

'Explanation for Everything': The Hungarian Film Sweeping International Festivals

Author: Chethana Srivatsa



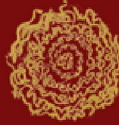
'Explanation for Everything' is an Award-Winning Hungarian Film

Source: IMDb

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A notable marker of the booming success of the Hungarian film industry is its increasing number of films that have reached prestigious international film festivals. One such remarkable film is *'Explanation for Everything'* (2023), a drama that is sweeping the international film festival circuit. The film was directed by Gábor Reisz, who also co-wrote the script with Éva Schulze.

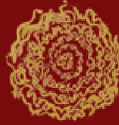


Hungarian Filmmaker and Screenwriter Gábor Reisz

Source: MUBI and Hungary Today

Reisz is a Budapest-based filmmaker and screenwriter. He studied at the Eötvös Loránd University, where he majored in film theory and film history. Having directed many short films, he made his feature film debut with his university graduation film, *'For Some Inexplicable Reason'* (2014). This film premiered at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. It went on to win Best Director at the Sofia International Film Festival and the Special Jury Prize and the Audience Award at the Turin Film Festival. His next feature, *'Bad Poems'* (2018), premiered at the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival. It won four Hungarian Film Awards, the Jury Special Mention Prize at the Turin Film Festival, and the Best Film Award at the MonteCarlo Film Fest.



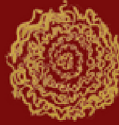


This is Reisz's Third Feature-Length Film after *'For Some Inexplicable Reason'* and *'Bad Poems'*

Source: IMDb and Zerocom

'Explanation for Everything' (Hungarian title: *'Magyarázat mindenre'*) was Reisz's third feature film, which was produced by Júlia Berkes. It was an international co-production between Hungary and Slovakia and was distributed by Cirko Film in Hungary and Films Boutique internationally. The film is based in Budapest and follows three main characters: high school student Ábel, his father György, and history teacher Jakab. Ábel struggles to keep up with his schoolwork and preparation for his history final exam, being distracted by a crush on his classmate. The distracted Ábel panics and freezes during the oral section of his examination. He then lies to his father that the teacher purposely failed him because he wore a cockade. This results in a heated conflict between György and Jakab, which worsens when political connotations are brought in. A Transylvanian journalist, Erika, approaches Ábel for an interview, which further blows up the issue.



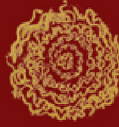


A Still From the Film

Source: Variety

The film premiered at the Venice International Film Festival in the Orizzonti (Horizons) section, where it won the award for Best Film. It was also screened in the World Cinema section at the Busan International Film Festival. It made history at the Chicago International Film Festival by winning both the Gold Hugo for Best Feature and the Silver Hugo for Best Screenplay. It received the Grand Prix at the New Horizons International Film Festival, the Best International Film Award at the Munich Film Festival, and the Silver Lady for Best Film at the Las Palmas Film Festival. Reisz won Best Director at the Uruguay International Film Festival and the New Directors Award from Kosmorama. The film also won Best Actor and the Cineuropa Andrea D'Aquino Award at the Les Arcs Film Festival.

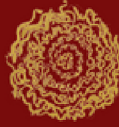




The Film has Won Several Awards at International Film Festivals

Source: Hungary Today and Cineuropa





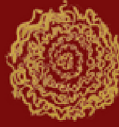
'*Explanation for Everything*' has received international critical acclaim for its narrative and the "depth and lucidity" given to the film's issues by its multiple nuanced perspectives (Smith, 2024). It has been described as "a witty, multi-faceted study of a manufactured controversy" (Lodge, 2023) and "a timely look at culture wars in Central Europe" (Felperin, 2023). The screenplay "steers clear of demonizing any character" while retaining the caustic humor of Reisz's previous films as "a potent force in this ever relevant drama" (Smith, 2024). The film "is made in the naturalistic style of the Romanian New Wave" (Hungary Today, 2023). Reisz has been appreciated for his sober direction style, sans "any directorial flourishes that could distract from the central dynamic" of the film (Succivalli, 2023). The award-winning film is thus a memorable commentary with enough substance to sustain its 150-minute runtime.



Stills from the Internationally Acclaimed Film

Source: Movies that Matter and Rotten Tomatoes





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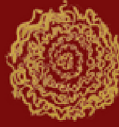


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