

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Amra Turalić  
(917) 302-2702  
amra@bhffnyc.org

or

Edita Zulić  
(646) 752-5030  
edita@bhffnyc.org

### **THE FIFTH ANNUAL BOSNIAN-HERZEGOVINIAN FILM FESTIVAL (BHFF™) ANNOUNCES SELECTIONS FOR MAY 9-10 EVENT AT TRIBECA CINEMAS**

NEW YORK, April 27, 2008: The Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival™ (BHFF™) announced its official film selections for the fifth annual event, taking place May 9 – 10, 2008 at Tribeca Cinemas, home of the Tribeca Film Festival.

The carefully-chosen program consists of ten thought-provoking short, feature and documentary films that educate, inspire and entertain. Five films will have their U.S. premiere at BHFF, including "Esma," "Patria Mia, nomad direction," "Not if you can, but you must," "What do I know" and "The Rhythm of Life." A number of films have been praised at other film festivals around the globe.

The festival will also screen a feature film entitled "Silent Gunpowder" in memory of late Bahrudin "Bato" Čengić (1931-2007), a talented and prolific filmmaker and a winner of numerous awards who helped shape Bosnian-Herzegovinian and Yugoslav film industry. He wrote and directed many features, documentaries, short films and television series such as "Playing Soldiers," "The Role of My Family in the World Revolution," "Heads or Tails" and "Silent Gunpowder."

Although, on average, Bosnia and Herzegovina, a very small country, generates only several feature films per year, its filmmakers have gained international recognition, often producing award-winning movies on very low budgets. Recent examples are Oscar-winning "No Man's Land" (Danis Tanović) and "Grbavica" (Jasmila Žbanić), winner of the Golden Bear award at Berlinale.

Since its founding in 2003, BHFF has gained a reputation as an important showcase of contemporary Bosnian-Herzegovinian cinematography. This unique cultural event organized by two New York area-based not-for-profit organizations, Voice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Inc. and Academy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, provides a platform for the exposure of up-and-coming and internationally-renowned filmmakers and also features films that focus on the theme of Bosnia and Herzegovina, thus contributing to a greater understanding of this country, its diverse culture, complex history and challenges it faces more than a decade after the turmoil of the early nineties.

## About this year's films:

### Feature films

*The Rhythm of Life (Ritam Života)*, directed by Enver Puška, will have its U.S. premiere at BHFF. After having been imprisoned in a concentration camp during the recent war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Salih, a restaurant owner and a family man, decides that his life will be dedicated to the joy of living. Every day, he is more and more in love with his wife Emma and more concerned about his daughter Maja. Maja is in love with Damir, a supplier of stolen automobiles and a man who constantly cheats on his wife.

*The Living and the Dead (Živi i mrtvi)*, directed by Kristijan Milić, is a powerful drama about the cyclical nature of the war crimes committed in the Balkans. It follows two story lines, one happening in 1943 and another in 1993, both at the same place in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This film is the winner of eight awards at Pula Film Festival (Croatia) and the Golden Camera 300 award at Brothers Manaki International Film Festival (Macedonia). It was also nominated for the Grand Prize at Cottbus Film Festival of Young East European Cinema (Germany), and screened at Sarajevo Film Festival (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and International Film Festival - FEST (Serbia).

Bahrudin "Bato" Čengić Retrospective Special: *Silent Gunpowder (Glavi Barut)*. This atypical Yugoslav partisan film is set in an isolated Serbian village in the Bosnian mountains at the beginning of World War II. The majority of Yugoslavia is already occupied, but resistance continues in this village where continuous clashes take place between Chetniks, local Nazi sympathizers and antifascist partisans. The film is the winner of Silver St. George for Best Actor and was nominated for the Golden St. George at the Moscow International Film Festival (Russia).

### Documentary films

*Enter the Dragon (U zmajevom gnijezdu)*, directed by Ozren Milharčić. The world's first Bruce Lee statue was unveiled in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina on November 26, 2005, one day before Hong Kong's version of the statue. This is a story of believers in the transformative power of martial arts heroes who decide to pursue their dream and erect the statue despite multiple challenges. Can Bruce Lee give hope to an ethnically divided city? This film was screened at Bradford International Film Festival (United Kingdom), Nazareth International Film Festival (Israel), Tartu Film Festival (Estonia), Balkan Black Box Festival (Germany), and The Dialektus Festival (Hungary).

*Esma*, directed by Alen Drljević, will have its U.S. premiere at BHFF. Inside the United Nations camp during the course of official negotiations in 1995, the Serbian army kidnaps the counter-negotiator, colonel Avdo Palić. Thus begins the search of his wife, Esma, for her missing husband. She is one of many who are still searching for their loved ones who disappeared during the recent war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This powerful film was screened at Sarajevo Film Festival (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Trieste Film Festival (Italy), Göteborg International Film Festival (Sweden), Balkan Snapshots Film Festival (Germany) and International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival (Ukraine).

*PATRIA MIA, nomad direction*, directed by Duška Zagorac, will have its U.S. premiere at BHFF. After 15 years of exile in London, Zagorac returns to Bosnia to find a sizeable Chinese community settled in her homeland. Like a mirror image of Bosnia's past populations, the new inhabitants are struggling to define their identity. Combining first person narrative and observational documentary style, this is an intimate portrait of people and the city suspended in time; between war and peace, socialism and capitalism, tradition and globalization. The film has screened at The European Independent Film Festival (France).

*Not if you can, but you must (Nije da se more već se mora)*, directed by Maša Hilcisin Dervišević, will have its U.S. premiere at BHFF. This film focuses on the life of people from the remote Bosnian village of Lukomir, with an emphasis on the position of women and the gender relations. The film was screened at numerous film festivals including PitchWise, Festival of Short Film and Interground (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Film Front and International Festival of Ethnological Film (Serbia), FemFest (Croatia), Through Women's Eyes (Macedonia), Rdece zore festival (Slovenia), Festival ArtGenerator (Macedonia), Tartu Festival of Visual Culture (Estonia), EcoVision Festival (Italy), International Meeting and Video Program Humour Works (Slovakia), East Silver (Czech Republic) and Viscult 2007 (Finland).

*Interrogation (Informativni razgovori)*, directed by Namik Kabil. This film tries to open up the abysses of denials of the war, which are becoming dominant, yet silent dimensions of everyday life in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina. This film won the Heart of Sarajevo for Best Documentary Film at Sarajevo Film Festival (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Special Mention at ZagrebDox - International Documentary Film Festival (Croatia) and was also screened at International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (The Netherlands), Helsinki International Film Festival (Finland) and Diagonale (Austria).

*A Burdensome Job (Teretli poslo)*, directed by Nedžad Begović. This is a story about two gravediggers, who despite their daily contact with death and strong empathy with those in mourning try to retain a positive outlook on life. This film has screened at the Sarajevo Film Festival (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Diagonale (Austria), the Go East Film Festival and the Balkan Snapshots Film Festival (Germany).

### Short films

*What Do I Know (Šta ja znam)*, directed by Šejla Kamerić, will have its U.S. premiere at BHFF. In and around a house love stories intertwine. One love story leads to another. The ghosts of love are left behind to seek the answers to the same question: "What do I know about love?" The story was written as a memento to other people's loves not witnessed by the author. The house in the story is real. All characters are played by children. This film has screened at the Balkan Snapshots Film Festival (Germany), Venice Film Festival (Italy), Zagreb Film Festival (Croatia) and Crossing Europe (Austria).

For screening times and additional information about BHFF, please visit <http://www.bhffnyc.org>.

### About Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival (BHFF™)

The Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival (BHFF™) is an annual event, organized by the Voice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Inc. and the Academy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which features award-winning films by emerging Bosnian-Herzegovinian filmmakers or films that have Bosnia-Herzegovina as its theme. For more information, visit <http://www.bhffnyc.org>.

The Voice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving and raising awareness of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian culture in the Tri-State area and beyond. The Voice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Inc. broadcasts a weekly radio program in Bosnian language and organizes events for the Bosnian-Herzegovinian community. For more information, visit <http://www.voiceofbh.org>.

The Academy of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a member-based not-for-profit organization with a mission to support the empowerment process of a new generation of Bosnians and Herzegovinians living in the United States and around the world. The Academy provides networking opportunities for young professionals and serves as a platform for various cultural, arts, and educational programs led by its members. For more information, visit <http://www.academybh.org>.

### About Tribeca Cinemas

Tribeca Cinemas is downtown's home for film premieres, gala receptions, intimate gatherings, live events and more. Tribeca Cinemas is the home of the Tribeca Film Festival and a year-round venue available for a multitude of private events. For more information, visit [www.tribecacinemas.com](http://www.tribecacinemas.com).