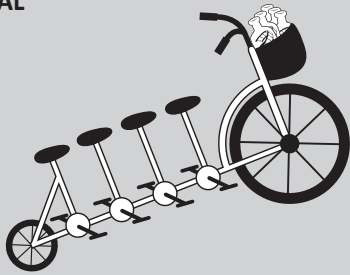


## Punk rock Ana & captain Mito



The weather took pity on us and we have been able to spend our 2nd night of festivities on the banks of Mrežnica. The river turned out to be a blessing because we cannot imagine a better setting for the introduction of Ana Đorđić. We found some very interesting information in her biography. She won at the Youth Film Festival in 1999 and 2000 while she was still a teenager and a member of as yet unknown subculture (she didn't want to tell us).

We started the programme with a couple of words about Ana. Fifteen of her colleagues, students, mentors and co-workers, each told a

sentence about her. That is how we now have a wealth of information about her, but most of them agreed on the following two: Ana Đorđić is what one could call a grumpy person when it comes to mornings. Daylight is not her friend and never ever wake her up if you don't have fresh coffee or if we are flat out of coffee. Another thing is that, apparently, you cannot see her anywhere before 4pm. Ana is also the coolest philosophy and Croatian language teacher, with her wide bright smile, the shining star of many a high school men. We saw two of Ana's films, both of which she won the Youth Film Festival with. The first one questions whether graffiti

are art or something else, and the second one is about various subculture groups in Zagreb. Both films received a heart-felt applause, and Ana told us "it is quite evident from these two movies, that today I know a lot more about film than I did then. But if it weren't for those films I never would have been standing here with you tonight - a member of the selection committee at the best Festival in the world." We continued the evening by moving to the seaside, the Adriatic sea. We saw the film *Torism* by Tonči Gačina who was proclaimed one of the 10 up and coming best European young film makers. The film is a very ironic documentary

that follows a number of stories so closely linked to our little part of the Mediterranean sea, while at the same time showing the lights people are prepared to go to just so they can entertain their guests. "My family is also involved in tourism, just like any other true Dalmatian family. That was my inspiration for the film," says Tonići and adds: "The protagonist of the film, Captain Mito (mito = bribe) has fun, drives the boat for a bit, spends the rest of his time just soaking up the sun, smokes and drinks and generally has a great time. A great big bicycle ride awaits for us tomorrow on the banks of Dobra. (K.M.)

MOVIE MOVIE MAN & CAMERA MER MAN

TO BE CONTINUED ...

## INTERVIEW: Joe Stephenson Working with the "big names" from the Industry is the easiest

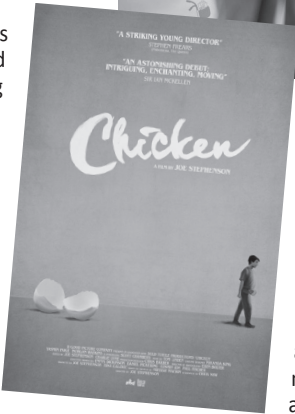
It is widely known that our participants gave the grand jury a lot to think about and have not made their decisions easy. Rumour has it that they are already at six and sevens and we've only had two programme screenings. Anna comes from Sweden, Marc is British, and we have another member of the grand jury to defend the Union Jack colours, a London director Joe Stephenson. We had a great opportunity to chat with him about his expectations and experiences he had with the Industry so far.

**Your biography is great, but there is an eye-catching fact in it, that of a graduation degree from the New York Film Academy when you were only 17. How hard was it to do that?**

I knew I wanted to make movies ever since I was 5. My mom could tell you stories about me jumping up and down asking her when will I be able to make films. She made it possible for me to go to New York and get this degree. It was a very hard time but unforgettable time in my life because we worked constantly. I learned a lot of practical things that I have since then used in my career.

**Your first feature film "Chicken" was a great success in the UK, both in the movie theatres and with the critics. What is it about and how did you come up with the idea for it?**

This was in fact a show that premiered in London a week before I went to see it. While I've been sitting in the theatre I felt that I could expand on the story and show it to the world. I thought about the entire composition, not just its parts. I wanted to transfer this feeling that I had while I was watching



the play. I managed to find and put together an amazing team and we could focus more on the chemistry between the actors and not that much on the script. The film premiered in Edinburgh and it was shown at a number of film festivals, and now it has been in the cinemas in the UK for the past four months. I am very happy about that because it means that the audience is enjoying it.

**You are currently working on a new project, a film about Noel Coward. How is it coming along?**

He always fascinated me, he is an interesting character, very extravagant. However, when it comes to "characters" such as he,

this is only the facade, there is always something interesting to uncover, something that lies beneath. That is what I wanted to discover. Who Noel Coward really is. My team is now complete, the script writer once won a Tony award, the actors are Sir Ian McKellen, Chris Coffey and Vanessa Redgrave.

**What do you expect to see in the films on the programme? You watched two screenings so far, do you have a favourite among them?**

I came here with no expectations. I've never been to Croatia, and I've never been a member of the jury, but I loved everything here so far. I think there are many talented people here today. I can only wish there have been Festivals such as this one when I started my career in the business. It is already very hard to choose favourites, and we've only seen those shown on the first two screenings. Who knows what will happen after the 7th??? (D.S.)



# Pack & Pitch: five candidates, one airplane ticket

WE ARE RIDING HIGH!



There are many novelties at this years' Youth film Festival and the Four River Film Festival, particularly regarding the number and content of workshops and lectures. We are particularly proud of "Work in progress" and "Pack&Pitch" workshops hosted by Relativity School from Los Angeles, United States. Relativity School is one of the most respected and highly praised film programmes in the United States. The programme was created in close cooperation with a number of film studios from Hollywood. The concept behind the "Pack&Pitch" programme is a simple one. Just before the Festival started we had a pitch in for a developing film story. The applicants were to send their ideas for a film following a set of guidelines (duration, location, genre...). We chose five ideas that will be further developed with the help of our mentors and then presented to the participants of the Festival in a form of a real pitch,

just like the name suggests. The author of the best Pitch gets a plane ticket to Los Angeles where he will participate in a workshop done by Relativity School next year. We talked to one of the participants of the programme - Rudolf Ravbar. Rudolf applied for this workshop because he wanted to expand his theoretical knowledge on film and film making process. He thinks his film idea has a fair shot at winning. Rudolf's story is about a man who is working on a prototype of a machine that will be able to solve many problems which a person faces in life. However, there is a twist in the story that creates a paradox situation - the protagonist has a fear of elevators and since he works at the tenth floor, he uses the stairs every day. His co-workers notice that he has a problem, so they send him to test out a simulated elevator ride. At the end of the film we still don't know if the protagonist has real problems or if he solved them. What we do get is a question whether humanity is striving towards perfection or, are the problems that we face what makes us human and we should not try to get rid of them at any cost. This is just one of many interesting ideas that will be presented at the workshop. We wish Rudolf and the rest of the participants the best of luck and a lot of new experience and skills. We admit that the entire editorial board of the Daily Bottle will be just green with envy when one of this lucky people gets a chance to fly across the ocean. (L.Š.)

## COLUMN: SEXPRESS

### In a film of there own



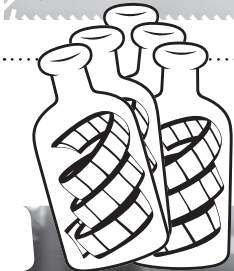
Film makers - a very unique type of people. Can usually be found sitting in the corner of a room contemplating their next masterpiece. Or ...a hoards of fanatics who have found something they truly believe in and not afraid to show it, unlike the rest of the population. The path you wish to follow is up to you.

Let's get back to basics. It's time to take a sneak peak behind the screen. Film makers have always been the holy grail of every group of people - you believed they exist, they would sporadically perform a film miracle that would be the talk of the town, followed by their complete isolation from people and contemplating their new project. However, should you get close to them, you would realise they are also imperfect human beings. We are not undermining their work, we're just saying that at the end of the day there is dinner to be made, exams coming up, laundry that needs to be done and the apartment covered in dust. So, what's the catch? Why are the film makers a category unto themselves?

To find the answer to this question you have to come to the YFF and FRFF. We've been to many film festivals - music, art and literature, but there is only one YFF and FRFF so we know what we're talking about. There are no masks here, only true film enthusiasts. The proof of it lies in a child, whom we often, not feeling the slightest remorse, call demonic (you all probably know whom we're talking about here.) Miran, that's right you guessed, first graced us with his presence at the Festival one beautiful autumn long time ago, and that autumn soon turned from sweet to sour. To clarify it for you - he was a know it all who was at the wrong at the wrong time all the time. Back then his life goal was to light as many matches as possible, and you could always follow the trail of matches he left in his wake. Well, that child grew up to be a very hard working young man who either coordinates volunteers, helps with the workshops or keeps our guests entertained and travels to international film festivals. Laura comes in a matched set with Miran. She is not a little girl anymore and she has been a part of the Festival since she was in the sixth grade. Another example of a true blooded film maker is Ksenija - one can always count on her and she always has a ready smile for everyone. Of course, we cannot finish this story without naming the queen bee, the centrepiece of this colourful crowd. Not go one, we just mentioned a couple of randomly selected people. You still don't quite get it? When you look at this team individually you see that all of them are unique in their own way but they all have one thing in common - dedication.

They are all dedicated to their work and let's face it, they are what keeps the YFF and FRFF going and afloat. There are many others here who could do this job, but it wouldn't be the same. All of us are either studying or going about our businesses, but the previously mentioned people live their jobs and that's a little scary. When someone is trying to mettle with your work you just wave it all away because you think that it's just business, but when someone is trying to mettle in your life...This is why this column is not about hating. It is not easy or banal, it's a great recognition. We will set our quill aside for now. Be ready for tomorrow, when we'll be back with a story. Sometimes it's good to break the rules and think outside the box.

## Film as a video game



When it comes to audiovisual industry, video games are currently the biggest hit, and that is why we decided to incorporate a workshop on this particular topic into the Festival's educational programme. The workshop "Film as part of the video gaming world", was hosted by Leo Vitasović and his colleague Jasmin Makaj, as they have already done one in Rijeka, in March. They explained how to create a 2D video game for a computer. "This is a media very similar to film, so we researched how to tell a story through it and how that story relates to gamers." Leo hopes that he and his colleague have managed to rise

interest for further work on videogames among the participants of the workshop and that they have started to view video games as powerful media through which they can communicate with the gamers just as well as they could with film. "During the workshop we managed to make one video game and you will be able to play it soon." Leo had a very busy summer full of excitements. He spent a week in Seattle, because at the last years' Festival, the Prodigy Camp organiser, Rick Stevenson, chose his film "Voicemail" as the best one. "It was great! All of us have been placed in a big house where



we attended all of the workshops. The first few days we had lectures on film structure, character development, movie stories and directing. Some of the lecturers have been people who work in Pixar and even John Jacobsen, former dean of the Seattle Film Academy. The camp particularly focuses on storytelling and producing art, which includes conversations about some very personal and private topics. We also learned a lot about structuring the stories and showing why we decided to do that story. I try to apply as many things as possible from what I've learned there in both workshops and some of my projects." (M.P.)

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#### PARTNERI:



#### MEDIJSKI POKROVITELJI:



#### SPONZORI:



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