

POLSESTRA

HALF-SISTER

a film by DAMJAN KOZOLE



Karlovy Vary
International Film Festival
Official Selection – Competition

Press and Industry Screening:
July 2, 2019 at 10.30 – Congress Hall

Official / Public Screenings:
July 2, 2019 at 20.00 – Grand Hall
July 3, 2019 at 13.00 – Pupp Cinema
July 5, 2019 at 11.30 – Drahomira Cinema

About film

HALF-SISTER

Original title: POLSESTRA

Slovenia / North Macedonia / Serbia

In color, 105 minutes

DCP 2K, screen ratio: 1:2.39, sound: 5.1

Director: Damjan Kozole

Writers: Damjan Kozole, Urša Menart, Ognjen Sviličić

Director of photography: Miladin Čolaković

Editors: Jurij Moškon, Atanas Georgiev

Sound: Julij Zornik, Igor Popovski

Production designer: Neža Zinajić

Costume designer: Katja Hrobat

Make-up artist: Mojca Gorogranc Petrushevska

Production manager: Matija Kozamernik

Cast: Urša Menart, Liza Marijina, Jurij Drevenšek, Peter Musevski,
Anja Novak, Damjana Černe, Labina Mitevska, Urška Hlebec

Producers: Danijel Hočevar, Labina Mitevska, Jelena Mitrović

Production companies: Vertigo (SI), Sisters and Brother Mitevski (MK),
Film House Baš Čelik (RS), RTV Slovenia

In collaboration with: FS Viba film

Financial support: Slovenian Film Centre, North Macedonia Film Agency,
Film Centre Serbia, Republic of Serbia Ministry of Culture and Media,
Creative Europe MEDIA, Eurimages Co-production Development Award,
RE ACT Award

Developed with the support: Sources 2

Presented at: Cinelink Industry Days – Sarajevo Film Festival, Les Arcs
Industry Village – Work in Progress

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Synopsis

Half-Sister is a story of two estranged half-sisters from coastal town Izola who are, after many years of barely seeing each other, forced by circumstances to share a small apartment in Ljubljana.

Notes of the director

This film talks about people who are incapable of showing affection. The way we communicate with others always expresses our desires, fears and frustrations. When we do this in an arrogant, aggressive way, we are often concealing our own vulnerability. This is a film about two women who want nothing to do with each other and deny any similarity between them. At the end, though, they uncover what they are both refusing to understand.

A few years ago, I found myself in an unexpected situation, I had to confront with the possibility that there could be somebody who shares my blood of whom I wasn't aware of. This confused and strange feeling sparked the story about two grumpy and stubborn, but good and vulnerable women, who barely know each other. They hate each other but, in reality, have no idea why.

I have always been fascinated by people who, because of their feelings or beliefs, are ready to let go of everything and start a new life from scratch. Sometimes things don't always work out the way we had hoped or wanted.

– Damjan Kozole

Director's bio

Damjan Kozole (1964) is a Slovenian filmmaker whose directing credits include, among others, the critically-acclaimed *Spare Parts* (2003), worldwide released *Slovenian Girl* (2009) and *Nightlife* (2016), winner of Best Director Award at the 51st Karlovy Vary IFF. *Spare Parts* was nominated for the Golden Bear at the 53th Berlin IFF 2003 and in *Sight & Sound* ranked it in 2008 among Ten most important films of the New Europe.

Kozole is also the respected author of many documentary films.

Selected films:

Half-Sister (2019)
Nightlife (2016)
Borders, doc (2016)
Project Cancer, doc (2013)
Slovenian Girl (2009)
Spare Parts (2003)

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Main cast's bios

Urša Menart (1985) is a Slovenian filmmaker and actress, a graduate of the Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film and Television from Ljubljana (Slovenia). She has collaborated on two feature films of Damjan Kozole: *Nightlife* (as script collaborator and 1st AD) and *Half-Sister* (as co-writer). In the later she has also appeared in the main role of Irena.

Her debut feature film *My Last Year as a Loser* (2018) received Vesna Award for best feature film at the Festival of Slovene Films. She has also directed several feature documentaries: *There Once Was a Land of Hardworking People* and *What About Mojca?* which deal with national identity and the relationship between history and pop-culture.

Liza Marijina (1989) is a Slovenian actress, 2013 graduate of the Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film and Television from Ljubljana (Slovenia). Liza performed in theatre performances of several Slovenian theatres (mainly in Celje City Theatre) for which she's received several awards and recognitions. She appeared in daily TV series *River of Love* (2016–2018), several shorts and feature film *Idyll* (2015). Role of Nezha in *Half-Sister* is her first major film role.

Company profile

Vertigo is a Ljubljana (Slovenia)-based production company with a distinctive track record and extensive working experience on international co-productions and narrow budget films. They produced more than 40 feature films, as well as more than 10 documentaries and 50 short films and TV productions, incl. the award-winning films such as *God Exists*, *Her Name is Petrunya* (2019, Berlinale Competition: Ecumenical Award and Guild Prize) by Teona Mitevska, *Nightlife* (2016, Karlovy Vary IFF's Best Director Award), *Slovenian Girl* (2009, Toronto IFF) and *Spare Parts* (2003, Berlinale Competition), all directed by Damjan Kozole, *An Episode in the Life of an Iron Picker* (2013, 2 Berlinale Silver Bears) by Danis Tanović, *Circles* (2013, Sundance FF World Cinema Competition's Jury Prize) by Srđan Golubović, *Alexandrians* (2011, Trieste Film Festival Best Documentary) by Metod Pevec and *Bread and Milk* (2001, Venice FF's Lion of the Future Award) by Jan Cvitković.

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Publicity

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Production Companies

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sources 2

CineLink
Industry Days

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