

## **SRBENKA**

**Nebojša Slijepčević, Croatia / documentary**

original title: **SRBENKA**

year: **2018**

length: **72 min.**

sound: **5.1 / 2.0**

shooting format: **1080P digital**

aspect ratio: **16:9 (1:1.78)**

language: **Croatian**

director and scriptwriter: **Nebojša Slijepčević**

cinematographers: **Nebojša Slijepčević, Bojan Mrđenović**

editor: **Tomislav Stojanović**

sound designer: **Tihomir Vrbaneć**

re-recording mixer: **Ivan Zelić**

additional camera: **Iva Kraljević**

colorist: **Claudiu Doaga**

production managers: **Rea Rajčić, Tibor Keser**

producer: **Vanja Jambrović**

production: **Restart (HR)**

<http://restarted.hr/en/movies.php?recordID=163>

### **trailer**

<https://vimeo.com/255742360>

*financially supported by: **Croatian Audiovisual Centre, Creative Europe - MEDIA (single development), City of Rijeka, City of Zagreb***

*pitched and developed at: **ZagrebDox PRO (HR), Docu Rough Cut Boutique (BA), BDF Goulash (HU)***

### **logline**

In early 90's, a 12-year old Serbian girl was brutally murdered in Zagreb. The perpetrators were soon found but never convicted. A quarter-century later, well known director Oliver Frljić is working on a theatre play about the case. The rehearsals bring out hidden traumas and become collective psychotherapy, and the 12-year old actress Nina feels as if the war had never ended.

## **synopsis**

In the early 90's, the new-born state of Croatia was involved in a military conflict with neighbouring Serbia. Criminals used the chaos of war to harass and rob Serbian civilians living in Croatia.

One of the innocent victims was a girl living in Zagreb, **Aleksandra Zec**. She was brutally murdered, alongside her family who were of Serbian descent. The perpetrators were soon found but because of political pressure no one has ever been convicted for the crime. Quarter-century later, controversial theatre director **Oliver Frljic** is working on a play about the case. The process brings out the hidden traumas, rehearsals become a collective psychotherapy, and the 12-year old actress Nina feels as if the war had never ended. When director asks her to profess as Serbian in front of the audience, Nina is terrified, and does not know what to do.

## **awards**

**DOC ALLIANCE SELECTION AWARD 2018**

**EUROPEAN FILM AWARD 2018 - EFA SELECTION 2018**

**STATE AWARD VLADMIR NAZOR FOR THE BEST FILM IN 2018**

VISIONS DU REEL 2018, Nyon, CH - **Buyences-Chagoll Award (ex aequo)**

MOTOVUN FILM FESTIVAL 2018, Motovun, HR - **special mention**

SARAJEVO FILM FESTIVAL 2018, Sarajevo, BA - **heart of Sarajevo for best documentary**

SARAJEVO FILM FESTIVAL 2018, Sarajevo, BA - **audience award in documentary program**

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL SIGNES DE NUIT 2018, Paris, FR – **'signs' award (ex aequo)**

ASTRA FILM FESTIVAL 2018, Sibiu, RO - **best director (central & eastern Europe)**

FESTIVAL DEI POPOLI 2018, Florence, IT – **'the gaze of the other' award**

VERZIO 2018, Budapest, HU - **human rights film award**

FREE ZONE 2018, Belgrade, RS - **special mention (regional competition)**

FESTIVAL TRANSCINEMA 2018, Lima, PE - **special jury mention**

ZEICHEN DER NACHT 2019, Berlin, DE - **main award**

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL SIGNS OF THE NIGHT 2019, Bangkok, TH – **'signs' award**

CROSSING EUROPE 2019, Linz, AT - **special jury mention**

MILLENNIUM DOCS AGAINST GRAVITY 2019, Warsaw, Gdynia, Wroclaw, Bydgoszcz, Lublin, PL - **amnesty international award**

MILLENNIUM DOCS AGAINST GRAVITY 2019, Warsaw, Gdynia, Wroclaw, Bydgoszcz, Lublin, PL - **special jury mention at bydgoszcz**

UNDERHILLFEST 2019, Podgorica, ME - **dandellion award for the best film (regional competition)**

ПОБЕДИЛИ ВМЕСТЕ / WON TOGETHER DOC & TV FILM FESTIVAL 2019, Sevastopol, Krimea - **best documentary film**

CROATIAN FILM DAYS 2019, Zagreb, HR - **grand prix**

CROATIAN FILM DAYS 2019, Zagreb, HR - **best editing (Tomislav Stojanović)**

CROATIAN FILM DAYS 2019, Zagreb, HR - **oktavijan award for the best documentary film**

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL KRANJSKA GORA 2019, Kranjska Gora, SI - **special jury mention**

## **festivals**

VISIONS DU REEL 2018, Nyon, CH - international competition / **world premiere**  
FID MARSEILLE 2018, Marseille, FR - program 'doc alliance 2018'  
MOTOVUN FILM FESTIVAL 2018, Motovun, HR - competition  
SARAJEVO FILM FESTIVAL 2018, Sarajevo, BA – documentary competition  
LIBURNIA FILM FESTIVAL 2018, Opatija, HR - program 'films produced by restart'  
NANCY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2018, Nancy, FR - competition  
PRESS FILM FESTIVAL 2018, Hrvatska Kostajnica, HR - main program  
DMZ INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL 2018, Goyang, KR - program 'DMZ vision'  
FOUR RIVER FILM FESTIVAL 2018, Karlovac, HR - **opening film**  
CINEAST 2018, Luxemburg, LU - program 'cinedocs'  
DOKUART 2018, Bjelovar, HR - competition  
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL SIGNES DE NUIT 2018, Paris, FR - documentary competition  
CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2018, Chicago, US - documentary competition  
ASTRA FILM FESTIVAL 2018, Sibiu, RO - competition (central & eastern Europe)  
DOCLISBOA 2018, Lisboa, PT - program 'heart beat'  
JIHLAVA INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL 2018, Jihlava, CZ - program 'doc alliance selection'  
DOK LEIPZIG 2018, Leipzig, DE - international programme / nominated for MDR filmprize  
FESTIVAL DEI POPOLI 2018, Florence, IT - international competition  
VERZIO 2018, Budapest, HU - human rights competition  
FREE ZONE 2018, Belgrade, RS - regional competition  
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF DOCUMENTARY AND SHORT FILM OF BILBAO -  
ZINEBI 2018, Bilbao, ES - program 'beautiful docs'  
MONTRÉAL INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL 2018, Montreal, CA - program 'artifice'  
INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL AMSTERDAM - IDFA 2018, Amsterdam, NL - program 'best of fests'  
MARRAKECH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2018, Marrakech, MA - program 'the 11th continent'  
HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL ZURICH 2018, Zurich, CH - official selection  
FESTIVAL TRANSCINEMA 2018, Lima, PE - documentary competition  
ZEICHEN DER NACHT 2019, Berlin, DE - documentary competition  
TRIESTE FILM FESTIVAL 2019, Trieste, IT - documentary / out of competition  
GOTHENBORG FILM FESTIVAL 2019, Gothenborg, SE - official selection  
ZAGREBDOX 2019, Zagreb, HR - author's night  
AMBULANTE DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL 2019, travelling festival, MX  
ONE WORLD ROMANIA 2019, Bucharest, RO - competition  
FICLO - CINEMA AND LITERATURE FESTIVAL OF OLHAO 2019, Olhao, PT - competition  
FESTIVAL OF TOLERANCE - JFF, 2019, Zagreb, HR - program "masterclass"  
BOSNIAN FILM FESTIVAL 2019, New York, US - out of competition  
CROSSING EUROPE 2019, Linz, AT - competition  
BALKAN TRAFIK@ BOZAR 2019, Brussels, BE - film program  
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL SIGNS OF THE NIGHT 2019, Bangkok, TH - documentary competition  
SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL - SEefest 2019, Los Angeles, US - documentary competition  
ENCUENTROS DEL OTRO CINE - EDOC 2019, Quito, Guayaguil, EC - program 'escenarios de guerra'

MILLENNIUM DOCS AGAINST GRAVITY 2019, Warsaw, Gdynia, Wroclaw, Bydgoszcz, Lublin, PL - competition  
 ПОБЕДИЛИ ВМЕСТЕ / WON TOGETHER DOC & TV FILM FESTIVAL 2019, Sevastopol, Krimea - international competition  
 UNDERHILLFEST 2019, Podgorica, ME - regional competition  
 ART FILM FEST 2019, Košice, SK  
 CROATIAN FILM DAYS 2019, Zagreb, HR - documentary competition  
 SHPEENADOX 2019, Labin, HR - main program  
 INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL KRANJSKA GORA 2019, Kranjska Gora, SI - documentary competition  
 AJB DOC - ALJAZEERA BALKANS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL 2019, Sarajevo, BA - program 'last minute cinema'  
 NUREMBERG HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL 2019, Nuremberg, DE - competition  
 BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA LOOKS AROUND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2019, Bottrop, DE

#### **director's statement**

'Srbenka' examines how the generation born after the Yugoslavian wars copes with the dark shadows of history. Although the bloody skirmishes ended 20-something years ago, for many Croats the noun 'Serb' is still the synonym for 'the enemy'. This is a huge issue knowing that five percent of Croatian citizens are of Serbian ethnicity. Because of this, many thousands of children of Serbian origin hide their nationality, afraid of the reaction of their Croatian peers. 'Srbenka' tells their story.

#### **about author**

Nebojša Slijepčević has directed numerous creative documentaries ('Srbenka', 'Gangster of Love', 'Something about Life', 'Real Man's Film', 'In 4 Years', 'Of Cows and People'...). His films have been awarded at many international festivals, including four awards at Sarajevo Film Festival. For his TV documentaries he has been three times nominated for Prix Europa Award. His latest documentary feature, 'Srbenka', was shortlisted for European Film Awards. In 2019, Nebojša has won The Vladimir Nazor Award, an annual award given by the Croatian Ministry of Culture to Croatian artists for highest achievements in film. Nebojša is mentor and lecturer at School of Documentary Film in Zagreb.

#### **selected filmography (2020)**

2000 – OF COWS AND PEOPLE, short documentary (Factum)  
 2007 – IN 4 YEARS, short documentary (Fade In)  
 2011 – DOG / RABBIT, short animation (Zagreb Film)  
 2012 – REAL MAN'S FILM, short documentary (Restart)  
 2013 – BOXED, short fiction (15<sup>th</sup> Art)  
 2013 – GANGSTER OF LOVE, feature documentary (Restart, Kloos & Co, ZDF/ARTE, Sub-Cultura, Fade In)  
 2015 – JUSTICE, short documentary (Croatian Radiotelevision – HRT)  
 2016. – SOMETHING ABOUT LIFE, short documentary (Restart)  
 2017. – DEAR NEIGHBORS, short documentary (Croatian Radiotelevision – HRT)  
 2018. – SRBENKA, feature documentary (Restart)

**producer's contact**

**RESTART**

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**distributor (world)**

**Restart Label**