

# Getting along in a post-war age

New Bosnian filmmakers focus on rebuilding lives in the aftermath of conflict

By Ted Phillips  
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War takes more than 10 years to heal. That's the message of the third annual Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival that starts tomorrow. Since the 1995 Dayton peace accords ended the brutal conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the country has struggled to recover from genocide, economic malaise and organized crime.

A series of documentaries, shorts and features tackle triumphs, failures and an ongoing struggle for reconciliation during the next three days at the Anthology Film Archive in the East Village.

Many films that have come out of the country have been about the war itself, most notably the Oscar-winning "No Man's Land," but like the country itself, filmmakers are now dealing with daily realities.

"I think they're beginning to be less and less



A still from the documentary "Totally Personal," showing Saturday at 9:30 p.m.

about the war, they are starting to be about post-war," said Damir Pozdesec, one of the organizers who fled his home town of Banja Luka at the outset of the war. "Their economic situation is probably more important to them that what happened in the past."

The short film "Psychic," about a motorcyclist who rides through a mine field while he will live or die, is an allegory of how recent dangers lurk just beneath the surface as people try to get on with their lives.

"Go West," a feature film about an interethnic homosexual couple that stirred controversy in Bosnia gets its New York premiere tomorrow night. Trapped in besieged Sarajevo at the outset of the war, the couple flees to a village where one man dresses in drag

and poses as the other's wife for safety while they try to find passage to a more tolerant country. The plan gets upset when the "husband" gets drafted into the Bosnian Serb army.

Other films deal with ethnic identity, tango lessons, war crimes and turbo folk — the Bosnian version of country music.

The festival was organized by non-profits The Academy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Voice of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The country's small population and economic distress makes it difficult for the once vibrant film industry to produce many features — last year the country produced just three and that was an increase. But filmmakers have taken to producing more short films to get their stories out.

"There are plenty of stories to be told, they're just short on finances," Pozdesec said. "They are not making many films, but they are making good films."

## Schedule

Screenings at Anthology Film Archives (32 Second Ave), www.bhffny.org.

### Friday

**Block #1** 7pm. "Paycheck" (short); "Survived 'n Lived Through One More Day" (short); "I See You My Friend" (short documentary).

**Block #2** 8:30pm. "If I was a Muslim" (short); "Go West" (feature).

### Saturday

**Block #3** 5pm. "Not So Humble Pie" (short documentary); "Asim Free Man" (short documentary); "Boy From a War Movie" (short documentary).

**'Well Tempered Corpses'** 7:30pm. Feature film.

**Block #4** 9:30pm. "On Wednesdays" (short); "Totally Personal" (feature documentary).

### Sunday

**Block #5** 4pm. "Frame For the Picture of My Homeland" (short); "Srebrenica 2005" (short); "Justice Unseen" (feature documentary).

**Block #6** 5:45pm. "Counterpoint For Her" (short documentary); "The Dream Job" (feature documentary).

**Borderline Lovers'** 7:30pm. Feature documentary.