



© BOSNIAN-HERZEGOVINIAN FILM FESTIVAL™
NEW YORK CITY

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**THE 2007 BOSNIAN-HERZEGOVINIAN FILM FESTIVAL (BHFF™)
ANNOUNCES SELECTIONS
FOR MAY 11-12 EVENT AT TRIBECA CINEMAS**

NEW YORK, April 17, 2007: The 2007 Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival™ (BHFF™) announces its official film selections for the fourth annual event, taking place May 11 – 12, 2007 at Tribeca Cinemas, home of the Tribeca Film Festival. In its fourth year, 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, continues to highlight contemporary Bosnian-Herzegovinian cinematography and provide a platform for the exposure of up-and-coming and internationally-renowned Bosnian-Herzegovinian filmmakers.

“We are extremely excited to present this year’s program, which consists of works by emerging talents and more well-established filmmakers, to New Yorkers and other audiences,” said Leila Rachidi, member of BHFF™ Film Selection Committee. “In addition, the fact that this year’s festival will take place at Tribeca Cinemas is a testament to our steady growth.”

This year’s line-up includes twelve films, with a number of films that have been praised at other film festivals around the globe. The selection consists of a variety of themes and styles ranging from feature, short and documentary films that educate about the Bosnian-Herzegovinian cinematography, history and culture as well as inspire and entertain.

This year BHFF™ will also present its 2007 Audience Award for the Best Short or Feature Film and BHFF™ 2007 Audience Award for the Best Documentary Film. Both awards will be awarded in memory of recently-deceased Dr. Benjamin Filipović, award-winning film director, professor at the Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo and President of the Association of Filmmakers of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to his contributions to Bosnian-Herzegovinian cinematography, history, arts and culture and his support of the activities of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian diaspora, Dr. Filipović is also credited for providing the inspiration for the first BHFF™.

Following are the films included in the 2007 BHFF™:

Feature films

There are five feature films that cover a diverse spectrum of themes ranging from compelling and complex portraits of parent-child and spousal relationships set against the post-war backdrop, one man's travel through Bosnia and Herzegovina in search for beauty and meaning and the tragi-comic adventures of soldiers assigned to the Yugoslav-Albanian border post in 1980s.

- **All for Free (Sve džaba)**, directed by Antonio Nuić and the winner of the Best Actor award at the 2006 Sarajevo Film Festival, follows the story of a thirty-year-old Goran who lives on an inheritance from his parents and drinks his days away. One day, following the scandalous and tragic death of his closest friends, Goran decides to sell his house and travel from town to town, giving away free drinks to the inhabitants.
- **Armin**, directed by Ognjen Sviličić, is a Croatian, German and Bosnian co-production and the winner of the European Network of Young Cinema Jury Award 2007. Coming from a small town in Bosnia, a father takes his son, Armin, to Croatia to audition for a German film about the Balkan conflict. After the director shows his disinterest toward him, Armin grows disappointed and withdrawn, but his ambitious father decides to take matters into his own hands and fight for his son's acting career.
- **The Border Post (Karaula)**, directed by Rajko Grlić has been included in the official selection for the European Film Awards 2006. In the spring of 1987, at a small border-post on the Yugoslav-Albanian border, young soldiers are counting days to the end of their military service when the usually-drunk commander makes an unpleasant discovery related to his groin pain. Not wanting his wife to find out about the embarrassing disease, he declares a state of emergency, claiming that the Albanian army is preparing an attack against Yugoslavia but things soon spiral out of control.
- **Grbavica**, directed by Jasmila Žbanić is the winner of the 2006 Golden Bear at Berlin, and a nominee for the European Film Award and for the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance 2006. Single mother Esma lives with her 12-year-old daughter Sara in Sarajevo's Grbavica neighborhood. Sara's father becomes an issue when her school requires a certificate proving that he died a martyr so Sara can receive a discount for an upcoming school trip. Esma claims that this is difficult since his body has yet to be found but Sara aggressively demands the truth.
- **Mum and Dad (Mama i tata)**, directed by Faruk Lončarević, won the Special Jury Prize at the 2006 Sarajevo Film Festival. An elderly couple live alone in a flat in Sarajevo, with their everyday rituals consisting of drinking coffee, playing cards and watching TV. Dad is a stroke survivor and has difficulties communicating and Mum is a lively lady who takes advantage of the situation to set straight some old quarrels. Faruk Lončarević conveys the intimacy and the conflict in their relationship through use of the reality-show style.

Documentary films

Four documentaries included in this year's festival focus on the search for truth and justice for war victims, the beauty of a relationship between two older sisters and the emptiness and hope in a small central Bosnian village ten years after the war.

- **Carnival (Karneval)**, directed by Alen Drljević, has been included in the official selection in the competitive program of the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam 2006 and is the winner of the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Trieste Film

Festival 2007. It is by coincidence that the Montenegrin journalist Šeki Radončić comes across a black page in the history of his country and learns that the Bosnian refugees seeking safety in Montenegro during the war were mercilessly picked up and transported to Bosnia in May 1992, where they ended up in the notorious, Serb-run prison of Foča. Radončić decides to investigate the matter further and succeeds in tracking down witnesses to the events.

- **For Whom The Bell Tolls (Za kim zvono zvoni)**, directed by Džemal Šabić, is the Winner of the Grand Prix award at the Trento Film Festival in Italy. All inhabitants of the village Poljani in central Bosnia have fled their village during the war. Ana Šušnja has been the sacristan in the village chapel in Poljani for 28 years. Even today, ten years after the war, Ana still sounds the bells, waiting for any of her neighbors to come back to the village.
- **Statement 710399 (Izjava 710399)**, directed by Refik Hodžić, is the story of a father trying to find out what happened to his son who slipped out of his hands and disappeared during the Srebrenica genocide in 1995. This is also a story of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a country scarred by war crimes and their legacy, and at the same time, a story of humanity amidst the most horrific crimes.
- **Two Sisters - Story About Love (Dvije sestre - priča o ljubavi)**, directed by Džemal Šabić, is a winner of the European Documentary Network Talent Award in 2006, and a nominee for the Prix Europa 2006. This is a vignette about a 58-year old Bosnian woman, who leaves her job and life in Sarajevo and returns to her village to take care of her disabled sister. This is a documentary about the best in people and human relations.

Short films

Three short films explore the themes of children trapped in violent conflicts, human determination and resilience in the face of adversity and the psychological tension between one's desire for revenge and humanity.

- **Good Luck Nedim (Sretan put Nedime)**, directed by Marko Šantić, is the winner of the Best Short Film at the Sarajevo Film Festival 2006, Best Film at the Confederation Internationale des Cinemas d'art et Essai and Best Short Film nominee for the European Film Awards 2006. Upon arrival at the Slovenian border, Amir and Nedim come across a young police officer who refuses to let them through because Nedim does not have proper documentation. Amir is determined to fight for his brother, who suffers from terminal cancer and wants to die in his own country.
- **In the Name of the Son (U ime sina)** is directed by the emerging filmmaker Harun Mehmedinović. Captured in battle by Serbian forces, Tarik, a Bosnian Muslim, and his friend Milan, a Serb who defected from the Serb forces, are marched to their execution in a Bosnian forest. As they reach their destination, Milan is recognized by their executioner: Pavle, his father and an officer of the Serbian army. In agony over Milan's treason, Pavle shoots his son, but spares Tarik. Years later, in the United States, Pavle appears on Tarik's doorstep asking for a favor. Suddenly, Tarik is conflicted between his desire for revenge and his humanity.
- **The Way We Played (Kako smo se igrali)**, directed by Samir Mehanović, is the winner of the Best First-Time Director at BAFTA Scotland in 2005, and a nominee for the Best British short film at EIFF in 2006. On the eve of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, two boys, a Serb and a Muslim, go looking for treasure in an abandoned hillfort. Instead of gold they find a gun and overnight both their lives are changed forever.

For a full program, interviews with filmmakers and information on ticket sales, 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 Bosnian-Herzegovinian immigrants and their communities. For more information, visit <http://www.voiceofbh.org>.

The Academy of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a member-based not-for-profit organization located in New York 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, showcasing the talent and achievements of the diaspora and establishing links with Bosnia and Herzegovina. 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.

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