

Petty Thieves

A FILM BY MATE UGRIN



Karlovy Vary
International Film Festival
Proxima Competition

A young man trapped between family troubles and seasonal hotel work finds an unexpected accomplice in petty crime who changes everything.

Rio, a quiet young man from a village in central Istria, earns a living as a worker at a seaside hotel while occasionally slipping into petty theft. At home, he clashes with his grandmother over how best to care for his grandfather, who is living with dementia. One evening, Andrea, a worker at the beauty salon in the same hotel, notices Rio stealing and suggests that they join forces to take advantage of her wealthy clients.





Mate Ugrin graduated in Film Directing from the Academy of Arts in Belgrade, and completed a Master's program at the University of Fine Arts in Hamburg (HFBK Hamburg). He finished his Postgraduate studies in Arts and Media at the University of the Arts in Berlin (UdK Berlin).

He directed several short films, including Recent Places (2016) and Meanwhile (2017), which premiered at the Hamburg International Short Film Festival and won the FIRST STEPS award from the German Film Academy.

His latest short film, Everything Ahead (2021), premiered at the Sarajevo Film Festival, where it won the Heart of Sarajevo for the best short film.

His debut feature film, Petty Thieves, will premiere at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in the Proxima Competition.

Petty Thieves follows Rio, a young loner living in Istria, Croatia, over the course of one summer. Through his relationships with his family and Andrea, a hotel worker, the film traces a turbulent period in his life and the unexpected intimacy of a new friendship. Set in a community shaped by tourism and seasonal work, it focuses on people searching for stability, connection, and a place to belong.

The petty thefts are not simply acts of rebellion, but gestures of solidarity among people with little power. Beneath them lies a sense of alienation, born from unstable work and the difficulty of feeling at home in a place that seems to exist mainly for visitors.

Through Rio's sexual exploration and his grandmother's love affair, the film makes room for tenderness, longing, and quiet resilience in lives too often pushed to the margins.

Cast:

Gavrilo Jović
Tea Ljubešić
Snježana Sinovčić
Izudin Bajrović
Lana Meniga
Lana Barić
Manuel Severi
Francesca Romana de Martini
Alberto Sette
Marina Žužić

Director:

Mate Ugrin

Writer:

Mate Ugrin

Producer:

Daria Blažević, Mate Ugrin

Director of Photography:

Ivan Marković

Editor:

Jelena Maksimović

Composer:

Nika Son

production designer:

Liberta Mišan

costume designer:

Milica Kolarić

make-up artist:

Sanja Rivić

sound designer:

Olivier Voisin

co-producers:

Tiphaine Robion

Julia Cöllen

Frank Scheuffele

Karsten Krause

Jelena Angelovski



Petty Thieves / Sitni lopovi

A feature film by Mate Ugrin



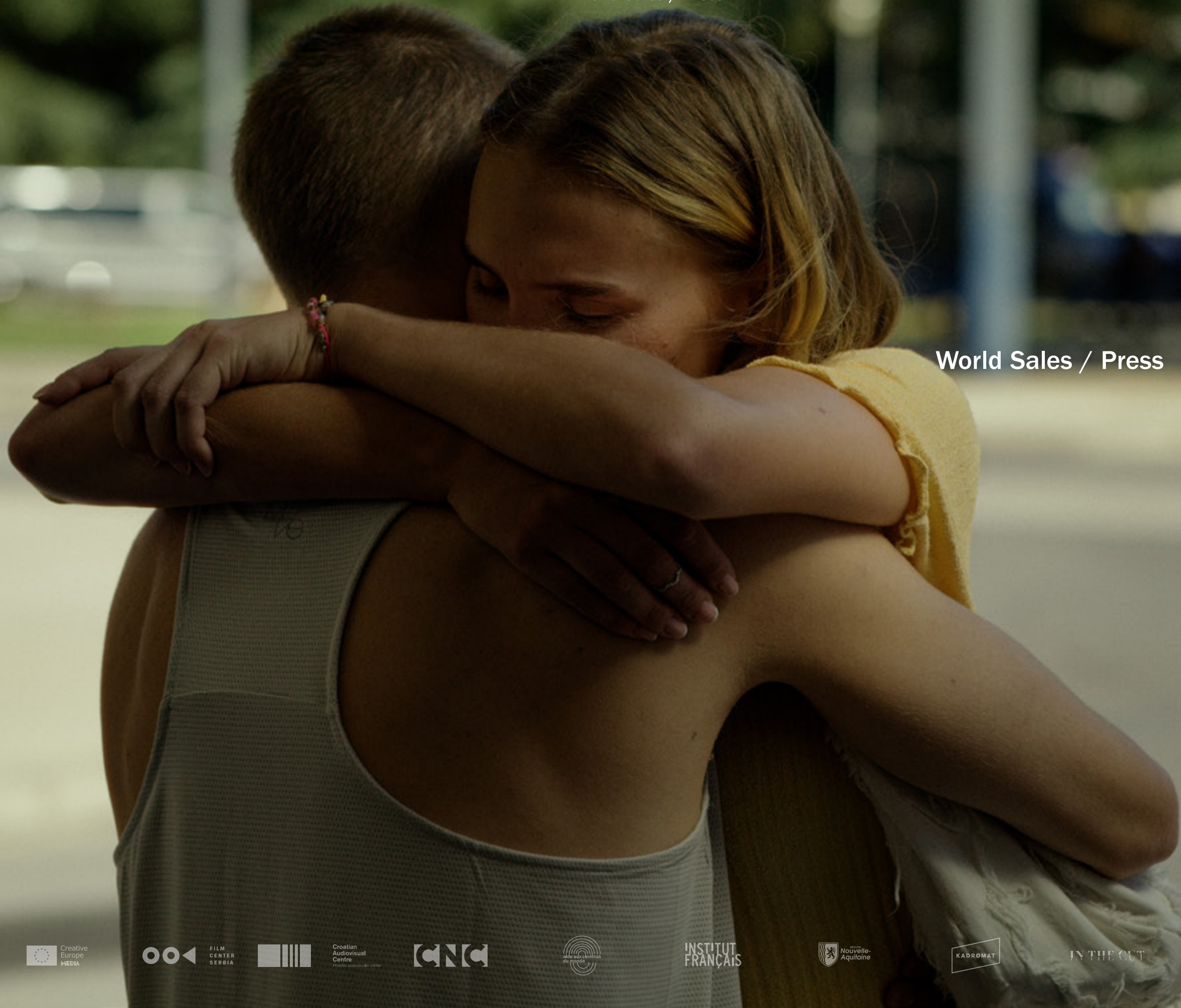
Runtime: 110'
Country: Croatia, France, Germany, Serbia
Year: 2026
Language: Croatian
Subtitles: English, French, German
Genre: drama
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Sound: 5.1 surround
Format: DCP

Festivals: Karlovy Vary International Film Festival
2026 / Proxima Competition

Petty Thieves / Sitni lopovi

World Sales / Press

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World Sales / Press

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