

## EAST-WEST TALENT LAB 2018

### MIRACLE

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SCREENING

Caligari FilmBühne

Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

18.15

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#### MIRACLE / STEBUKLAS / DAS WUNDER

**Eglė Vertelytė, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Poland 2017, 91 min, DCP, colour, lit OV + eng SUB**

A pig farming collective in rural Lithuania is coming apart at the seams. While director Irena attempts to maintain the farm, home to the former record-breaking sow "Curly Tail", the staff and stakeholders have long since given up on the place, as has Irena's husband. Then US-American Bernardas bursts into the midst of this post-Soviet early 90s hopelessness with his red Cadillac and his plan to buy the run-down farm. Looking to get back to his Lithuanian roots he delivers big, strangely vacuous speeches and finds no lack of willing acolytes in the process. Chewing gum accent, unaccustomed manliness and the effectively deployed fable of the three little pigs instead of endless columns of boring figures all make their impact and before you can say "dealmaker" everyone is on board with his modernisation scheme. The fact that Bernardas, this saviour from across the pond, also bears a resemblance to Donald Trump lends the film additional comic weight. The film features a refreshing screenplay and frequently possesses a stylistic proximity to the cinema of Aki Kaurismäki, with images that bask in nothing but subdued turquoise or contrasting red and white. Wonderful performances abound, including a tongue-in-cheek nod to Poland in the form of a village priest, played by star actor Daniel Olbrychski. Eglė Vertelytė has really pulled off a tiny miracle with her feature film debut.

**Screenplay:** Eglė Vertelytė, **Camera:** Emil Christov, **Editor:** Milenia Fiedler, **Music:** Krzysztof A. Janczak, **Sound:** Wojciech Mielimąka, **Producer:** Lukas Trimonis, **Co-Producers:** Jacek Kulczycki, Magdalena Zimecka, Pavlina Jeleva, Radosława Bardes, **Cast:** Eglė Mikulionytė, Vyto Ruginis, Daniel Olbrychski, Andrius Bialobžeskis, **Production:** In Script, Lithuania, info@inscript.lt, **Co-Production:** Geopoly, Bulgaria, Orka Film, Poland

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**Eglė Vertelytė**

Lithuanian screenwriter and director, born in 1983. After getting her BA diploma in History, Eglė attended European Film College in Denmark, where she made her first short films. After that she worked in television and documentary projects in Lithuania. In 2009 Eglė Vertelytė moved to Mongolia to teach at the National University of Mongolia. There she also directed her first feature-length narrative based documentary UB LAMA. After studying screenwriting at the National Film and Television school in the United Kingdom, she now lives and works in Vilnius.

**Filmography**

2011 // UB LAMA (doc)

2017 // STEBUKLAS / MIRACLE