



SEANEMA  
FILM FESTIVAL

# REGENE RATION



NEW  
GENERATIONS  
ARE COMING

EIGHTH EDITION OF SEANEMA FILM FESTIVAL  
CO-ORGANISED BY CULTURE CENTRE OF ULQIN

# REGENE RATION

14 - 17 september | 2023

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*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*

Margaret Mead / anthropologist

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## *FESTIVAL TEAM*

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(FMR) Film Festival Director

**Drita Lolla**

PI "Culture Centre Ulcinj" Director

**Adriana Hoxha**

Film Program Director

**Jelena Mišeljić**

Festival Producer

**Anja Sekulić**

Event Manager

**Katarina Kastratović**

Mentors

**Danijela Radulović**

**Dušan Kasalica**

Photography & Videography

**Refik Mollabeqiri**

Graphic Design & Creative Solutions

**DAA Montenegro**

Technical Support

**Film Centre of Montenegro**

Festival partners

**NGO iACT**

**NGO Juventas**



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## SPECIAL ADDRESSES

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### DAITA LLOLLA

*director of Seanema Film Festival*

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Looking back over the years, with countless events organized, hundreds of young and old, professional and amateur film lovers visiting from all over the region and beyond, and tens of open panels held, it is difficult not to feel the multiplied weight of what this festival was. One thing comes to mind. A heartfelt.

However, all these years, Seanema was not about an individual or a group of individuals going against all odds. It was, is, and must continue to be about a community learning to look further and beyond.

During the past eight years, not only have we overcome obstacles, but we've also found new ways of seeing and thinking about the future. We've started a movement to infuse ambition among young people to better themselves and take action in creative ways. Thanks to this project, we watched dreams on canvas in a two-and-a-half millennium-old town without a cinema. Bridging cultures of the region became commonplace, while freedom of expression became a must.

Envisioning and advocating for the first polyfunctional art house cinema in Montenegro was no fantasy, but a very attainable and perhaps not-too-distant reality. Let us not forget that it was Seanema who sparked the initiative between our local and central government to sign the reconstruction of the former cinema hall in Ulcinj' agreement in 2020. Therefore, it comes naturally that to finalize its original goal, Seanema must reinvent itself under evolving circumstances.

I am not saying goodbye to Seanema but looking forward to crossing paths in new ways in the future. It was a privilege running its team(s) and programs for the past eight years.

Thank you for believing in the vision.

### ADRIANA HOKHA

*director of the PI "Center for Culture Ulcinj"*

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The Culture Centre of Ulqin has always strived to support the cultural activities carried out by the civil sector within its possibilities. Such is the case with the Seanema Film Festival, which has opened a new window for our city. In the absence of cinema, people feel nostalgic to experience once again the old emotions that the screen and film gives. Today, as the only film festival in Ulcinj and among Albanians in Montenegro, the festival increases our will to institutionalize it and make it even bigger. The people of Ulcinj deserve to have a variety of activities and, above all, to be 'fed' with contemporary cinema.

While we await the raising of standards in this area, we will humbly continue to organize, and do what we can to show that we love art in all its forms and that we aim to educate the new generations in such spirit.

*This festival has an enviable past, a stoic present and a promising future.*

# PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

## SEANEMA K CULTURE CENTRE FILM FESTIVAL 2023

14. SEP

📍 Culture centre

20:00<sup>h</sup> Official Opening

20:15<sup>h</sup> Screening of "Sirin"

15. SEP

📍 Culture centre

20:00<sup>h</sup> Montenegrin corner /  
Premiere of "Lady in  
Black"

### SHORTS IN COMPETITION

20:30<sup>h</sup> Let the dewy flowers  
bloom

20:47<sup>h</sup> Remember how I used  
to ride a white horse

20:57<sup>h</sup> The real truth  
about the fight

21:11<sup>h</sup> How I learned to  
hang laundry

16. SEP

📍 Culture centre

18:00<sup>h</sup> Open discussion /  
"Clear the Air" project

18:45<sup>h</sup> Screening of  
"City of God"

20:00<sup>h</sup> Montenegrin corner /  
Screening of "Boiling"

### SHORTS IN COMPETITION

21:00<sup>h</sup> Steady flow

21:10<sup>h</sup> The ghosts you  
draw on my back

21:25<sup>h</sup> Fran and Verka; or  
a usual day in an  
abandoned village

21:39<sup>h</sup> The witness

17. SEP

📍 Culture centre

20:00<sup>h</sup> Winner  
announcement

20:30<sup>h</sup> Screening of  
"Excursion"

22:13<sup>h</sup> Closing

## BALKAN X VIŠEGRAD SHORT FILM NETWORK 2023

14. SEP

📍 Culture centre

15:00<sup>h</sup> Welcoming addresses  
by organisers and  
mentors / presentation  
of the agenda

15:30<sup>h</sup> Balkan x Višegrad  
Short Film  
Network 2023  
16:00<sup>h</sup>

15. SEP

📍 Culture centre

10:00<sup>h</sup> Balkan x Višegrad  
Short Film Network  
2023  
16:00<sup>h</sup>

16. SEP

📍 Culture centre

10:00<sup>h</sup> Balkan x Višegrad  
Short Film Network  
2023  
17:00<sup>h</sup>

17. SEP

📍 Culture centre

10:00<sup>h</sup> Balkan x Višegrad  
Short Film Network  
2023  
12:00<sup>h</sup>

# SHORT FILMS IN COMPETITION

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# LET THE DEWY FLOWERS BLOOM

## NEKA CVJETA ROSNO CVIJEĆE



# REMEMBER HOW I USED TO RIDE A WHITE HORSE

## SJETI SE KAKO SAM JAHALA BIJELOG KONJA

Montenegro / Serbia | 17 min | 2023

**DIRECTOR:** Ivan Bakrač  
**WRITERS:** Ivan Bakrač, Dušan Kasalica **CINEMATOGRAPHY:** Stasa Bukumirović  
**EDITING:** Nataša Pantić **ART DIRECTION:** Dragana Bacović **SOUND DEPARTMENT:**  
 Luka Barajević, Aleksandar Brajović **ADDITIONAL CREW:** Haydar Ay, Dejan Vuković,  
 Ivan Marković **CAST:** Nikola Pavlović, Maja Šuša, Momčilo Otašević

*Synopsis:*  
 Nikola goes to Montenegrin south to say goodbye to his best friend. On the way, he meets Maja, with whom he has more in common than it seems.



**Ivan Bakrač** (1987) is a director and screenwriter who participated in numerous international festivals and won awards. He participated in programs such as Berlinale Talents, Talents Sarajevo and Zurich FF Academy. He also works as a festival selector. His debut feature film "After the Winter" premiered at the international film festival in Karlovy Vary. He is a member of the European Film Academy. Filmography: Wars (2013, medium length); Our skin will turn gray (2014, short); Males (2016, short), After winter (2021, feature).

Croatia | 10 min | 2022

**DIRECTORS AND WRITERS:** Ivana Bošnjak Volda, Thomas Johnson Volda  
**CINEMATOGRAPHY:** Ivan Slipčević **EDITING:** Iva Kraljević **MUSIC & SOUND DESIGN:**  
 Hrvoje Nikšić **PUPPET COSTUMES:** Kata Gugić **ADDITIONAL CREW:** Bruno Razum,  
 Željko Serdarević, Sara Jakupec, Marijana Veljović, Sara Čučić **PRODUCER:** Igor Grubić

*Synopsis:*  
 A waitress at work routinely serves coffee and thinks about escaping from her own reality. One guest constantly records and listens to the sounds in the cafe, completely obsessed with the action. Apathy is a state that leads consciousness to stagnation, but do any of them realize that they themselves are examples of that state?



**Ivana Bošnjak Volda** (1983) graduated from the Graphic Department of the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb and completed animation studies at the Norwegian University of Volda. She graduated with the film Crossed Shield, shot in collaboration with Lea Vidaković. With partner Thomas Johnson Volda, she shot two puppet films produced by Bonobostudio, Simulacra (2014) and Breathed Life (2019). These films were screened at numerous international festivals and won several awards. Ivana professionally participated in various stop-motion animation projects throughout Europe and led animation workshops for children and students. Filmography: Remember how I rode a white horse (2022), Inhaled life (2019), Simulacra (2014), Crossed Shield (2010, graduate film, co-authored with Lea Vidaković).

**Thomas Johnson Volda** (Bath, England, 1984) completed the study of weather media at the Institute of Welsh University in Cardiff, and graduated from the Department of New Media at the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb. With his partner Ivana Bošnjak Volda, he shot two puppet films, Simulacra (2014) and Inhaled Life (2019) in the production of Bonobostudio. These films were screened at numerous festivals and won several prestigious awards. Thomas is a multi-disciplinary artist who often combines animation and performance arts in his works. He staged puppet shows at many international festivals and in galleries across Europe. Filmography: Remember How I Rode a White Horse (2022), Breathed Life (2019), Simulacra (2014).





# THE REAL TRUTH ABOUT THE FIGHT PRAVA ISTINA PRIČE O ŠORI



# HOW I LEARNED TO HANG LAUNDRY KAKO SEM SE NAUČILA OBEŠATI PERILO

Croatia | 14 min | 2023

DIRECTOR AND WRITER: **Andrea Slaviček**  
CINEMATOGRAPHY: **Alana Mejia Gonzales** EDITING: **Vladimir Gojun** MUSIC: **Biel Blancafort** ART DIRECTION: **Bojan Drežgić** COSTUME DESIGN: **Ana Nikačević**  
PRODUCER: **Katarina Prpić** CAST: **Lily Antić, Klara Lola Jelčić, Vida Tunguz**

*Synopsis:*

Between school trouble, mean girl drama, catchy lyrics, and a mysterious blue car, teenage Lena, sometimes distracted or interrupted, tells us the real story behind The Big Fight. But what isn't she telling us?



**Andrea Slaviček** (born in 1990) is a filmmaker, screenwriter, and designer from Croatia. She has been studying film direction at ESCAC in Barcelona. She is interested in unconventional structures, experimenting with the perception of her characters and their view of reality. At the moment she is developing her debut feature film Luna on Two Planets and is presenting her short film The Real Truth about the Fight at the 62nd Semaine de la Critique.

Slovenia | 23 min | 2023

DIRECTOR: **Barbara Zemljič**  
WRITER: **Špela Murenc** CINEMATOGRAPHY: **Žiga Krajnc**  
EDITOR: **Ivana Fumič** SOUND DESIGNER: **Julij Zornik** MUSIC: **Laren Polič Zdravič**  
ADDITIONAL CREW: **Miha Knific, Teo Rižnar, Urša Vidic, Tina Bonča, Mojca Gorogranc Petrushevska** PRODUCER: **Klemen Dvornik** CAST: **Tamara Avguštin, Domen Novak, Lucija Harum**

*Synopsis:*

After a chance encounter, Oli and Miha become friends, or something more. Or less.



**Barbara Zemljič** is a film, television and theatre director, screenwriter, playwright and assistant professor of screenwriting at the AGRFT, University of Ljubljana. Her films have received several awards worldwide. She is a mother of two sons. Some recent awards: Best short film (Majorca Atlanteans, Palma de Majorca, 2022), Best short film (Dallas IFF, 2021), The award for women's contribution to the film (Forteca IFF, Perast, 2021)



# STEADY FLOW

SVE JE IŠLO SIGURNIM TOKOM

Montenegro | 10 min | 2022

**DIRECTOR & WRITER: Anja Jovanović**  
**PRODUCERS: Biljana Vušović, Mladen Ivanović** **CINEMATOGRAPHY: Vladimir Đurić**  
**EDITOR: Bojan Filipović** **SOUND: Aleksandar Brajović** **ADDITIONAL CREW: Lina Leković, Dragana Bačović, Aleksa Vitorović** **CAST: Pavle Prelević, Maja Čampar, Stevan Vuković**

### Synopsis:

A date doesn't go as planned when a young man drives a girl to a strange location on the outskirts of the city. His odd romantic gesture works out fine until he learns she's leaving town for good in a week. He receives an urgent phone call, and suddenly leaves, suggesting that she waits for him there. There is still magic in the air, as she waits by the river, looking a bit stunned.



**Anja Jovanović** was born in Podgorica, Montenegro. She pursued her film directing degree at Academy of Arts in Belgrade, and completed her MFA degree in Film Production at Ohio University in the US. Anja lives in Montenegro, where she works as a writer, director, editor, and crew member on short and feature films. "Steady Flow" is her directorial debut.



# THE GHOSTS YOU DRAW ON MY BACK

DUHOVI NA MOJIM LEĐIMA

Serbia | 15 min | 2023

**DIRECTOR: Nikola Stojanović**  
**WRITERS: Nada Petrović, Nikola Stojanović** **CINEMATOGRAPHY: Mladen Teofilović**  
**EDITING: Nikola Stojanović** **PRODUCTION & COSTUME DESIGN: Iva Ilić** **SOUND DESIGN: Bojan Palikuća** **ADDITIONAL CREW: Ognjen Glavonić, Savina Smederevac, Milica Žarković, Miloš Macanović, Mladen Marjanović, Aleksandar Bartol, Marko Janković, Ljubiša Joković, Veljko Jovanović, David Kostić, Jelena Maksimović**  
**PRODUCER: Čarna Vučinić** **CAST: Miroslav Isaković, Anita Ognjanović, Admir Šehović**

### Synopsis:

Teenage Sara travels to a small provincial town to attend the memorial service of her grandmother. The usually quiet village is occupied with the construction of the new railway. While fighting her wounds and fears, Sara finds shelter in a worker from the construction site.



**Nikola Stojanović**, 28, is an award-winning film director and editor. He graduated as the top student in Film Directing at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade. His films have been screened at over 100 film festivals around the world, winning awards at festivals such as Sarajevo FF, Les Arcs FF, Beldocs FF, and others. Besides film, he directs music videos, having worked with artists such as Konstrakta, Repetitor, Structures, Bojana Vunturisevic, among others. He was part of Berlinale Talents in Sarajevo in 2020. Filmography: Dog Days of Summer (fiction, 19', 2019), Sherbet (fiction, 19', 2019), Everything in its Right Place (fiction, 19', 2020), Cornelian Cherries (documentary, 40', 2020).



# FRAN AND VERKA OR A USUAL DAY IN AN ABANDONED VILLAGE



# SUJEDOK WITNESS

Kosovo | 14 min | 2023

DIRECTOR & WRITER: **Sovran Nrecaj**  
CINEMATOGRAPHY: **Besim Ugzmajli** PRODUCER: **Aurela Kadriu**

### Synopsis:

Fran and Verka are the sole inhabitants of Vërnakollë - the place they first met many years ago, got married and have been living ever since. They remember a lively village where children played in the streets and weddings lasted for a week. After the 1999 war in Kosovo, it all changed.



**Sovran Nrecaj** is a young filmmaker, born in 1998 in Ferizaj, Kosovo. He began his artistic career as a photographer and later developed a passion for writing and directing. Sovran studied at Sarajevo Film Academy, where he refined his skills and worked on various film projects, showcasing his versatility and dedication to the art of filmmaking. Sovran's latest work, *Sea by the River and River by the Sea* (2021), has won several awards at international festivals. His filmmaking style is characterized by his ability to convey meaningful stories through visual storytelling, tackling important social issues in his work.

Bosnia and Herzegovina | 15 min | 2022

DIRECTOR & WRITER: **Alen Šimić**  
CINEMATOGRAPHY: **Alen Alilović** EDITING: **Adi Selimović** MUSIC: **Mirza Indigo Rahmanović** SOUND: **Muhamed Bajramović** COSTUME DESIGN: **Mirzada Kobilic**  
PRODUCTION DESIGN: **Admir Karkelja** PRODUCER: **Benjamin Čengić** CAST: **Davor Golubović, Admir Žunić, Mirela Lambić, Sabit Sejdinović, Dino Bajrović, Ener Kozličić, Kerim Čutuna, Tatjana Šojić, Nadine Mičić, Kenan Hasanbegović**

### Synopsis:

After finding out he owes money for college tuition, a small-time drug dealer and “perpetual student” decides to get his hands on a larger quantity of narcotics, not knowing that circumstances will place him in direct contact with the police.



**Alen Šimić** was born in 1988 in Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where he was wounded during the war. He graduated from the Directing Department of the Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo. His short documentary, *84*, was selected for the Competition Programme - Student Film of the Sarajevo Film Festival in 2020.

# JURY MEMBERS

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## ALEXANDRA GABRIŽOVÁ

is a program coordinator of Midpoint Institute's series programs, offering both project development-based and skill development-based possibilities for writers and producers. She co-founded Disco Sailing agency which covers the festival distribution of Slovak films to help them target the right spots on the international market. Occasionally, she works as a journalist and curator with major activities connected with short film format. She is a graduate of Audiovisual Studies at Film and Television Faculty, Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, where she has been working as the head of the Festival department during 2016-2021. Alexandra is leading her course Festival Strategies at Film and Television Faculty VSMU since 2020.



## JOANNA ŻAK

is a film programmer and festival producer, currently based at the International Young Audience Film Festival, Ale Kino in Poznan, Poland. She's also a preselection jury at the Filmschoolfest Munich. She has previously worked for the New Horizons Association and ran her own auteur projects: Kinoranek and Orbis Pictus Cinema. Joanna is an alumna of the Next Wave training programme at Die Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin, and a lecturer at Krzysztof Kieslowski Film School in Katowice. She has also been a jury member and speaker at various film festivals and industry conferences.



## TAN HAZAZI

was born 25th of November 1986 in Tirana, Albania. He completed a Masters degree at the Academy of Art in Film and TV Producing at Tirana University. He also studied Anthropology and is working on a series of documentaries and feature films and TV serials. After producing a series of short documentaries, he produced his first feature film "Bloodlands" in 2016, followed by "A life with you", "Sofia", "Skydancer" and the feature documentary about the life of legendary Albanian actor Rikard Ljarja, titled "Rikard". He began his production company "Black Box Films" to inject new possibilities to Balkan film production. Cinespia67 is his latest project to host events for film lovers alike in a new cultural venue in Tirana.

# SPECIAL SCREENINGS

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# SIRIN



Montenegro / Albania / Croatia / Kosovo / Bosnia and Herzegovina | 90 min | 2023

**DIRECTOR:** Senad Šahmanović  
**WRITERS:** Senad Šahmanović, Claudia Bottino **CINEMATOGRAPHY:** Aleksandar Jakonić  
**EDITING:** Tomislav Pavlić **COSTUME DESIGN:** Lina Leković **PRODUCTION DESIGN:** Ognjen Smolović, Dragana Bačović **MUSIC:** Ivan Marović **ADDITIONAL CREW:** Filip Poleksić, Slaven Šošić, Miroslav Dukić, Matija Santro, Miodrag Miša Jelić, Adrian Podrimaj, Salem Kapić-Kantardžić **PRODUCER:** Veliša Popović **CO-PRODUCERS:** Jure Pavlović, Dritan Huqi, Fatmir Spahiu, Alen Babić **CAST:** Danica Čurčić, May-Linda Kosumović, Jasna Đuričić, Momčilo Otašević, Šefqet Luca, Bashkim Alaj

## Synopsis:

The plot follows Natali, who left the former Yugoslavia immediately after the beginning of the wars of the 1990s. Like many other people from this area, she emigrated abroad in search of a better life and a more secure future. After several years spent abroad, wanting to fully adapt to life in a new environment, she wished to change her identity and erase her origins. An unusual legal case regarding the inheritance of a rich elderly woman who did not have a family will bring her back to her country of origin, Montenegro.



**Senad Šahmanović** was born in Montenegro, in 1982. He studied at the Faculty of Drama Arts in Cetinje and Academy of Performing Arts (department Film and TV directing) at the University of Sarajevo. His short film, *Tranquility of Blood* who premiered at the Tampere International film festival, was screened so far in more than 40 international film festivals (Busan, Sarajevo, Odense, DokuFest) and won several awards (Grand Prix in Drama International Film Festival 2015). He also directed the short fiction "The Road" (2017), and a TV docu series of 12 episodes on Montenegrin writers (2018-2020). He was selected for Berlinale Talents in 2019.

# EXCURSION EKSKURZIJA



Bosnia and Herzegovina / Croatia / Serbia / France / Norway / Qatar | 93 min | 2023

**DIRECTOR:** Una Gunjak **CINEMATOGRAPHY:** Matthias Pilz **EDITING:** Clemence Diard  
**COSTUME DESIGN:** Katarina Pilić **MUSIC:** Draško Adžić **ADDITIONAL CREW:** Timka Grim, Lamija Hadžihasanović, Adisa Zaimović, Ensar Halilović, Mirza Abdagić, Bojan Gligorić, Amar Komić, Luka Vlaho, Emina Kujundžić, Tarik Bešlija, Predrag Đorđa, Predrag Doder, Aldin Arnautović, Armis Bećirević, Amer Beganović, Mirel Čerić, Faris Dobraca, Emir Kasić, Sejdalija Kutlovac, Vedad Kutlovac, Adnan Pertef, Oljeg Ražnatović, Jure Režić, Mirzada Kobilić, Alma Mehanić, Lena Samardžić, Salem Kapić-Kantardžić, Haris Kamenčić, Ivo Kaunitz, Karla Folnović **PRODUCER:** Amra Bakšić Camo, Adis Đapo **CO-PRODUCERS:** Gary Craner, Siniša Juričić, Jelena Mitrović, Francois Morisset **CAST:** Asja Zara Lagumdžija, Maja Izetbegović, Nada Spaho, Mediha Musliović, Izudin Bajrović, Muhamed Hadžović

## Synopsis:

A teenage girl's seemingly little lie leads her into a storm of expectations, condemnation, and social dogmas.



**Una Gunjak** was born and raised in Sarajevo. She studied in Italy and then in the UK, graduating as editor from the National Film and TV School. Previously, Una has extensively worked as drama and documentary editor and has occasionally directed commercials. Her short film *THE CHICKEN*, aside from winning last year's Heart of Sarajevo, also won the EFA Award for Best European Short, after premiering in Critics' Week 2014. It has been screened at more than 150 festivals including Sundance Film Festival and New Director, New Films. Una Gunjak is currently developing her first feature as part of the Cannes Cinefondation Residence.

# THE MONTENEGRIN CORNER



## LADY IN BLACK CRNA DAMA

Montenegro | 13 min | 2023

Each year Seanema Film Festival celebrates up and coming Montenegrin talents in the film industry by presenting their work to the audience. This year it is our great pleasure to host the Montenegrin premiere of **Lady in Black**, a short film by **Gana Ćomagić** and screening of **Boiling**, a short film by **Luka Đikanović**.

### Longline:

A conflicted funeral director enthusiastically tackles a large influx of customers during a new pandemic, along with their scrutiny of his career and fatherhood.



**Gana Ćomagić** was born in Montenegro in 1991, and was raised in Podgorica and Zurich. A writer, director, and producer, she holds a MA in documentary film from the University of Sussex. She heads Evil Ideas, a Montenegro-based production company. Her short film Crna Dama (Lady in Black, 2023), a blend of black comedy and drama, recently had its premiere at FEST - New Directors New Films Festival in Espinho, Portugal. Ćomagić is currently working on multiple short and feature-length projects in Montenegro and abroad. She is a member of the European Film Academy.



# ART FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

## CLEAR THE AIR

Seanema Film Festival joins the project of NGO Juventas supported by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, by organizing a film evening with young people on the topic of crime and the impact of corruption on young people in Montenegro.

*NGO Juventas is one of the most influential non-governmental organizations in Montenegro, with significant results in improving social cohesion and creating a community tailored for everyone through the promotion of active participation of young people, the development of public policies and public advocacy, and through the provision of innovative and sustainable support services for the socially excluded and empowering key actors in these processes.*



## CITY OF GOD CIDADE DE DEUS

Brazil / France | 130 min | 2002

**DIRECTOR:** Fernando Meirelles  
**WRITER:** Bráulio Mantovani **CINEMATOGRAPHY:** César Charlone **EDITING:** Daniel Rezende  
**PRODUCTION DESIGN:** Tulé Peak **COSTUME DESIGN:** Inês Salgado, Bia Salgado **SOUND DESIGN:** Martin Hernandez **ADDITIONAL CREW:** Ed Côrtes, Antonio Pinto **PRODUCERS:** Andrea Barata Ribeiro, Mauricio Andrade Ramos **CAST:** Jonathan Haagensen (Cabeleira), Douglas Silva (Dadinho), Roberta Rodriguez Silvia (Berenice), Matheus Nachtergaele (Sandro Cenoura), Seu Jorge (Mané Galinha), Alexandre Rodrigues (Buscapé), Leandro Firmino da Hora (Zé Pequeno), Phellipe Haagensen (Bené)

### Synopsis:

In the poverty-stricken favelas of Rio de Janeiro in the 1970s, two young men choose different paths. Rocket is a budding photographer who documents the increasing drug-related violence of his neighborhood, while José "Zé" Pequeno is an ambitious drug dealer diving into a dangerous life of crime.



**Fernando Meirelles** was born in São Paulo, Brazil. While studying architecture at the University of São Paulo, he began to develop an interest in filmmaking. Along with a group of friends, he produced experimental videos. They formed a company called Olhar Eletrônico, and the team became well known after winning awards at Brazilian film festivals.

Later when he began working in celluloid film, in the early '90s, together with Paulo Morelli and Andrea Barata Ribeiro, he opened the O2 Filmes production company.

After almost a decade of filming and winning award, a friend gave him the novel *City of God* to read with the idea that he would turn it into a film. Meirelles was initially reluctant because he knew the book "was about the beginnings of drug dealing in Rio de Janeiro, a violent story, without hope". However, partway through, he began to underline sentences and make notes on possible filming locations. Meirelles decided he wanted unknown actors and auditioned 2000 youngsters from poor areas of Rio de Janeiro. The first six months were spent improvising scenes, and the actors ended up creating about 70 percent of the dialogue.

# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

## BALKAN x VIŠEGRAD SHORT FILM NETWORK

NGO iACT, together with partners Seanema Film Festival (Montenegro) and festivals from the region, Drim Short Film Festival (Struga, North Macedonia), and Bašta Fest (Bajina Bašta, Serbia) founded the BALKAN SHORT FILM NETWORK, aimed for the education of young filmmakers, as well as promotion of the short film in the region. The project is supported for the second year now by Western Balkan Fund.

Starting this year, the project is expanding and gaining a new dimension, the BALKAN x VIŠEGRAD SHORT FILM NETWORK with the support of the Višegrad Fund (Visegrad+ grant). The network is expanding to the countries of the Višegrad Group, through partnerships with short film festivals Short Waves Film Festival (Poland), BuSho Film Festival (Hungary) and Azyl Shorts (Slovakia). In cooperation with partner festivals, mentors from these countries will participate in three workshops in Montenegro, Serbia and North Macedonia.

All partners are gathered around the same goals: decentralization of cultural offer, raising awareness of the importance of short films as an art form, as well as networking, empowering and presenting young talents to wider audiences.

Participants and projects in this year's series of workshops are:

*"Death, sea, blue colors"* - director Milutin Milošević, producer Jelena Čivanović (Serbia)

*"Over the Threshold"* - director Tara Gajović, producer Nikola Uzelac (Serbia)

*"Unforeseen circumstances arising from the way of playing"* - director Olja Pokrajac, producer Vera Pavlović (Serbia)

*"All our journeys"* - director Goran Kaluđerović, producer Aleksa Bujišić (Montenegro)

*"Carolers"* - director Filip Lafazanovski, producer Slobodan Trajkoski (North Macedonia)

Ten participants will work on their festival strategy ("Festival Ready") workshop within the framework of Seanema Film Festival with mentors Dušan Kasalica (director and producer) and Danijela Radulović (producer). Guest mentors for the programme are Alexandra Gabrižová and Joanna Žak.

# MENTORS



## DUŠAN KASALICA

is a Montenegrin director born in 1977 in Nikšić. He graduated in Directing from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Cetinje, where he currently teaches as an Assistant Professor. In 2015 his short film "Biserna obala" (Pearl Coast) was awarded the Heart of Sarajevo, while "Soa" was awarded the Special Jury Award two years later, also at the Sarajevo Film Festival. He is a participant in the Berlinale Talents program and a member of Locarno Filmmakers Academy. He produced the film "Ti imaš noć" (You Have a Night) directed by Ivan Salatić, which premiered at Venice Film Festival in 2018. Dušan's first feature film, "Elegija lovora" (Elegy of the Laurel), had its world premiere at the Sarajevo Film Festival in 2021. Dušan is a member of the European Film Academy.



## DANIJELA RADULOVIĆ

is a Montenegrin producer born in 1990 in Nikšić. She graduated in Film production from Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Cetinje (MA). Since 2017, she has been working at the Film Centre of Montenegro as an advisor for film production and complementary activities. Her previous work experience includes working at the Royal Theater "Zetski Dom" as producer and public relations manager, collaborator on the project of Montenegrin Cinema presentation at the Cannes International Film Festival (2017 - 2021), editor of publication "Montenegrin Cinema" (2018 - 2022). She was a lecturer within the "Bridging Short Talks" project organized in cooperation with the Balkans Beyond Borders on the topic of film co-productions (2021), as well as within the Beldocs Academy program on the topic of virtual production and new technologies (Beldocs IDFF 2021). In 2022 she was selected for SOFA - School of Film Advancement with her project Profilmia Lab - Virtual Lab Film which aims to modernise existing film practices based on virtual production and new technologies.

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