

SILVER LAKE FILM FESTIVAL 2006

Presented by the Ministry of
Culture of the Republic of Croatia
&
The Consulate General of the
Republic of Croatia, Los Angeles



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Only ten months after the Lumiere Brothers excited Parisian audiences with their little magical moving pictures (1895) which changed cultural criteria in Europe and the world forever, the Croatian capital of Zagreb also celebrated the phenomenon of film, on October 3, 1896.

This year marks 45 years since Croatia won its first Oscar in 1961 for the animated film SUROGAT (THE SUBSTITUTE) by Dusan Vukotic. In addition, for the last 53 years in Pula in the unique atmosphere of an ancient roman amphitheatre, twelve thousand people gather to watch films each night under the stars.

With this in mind and much more, we are pleased to present New Croatian Film at the Silver Lake Film Festival, a selection of six recent award-winning films (all with English subtitles) by filmmakers of various generations, styles and motivations. Deeply rooted in its national literature, Croatian films are an integral part of the Central European style and artistic expression, in which life, and primarily family life, is portrayed realistically without sugar-coating, sky-high budgets, and forced action.

U.S. PREMIERE

**WHAT IVA RECORDED ON OCTOBER 21, 2003/
STO JE IVA SNIMILA 21, LISTOPADA 2003**

Friday, March 24, 9:30pm, Arclight Cinemas
Proceeded by a reception at 8pm

(Croatia, 2005, 92mins)

Director: Tomislav Radic;

Screenwriters: Ognjen Svilicic, Tomislav Radic

Named by the Croatian Film Critics Association as the Best Croatian Film of 2005, this lively movie centers on Iva, who receives a digital video camera for her 14th birthday from her businessman stepfather. Her stepfather decides to use Iva's birthday party as an opportunity to negotiate with a possible German business partner. Delighted by her new toy, Iva immediately starts taping everything around her; her family and guest begin drinking, arguing and gradually spin out of control, while the camera complacently records them.



"Long Dark Night"

SORRY FOR KUNG FU/ OPROSTI ZA KING FU

Sunday, March 26, 9:30pm, Arclight Cinemas
(Croatia, 2004, 71 mins)

Director: Ognjen Svilicic; Screenwriter: Ognjen Svilicic;
Producer: Vesna Mort

Winner of the Grand Prix at the Warsaw International Film Festival, this comedy examines the cultural divide: Returning to Croatia after a long absence in Germany unmarried and pregnant Mirjana must face her traditional family and the rumors surrounding her circumstances. Her parents scramble to find Mirjana a husband and marry her off. But things get very complicated indeed when Mirjana gives birth to a boy with Asian features.

U.S. PREMIERE

**WHAT IS A MAN WITHOUT A MOUSTACHE?/
STO JE MUSKARAC BEZ BRKOVA**

Wednesday, March 29, 8:15, Arclight Cinemas
(Croatia, 2005, 109 mins)

Director: Hrvoje Hribar; Screenwriters: Renato Baretic,
Hrvoje Hribar; Producers: Hrvoje Hribar, Mirko Galic

An international hit and winner of the Audience Award at the 2005 Zagreb Film Festival. A young widow, an aging immigrant who has returned home from Germany, and a priest from a bankrupt parish are struggling to come to terms with the post-war environment, complete with its prejudices, illusions, and unpleasant mentality. What follows is a romantic comedy set in a rough landscape, about a woman who falls in love with a local priest. He is not blind to her love, but is unable to choose between the widow and the church, until the circumstances force him to make his choice.

LONG DARK NIGHT/DUGA MRACNA NOC

Sunday, March 26, 1:30, Arclight Cinemas
followed by a Q+A w/Goran Visnjic

(Croatia, 2004, 195 mins)

Director/Screenwriter: Antun Vrdoljak Producers: Antun Vrdoljak, Goran Visnjic, Jadran Film, Mirko Galic

Croatia's official submission for the 2004 Academy Awards for Best Foreign-Language Film, THE LONG DARK NIGHT is an emotional portrait of an entire country caught in the devastation of WWII, and the consequences brought onto one small village of Croatians of German ethnic background during the 1940's to the

1950's. Iva (Goran Visnjic), a college student devoted to his family and friends, finds himself forced to fight with the communist partisans when war erupts and his best friend, Mata, ends up fighting on the opposite side with the Nazi-allied Ustasha. The path of these two former friends—both troubled by their respective choices—mirrors the complex and difficult transformation of Croatia during that time.

**A WONDERFUL NIGHT IN SPLIT/
TA DIVNA SPLITSKA NOC**

Monday, March 27, 7:45, Arclight Cinemas

(Croatia, 2004, 100 mins)

Director/Screenwriter: Arsen-Anton Ostojic;
Producer: Jozo Patljak

Croatia's official submission for the 2006 Academy Awards for Best Foreign-Language Film. It's New Year's Eve on the narrow cobblestoned streets of the ancient port town of Split on Croatia's Adriatic Coast and everyone's up for a celebration. Stylishly shot in black and white and constructed around three very human stories, Ostojic's debut feature follows a smalltime drug dealer involved with a war widow and her son, a young female junkie in crisis mode and a depressed American sailor, and a teenage couple. Shot entirely in the hauntingly beautiful Ghetto of Split, these three love stories unfold, and each character will have irreversibly changed his or her life by the stroke of midnight.

WITNESSES/SVJEDOCI

Thursday, March 30, 5:15, Arclight Cinemas

(Croatia, 2003, 90 mins)

Director/Screenwriter: Vinko Bresan;
Producer: Ivan Maloca

Winner of the Special Jury Prixe at the 2004 Medfilm Festival Roma, and the Peace Film Award at the 2004 Berlin International Film Festival. In a small Croatian town defending itself against the Serb army, this story unfolds from a number of different viewpoints: A grieving wife and mother mourns the death of her husband, while her young son murders a Serbian man in his home. The woman's other son suffers from a war wound, while his girlfriend conducts an investigation into the Serbian man's death. Bresan's political drama explores ethnic hatred and moral ambiguity against the backdrop of war.

NEW CROATIAN FILMS