



LOVE CROATIAN FEATURES 2015

1 BERLINALE
EDITION



Croatian
Audiovisual
Centre
Hrvatski audiovizualni centar

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MEET AND GREET

CROATIAN FILMS AT BERLINALE

European Film Market
Martin-Gropius-Bau
1st floor, stand number: 123
Croatian Audiovisual Centre
Department of Promotion
promotion@havic.hr
www.havic.hr

TAGS & NOTES



Debut Film

first film



Female Topics

film focused on women or directed by a woman



Minority Co-production

one of the co-producers is a Croatian company



HAVC

film funded by the Croatian Audiovisual Centre through its public calls, film incentives programme (cash rebate) or matching funds



Queer

film with LGBTQ elements or motifs



Children's Film

film suitable for children up to 12 years old



Human Rights

film partly or completely dealing with human-rights issues



Student Film

film produced within a film school or a film academy

Editors' Notes

The films in this catalogue are mostly the editor's choice. We tried to include all professional productions with a release date in 2015. Completion of films in post-production is planned for the first half of 2015. Please note that information about the films in this catalogue may still be subject to change.

LOVE CROATIAN FEATURES

Croatian feature film is becoming more and more diverse. With a relatively high annual number of completed films and a steady flow of debutants that present their unique vision of the world, it is no wonder that the scene has become dynamic, exciting and varied. New names create the context for exploring new themes, while the topics we considered worn out get revisited from bold and fresh perspectives. The situation gets even more exciting when we take into account the increasing number of international co-productions that merge local and international knowledge, experience and talent to tell the stories that affect us all.

With filmmakers in both fiction and documentary fields systematically struggling to find new ways of expressing the complexities of the world around us, the titles presented on the following pages offer enough to challenge your mind, and to warm your heart.

**LOVE
CROATIAN
FICTION**



Full Contact

DIRECTED BY David Verbeek

Full Contact is a contemporary tale of a man trying to find a new purpose in his life after accidentally bombing a school while operating a drone plane. Modern warfare gives him a feeling of safety and keeps him disconnected from his prey. After the incident, something snaps in him and leaves him full of doubt.



SCREENPLAY David Verbeek
PRODUCERS Leontine Petit, Eva Eisenloeffel,
Joost De Vries, Siniša Juričić
CINEMATOGRAPHY Frank Van Den Eeden
CAST Gregoire Colin, Lizzie Brochere, Slimane Dazi

NL | FR | HR | 5/2015 | 90' | psychological drama | PRODUCED BY Lemming Film
CO-PRODUCERS Bac Films, Jaako dobra produkcija | sinisa@nukleus-film.hr
in post-production



Imena višnje | Ungiven

DIRECTED BY Branko Schmidt

Determined to move on with their life violently interrupted by war several years ago, an elderly couple returns to their restored home. We follow their everyday life through the four seasons. Every day She becomes more absent and lost. Instead of helping her, He acts brutishly, sometimes even cruelly, towards his wife. However, the realisation that something is wrong with Her will make Him question his behaviour and values.



SCREENPLAY Josip Mlakić
PRODUCER Goran Radman
CINEMATOGRAPHY Dragan Ruljančić
EDITING Vesna Lažeta, Hrvoje Mršić
CAST Ivo Gregurević, Nada Đurevska, Goran Bogdan

HR | 2015 | 90' | drama | PRODUCED BY Croatian Radiotelevision (HRT)
ird@hrt.hr | completed – not yet released



SOMETIMES,
THE PEOPLE
WE LOVE THE
MOST GET THE
WORST OF US,
AND THE TRUE
NATURE OF OUR
EMOTIONS IS
REVEALED WHEN
IT'S ALREADY
TOO LATE.

After *Metastases* (2009) and *Vegetarian Cannibal* (2012), two gripping, controversial dramas set in contemporary Zagreb, **Branko Schmidt** trimmed the numerous cast of his previous films down to two main protagonists, and moved them to the rural landscape, far away from the crowds and distractions of the city. His **Ungiven (pg. 7)** is a story about a man and a woman who return to the home where they used to live before the war, willing to sink back into the routines of their previous lives. However, their newly restored home can't cover the cracks in the walls of their marriage – a relationship in desperate need of restoration itself. Written by an award-winning novelist and screenwriter, Josip Mlakić, and propelled by the superb performances by Ivo Gregurević and Nada Đurevska, *Ungiven* is an engaging story about the love we feel, but can't express, in spite of the ominous ticking of the clock.



Lazar | Lazarus

DIRECTED BY Svetozar Ristovski

Lazar is disaffected and emotionally disconnected from the world around him. He is involved in an immigrant smuggling ring. His worldview starts to change when he falls in love with Katerina. He begins to see a more hopeful future and tries to get out of his criminal environment. However, he will soon realize that it is not a simple task to break out of the criminal world he is part of.



SCREENPLAY Svetozar Ristovski , Grace Lea Troje
PRODUCERS Svetozar Ristovski, Kornelija Ristovska, Galina Toneva, Igor A. Nola, Kiril Kirilov, Guillaume De Saille
CINEMATOGRAPHY Dejan Dimeski
CAST Vedran Živolić, Goran Navojec, Dejan Lilić, Nataša Petrović, Vlado Jovanovski, Toni Mihajlovski, Krasimira Kuzmanova, Aleksandar Sano, Aleksandra Balmazović

MK | FR | BG | HR | 2015 | 98' | drama | PRODUCED BY Small Moves Films
CO-PRODUCERS Gala Film, Arizona Productions, MP – Film Production
info@mainframeproduction.com | in post-production



Ti mene nosiš | You Carry Me

DIRECTED BY Ivona Juka

Three daughters fight for acceptance, redemption and new opportunities. Dora is a neglected girl who dreams about becoming a football manager. Suddenly, her outlaw father enters her life and they develop a close relationship. Ives, a soap opera director, nurses her father who suffers from Alzheimer's. As she is gradually losing him, so is she losing the ground under her feet. Nataša, a successful producer, is pregnant. When things go awry for her, she decides to confront her estranged father. They brush by each other without knowing how much they have in common.



SCREENPLAY Ivona Juka
PRODUCER Anita Juka
CINEMATOGRAPHY Mario Oljača
EDITING Vladimir Gojun
CAST Lana Barić, Vojislav Brajović, Helena Beljan, Goran Hajduković, Nataša Janjić, Juraj Dabić, Nataša Dorčić, Filip Križan, Sebastian Cavazza

HR | SI | RS | 2015 | 159' | drama | PRODUCED BY 4 Film | CO-PRODUCERS Vertigo/Emotionfilm, Sloan Film Production | office@4film.hr
completed – not yet released



Trema | τρήμα | Stage Fright

DIRECTED BY Yorgos Zois

It's the opening night of the most anticipated avant-garde theatre play of the year – a modern adaptation of a classic Greek tragedy. Suddenly, nine young people, armed and dressed in black, get up from their seats and begin to sing. Gradually, the play is transformed into a collective performance which blurs the boundaries between reality and fiction.

SCREENPLAY Yorgos Zois

PRODUCERS Maria Drandaki, Elie Meirovitz, Siniša Juričić

CINEMATOGRAPHY Yannis Kanakis

EDITING Yannis Chalkiadakis

GR | FR | HR | 5/2015 | 100' | psychological drama | PRODUCED BY Pan Entertainment | CO-PRODUCERS EZ Films, Jaako dobra produkcija
sinisa@nukleus-film.hr | in post-production



Vrapci | Sparrows

DIRECTED BY Rúnar Rúnarsson

Fifteen year old Ari moves to a small village to live with his father. The story takes us on a journey of coming of age and learning to love.

SCREENPLAY Rúnar Rúnarsson

PRODUCERS Mikkel Jersin, Brynhildur Birgisdottir,

Igor A. Nola, Lilja Osk Snorraddottir

CINEMATOGRAPHY Sophia Olsson

CAST Atli Oskar Fjalarsson, Ingvar Eggert Sigursson

DK | IS | HR | 2015 | 90' | drama | PRODUCED BY Nimbus Film ApS
CO-PRODUCERS MP Film Production | info@mainframeproduction.com
in post-production

Family gatherings are a constant source of inspiration, especially if there is a wedding in sight. It is a great opportunity to observe the subtle clashes between different personalities, and to finally treat the skeletons from the closet as guests at the table while the cameras are rolling. **Life Is a Trumpet (pg. 12)** has a loose jazz musician as the groom, a butcher as his father, and two families of different backgrounds whose members are not as dissimilar as one might expect.

Directed by **Antonio Nuić**, one of the best actors' directors in Croatian cinema, *Life Is a Trumpet* is a star-studded comedy packed with feel-good humour, music, great performances, as well as some beautiful shots of Zagreb and its surroundings. It is a slightly ironic, but ultimately sympathetic look at our need to create problems, and the skillful ways in which we overcome them.

A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark jacket over a patterned shirt, is leaning against a large white text block. He has his right hand resting on his forehead and a thoughtful or weary expression. The background is a solid purple color.

**PEOPLE OFTEN
CREATE DRAMA
FOR COMPLETELY
WRONG REASONS.
MUCH OF IT CAN
BE RESOLVED BY
SIMPLY TELLING
IT TO THE FACE.**



Zagrebačke priče vol. 3 | Zagreb Stories Vol. 3

DIRECTED BY Danilo Šerbedžija, Vlatka Vorkapić, Petar Orešković, Matija Vukšić, Ivan Salaj, Radislav Jovanov Gonzo

An omnibus comprised of six short films, each taking place at the time of a different national holiday.

SCREENPLAY Danilo Šerbedžija, Vlatka Vorkapić, Matija Vukšić, Ivan Salaj, Natko Jurdana, Jasna Žmak

PRODUCER Boris T. Matić

CINEMATOGRAPHY Danko Vučinović, Silvio Jesenković, Mak Vejzović, Raul Brzić, Dragan Marković

CAST Živko Anočić, Lucija Šerbedžija, Filip Križan, Borko Perić, Tihana Lazović, Pjer Meničanin, Jelena Lopatić, Jerko Marčić, Mate Gulin, Judita Franković, Ksenija Marinković

HR | 6/2015 | 100' | omnibus, drama, comedy | PRODUCED BY Propeler Film

CO-PRODUCERS Alka film, Zagreb Film Festival | info@propelerfilm.com

in post-production



Život je truba | Life Is a Trumpet

DIRECTED BY Antonio Nuić

Boro Bura plays the trumpet in an alternative jazz band. He lives with Jana (25), a psychologist. They are about to get married. After the wedding, organized and fully paid by Bura's father Zdravko, the whole family is thrown into confusion.

SCREENPLAY Antonio Nuić

PRODUCER Boris T. Matić

CINEMATOGRAPHY Radislav Jovanov Gonzo

EDITING Marin Juranić

CAST Bojan Navojec, Iva Babić, Zlatko Vitez, Mirela Brekalo, Goran Navojec, Filip Križan, Ksenija Marinković, Filip Šovagović

HR | SI | RS | ME | 3/2015 | 90' | comedy, drama | PRODUCED BY Propeler Film

CO-PRODUCERS Staragara, Baš Čelik, Artikulacija Production, Croatian

Radiotelevision (HRT) | info@propelerfilm.com | in post-production



**LOVE
CROATIAN
DOCUMENTARY**



Bolesno | Sick

DIRECTED BY Hrvoje Mabić

Ana is planning a wedding with her girlfriend Martina. In her, she found a person she was longing for all these years – someone who doesn't think of her as crazy and who believes in her recovery. Ana suffers from debilitating psychological states caused by a trauma in her recent past. However, Martina is convinced that Ana will be a perfect partner as soon as the recovery process is completed. Now it is up to Ana to confront her inner demons.

SCREENPLAY Hrvoje Mabić

PRODUCERS Iva Tkalec, Morana Komljenović

CINEMATOGRAPHY Almir Fakić, Bojana Burnać

EDITING Žarko Korać

HR | 2015 | 95' | PRODUCED BY Fade In | office@fadein.hr | in post-production



Houston, imamo problem!

Houston, We Have a Problem!

DIRECTED BY Žiga Virc

After a 50-year absence, a former space engineer, Ivan Pavić, returns to the former Yugoslavia. We follow Ivan to the island of Pag, the place of his birth and of his alleged death. Through his position as a senior engineer, he reveals how the Yugoslav space program was developed and sold to the USA.

SCREENPLAY Boštjan Virc

PRODUCERS Boštjan Virc, Siniša Juričić

CINEMATOGRAPHY Andrej Virc

EDITING Vladimir Gojun

SI | HR | 2/2015 | 90' | PRODUCED BY Studio Virc | CO-PRODUCERS Nukleus Film
sinisa@nukleus-film.hr | in post-production





AT THE TIME I
CONTACTED HER,
SHE WAS DESPERATE
TO SHARE HER STORY.

The feeling of trust is of utmost importance in the creation of a documentary, but can sometimes be hard to obtain. However, some filmmakers give off the impression of making their protagonists open up in front of their lenses at a mere press of a button.

Hrvoje Mabić is one of these fortunate guys. In his feature documentary **Sick (pg. 14)** he took the subject straight from the headlines: a horrific story about a girl whose parents locked her up in a mental institution run by a corrupt headmaster just because they didn't approve of her sexual orientation.

The quality of Mabić's work has always stemmed from the careful balance between his social engagement and the respect for the humanity of his characters, which can also be felt here. The film boldly exposes the injustices of a chronically sick society, at the same time overwhelming the viewer with the sheer intensity of its emotional and psychological content. Although it can be seen as a darker version of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, at its heart, this is a story about a struggle to regain personal integrity and allow yourself to be loved.

EMOTIONS, LIKE BRANDY, ARE A PROCESS OF BURNING AND FRYING, WAITING TO BE DISTILLED.



Making a documentary presented strictly in the protagonist's point of view poses constant challenges to the filmmakers. Subjective impressions tend to numb the sharpness of facts, making it sometimes hard to discern where the external world opens the door for the realities of the heart and mind – but also for their delusions and tricks. Therefore, to make such a film, you need a filmmaker ready to negotiate the classic boundaries between genres, or even dismiss them entirely.

Enter **Damir Čučić**, a master of genre hybrids, who has made several films about characters imprisoned by their own grudges against the world. In his latest feature, **The Spirits' Diary** (pg. 17), he took a slightly different approach. His protagonist is a modern-day alchemist: a professional sound recordist who distills spirits in his basement, a sort of a sanctuary where he invites his friends and occasional lovers to enjoy his homemade brandy. Beautifully composed frames and a rich soundtrack place the focus on the details and textures that surround him, giving us only a glimpse of his features. The result is an intoxicating portrait of a man whose personality oozes out of the screen, and a melancholic meditation of solitude and transience.



Moj svijet je naopačke

My World Is Upside Down

DIRECTED BY Petra Seliškar

A musical documentary based on live performances of the world's leading alternative musicians who perform songs written by Ježek – the legendary Slovenian actor and poet. Their musical performances are interwoven with archival material from the 1960s to the 1980s.



SCREENPLAY Petra Seliškar

PRODUCERS Petra Seliškar, Brand Ferro, Oliver Sertić,

Vanja Jambrović

CINEMATOGRAPHY Brand Ferro

SI | MK | HR | 6/2015 | 75' | PRODUCED BY Petra Pan Film Productions

CO-PRODUCERS PFPF, Restart | restart@restarted.hr | in post-production



Rakijaški dnevnik | The Spirits' Diary

DIRECTED BY Damir Čučić

When Eric Maria was a little boy, four friars who used to visit his grandfather's house taught him how to make brandy. Forty years later he still illegally distils fruit spirits. Eric Maria is a sound engineer. For more than a decade, he has been recording conversations around the spirit fermenter and in his house. *The Spirits' Diary* is a reconstruction of those audio recordings, a film seen with ears.



SCREENPLAY Damir Čučić

PRODUCER Vera Robić Škarica

CINEMATOGRAPHY Boris Poljak

EDITING Damir Čučić

HR | 2015 | 62' | PRODUCED BY Croatian Film Association (HFS)

ivanaivisic@me.com, kristina@hfs.hr | in post-production



Snovi se vraćaju kući | Dreams Come Home

DIRECTED BY Mladen Mitrović

During two years of production, the crew of the ambitious large-scale regional documentary *Dreams Come Home*, led by the writer and director Mladen Mitrović, visited ten countries and shot more than 120 hours of footage. The film tells the story of a group of former Sarajevans, first filmed by Mitrović in 1987. Since then, they have been scattered around the world due to various circumstances – mostly war-related. This film is the story of their reunion.



SCREENPLAY Mladen Mitrović

PRODUCERS Mladen Mitrović, Nenad Puhovski

CINEMATOGRAPHY Zoran Petrović, Mladen Mitrović,

Uday Shandal, Muhamed Dedić, Eldar Emrić

EDITING Davor Bosankić

RS | BA | HR | 3/2015 | 148' | PRODUCED BY Fabrika snova | CO-PRODUCERS

Balkan Art Centar, Factum | info@factum.com.hr | in post-production



Tanka linija | La linea sottile | The Thin Line

DIRECTED BY Nina Mimica, Paola Sangiovanni

A former soldier in a peace-keeping mission. A woman who survived the violence of war. Two different wars, two different stories, connected by a single thin line: following it, we reveal the ties between violence against women and the rituals of patriarchal military communities.



SCREENPLAY Nina Mimica, Paola Sangiovanni

PRODUCERS Luca Ricciardi, Augusta Eniti, Dijana Mladenović

CAMERA Eleonora Patriarca, Faris Dobrača

EDITING Ilaria Fraioli

IT | HR | 3/2015 | 80'/50' | PRODUCED BY DocLab, Altre Forme | CO-PRODUCER

Kinematograf | info@kinematograf.hr | in post-production



Vertikala jednog grada | City Pillars

DIRECTED BY Bruno Pavić

Set in the second largest Croatian city, the film handles the subject of the martyrdom of Saint Domnius (Dujam), the patron saint of Split, by confronting him with the father of the City of Split, the Roman emperor Diocletian, and by transferring their relationship into the present.



SCREENPLAY Bruno Pavić

PRODUCER Silvana Dragun

CINEMATOGRAPHY Gildo Bavčević

EDITING Bruno Pavić

HR | 6/2015 | 90' | PRODUCED BY Dramski studio Ilirik | teatar.ilirik@gmail.com
in post-production

CROATIAN FILM FESTIVALS

A selection of the most established international film festivals in Croatia whose program is partly or exclusively devoted to feature films. A comprehensive list is available on the website: www.havc.hr

- FEBRUARY** **February 22nd – March 1st**
11th ZagrebDox – International Documentary Film Festival
EMAIL: info@zagrebdox.net
WEBSITE: www.zagrebdox.net
GENRE: documentary
- MARCH** **March 12th – 15th**
9th Film Festival DORF
EMAIL: info@filmfestivaldorf.com
WEBSITE: www.filmfestivaldorf.com
GENRE: music documentary
- APRIL** **April 12th – 18th**
9th Festival of Tolerance – Jewish Film Festival
EMAIL: info@jff-zagreb.hr
WEBSITE: www.festivaloftolerance.com
GENRE: fiction, documentary
- April 23th – 26th**
24th Croatian Film Days
EMAIL: info@danihrvatskogfilma.net
WEBSITE: www.danihrvatskogfilma.net
GENRE: fiction, documentary, animation, experimental films
- MAY** **May 2nd – 16th**
8th Subversive Film Festival
EMAIL: info@subversivefilmfestival.com
WEBSITE: www.subversivefilmfestival.com
GENRE: feature, fiction, documentary
- JUNE** **June 5th – 13th**
8th Mediterranean Film Festival Split
EMAIL: info@fmfs.hr
WEBSITE: www.fmfs.hr
GENRE: features, shorts
- June 9th – 14th**
25th Animafest Zagreb – World Festival of Animated Film
EMAIL: info@animafest.hr
WEBSITE: www.animafest.hr
GENRE: animation

JULY **July 18th – 25th**
62nd Pula Film Festival
EMAIL: info@pulafilmfestival.hr
WEBSITE: www.pulafilmfestival.hr
GENRE: features, short fiction

July 25th – 29th
18th Motovun Film Festival
EMAIL: matko@motovunfilmfestival.com
WEBSITE: www.motovunfilmfestival.com
GENRE: features, short fiction, documentary, animation

AUGUST **August 1st – 6th**
6th Solo Positivo Film Festival
(Starigrad Paklenica Film Festival)
EMAIL: admir.culumarevic@spff.hr
WEBSITE: www.spff.hr
GENRE: music documentary

August 22nd – 28th
6th Avantura Film Festival Zadar
EMAIL: service@avantura.com
WEBSITE: www.filmforumzadar.com
GENRE: features, short fiction, documentary

August 24th – 29th
9th Vukovar Film Festival – Danube Region Film Fest
EMAIL: maya.palecek@discoveryfilm.hr
WEBSITE: www.vukovarfilmfestival.com
GENRE: feature, short fiction, documentary, animation

SEPTEMBER **September 12th – 19th**
20th Split Film Festival – International Festival of New Film
EMAIL: info@splitfilmfestival.hr
WEBSITE: www.splitfilmfestival.hr
GENRE: feature, short fiction, animated, documentary, experimental films, new media

NOVEMBER **November 14th – 22nd**
13th Zagreb Film Festival
EMAIL: info@zagrebfilmfestival.com
WEBSITE: www.zagrebfilmfestival.com
GENRE: feature, short fiction

DECEMBER **December 6th – 13th**
13th Human Rights Film Festival
EMAIL: info@humanrightsfestival.org
WEBSITE: humanrightsfestival.org
GENRE: features, short fiction, documentary

Impressum

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