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**Dear friends:**

Welcome to the 10th annual Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival (BHFFTM). This year's program was compiled from among 32 submissions from 11 countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, England, Ireland, Italy, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Serbia, Slovenia, and the United States.

We will screen 13 feature, documentary, and short films that reflect the diversity of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian experience. This year's program includes the world premiere of Blockhouse; the U.S. premieres of Roundabout (Kružni Tok), Something Sweet (Nešto Slatko), and Thank You For Sunderland (Hvala za Sunderland); and the New York City premiere of Halima's Path (Halimin Put).

Other films screening this year include Mirza Delibašić – The Legend (Mirza Delibašić – Legenda); Krivina; Death of a Man in the Balkans; Baggage (Prtljag); The Fix; Children of Sarajevo (Djeca); The Orchestra (Orkestar); and Zizi. Films selected to screen at the annual BHFF are eligible to win a number of honors including the "Golden Apple" jury and audience awards.

We hope you will find this year's program compelling and entertaining, as well as educational. A rich and powerful collection of work has been put together and we are extremely excited to showcase it. Filmmaker Q&A's will help to provide more context for those films. All films are either in English or have English subtitles.

A big shout-out to the official BHFF 2013 Jury! This year's jury includes an expert panel of judges comprising acclaimed director and screenwriter Goran Rusinović; award-winning filmmaker and humanitarian Bill Carter; and acclaimed photojournalist and documentary filmmaker Sara Terry.

We also want to thank the members of the BHFF Executive Team; our volunteers; participating filmmakers; distributors; production companies; and media partners. An additional thank you goes to Burek The; Graphic Executions; Mehanata Bulgarian Bar; Omar and Rachel; Tribeca Cinemas; Trix; Stone Creek Bar; Veveritze; Waffle & Wolf; Selma and Goran Avdićević; Indira Music Mukić; Mirza Medjunanin; Nebojša Šerić-Shoba; and Bilyana Tosić Petino. Another big thank you goes out to those who have helped finance this year's BHFF: Influenster (Contributing Sponsor); DJL Architect PC; Miro Legin; Mirza Kafedžić; Velin Mezin; Richard Wraxall Moore; Barbara Forster Moore; Adnan and Nermica Šarčević; and other individual donors. Without them – and all of you – this festival would not be possible! Thank you!

Don't forget to visit [www.bhffnyc.org](http://www.bhffnyc.org) for regular updates, and if you haven't done so already, please sign up for our mailing list. Please follow us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/bhffnyc/>) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/#!/BHFFNYC>).

We hope to see you at the awards ceremony following the festival's conclusion on Saturday, May 11, beginning at 10:00pm at the Varick Room at Tribeca Cinemas, to be followed by a party commemorating our tenth anniversary. Burek The and Veveritze will be playing live music so bring your dance shoes!

Enjoy the films and don't forget to cast your vote for the BHFF 2013 Audience Award for Best Picture!

Sincerely,  
The BHFF Executive Team

## **The BHFF Story**

Although Bosnia and Herzegovina generates only several feature films per year, its filmmakers have gained worldwide recognition, producing award-winning movies on very low budgets. The Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival is an annual event featuring contemporary Bosnian-Herzegovinian cinematography, and films with Bosnia and Herzegovina as their theme. Since its founding in 2003, the BHFF has gained a reputation as an important showcase for up-and-coming and internationally renowned filmmakers, thus contributing to a greater understanding of the country, its diverse culture and complex history. This vibrant cultural event, taking place in New York City, brings together a wide spectrum of audiences. To date, the BHFF has screened more than 100 feature length, documentary, short and animated films.

## **History**

The idea for organizing the BHFF was first conceived in 2002 among film enthusiasts from the Bosnian-Herzegovinian diaspora in San Francisco and New York City. The late Benjamin Filipović, an award-winning film director, professor at the Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo, and president of the Association of Filmmakers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, provided the inspiration for the first film festival.

In 2003, Dr. Džemaludin Harba invited representatives of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian community in New York to a brainstorming meeting regarding a potential festival of Bosnian-Herzegovinian film. This group of volunteers and the Radio Voice of Bosnia and Herzegovina together produced the first annual Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival that year. Following its debut, in 2005 the BHFF became a coproduction between the Radio Voice of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Academy of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Organizers

The festival is organized by two not-for-profit organizations: the Voice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Inc. and the Academy of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Voice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving and raising awareness of Bosnian-Herzegovinian culture in the tri-state area and beyond. The Voice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Inc. broadcasts a radio program in the 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 not-for-profit cultural and advocacy organization, which serves as a platform for various cultural, artistic, and professional exchange programs led by its members. These programs are intended to benefit Bosnians and Herzegovinians in New York City and the United States. For more information, visit <http://www.academybh.org/>.

## BHFF Team

Since its founding, the BHFF has been supported solely by the tireless efforts of its volunteers.

## Audience and Constituency

The Bosnian-Herzegovinian community has had a presence in the United States for more than a hundred years. While official reports from the 2010 census indicate that there are 122,529 Bosnian-Americans in the United States, it is estimated that today there are some 350,000 Bosnian-Americans of full or partial Bosnian descent living in the country. The BHFF embodies a crucial link to Bosnia and Herzegovina for the tri-state diaspora. The festival has been consistently praised for its quality of films, and for the level of cultural exposure it provides. The BHFF helps bring together not only the Bosnian-American and other Balkan communities, but also film and Balkan culture enthusiasts.

## Awards and Jury

Films selected to screen at the annual BHFF are eligible to win a number of honors including the "Golden Apple" audience and jury awards. The BHFF will award the 2013 BHFF Audience Award for Best Picture to one film selected by audience members. Films eligible for the Audience Award will be all those screened at the BHFF 2013 that were produced between 2011 and 2013. The Audience Award for Best Picture will be presented at the awards ceremony in The Varick Room at Tribeca Cinemas after the final film screening on Saturday, May 11th.

Additionally, later in 2013, BHFF Jury Awards will be presented to the most outstanding films screened at the festival. Members of the BHFF Jury are accomplished and recognized members of Bosnian-Herzegovinian and American cultural, film and art communities who have significantly contributed to the Bosnian-Herzegovinian film industry and to Bosnian-Herzegovinian culture. Past members of the BHFF Jury have included award-winning filmmakers Refik Hodžić and Steve Nemsick, as well as the accomplished Bosnian-American fiction writer Aleksandar Hemon. The distinguished members of this year's jury include:

- **GORAN RUŠINOVIĆ**, an accomplished Croatian director and screenwriter who has been collecting awards at film festivals across Europe since 1997. His first feature film, *Mondo Bobo*, won four Golden Arena awards at the 1997 Pula Film Festival. His film *Buick Riviera* won the Golden Arena for Best Screenplay at the 2008 Pula Film Festival, as well as the main award in the regional competition at the 2009 Motovun Film Festival, and the Best Film award at the 2008 Sarajevo Film Festival. The script for *Buick Riviera*, which he also wrote, was honored at the Cannes Film Festival as one of the best of 2006.
- **BILL CARTER**, an award-winning filmmaker and author. Carter spent almost two years in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the war in the early 1990s. In Sarajevo, he helped to deliver humanitarian aid, and was also responsible for the satellite linkups between U2 concerts and Sarajevo. His work includes the documentary film *Miss Sarajevo*, which he produced and directed alongside U2's Bono; *Fools Rush In*, a book about his experiences as a humanitarian aid worker in besieged Sarajevo; *Red Summer*, a look at commercial fishing in Alaska; and *Boom, Bust, Boom*, an examination of the effects of copper mining. In 2009, Carter was granted honorary citizenship from the city of Sarajevo for the work he did during the war, and for continuing to be an ambassador of goodwill for Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- **SARA TERRY**, an acclaimed writer and documentary photojournalist whose work has been displayed in collections across the world. A recipient of a prestigious Guggenheim fellowship and the Alicia Patterson Fellowship, her book *Aftermath: Bosnia's Long Road to Peace*, explores how Bosnian-Herzegovinian communities worked to rebuild civil society after the war. Terry is the founder of The Aftermath Project, a nonprofit grant program that helps photographers cover the aftermath of conflict. *Fambul Tok* is her first documentary; she won a 2009 Sundance Documentary Institute grant for the film, and was a fellow at the 2010 International Filmmaker Project (IFP) Doc Lab. She is preparing to release her second documentary, *FOLK*, which focuses on the subculture of American folk music.

These jury members will award the following honors, to be announced later in 2013: the BHFF 2013 Jury Award for Best Documentary Film; the BHFF 2013 Jury Award for Best Short or Animated Film; and the BHFF 2013 Jury Award for Best Feature Film. Films screened at the BHFF 2013, produced between 2011 and 2013 are eligible for the Jury Awards.

For more information about BHFF, please visit <http://www.bhffnyc.org/>.



### **Something Sweet** (Nešto slatko)

Jelena Gavrilović | 2012 | 19 min. | Short Fiction

Ena, a 10-year-old girl, is struggling to find her place in the world, and has a constant urge to eat something sweet. Ena's frustration surfaces as she bids farewell to her friend Ado on the eve of his move to Frankfurt. *Something Sweet* premieres in the U.S. at the 2013 BHFF.

#### **Nominations:**

- BHFF Jury Award for the Best Short Film
- BHFF Audience Award for the Best Picture



### **Children of Sarajevo** (Djeca)

Aida Begić | 2012 | 90 min. | Feature

Rahima and her younger brother Nedim are orphans of the Bosnian war and are living in Sarajevo, a transitional society that has lost its moral compass. After crime-prone adolescent years, Rahima has found comfort in Islam and hopes her brother will follow in her footsteps. But everything changes the day Nedim gets into a fistfight at school with the son of a local strongman, and Rahima learns just how much trouble he is in. *Children of Sarajevo* competed in the Un Certain Regard section at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival, winning the Special Distinction of the Jury. *Children of Sarajevo* also won the Special Jury Award at the 12th Festival de Cinéma Méditerranéen de Bruxelles; the Special Jury Award at the 2012 Lisbon & Estoril Film Festival; and Best Film, the Young Jury Prize, and the Amnesty International Prize at the 2012 Pesaro International Film Festival.

#### **Nominations:**

- BHFF Jury Award for the Best Feature Film
- BHFF Audience Award for the Best Picture



### **The Fix**

Ante Novaković | 2012 | 18 min. | Short Fiction

Redemption is only a bullet away, as two middling underworld associates and lifelong friends quickly come to realize after failing a seemingly simple task from an underworld crime boss. The two are then offered a chance at clemency, but at what price? *The Fix*, featuring the inimitable Armand Assanté, was an official selection at the 2013 SOHO International Film Festival, and won the Audience Selection Award at the 2013 Gasparilla Film Festival.

#### **Nominations:**

- BHFF Jury Award for the Best Short Film
- BHFF Audience Award for the Best Picture



### **Death of a Man in Balkans** (Smrt čoveka na Balkanu)

Miroslav Momčilović | 2012 | 80 min. | Feature

An artist commits suicide before his webcam, which goes on to record the reactions of his neighbors as they rush to his home upon hearing a gunshot. Unaware that they are being filmed, neighbors, police, and medical workers respond to the man's death. Filmed entirely in one shot, Momčilović's dark comedy examines people's preoccupation with how they are perceived. *Death of a Man in the Balkans* has won awards across Europe, and makes its New York City premiere at the 2013 BHFF.

#### **Nominations:**

- BHFF Jury Award for the Best Feature Film
- BHFF Audience Award for the Best Picture



### **Baggage** (Prtljag)

Danis Tanović | 2011 | 27 min. | Short Fiction.

Having been away for many years, Amir returns to Bosnia and Herzegovina to locate and bury the remains of his parents, who were murdered during the war. Beside a ruined house in his hometown, Amir finds a forgotten friend who knows more about him than he does about himself. Baggage, a film from Academy Award-winning director and screenwriter Danis Tanović, has screened at a number of film festivals in Europe and beyond, and makes its New York City debut at the 2013 BHFF.

#### **Nominations:**

- BHFF Jury Award for the Best Short Film
- BHFF Audience Award for the Best Picture



### **Krivina**

Igor Drljača | 2012 | 67 min. | Feature

Miro, a Yugoslavian immigrant, returns to his homeland after years abroad to search for his friend Dado, who has been missing for decades and is now implicated in war crimes. As he searches the Bosnian countryside for traces of his old friend's whereabouts, Miro finds that he must untangle a complex series of contradictory clues and memories that challenge his—and the viewer's—perception of reality. Krivina made its world premiere at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival in the Bright Future Section, where it was called "astute and philosophical beyond its young director's years."

#### **Nominations:**

- BHFF Jury Award for the Best Feature Film
- BHFF Audience Award for the Best Picture



### **Zizi**

Nedžad Begović | 2012 | 26 min. | Documentary

From Begović, known for his unique comedic style, comes Zizi, a documentary film about a native Sarajevan and consummate storyteller. In this amusing short film, the eponymous Zizi recounts past escapades and adventures, fantastical dreams, and things as he had once hoped would come to pass. Zizi also enjoys billiards, and sees distinct parallels between life in Bosnia and Herzegovina and his beloved game of strategy and calculation. Narrated by Zizi himself and brilliantly visualized by Begović, Zizi is a nuanced and heart-warming look at Bosnian society.

#### **Nominations:**

- BHFF Jury Award for the Best Documentary Film
- BHFF Audience Award for the Best Picture



### **Mirza Delibašić - The Legend** (Mirza Delibašić - legenda)

Miro Benković | 2012 | 85 min. | Documentary

This intimate retrospective examines the life of Bosnian-Herzegovinian professional basketball player Mirza Delibašić, who is internationally renowned for both his skill on the court and his extraordinary sportsmanship. Benković draws on archival materials and accounts from Delibašić's friends and family in this emotional portrait of a basketball icon.

#### **Nominations:**

- BHFF Jury Award for the Best Documentary Film
- BHFF Audience Award for the Best Picture



### **Roundabout** (Kružni tok) Orsi Nagypal | 2012 | 19 min. | Short Fiction

Frustrated with his routine life and tense marriage, a man falls in love with the female voice of his GPS. The unlikely connection breathes life back into the man, but the unorthodox "relationship" also has its drawbacks. Roundabout received the Atlantic Group Award at the 2012 Sarajevo Film Festival, and makes its U.S. debut at the 2013 BHFF.

#### **Nominations:**

- BHFF Jury Award for the Best Short Film
- BHFF Audience Award for the Best Picture



### **Thanks for Sunderland** (Hvala za Sunderland) Slobodan Maksimović | 2012 | 92 min. | Feature

In Maksimović's dark comedy, Johan, a factory worker struggling to support his family, comes across a get-rich-quick scheme offered by shady businessman Zlatko. Johan steals €1800 to invest with Zlatko, but his life soon takes a turn for the worse as his wife leaves him, he loses his job, and the deal turns out to be a scam. Thanks for Sunderland debuted at the 2012 Slovenia Film Festival, where it won multiple awards, and makes its U.S. premiere at the 2013 BHFF.

#### **Nominations:**

- BHFF Jury Award for the Best Feature Film
- BHFF Audience Award for the Best Picture



### **The Blockhouse** Nebojša Šerić - Shoba | 2013 | 11 min. | Short Fiction

A jarring transition occurs when a soldier on the front line leaves the battlefield to call his mother, only to return to battle after a brief conversation. The Blockhouse is a powerful visual manifesto of how history is perceived and interpreted. It makes its world premiere at the 2013 BHFF.

#### **Nominations:**

- BHFF Jury Award for the Best Short Film
- BHFF Audience Award for the Best Picture



### **Halima's Path** (Halimin put) Arsen Ostojić | 2012 | 105 min. | Feature

Halima, a widow, is trying to salvage the bones of her son, who was killed in the war years ago. However, a deeply personal dilemma is preventing her from claiming them. In this emotional drama inspired by true events, Ostojić depicts a heart-wrenching story of motherhood and a nation struggling to find closure. Halima's Path has won numerous awards at festivals around the world, including the Grand Prix for the Best Film at the 19th Festival of Mediterranean Film in Morocco, the Audience Award for the Best Film at the 2012 Pula Film Festival, and the Grand Prix for Best Film at the 29th Mons International Film Festival D'Amour. It premieres in New York City at the 2013 BHFF.

#### **Nominations:**

- BHFF Jury Award for the Best Feature Film
- BHFF Audience Award for the Best Picture



**Orchestra** (Orkestar)  
Pjer Žalica | 2011 | 105 min. | Documentary

Orchestra is an award-winning documentary focusing on the fascinating, 25-year-long career of Saša Lošić and the legendary Sarajevo band, Plavi Orkestar (Blue Orchestra). This portrait of a generation that lived through dramatic changes in society but also remained loyal to itself is about optimism, strength, and the indestructibility of talent, friendship, and music. The film features over a hundred notable personalities in music, politics, and the arts, including Goran Bregović, Nikša Bratoš, Saša Broz, Elvis J. Kurtović, Severina Vučković, Filip David, Miljenko Jergović, Ivica Osim, Dragan Bjelogrić, Branko Đurić, Rade Serbedzija, Bogdan Diklić, Jani Novak, and many others.

**Nominations:**

- BHFF Jury Award for the Best Documentary Film
- BHFF Audience Award for the Best Picture

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