

BERGAMO FILM MEETING

International Film Festival

40th edition, March 26 - April 3, 2022

Danis Tanović (Bosnia Herzegovina) and Patrice Toye (Belgium)
are the protagonists of "Europe, Now!", the Bergamo Film Meeting section
dedicated to contemporary European filmmakers.

For this 40th edition of the Bergamo Film Meeting, the exploration of contemporary European cinema will focus on **Danis Tanović (Bosnia Herzegovina)** and **Patrice Toye (Belgium)**. Characterized by their stylistic research and attention to contemporary themes, the complete works of both filmmakers will be showcased in a **full personal retrospective**.

The section will also be complemented by a selection of graduation films from the European film schools participating in the **CILECT** program, in collaboration with the Civica Scuola di Cinema Luchino Visconti of Milan, and by **Europe, Now! Film Industry Meetings (March 28-29)**, a two-day panel for film industry professionals established as a platform for networking and keeping up to date with the opportunities offered by festivals, markets, training programs, European and national funds.

The festival will kick off on **Friday, March 25 at 9:00 PM** at **Agorà Daste** (Bergamo, ex Centrale Elettrica di via Daste e Spalenga), with the event, **CIN'ACUSMONIUM**, an acousmatic projection of the restored 35mm copy of Andrej Tarkovskij's **Stalker** (1979), curated by the Audior collective. The nine days of programming of BFM will also include two competitive sections (**Competition-Exhibition**, for feature films, and **Close-up**, for documentaries); a tribute retrospective to filmmaker **Costa-Gavras**; the presence of German director **Volker Schlöndorff**; **1983 - The Year We Make Contact**, a cinematographic journey revisiting the 40-years-long history of BFM; the **animated cinema** section, featuring a complete retrospective of **Priit and Olga Pärn's** works; **KINO CLUB**, the festival section dedicated to the younger audience, with a live scoring performed by the students of the Conservatorio Gaetano Donizetti of Bergamo; collaborations with Monstra - Lisbon Animation Film Festival, and the European Film Factory and Cineteca di Milano platforms; the **Encounters: Cinema and Contemporary Art** section featuring **Ugo Nespolo**, curated in collaboration with The Blank collective; and also **previews, special screenings** and the **DAILY STRIP**, featuring some of the best illustrators from the Italian comic scene.

The complete schedule of the 40th edition will be announced in mid-March.

Danis Tanović (Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1969)

Danis Tanović is a director, screenwriter and producer. Raised in Sarajevo, where he graduated from the Conservatory in 1992, following the outbreak of the war Tanović was forced to leave university and his film studies. By himself, he began filming the besieged city and soon became a war reporter for the Bosnian army, collecting a large amount of documentary footage. In 1994, Tanović left Sarajevo for two years and moved to Brussels, where he completed his studies and shot some documentaries, including *L'aube* (1996) and *Buđenje* (Awakening, 1999). The Serbian-Bosnian war is at the centre of his brilliant debut film, *No Man's Land* (2001), in which two soldiers of the opposing factions find themselves isolated and stuck between enemy lines, triggering a sort of role-playing that lays bare the absurdity, inhumanity and the grotesque of war. Written, directed and scored by Tanović himself, the film won the Palme d'Or and the European Film Award for the best screenplay and the Oscar for best foreign film. In 2005 he shot *L'enfer*, the second instalment of a trilogy written by Krzysztof Kieślowski and Krzysztof Piesiewicz: a reinterpretation of Euripides' *Medea* which delves into a family drama through the faces of Emmanuelle Béart, Karin Viard, Marie Gillain, Marie Golein, Carole Bouquet and Jean Rochefort. The story of the post-war trauma of a photojournalist, starring Colin Farrel, Paz Vega and Christopher Lee, *Triage* (2009), was presented in competition at the Rome Film Festival. The following year, with *Cirkus Columbia*, presented at the Venice Days in Venice, Tanović returned to Bosnia with a surreal and slightly nostalgic comedy that outlines the human dynamics of a small village on the eve of the war. In 2013, through *Epizoda u životu berača željeza* (An Episode in the Life of an Iron Picker), a sort of docu-fiction portraying a Roma family, he exposed public health problems in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina and won the Jury Grand Prix at the Berlin festival; the following year, *Tigers* (2014), based on a true story set in Pakistan, condemns the overwhelming power of multinational pharma companies. The film production process took eight years due to the possible legal implications of the subject matter, but it eventually made it to the Toronto film festival. The portrait of the mother country continued with *Smrt u Sarajevu* (Death In Sarajevo, 2016), inspired by Bernard-Henri Lévy's work and entirely shot inside the microcosm of a luxury hotel where conflicts, violence and abuses run rampant among the staff: an explicit allusion to the situation of a defeated country, trapped in eternal anticipation of rebirth that never came. In 2019, Tanović finally ventured into television directing the crime series *Uspjeh* (Success); written by screenwriter Marjan Alčevski, the series was the first European production by HBO. In 2020, *The Postcard Killings*, a thriller starring Jeffrey Dean Morgan as a detective looking for his daughter's murderer, was released in the United States. In 2021, during the pandemic, Tanović made *Deset u pola* (Not So Friendly Neighborhood Affair), a bittersweet comedy shot on the streets of Sarajevo with Branko Đurić, former lead actor of *No Man's Land*. The film premiered at the 27th Sarajevo Film Festival. Currently, Tanović is in the post-production phase of the first season of a new crime series, *Kotlina*, created for the BH Content Lab platform.

With the patronage of Consulate General of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Milan.

FILMS INCLUDED IN THE RETROSPECTIVE

Deset u pola (Not So Friendly Neighbourhood Affair, 2021)

Uspjeh (Success, tv series, 2019)

Smrt u Sarajevu (Death in Sarajevo, 2016)

Tigers (2014)

Epizoda u životu berača željeza (An Episode in the Life of an Iron Picker, 2013)

Prtljag (Baggage, short film, 2011)

Cirkus Columbia (id., 2010)

Triage (id., 2009)

L'enfer (id., 2005)

No Man's Land (2001)

L'aube (Dawn, doc., short, 1996)

PATRICE TOYE (Gand, Belgium, 1967)

She graduated in filmmaking from the prestigious Sint-Lucas school of Brussels in 1990. Today she is committed to encouraging new talent and teaches audio-visual media at the LUCA School of Arts. Her films portray characters struggling with their fate and searching for an identity, often venturing into the surreal realm. Since 1989, Patrice Toye has directed numerous short films, documentaries and television shows for VRT, VTM and VPRO. With her short film *Vrouwen willen trouwen* (Women Want to Get Married), she won the Joseph Plateau Prize in 1993.

Her first feature film, *Rosie*, was released in 1998; it's the story of a thirteen-year-old girl who conjures an imaginary world to escape her dysfunctional family situation. The film was internationally acclaimed both by critics and the audience, distributed in 12 countries including Italy, and awarded in numerous film festivals (Berlin, Toronto, Thessaloniki) including Bergamo Film Meeting, where it won the bronze Rosa Camuna. In 2005, Patrice Toye directed a film for TV, *Gezocht: Man* (Wanted: Man), portraying the life of a single mother with a 9-year-old son, who decides to secretly look for a new partner for her. The film was selected at the Rotterdam International Film Festival. Toye's second feature film, *(N)iemand* (Nowhere Man), furtherly explores the theme of identity through the story of Tomas, a forty-year-old man who dreams of changing his life. Presented in world premiere at the Venice Days in 2008, the film won the NHK International Filmmakers Award at the Sundance Film Festival.

For her third feature film, *Little Black Spiders*, Patricia Toye was inspired by actual events that occurred in Belgium in the 1970s: while waiting to give birth, a group of pregnant girls who hide in a Catholic institution, away from the eyes of the world. After opening the Ostend Film Festival in 2012, the film was selected by other international festivals, won the award for Best Director in Arras and for Best Screenplay, Best Feature Film and Best Director in Vancouver. Her latest work, *Muidhoud* (Tench, 2019), an adaptation of the novel of the same name by Inge Schilperoord, offers a rather unique perspective on the theme of paedophilia. «It is my duty», Toye herself declared «to talk about socially relevant issues and offer a different point of view on them». The film was selected at the Rotterdam Film Festival and won the North Sea Port Audience Award at the Ghent International Film Fest.

With the patronage of Embassy of Belgium in Rome and with the patronage and sponsored by the Representation Office of the Flemish Community and Region at the Embassy of Belgium in Italy. In collaboration with the Cinémathèque royale de Belgique.

FILMS INCLUDED IN THE RETROSPECTIVE

Muidhoud (Tench, 2019)

Little Black Spiders (2012)

(N)iemand (Nowhere Man, 2008)

Gezocht: Man (tv, 2005)

Rosie (1998)

L'amant de Maman (tv 1997)

Vrouwen willen trouwen (short, 1992)

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