

Ashes of Courage

The background is a sepia-toned illustration. In the upper half, two Nazi soldiers are shown in profile, facing left, holding submachine guns. They are wearing uniforms with swastika armbands. In the lower half, a silhouette of a woman holding the hands of two small children stands in the foreground, looking out over a village. The village consists of several small, simple houses with gabled roofs. The scene is set in a hilly, rural landscape.

In 1944 Slovakia, when Nazi soldiers invade their village, a mother must protect her six children as her husband flees to join the resistance.

Michal Indrak

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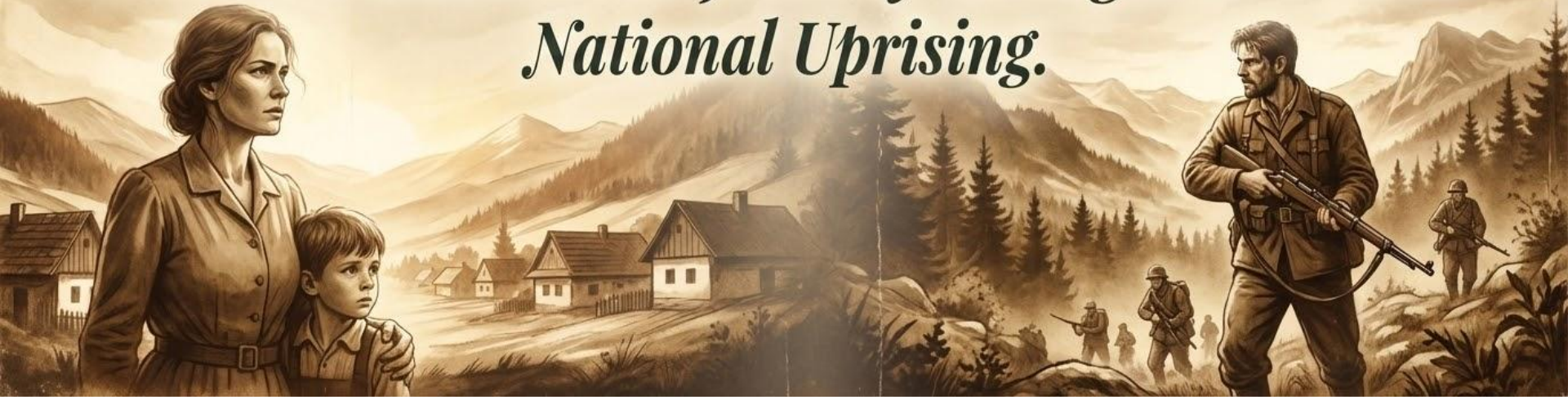
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A Mother's Legacy

Synopsis

Focus on the feature length narrative, Anastasie's resilience and Pavel's journey through the Slovak National Uprising.



Introducing Anastasia



Origin & Early Life



Born in 1908, Nezdenice. A woman of rural resilience. Before marrying Pavel, she had a son, Jan.

Family & Motherhood



Pavel adopted Jan. Together they raised five more children, showcasing her nurturing spirit.



Profession & Community



Trained midwife in Olomoucký kraj, served Nova Bosaca. Also worked in a pub, connecting with all.



A Lasting Legacy



Loving, patient mother. Taught essential life skills, from cooking to caring for livestock.



Introducing Pavel



Roots & Livelihood



Born in 1902, village of Bosaca. A hardworking, grounded farmer, deeply connected to the land and community.

Nature & Values



Possesses a kind, caring nature. Places high value on instilling a strong moral compass in his children.



Partnership & Protection



Shares a deep bond of love and respect with Anastasia. Committed to open communication and protecting their children.

Harmony in the Home



To shield children from conflict, Pavel and Anastasia resolved disagreements away from the family, often walking in the woods.

About the Filmmaker



Filmmaker & Storyteller



Michal Indrak is an award-winning British filmmaker with a passion for directing ambitious, character-driven narratives. Since moving from the Czech Republic to the UK in 2012, he has leveraged his training from Birkbeck, University of London, and Raindance to build a strong professional portfolio.

Achievements & Recognition



- * Recipient of Best Short Script for the developing project "Replaced".
- * Filmography recognized at multiple international film festivals.
- * Directed his debut film, "Whispers: Waves of the Diary", which premiered in July 2024.



A Personal Pledge



"Ashes of Courage" is the culmination of this experience—a deeply personal project fueled by the true story of his great-grandparents, which guarantees unparalleled commitment to creating a powerful and moving feature film.

Why This Film?

Themes:



Courage



Resilience



Family



Resistance



Relevance:

Illuminating a lesser-known chapter of WWII, resonating with contemporary concerns about conflict and displacement.

Personal Connection:

A deeply personal project inspired by the true events that shaped my great-grandparents' lives.



Director's Vision: Michal Indrak

Award-winning film director,
screenwriter, and
cinematographer... Filmography has
garnered recognition at numerous
international film festivals.



Vision Statement:

*A powerful and moving
cinematic experience that
will stay with audiences.*

The Market & Comparables

Target Audience:



Fans of historical films, character-driven stories, and films about strong women.

Comparables:

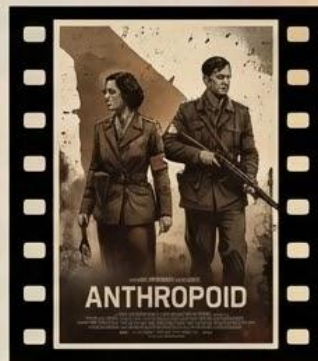


Ida



The Pianist

The Pianist

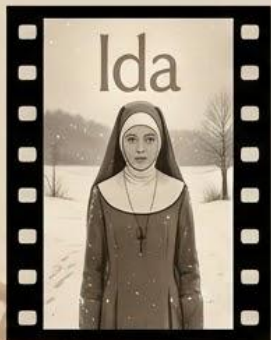



Anthropoid

Anthropoid

Comparables

Ida (2013)




 **Budget:**
\$2.6 Million

 **Worldwide
Box Office:**
\$15.2 Million

A low-budget, critically-acclaimed film about WWIIocaust returned 5.9 times its production budget and won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

The Pianist (2002)

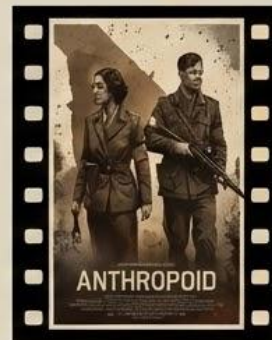



 **Budget:**
\$35 Million

 **Worldwide
Box Office:**
\$120.1 Million

Massive global success, demonstrating the upper-end market for WWII dramas. Won 3 Academy Awards (Director, Actor, Screenplay) and the Palme d'Or.

Anthropoid (2016)



 **Budget:**
(Not public)

 **Worldwide
Box Office:**
\$5.07 Million

A limited-release war thriller focusing on Central/Eastern European resistance, which had a wide UK release through Icon Film Distribution and US distribution via Bleecker Street.

Top Sheet Budget (The Ask)

Account Category

Percentage of Total

Estimated Cost (The Feature Film)

A. Above-the-Line (ATL) (Writer, Director, Producer, Cast)

33%

£4,950,000

B. Below-the-Line (BTL) (Crew, Locations, Art, Technical, Logistics)

50%

£7,500,000

C. Post-Production & Delivery (Edit, Sound, Music, Visual Effects)

7%

£1,050,000

D. Other (Insurance, Legal)

2%

£300,000

SUBTOTAL (A+B+C+D)

92%

£13,800,000

E. Contingency (Mandatory 10% of A+B+C+D)

8%



A. Above-the-Line (ATL)

33%

£4,950,000



B. Below-the-Line (BTL)

50%

£7,500,000



C. Post-Production & Delivery

7%

£1,050,000



E. Contingency

(Mandatory 10% of A+B+C+D)

8%

£1,200,000

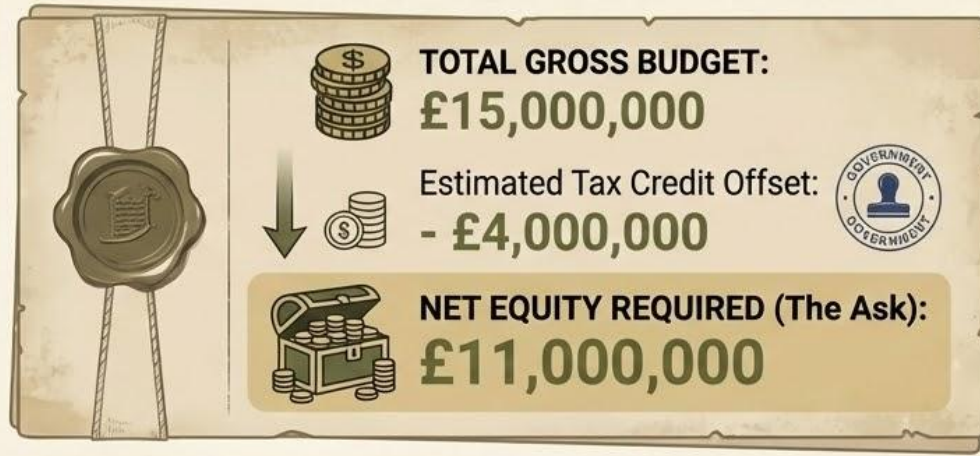


TOTAL GROSS PRODUCTION BUDGET

100%

£15,000,000

Financial Structure & UK Tax Relief



Financial Leverage

The UK's robust financing structure significantly de-risks private investment in Ashes of Courage.



UK Independent Film Tax Credit (IFTTC)

As a high-quality British feature film, the project qualifies for the IFTTC. This provides a lucrative cash rebate of up to 39.75% on all qualifying UK expenditure (UK QC, Cast, Crew, Post-Production).



The Net Ask

Assuming a conservative 80% UK spend, the project generates an estimated £3,500,000 to £4,500,000 in tax credit cash flow, immediately reducing the private equity required.

The Team & Attachments



Producer

TBC

Status: Targeting

Seeking an experienced UK-based co-producer with strong links to BFI and international sales agents, essential for managing the £15M budget and UK Tax Credit.



Casting Director

TBC

Status: TBC

To be confirmed. We require a CD with expertise in casting Eastern European and historical period historical period roles for authenticity.



Key Cast

TBC

Status: TBC

The primary focus will be on securing acclaimed Central European and respected UK acting talent (for supporting roles) to ensure performance quality and strong cultural ties.



Proof of Concept & Vision

Existing Asset



The 10-minute script provides a condensed yet potent look at the opening events, demonstrating emotional depth and visual style.

10-Minute Script

Visual Style



Realistic

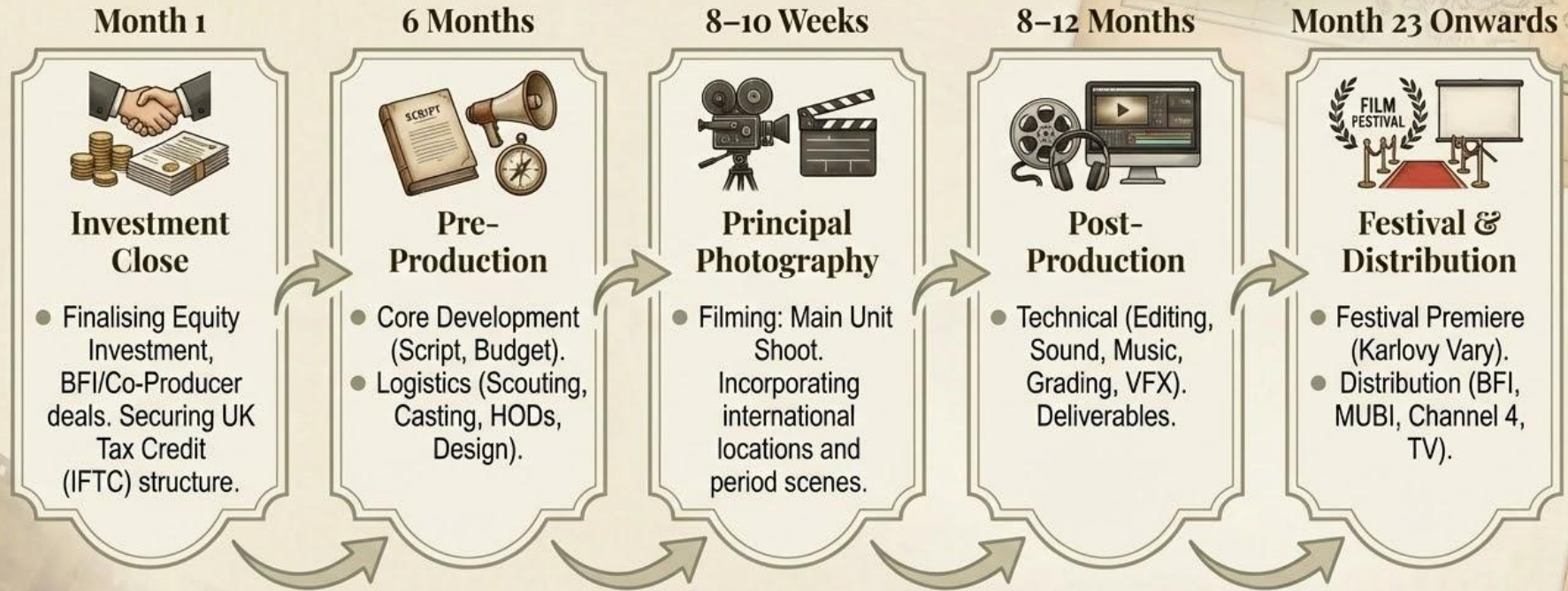


Evocative



Grounded

Production & Delivery Timeline



Festival & Distribution Strategy

Czech Republic



Targets:

Karlovy Vary IFF, Czech Television, Local Cinema Distributors.



Strategy Rationale:

Premiere Validation: Targeting Karlovy Vary as Central Europe's leading festival offers immediate prestige and strong national media coverage. Securing a deal with Czech Television ensures wide domestic reach.

Slovakia



Targets:

Slovak Television, Local Cinema Distributors.



Strategy Rationale:

National Significance: Leveraging the true story and setting (Slovak National Uprising) to secure mandatory broadcast and theatrical release, crucial for local revenue.

UK



Targets:

BFI London Film Festival, Edinburgh IFF, Raindance Film Festival, Channel 4, MUBI, BAFTA.



Strategy Rationale:

Prestige & Access: Launching at BFI LFF or Edinburgh ensures UK industry visibility. Channel 4 and MUBI (a high-end arthouse streamer) are ideal VOD targets. Raindance is a key UK festival for independent cinema.

International (A-List)



Targets:

Cannes Film Festival, Berlin IFF (Berlinale), Venice Film Festival, Toronto IFF (TIFF).



Strategy Rationale:

Sales & Prestige: The "Big Five" festivals are the most critical for securing a global sales agent and international distribution deals. Berlinale, known for socially relevant cinema, is particularly strong for this genre.

Contact & Call to Action

Contact Field



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Closing Statement

**Join the Production Team.
Secure Your Stake in an
Award-Winning Story.**

