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The dignity of Aunt Wilma

Éva Vári is one of the main characters in the new short film Diamond Road Dust directed by Dr. Zoltán Vámos, and at the screening in Pécs we talked about the difficulties and joys of her role as an elderly woman with dementia.

You became known more as a theatre actor, do you like to film?  
I got bigger roles in two series, towards the end of the soap opera Neighbours and in Life Images, also directed by Ádám Horváth. But by the time my role in Neighbours had come to the fore, it was cancelled. But you're right, I hadn't really been worn out on the screen yet, it was good that the director thought I should play this role. I have nothing but good memories of the recording, even though it was a very difficult task.

Did you move back to Pécs after 25 years? What is it like to live in the city again?  
I didn't sell my flat, I lived here in the summer, not in Pest. Even in Budapest, I mostly moved around the district where I lived, at most I went to see colleagues. The city is too big for me, I belong here, in Pécs.

In the Diamond Road Dust you play an elderly woman with dementia. How did you go about developing the role?

First of all, I read up on it. And I listened to many people's problems about their family members with dementia. I was lucky that the director is a doctor, so he could tell if a person with dementia wasn't behaving the way I was playing. I made sure that the dignity of the patient was preserved. Not to be so pathetic that the audience can't even look at him.

I was portraying a man who had a destiny, a history, a family, not just a marginal character.