

## **GÁBOR SZABÓ, HCA**

Cinematographer, Professor

Born in Budapest, 1950. Descending from a filmmaker background, his father was a cinematographer of documentary and short films, his mother, a dubbing director. He graduated in 1975 from the Hungarian Academy of Theatre and Film Arts (SZFE). He was a student of George Illes, who taught cinematographers such as Vilmos Zsigmond, ASC, and Laszlo Kovacs, ASC.

He began teaching Cinematography very early on, in 1979 at the same Academy. During and after his college years he worked for the Hungarian Television as a freelance cameraman. From 1974 he was employed at the MAFILM STUDIOS as a DOP, until 1994, the closure of its creative section. He has been working as a freelancer ever since.

Throughout his early years he shot numerous documentary and mixed-technique animation films. He progressed to working in mainly feature films in Hungary as well as abroad. He is known for over 30 feature and television films, numerous documentaries, shorts and concert films. His films have won over 50 awards at Hungarian and international festivals. He received the Hungarian award for Best Cinematographer of the Year in 1990, 1993 and 2017. His cinematic work "*The Revolt of Job*" was nominated for the Oscars. "*Meteo*" shot at the time of the change of regimes in Hungary, was holding the boards at the cinemas for years, becoming a cult classic of the 90's. Vilmos Zsigmond, ASC, Oscar winning cinematographer in his only directorial movie, chose to work with Szabó as the DOP in a film with Liv Ullmann and Michael York. "*Tirza*", directed by Rudolph Van Den Berg, was the Dutch nominee for the 2011 Oscars for best foreign language movie. After the change of regimes he has shot feature films mainly abroad, but has also worked on TV commercials and music videos in Hungary as well as abroad in the roles of DP and/or director.

In 1990, the students of the Hungarian Film Academy (SZFE) elected him "educator of the year". He established the Film major in the University of Metropolitan Budapest (2010) where he became the programme leader.

He wrote a textbook on filmmaking entitled "The Filmish Book" which introduces and analyses the elements of the film language, and became a basic work in film education in Hungary. The Hungarian Television had aired a series of 12 parts in 2005 based on this book, with Mr Szabó on the screen. He did his doctorate in 2012, he habilitated in 2013, and was officially named university professor in 2014.

Co-founder and member of the board of Hungarian Society of Cinematographers (HSC) 1990-2020.  
Co-founder and first President of Hungarian Cinematographers Association (HCA) in 2020.

## **PERSONAL DATA**

Name: Dr. habil. Gábor Szabó, HCA

Birth: Budapest, Oct. 24. 1950.

Parents: Árpád Szabó – cinematographer, Anna Szántó - dubbing director

Children: Daniel (1980), Sophy (1986), Lena (2012), Gershon (2018)

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## **STUDIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

2014	University Professor nomination
2013	Habilitation / Hungarian Academy of Film and Theatre (SZFE)
2012	DLA degree (summa cum laude) Hungarian Academy of Film and Theatre (SZFE)
2000-2003	Széchenyi Professor's Scholarship
1970-1974	Hungarian Academy of Film and Theatre (SZFE) diploma, cinematography major
1965-1969	Móricz Zsigmond High School, French major

## **PROFESSIONAL RESUME**

2018-2021	VIEWFINDER International Joint Master of Cinematography (Dublin-Bp-Tallinn) – Leader of programme
2016-2020	University professor of the Doctorate school of the Hungarian Academy of Film (SZFE)
2015-2020	Professor of Eszterházi Károly University of Eger, Culture of Motion Picture Major
2013-2015	Leader at Metropolitan Cinematography Masters major, founded in 2013
2010-2015	Leader at Metropolitan Cinematography BA major
2002-2006	Eötvös Loránd University of Science, Department of Liberal Arts, Filmtheory and filmhistory major, teacher
1979-2010	Hungarian Academy of Film. Head of class teacher (1989 – 2009) – in cooperation with Pál Sándor, Gyula Gazdag and János Herskó directors, instructor (1979 – 1988) – to János Zsombolyai, Elemér Ragályi and Lajos Koltai.
1974-1994	full time Director of Photography in MAFILM
1972-1982	freelance cameraman, cinematographer, Hungarian Television
1969-1970	assistant cinematographer at MAFILM

## **SOCIAL AND TRADE INNINGS, PUBLIC LIFE**

2020-	Co-founder and first President of HCA (Hungarian Cinematographers Association)
2002-2011	Leading member of the Feature Film Department of the Hungarian Film Art Society
2002-2011	Editorial work on the Film Newsletter for the Feature Film Department of the Hungarian Film Art Society
1990-2020	Co-founder and member of board of HSC (Hungarian Society of Cinematographers), Head of the Qualifying Committee
1975-	Member of the Feature Film Department of the Hungarian Film Art Society

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**FILMISH BOOK**, (English version), self published, Budapest 2018  
**FILMISHBOOK 2<sup>nd</sup> EDITION** (Hungarian version), self published, Budapest 2018  
**JOURNEY AROUND THE CAMERA** (2013) an e-textbook for college published on the web  
**DEVELOPEMENT OF CAMERA-MOVEMENT IN FILM AND IT'S INTEGRATION INTO CONTEMPORARY FILM LANGUAGE** (2012) (Dissertation, Hungarian University of Film and Theatre)  
**TASTES AND PHOTONS** television series (MTV, Duna TV, 2004, 2006)  
Editorial and Anchoring work for the twelve part television series about still- and motion picture techniques and the basics of film language.  
**FILMISH BOOK** (Hungarian version), Ab Ovo, Budapest, 2002

## FILMOGRAPHY

### FULL-LENGTH FEATURE FILMS FOR CINEMA

SHEPHERD	2017	by: Lynn Roth	American film
STRANGLER	2016	by: Arpad Sopsits	Hungarian film
GALLOPING MIND	2015	by: Wim Vandekeybus	Belgian film
HET BOMBARDMENT	2012	by: Ate De Jong	Dutch film
HUNGARY 2011	2011	by: Andras Salamon	Hungarian film
TIRZA	2010	by: Rudolf Van Den Berg	Dutch film
PILLANGÓK	2008	by: Gabor Forgacs	HCC Media
NOE'S ARC	2006	by: Pal Sandor	Studio Hunnia
HAPPY NEW LIFE	2005	by: Arpad Bogdan	Hungarian film
SNAPSHOTS	2001	by: Rudolf Van Den Berg	Dutch-American coproduction with BURT REYNOLDS, JULIE CHRISTIE, CARMEN CHAPLIN
SHOT THROUGH THE HEART	1997	by: David Attwood	HBO Los Angeles with LINUS ROACHE, VINCENT PEREZ
GOODNIGHT VIENNA	1996	by: Rudolf Van Den Berg	Dutch-Hungarian coproduction with ALAN CUMMING, JULIET AUBREY
GUINEVERE	1993	by: Jud Taylor	Hearst Entertainment, Lifetime, L.A.
EVA KOVACS'S STORY	1992	by: Janos Zsombolyai	FR3, Paris
THE LONG SHADOW	1991	by: Vilmos Zsigmond, ASC.	with LIV ULLMANN, MICHAEL YORK
RED FAIRGROUND	1990	by: Gyorgy Molnar	Hungarian film
METEO	1989-90	by: Andras Monory	Hungarian film
ON DEATH ROW	1989-90	by: Janos Zsombolyai	Hungarian film
WILDERNESS	1988	by: Ferenc Andras	Hungarian film
MISSION TO EVIAN	1986	by: Erika Szanto	Daniel Film, Munich with KLAUS ABRAHAMOWSKY
YERMA	1984	by: Gyongyossy – Kabay	Starfilm, Munich & SPI, Canada with GUDRUN LANDGREBE
TANDEM	1984	by: Maria Sos	Hungarian film
BLOOD-BROTHERS	1982	by: Gyorgy Dobrai	Hungarian film
THE REVOLT OF JOB	1982	by: Gyongyossy – Kabay	ZDF, W.Germany
BRIDEGROOM	1981	by: Laszlo Vamos	Hungarian film
THE UNHAPPY HAT	1980	by: Maria Sos	Hungarian film
GLIMPSES OF LIFE	1979	by: Gyongyossy – Kabay	NDR, Hamburg, W.Germany
DEAD OR ALIVE	1979	by: Tamas Renyi	Hungarian film

## SECOND UNIT DP / SECOND CAMERA

WORLD WITHOUT END	2012	by: Jim Gillespie	American tv series
THE GREAT POST OFFICE ROBBERY	1992	by: Sandor Soth	Hungarian film
THREE-PENNY OPERA	1988	by: Menahem Golan	Cannon Film with JULIA MIGENESS, RAUL JULIA
MISS ARIZONA	1987	by: Pal Sandor	Video Distributori Associati, Roma with MARCELLO MASTROIANNI, HANNA SCHYGULLA
HANNA'S WAR	1987	by: Menahem Golan	Cannon Film with MARUSCHKA DETMERS
COUNTDOWN	1984	by: Pal Erdos	Hungarian film
PRINCESSE	1982	by: Pal Erdos	Hungarian film

## SHORT FILMS

TWO CITIES or into the depth of Europe	2020	by: Arpad Sopsits
SOARING - Portrait of Pilot Peter Besenyei	2020	as: Director & DOP
MY MOTHER...	2019	by: Gergely Fonyo
WILD HORSES	2016	by: Reka Szucs
MARCH OF THE LIVING	2015	by: Andras Salamon
THE DEATH OF LOYALIST MILITIAMAN	2013	by: Arpad Sopsits
AGNUS DEI	2013	by: Reka Szucs
NOVEMBER INSIDE	2011	by: Reka Szucs
HANDKE	2011	by: Reka Szucs
SANDCHAIR	2009	by: Reka Szucs
TELL YOUR CHILDREN	2007	by: Andras Salamon
SOSEM VOLT CIGÁNYORSZÁG	2004	by: Kati Macskássy
EVERYDAY THRILLER	1996	by: Sandor Soth
CRY OF EARTH	1993	by: Arvo Bleckstein
WAILING WALL(S) Dance-Meditation	1992-93	as: Director & DOP
MOTION PICTURES ABOUT BELA BARTOK	1988	by: Peter Sulyi
AN OTHER PLANET	1985	by: Kati Macskassy
THE MIDDLE OF THE COUNTRY	1983	by: Tamas Feheri
OUR BODY – series	1982-85	by: Kati Macskassy

THE GROUND CANNOT RUN AWAY	1980	by: Pal Erdos
REACHING FOR A SALT-CELLAR	1978	by: Istvan Orosz
GRAFFITI	1977	by: Ferenc Varsanyi
I THINK LIFE'S A GREAT FUN	1977	by: Kati Macskassy
RETRIAL	1977	by: Laszlo Varga
CITY MAP	1975	by: Istvan Szabo

## FULL-LENGTH MADE FOR TV MOVIES

OLD MONEY (mini series)	1998	by: Rudolf van den Berg	IDTV, Amsterdam
FOR EVER AND EVER	1986	by: Gyorgy Molnar	Hungarian television
ATTENTION! DEEP GROUND!	1985	by: Gyorgy Molnar	Hungarian television
THE PHOTO MODEL (Linda series)	1981	by: Gyorgy Gat	Hungarian television
MY ONLY SON	1980	by: Gyongyossy – Kabay	ZDF, W.Germany
DAIDALOS AND IKAROS	1980	by: Gyongyossy – Kabay	ZDF, W.Germany
HAVAS PIMP	1979	by: Gyongyossy – Kabay	Hungarian television

## FULL-LENGTH DOCUMENTARIES

LUJZA	1992	by: Janos Veszi	RAI, Rome, & FMS coproduction
CHRONIQUES HONGROISES	1991	by: Gyula Gazdag	IMA Productions, France
500 YEARS	1985- 86	by: Laurence Salzmann	American film
TELL TO YOUR SON	1984	by: Gyongyossy – Kabay	ZDF, W.Germany
THE HUNGARIAN MOVIE STORY	1982	by: Laszlo Nadasy	Hungarian film
PEOPLE OF THE PUSZTA	1980	by: Gyongyossy – Kabay	Tellux Film Munich, & WDR, Switzerland
I'M A DOCTOR	1978	by: Gyongyossy – Kabay	ZDF, W.Germany
A QUITE ORDINARY LIFE	1976	by: Gyongyossy – Kabay	ZDF, W.Germany

## MUSIC AND CONCERT FILMS

STAR SCATTERING [ videoclip]	2020	as: Director & DOP	
FOR YEARS... [ videoclip]	2002	as: Director & DOP	
WOULD YOU... [ videoclip]	2001	as: Director & DOP	
BYE-BYE LOKSI – LGT	1992	by: Ivan Kapitany	(Shared credit)

RED ROSE – ALPHAVILLE [videoclip]	1992	by: Buda Gulyas	
LAST DOMINO - TATRAI BAND [clip]	1990	by: Buda Gulyas	
MAGIC – QUEEN IN BUDAPEST	1986	by: Janos Zsombolyai	(Shared credit)
TIGER – RAG [videoclip]	1986	by: Geza Boszormenyi	(Shared credit)
THE LAST CONCERT – FONOGRAF	1985	by: Janos Zsombolyai	
STEPHEN, THE KING	1983	by: Gabor Koltay	(Shared credit)
THE LAST BUS	1980	by: Gyorgy Gat	
BOOGIE [videoclip]	1978	by: Ferenc Varsanyi	
LGT – CONCERT	1978	by: Pal Sandor	(Shared credit)
SUGGESTION – MAHLER SYMPH.	1977	by: Andras Szitanyi	
GILBERT BECAUD IN BUDAPEST	1977	by: Andras Szitanyi	

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

2017	PARMA / ITALY	<b>BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY</b>	<i>Strangled</i>
2017	LIEGE / FRANCE	Audiance Prize	<i>Strangled</i>
2017	<b>HUNGARIAN FILMFEST</b>	<b>BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY</b>	<i>Strangled</i>
2017	<b>HUNGARY</b>	<b>Award of Filmcritics: BEST DOP</b>	<i>Strangled</i>
2016	<b>BELGIUM</b>	Best DOP Nomination	<i>Galloping Mind</i>
2012	SAN FRANCISCO	Official Selection	<i>Handke</i>
2012	<b>LONG ISLAND, NY</b>	<b>Audiance Prize, Best Actrice</b>	<i>The Bombardment</i>
2011	BUDAPEST	Best of Hungarian Section	<i>Sandchair</i>
2011	FESTROIA	The Golden Dolfin	<i>Tirza</i>
2010	NÜRNBERG	T-Junction Video Dance Biennale	<i>Sandchair</i>
2010	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<b>THE DUTCH COMPETITOR FOR OSCAR</b>	<i>Tirza</i>
2007	GENF	Reflét d'or / Best directing	<i>Happy New Life</i>
2007	HUNGARY	Best First Film	<i>Happy New Life</i>
2004	HUNGARY	Best tv spot of 2003	<i>Borsodi Beer (commercial)</i>
2002	HUNGARY	Best videoclip of the year	<i>Would you...</i>
1999	<b>AMSTERDAM</b>	<b>Award of Filmcritics</b>	<i>Old Money</i>
1997	AMSTERDAM	The Best Directing	<i>Goodnight Vienna</i>
1997	CINCINNATI	Telly Awards Category Prize	<i>Malev (commercial)</i>
1996	HUNGARY	<b>MERITED ARTIST AWARD</b>	
1993	<b>MONS</b>	<b>FIRST PRIZE</b>	<i>Wailing Walls</i>
1993	ALGRAVE	The Best Experimental Film	<i>Wailing Walls</i>
1993	BUDAPEST	Prix Tolerance	<i>Lujza</i>
1993	PORTO	Prix Europe / Special Prize	<i>Lujza</i>

1993	<b>BUDAPEST</b>	<b>Istvan Eiben CAMERA PRIZE</b>	<i>Lujza</i>
1993	CINCINNATI	Telly Awards Silver Prize	<i>Prevent (commercial)</i>
1993	CINCINNATI	Telly Awards Bronze Prize	<i>VW Vento (commercial)</i>
1993	BALATON	FIRST PRIZE	<i>Red Fairground</i>
1992	BERGAMO	SILVER ROSE	<i>Red Fairground</i>
1991	<b>TAORMINA</b>	<b>FIPRESCI PRIZE</b>	<i>Meteo</i>
1991	<b>COTTBUS</b>	<b>FIRST PRIZE</b>	<i>Meteo</i>
1991	MONTREAL	FIRST PRIZE	<i>Motion Pics About Bela Bartok</i>
1990	<b>22<sup>ND</sup> HUNGARIAN FILMFEST</b>	<b>BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY</b>	<i>Meteo, On Death Row</i>
1990	22 <sup>ND</sup> HUNGARIAN FILMFEST	Prize of Students of The Film Academy	<i>Meteo, On Death Row</i>
1990	<b>BRUSSELS</b>	<b>FIRST PRIZE</b>	<i>Motion Pics About Bela Bartok</i>
1989	HUNGARY	<b>BELA BALAZS AWARD</b>	
1987	<b>BRITISH VIDEO AWARDS</b>	<b>FIRST PRIZE</b>	<i>Queen In Budapest</i>
1987	<b>HUNGARIAN ADVERTISING FILMFEST</b>	<b>BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY</b>	
1987	MISKOLC	FIRST PRIZE	<i>An Other Planet</i>
1987	HUNGARY	FIRST PRIZE	<i>Tiger Rag (video clip)</i>
1986	<b>KARLOVY VARY</b>	<b>FIRST PRIZE</b>	<i>Tiger Rag (video clip)</i>
1986	HUNGARY	Prize Of The Hungarian Television	<i>For Ever And Ever</i>
1986	SAN SEBASTIAN	Prize of the CIGA Jury	<i>Countdown</i>
1986	SAN SEBASTIAN	Diploma Of The Catholic Jury	<i>Countdown</i>
1986	BUDAPEST	Gene Moskovitz Prize	<i>Countdown</i>
1984	<b>HOLLYWOOD</b>	<b>ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATION</b>	<i>The Revolt of Job</i>
1984	SANREMO	Devided Grand Prix	<i>The Revolt of Job</i>
1984	FONDI	Peace Grand Prix	<i>The Revolt of Job</i>
1984	MISKOLC	Prize Of The Hungarian TV	<i>Our Body / Testünk</i>
1983	<b>CANNES</b>	<b>Prize Of The Ecumenical Jury</b>	<i>The Revolt of Job</i>
1983	<b>CHICAGO</b>	<b>GOLDEN PLAQUE</b>	<i>Blood-Brothers</i>
1983	<b>CANNES</b>	<b>GOLDEN CAMERA</b>	<i>Princess</i>
1983	<b>LOCARNO</b>	<b>GOLDEN LEOPARD</b>	<i>Princess</i>
1983	LOCARNO	FIPRESCI Main Prize	<i>Princess</i>
1983	LOCARNO	Prize Of The Ecumenical Jury	<i>Princess</i>
1983	LOCARNO	Special Prize Of The Youth Jury	<i>Princess</i>
1983	KOSALIN	Diploma Of Merit	<i>Princess</i>
1983	TAORMINA	Third Prize	<i>Blood-Brothers</i>
1983	TOKYO	Diploma Of Merit	<i>Our Body</i>
1979	MISKOLC	FIRST PRIZE	<i>City Map</i>
1979	MISKOLC	Special Prize Of The Jury	<i>Graffiti</i>

1979	MISKOLC	Special Prize Of Borsod	<i>Graffiti</i>
1978	<b>CHICAGO</b>	<b>GOLDEN HUGO PRIZE</b>	<i>A Quite Ordinary Life</i>
1978	<b>ROTTERDAM</b>	<b>The Best Film Of The Festival</b>	<i>A Quite Ordinary Life</i>
1978	<b>W.GERMANY</b>	<b>Adolf Grimme Golden Prize</b>	<i>A Quite Ordinary Life</i>
1978	<b>ANTWERPEN</b>	<b>The Best Film Of The Festival</b>	<i>A Quite Ordinary Life</i>
1978	<b>ANTWERPEN</b>	<b>Prize Of The Audience</b>	<i>A Quite Ordinary Life</i>
1978	<b>ANTWERPEN</b>	<b>CAMERA PRIZE of Agfa Gewaert</b>	<i>A Quite Ordinary Life</i>
1978	<b>MELBOURNE</b>	<b>FIRST PRIZE</b>	<i>I Think Life's A Great Fun</i>
1978	<b>THESSALONIKI</b>	<b>Diploma Of Merit</b>	<i>Graffiti</i>
1977	PESARO	UNICEF Prize	<i>A Quite Ordinary Life</i>
1977	<b>OBERHAUSEN</b>	<b>Category Prize</b>	<i>City Map</i>
1977	KRAKOW	Diploma Of Merit	<i>I Think Life's A Great Fun</i>
1977	MISKOLC	FIRST PRIZE	<i>I Think Life's A Great Fun</i>