Apostolopoulou
Mahmod Bamerny
Antonis Tsiotsiopoulos
Antonis Kafetzopoulos

Crew

Functie
A film by
Written by
Director of Photography
Editor
Production Design
Sound Recordist
Sound Designer
Re-Recording Mixer
Music
Producers

Naam crewlid
György Pálfi
György Pálfi and Ruttkay Zsófia
Giorgos Karvelas
Lehményi Réka
Konstantinos Zamanis
Marinos Athanasopoulos
Erik Mischijew
Matthias Schwab
Szőke Szabolcs
Thanassis Karathanos
Costas Lambropoulos
Martin Hampel
Giorgos Kiriakos
Muhi András
Ferenczy Gábor
Simon Ofenloch
View Master Films
Pallas Film
Twenty Twenty Vision
Focusfox and ZDF/ARTE
E.R.T., The Post Republic

Co-Producers

Associate Producer
Produced by

in co-production with
in association with

with the support of Hellenic Film & Audiovisual Center - Creative Greece,
Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg