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**hotdocs**  
2021 OUTSPOKEN. OUTSTANDING.

# The Sailor

„Story of a storm rider washed ashore“

TOXPRO FILMS in cooperation with SHAKAZULU FILMS present a LUCIA KASOVA documentary film „THE SAILOR“  
director of photography MARTIN JURCI | film edit by ROMAN KELEMEN | sound design by IGOR JEDINAK  
music by MARTIN TURCAN | color grading MATEJ SALKO | vfx VIKTOR BOZA | written by LUCIA KASOVA  
associate producer ANNA RUMANOVA | produced by NAZARIJ KLUJEV



[www.toxpro.sk/sailor](http://www.toxpro.sk/sailor)





## SYNOPSIS

### **What is the price of freedom?**

Paul Johnson sailed the world his whole life. He loved, drank and lived foolishly, never truly living on land. Now he is turning eighty. Both him and his boat are unfit to sail. He drinks a liter of vodka a day and contemplates life and death. What is at the end of such a journey? Is there loneliness? What is the relationship between freedom and selfishness? Does fulfilling a dream always have a bitter end?



A wide-angle, high-angle photograph of a harbor. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a lighter, clear blue. In the foreground, there are lush green hills. The harbor is filled with numerous white sailboats, their masts creating a dense pattern against the water. In the background, there are more hills and a small island in the distance. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

**What does freedom actually  
mean and what is its price?  
In the pursuit of happiness,  
loneliness can be found.**





F I L M C R E D I T S

Director:	Lucia Kasova
Producer:	Nazarij Klujev
DOP:	Martin Jurci
Editor:	Roman Kelemen
Dramaturgy:	Jan Gogola
Music:	Martin Turcan
Sound:	Tomas Bauer & Igor Jedinak
Sound post-production:	Igor Jedinak
Color grading:	Matej Salko
Animation & VFX:	Viktor Boza



TEASER



## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

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I am a sailor. I have sailed the Atlantic Ocean. When I arrived at the island of Martinique after 35 days on sea, I knew right there and then. I am ready to sail again. I want to spend my whole life at sea. Sailors talk about the sea as if it were a person, a woman actually, a very wise one, who is trying to teach us, to communicate with us.

In time, I met people who talk as well as live with her, people calling themselves “Sea gypsies”. Their boats don’t have a flag of their home country, because the sea represents their nationality, their religion, their home. They have been sailing for decades and when they talk, one can hear the rhythm of the waves in their voice. Their common feature is humility.

Then I met Johnson. I met him at the door of a small supermarket in Harvey Vale Bay on Carriacou Island. We looked at each other and we knew that we are of the same kind. Paul Erling Johnson is now eighty years old. He says he used to be famous. He was born on a Colin Archer boat designed by a Norwegian who was known for building safe and durable ships. He was born on the river Hamble near Portsmouth, UK, on a boat called Escape. His parents sailed on various expeditions to the North Pole, one of which was attended by Aldous Huxley. Johnson’s twin sister died during the bombing of their home port in World War II. Johnson says from this moment on he always felt alone. After his short career in the Navy during the war, in the Shetland Islands, he bought an 18-foot dinghy

built in 1895 and sailed the Atlantic Ocean alone. At that time, in 1956, it was the smallest and oldest vessel to cross the ocean. He made it just to the Caribbean for Christmas, on the invitation of Bernard Moitessier.

Then he started building boats. Colin Archer was a world-famous designer, but Johnson knew all too well the flaws of Archer’s boats and thought he could do better. He wanted to create a perfect boat for riding storms, to ride the howling gale. Johnson did become a famous boat builder. He sailed the world with various women. He has three kids that he knows of. When he ran out of money, he settled on land for a few years, generally somewhere between St. Barths and the Bermuda Islands. There he built a dozen boats and left galloping around the world again. He sunk three ships. He loved and drank and lived foolishly his whole life, never truly living on land. He had tried once, he bought land on the island of Flores in the Azores Islands, but he had to give up after two months because apparently “That life wasn’t for me,” he says.

And now he is alone, turning eighty. He never thought he would live this long. His boat is a mess, he is a mess, both are unfit to sail. He drinks a liter of vodka a day, since rum is too expensive these days, sitting on his boat and relying heavily on friends. Here he contemplates his life and his death...





## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

Was it worth it?  
Is this the price for freedom?  
Was he selfish?  
Where are the boundaries between selfishness and freedom?  
Does fulfilling a dream always have a bitter end?  
Is it loneliness?

These questions are as much mine as they are his. I am on the beginning of my journey, he is at the end of his.

- Lucia Kasova



## DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY



**Lucia Kasova** is an independent Slovak filmmaker, who graduated from VSMU Film Faculty - Documentary Directing, her bachelor's documentary short premiered on Jihlava festival in the international competition, her student shorts awarded at the international festivals of: Won Together Sevastopol Doc&Television Film Festival, B16 International Short Film Festival, Brno, Czechia, Kinoproba International Student Film Festival, Ekaterinburg, Russia. In her films her aim is to depict the spaces between the lines of human experiences and bring up the parables from character driven stories from around the globe. "The Sailor" is her featurelength debut.

## FILMOGRAPHY

### ORCHESTRA FROM THE LAND OF SILENCE

/2020/, 30:00min., SK

- **Participated at DOCS MX, Duisburger filmwoche, One World film festival, Girl film girl, Olympia International Film Festival, Children's film festival Seattle, Cinemagic Belfast, Providence Children's Film Festival**

### CONCRETE TIMES

/2018/, 19:00min., SK

- **60th B16-Brnenská šestnácka, 2019, CZ**  
Best documentary award
- **15th Sevastopol Doc&TV Film Festival 2019, RU**  
Best student documentary award
- **16th Kinoproba Film Festival, 2019, RU**  
Best cinematography award

### MAMA.GABRIELA.TELEVÍZIA.

/2017/, 28min., SK

- **In competition at**  
MFF Jihlava, 2018, CZ  
22nd Cinemaiubit Festival, Bukurest, 2018, RO  
Cittadella della Musica, Roma, 2019, IT



## PRODUCER STATEMENT

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The documentary film “The Sailor” is unique to me because of its main theme. I got extremely interested in Paul Johnson’s story, mainly because of the topic of freedom, which is very important to all of us. This film is the personal story of a man who wanted to live freely and base all his life decisions on it. However, we do not want to judge the main character or give instructions for life in this film. As filmmakers, we try to find out whether Paul Johnson is satisfied with what he has experienced in his life. We try to ask questions such as: what is the relationship between freedom and selfishness? What are the boundaries between them? Which human decisions are free, and which are selfish?

For me personally, filming in an attractive Caribbean environment was a great challenge. Spending almost two months making a film in such a different environment was an exceptional filmmaking experience for me. Before filming, we had to solve numerous production and logistics related problems. The film was shot on the small Caribbean island of Carriacou, which has no source of drinking water. To get to the island, the crew and the equipment had to fly 7000 kilometers

and then sail for three days across the Caribbean Sea. At the same time, I need to mention that the entire filming took place during the hurricane season, because hurricanes played an important role in the film. However, in the end we succeeded, and I am very glad that in addition to the feature film we also managed to create an online series of behind-the-scenes videos. Thanks to that there is a beautiful memory mapping the whole production of this film.

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All making of episodes can be seen at:

**<http://www.toxpro.sk/sailor/>**



## PRODUCER BIOGRAPHY



**Nazarij Klujev** was born in 1990 in Kiev, Ukraine. He holds MA in TV and Film production from Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, Slovakia. He is the founder of fullservice production company called TOXPRO where he has worked as producer and director on numerous commercials and film productions. His current producer's filmography consists of three feature length documentary films: "Tempos", "Lines" and "The Sailor". Nazarij Klujev is currently pursuing his PhD degree in Film and TV production, lives in Bratislava and works on his developing film projects.

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

TOXPRO is a fullservice production company based in Bratislava, Slovakia offering a complete range of production services for the commercial and film markets. Our team is composed of young, creatively enthusiastic people whose ambition is to produce unique and high-quality audiovisual content. Since the studio was founded in 2015, we have worked on numerous successful projects. Our film portfolio currently consists of three feature-length documentaries. In 2020, in cooperation with Red Bull Media House, we produced a biographical documentary film "Tempos" about the musical career of the most successful Slovak hip hop artist called Rytmus. At the beginning of 2021, we co-produced documentary film "Lines" by director Barbora Sliepková. Currently we are releasing documentary film "The Sailor" by director Lucie Kašová, which is about value of freedom and was shot in the Caribbean. As a production company our long-term goal as is to produce content attractive for the audience with an emphasis on unique storytelling style of the young film generation authors.



**CONTACTS**

Producer (SK)



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Local distributor (SK)



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[www.facebook.com/thesailorfilm](https://www.facebook.com/thesailorfilm)

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