

ASTER LIGHTS

17

СВЕТЛИНИТЕ НА АСТЕР

5 - 9 AUGUST 2022

ASTERFEST INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

ИНТЕРНАЦИОНАЛЕН ФИЛМСКИ ФЕСТИВАЛ АСТЕРФЕСТ



CATALOGUE



scenarij i režija
Janko Baljak

direktor fotografije
Jovan Milinović SAS

montaža
Aleksandra Milovanović

kompozitor
Predrag Vranešević

snimatelj
Bojan Đurišić

snimatelj zvuka i mix
Aleksandar Stojšin

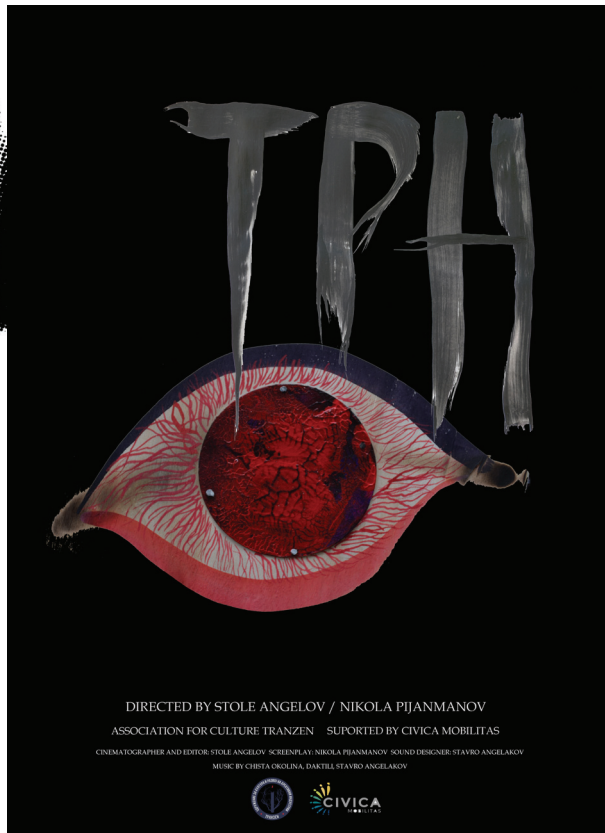
grafički dizajn
Jelena Sanader

dizajn zvuka
Jana Baljak
Natalija Strahinić

dizajn plakata
Atla Kapitanj

producent
Siniša Bokan

ARBOS Novi Sad
2021



DIRECTED BY STOLE ANGELOV / NIKOLA PIJANMANOV

ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURE TRANZEN SUPPORTED BY CIVICA MOBILITAS

CINEMATOGRAPHER AND EDITOR: STOLE ANGELOV SCREENPLAY: NIKOLA PIJANMANOV SOUND DESIGNER: STAVRO ANGELOV
MUSIC BY: CHRISTA OKOLINA, DARTILL STAVRO ANGELOV



GLOBAL FICTION
Short Fiction Films



SHARK - Nash Edgerton
(Australia, 14 min 7 sec, 2021)

Follows the continuing adventures of Jack, who loves to prank. But in his latest relationship, he may have finally met his match.



RAINBOW - Aleksandar Vujović
(Montenegro, 16 min 55 sec, 2020)

A film that recounts an event from a boy's memory from early childhood. As a boy of 5 years old, he embarks on a journey with his father and experiences a magical moment. He realises his life's vocation, the call of the artist.



ON MY MIND - Martin Strange-Hansen
(Denmark, 18 min, 2021)

Henrik wants to sing a song for his wife. It has to be today, it has to be now. It's a question of life, death and karaoke.



THE LETTER ROOM - Elvira Lind
(USA, 32 min 27 sec, 2020)

When a kind-hearted prison officer (Oscar Isaac) is transferred to the letter room, he soon gets involved in an inmate's personal affairs...



WITNESS - Ali Asgari
(France / Iran, 15 min, 2020)

A mother helps an older woman in a shopping mall in Tehran. A tragedy occurs, brutally confronting her with the impact of her actions.



NORTH POLE - Marija Apcevska
(North Macedonia / Serbia, 14 min 59 sec, 2021)

Misty field, crowded locker room. Margo belongs to neither. Maybe if she loses her virginity, she will finally find her place... The film is produced by Kino Oko, Skopje.



TITAN - Valéry Carnoy
(Belgium / France, 19 min, 2021)

Nathan is thirteen years old boy. Driven by his new friend Malik, he prepares himself for a strange ritual to become a teen gang member.



ASTERDOCS
Creative Documentaries



BALCONY CONCERT - Diana & Krzysztof Kadłubowski
(Poland, 16 min, 2021)

One day of lockdown, during the first coronavirus wave in Poland, one of the tenants of tenement house decides to organise a concert on the balcony for his neighbours.



THE QUEEN OF BASKETBALL - Ben Proudfoot
(USA, 22 min, 2021)

An Academy Award-winning, electrifying portrait of Lusia “Lucy” Harris, who scored the first basket in women’s Olympic history and was the first and only woman officially drafted into the N.B.A. Harris, who died unexpectedly on January 18, has remained largely unknown despite her incredible accomplishments — until now. Here, she shares her story in her own words.



THE BAYVIEW - Daniel Cook
(United Kingdom, 18 min, 2021)

On the North East Coast of Scotland, an extraordinary family have turned the previously derelict Bayview hotel into a place of respite for international fishermen when they come to land. This film is a glimpse into this unlikely home and the transient guests who pass through it.



DISPLACED - Samir Karahoda
(Kosovo, 15 min, 2021)

In post-war Kosovo, driven by the ambition to keep their beloved sport alive, two local players wander from one obscure location to another, carrying with them the club's only possessions: the tables.



MY UNCLE TUDOR - Olga Lucovnicova
(Moldova / Portugal / Hungary / Belgium, 20 min, 2021)

After 20 years of silence, the director returns back to the house of her childhood to meet her family and confront her uncle, who is responsible for her trauma.



5 AUGUST
OPENING
20:30 SCREENING: SHORT FICTION FILMS
(AMPITHEATRE)

6 AUGUST
11:00 FILM PORTRAIT
(EUROPE HOUSE)
20:30 SCREENING: SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILMS
(AMPITHEATRE)

7 AUGUST
11:00 MINI FILM WORKSHOP
(EUROPE HOUSE)
20:30 SCREENING: SHORT ANIMATED FILMS
(AMPITHEATRE)

8 AUGUST
20:30 SCREENING: "JOURNAL ABOUT ŽELIMIR ŽILNIK"
(AMPITHEATRE)

9 AUGUST
CLOSING
20:30 PREMIERE SCREENING: "THORN"
(AMPITHEATRE)

 
ASTERFEST INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

ANIMATION
Animated Films



SHELL IN LOVE - Svilen Dimitrov
(Bulgaria, 16 min, 2021)

A timid snail, scarred by childhood trauma, spends his time hiding away in his shell where he has created an imaginary version of the outside world. After a chance encounter with love, he will have to face his fears and discover the wonders of reality.



HOME BIRD - Ewa Smyk
(United Kingdom, 10 min, 2021)

Struggling to make it in a big city, a young artist finds herself retreating into the rose-tinted memories of the village she left behind.



ANT HILL - Marek Náprstek
(Czech Republic, 12 min 35 sec, 2020)

Ant Hill is a story of the end of humanity from ants' perspective. Rebellious female K99980335 is longing for a different future, but when her wish is suddenly cruelly fulfilled, it is already too late to take it back.



STEAKHOUSE - Špela Čadež
(Slovenia / Germany / France, 9 min 30 sec, 2021)

The steak has been marinating for a few days now. The pan is heated. Franc's stomach is rumbling. But Liza's co-workers surprise her with a birthday party. Will she be home on time?



TIO - Juan José Medina
(Mexico, 12 min 30 sec, 2021)

On his first day of work as a miner, Martin, a cocky teenager, will learn the importance of rituals and respect for ancestors.



THE HANGMAN AT HOME - Michelle & Uri Kranot
(France / Denmark / Canada, 14 min 4 sec, 2021)

What does the hangman think about
When he goes home at night from work?

ASTER Lifetime Achievement Award winner



Želimir Žilnik (born in 1942; living and working in Novi Sad, Serbia) has written and directed numerous feature and documentary films which have reaped many awards at domestic and international film festivals. From the very beginning, his films have focussed on contemporary issues, featuring social, political and economic assessments of everyday life: *A Newsreel on Village Youth in Winter* (1967), *Little Pioneers*

(1968), *The Unemployed* (1968), *June Turmoil* (1968), *Black Film* (1971), *Uprising in Jazak* (1972).

The student demonstrations of 1968 and the turmoil that followed the occupation of Czechoslovakia are at the centre of Žilnik's first feature film *Early Works* (1969) which was awarded the Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival and four prizes in Pula that same year.

After facing problems with censorship in Yugoslavia and after completing his next feature film *Freedom or Cartoons* (1972, produced by Neoplanta Film), Žilnik spent the mid-seventies in Germany, where he independently produced and made seven documentaries and one feature film, *Paradise* (1976). These films were amongst the first ever to touch on the foreign workforce in Germany, and they continue to be shown to this day at various retrospectives and symposiums.

Following his return to Yugoslavia at the end of the seventies, he directed a substantial series of television films and docudramas for TV Belgrade and TV Novi Sad (*The Illness and Recovery of Buda Brakus* (1980), *Vera and Eržika* (1981), *Dragoljub and Bogdan* (1982), *The First Trimester of Pavle Hromiš* (1983), *Stanimir Descending* (1984), *Good Morning, Belgrade* (1986), *Hot Paychecks* (1987), *Brooklyn – Gusinje* (1988), *Oldtimer* (1989), *Black and White* (1990) and other). These films received many awards at television festivals, both nationally and abroad.

By the end of the eighties, Žilnik was making films through a cooperative production structure of television and cinema, all of them foreshadowing the growing tensions and looming political and social changes that were to affect the country: *Second Generation* (1984), *Pretty Women Walking through the City* (1985) and *The Way Steel Was Tempered* (1988).

Turning to independent film and media production in the nineties, he went on to make a series of feature and documentary films centring around the cataclysmic events in the Balkans (*Tito among the Serbs for the Second Time* (1994), *Marble Ass* (1995), *Throwing off the Yolks of Bondage* (1997), *Wanderlust*

(1998). These films won top awards at national festivals (in Herceg Novi, Palić, Novi Sad and Sopot) and were screened at numerous international festivals. In 1995 *Marble Ass* won the prestigious ‘Teddy Award’ at the Berlinale.

The breakdown of the system of values in post-transitional Central and Eastern European countries and the problems concerning refugees and migration in the new circumstances of an extended Europe became the focus of Žilnik’s most recent films: *Fortress Europe* (2000), *Kenedi Goes Back Home* (2003), *Kenedi, Lost and Found* (2005), *Europe Next Door* (2005), *Soap in Danube Opera* (2006), *Kenedi is Getting Married* (2007), *Old School of Capitalism* (2009), *One Woman - One Century* (2011), *Pirika on Film* (2013), *Logbook Serbistan* (2015) and *The Most Beautiful Country in the World* (2018).

Recently, Žilnik has been the subject of major career retrospectives at Cinemateca Argentina, 2018; Mar del Plata Int. Film Festival, 2017; Anthology Film Archive, New York & Harvard Film Archive, 2017; Ankara Int. Film Festival, 2016; DocLisboa, 2015; Arsenal, Berlin, 2015; Int. Film Festival, St. Petersburg, 2015; Cinusp, Sao Paulo, 2014; Thessaloniki Int. Film Festival, 2014, etc.

Since 2010, his work has been featured in programs of art galleries, museums and art institutes around the world: Documenta, Kassel, Germany; Sharjah Biennial, UAE; Venice Biennale, Italy; ICA London & Nottingham Contemporary, UK; National Gallery of Art, Washington DC, USA; Museum Moderner Kunst, MUMOK, Wien, Austria; Museu d’Art Contemporani de Barcelona, MACBA, Spain; Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Museo Universitario Arte Contemporaneo, Mexico City, Mexico, etc.

Alongside his ceaseless filmmaking and production work, Žilnik has been active in educational areas, as well: since 1997 he has been a mentor and executive producer in many international workshops for students from all over South Eastern Europe. Since 2006 he has been a visiting lecturer at film schools at universities in USA, Slovenia and UK.

www.zilnikzelimir.net



TRIBUTE

ŽŽŽ (JOURNAL ABOUT ŽELIMIR ŽILNIK) Documentary

Screenplay & Directed by: Janko Baljak
Cinematography by: Jovan Milinov
Film editing: Aleksandra Milovanovic
Music: Predrag Vranešević
Producer: Sinisa Bokan
Production: Arbos, Novi Sad

(Serbia, 90 min, 2021)

A road movie documentary through half-a-century of filmmaking by Želimir Žilnik, *Journal about Želimir Žilnik* is also a journey through the history of Yugoslavia, a country that no longer exists. With the specific style of docudrama that he built over the course of his work, Žilnik managed to remain engaged, brave and above all free by making low-budget films for decades. We follow the efforts of his team to finish the film *Freedom or Comics*, which was seized by censors fifty years ago and was recently discovered. This is the story of the uninterrupted struggle of disenfranchised social and minority groups, who are always the main heroes of Žilnik's films.





SPECIAL PREMIERE

THORN Documentary

Directed by: Stole Angelov & Nikola Pijanmanov

Cinematography & Film editing: Stole Angelov

Screenplay by: Nikola Pijanmanov

Sound designer: Stavro Angelakov

Music: Chista okolina, Daktili, Stavro Angelakov

Artistic collaborator: Dejan Angelov

Starring: Stojan Trn Velkov, Sashe Urdovski, Dejan Angelov, Vase Velkov, Isidora Velkova

Producer: Tranzen, Strumica

(RN Macedonia, 48 min, 2022)

The documentary *Thorn* is dedicated to the actor, civil fighter and activist Stojan Velkov Thorn. The film covers several stages of his life, but the most important is the psychological intersection of his inner world, a spiritual struggle that in one part will turn into a relentless struggle with the general evil. The film is divided into five parts: Earth, Silence, Theatre, Rebellion and Home.

Thorn is a man whose life and art overlap in an ideal synthesis. There is nothing contradictory in his wild and unbridled nature to save the world from ecological and moral catastrophe. He does it through art and life. He is a man who always tells the truth, but also an actor who questions that truth and the possibilities of the human freedom to choose good or evil. In the part "Theatre", Thorn prepares himself for his biggest role, the role of Lucifer in the George Gordon Byron's play "Cain". Here, he is an embodiment of the primordial evil that explores the possibilities of its effects on humans. On the stage, Thorn raises the most important questions - Is there a God and why is man left alone to deal with the hardships of existence? Why did Cain kill his brother in the sunrise of mankind? Can the devil ever



repent and return to good? Can the truth win in the end?

The theatre is a field in which truth and falsehood, good and evil, the devil and God collide. In the “Silence” section, he stands alone among the indifferent crowd in the town square and with a sealed mouth and silence he protests against the cruel capitalism that wants to open a deadly mine on the most fertile land (where he lives). Thorn is a pillar of the movement that fights the threats of the deadly investment in Strumica valley.

In the “Rebellion” section, Thorn stands as a leader of open-minded people protesting against insidious partisanship and corruption in the sector of culture. “Departization of Culture” is the motto that leads him in the uncompromising struggle with the system and the dysfunctional Ministry of Culture. In the parts “Earth” and “Home”, he is completely immersed in the root of his nature and life. A man of nature who wants to understand and transmit the laws of nature and the purity of the earth to his children and family. A fighter who creates overhaul he stands for the platforms of the ecological revolution with his own hands. He is the very example of the idea! His home is an oasis, a space of humility, fire and plentiful light that gives meaning to his daily struggle with the world that looks like a big theatre stage. He will say in a monologue - Do not enter into a fight if you are not ready to lose everything!

The film “Thorn” is a document about a man who does not give up, a man who makes art from his life and a new life from art.





Mimi Gjorgoska-Ilievska, M.A.

An expert of audiovisual heritage protection, university professor, senior film archivist, film researcher and film professional actively been involved in the film industry and in the field of audiovisual heritage preservation for more than 20 years. Current she holds an advisory/ councillor position in the Directorate for Protection of Cultural Heritage within the Ministry of Culture. She is also an Associate professor of Audiovisual Archiving at FDU (Faculty for Dramatic Art) in Skopje. She is the author, co-author and editor of numerous publications and articles on film history and theory, curatorship, film and literature relations and protection of audiovisual heritage. She is member of the European Film Academy and recipient of numerous awards at home and abroad.



Vladimir Perović

Born in 1955, Cetinje, Montenegro, graduated in Film & TV Directing from Faculty of Drama Arts, Belgrade, Serbia. He directs creative documentaries. His films were screened at the festivals worldwide and won 60 prizes and awards so far. He works as Editor and Director in Documentary Dpt. of RTV, Novi Sad. Professor of Documentary at Faculty of Drama Arts in Cetinje, Montenegro. He lives in Belgrade, and makes his films both in Serbia and in Montenegro.



Mimoza Reyl, PhD

Professor and director of the Institute of Performing Arts at the “International University Europe Prima” in Skopje. She is a University Professor of Aesthetics in the Audio-Visual Arts, as well as an essayist in the field of art, a columnist, literary, theatre and film critic. She has been a member of several international commissions for evaluating the aesthetic value of short and feature films, as well as for assessment of theatrical performances at prestigious international festivals in Europe.



Stole Angelov

Born in Strumica, Republic of Macedonia. During his student days he started to deal with photography. He has been working professionally as a photographer for 15 years, and with videography and editing for 5 years. He has been part of several national and international exhibitions and several solo exhibitions. He has done numerous successful video projects and co-authored a feature-length documentary. Active participant and supporter of the local independent and cultural scene.

