



**The Seventh Annual**

# **Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival** <sup>(BHFF™)</sup>

**Tribeca Cinemas**  
(54 Varick Street at Laight Street)  
May 14-15, 2010

<http://www.bhffnyc.org>



## Friday May 14

7:00 PM

Festival Opening at Tribeca Cinemas

---

8:00 PM (Block #1)

### **The Ruin (Zgarište)**

Amra Mehić 2009 Short

### **Storm**

Hans-Christian Schmid 2009 Feature

---

## Saturday May 15

6:00 PM (Block #2)

### **Apparition**

Sabina Vajrača 2009 Short

### **Sevdah**

Marina Andree 2009 Documentary

Q&A with Sabina Vajrača & Amir Husak

---

8:00 PM (Block #3)

### **One More Tonight**

Al Mehićević 2009 Short

### **Anyone (Iko)**

Timur Makarević 2009 Short Documentary

### **Buried Land**

Steven Eastwood & Geoffrey Alan Rhodes 2010 Narrative Feature

Q&A with Geoffrey Alan Rhodes



Woolly Boo™ handcrafts luxury crib sets, comforters, pillows, mattress pads and sleep sacks for infants, toddlers and preschoolers out of organic wool imported from Bosnia and Herzegovina, using traditional bedding-making techniques passed from generation to generation.

Woolly Boo™ is committed to supporting the festival as the community-based effort that offers New York City an ability to enjoy some of the best storytelling through film. For more information, please visit:

<http://woollyboo.com/>

Dear friends:

Welcome to the seventh annual Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival (BHFF™). In some cultures, seven is considered a lucky number and we feel very excited and fortunate to be able to bring you another edition of the festival.

This year, the selection consists of eight films, which we hope you will find compelling. They showcase the diversity of the Bosnian diaspora and its filmmakers, whose submissions come from many corners of the world, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, Australia, United Kingdom and United States.

We are very happy to welcome back filmmakers Sabina Vajrača (*Apparition*) and Amir Husak (*The Reed Trains*), as well as meet new faces -- director Geoffrey Alan Rhodes and other team members from *Buried Land*. These talented individuals will be available for Q&A sessions following the screenings of their films.

It is important to acknowledge the community-wide support this festival receives each year. A great big thanks goes to our corporate sponsor **Woolly Boo** and individual donors who have made this festival financially feasible, as well as our tireless members of the organizing committee, other volunteers and participating filmmakers, distributors, media partners, production companies, Tribeca Cinemas and others.

Enjoy the films and don't forget to cast your vote for the best short or feature film and the best documentary film, check out our website and our Facebook page for updates and sign up for our mailing list. We also hope you will join us for the awards ceremony and closing party at Tribeca Cinemas lounge right after the last screening on Saturday, May 15.

BHFF Team





# Our Story

---

Although Bosnia and Herzegovina, a country of the size of West Virginia, generates only several feature movies per year, its filmmakers have gained worldwide recognition producing award-winning films on very low budgets.

The Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival is an annual event, which features contemporary Bosnian-Herzegovinian cinematography and films with Bosnia and Herzegovina as their theme. Since its founding in 2003, BHFF has gained a reputation as an important showcase that provides a platform for the exposure of up-and-coming and internationally-renowned filmmakers, thus contributing to a greater understanding of Bosnia and Herzegovina, its diverse culture, complex history and challenges it faces.

This vibrant cultural event, taking place in New York City, brings together a wide spectrum of audiences. To date, BHFF has screened more than 70 feature-length, short, documentary and animated films viewed by more than 2,000 people.

## History

The idea for organizing BHFF was first born in 2002 among film enthusiasts from the Bosnian-Herzegovinian diaspora in San Francisco and New York City, who were inspired by late Benjamin Filipović, award-winning film director, and at the time, president of the Association of Filmmakers of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The first annual BHFF was produced in October 2003. In 2005 BHFF became a co-production between the Voice of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Academy of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Location

In 2003, BHFF was held at the Two Boots Pioneer Theatre. The following year, BHFF moved to larger premises at the Anthology Film Archives, known as an international center for the preservation, study, and exhibition of film and video. In 2007, BHFF relocated to and remained in a more visible venue – Tribeca Cinemas.

## Audience and constituency

The Bosnian-Herzegovinian community has had a presence in the United States for more than hundred years. Although official figures do not exist, there are an estimated 250,000 people of Bosnian-Herzegovinian origin living in the United States. Today, the community finds itself in need of artistic and cultural content, as well as activities that will provide links to its native and adopted country. The Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival fulfills this unmet need and is praised for the quality of films and cultural exposure it provides. BHFF helps bring together not only the Bosnian-American and other Balkan communities, but also the film enthusiasts from around the world.

## **Audience Awards**

Each year, BHFF audience members vote for films they consider outstanding. There are two "Golden Apple" awards presented at the closing of each annual festival: Audience Award for the Best Short or Feature Film and Audience Award for the Best Documentary Film. Films eligible for the audience awards are those screened at BHFF produced in the past two years.

## **Organizers**

The festival is organized by two not-for-profit organizations: 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 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 not-for-profit cultural and advocacy organization, which serves as a platform for various cultural, arts, and professional exchange programs led by its members that are intended to benefit the Bosnians and Herzegovinians in New York City and United States. For more information, visit <http://www.academybh.org>.

## **Volunteers**

Since its founding, the organization of BHFF has been supported solely by the tireless efforts of its volunteers, many of whom are young professionals with full-time jobs in the fields of finance, architecture, law and public relations.





## The Ruin (Zgarište)

Amra Mehić / 2009 / 11 min / Short

A middle-aged refugee returns to his pre-war house ten years after fleeing, determined to burn it down and erase the painful memory. But the house is not empty, and he comes face to face with a man who fled his own nightmare to start a new life there.



## Storm

Hans-Christian Schmid / 2009 / 105 min / Feature

Hannah Maynard, a prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal, is leading a trial against a former Yugoslavian National Army commander who is accused of the mass murder of Bosnian Muslim civilians. When a key witness is ensnared in the contradictions of his testimony, the Tribunal sends a delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Shortly afterwards, his body is found. Hoping to uncover new findings, Hannah travels to the witness' burial in Sarajevo and meets his sister Mira, soon discovering that Mira has much more to say about the defendant. This suspenseful thriller has won German Film Critics Award, as well as awards at Berlin International Film Festival and Munich Film Festival. It has also been shown at Sarajevo Film Festival.



## **Apparition**

Sabina Vajrača / 2009 / 13 min / Short

Anne is determined to find a place to call home, but she soon discovers that New York City's realty market is satiated with sleazy brokers, strange roommates and scary dwellings. Even the perfect place she eventually finds has a secret of its own. Official selection at Los Angeles Shorts Fest, Miami Shorts Film Festival, Orlando Film Festival, 360/365 Film Festival, BOFF3 Babelgum Online Film Festival shortlist and Winner of Bronze Palm at 2009 Mexico International Film Festival. Note, at the end of the screening block, BHFF 2010 will feature a Q&A with director Sabina Vajrača.



## **The Reed Trains (Vozovi Svirači)**

Amir Husak / 2009 / 10 min / Short Documentary

This essay film examines the aftermath of violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina through the prism of railway travel. Once a complex network that provided connections to many European cities, Bosnia's railroad suffered an intense period of destruction in the early 90s. Driven by a largely autobiographical text from one of the country's most promising young writers, the film blends the personal and political in a story about trains and coming of age in a city under siege. The Reed Trains, which was screened at the Sarajevo Film Festival and Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, also won the Best in Show and a Dorothy Hirshon Award at the Mixed Messages graduate showcase at The New School. Note, at the end of the screening block, BHFF 2010 will feature a Q&A with director Amir Husak.



## Sevdah

Marina Andree / 2009 / 66 min / Documentary

Sevdah is a feeling about life that is imbued with melancholy, yearning and beautiful sorrow. In Bosnia and Herzegovina it is expressed through the traditional type of song, sevdalinka. The death of their mutual friend and passionate fan of sevdalinka brings musician Damir and director Marina together. Trying to confront their loss, they create a film about sevdah as an emotional, musical, lyrical and visual journey through the soul of Bosnia. Winner of the Audience Award at Sarajevo Film Festival, Sevdah was also screened at film festivals in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Sweden, Turkey and United States.



## One More Tonight

(U.S. PREMIERE)

Al Mehicević / 2010 / 15 min / Short Film

One More Tonight is based on a true story. Abdo, a Somalian refugee, Melbourne cabbie, husband and father, drives a taxi every night to support his family. Abdo is stretched; each fare means more money and less time with his family.

One night, one more fare concludes in tragedy. That night, after so many hours transporting Melbourne's night revelers, he wishes to be at home with his wife and child. But, Abdo takes a dodgy fare. Time cannot be reversed; too many unspoken words, too many lost moments and so much heartbreak become the conclusion of Abdo's new Australian life. One More Tonight will be screened at St Kilda Film Festival as part of the Top 100. This is the film's U.S. Premiere.





## **Anyone (Iko)**

(U.S. PREMIERE)

Timur Makarević / 2009 / 22 min / Short Documentary

Anybody is another view on Bosnia and Herzegovina; a reflection, without people, without words. Escapism or exploration? Probably both. This is the film's U.S. Premiere. It was screened as part of the Sarajevo Film Festival Competition Programme. Timur Makarević is an award-winning director. What Do I Know, which he directed together with Šejla Kamerić, won awards in Croatia and Turkey; his short film The Wake won a special mention by the Sarajevo Film Festival jury.



## **Buried Land**

Steven Eastwood and Geoffrey Alan Rhodes / 2010 / 86 min / Narrative Feature

In 2006, the media around the world announced the discovery of ancient pyramids – not in Egypt but in the tiny village of Visoko in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A fictional film in a real community, Buried Land is the story of one man's return to his homeland to discover the truth behind the claims. This is a story of the power of faith, imagination and community, and of the futility of looking for absolute truths, in life, and in movies. The film was screened at the Tribeca Film Festival. At the end of the screening block, BHFF 2010 will feature a filmmakers Q&A.

### **Individual donors:**

Jasmina Arslanagić  
Mesha Džinović  
Milad Hadžiabdić  
Dr. Džemaludin Harba  
Kanita Hasimbegović  
Amy Kates  
Selma Kikić  
Belma and Mirza Kokić  
Amel Mujezinović  
Alma Subašić  
Amra Spahić-Musakadić  
Ahmed Ramić  
Tea Temim  
Amra Turalić  
Edita Zulić

### **2010 members of the organizing committee:**

Selma Avdičević  
Amelisa Đulović  
Almir Lucević  
Damir Pozderac  
Lejla Rachidi  
Amra Turalić

### **Other volunteers:**

Dr. Džemaludin Harba  
Amir Husak  
Adna Jevrić  
Malik Sarić  
Belma Kokić  
Vadim Krisyan  
Farah Musakadić  
Alma Subašić  
Nebojša Šerić Shoba  
Edita Zulić

Design by Shoba

Awards by Aida Šehović

Printing services provided by Graphic Executions, Inc.

Special thanks to Marshall Restaurant-Bar for support for the annual fundraiser.