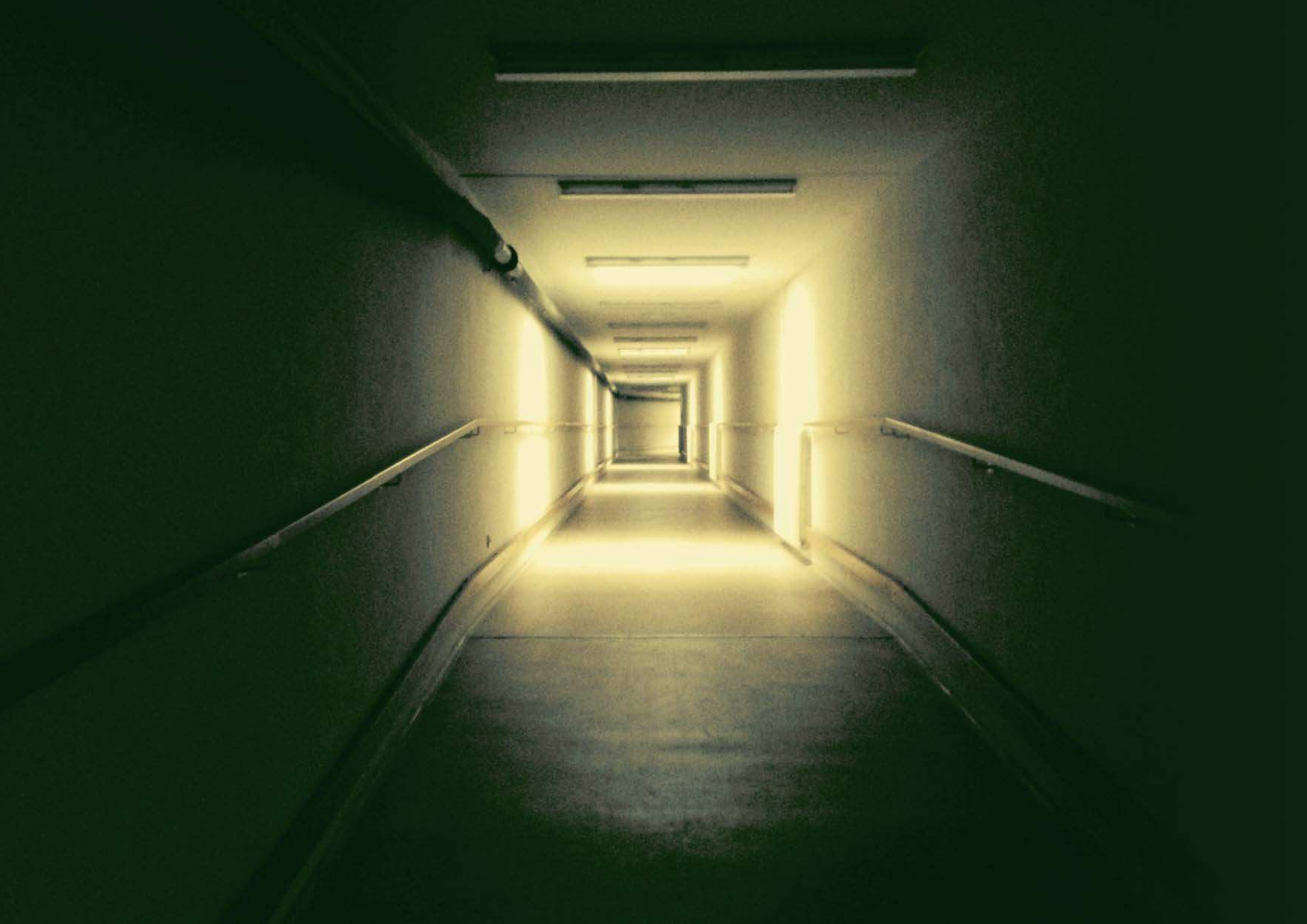


# SAVING ONE WHO WAS DEAD



ZPRÁVA O ZÁCHRANĚ MRTVÉHO  
A FILM BY VÁCLAV KADRNKA





## SYNOPSIS

The father falls into a coma and the family is left in a terminal life situation. The mother and son silently concentrate all their powers. They meekly accept the diagnosis but resist the verdict. Yet they reject an open conflict because the life thread is so taut that conflict could inadvertently break it.

An intimate family drama of guilt and self-forgiveness is portrayed in day-by-day linear episodes from the lives of a forty-year-old son and his seventy-year-old mother at the time of the father's illness – a severe stroke – and the resultant coma from which they both try to wake him. That awakening and the father's healing require them to overcome fear together, to refuse a senseless sacrifice and acquire absolute belief in a miracle that simply needs not to be impeded.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The project evolves from the diary entries I made during the summer and autumn of 2016, when my father suffered a severe stroke. They are a day-by-day record of the time he was fighting for his life. The main focus of the account and of the future film is the subjective view of the son, who, for the first time sees his aging parents in a situation that he would previously not have associated them with. A situation in which the expectation would be suffering and despair turns out to be one full of life and a shared experience of happiness.

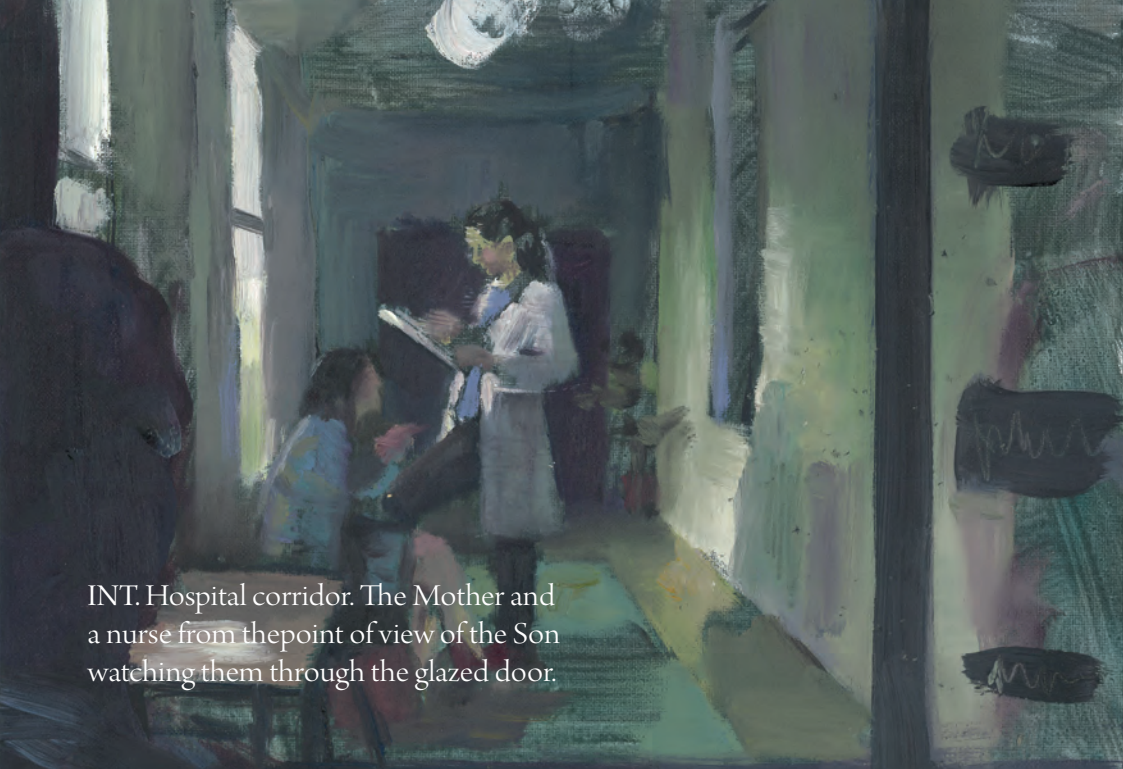
Eliminating past guilt and removing fear of the future become the defensive strategy of the mother and son in coping with grief and doubt. When combined with other effects they help bring about the miracle of recovery. The mother and son will not attack or accept any attack, but refuse and reject any kind of conflict in order to save the father. The film will depict a resurrection, which all the main characters of the story will share.

Václav Kadrnka









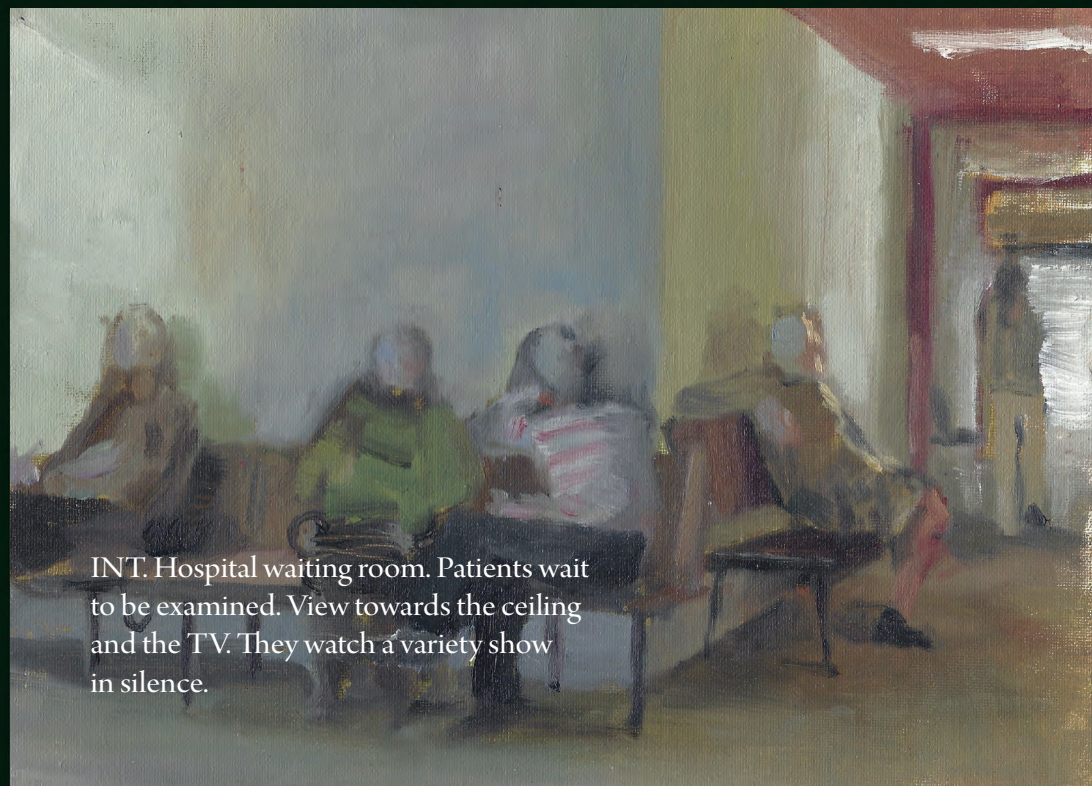
INT. Hospital corridor. The Mother and a nurse from the point of view of the Son watching them through the glazed door.



INT. Hospital corridor. A group of doctors in white coats walks by.



EXT. Garden surrounded by hospital buildings. An elderly couple. The woman shows her husband the mirror and pronounces phrases. Her husband repeats them after her.



INT. Hospital waiting room. Patients wait to be examined. View towards the ceiling and the TV. They watch a variety show in silence.

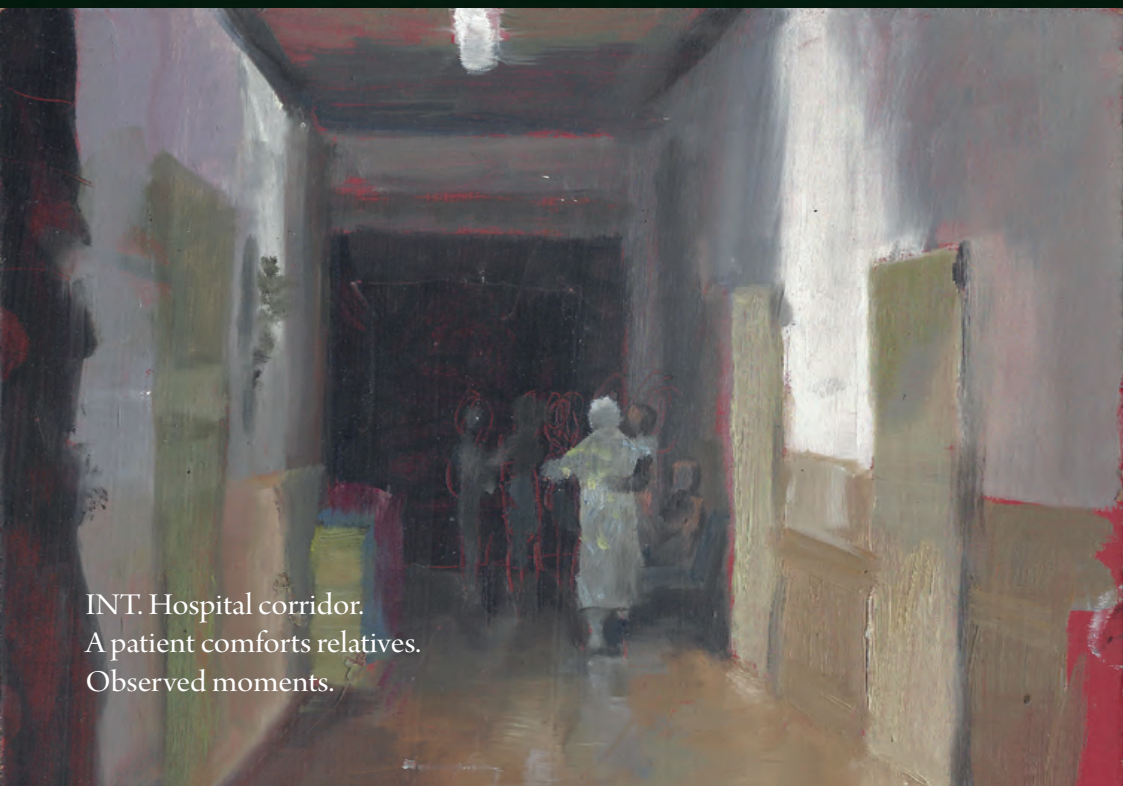




EXT. Hospital wing.  
A walking figure.  
The pastel colours of the façade.



INT. Intensive Care Unit. The Mother  
and the Son by the Father's body.  
Pastel green screens.



INT. Hospital corridor.  
A patient comforts relatives.  
Observed moments.



EXT. The balcony of the consulting  
room above the garden.



**Václav Kadrnka director, producer**

**PREVIOUS WORKS**

**Eighty Letters (2011)**

World premiere at Berlinale, Forum 2011

**Selected awards**

Silver Alexander, the Grand Jury Award at the Thessaloniki IFF 2011

FIPRESCI Award at the Thessaloniki IFF 2011

Czech Film Critics Award for Discovery of the Year 2011

**Little Crusader (2017)**

World premiere at Karlovy Vary IFF, Competition 2017

**Awards**

Eurimages Development Award at MIA, Rome IFF

Karlovy Vary IFF, Grand Prix – Crystal Globe

**PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT**

**Saving One Who Was Dead (2017–2018)**

The development of the project was supported  
by Czech National Film Fund.

The project was selected and presented at:

Czech Film Springboard 2017, Pilzen, Czech Republic

MIA | Cinema Co-production Market & Pitching Forum 2017, Rome

HAF | Asia Film Financing Forum 2018, Hong Kong



Director: Václav Kadrnka

Screenplay: Václav Kadrnka, Marek Šindelka

Visuals: Dan Pitín

Producers: Václav Kadrnka (Sirius Films), Czech

Republic Co-producers: Katarina Krnáčová (Silverart),  
Slovakia

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