Botte Daily

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ERNIE! Hadley Hillel USA

Audience Award

Yellow Flag Award



THE TRUE IMPACT International Youth Media Summit Nepal / USA



22. Filmska revija mladeži

Mr Alfonso's Geraniums

CPI Virxe da Saleta Spain



SUBURBIAN BALAD FKVK Zaprešić



Documentary

BRANKA FKVK Zaprešić

Fiction



SKINS Sara Grgurić, Čavle



Best films

PHOBICON Vocational school for art, design, graphics and textile, Zabok



••• 1

Best :	fil	m





Best actor I want to beat up Clark Peters, USA

Best actress Addy, UK



Best director Lares Penatesque, Croatia



Best screenwriterBest cinematographerLares Penatesque, CroatiaSkins, Croatia

PRdtið Li ti MENE? Best editor Are you following me?, Croatia



Interview: Marija Ratković Vidaković Sometimes you have to close a circle and start a new one

Marija Ratković Vidaković, coordinator of the Youth Film Festival and the Four River Festival for a number of years, shared with us her story. We bring you an exclusive. First interview ever with the Director of the universe: MRV.

Let us start from the beginning. The idea about the Festival and Karlovac together- when, where and how did you make it happen? The idea came from Damir Jelić when I was a senior in high school. At that time he was still a professor in Gimnazija Karlovac, although he was already with one foot firmly on the ground in the political arena. This idea was actually something he hoped that a generation older than me will bring to life. That didn't work so it was up to me, Sanja Zanki, Živac, Marija Ratkaj (then Markezić), Ksenija Sanković, Emil Zinaja and the rest of the crew. And that was when the idea was truly born.

How did it go on, and why did you decide to separate the Youth Film Festival and the Four River Film Festival?

Well, we needed Croatian Film Association to sponsor us, and that was the time when the teachers in primary school started making fuss about the Children Film Festival and the Out Film Festival being held together, because high school students are a bad influence to children. That is why when we came to talk to Aunt Vera (Vera Robić Škarica) at the CFA with our idea of an international high school film festival that would be held in Karlovac she suggested we could take up the Youth Film Festival as well. She hoped that the Youth Film Festival would be enough for us and that we won't insist with the intention festival. Of course, that did not happen, so after doing the Youth Film Festival in 2007, we decided to insist on the idea of doing an international festival. So we again went to CFA and everyone there was against us, everyone except for Vera. She was always supportive of us.

How did that first Festival year look like? Could you tell us how much Festival grew over the years?

That first year of the Festival in 2008 we had only 25 films applied. Then the following year we had almost 100 films and a lot of people coming to Karlovac from all over the world. That was about the time the biggest change happened at the Festival. The number of our guests multiplied, and the number of screenings increased by a double. We never changed the length of the screenings, but we changed the programme of the Festival quite a bit. We grew together and learned together. The best example would be the early morning staff meanings. In the beginning these meetings were full of problems, drama moments, brain storming possible solutions. For example yesterday, the morning staff meeting was 45 min long, 35 of which we spent talking about what happened yesterday the pub.

Do you have a moment from one of the Festivals that stuck with you? The biggest problem you ever had at the Festival?

Uff, the year when we were in Edison and the power went out. I remember Šlat, up there at the balcony, naked from the waist up, completely sweaty trying to assemble the projectors. And it was that year at Edison where I had one of my last minute ideas. The idea that we hold everything in Edison came to me some five days prior to the beginning of the Festival. We even printed out a new jumbo poster, we did everything again, from scratch. And then the power went out. We had lots of mistakes in realisation, we would have to repeat all of the screenings, the titles would go awry, one year the intervention squad and the technical department were in open war, our evening's programme was a total mess. Then the drama when ae member of the jury would get sick and cancel in the last minute. However, what seemed like drama then, now it's just a great story, and all these small errors helped us grow.

Have you ever embarrassed yourself at the Festival?

One year I tried to persuade a member of the jury to join as the evening's screening at the old town Dubovac and in the heat of the argument I told him: "Come on, you will finally get a chance to see a REAL film." I was truly embarrassed.

Why the colour yellow?

Well now, that is probably the silliest story of all. Vjekoslav Živac did our trailer then, and he made it in four colours- red, blue, green and yellow. I showed it to a colleague of mine, Ivan Mikulandrić, and he said that the yellow one is the best, and that the other colours were already "reserved". Blue is the colour of the Zagreb Film Festival, Motovn is green, ZagredDox is red, and we were left with yellow. However, when we had to say why we choose yellow, we thought that the truth would not be our best option given the names we have been then comparing ourselves with. And the Živac said: "Just say that yellow is colour of youth, life and infinite energy." By the way, this sentence is written in probably every single official document of the Festival.

Did you ever want to quit- the organisation, the festival, everything? Yes. About a week before the Festival I just get fed up with everything. A sort of crisis, let's say. But then the Festival begins and I love it. The adrenalin hooks you up, as do the people and you want to do it all over again. Regarding these crisis and giving up, for me 2012, 2013 and 2014 were the hardest, and then after 2014 everything just came into place. Now, I don't feel as if I'm giving up, I just the time has come to close the chapter. It's not as if I will never again be a part of the Festival. I will be coming every year, I just won't be the person in charge. And let me tell you, I can't wait to just come here, sit back, relax and enjoy.

What do you think the future holds for the Youth Film Festival and the Four River Film Festival?

I didn't give it any thought. What I would definitely like to see is that the screening are actually screened in a movie theatre. Karlovac deserves a cinema. They have been promising us one for years now and still nothing. I am really looking forward to the day when I will come back here for the Festival and the screenings will be held in a real cinema. Also, I would like if the Festival would have more sponsors, because it is still based on enthusiasm. I do believe the Festival has reached a level where two or three people could actually be employed and make the Festival their primary and exclusive work. However, I am sure of one thing. I am leaving the Festival in good hands and it will on go further and beyond.

What do you think Karlovac should look like in 10 years?

I would like if Karlovac was a town that doesn't hibernate during the winter, but is lively throughout the year. We have this tendency to bundle up in our houses immediately after November 1st. I don't mean the people here in general, I mean the inertia that envelopes the city during winter months. I hate it when I hear people saying there isn't anything going on in Karlovac. To is not the truth! There are so many events happening the only thing that needs to disappear is the passivity. I would like to see Karlovac as a place where one could have a nice life without constantly having to go to Zagreb.

To wrap things up,tell us something about your current project. The are done with editing the film "In Search of a Lost Country" and the film is currently in the phase of photography processing. It is a textbook example how you start with one idea and end up doing something completely different. The last five years have been the most intense period of my life and during that time I realised how much the film is helping me in the real world, just like my life is helping me when working on the film. I decided to research the beliefs of my grandfather Mićo. He was a journalist and a politician who believed in Yugoslavia as a state and as I was brought up following the somewhat same spirit I decided to research it and learn more about it. Personally I always felt as if I was born in the wrong time and at the wrong place and I thought if I ever to connect with my grandfather Mićo and the ideas he represented, that I will find myself. As it happens, life intervened, my path took me far away from the country of my birth so I filmed the last part of the film in Sweden, where I will be living from now on.





Ana Đordić:"With some people you're friends your entire life, some you've known since birth, some you met in high school, some at college and you you think you have completed the circles during which you make friends. And then, ah then, you meet a psycho such as this one is and you two become friends, but like real friends. I have been spending an enormous amount of time with Marija for the past two years and she truly is the definition of friendship.

Ana Đordić:" I mean, she really is a crazy woman. We once went to Nepal together and I hated it there. Rats everywhere, I was truly horrified. Then Marija came along, drew her finger through the dirt, smeared it over my leg and said: "Here, have some Nepal bacterias."

Sanja Zanki on Marija and making documentaries. When Marija was younger she didn't really understand the concept of a documentary. We would be shooting and Marija was like: "You stand here, you stand here, now you both do this, but make it spontaneous, like a documentary."

Ksenija Sanković: "Marija is the main culprit for me ending up in the film group. I was in a folklore group in the elementary school, and when I came to the first meeting of the film group, she said that she had remembered me, I was that kid who was dancing folklore and that was it. My fate was sealed.

Vedrana Mihalić: "Once, a long time ago Marija wanted to be a hairdresser.) When we were thirteen or fourteen years old, Marija decided that Sanja and me would make perfect lab rats for her to try her skills as a hairdresser out. She covered our hair with plastic bags and then sprayed us with blue coloured hairspray. Thankfully, our hair wasn't permanently damaged."

Marija, Andreja Rožić, Ljubo Zdjelarević and Sanja Zanki are participating in the project, Telephone boots, where the goal is to take a photo in a phone booth in every city you visit. Marija has an avid collection

Ksenija Sanković: "Marija can't tickle people - when she tries to do it - she actually pokes, strongly! (*The graphic designer of the Bottle Daily agrees* with this statement, with his permanent bruises speaking for themselves.)

She can't sing to save her life! But she really enjoys it- sound is there, tone is nowhere to be found.

Spontaneous ideas, she is familiar for that. We all shudder in fear from that. There you are, sitting and talking to Marija and then...BAM- hey, you know what we could do..Let's to that instead. And then we all have to pull our sleeves up and make it happen. We in the Daily Bottle felt it happen a number of times.

Tin Vučković: "I think that this story tells you all you need to know about Marija. One time she and I sat in van driven by a crazy guy from Luxembourg and drove 60km north of Kopenhagen just to sit and eat a hot dog overlooking the ocean."

Antonio Britvar (Jugo aka Tmujo): "Since we met, we did not meet once without something/someone going totally mad. Who knows what saved us from certain danger at the railways near Zidani Most, the witch hunt in a canyon... and the most recent story involves talking about numerous female problems in a Punto car in which we travelled all around Croatia in +35 degrees weather, not even being aware that we could have just turned the AC on. "Be as boring as only you can be!", she told me once, and that will always be my motto. BTW - Marija just learned how to pour fuel in a car!"







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