

Technical Information

Working Title: Leave the Door Open
Director: Judita Gamulin
Screenplay: Judita Gamulin
Nationality: Croatia
Genre: Drama
Duration: 100 min
Shooting location: Croatia

Production: Eclectica
eclectica.com
Producer: Rea Rajčić
rea@eclectica.com
Partner: Croatian Audiovisual Centre (HAVC) -
Script development, Project development
Project developed through: First Films First by
Goethe institute and Midpoint Feature Launch

Director's Information

Flowers (2015, 18 min)
Finalist of the 43rd Student Academy Awards in 2016.

Marica (2017, 20 min)
Future Frames, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.

Leave the Door Open

a film by Judita Gamulin



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

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Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.

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FESTIVAL DE CANNES

We do not have to be alone to be lonely.



SYNOPSIS

Four different families arrive at the overcrowded furniture store in Zagreb, all hoping that by rearranging their homes in the Scandinavian style they will rearrange their lives. Unconsciously, they are also hoping to escape their Balkan identity and the uncertainty it brings. However, the claustrophobic store induces collective anxiety and, as hidden frustrations surface, all the characters get into arguments. Some of them silently cry, while others get lost, run, hide from one another and change their lives. Suddenly, they are interrupted by the same event – a man has fallen unconscious in the store lobby. Now they are faced with their realities and make radical decisions.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Leave the Door Open is an ensemble film about human destinies entrapped in a preconceived fantasy about family life. This is especially relevant for the Balkans – suffering from war trauma tends to make us subconsciously hold on to everything that seems like stability. By having their dreams being crushed, our characters learn that a family should be an institution you choose consciously, by keeping the door open. These family frustrations passed on from generation to generation, here portrayed through drama and satire, are the element that is crucial to understand while redefining our future families.



SYNOPSIS

Quatre familles différentes arrivent dans un magasin de meubles bondé de Zagreb, espérant toutes qu'en réorganisant leur maison dans le style scandinave, elles réorganiseront leur vie. Inconsciemment, elles espèrent aussi échapper à leur identité balkanique et à l'incertitude qui en découle. Cependant, la claustrophobie du magasin induit une anxiété collective et, lorsque des frustrations cachées font surface, tous les personnages se disputent. Certains d'entre eux pleurent en silence, tandis que d'autres se perdent, courent, se cachent les uns des autres et changent de vie. Soudain, ils sont interrompus par le même événement : un homme est tombé inconscient dans le hall du magasin. Ils sont maintenant confrontés à leurs réalités et prennent des décisions radicales.

NOTE D'INTENTION

Leave the Door Open est un film d'ensemble sur les destins humains pris au piège d'un fantasme préconçu sur la vie de famille. Ce sujet est particulièrement pertinent pour les Balkans – souffrir d'un traumatisme de guerre tend à nous faire nous accrocher inconsciemment à tout ce qui semble être de la stabilité. En voyant leurs rêves brisés, nos personnages apprennent qu'une famille doit être une institution que l'on choisit consciemment, en gardant la porte ouverte. Ces frustrations familiales transmises de génération en génération, ici dépeintes à travers le drame et la satire, sont l'élément crucial à comprendre pour redéfinir nos futures familles.