

NATIONAL FILM INSTITUTE HUNGARY – FILM ARCHIVE PRESENTS



CANNES FILM FESTIVAL
IN COMPETITION
1968

UPTHROWN STONE

Upthrown Stone
Feldobott kő (1968)
directed by **Sándor Sára**

NFI
HUNGARY
FILM ARCHIVE

Upthrown Stone

One of a founder of Béla Balázs Studio, director and cinematographer Sándor Sára's first feature film is an extraordinary modernist production and autobiographical work from the Hungarian new wave. Balázs Pásztor's father is innocently imprisoned in the 50s, while Balázs is rejected by the University of Film when he applies to study directing. Working as a land surveyor during the communist collectivisation, he attempts to organise a farm base with a Greek partisan couple, who are eventually killed by farm workers. Sára works with long, geometrical stills to portray suffering and the absurdity of the age.

"The Upthrown Stone, which doesn't always avoid the traps of aestheticism with its highly composite imagery and its serial zoom-in effects, is no less a generously enthralling work for it, successfully demonstrating the deeply held devotion of its author for the downtrodden; the sequence where Roma people are shaven and disinfected manages to be deeply wrenching in its soberness and when the hero returns to the town with pictures of his experiences held in a large jar, you are left with a feeling of unparalleled bitterness in the face of a past where human dignity was completely disregarded. The Upthrown Stone is no doubt the work of a highly sensitive artist."

(Jean Antoine Gili, Cinéma 69, Paris 8 July 1969)

Cast

Directed by **Sándor Sára**

Screenplay by **Sándor Sára**

Sándor Csoóri, Ferenc Kósa

Director of photography: **Sándor Sára**

Music by **András Szöllőssy**

Cast: **Lajos Balázsovits, Todor Todorov, Nadesda Kazassian, Kati Berek, János Pásztor, József Bihari, László Bánhidi, Tibor Molnár, János Görbe**

Awards and selections

1968 Cannes Film Festival – In competition

1968 Hungarian Film Week – Main Prize of the jury

