

REASON8 FILMS presents Natalie Cisařovska's

HER BODY



When injury shatters Andrea's dream of success as an Olympic diving champion, she goes on to make a name for herself as an adult film star.

World Sales

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Synopsis

Andrea wins the national diving championship and is on course for the Atlanta Olympics when a serious injury ends her sports career. Her parents and sister Lucie, who is also an elite diver, are at a loss to imagine a bright future for her. But Andrea refuses to play invalid and is quick to jump out of bed and take off her neck brace. She is enraged that under the circumstances, her coach has moved on and sees no point in taking her back.

When Andrea discovers her photographer boyfriend works in the porn industry, she wastes no time asking him to take her along to work, where she agrees to do everything that is asked of her. Andrea is soon able to move out of the athlete's housing she shared with her sister and set off on her own. Her new life is anchored in a circle of colleagues who are also party animals. Her reputation soon reaches across the Atlantic.

Her father cannot understand how she could take up a career so far outside of her upbringing. This even as her mother is pleased with the espresso maker Andrea brings home and is happy that despite the shame she brings to the family, at least her daughter is making money. She posits that there will always be time later to settle down and start a family. Andrea is puzzled that her mother holds onto such a dream. Then fate opens a surprising new road ahead for her.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Inspiration

A short newspaper article I came across recounted the story Andrea Absolonová, who had been a national diving champion and later a popular porn star. One aspect of the story focused on two sisters who were both elite athletes, until Andrea, the more successful, was injured and had to leave the sport. The second aspect that I found even more engaging was how Andrea went on to make a name for herself in the porn industry. At its core, this film is about a woman navigating a relationship with her own body. It is about how her body went from being one kind of public commodity to another.

Even in elite sports, society is concerned about the condition of your body, whether you win or lose, how much you weigh, how you look, and how you keep it all together. In porn, intense public scrutiny is even more pronounced. The body is a sexual object - an object of pleasure for society as a whole. I find it intriguing that pornography is always held in the lowest esteem, yet people enjoy watching it. Andrea's journey from sports star to porn star was unimpeded by her family or society as a whole because the forthright relationship she maintained with her own body was totally unflappable.

At Work

As a trained documentarian, I conducted thorough research. I spent hours with high diving coaches, looking for stunt doubles, Olympians, observing their training, and studying their behavior. I also consulted with a porn producer who had collaborated with Andrea, and with porn actress Tarra White. I visited actual porn shoots several times to immerse myself in these environments and absorb as much as I could in pursuit of authenticity.

From the start, I had clear notions of how certain scenes would look, such as the kind of villas I wanted to return to for filming. I mainly wanted to capture everyday intimacy in both stages of Andrea's life.

From the outset, I felt believability would be my primary challenge in finding an actress who could portray both an elite athlete and a porn star. The audience should feel her determination, ambition, but also the sensuality and animalistic instincts beneath the surface. In Natália Germáni, I found both the purity of the elite athlete and also something mysterious and animalistic, which was by no means vulgar. The role put her through many changes, but her professionalism held it all together perfectly. While she didn't shoot explicit porn scenes herself, she was nearly naked in front of the camera, displaying her body for everyone to see. I wanted to make sure scenes were never gratuitous. Instead, I wanted to suggest a painful aspect to the goings on and a counterintuitive form of exhibitionism.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Natálie Císařovská is a Czech writer/director. She studied History at the Sorbonne, Paris and Documentary Filmmaking at FAMU, Prague. Her graduation short film *“When the Sun Goes Down”* won the Febiofest Audience Award. Another short, *“The Hour Between The Dog and the Wolf”* was nominated for Czech Lions. She then directed two docudramas *“Around Milena Jesenská”* about the outstanding journalist and translator and paramour of Franz Kafka, and *“Francek”*, film about the cubist painter František Kupka. *„Her Body“* is Natálie’s debut feature.

ABOUT THE CAST

Natalia Germani (born as Natalia Germaniova) is a television, film and stage actress from Slovakia. She changed her last name from Germaniova to Germani in 2015 when she was offered a role in an international TV project. Natalia studied acting at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. Besides TV and film, she is active as a stage actress regularly appearing in the stage productions of GUnaGU Theatre and the Slovak National Theatre. She made her big screen debut in 2018 in the Czech movie *“Večne tvoja neverná”*. In 2022 she was nominated for the Czech Lion (Czech Film Academy Awards) for her role in *“Nightsiren”* that premiered at Locarno International Film Festival.

THE CAST

Natalia Germani
Denisa Baresova
Cyril Dobryu
Zuzana Maurery
Martin Finger

THE CREW

Director - Natalie Cisarovska
Writers - Aneta Honzkova, Natalie Cisarovska
Producers - Viktor Schwarcz, Katarina Krnacova
Cinematographer - Klara Belicova
Editor - Jan Danhel
Production Designer - Jan Pjena Novotny
Costume Designers - Petra Krcmarova and Aneta Grnakova
Music - Aid Kid & Pjoni

TECH SPECS

Running Time: **105 min**
Aspect Ratio:
Sound: **5.1**
Shooting Format: **Digital 2K**
Languages: **Czech**
Production Country: **Czech Republic / Slovak Republic**
Production Companies: **Cineart TV Prague, Silverart**



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