

# First Day of Winter

"WIZARD ZIMNIK ON A MISSION  
TO SAVE HIS BELOVED SEASON"



PRESS KIT

## SYNOPSIS

*A short fairytale about a loving wizard Zimnik, who is in charge with care of the winter, having to battle the changes in the natural cycles in order to save and restore his beloved season.*

*We are invited to peak into his world but also follow his efforts being realised through the eyes of a snowboarder enjoying the marvels our Zimnik provides.*

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*"I love winter, it has been my favorite season forever... yet with winters getting worse every year, I always dreamed about the snowfall starting right off on the calendar's mark, with a proper dump for school to be cancelled and just go out sledding, snowboarding, making a snowman,..."*

*This has not changed although I am in my late thirties, surprisingly I even like to shovel snow .. thus I tried to make the story a reality via some creative movie magic and hopefully it sticks, haha."*

## THE FILMMAKER

*Mitja Legat is Slovenian cinematographer focusing on the connection between the great outdoors and action sports. As a sociologist by education and a nature lover and conservationist by heart, he is bringing both fields together in stunning visuals that highlight important themes and beauty of our planet.*



## CASTING

*The casting for a lead role was a no brainer with Aliashi being a well established actor and a close friend, not to mention his blue eyes fitting perfectly for a role of the mystical wizard Zimnik.*

*The action role of a snowboarder also came naturally for Mat evž Maček as we have worked together on numerous projects together and it is still our common companion on winter splitboarding tours, so there is a well established trust (which is really important when moving through the backcountry) and optimized workflow for the scarce time due to short days and constrained locations.*



SHOOT & LOCATIONS

*The action part of the film was filmed in mountains on Slovenian, Italian and Austrian border. This part occurred during last three winters due to the nature of this project being a passion project and thus filmed whenever people were available.*

*The location of Zimnik's cottage turned out to be hard to find and managed with a production equipment and it was in the search for quite some time... until it revealed itself to the director on one of his daily walks with his dog when a door to the local paintball field was open.*

POST PRODUCTION

*The post production took place from April to August of 2024.*

*It included director's close circle of industry people with whom he works on his major projects, such as the colorist Rok Frešer and sound designer Ernest Fejzić (Soundart.si), while the editing and animations were done by the director himself.*

*The voiceover artist and translators were international as the main importance was the are native speakers. Majority of them were suggested by trusty friends and/or coworkers.*

MUSIC

*Music was made specifically for this fairytale by Slovenian shoegaze band Haiku Garden.*

*The relationship started on a fan basis, as one of the directors favorite Slovenian bands.*

*Later it grew to both parties working together on a "90s skateboard video" themed music video for the band's new single "Kahuka".*

KEY PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director	Mitja Legat
Actor	Aliaš Tépina
Snowboarder	Matevž Maček
DoP	Mitja Legat
Gaffer	Matic Ritonja
Photography	Katja Pokorn
Assistants	Jaša Zidar, Janez Jakob Dremelj
Set design	Žan Kalan
Makeup Artist	Petra Hartman
Grip	Nuša Jeram
Runner	Tine Škrbec
Field technician	Andrej Zupančič
Music	Haiku Garden
Narrator	Marjan Bunič (SLO), Peter Walters(ENG)
Sound postproduction	soundart.si
Montage	Mitja Legat
Script supervision	Katja Pokorn
Color grade	Rok Frešer
Translation	Mateja Slavec, Rada Legat Benedik, Irene Dilillo, Anna Fabre
Special thanks	Zoo Ljubljana
Production	Legitfilms
Co-production	KARATAFILM
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## LANGUAGE VERSIONS

*In hopes of the message being spread internationally the film is available in English and Slovenian version with subtitles for German, French, Italian and Spanish.*

## USEFUL LINKS

*Teaser (English version):* <https://vimeo.com/1046030707>

*Full film (English version with various subtitles):* <https://vimeo.com/legitfilms/firstdayofwinter>

*Full film (Slovenian version):* <https://vimeo.com/legitfilms/prvizimskidan>

*Press kit database (with photos, poster, transcript & more):* <https://shorturl.at/PirBl>

## CONTACT

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