

Grand opening - tonight on the banks of the river Korana

Eggs by the dozen

Are you ready for tonights’ grand opening of the 22nd Youth Film Festival and the 10th Four River Film Festival? We are more than ready, we can barely wait, because we know there will lots of film treats, just like every year, with an additional, very popular, one. However, let’s keep our ducks in a row and take this a step at a time. We will not be revealing all of the details of tonights’ grand opening that will begin at 8pm on the banks of river Korana- the place popularly called “near the swans”. However, we will tell you enough to intrigue you in joining us what will be, we are sure, a grand achievement of the numerous volunteers who have put countless hours and effort into it, sometimes even making the ultimate sacrifice of all- missing some school periods. You know the lyrics of that old song- when volunteers work together the eggs come by the dozen. That is indeed the truth, and numbers also speak for themselves. We are breaking records this year, 1013 films applied from all over the world, for both the Youth Film Festival and the Four River Film Festival. From these 1013 films, our selection committee chose 71 film, and some of them have even been screened at the Cannes and Sundance film festivals.

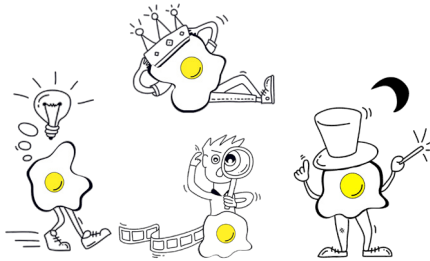
Our diligent selection committee will be joining us tonight at the grand opening to put the selected films over into to gentle hands of our grand and little jury. For them the stress is finally over and for the other side it is about to begin. Allison McCloskey, film maker and producer from the British Film Institute, Frano Mašković, actor and an old friend of Karlovac and Luka Hrgović, a visual artist to whom not even the sky is the limit. Alongside the grand jury, we also have the little jury, smaller only in their years but not in number, there are almost thirty of them, coming from

Hungary, Germany, Macedonia, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Rumour has it, the politics elite of Karlovac will be joining us tonight, and their words are important to be heard, what’s more our words to them will be even more important. Once we have all been properly introduced, the participants and organisers alike, once we have answered all the vital questions, such as: “ What came fist? The chicken or the egg? and “How many eggs does a person consume in the course of a year? or “How many ways of preparing an egg is there?”, we will all be able to enjoy this years Pula Film Festival grand prix winner “A Short Excursion”. The film is by Igor Bezinović and it is based on the book “A Short Excursion” by Anton Šoljan, who we are familiar with since it is on the list of mandatory reading in high school. The author said he did not follow the storyline of the book by the word, the book was more of an inspiration. The audience here in Karlovac will be among the first to see the film and find out for themselves how the film caught the eye of the critics in Pula. As there is a big possibility that the author and the leading actor will be joining us, we hope to get some inside stories from the shoot.

We hope to be able to at least reach the success of the last year’s opening ceremony when we projected on a water video wall. We do not have it this year, but we do have excellent screening programme, a premiere or two and excellent hosts to guide us through the programme. This year your hosts will be actors Hrvojka Begović, Frano Domitrović and Andrian Pezdirc. Following the opening ceremony you are invited to join us at the musical part of the evening at the caffe bar “Ziggy” where the band 4head will

be providing musical support. The only thing out of our control is the September weather that could make us switch the venue for the opening ceremony to Zorin dom. We will not let that deter us, however. We dare you September, do your worse and we will throw an egg at your face- we are ready for everything! - K. M.



Welcome to Eggville!

IT HAS BEGUN! Call your brother, sister, mother, father, girlfriend, boyfriend, Math teacher (yes, even your Math teacher!)- the gang is back in town on the four rivers. Wherever you are on this great wide world, just follow the trace of the film tape and the colour yellow over the seven seas and the seven mountains and valleys, because a true film fairy tale is about to begin in Karlovac. It has been a long year, but now the world level worthy spectacle is about to begin- ladies and gentlemen- the FOUR RIVER FILM FESTIVAL and the YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL! By all standards this is a record year for us: 1013 films applied, 37 authors in competition, 174 guests and more than 90 volunteers. So, let us see who will we be spending our time with this year! Our hospilately sector, or hospy as it is its pet name, will be taking care of 174 guests arriving from all over the world. They say that the number of guests varies due to numerous scientific factors as are the air pressure, rainfall and others, but they are all gathered using mystical forces. To keep them all under control the hospy people are everywhere. As their coordinator, Zvonimir Magdić, told us, “You can’t always know where they are. While you are enjoying your coffee, it is highly likely that a hospy volunteer is sitting next to you”. Zvonimir likes to joke so he says: “We have guests coming from all over the world this year, from all the continents except South America, Africa, Australia and Antartica. So, everyone is here!” Joking on the side, we are very proud that our film makers are flying over oceans to only to be here in our little town. They will all enjoy their accommodation at the Bedem hostel. “The guests that have seen the photos of the hostel are loving it”, and the hospy coordinator himself thinks that the hostel is “the bomb” and has no doubts whatsoever that the guests will spend an amazing five days there and at our Festival for which he says is “wicked”! Even though the Festival gets bigger every year, the hospy sector is handling it with minimum problems. One would think those would be communication problems between Croatia and Brazil or Georgia, but no. The food delivery is too slow for their taste. No worries though, the hospy volunteers are always ready and they will always be right there when you need them, at your disposal to make your stay in Eggville as pleasant as possible and an event you will wish to share with everyone. All that while wearing a huge smile on their faces, provided the food delivery is not too slow again, and they are hungry.

Welcome everyone! - P. P.



Column: Ninja in a bottle

We are present even when you are not

It all began on a Friday. September 7th 2007, number 1, year 1. Free copy. For every great story begins with a free copy, and that of the official newsletter for the Youth Film Festival aka The Daily Bottle, is no exception. Also, as it befits every grand story, this one opened with a dramatical event. “A never before seen phenomena will be spreading through Karlovac from September 7th till 9th. We are being invaded by film, and the invaders are well hidden under the guise of their code 12th Youth Film Festival. But, never fear dear citizens and guests. We have assembled here a list of general instructions and facts you need to familiarise yourself with in order to survive the invasion:...” (a heartfelt congratulation to the editor for actually publishing these highly inappropriate articles)

In the 10 instructions we listed, one referred to the function of our little newsletter here: We here at the Daily Bottle will keep you informed, on a daily basis, of the events taking place at the Youth Film Festival. To get your copy of the newsletter you should follow the afore mentioned volunteers wearing bright yellow T-shirts. Ten years later, the Daily Bottle, is very rarely referred to as the newsletter. It is more common known as tDB or the leaflet, is celebrating it’s steel anniversary. Tuesday, September 13th 2017, number 50, year 11. Seems as though we have survived the invasion. With a little more miles under our belt, but



with the same level of enthusiasm, we are ready to face another one. As luck would have it, we did not really follow the above mentioned instructions. Day after day saw us bravely facing the yellow fever spreading through our town. We kept chasing you with a dictaphone in our hands (hey, it was 2007), we peeked (completely inappropriately) into the backstage in Zorin Dom, we roamed the countryside with you, appeared in the town’s weekly journal, had a dip in all of the four river and we finally got brave enough to travel with you and follow up in monthly reports. We grew, we changed, but we ever remain a colourful team with an open heart and an impish pen*.

Our foundations remain the same- daily reports subjected to various interpretations of the same event, vivid interviewees- guests, actors, hosts, citizens, mascots even. All of this can be found and read about on our two pages long newspapers. Page one and two, of course. The editorial board it to be blamed for all the remaining inappropriate texts and weather forecast. (Oh and yes, you can still get your copy for free.)

*Texts written, photos taken, translation done, pictures drawn, edits done all for you, by:

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Interview: Ante Zlatko Stolica

The world around me is so fascinating, I do not have a need to come up with a new one

One of the guests of the opening ceremony of the Youth Film Festival and the Four River Film Festival is Ante Zlatko Stolica. This talented young man has been in the movie industry for a number of years-primarily script writing, then directing and in case of emergency acting. Next to all that he still finds the time to work as a Croatian language and literature professor at the Private Artistic High School in Zagreb, where he leads a workshop on film together with director Goran Ribarić. The popular Stola, who is the leading actor in the film “A Short Excursion”, answered a few of our questions about life, film and, of course, eggs.

Tell us something about creating the film “A Short Excursion”. We will just assume that the novel by Šoljan was your favourite in high school.

We had a lot of fun and we worked very hard while making the film. The director Igor Bezinović, decided to adapt the storyline from the novel, and then he asked me to join him. The novel was, of course, a favourite for the both us. Otherwise I don’t think we would have even take it up.

You co- wrote the script for the film, was it hard to adapt the novel to a script? Do you think that the theme of the novel is timeless, current for the times we live in?

It wasn’t easy in any case, and I am very happy that we got the Golden Arena in Pula as a result of our work. I think that we lived up to our promise and the trust that the authors wife, Nada Šolja, put in us. I would say that this film is about friendship, a theme popular since the time of Gilghames let alone today.

You star as actor in a leading role in this film, as well. This is your first array into the world of acting. Could you tell us what was your experience and could you compare yourself in your private life to Stola we see in the movie?

This is not an Ivo Gregurević type of a role. I act as a naturscik and that is a different type of both acting and film role. I loved it. I think that kind of acting must be easy. With naturscik actors it is either easy or cannot be done. Me personally and Stola from the film are not to be compared. That is what I am when someone asks me to play a role in a film.

How long did it take you to shoot the film and was Istria a good location for shooting?



We shoot for a little over 20 days. Istria was a great location. We enjoyed it, and we loved it even more while we scouting locations by just wondering around.

There must be some juicy tidbits and anecdotes from the shoot. Would you care to share any of them with us?

Well, there is a lot if. The first thing that comes to mind..Three days before we wrapped things up, we went for a night swim in Rijeka. I fell and dislocated my shoulder. It looked pretty bad. When we got to the E.R. I remember Žac, a colleague from the set, explaining to the doctor, excitedly, as if the doctor was a producer on the set and it was important to him: “ Please, set his shoulder so that it looks exactly as it did before. It is very important for the continuity, you understand, we are shooting a film, and we can’t have him appearing in the next scene with a bandage and his arm all wrapped up, what would that look like...”. The doctor just kept looking at him and said: “Guys, you’re in the wrong building.”

What does it feel like to win the Golden Arena for the best motion picture? Did any of you expect to win given that the competition was fierce?

None of us expected that “A Short Excursion” will win the Golden Arena. The feeling was out of this world, I mean it still is. It crosses my mind that we really won and then I think: “ wow, so cool, great!” And continue on.

What would you say is the genre of the film, since “ A Short Excursion” was the only film at the Pula Film Festival that had no genre listed next to it? I read somewhere that Igor says it is an essay- film, but I would like to hear your opinion.

I didn’t know he called it that, but I like it. I never thought of the genre, but I think it would be safe to say it’s feature film with lot of experimenting, that is why it is so unusual.

You spend all your time in front of the camera in this film, but you also have some experience with being behind the camera. How did you come to love the documentary film?

What I am most interested in, and I know it will sound like a cliché, is life. Let me explain by giving an opposite example. I do not like the fantasy genre. I find the world around me so fascinating, I do not have a need to come up with a new one. For example, I have no problems with waiting at the doctors office for four or five hours. I think this is where my love of documentaries comes from, documentaries are the essence of life.

Could you tell us what your next projects will be?

Well, me, Benzović and a couple of young directors are currently working on a project called Kartoline - a series of 12 mockumentaries on places with unusual dialects that will be shown next year on Croatian National Television. I am also working on a script for a film Bogomolje, with Hrvoslav Brkušić. My girlfriend Katarina Zlatec and me are working on a film about a childhood fear. I am also working on a couple of projects with my students and I hope we will have a chance to see them here in Karlovac, next year. In short, I like to collaborate.

What is your general opinion of the Croatian cinematography and do you think that the audience began recognising Croatian film in the past few years?

I like Croatian cinematography. I liked it even when it wasn’t as good as it is today. There is nothing more exciting for me than to watch how the people living around me react to events that are happening around us and in which we are together.

What would you say, who are your film role models?

I have to say that Bezinović gave me the Nani Moretti fever. I love Louie C.K., I watch his work on a daily bases, I like the mellow, subtle su-realism. When it comes to classics, I love Tarkovsky, and with modern authors, the first one who comes to mind in Boris Poljak. I could watch his films even of they took five to six days to watch.

How do you eat your eggs?

Sunny side up. That was the only meal my dad knew how to make. My mom had to do the rest.

What came first, the chicken or the egg?

When I first started studying philosophy, our teacher told us: “Philosophy is not about what came first, the chicken or the egg, we know what came first- the chicken came first.” By the time I finished my studies I realised he was completely off, the egg came first.

Could you say something for all the young film makers coming to Karlovac from all over the world?

Shoot every film as if it were your last and as if you were the greatest in the world. Take a good hard look at the resources at your disposal and decide that you don’t need anything else. When you finish the movie, be the smallest and most inexperienced film maker in the world- learn, read, observe, do as much as you can until your next film. Four River Film Festival in Karlovac is one the best places to do just that. - D. S.

Be the best version of yourself

Youth Film Festival and the Four River Film Festival offer their participants, aside from the rich competition programme, a chance gain new knowledge and improve their abilities. That is why our participants will this year, also be able to take part in a number of interesting and educational workshops and classes.

Workshops and classes will be held on the third and the fourth day of the Festival during the afternoon. Participation is not mandatory, but it is highly recommended to both our young film makers and their mentors. This year you can choose from 12 different workshops and classes.

The dark chamber is a workshop led by Pavle Kocanjer, once a laureate of the Youth Film -festival and today a cinematography student and photography enthusiast.

We also have two workshops on methodology for all the mentors and other participants interested. They will be held by Douglas Hermann, media culture professor from Philadelphia. The

workshop will put emphasis on the American educational system in film culture. The other workshop will be held by our film duo Ana Đorđić, Croatian language and literature and media culture professor and Jelena Modrić, film editor. We have the two of them to thank for the concept of classes on Film Art at the Tuškanac cinema hall and they have been running it successfully for years. Copyright Masterclass on music in film will be held by one of our first volunteers way back in 2007, project manager at IDM Music and lawyer Sara Al Hamad. Filip Trezner, a young entrepreneur from Karlovac, who sharpened his tools of trade at the Festival from an early age, will give a lecture on Entrepreneurship in Culture, where he will share with the participants all the secrets of the trade using his on- going projects like Youth Photo Week and Pickup Music Festival. Luka Hrgović, a member of the grand jury, visual artist and laureate of the Youth Film Festival will go through a case study of the project “Slice of Life” with the participants of his workshop. Marija Ratković Vidaković, producer, will give a lecture on script in a documentary film on the basis of her work on a documentary film “In Search of a Lost Country”. Ivana Karačonji, dramaturge, part of the team behind highly praised Film and Psychology workshops, will hold a masterclass on using psychology on film.

Frano Mašković, actor and Zrinka Katarina Matijević, director, will hold a workshop on actor director cooperation. Zrinka Katarina MATijević will also present a case study on working parallel on a feature film “The Trampoline” and a documentary “A Two Way Mirror”. Martin Semenčić, multiple Golden Arena winner at the Pula Film Festiva, will hold a masterclass on designing sound for the film “ A Short Excursion”. Tin Vučković, photographer, will give a lecture “Show me, don’t tell me” the focus of which will be the visual part of the film. Dario Juričan, director, will hold a case study lecture of the research for the film “The Boss”. The workshops are classes are meant for the participants of the Youth Film Festival and the Four River Film Festival, however, that does not mean we do not have anything in store for the people of Karlovac. The workshop on Photo- Graphic Novels is reserved only for them. The workshop will be held traditionally on the first day of the Festival, and it will be led by the team behind the largest youth photography festival in Croatia and the region- Youth Photo Week. All the graphic novels made at the workshop will be exhibited during the Festival in the lobby of Zorin Dom.

- M. L.

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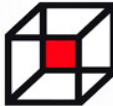
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