



Sarajevo Film Festival
15-23/August/2014

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Competition Programme - Feature Film

Competition Programme - Short Film

In Focus

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Sarajevo Film Festival

Z. beretki 12/I, Sarajevo, Bosna i Hercegovina

Tel: + 387 33 209 411; 263 380

Fax: + 387 33 263 381

press@sff.ba

SARAJEVO FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS

COMPETITION PROGRAMME – FEATURE FILM

- **HEART OF SARAJEVO FOR BEST FILM - 26.000 €**
- **SPECIAL JURY AWARD - 10.000 €**
- **HEART OF SARAJEVO FOR BEST ACTRESS - 2.500 €**
- **HEART OF SARAJEVO FOR BEST ACTOR - 2.500 €**
- **CICAE AWARD
(ASSISTANCE IN DISTRIBUTION OF THE WINNING FILM IN CINEMAS IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN EUROPE)**
- **CINEURORA AWARD
(PROMOTION AT THE CINEUROPA.ORG PORTAL DURING THE PERIOD OF ONE MONTH)**

COMPETITION PROGRAMME – SHORT FILM

- **HEART OF SARAJEVO FOR BEST FILM - 2.500 €**
- **TWO SPECIAL JURY MENTIONS**
- **SHORT FILM NOMINEE SARAJEVO FOR THE EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS 2014
(THE AWARD IS A DIRECT NOMINATION FOR THE EUROPEAN FILM ACADEMY AWARD FOR BEST SHORT FILM)**

COMPETITION PROGRAMME – FEATURE FILM 2014

ONE NEW WORLD

The Competition Programme of the 20th Sarajevo Film Festival presents nine films, two Gala Screenings and two Out of Competition films. The Programme will open with MOSTOVI SARAJEVA / BRIDGES OF SARAJEVO, comprising 13 short films by distinguished European authors (Aida Begić, Leonardo Di Costanza, Jean-Luc Godard, Kamen Kalev, Isild Le Besco, Sergei Loznitsa, Vincenzo Marra, Ursula Meier, Vladimir Perišić, Cristi Puiu, Marc Recha, Angela Schanelec and Teresa Villaverde), including as many as four from our region. It is a mosaic of artistic views critically reflecting on the different universal themes that Sarajevo itself symbolises. The second gala is FEHÉR ISTEN / WHITE GOD by the Hungarian director Kornél Mundruczó. Just like the BRIDGES OF SARAJEVO, it premiered at Cannes, where it won the Best Film award at *Un certain regard*. It is a story about a 13-year old girl whose separation from her pet dog brings about a dog rebellion against humankind. From a naïve teenager movie Mundruczó takes us to a violent revenge film, aiming at showing us how hatred breeds nothing but hatred, but leaving us a glimmer of hope and reconciliation at the very end. The English title is a direct allusion to the 1982 Samuel Fuller film WHITE DOG, which speaks about racism through a similar conflict between man and his alleged best friend. The two Out of Competition films A QUINTET and JEDNAKI / EQUALS, both comprising inspiring and ambitious shorts, will be shown as part our program as world premieres.

The official selection is based on the same premise – that film is not merely an image, but rather a series of images which create their own micro-universe of critical dispositions towards the world we live in and from which the authors draw their stories.

Out of nine titles competing for the Heart of Sarajevo, five are debuts. ME VAR BESO / I AM BESO by the Georgian director Lasha Tskvitinidze, is a story about growing up in a Georgian backwater town, torn between the modern and the traditional, in the cruelty and decadence of transition. Beso is a boy in a dysfunctional family, with an alcoholic father whose passive aggression is endured by the boy, the mother and the older brother who is gay, which is utterly unacceptable in provincial Georgia. Throughout the film, Beso must make his own decisions and re-examine the attitudes of his surroundings. In VIHARSAROK / A LAND OF STORMS, the debutant Ádám Császi deals more directly with the issue of homosexuality in rural Hungary. This sensual film with an equal measure of tenderness and sorrow, speaks about uncovering and accepting sexuality in a brutal and non-sentimental way. A young football player returns to his dilapidated home in a Hungarian village, falls for a neighbour who helps him repair the house, and their relationship leads to an escalation of hatred of their neighbours. The film is highly atmospheric and the author puts the landscape and the naturalism of the two lead actors against the scenes of a summer storm, approaching this isolated place and becoming a metaphor for what is about to happen. The second Georgian competition entry is PATARDZLEBI / BRIDES, directed by Tinatin Kajrishvili. Another debut, this film brings the story of a woman in her 30s whose partner is serving a 10-year prison sentence, and shows the obstacles she must overcome in order to see him. The story is intense and powerful, and yet never melodramatic, with an impression of total authenticity (Kajrishvili developed the script with her husband David Chubinishvili, since the story is based on their own prison experiences). MACONDO, directed by Sudابه Mortezaei, brings a story about the other side of Austrian society, about refugees and their struggle to adapt to an alien society. The director – and this is her first feature – focuses on an 11-year old boy and uses his vantage point to show non-adaptation as a feeling shared by all those who have been violently torn out of their environments. This social drama, by a director who has previously worked on documentaries only, does not shy away from showing emotions and it is very intuitive and yet accessible to the audience. KLAMA DAYIKA MIN / SONG OF MY MOTHER, a debut feature by Turkish filmmaker Erol Mintaş, brings an emotional story about a relationship between a son and a mother, who is in a constant search for a lost song but in fact she is longing for return to her homeland from which she has been taken away from. In a nostalgic but precise manner the film focuses on the issue of Kurds in Turkey, but generally on the problem of belonging and identity.

The Greek film A BLAST, Syllas Tzoumerkas's second feature, is a tragic story about revenge told through bits of the present interlinked with remote and distant past, creating a devastating picture of contemporary Greece. Maria, the anti-hero, lives with her family, and this seemingly average Greek

household hides lies and debt and hypocrisy, which can only be uncovered by a major blast. Andrea Štaka returns to the Competition Programme with her second feature CURE – ŽIVOT DRUGE / CURE - THE LIFE OF ANOTHER. The film is successfully opposing the real and the imaginary, the rational and the irrational, and tells the story of an episode in the life of a teenage girl going from Switzerland to wartime Dubrovnik. This is a story about discovering identity but also about not fitting in and belonging. In addition to Štaka, the Programme has another Sarajevo Film Festival laureate, Isa Qosja, who is back in Sarajevo with TRI DRITARE DHE NJË VARJE / THREE WINDOWS AND A HANGING. This film, situated in the Kosovo countryside, explores tradition and the issue of pride when confronting the truth. After a woman speaks out about being raped during the war and not being the only one, men rebel as they would prefer to forget this unfortunate wartime episode, rather than having their faces shamed by the fact that their women were raped. The film speaks brutally about the men-women relationship, about truth and the way it is relativized in the modern world.

A leading contemporary artist and director Kutluğ Ataman joins the competition with his film KUZU / THE LAMB, a story about children. The world of children Ataman shows is more amusing than the world of grownups, but sometimes more horrific, in this family drama situated in the Turkish countryside. This film also puts the contemporary world against the traditional one, which still treasures the important role of the wife and mother, who undergoes emancipation through the film.

This year's selection brings films which create their own new worlds and thus point bravely at the problems of our times. These films do not offer final answers to any of the problems they tackle, but rather they open the spaces for reflexion and discussion. These films call for a dialogue.

**Elma Tataragić
Programmer**

COMPETITION PROGRAMME – FEATURE FILM 2014

WORLD PREMIERES

I AM BESO / ME VAR BESO

Georgia, 2014, Colour, 89 min.

Director and screenplay: Lasha Tskvitinidze

Cast: Tsotne Barbakadze, Soso Tarkashvili

FIRST FEATURE

Beso is a 14 years old kid from a remote village of in Georgia. He is growing up in a poor family with a disabled father, a mother who is a primary breadwinner for the family bread maker that and earns money by trade, and a homosexual brother Leri who gives private dance lessons in order to help his family financially his family. His problems are not only limited by the complex social situation but also a tense relationship with his classmates who constantly try to humiliate him and take his money. As a way to escape the harsh reality, Beso writes rap songs and records himself on a tape recorder dreaming that one day he will be a successful rapper, make a lot of money and in that way overcome all the family problems. When his brother Leri suddenly runs away from home, Beso becomes the only man in the family, forcing him to step out of his childhood innocence.

SONG OF MY MOTHER / KLAMA DAYIKA MIN

Turkey, France, Germany, 2014, Colour, 103 min.

Director and screenplay: Erol Mintas

Cast: Feyyaz Duman, Zubeyde Ronahi, Nesrin Cavadzade

FIRST FEATURE

Young teacher Ali lives with his aging mother Nigar in Istanbul's Tarlabası district; home to many Kurdish immigrants since the 90's. When the ongoing gentrification of the old city forces them to move for a second time, they end up in the soulless concrete desert of the city's furthest outskirts. Nigar is convinced that her old neighbours have all moved back to their village in Eastern Turkey. Every morning she packs her belongings and sets out to return to her village. She roams the city, in search of her village and in search of the song that keeps returning in her dreams. All Ali can do is be kind to her; he buys her gifts, feeds her sweets, takes her on motorcycle rides and tries to help his mother find that song. Meanwhile Ali discovers that his girlfriend is pregnant and that he is not ready to become a father. Torn between the two women in his life, Ali has to choose his own path.

THREE WINDOWS AND A HANGING / TRI DRITARE DHE NJË VARJE

Kosovo*, 2014, Colour, 93 min.

Director: Isa Qosja

Screenplay: Zymber Kelmendi

Cast: Irena Cahani, Luan Jaha, Donat Qosja, Aurita Agushi, Leonora Mehmetaj, Orik Morina, Xhevat Qorraj

In a traditional village in Kosova, a year after the war when people are rebuilding their lives, the female school teacher Lushe is driven by her inner conscience to give an interview to an international journalist, telling her that she and three other women from the village were raped by Serbian forces. As soon as the village men realize that it was Lushe who spoke to the journalist, they start a hate campaign against Lushe and her little boy, asking her to leave the village. An insightful portrait of a Balkan village, of a patriarchal microcosm, and of its mayor who desperately wants to control the village life. A reflection of rituals which not only show gender inequality, but also the absence of freedom of expression within the male community.

* This label does not prejudge the status of Kosovo and is in accordance with Resolution 1244 and the opinion of the ICJ on Kosovo's declaration of independence

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

CURE - ŽIVOT DRUGE / CURE - THE LIFE OF ANOTHER

Switzerland, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2014, Colour, 83 min.

Director: **Andrea Štaka**

Screenplay: **Andrea Štaka, Thomas Imbach, Marie Kreutzer**

Cast: **Sylvie Marinković, Lucia Radulović, Mirjana Karanović, Marija Škaričić, Leon Lučev, Franjo Dijak**

1993: after the Siege of Dubrovnik. 14-year-old Linda has moved back to Croatia from Switzerland with her father. Her new best friend Eta takes her up to the forbidden forest above the city. The two girls become entangled in an obsessive, sexually charged game of swapping identities that leads to a fatal fall. The following morning Linda comes back alone; slowly she begins to take Eta's place in her family. Ivo, Eta's boyfriend, is drawn in as well. In troubled times dominated by women and the losses they have suffered in the war, Linda faces the danger of losing her footing, of becoming entrapped in another world on the edge, a world in which Eta keeps coming back to confront her with herself.

REGIONAL PREMIERES

A BLAST

Greece, 2014, Colour, 83 min.

Director: **Syllas Tzoumerkas**

Screenplay: **Syllas Tzoumerkas, Youla Boudali**

Cast: **Angeliki Papoulia, Vassilis Doganis, Maria Filini, Themis Bazaka, Yorgos Biniaris**

Maria is running away on the highway. She is alone in her roaring SUV. Behind her, fire and a case full of money. In front of her, the hopeless vastness of the motorway. Only a day before she was a caring mother, a loving wife, a responsible daughter. Today she has gone rogue: she is determined to sweep away everything she has ever cared for. Maria's tragic tale of ascent to redemption is narrated through bits of the present that become tangibly interwoven with fragments of the past, creating a dazzling and devastating mural of contemporary Greece. Behind the eternal reign of her average Greek family, lie only wrongly asserted sexuality, lies and debts, which can only be exposed by a blast.

BRIDES / PATARDZLEBI

Georgia, France, 2014, Colour, 93 min.

Director and screenplay: **Tinatin Kajrishvili**

Cast: **Mari Kitia, George Maskharshvili, Natia Niguriani, Ana Grigolia, Nita Kalichava, Levan Kajrishvili, Erekle Tsintsadze**

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|----------------------|
| FIRST FEATURE |
|----------------------|

Seamstress Nutsa marries Goga, the father of her children. The ceremony is brief – both of them just give their signature and then she has to leave. Goga is in prison, where he will remain for another six years. By marrying him, Nutsa gains the right to talk to Goga once a month on the other side of the glass. Her children don't want to accompany her on her next visit: their father has become a stranger to them. One day at work, Nutsa meets another man. They have a conversation and later the man pays her a visit. At that moment, Goga phones with news that there's a change in the prison rules: married inmates are now allowed to have their spouses stay overnight. Nutsa puts on the dress she wore on their first date. But Nutsa and Goga feel awkward with this sudden intimacy.

THE LAMB / KUZU

Turkey, 2014, Colour, 85 min.

Director and screenplay: Kutluğ Ataman

Cast: Nesrin Cavadzade, Cahit Gök, Mert Taştan, Sıla Lara Cantürk, Nursel Kose

A village in the highlands of eastern Anatolia. As is required by age-old tradition, families here celebrate circumcision with a feast. Little Mert is to undergo the procedure but his father İsmail has no money to pay for the feast. Poor but determined, Medine puts the family to work cutting branches to earn something towards the price of the sheep they need. İsmail, Medine's unemployed husband, is worried by his wife's assertive behaviour. Envious of the attention Mert gets, his elder sister Vicdan makes Mert believe that if a sheep is not found he will be slaughtered instead. The village leader finds İsmail a job in the slaughterhouse. Friends there lead İsmail astray, and his weakness makes it even harder to buy the sheep. Medine persists. Mert has his own motivation to search for an animal, with determination that rivals his mother's. Refusing even her grandmother's support Medine receives help and solidarity from an unlikely source.

LAND OF STORMS / VIHARSAROK

Hungary, 2013, Colour, 105 min.

Director: Ádám Császi

Screenplay: Iván Szabó, Ádám Császi

Cast: András Sütő, Ádám Varga, Sebastian Urzendowsky, Enikő Börcsök

FIRST FEATURE

Szabolcs plays in a German football team, as does Bernard. They are roommates, best friends, inseparable. A lost match and an ugly argument make Szabolcs reconsider his life, and he returns to Hungary with hopes of a simpler life. However, his solitude does not last long and soon after his arrival he meets Áron. A mutual attraction develops between the two boys when Szabolcs receives an unexpected phone call from Bernard: he has arrived in Hungary.

MACONDO

Austria, 2014, Colour, 93 min.

Director and screenplay: Sudabeh Mortezaei

Cast: Ramasan Minkailov, Aslan Elbiev, Kheda Gazieva, Rosa Minkailova, Iman Nasuhanowa, Askhab Umaev, Hamsat Nasuhanov, Champascha Sadulajev

FIRST FEATURE

Ramasan has a lot of responsibility for an 11-year-old. In traditional Chechen society, he is now considered the man of the house in charge of his mother and two younger sisters. His world is now centered in Macondo, a tough ethnic neighborhood in the industrial suburbs of Vienna. His mother Aminat is still coping with having lost her husband, fleeing Chechnya and trying to make ends meet as a single mother and foreigner in a new society. Ramasan's confined world is disrupted when Isa, his father's war buddy, moves into the low-income housing complex. This encounter awakens Ramasan's interest in his father. He seeks Isa's company, but the outsider remains secretive about the past. Isa gradually opens up and a bond evolves between them that helps young Ramasan face and overcome his worst fear. Isa could become a new, much more human, father figure than the boy's abstract memory of the war hero at the family altar. But when Aminat begins to warm up to Isa, conflicted Ramasan feels the need to protect the image of his dead father...

OUT OF COMPETITION

WORLD PREMIERES

EQUALS / JEDNAKI

Serbia, 2014, Colour, 104 min.

Directors: Milos Petričić, Mladen Đorđević, Dejan Karaklajić, Ivica Vidanović, Igor Stoimenov, Darko Lungulov

Screenplay: Milica Piletić

Through individual stories of boys and girls being born, growing up and maturing in harsh living and social circumstances, the omnibus EQUALS tells the story of children's rights and the problems that the youngest members of our society have to face. Each story tackles an individual topic and has its own hero.

A QUINTET / KVINTET

Germany, USA, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2014, Colour, 74 min.

Režija / Director: Sanela Salketić, Ariel Shaban, Roberto Cuzzillo, Elie Lamah, Mauro Mueller

A quintet is an omnibus feature told from the perspective of five international up and coming filmmakers who are searching to find identity in the modern world.

The five segments take place in different regions of the world - Germany, the United States, Italy, the Balkans and Turkey - yet they are all, in a smaller or a bigger way, connected to the multicultural center of Berlin - the city where all the filmmakers met each other for the first time.

GALA SCREENINGS

BRIDGES OF SARAJEVO / MOSTOVI SARAJEVA

Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Switzerland, Italy, Portugal, Germany, 2014, Colour, 114 min.

Directors: Aida Begić, Leonardo di Costanzo, Jean-Luc Godard, Kamen Kalev, Isild Le Besco, Sergey Loznitsa, Vincenzo Marra, Ursula Meier, Vladimir Perišić, Cristi Puiu, Marc Recha, Angela Schanelec, Teresa Villaverde

Artistic director: Jean-Michel Frodon

Animated Sequences: François Schuiten i Luis da Matta Almeida

13 European directors explore the theme of Sarajevo; what this city has represented in European history over the past hundred years, and what Sarajevo stands for today in Europe. These eminent filmmakers of different generations and origins offer exceptional singular styles and visions.

WHITE GOD / FEHÉR ISTEN

Hungary, Germany, Sweden, 2014, Colour, 119 min.

Director: Kornel Mundruczó

Screenplay: Kata Wéber, Kornel Mundruczó, Viktória Petrányi

Cast: Zsófia Psotta, Luke and Body, Sándor Zsótér, Szabolcs Thuróczy, Lili Monori, László Gálffi, Lili Horváth

A cautionary tale between a superior species and its disgraced inferior...Favouring pedigree dogs, the new regulation puts a severe tax on mixed breeds. Owners begin to dump their mongrels and shelters quickly become overcrowded. 13-year-old Lili fights desperately to protect her pet Hagen. She cannot accept her father's arguments either, and she is devastated when he eventually sets Hagen free on the streets. Still innocently believing that love can win over any difficulty, Lili sets out to find her dog and save him. Hagen, too, searches desperately to return home to Lili. Struggling to survive, Hagen soon realizes that not everyone is a dog's best friend. Wandering the streets, the former home pet falls into a series of dangerous situations. He must flee dogcatchers; he is exploited by a crafty beggar, and he even becomes the prisoner of a dog fight trainer. Hagen is soon back on the street and joins a pack of stray dogs... Weeks later, Lili begins to accept the fact that she may never be reunited with Hagen. When Hagen is captured and sent to the pound, his future seems more dismal than ever. He and the other dogs will seize an opportunity to escape and revolt against mankind. Their revenge will be merciless...

COMPETITION PROGRAMME – SHORT FILM 2014

TEN STORIES ABOUT FREEDOM

This year's selection of Competition Programme – Short Films presents ten films by young and courageous authors who examine the borders film language and create powerful interpretations of the world around us. Aesthetically, the selection may be divided into two parts: films that rely more on a linear narrative and those of a more liberal narrative form and a more experimental approach to film in general.

The first group includes films that lean towards reality and comment the society and the world itself. From Croatia we have a film by the BiH author Una Gunjak, *KOKOŠKA / CHICKEN*, about a birthday of a little girl in wartime Sarajevo. *UKHILAVI SVIRTSEEBI / INVISIBLE SPACES* by Dea Kulumbegashvili reflects on religion through the patriarchal lifestyle of a family, focusing on a woman and her point of view. *A KIVÉGZÉS / EXECUTION* by Petra Szócs is a Hungarian-Romanian film about violence and how children see and interpret the violence to which they are constantly exposed to in contemporary society. *PROVINCIA* by Georgy Mor Karpati from Hungary, brings a story about Otto, a delivery man, whose truck breaks down and leaves him stranded at an archaeological excavation site, where he spends the day and learns about life. From Montenegro we have *ZAKLONI / SHELTERS* by Ivan Slatić, about the end of a summer in an atmospheric Montenegrin town. The film focuses on the main hero's end of childhood as he discovers love for the first time.

The second group of films offers an interpretation of the world, though more freely and more subjectively, with no full reference to the objective reality. *VIŠAK VJETRA / A SURPLUS OF WIND* by Bosnian filmmakers Dane Komljen, is a film about twin brothers living on the opposite ends of Europe (one in the west and the other in the east). It is a film about solitude and alienation, and about the little things that give meaning to life. *OLOVNO SARCE / THE HEART OF LEAD* by the Bulgarian director Slava Doytcheva deals with irrational fears of the heroine and her struggle to overcome them. *TO NANOURISMA TIS PETALLOUDAS / A LULLABY FOR A BUTTERFLY* by the Cypriot director Tonia Mishaili uses a disrupted narrative to speak about the end of love and the void it leaves behind. *MANJAČA*, by the Croatian director Tin Žanić, is about a contemporary understanding of life, where numbness is the main ingredient, and about the transience of life on the other side. *SONUNCU / POSLJEDNJI*, by the Azerbaijani director Sergey Pikalov, also speaks about old age through an abstract story about a last living World War II veteran.

This year's selection shows a high level of regional short film production, confirmed by the fact that films from the region have marked festivals such as Cannes, Berlin and Locarno. All the films have important stories, powerful heroes and an authorial seal of their own.

**Elma Tataragić
Programmer**

COMPETITION PROGRAMME – SHORT FILM 2014

WORLD PREMIERES

MANJAČA

Croatia, 2014, Colour, 23 min.

Director and screenplay: Tin Žanić

Cast: Matija Ferlin, Vjenceslav Kapural, Roberta Milevoj

MANJAČA is a film about a young man who decides to take life in his own hands for the first time. Trying to distance himself from his old life, he takes the plunge and moves in with his grandfather.

SHELTERS / ZAKLONI

Montenegro, 2014, Colour, 24 min.

Director and screenplay: Ivan Salatić

Cast: Luka Petrone, Jana Radan, Branka Knežević, Jelena Đokić, Miloš Kaščelan, Petar Pejaković

Luka moves to a small coastal town to live with his aunt while his parents are in the middle of a divorce. A sense of numbness might be hanging over the town, but there is also Jana, a girl from the neighbourhood who loves to sunbath. The end of a lazy summer is near and kids spend their days jumping into the sea and swimming at an abandoned submarine port. When you are a kid, you don't realize when your childhood is ending.

THE LULLABY OF THE BUTTERFLY / TO NANOURISMA TIS PETALLOUDAS

Cyprus, 2014, Colour, 20 min.

Director and screenplay: Tonia Mishiali

Cast: Alexia Charalambidou, Yiannis Kokkinos, Andreas Tselepos, Fivos Georgiades, Demas Demosthenous

A woman receives a mysterious call from someone who gives her a piece of information. That same night, she has trouble sleeping, buried in deep thoughts. Early in the morning the next day, she receives a text message, which prompts her to leave the house with a suitcase and a knife in hand. She drives all day to finally arrive at her destination. It is now dark and she is sitting in her car, in the middle of nowhere, waiting for something. But nobody seems to know what she is up to.

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERES

HEART OF LEAD / OLOVNO SARCE

Bulgaria, United Kingdom, 2014, Colour, 21 min.

Director and screenplay: Slava Doytcheva

Cast: Anjela Nedyalkova

An ancient Turkish ritual, a battered Bulgarian night train, a desolated Italian town and a vast beach by the ocean in Britain are all united by one young woman and her crippling fears.

REGIONAL PREMIERES

THE CHICKEN / KOKOŠKA

Germany, Croatia, 2014, Colour, 15 min.

Director and screenplay: Una Gunjak

Cast: Iman Alibalić, Esmā Alić, Mirela Lambić, Mario Knezović

As a present for her 6th birthday, Selma gets a live chicken. When she realises the animal is going to be killed to feed the family, she decides to save it and set it free, unaware of the high stakes such action will lead to. While trying to bring back the missing chicken, Selma's mum becomes the target of a sniper shoot. It's Sarajevo, year running 1993.

THE EXECUTION / A KIVÉGZÉS

Hungary, Romania, 2014, Colour, 14 min.

Director: Petra Szőcs

Screenplay: Gergő Nagy V., Petra Szőcs

Cast: Katalin Moldován, Zalán Ilyés, Tamás Fosztó, András Dancsuly, Liliana Derevici, Hilda Péter, Áron Dimény

Three children re-enact Ceausescu's execution, while their parents have a real fight. Who will be the victim?

INVISIBLE SPACES / UKHILAVI SIVRTSEEBI

Georgia, 2014, Colour, 10 min.

Director and screenplay: Dea Kulumbegashvili

Cast: Nino Shengelaia, Mariam Dzidzikashvili, Rati Oneli

A mother in a Georgian Orthodox household asks her husband, a priest, for an allowance to work outside her daily household duties. After a resounding rejection, she becomes exasperated with her entrapment to God and the family. In a moment of weakness she directs her frustration at her innocent daughter, only to deteriorate into her pity and regret, as she lies crying in solitude.

THE LAST ONE / SONUNCU

Azerbaijan, 2013, Colour, 15 min.

Director and screenplay: Sergey Pikalov

Cast: Idris Rustamov, George Kafarov

THE LAST ONE is a short film about the last living World War II veteran. The old man had outlived everyone. His friends, his wife, his children... But he wasn't lonely. Every evening, he went to bed expecting to die. Every morning when he woke up, he would shuffle to the fridge. It wasn't that good a companion – it would wheeze and shudder, then suddenly fall silent in mid-sentence, which really annoyed the old man - but for him, it was family. That day started as usual. The old man woke up alive, and headed to the terrace. But this time, the fridge was dead.

PROVINCIA

Hungary, 2014, Colour, 21 min.

Director and screenplay: Gyorgy Mor Karpati

Cast: Akos Orosz, Hermina Fatyol

Otto works as a conveyor for a food store in Budapest. When his van breaks down during a countryside delivery, he finds himself on an archeological excavation site. Otto spends one day on the excavation.

A SURPLUS OF WIND / VIŠAK VJETRA

France / Bosnia and Herzegovina / Serbia, 2014, Colour, 25 min.

Director and screenplay: Dane Komljen

Cast: Boban Kaluđer, Dejan Kaluđer

Two men - one in the West, one in the East, brothers. In both places, life is muted, solitary, nondescript. Here, windows are painted, switches rewired and cigarettes smoked; there, lengths swum, boxing matches prepared for, transactions made. What is it that links these things? Winter swimming pools, the sound of a bell, a bullet passing through bone? A letter can feel like a dream, the echoes it casts of Japanese businessmen, water droplets flying through the air and turtles scuttling on the shoreline, all held together by birdsong. Yet what happens when the fire burns, the images start to disintegrate and you can no longer dream?

IN FOCUS

For years now, the *In Focus* programme has been an important sidebar programme of the Sarajevo Film Festival, inextricably linked to the Competition Programme. While the Competition Programme brings new films, new tendencies and new names, the In Focus selection brings a short annual review of regional film productions. This year again, it is a dynamic and versatile selection of seven films that have taken important steps from Venice last year until today and thus marked this film year.

The programme brings two debuts: the Bulgarian OTCHUZHDENIE / ALIENATION by Milko Lazarov, which premiered at the Venice Film Festival 2013, and NEPOSLUŠNI / THE DISOBEDIENT by the Serbian director Mina Đukić, which debuted at the Sundance Film Festival. ALIENATION is a story about a man who travels from Greece to Bulgaria to buy an unborn child from its pregnant mother and takes her and a midwife to an isolated house for the delivery to happen there. In terms of dialogue, the film is reduced to the moments when the characters really can speak, and the director communicates through powerful acting and landscapes. The story of the THE DISOBEDIENT is also located in a desolate landscape, this time in Vojvodina, and it follows two young persons who meet again and embark on an endless wandering, looking for excitement. The film is a story about growing up belatedly, but also about the freedom to choose the lifestyle that may be different from what the society imposes on us.

The Greek film MISS VIOLENCE by Alexandros Avranas is a gloomy family drama that starts with the suicide of a 11 year-old girl who jumps off the balcony of the family home. The film uncovers an unimaginable web of sexual abuse in the family, led by the father. Filmed in the now recognisable style of the Greek absurd, this film was shown in the official selection of last year's Venice IFF, where it took as many as four awards (Best Director, Best Actor, Best Euro-Mediterranean Film, and Young Cinema Award for Best Film).

The Turkish film BEN O DEĞİLİM / I AM NOT HIM by Tayfun Pirselimoglu is clearly reminiscent of Hitchcock's Vertigo, and it follows a lonely 50 year-old man who starts a love affair with a mysterious colleague and then, step by step, takes over the identity of her incarcerated husband. The film was shown to great acclaim at numerous festivals, including last year's Rome IFF, where it won the Best Script Award. In the Georgian film SHEMTKHVEVITI PAEMNEBI / BLIND DATES by Levan Koguashvili, Sandro, a high-school teacher in his 50s still lives with his parents, who nag him for still being single. His friend Iva persuades him to go on a double blind date. This film speaks about love and the unpredictability of life, with a comical twist. The film premiered in Toronto and was shown in the Forum programme of this year's Berlinale.

Jessica Hausner presents her latest work, AMOUR FOU, which was screened to great success at this year's *Un certain regard* selection of the Cannes Festival. In the spirit of bio-pics that marked this year, AMOUR FOU is a story about the double suicide of Heinrich von Kleist and Henrietta Vogel. This layered portrait brings a brutal love story that manages to escape melodramatic sentimentality, creating a mature work of film.

And finally, there is the Turkish film KİŞİ UYKUSU / WINTER SLEEP by Nuri Bilge Ceylan, which won the Palme d'or at this year's Cannes Festival. This is yet another masterpiece by Ceylan, a story about a retired rich actor who runs a small pension in Anatolia, together with his wife. An insignificant event will change forever the relationships between the characters and shake up the seemingly perfect life of the main character. In fact, they will all wake up from their winter sleep and take a look at the world around them.

With these seven carefully selected films, the In Focus programme shows the maturity, the versatility and the vitality of the film productions of the region today.

Elma Tataragić
programmer

IN FOCUS 2014

ALIENATION / OTCHUZHDENIE

Bulgaria, 2013, Colour, 77 min.

Director: Milko Lazarov

Screenplay: Milko Lazarov, Kitodar Todorov, Georgi Tenev

Cast: Christos Stergioglou, Mariana Jikich, Ovanes Torosian, Neda Iskrenova, Iva Ognyanova, Kitodar Todorov, Dora Markova

A man driving an old – fashioned car is crossing the border. He is Greek and has passed his fifties. He is coming to Bulgaria to buy a child. Jorgos has prepared a secret compartment in the boot of the car masked as a gas tank so that he could smuggle the child. The baby is not born yet and the Greek needs to wait in a secluded house in the mountains together with the mother, her deaf-mute brother and the midwife. The birth is starting in a stormy night.

AMOUR FOU

Austria, Luxembourg, Germany, 2014, Colour, 96 min.

Director and screenplay: Jessica Hausner

Cast: Christian Friedel, Birte Schnoek, Stephan Grossmann

Berlin, the Romantic Era. Young poet Heinrich wishes to conquer the inevitability of death through love yet is unable to convince his sceptical cousin Marie to join him in a suicide pact. It is whilst coming to terms with this refusal, ineffably distressed by his cousin's insensitivity to the depth of his feelings, that Heinrich meets Henriette, the wife of a business acquaintance. Heinrich's subsequent offer to the beguiling young woman at first holds scant appeal, that is until Henriette discovers she is suffering from a terminal illness. AMOUR FOU is a "romantic comedy" based loosely on the suicide of the poet Heinrich von Kleist in 1811.

BLIND DATES / SHEMTKHVEVITI PAEMNEBI

Georgia, 2013, Colour, 99 min.

Director: Levan Koguashvili

Screenplay: Boris Frumin, Levan Koguashvili

Cast: Andro Sakvarelidze, Ia Sukhitashvili, Archil Kikodze, Vakhtang Chachanidze, Kakhi Kavsadze, Marina Kartsivadze, Marika Antadze, Sopho Gvritishvili

Sandro, a single high school teacher in his forties, still lives with his parents. Together He and with his childhood friend they spend their leisure time dating women online. Everything changes when Sandro meets the married Manana who quickly conquers his heart. When her husband is released from jail early, Sandro's predicament takes on absurd dimensions. He gets caught up in wild family disputes in which everyone meddles with everything but no one really listens.

THE DISOBEDIENT / NEPOSŁUŠNI

Serbia, 2014, Colour, 135 min.

Director and screenplay: Mina Đukić

Cast: Hana Selimović, Mladen Sovilj, Minja Subota, Danijel Šike, Ivan Đorđević, Dunja Tatić, Raslav Sekulović, Marko Janjić, Branka Šelić, Žarko Radić

As children, Leni and Lazar were best friends. When Lazar returns from extensive travels abroad for his father's funeral, Leni yearns to reconnect with her childhood soul mate but still feels the sting of their years of estrangement. Nevertheless, hoping to escape the doldrums of adult life, she embarks with Lazar on an impromptu bicycle trip across a gorgeous, sunbaked countryside. As they revel in raucous bouts of disobedience, Leni must decide if their shared language of misbehaviour is a bond upon which she can build a life.

I'M NOT HIM / BEN O DEĞİLİM

Turkey, Greece, Germany, France, 2013, Colour, 124 min.

Director and screenplay: Tayfun Pirselimoglu

Cast: Ercan Kesal, Maryam Zaree, Riza Akin, Mehmet Avci, Nihat Alptekin

Nihat works in a hospital canteen and leads the trivial life of a bachelor, in which regular outings with his friends and a prostitute are the sole, sad highlights. Until, that is, he starts an affair with his new colleague Ayse, an attractive young woman whose husband is serving ten years in prison. Nihat discovers he looks uncannily like her husband, and in her new relationship Ayse grasps the opportunity to do everything she never used to be able to with him. However, a dramatic event changes the curious idyll in which Nihat gradually adopts the identity and appearance of his criminal double, with due consequence.

MISS VIOLENCE

Greece, 2013, Colour, 98 min.

Director: Alexandros Avranas

Screenplay: Alexandros Avranas, Kostas Peroulis

Cast: Themis Panou, Reni Pittaki, Eleni Roussinou, Sissy Toumasi, Kalliopi Zontanou, Constantinos Athanasiades

On her 11th birthday, Angeliki decides to commit suicide by jumping from the balcony of her family's apartment. Discovered in a pool of blood four stories below, with a smile on her face, Angeliki's family is resolute in claiming her death as an accident. What is the secret that young Angeliki took with her? Why does her family persist in trying to "forget" her and to move on with its life? With her death the façade that hides the horrible tales of domestic abuse within the family begins to fall apart... Clinically creating a sense of deep unease, MISS VIOLENCE is a vital and disturbing addition to the impressive body of new Greek cinema.

WINTER SLEEP / KIŞ UYKUSU

Turkey, Germany, France, 2014, Colour, 196 min.

Director: Nuri Bilge Ceylan

Screenplay: Ebru Ceylan, Nuri Bilge Ceylan

Cast: Haluk Bilginer, Melisa Sozen, Demet Akbag, Ayberk Pekcan, Serhat Kilic, Nejat Isler, Tamer Levent

Aydin, a former actor, runs a small hotel in central Anatolia with his young wife Nihal with whom he has a stormy relationship, and his sister Necla who is suffering from her recent divorce. In winter, as the snow begins to fall, the hotel turns into a shelter but also an inescapable place that fuels their animosities.