



Karlovy Vary
International Film Festival
Official Selection – Competitor

MEN DON'T CRY

FILM BY Alen Drljević

Synopsis

The armed conflicts of the 1990s not only visibly destroyed the land of the former Yugoslavia, but also left the deepest wounds in the memory of each of its belligerent nations. There are as many different interpretations of that bleak past as there are countries affected. It is therefore hard to expect absolute harmony when, less than two decades since the war ended, a diverse group of veterans gathers at a remote mountain hotel for a therapy session over several days. On the contrary, such a dangerously volatile situation can suddenly ignite by just one thoughtless word, or a seemingly dirty look. That's because the former soldiers, obstinately holding on to their fundamental masculinity and their prejudices, refuse to expose the inhumanity of the atrocities perpetrated – be it by them or by someone else. This brilliantly directed drama about how we must first learn to forgive ourselves before we can forgive others, boasts a cast of top Balkan male actors. In addition to Sebastian Cavazza in the role of the therapist, a diehard pacifist, the film features the excellent Emir Hadžihafizbegović, Leon Lučev, Izudin Bajrović, Boris Isaković, Ermin Bravo, Boris Ler, and Ivo Gregurević.





Director's Statement

In the summer of 2010, I signed up for a training event that a peace organization offered to war veterans from former Yugoslavia. My primary aim was to conduct a research that was to serve as the basis for a short documentary. Having myself been a soldier in the Bosnian war, I thought that such a workshop would be the best possible immersion into the "story". So that was my primary motivation for participating in the workshop. As for my personal experience of the war, I believed I had long since left it behind. I thought it was a closed chapter in my life.

But the workshop captured me completely. I was sitting with people who had literally fired shots at each other. Or, to put it more precisely: we had fired shots at each other. There was tension, yes, but what started in an atmosphere of mistrust and discomfort eventually turned into a quite uncommon relationship of understanding and compassion.

Emotional tensions, unusual dynamics in communication and, finally, the catharsis experienced in the workshop have made me decide to make a feature film on the subject.





BORIS ISAKOVIĆ

Boris Isaković is a Serbian theatre and film actor. He is born in 1966 in Novi Sad. Isaković has worked extensively in theatre, film and TV, and tried himself even in the role of theatre director. His recent films include "Good Wife" by Mirjana Karanović, "Sky Above Us" by Marinus Groothof, "Circles" by Srđan Golubović ... He teaches acting at Academy of Performing Arts in Novi Sad.

Isaković is a permanent member of Serbian National Theatre in Novi Sad, where he was the champion of the drama, and drama director. Had many roles in the Serbian National Theatre in Novi Sad, but it plays in almost all theatres in Belgrade. Also, he is starring in film and television productions.

He. At the Serbian National Theatre in Novi Sad in 2009, he directed the play "Lepotica Linejna" by text of Irish writer Martin Mekdone, in which he played the role of Pat Dulija...



LEON LUČEV

To international audiences Leon Lučev is perhaps best known for his roles in Vinko Brešan's WITNESSES (in competition at 2003 Berlin Film Festival) and HOW THE WAR STARTED ON MY LITTLE ISLAND (1998). His other film credits include Hrvoje Hribar's WHAT IS A MAN WITHOUT A MUSTACHE?, Krsto Papić's INFECTION, Lukas Nola's CELESTIAL BODY and ALONE, and Jasmila Žbanić's GRBAVICA (2006 Berlin Award Winner).

Lučev co-wrote Hans Christian Schmid's STORM (in competition at the 2009 Berlin Film Festival), and was one of producers of Jasmila Žbanić's ON THE PATH (in competition at the 2010 Berlin Film Festival) and Srđan Golubović's CIRCLES (Special Jury Award at 2013 Sundance film festival, Ecumenical Award at 2013 Berlin Film Festival). He has also worked extensively in TV and theatre.



EMIR HADŽIHAFIZBEGOVIĆ

Emir Hadžihafizbegović, a BiH actor, won the 2014 Best Actor Award in Horizons section of Venice Film Festival, for his role in "These Are the Rules" by Ognjen Svilčić. He has appeared in more than 80 theatre and TV roles, and worked with some of the best known directors from the former Yugoslavia: Emir Kusturica, Rajko Grlić, Jasmila Žbanić, Goran Marković ... Hadžihafizbegović has received a Golden Arena for Best Actor at Pula Film Festival, and Best Actor Award at Durban International Film Festival. He teaches acting at Academy of Drama in Tuzla, and is a director of "Kamerni Teatar 55" in Sarajevo.



Screenwriter and director

ALEN DRLJEVIĆ

Alen Drljević was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He graduated from Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo in 2005. His graduation short fiction film "Prva plata" ("The Paycheck") was nominated for a European Film Academy Award. His documentary feature debut "Karneval" ("Carnival") was selected to compete in the 2006 IDFA "Competition for First Appearance", and was screened at IDFA "Movies that Matter". He is a member of the European Film Academy. Drljević has also worked as assistant director on several films, including Jasmila Žbanić's "Grbavica" (Golden Bear Award, Berlinale 2006), "On the Path" and "For Those Who Can Tell No Tales".

Filmography as a director/screenwriter

PRVA PLATA (Paycheck) – 2005 short fiction, 13 min; Sarajevo Film Festival 2005; - Motovun Film Festival 2006. – best short film; PRIX/UIP award - nomination for a European Film Academy Award (EFA), director/screenwriter

KARNEVAL (Carnival) – 2006 documentary, 70 min.; IDFA 2006. – TOP TEN Movies That Matter; Trieste Film Festival 2007 – audience award – best documentary; BH Festival New York 2007. – best documentary; Motovun Film Festival 2007. – from A to A selection – special mention; director/screenwriter

ESMA – 2007 documentary, 26 min.; Docudays, Kyiv 2008 – Human rights competition – special mention; San Gio Video Festival, Verona 2008 – best video; Giuria Giovani / Young Audiences Award; director/screenwriter

ŠOPING (Shopping) – 2008 short fiction, 15 min; director/screenwriter

WESTERN BALKANS – 8 STEPS FORWARD - Alen Drljevic, 2010, documentary; director/screenwriter

2011 – 2016: a series of documentary films produced by Federalna TV

2017 – Men Don't Cry, feature film, 99 min

Producers

JASMILA ŽBANIĆ

Born in Sarajevo in 1974, Jasmila is a graduate of her native city's Academy of Dramatic Arts, Theatre and Film Directing Department. Before film-making, she also worked as a puppeteer in the Vermont-based Bread and Puppet Theater and as a clown in a Lee Delong workshop.

Her feature debut GRBAVICA won the 2006 Berlinale Golden Bear (as well as the Prize of the Ecumenical Jury and the Peace Prize), the AFI (American Film Institute) Fest Grand Jury Prize, Nomination – European Film Award for best film, Grand Prix Odyssey of the European Council and was sold to 40 territories with great success. ON THE PATH, Jasmila's second feature film, premiered at the 2010 Berlinale, in the Competition section. The film had worldwide distribution on 25 territories and won numerous awards including Film-

kunstfestival Schwerin Award for Best Director, Golden Apricot IFF Yerevan – FIPRESCI Prize, Pula Film Festival 2010 – Golden Arena for Best Director, Nomination – European Film Award for Best Actress. Jasmila's third feature, FOR THOSE WHO CAN TELL NO TALES, made its world premiere at the Toronto Film Festival and won the 2013 Femme de Cinema Award at Les Arcs European Film Festival.

All her films were produced through Deblokada, an artists' association that she founded.

Jasmila's films and video works have been displayed at dozens of art exhibitions worldwide such as Manifesta 3, the Istanbul Biennial, Museum Fridericianum Kassel, Swedish Contemporary Art Foundation, New Museum in New York... She is the recipient of the 2014 KAIROS Prize which honors European artists whose work is judged to have a major cultural and social impact.

DAMIR IBRAHIMOVIĆ

Born on July 18, 1965 in Sarajevo. Together with Jasmila Zbanic in 1997 he founded Deblokada film production. All the films he produced were shown in the main programs of the world's biggest film festivals like Berlin Film Festival, Locarno Film Festival, San Sebastian, Toronto, Sundance Film Festival, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival... Some of the films screened at mentioned Festivals are winners of the main prizes. Among them greatest success had film "Grbavica", directed by Jasmila Žbanić, awarded with Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival in 2006.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY:

Men Don't Cry [2017], Good Wife [2016], Love Island [2014], Cure [2014], For Those Who Can

Tell No Tales [2013], On The Path [2010], Grbavica [2006], Participation [2008] Builder's

Diary [2007], Birthday [2004], Images From The Corner [2003]

Main cast and crew

CAST: Boris Isaković, Leon Lučev, Emir Hadžihafizbegović, Sebastian Cavazza,
Ermin Bravo, Boris Ler, Ivo Gregurević, Primož Petkovšek, Jasna Đuričić, Izudin Bajrović
COSTUME DESIGNER: Sanja Džeba ART DIRECTOR: Mirna Ler KEY MAKE-UP ARTIST: Mojca Gorogranc
SOUND DESIGNER: Igor Čamo EDITOR: Vladimir Gojun DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Erol Zubčević
SCREENWRITERS: Alen Drljević, Zoran Solomun
CO-PRODUCERS: Bojan Mastilović, Rebekka Garrido, Smiljan Tolj, Snežana Penev, Igor Vranjković
PRODUCERS: Damir Ibrahimović, Jasmila Žbanić
DIRECTOR: Alen Drljević

TECHNICAL DETAILS: | Length: 100 min | Format: DCP | Original language: Bosnian

DEBLOKADA

iridium
FILM

MAN
DER
LEY
FILMS

živa
PRODUKCIJA

THIS
AND
THAT
PRODUCTION

Line
Planet
ADRIA

ZDF Das kleine
Fernsehspiel

arte

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DEBLOKADA

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