

## Zita Csányi

I had the opportunity to interview Zita Csányi, one of the best contemporary dubbing dramaturges. She has already translated numerous movies together with her husband, László Katona. They work extremely fast, in average they translate more than 1200 minutes movies monthly which takes more than 300,000 minutes during their 20-year-long careers. But let us start it from the beginning.

20 years ago Zita and László were living in a small house in Kőbánya with three little children. They were both working as family assistants after graduation. Earlier they had been studying Hungarian Studies which became extremely useful later on in this profession – according to Zita’s views the most important skill for a dubbing dramaturge is the proper knowledge of the target language. One day, László’s friend asked them to help him out and translate a movie about the Vietnam War, as he was too busy to do it. They translated it, and from that time on, their life has changed – they started to work for Pannonia Studio. Although they have never done anything like this before, they proved to be very talented, and soon they were working on so many translations that they could leave their previous jobs and could move to a bigger house.

Their working method is the following: László does the first draft of the lines from English into Hungarian and Zita proofreads it, makes changes where necessary. Zita likes translating the lyrics and poems, the literary parts in the movies. The advantage of working together is that they can choose the topics according their preferences, and that more than one person reads over the lines before it is sent to the client.

There are three other skills that Zita considers to be important in this profession: sense of rhythm, style, and paying attention to the actor’s articulation. When the actor articulates an “o” sound in English, they have to find something similar in Hungarian. They always have to follow the actors’ facial expression, respiration, movement, position on the screen and have to work accordingly which requires special attention and creativity. They have to mediate between different cultures, and above all they have to create a clear, smooth Hungarian text. Consequently they do not use any specific assistance programme for translation – this working method is too complicated for that.

In her free time she works as a tai chi trainer. Tai chi is not only a Chinese martial art, it is also a philosophy and it consists of a deep meditational part and a theoretical part, as well. She has 4 groups in various schools, she teaches around 30 persons altogether. This is a great activity especially for translators who work 10-12 hours a day in a sitting position... thus tai chi became a very important part of her life besides her family and her translation activities.

## Most important translations:

Cogburn, a békebíró (Rooster Cogburn) [1975] – Stuart Millar  
Smokey és a bandita (Smokey and the Bandit) [1977] - Hal Needham  
Smokey és a bandita 2. (Smokey and the Bandit II) [1980] - Hal Needham  
Monty Python: Az élet értelme (The Meaning of Life) [1983] - Terry Gilliam, Terry Jones  
Sárgaszakáll (Yellowbeard) [1983] - Mel Damski  
Szerepcsere (Trading Places) [1983] - John Landis  
A kukorica gyermekei (Children of the Corn) [1984] - Fritz Kiersch  
Archer kalandja (Archer) [1985] - Denny Lawrence  
Édes álmok (Sweet Dreams) [1985] - Karel Reisz  
Szökevényvonat (Runaway Train) [1985] - Andrei Konchalovsky  
Vigyázat, már megint nyomozunk! (Xia ri fu xing) [1985] - Sammo Kam-Bo Hung  
Delta kommandó (The Delta Force) [1986] - Menahem Golan  
Kék bársony (Blue Velvet) [1986] - David Lynch  
Alkalom szüli az orvost (Critical Condition) [1987] - Michael Apted  
Papi a pácban (Home Is Where the Hart Is) [1987] - Rex Bromfield  
Tökéletes kezelés (Beyond Therapy) [1987] - Robert Altman  
Halloween 4. - A rémület visszatér (Halloween 4: The Return of Michael Myers) [1988] -  
Dwight H. Little  
Marslakó a mostohám (My Stepmother Is an Alien) [1988] - Richard Benjamin  
Ütközetben eltűnt 3. (Braddock: Missing in Action III) [1988] - Aaron Norris  
Halloween 5. (Halloween 5) [1989] - Dominique Othenin-Girard  
Delta kommandó 2. (Delta Force 2: Operation Stranglehold) [1990] - Aaron Norris  
The Doors (The Doors) [1991] - Oliver Stone  
Kék sivatag (Blue Desert) [1991] - Bradley Battersby  
Robin Hood, a tolvajok fejedelme (Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves) [1991] - Kevin Reynolds  
Szombat esti frász (Mystery Date) [1991] - Jonathan Wacks  
Zandalee (Zandalee) [1991] - Sam Pillsbury  
Blue Ice (Blue Ice) [1992] - Russell Mulcahy  
Csontváz és Dákó (T Bone N Weasel) [1992] - Lewis Teague  
Full kontakt (Xia dao Gao Fei) [1992] - Ringo Lam  
Görbe út a mennybe (Round Trip to Heaven) [1992] - r.: Alan Roberts  
A pápaszem (Four Eyes and Six-Guns) [1992] - Piers Haggard  
Vágyak csapdájában (School Ties) [1992] - Robert Mandel  
Volt egyszer egy gyilkosság (Once Upon a Crime...) [1992] - Eugene Levy  
Amos és Andrew bilincsben (Amos & Andrew) [1993] - E. Max Frye  
Gyilkos szenvedély (Acting on Impulse) [1993] - Sam Irvin  
A sikátor szentje (The Saint of Fort Washington) [1993] - Tim Hunter  
Áramember 2. - Mr. Agyrém (Plughead Rewired: Circuitry Man II) [1994] - Robert Lovy  
Édeshármas (Threesome) [1994] - Andrew Fleming  
Az erőszak megszállottja (Parole Violators) [1994] - Patrick G. Donahue  
Fater, a nagy cserkész (Father and Scout) [1994] - Richard Michaels  
Fejjel a falnak (Against the Wall) [1994] - John Frankenheimer  
Irány az Éden (Exit to Eden) [1994] - Garry Marshall  
A kínai testőr (Zhong Nan Hai bao biao) [1994] - Corey Yuen  
A szenvedély színe (Fleshtone) [1994] - Harry Hurwitz  
Zsugorfejek (Shrunken Heads) [1994] - Richard Elfman

Árnyékgyilkos (Guns and Lipstick) [1995] - Hodi Jenő  
Börtönterror (Under Lock and Key) [1995] - Henri Charr  
Csendes vadász (Silent Hunter) [1995] - Fred Williamson  
Digital Man (Digital Man) [1995] - Phillip J. Roth  
Egy kosaras naplója (The Basketball Diaries) [1995] - Scott Kalvert  
Hideg, mint a vér (Coldblooded) [1995] - Wallace Wolodarsky  
Idegen tűz (The Invaders) [1995] - Paul Shapiro  
Kettős álarc (Bodily Harm) [1995] - James Lemmo  
A kiirthatatlan (Last Man Standing) [1995] - Joseph Merhi  
Sharpe aranya (Sharpe's Gold) [1995] - Tom Clegg  
Szédült hétvége (Home for the Holidays) [1995] - Jodie Foster  
Börtönváros (Andersonville) [1996] - John Frankenheimer  
Fújhatjuk! (Brassed Off) [1996] - Mark Herman  
A fűnyíró ember 2. (Lawnmower Man 2: Beyond Cyberspace) [1996] - Farhad Mann  
Gotti (Gotti) [1996] - Robert Harmon  
A kábelbarát (The Cable Guy) [1996] - Ben Stiller  
Leszámolás felsőfokon (Once a Thief) [1996] - John Woo  
Ne légy barom! (Don't Be a Menace to South Central While Drinking Your Juice in the Hood) [1996] - Paris Barclay  
Olasz módra (Big Night) [1996] - Campbell Scott, Stanley Tucci  
Sámson és Delila (Samson and Delilah) [1996] - Nicolas Roeg  
Túszvonat - Könnyen vedd a halált (Crackerjack 2.) [1996] - Robert Lee  
Zsaru az égből (Gridlock) [1996] - Sandor Stern  
Ragadozó 3. (DNA) [1997] - William Mesa  
Teréz anya: A szegények istenének nevében (Mother Teresa: In the Name of God's Poor) [1997] - Kevin Connor  
Félelem és reszketés Las Vegasban (Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas) [1998] - Terry Gilliam  
Levél a halálsorról (A Letter from Death Row) [1998] - Marvin Baker, Bret Michaels  
Vízözön (Hard Rain) [1998] - Mikael Salomon  
A bosszú harcosa (Jung wa ying hong) [1999] - Wai-keung Lau  
Gyilkosság a múltból (A Murder on Shadow Mountain) [1999] - Dick Lowry  
Jézus (Jesus) [1999] - Roger Young  
A karácsonyfa dala (O' Christmas Tree) [1999] - Bert Ring  
Robbanáspont (Chill Factor) [1999] - Hugh Johnson  
Száncengő (Jingle Bells) [1999] - Bert Ring  
David Copperfield (David Copperfield) [2000] - Peter Medak  
A szél fiai (Hijos del viento) [2000] - José Miguel Juárez  
Hófehérke (Snow White) [2001] - Caroline Thompson  
Háziasszonyok öröme (Super Sucker) [2002] - Jeff Daniels  
Bionicle - A fényálarc (Bionicle: Mask of Light) [2003] - Terry Shakespeare, David Molina  
Szemközti ablak (La finestra di fronte) [2003] - Ferzan Ozpetek  
Bionicle 2. - Metru Nui legendája (Bionicle 2: Legends of Metru-Nui) [2004] - David Molina, Terry Shakespeare  
Stepfordi feleségek (The Stepford Wives) [2004] - Frank Oz  
Bionicle 3. - Árnyak hálója (Bionicle 3: Web of Shadows) [2005] - David Molina, Terry Shakespeare  
Tuti kis öngyilkos buli (Checking Out) [2005] - Jeff Hare  
Meghalsz Johnny! (Johnny Was) [2006] - Mark Hammond  
Rémségek völgye (Hoboken Hollow) [2006] - Glen Stephens  
Szívem érted rapes 2. (Save the Last Dance 2) [2006] - David Petrarca

Barbie, a Sziget hercegnője (Barbie as the Island Princess) [2007] - Greg Richardson  
Hajrá, csajok! 4. (Bring It On: In It to Win It) [2007] - Steve Rash  
Beethoven 6. (Beethoven's Big Break) [2008] - Mike Elliott  
Gyilkosság online (Untraceable) [2008] - Gregory Hoblit  
Ong-Bak 2. - A sárkány bosszúja (Ong-bak 2) [2008] - Tony Jaa, Panna Rittikrai  
Pokémon 11. - Giratina és az égi harcos (Gekijô ban poketto monsutâ: Daiyamondo & Pâru - Giratina to sora no hanataba Sheimi) [2008] - Kunihiko Yuyama  
Zöld Lámpás - A kezdet (Green Lantern: First Flight) [2009] - Lauren Montgomery  
Elcsérelt gyilkosság (Next Stop Murder) [2010] - John Murlowski  
Emésztő harag (Autoreiji) [2010] - Takeshi Kitano  
A béisitter (The Chaperone) [2011] - Stephen Herek  
A fergeteges szenteste (A Christmas Wedding Date) [2012] - Fred Olen Ray  
Geronimo hadművelet (Seal Team Six: The Raid on Osama Bin Laden) [2012] - John Stockwell  
Rémjárás (Haunted High) [2012] - Jeffery Scott Lando  
Úton (On the Road) [2012] - Walter Salles  
Az orvosdoktor (The Physician) [2013] - Philipp Stölzl  
Táncra születtek (Make Your Move) [2013] - Duane Adler  
Kristálykoponyák (Crystal Skulls) [2014] - Todor Chapkanov  
Sharknado 2. - A második harapás (Sharknado 2: The Second One) [2014] - Anthony C. Ferrante  
Megacápa a Kolosszus ellen (Mega Shark vs. Kolossus) [2015] - Christopher Ray  
Sharknado 3. - A végső harapás (Sharknado 3: Oh Hell No!) [2015] - Anthony C. Ferrante

### Working experience at:

Pannonia Studio  
Masterfilm (Digital) Kft.  
Digital Szinkron(stúdió) (Bt.)  
SDI Media Hungary  
TV Szinkron Kft.  
Active Kommunikációs Kft.  
Mikroszinkron  
Szinkron Systems  
Digital Media Services