

On the prowl for a film strike

We came upon the town unexpectedly this year. Just a few weeks ago we have been barely visible, somewhere among the green leaves and the shrubbery of the Karlovac parks rarely did one see a something coloured in yellow. However, that is no longer the case. Yellow T-shirts have taken over this once peaceful and dormant town. Volunteers, accompanied by the cute Dukatino have become a constant sight and mailboxes are overflowing with yellow leaflets and invitations. Just this past Saturday Dukatino has been spotted in front of Zorin Dom. He was seen helping with the organization of a bowling competition taking place between teams of youngsters. The pins were scattered all around the place, the kids were playing happily and the volunteers did their workout in endless gathering of the pins.

Yes, yes it has become evident we are moments away from the grand opening! The bowl sent towards the pins in nearing its goal and we are keeping our fingers crossed for a strike! And we really have put up a lot of pins for our bowl to throw down, as well as a lot of effort into keeping everything in place until the grand opening under a starry sky in a park just in front of Edison. We hope that our guests and visitors will help us roll down the bowl towards a great film adventure we are to embark on tonight and that we will successfully hear the crowd cheering strike in such a

manner even a professional bowler would envy us.

The first guests have already arrived, and we expect them from five continents in total, the five pins marking the Festivals' locations have been perfectly set around the town together with an additional sixth that brought with it representatives of the most esteemed European youth film festivals. It's a lot of pins to take in and how do we do it all? With only a handful of volunteers, few coordinators and chauffeurs, a lot enthusiasm and just a few hours of sleep we managed to steal in between long distance intercontinental phone calls, charming the sponsors, distributing the flyers, making decorations, finding food, bands, group leaders, interpreters...and a lot of other little pins, since they all have to be in their position for the opening when we will find out just how good at bowling we are.

We expect you all with arms wide open and promise to charm you, make you laugh, show you a good time. We promise to try to keep the rain away or at least to bay using the forces at our disposal- creativity, positive energy, and enthusiasm. We hope that we will be joined by an even larger number of the Karlovacs' residents so we all can roll the bowl towards the pins and help create another film story.

(ks)

Opening ceremony

Šanac, Tonight 8:30pm
Concert: DETONATOR TRIO, 22.00pm

I've yet to hear from only the North and the South Pole!

CHATTING WITH THE PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

Tonight, the Festival will begin- for most of you this will be the first time you're seeing the films in the running. Needles to say, the applications for the Festival began a long, long time ago, long before we even knew who the members of the selection committee were going to be- you know the people who were charged with the task to decide which of the 307 films applied will get a chance to be one of the 80films in the running.

However, there is one person who spent her time talking on the phone

and exchanging facebook messages all around the world. We give you, both the Festivals and the Reviews programme coordinator- Sanja Zanki.

First thing's first though, what does one do as a programme coordinator?

"Gathers films!" - she laughs and continues - "The story actually begins with me typing the words "youth film festival" into facebook search, check out the reaping it produced and I'm on a roll. I send them messages telling that we are organising a youth festival and that we would like if they could/would send us their film/films. Some of them then send me their applications. For example, this year I spend a number of nights chatting with this guy from the Philippines. It took a while but in the end he sent his film. We also have a data base from the festivals we cooperate with and then they also send us some of the works. Well, you could say that my iPad is my best friend during the process of film collecting." All of this sounds rather complicated but Sanja

assures us it's actually great fun, the downside being the loneliness factor- "When you work you have to do it alone. One has a certain time frame for calling people, texting them and generally trying to persuade them to send their film, for example from 6 to 10pm, when it's polite to intrude someone's personal time. The complicated part is keeping track of what you have written and to whom, whom you're expecting to hear from etc. That is why my little black book is always with me. In it I keep track of those who turned me down, those whom I've turned down and of course those whom with I have organised our cooperation."

And that is where your job ends? "Noooo, that is when the fun begins. After doing all of this we have to see which of the films applied suit our criteria. I often hear from slightly older film maker and them I have to turn down. Finally, in the end, when the selection committee has decided which of the films applied are in for the running- I have to make out the final details with the authors- sometimes they need to send better quality versions of the film, send the films to get subtitles etc. Having done that I can say my work is done."

Sanja has been with the Festivals since its beginnings 7 years ago. What did it look like back then?

"I remember the first Four River Film Festival, when, truth be told, we could only call it a regional festival, since the international part of it were mostly films from Serbia and Slovenia. And now, I did a little statistics and I can see the Faroe Islands, Philippines, more than 30 countries."

Sanja is probably the reason why our data base has grown so much in size, especially now that we have finally crossed that magical number of 300 films applied.

"I think I only haven't contacted the North and the South Pole, although Tromso and South African Republic are very close" (ds)

IMPRESSUM

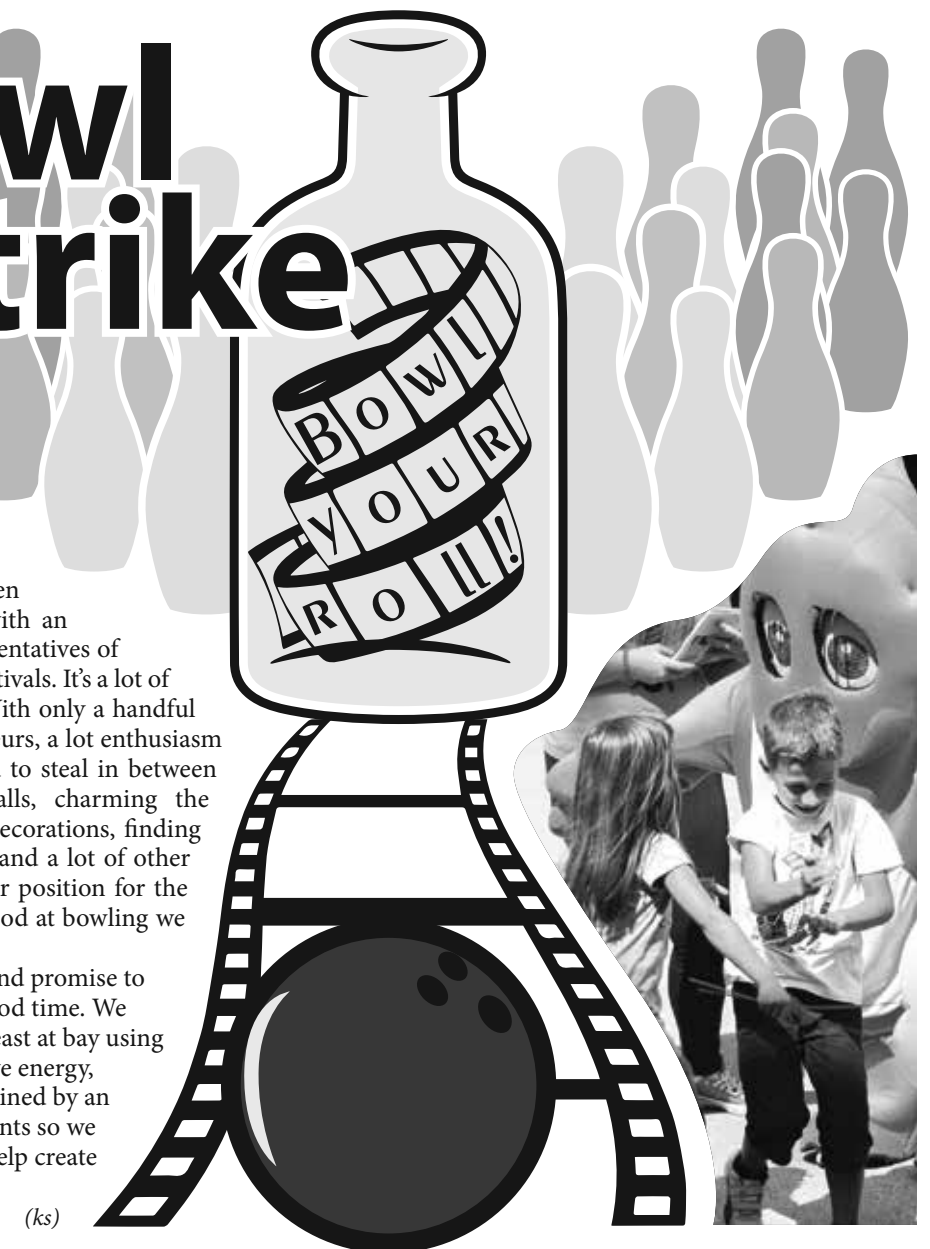
Izdavač:
Kinoklub Karlovac,
Karlovac

Urednica:
Svjetlana Višnić

Grafički urednik:
Aleksandar Plečko

Tisak
Tiskara Ivan,
Karlovac

Novinari:
Elena Cvitković
Ana Ivaniš
Karla Mirčevski
Dominik Strikić
Svjetlana Višnić
Fotograf:
Marko Kekić
**Prevoditeljica za
englesko izdanje:**
Vedrana Mihalić



THE JURY UNDER A MAGNIFYING GLASS:

To live and breathe film festivals!

MAUREEN CARRIG

How and when have you heard about the Four River Film Festival for the first time? Why have you decided to accept the invitation after all?

The first time I heard about this Festival was two years ago. That was when Marija Ratković came to study at the Wayne State College and she told me all about it. I immediately accepted the invitation upon receiving it. I'm familiar with this type of festival, since I have participated, volunteered and even organized a number of them.

This role, a member of a jury at a film festival, is not for you. You have already been in these shoes at a youth video competition in Kansas? Do you expect the films here to be different from those of young Americans, topic wise?

Actually, I sat as a member of the jury on a couple of youth film festivals, but I was most included in the making of the one in Kansas.

Young film makers usually create films which topics range from talking about their interests or problems, some things they feel should be changed. Young Americans are interested in the world around them and through their documentaries are trying to make a difference in it. Some, on the other hand are more interested in re-creating Hollywood blockbusters. However, nowadays in the States, films with a topic related to environment or a social problem are very popular, and it seems to me that young Croatians are also worried about the environment and the state of global economy in general.

Do you think that an artistic approach to film making is appreciated in the USA? Is there a lot of festivals dedicated to young film makers who are still in high school?

Festivals, as is yours, are very scarce in the USA, but I must admit smaller communities are recognizing film as a way to infuse the economy of the area and are trying to draw people's attention towards film. So, yes, I would say that there is a steady growth in the level of interest for film festivals.

You yourself have directed a few films. What are they about and what inspired you to choose those very topics for your films?

My films are mostly short documentaries, however, in my last film "Highway 12: A Psychological Roadtrip" I did a small turnabout from the world of the documentary film. It's a short narrative film I did with my friends. The film is about a young man who, while walking down an abandoned highway, is trying to solve his problems. Is his experience reality or just a figment of his imagination? I learned a lot from this experience and had a really good

time while making the film.

What is your favourite film genre? Which ones do you expect to be shown at the Festival?

My favourite genre is documentary and I also like sarcasm loaded satires. I expect to see films from all the genres, but I'm very interested to see what is new in the free style category. A lot of my students back in the States like to do something we call "video poetry" - those are basically poems defined by the visual art. That is why I'm quite fond of the free style.

You work as a teacher at Wayne State College. What do you teach and how do the students react to the topics you teach?

I teach video/audio production, the media and the media ethics. I'm very proud to



be able to say that students from various fields of education attend my classes and are interested in filming and making a video. In the USA, if you want to move up the ladder in your professional life you have to be up to date with all brand new technology and communication.

Do you think that you will have a hard time in deciding upon the winner of the Festival?

I think that making the final decision will be very hard indeed, since I always look for the best in everyone's work. I always try to find and recognize the effort one has put into one's work. That is why I'm very honoured to be a part of the Four River Film Festival.

(ks)

Keeping company with the film

The pole for hosting this year's European Festival on Youth Film Making came to Karlovac all the way from the deep north of Norway, from Tromsø.

Alongside the Festival and the Review, the yellow crew took upon them the organization of the seminar. The seminar was opened on Sunday at the Micro cinema located at Gimnazija Karlovac.

Marija Ratković Vidaković welcomed the guests and represented Croatia as a land from which the pen, the tie and the parachute originate. The main sponsor of this event is a youth movement "Youth in the act!" and Matej Kečkeš told us something about them. The socializing lasted long into the night assisted by a traditional specialty - rakija. The following day at the City Museum the participants of the

seminar gave short presentations of their Festivals.

Rhiannon Wyn Hughes of the Scala International Youth Film Festival and Berkant Erdem from Teen International Film Festival were the first to share their thoughts with us,

B: It's my first time here in Karlovac, in Croatia actually, and I think it's a lovely town, small, it's very refreshing after Istanbul, since it's 20 million people living there.

R: It's absolutely fabulous, and I was just so pleased to be invited, because, as I said before, we are very much at the beginning, and the international partners that we are linked with have been so generous, they have more developed festivals, bigger festivals, and they helped us a lot with enhancing our own festival. So I am very grateful to the generosity of our international partners and I hope that we'll continue to develop together.

...and they gave a short presentation about their festivals for the readers of the The Daily Bottle...

B: The festival is interesting, we have a huge programme, we screen over 300 films, it lasts for 5 days, so 5 days of films and 5 days of partying. Plus we have a lot of side events, like discussions and workshops.

R: Well, it's quite a new festival, but we have a fabulous new cinema that we're using. But it's been very much born out of the young people that have been coming every week to our media suite and learning how to make films. And we've started linking with youth festivals in Wales this year which will enable us to have a national festival so the young people will be mixed together from different parts of Wales, as well as internationally.

...and told us how to go about opening a cinema in our town...

R: When we were building a new cinema, we were a million pounds short to actually build it. So the town came out to the local council to borrow a million pounds. And it's going to be paid back over the next 20 years by the local residents, which means that every resident gives about two or three pounds every year for the next 20 years.

Three hundred films shown in 5 days time and paying off an entire cinema in 20 years? We were left speechless and it took us some time to set our balance back in order - we confess - local specialities helped in our speedy recovery.

(ds; ai; ec; sv)



Berkant Erdem



Rhiannon Wyn Hughes

It's all about the Film... and the big screen hunks

MAYHEM AT THE SEXPRESS OFFICE

By: Tara Lukičić i Tatjana Gržan

Last year both the Festival and Review were all about film...and the big screen hunks. Even though it often at first seems that one knowledge on film is ones entrance ticket it soon becomes obvious that the organizers take extra care of the image as well.

Thus speed dating and chatting about film marked the first day of the Festival, and it was then and there the rumours about the most alluring among those young creative film makers started circulating. It was also one of the main reasons why the organizers enabled the participants to cast their votes at the end of the Festival and choose among the high rollers waving both domestic and international flags.

There plane has barley touched the Croatian soil but the Norwegian secret weapon was found out and, truth be told, many were overheard making plan about moving to the northern regions. This secret weapon goes under the name Jonathan Gelvan (look him up on Facebook.com) and he has kept his "let's kiss and not tell" status till the very end of the Festival.

Our very own, Ana Bodrožić, a member of the guest office staff, won the hearts of our guests and organizers with her friendliness and an easy going nature and thus was crowned the prettiest among them all.

However, Ana wasn't the only one from Karlovac who came out victorious. Luka Mavretić, a dark, brooding and mysterious artist, soon to be playwrighter, came out as Mr Congeniality - as the volunteering girls told us - "He always helped us carry the heavy stuff"

Since the odds were in the favour of the boys, seeing as how there were more girls present, we can easily say that men are rather indecisive - for example - one voting ticket, 30 voters and the same number of girls' names written on a single voting ticket.

However, not to describe them as fickle, they had absolutely no problem in choosing the perkier posterior of the Festival. The honour went to, by a large majority of votes, 90%, to the head of the guest office, Adrijana Dimić. She even did a little victory dance and spiced it up with a hot salsa move from the hips upon receiving the award.

The girls were more precise in their criteria, so they took a good look at the whole package and decided that Filip Mayer's was the best. They compared him to Johnny Depp and after they heard he is one of the stars of the film Koko i duhovi, well...let's just say they put some groupies to shame.

All in all, a best of everything has been chosen last year - prettiest mouth, best legs, biggest showmen and entertainers, best smells. Everyone present was voted or at least had his or hers name written on a voting ticket. We expect the same, and possibly more this year, so girls mind the step and boys get your attitude on.

Until next we kiss!

Your SEXpress

PRIREĐIVAČI POKROVITELJI



MEDIJSKI POKROVITELJI



Mesnica MM | Canon | Agropošta | ART+ | LIN
VBZ | Pekara Monika | Pekara Tržni centar Pekara
Dujam | Pekara Dubovac | Gradska pekara

SPONZORI

