

The light bulbs are on



The 19th Youth film Festival and the 7th Four River Film Festival has been opened yesterday and for the first time in their summer edition. Just nine months after the last year's Review and the Festival we are once again hosts to guests from all over the world and it wasn't until yesterday evening that we have been able to see just what a number of this young and creative people we have gathered in our little town on the four rivers. The honour of hosting the opening ceremony went to the river Kupa, because as the alpha and omega of this festival Marija Ratković Vidaković has told us, Kupa is the largest river in Karlovac and it is only fitting for us to give the opening ceremony on its banks. What we got was some story, laughter, applause and of course a course in mathematics. The numbers were truly impressive this year to say the least- 365 films applied out of which the selection committee has chosen 80 to be shown during the festival. 38 for the Youth film Festival programme and 42 for the Four River Film Festival Programme. Our mayor Mr Damir Jelić also used a reference to mathematics in his speech. This festival as the 7th is very special to his heart since he is also serving his seventh year as mayor of Karlovac. The mayor welcomed our guests and wished for all of them to continue carrying the magic of the film within themselves and that all of their dreams they put into their films would come true. Having heard all the speeches and being introduced to the both grand and little jury we enjoyed the premiere showing of the We are Happy...Karlovac music video- which has been made in cooperation between the Cinema Club Karlovac and Association for dance and recreation River Dance Karlovac and of course all the happy people who participated in the making of the video.

We are especially happy to be able to welcome our dear friends Studio for Creative Ideas Gunja, who have, as we all know, just survived a great natural disaster. Despite

that Gunja is more determined than ever and at the opening ceremony we have shown their work documenting the condition in Gunja during and after the flood. The audience was at a complete standstill while we have been watching the shoots of ruined homes, schools and churches in Gunja. The young movie makers from Gunja have been working on our official trailer but I also fell a victim to the flood despite their efforts to save the equipment.

As is tradition, the last years' grand prix winner Kaja Šišmanović cut the film line and officially opened the festival. Her grand prix winning film "How's everyone at home" has also been shown. Kaja is today a student at the Academy of Dramatic Arts, she is studying directing. We wish you all the best of luck Kaja.

Of course, nothing cannot be officially opened until Marija Ratković - Vidaković and Vera Robić - Škarica say so, which they did in a warm and up to the point welcome. Bringing together two beautiful things film and young people in this town on four rivers that now echoes their inspiration we have finally officially opened the festival. We hope our guests will spend many happy moments here in Karlovac. For the very end of the opening ceremony we invited our guests to light up a lantern and let it float in the sky.

To end things we have to congratulate our special intervention team and the crew taking care of the technical details they did an amazing job. It has been no small feat to install such a screen on the raft in the very river. We had some mishaps in the previous years with the technical support but everything ran like clockwork tonight. However, we face many challenges till the closing of the festival so the only thing we can say is carry on in the way you began. (K.M.)

Zombies vs light



Dark clouds have come over the sky above our fair town, zombies have apparently been seen, but not even that was reason enough for our young citizens to abandon their creative work. We are of course talking about the workshop whose main goal was to say something about film and film making to all the primary school students interested in it. As the workshop began so did the murmur on us really having to make a horror movie. The discussion on the topic varied from werewolves to vampires and it finally settled on zombies. Antonio Britvar, a young film maker from Zagreb, who lead the workshop gave the attendants a task- make a promotional video for the moto of the festival- "Why keep your talent in the dark?" "We decided to use the theme of the Festival and shed some light on a



classical horror story, so that it would have a happy ending." We worked hard and fast, and after having introduced the participants with some basics of film making we began our brainstorming process. The whole story soon got its final form. We were able to continue onto the good stuff, if the reactions of the participants are to be taken into consideration, and that is the shooting. Antonio says it will be the easiest part of their task. We will shoot on many different locations in the town. In the end I hope we will have a motion picture people will like. "What else is there to say but that the film is expected to have its premiere sometime during the festival and we hope that it will be able to clear the sky of clouds for us. (D.S.)

Little jury's grand expectations

The so called "little jury" of the festival has never had as many members as it has now nor was it ever as adman in its views and demands. This year there are 8 members of the yellow flag award jury and they have to decide which of the films to be shown here at the festival promotes the non violence on film the best.

The competition is fierce, and every member of jury has his own vision of what the said film should be like. "I think that creativity is what counts the most. We want to see something we haven't seen as yet, something that will both amaze and surprise us"- as one of the members of the jury stated.

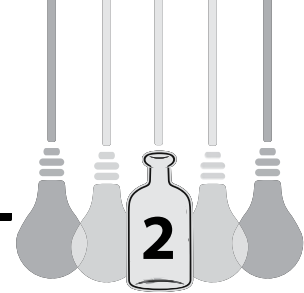
They will also pay special attention to the quality of the film itself, the shooting, the sequences, and camera and editing. "We expect to see a great variety of films, since the participants are coming from all over the world, we hope the programme will be interesting."

The members of the jury are from Turkey and Macedonia. For some of them this a first encounter with the role of a judge while others have had their fair share of the role. The youngest



member is only 12 years old, but already she knows exactly what to look for when deciding on the best film and best actor. This year the jury has been given some extra work to do. Not only are they to choose which films gets the award for promoting non violence in films, but they also decide who the best actress/ actor is.

The members of the jury readily agree with at least one criteria- "We think that charisma will be the deciding factor when it comes to choosing the best actress/ actor. It is important for them to be able to express their feelings, even if there are no lines in the film, just so that we feel they have become one with the role they're playing. As one can see, the jury not only has a number of members, but they also judge depending on their own criteria. (K.M.)



Yellow - day two

NIGHT TIME SCREENINGS FOR ALL OF YOU FILM OVERS



We are into the second day of the festival and we are in for many a treat. First thing, let us take a walk down memory lane. We will tell where the winners of the previous festivals are today. If we take a look back, let's say a 10 years look back we will remember Maida Srabović, an ambitious girl whose film won the Youth Film Festival 10 years ago.

Maida is here with us again. Today she is an author with numerous successful

documentary film in her carrier, as well as many music videos done for a number of Croatian singers. She won the Youth Film Festival with "Lady Akra the Bat". We have decided to show that film, and another one, a documentary "Permanent take out" directed by David Kapc. The film is about a neighbourhood DVD and video rental that goes out of business.

Maida and David will be joined on the stage by Luka Hrgović, a young and talented student - animation- who will tell us something about his film "The Burek Epopee" that also won in Zadar in 2004. Luka will tell us something about his new work, film "Zetstapo" which shows an array of feelings one experiences when the ticket control catches you riding the public transport without a valid ticket. We have all experienced this at least once. Be sure to drop in a see for yourselves the films and here what the authors have to say about their plans for the future.

We have spent enough time in the past; let's step back into the present. After Maida tells us something about her work, we will continue our evening with a Slovenian film from 2010 by Miho Hočevar "We go our way", which was a blockbuster in Slovenia. Till 2011 more than 184 000 people have seen it and it became one of the most famous films in Slovenia. The film is about a group of young scouts who wish to experience nature with a group of girls from the next camp but a strict camp leader is always in their way. Come and see for yourself why this film is one of the most viewed film in the history of Slovenian filmography. We dare you! (M.Š.)

BRAZIL- BY KARLOVAC

No matter that the festival is the most important thing in the world for us, there is however that truly most important secondary thing in the world. Of course, we are talking about football. How can we just go around the world cup when billions of people world wide are watching it. Of course we will watch the game and cheer our boys on. Rumour has is Zrinka Cvitešić and Niko Kranjčar might be joining us. The game will be broadcasted live on Foginovo beach and everyone's invited. We could say we added football as a spice for the second day of the festival so we will organise a tournament of our own- "Who, when, how?", the answer to be found on your own this afternoon. You will be amazed to see a foreign film giant playing against a Croatian team of film connoisseurs and you could give yourself a go and try to outmatch a film maker from lets say Argentina. Uuuuu, definitely worth a shot.

We got so sidetracked with this football mania we almost forgot to mention what's happening in the morning. For all of you early bird catches the worm types with nothing but film film on your mind from the early morning the first screening will be held at 9:30 am. at Zorin dom Theatre followed by Q&A with the authors. The second screening starts at 11:30 and the third at 16:30 both at Zorin dom Theatre. We expect to see you all there! (M.Š.)

Mina Keshavarz

INTERVIEW



She comes from a land far far away. She is an accomplished film maker and a member of the grand jury. She is Mina Keshavarz.

1. To get us started, tell us something about yourself.

I grew up in Iran in an artistic family. My father is a writer. I became interested in film when I was 13 years old. We have just moved and I found some of my father's old magazines. Later on I started studying at a faculty of polytechnic, but the love towards film was still here so I started writing my blog. I made my first documentary, the genre I am most interested in, when I was 24.

2. How hard was it to start doing something completely new after having finished studying in a different field?

I was interested in studying polytechnic; I always wanted to make films. At first it was really hard to balance my studies and film making, but I got used to it. Sometime I went to classes and I translated reports from various festivals just so I could put them on my blog.

3. Why film?

Honestly, I don't know. One often simply falls in love with somebody or something without being able to explain why. It is just so. I like to dream, I like stories, and I love art and film combines all three.

4. What is your biggest inspiration?

I listen to people, to their stories. I like to show the generation gap between the new younger generation and their parents.

5. The focus of your film "Unwelcome in Teheran" is the life of a young woman. Is there a gap between traditional values and the new modern lifestyle?

Being a film maker in Iran is the same as anywhere else in the world. Extremely hard, and, in addition, we also have to fight censure. Every time, even before I start a new project I have to first think carefully on how to avoid such limitations. It is also very hard to find sponsors and producers, so we have to go abroad to gain financing.

6. "Unwelcome in Teheran" was very successful in many festivals.

I am very fond of that film, since it tells my personal story. It was a kind of therapy for me. However, I cannot say it is my favourite. Afterwards there have been many successful projects so it's hard to choose.

7. Every year you sit as a member of the jury giving awards for documentary film. What are your expectations of this Festival?

There is a difference. Back home we give awards to professionals and this about amateurs. I'm looking forward to seeing so many films, and not just feature films and I really hope we will be the one to spot an early work of a famous movie star.

8. What is your favourite film?

It's hard to name just one, but I love films by Agnes Varda, Alana Berlinal, Johna Cassavetes.

9. Do you maybe have a message for our readers?

I am so very happy to be in this small town that has four rivers. I hope the screenings will be well attended and that we will be able to see some good movies. (D.S.)

Sexpress Office

MAIDA PLEASE EXCEPT MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES

A month ago I was able to get in touch with Maida Sabović a singularly talented and creative woman who has decided to use her expertise in film on making and editing music videos, among which is a video for a song Ex Girlfriend by the band Lollobrigida.

We will be showing her films tonight as part of the festival programme- Once winners of the grand prix and where are they today. We will show the film with which she won at the Yoth film Festival in Zadar, exactly 10 years ago and another film on which she has been working together with David Kapc, who is directing the film. Let me make it clear, I'm not trying to sell Maida off for a few bobs, I'm just trying to emphasise how her talent will unfortunately be shadowed by the every present euphoria with the football WC, particularly since our national team is defending our colours against Cameroon tonight. This is a very awkward situation for me... Maida is a very dear person and I believe she will suffer a great injustice tonight but I will be the first to admit that I will use the very second Marija drops her guard and glances away to make myself scarce and go off to the fist pub to watch the game. I have two perfectly good reasons for this. First being that this is an ideal opportunity for me to use all the swear words I want in polite company with no one looking askance my way and the second being of course, one of the football players is bound to take his clothes off again. So Maida, my sincerest apologies in the name of all of those who will turn their eye and attention to the big football showing screen instead of your films. (T.G.)

What's on tomorrow?

- 9:30 - Zorin dom: Fourth screening of the competition programme
- 11:30 - Zorin dom: Fifth screening of the competition programme
- 21:30 - banks of the river Dobra- Once the winners of the Review and the Festival, and today? Luka Hrgović, author
- Banks of the river Dobra: motion picture by Melody Gilbert- Disconnected (documentary)
- 23:00 - banks of river Dobra: DJ

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MEDIJSKI SPONZORI:



SPONZORI:



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