

## INTERVIEW

### Olmo Omerzu on *A Night Too Young*

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*A Night Too Young* is Olmo Omerzu's first feature and was screened at this year's Berlinale as part of the FORUM section. Colette de Castro met Omerzu to talk with him about his film. **How would you describe your film making process?** This is the first feature film I've made, it was my final project for FAMU. It was a collaborative effort, a colleague of mine, Bruno Hájek, wrote the story and then Bruno, Jakub Felcman and myself reworked it into a script. The actors are professionals from the theater. As for the actual process, we did rehearsals for many weeks, changing the script along the way. Then we made the final film. **How does the title of the film translate literally?** It is a literal translation, "Prílís mladá noc" really does translate as "A Night Too Young". **What was the most important thing you learned at film school ?** I really liked my film school because it was only students working on all the projects. In a lot of schools there are a mixture of professionals and students so the videos are wonderful looking straight away. However, this doesn't necessarily reflect the reality of learning to make a film. At my school you start off by making short films, then we gradually begin working on longer films. The important thing is that the whole crew is made up of students - this way you see how the films will look from the beginning. **How did you work with such young children?** The boys are actually older than they look, they are both fifteen, but twelve in the film. I spent a long time doing casting to find older boys who looked younger. It took a long time, and I saw hundreds of teenagers. Because of their age, it was a lot easier working with them than it would seem. Since they were younger, my instructions to them were more direct. I told them what to do more directly than I would tell adult actors. Also, in the plot, the kids are less important than the adults. **Who are the Czech and or Slovak directors whom you admire most?** Věra Chytilová, Jan Němec and Ivan Passer! **Thank you for the interview.**