

**Balkan Kino presents**

**ГРАНИЦЕ КИШЕ**  
**Granice kiše**  
**Borders, Raindrops**

**– 2018 –**

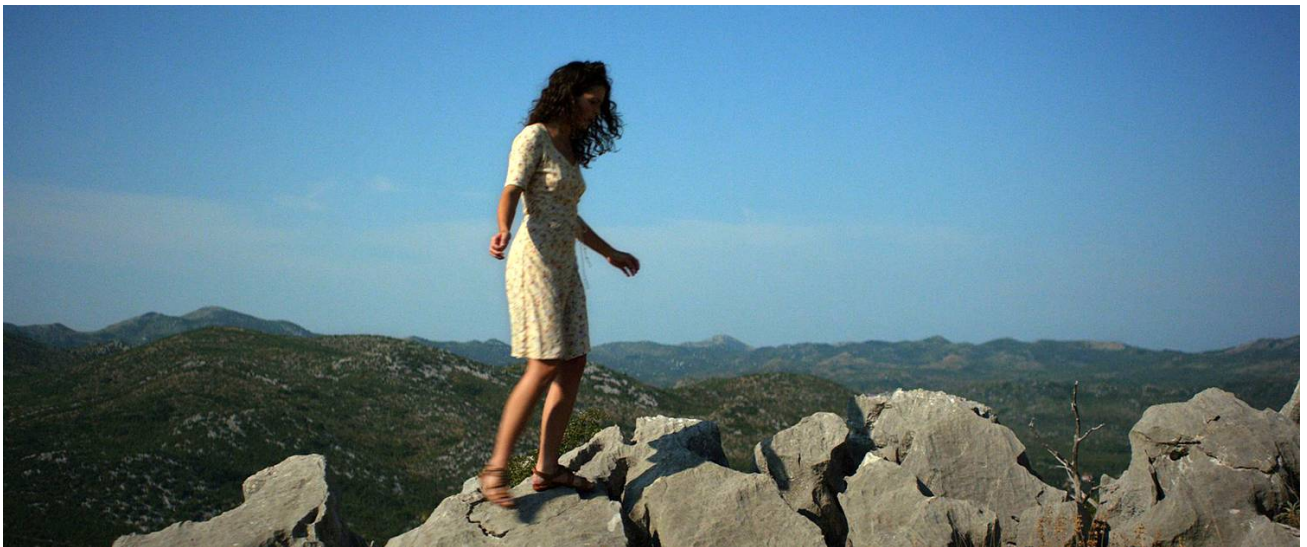
*Winner of CineLink Development Award  
sponsored by Göteborg Film Festival at Sarajevo Film Festival 2008*

*Participant in Karlove Vary Film Festival Work in Progress 2016*



## Synopsis

A young woman from the city visits her family, high-up in the Balkan Mountains – an area in which armed conflict has recently torn the communities apart. She brings a sense of hope, love and mystery to these almost abandoned villages overlooking the Adriatic. Will her presence help to bring people back together, so that they can live as one again?



## Production History

*Granice kiše* (*Borders, Raindrops*) emerged as an idea for a film in conversations between two ex-Yugoslavs living in London. The two of them – Vlastimir Sudar and Nikola Mijović – had met at the renowned Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design where they both studied filmmaking during the nineties. As was common at the time, studies in the representations of people, history and events were at the crux of many visual disciplines in Art Colleges. At the same time, Yugoslavia had disintegrated in a bloody civil war, deeply affecting the images of the nations that emerged from its ashes, equally lacerating the artistic sensibilities of the two filmmakers from ex-Yugoslavia.



It was not until late 2007 that an opportunity arose to address these issues, and produce a film that could challenge and reflect on the nature of the images that had become synonymous with the region. The main idea was to make a film that would question these representations and produce new images, while at the same time meditating on the notions of nostalgia and reconciliation. Vlastimir, a Sarajevo born filmmaker, established links with the then nascent CineLink programme at the Sarajevo Film Festival. He invited Nikola to work with him on a project that would – in both form and content – reflect the fractured relationships of the contemporary post-socialist Yugoslavia. As Vlastimir is from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Nikola from Montenegro, they conceived a story set in both these regions, intending that each filmmaker directs the film's episode set in his own region, and with a common epilogue set in Croatia. The story entitled *Granice kiše*, deliberately translated in a slightly quirky way as *Borders, Raindrops*, won the Göteborg Film Festival funded development award at the Sarajevo Film Festival in 2008, at which point the two were still considered 'young' filmmakers.

On receipt of the funding in Sarajevo, production of the film was taken on by Tihomir Stanić from Banja Luka, capital of the Republic of Srpska, and in 2009, *Borders, Raindrops* won the first public competition for film financing organised by the Ministry of Culture and Education of the Republic of Srpska in Banja Luka. The film found its Montenegrin production partner in the veteran producer, Predrag Karlo Kalezić, head of Montenegro Max Films. The film gained additional funding from Montenegro in 2010, and in Serbia in 2011 with Goran Djikić of MediaPlus as another co-producer.



Principal photography started in August 2011. However, just as the Montenegrin part of the film was almost finished, the funds ran out and filming had to stop. In the following years, the filmmakers fought to get the film back on track. The authors took the film rights back from Tihomir Stanić, and Vlastimir registered Balkan Kino in Belgrade – the company that ultimately completed the film. With additional funding from the Montenegrin and the Republic of Srpska Ministries of Culture, and a new partner in Banja Luka – Vlado Ljevar of Oskar Films – filming resumed in 2015 and was completed in September of that year.

After almost three years of post-production, including participation in the 2016 Karlovy Vary Film Festival Work in Progress programme, the film will have its national – Bosnian – premiere in Sarajevo, on Monday, 13 August, and its international premiere at the Montreal World Film Festival in late August 2018. After many years of hard work, it was all worth the effort – *Borders, Raindrops* is now in front of you.



## Long Synopsis

Jagoda is a bright urban girl. Her parents are divorced and her brother lives abroad. It is summer and she is visiting her extended family in the countryside, seeking time and space to prepare for her university exams.

Slowly, she establishes a bond with her cousin Zdravko, who runs a farm with his parents in a declining small village in the mountains of Montenegro, high above the sea. His life revolves around vineyards, orchards, domestic animals and the peculiar elderly members of the family. Zdravko has no siblings and feels pressure, as the future of the community rests on him. He is building a new house for himself, but, at 39, he is still single.

There are no young women in Zdravko's village and ever since he was a teenager, he is infatuated with the East German ice-skater Katarina Witt. As her poster still hangs on the wall above his bed, he has hardly moved on. There is no sign of real romance in his life.

Although initially distant and shy, Zdravko opens up to Jagoda, who offers to help him out on the house. He teaches her the best way to eat pomegranates, demonstrates the way the boys from town walk, and takes her to the beautiful hills where animals graze in the summer. Her presence and company provokes a subtle change in Zdravko. Eventually, he finds the confidence and the courage to ask a young waitress, Žana, to go out on a date with him.

Jagoda follows her family vine across the border into Bosnia and Herzegovina. There, in a similar rural setting, she spends some time with her grandparents who are taking care of her young cousin Luka. He is twelve, his mother is dead and his father is absent, working abroad. He is competitive and witty, but slightly impetuous. He takes himself too seriously, as boys his age often do.

Luka and his best friend, Danilo, who never says a word, fight the ennui of a small village in the hot summer by cycling down bumpy, narrow countryside roads, and by picking small arguments with an equally bored Croat policeman, Nikola, who guards yet another border between Croatia and Bosnia, in the middle of nowhere.

Again, it takes a while for Jagoda to earn Luka's trust. After she does, however, he introduces her to the border guard whom she connects with instantly. When the grandmother falls ill, Nikola provides the medicine she needs through his friends in the army hospital. Consequently, Luka accepts Nikola's friendship, while Jagoda regains a sense of belonging and stability.



**Kristina Stevović Obradović** is an actress born in Nikšić – Montenegro. She is the first actress from Montenegro to win a major theatre award in Croatia, after the passions of the 1990s have subsided. She graduated from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Cetinje, studying in the class of Professor Boro Stjepanović, a well-known film and theatre actor from former Yugoslavia. After finishing her studies, Kristina played in numerous performances and it is theatre where she feels at home the most. She is a regular member of the national theatre of Montenegro – CNP – in the capital Podgorica. Apart from theatre, she also has extensive experience in film and television, and is well-known in Montenegro for her role in the popular TV series, ‘Gorčilo, Did You Come to See Me?’, directed by Milan Karadžić. She is a keen tango dancer, and she recently said that she currently dances tango in three, with her dear husband and baby-girl.

In *Borders, Raindrops*, she portrays the main character Jagoda.



**Vahidin Prelić** is an actor born in Sjenica – Serbia. He studied at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Priština, in the class of Professor Božidar Dimitrijević, and graduated in – for the region very turbulent 1999 – with his own original adaptation of Heiner Müller’s infamous ‘Hamletmaschine’ – adding the poet’s Michael Palmer’s ‘Sun outside’ to the title. Vahidin participated in a number of monodrama festivals with this adaptation and became a regular member of the theatrical troupe of the National Theatre in Užice, Serbia. He played some of the most popular – but also complex – parts found in the regular repertoire of Serbian and regional theatres, and has won many awards for his acting. Vahidin is also an international actor, with a number of roles in various foreign productions filmed in or outside Serbia, most often TV series, but also films, such as Enzo Monteleone ‘L’angelo di Sarajevo’. Vahidin is a versatile actor, also popular in children’s plays.

In *Borders, Raindrops* he portrays Zdravko, the main character of the first story.



**Robert Budak** is an actor born in Zagreb – Croatia. Although he graduated very recently at the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Zagreb, he already has a rich career behind him, with very significant roles and experience in theatre, film, TV series and commercials, as well as pop-videos. He also worked extensively in radio drama, primarily for the Third Programme of the Croatia's National Radio. He received a scholarship from the Zagreb's Youth Theatre (ZKM), and has found success in theatre. One of his most prominent roles was as Shakespeare's Romeo, directed by the well-acclaimed director from Belgrade – Jagoš Marković – and especially commissioned for the Dubrovnik Summer Festival in Croatia in 2014, and then performed again in 2015. The role of Giulia was given to Kristina Stevović, who plays Jagoda in *Borders, Raindrops*.

In *Borders, Raindrops* he portrays Nikola, Jagoda's love interest in the second story.





**Dušica Bijelić** is an opera singer born in Banja Luka – Bosnia and Herzegovina. She later moved to Serbia where she started her musical education at the age of eight, playing piano and competing in youth singing competitions, and subsequently began to study acting and dancing. She quickly developed her career and studied singing at the University of Fine Arts in Belgrade, then at the Vienna University of Music with Gabriele Lechner, the Opera Studio of Santa Cecilia in Rome, Bard College New York, and participated in a number of workshops including those at the Carnegie Hall. She won a number of awards and played important roles on the main stages in New York, London, Austria, Germany, Spain, Japan, Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia. Dušica joined the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme of the Royal Opera House in London in September 2012. The British daily *Independent* selected her as one of the top eight Bright Young Things in the arts of 2014.

In *Borders, Raindrops* she has a special appearance as a bar singer, singing a famous Spanish song *Bandido*.



**Vlastimir Sudar** and **Nikola Mijović** are both born in once Socialist Yugoslavia, the former in today's Bosnia and Herzegovina and the latter in Montenegro. They both studied film-making at the London's Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, and graduated with short films in the late nineties. Nikola and Vlastimir directed a number of short films that were widely shown, and wrote about cinema in numerous publications, both in their native countries, as well as in the UK and the US. Vlastimir wrote a book on the famous Yugoslav film director Aleksandar Petrović, under the title *A Portrait of the Artist as a Political Dissident*, published in the UK in 2013 and in Serbia in 2017. Nikola and Vlastimir are both respected lecturers, teaching cinema at eminent universities and are avid photographers. After a development award, *Borders, Raindrops* is the second feature length script they wrote together, but the first one that made it into production.

## CAST

|                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Jagoda                | Kristina Stevović      |
| Zdravko               | Vahidin Prelić         |
| Nikola                | Robert Budak           |
| Luka                  | Nedjeljko Neno Milović |
| Danilo                | Ognjen Ogi Vujović     |
| Miljuša               | Nada Pavićević         |
| Momčilo               | Momo Pićurić           |
| Blaga                 | Marta Pićurić          |
| Granny                | Stanislava Adžović     |
| Grandad               | Momo Brkić             |
| Žana                  | Svetlana Vičeroва      |
| Builder               | Predrag Karlo Kalezić  |
| Younger builder       | Aleksandar Radulović   |
| Dušanka               | Dubravka Drakić        |
| Man with the scythe   | Željko Milošević       |
| Ilija                 | Velizar Vejo Kasalica  |
| Baba Ana              | Ana Đurišić            |
| Yuppie in the bar     | Branko Ilić            |
| Girl guest in the bar | Isidora Radonjić       |
| Guest in the bar      | Andrej Mihailović      |
| Singer                | Dušica Bijelić         |
| Musician              | Ugo Rabec              |

## CREW

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Producers:               | Vlastimir Sudar<br>Andrijana Stojković<br>Nikola Mijović<br>Predrag Karlo Kalezić<br>Goran Đikić<br>Vlado Ljevar |
| Written and Directed:    | Nikola Mijović and Vlastimir Sudar   |
| Director of Photography: | Miloš Jaćimović  |
| Edit:                    | Alexander Fry  |
| Sound Design:            | Gabrielė Griciūtė  |
| Sound Supervision:       | Vanesa Lorena Tate   |
| Set Design:              | Mina Burić and Tamara Tričković  |
| Costumes:                | Maria Jelesijević and Dara Mihajlović  |

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Banja Luka



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Development  
Award



City of Trebinje



Užice



Strauss Adriatic d.o.o.



RITE Ugljevik



ЕЛЕКТРОКРАЈИНА  
БАЊА ЛУКА



Elektrokrajina, Banja Luka



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