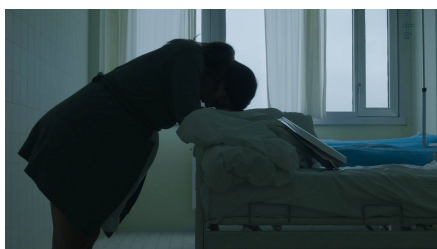


BEFORE I MET YOU



Original Title Before I Met You
English Title Before I Met You
Italian Title Tra di noi
German Title Zwischen uns
Genre Documentary
Running time 67'
Original Language Slovak
Produced by ZeLIG © 2016

Director Zuzana Límová
Cinematographer Selina Becker
Editor Morgana Tinebra
Sound recordist Denisa Uherová, Samuel Štefanec

Synopsis English

It is supposed to be the happiest day of a woman's life. In Slovakian hospitals, however, the joy of motherhood can easily turn into a nightmare. The documentary "Before I Met You" uncovers the reality behind the closed doors of delivery rooms where nobody but mothers-to-be are allowed to enter.

Synopsis Italian

Dovrebbe essere il giorno più felice nella vita di una donna. Negli ospedali della Slovacchia, comunque, la gioia della maternità può facilmente diventare un incubo. Il documentario "Before I Met You" svela la realtà dietro le porte chiuse delle sale parto dove non è permesso a nessuno, se non alle madri, di entrare.

Synopsis German

Man sagt, es sei der schönste Tag im Leben einer Frau. In slowakischen Geburtsstationen jedoch können hoffnungsvolle Mutterfreuden leicht zu einem Alptraum werden. Der Dokumentarfilm "Before I Met You" gewährt intime Einblicke in den Klinikalltag, der sich hinter den verschlossenen Türen der Entbindungsstationen abspielt.

Festival participations

Awards

Broadcast by

Technical data

Country of production	Italy
Original Format	1080p Full HD
Screening Format	DVD, Digital
Aspect ratio	1,85:1
Running time	67'
Subtitles available	German / Italian / English

Long synopsis English

It is supposed to be the happiest day of a woman's life. In Slovakian maternity wards, however, the joy of motherhood can quickly turn into a nightmare. In their isolation, women face strict routines, loneliness and different forms of violence.

The documentary '*Before I Met You*' provides an intimate look at what goes on behind the closed doors of delivery rooms, where nobody but mothers-to-be are allowed to enter.

Here the miracle of birth is nothing more than a routine chore and everyone, including midwives and doctors, must submit to absurd rules made decades ago. Instead of trusting their intuition during the most natural process of human life, mothers must obey the medical staff and follow the out-of-date procedures with no regard to their own feelings.

The voices of women who dare to speak up complement the film's images captured during delivery in a public hospital. Situational interviews with staff members uncover the dark side of the healthcare system that prefers routine and medication to humanity.

What does it feel like to bring a new life into the world under these conditions? *Before I Met You* will answer this question.

Long synopsis German

Man sagt, es sei der schönste Tag im Leben einer Frau. In slowakischen Geburtsstationen jedoch können hoffnungsvolle Mutterfreuden leicht zu einem Alptraum werden.

Der Dokumentarfilm "Before I Met You" gewährt intime Einblicke in den Klinikalltag, der sich hinter den verschlossenen Türen der Entbindungsstationen Bratislavas abspielt.

Das Wunder der Geburt ist hier nicht mehr als eine Routine - die Arbeit der Ärzte und Schwestern wird von jahrzehntealten Regeln eines untergegangenen Regimes bestimmt.

Werdende Mütter müssen sich, statt ihrem natürlichen Gefühl zu vertrauen, den Anweisungen des Personals unterwerfen. In ihrer Isolation werden sie mit strikter Routine, Einsamkeit und verschiedenen Formen von Gewalt konfrontiert.

Emotionale Einblicke in das Seelenleben verschiedener Frauen, die ihre persönlichen Erfahrungen mit uns teilen, vertiefen die Beobachtungen des Krankenhausalltags, in dem auf Reglementierung und Medikation statt auf Menschlichkeit gesetzt wird.

Wie fühlt es sich an, in einer solchen Umgebung neues Leben zur Welt zu bringen?

'Before I Met You' wird diese Frage beantworten.

Long synopsis Italian

Dovrebbe essere il giorno più felice nella vita di una donna. Nei reparti maternità, comunque, la gioia può facilmente diventare un incubo. Nel loro isolamento, le donne affrontano rigide routine, solitudine e diverse forme di violenza.

Il documentario 'Before I Met You' offre un intimo sguardo a quel che succede dietro le porte chiuse delle sale parto, dove non è permesso a nessuno, se non alle madri, di entrare.

Qui il miracolo della nascita non è nient'altro che un lavoro di routine e tutti, comprese le ostetriche e i medici, devono sottomettersi a regole assurde create decenni fa. Invece di fidarsi del proprio intuito durante il più naturale processo della vita umana, le madri devono obbedire allo staff medico e seguire procedure antiquate senza alcun riguardo per i propri sentimenti.

Le voci delle donne che hanno il coraggio di parlare vanno a completare le immagini del film catturate durante i parti in un ospedale pubblico. Interviste situazionali con i membri dello staff rivelano il lato oscuro del sistema sanitario che preferisce la routine e le medicazioni all'umanità.

Come ci si sente a portare in questo mondo una nuova vita sotto queste condizioni? 'Before I Met You' potrà dare una risposta a questa domanda.

Director's Biography

Zuzana Límová (1984, Slovakia) graduated in journalism at the Comenius University in Bratislava. As an independent journalist and global education consultant she has cooperated with media, cultural platforms and NGOs all over the world. Joining an international multimedia project East4South run by Deutsche Welle in 2012 she discovered her passion for moving pictures and few years later applied for the ZeLiG School for Documentary, Television and New Media in Bolzano, Italy. In 2016 she graduated in directing.

Director's Filmography

Libby (2014), Here, no one is a foreigner (2014)

Cinematographer's Biography

Selina Becker (1981, Germany) graduated in Social Science and Asian/African Studies at the Humboldt University in Berlin. During her studies and travels in Asia she got interested in photography and documentary film-making. In 2009 she joined the camera class of the self-organized school Filmarche Berlin, where she realised several films mainly as a cinematographer, but also as a director. Besides she worked as a camera and light assistant. In 2016 she graduated in cinematography at the Zelig School for Documentary Film and New Media in Bolzano, Italy.

Editor's Biography

Morgana Tinebra (1993, Italy) graduated in languages from the Liceo Classico Linguistico "Giosuè Carducci" in the same town. From 2010 to 2014 she attended a cinema workshop Effetto Notte. With other members of the workshop she realised different short films, worked as a script supervisor and sound recordist on a local independent film called Strings. In 2016 she got her specialization in editing at the ZeLiG School for Documentary, Television and New Media in Bolzano, Italy.

