



Berlinale  
 71<sup>st</sup> Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin  
Panorama

# CELTS

A film by Milica Tomović

  
productions



  
FILM CENTER  
S E R B I A

# CELTS

**A film by Milica Tomović**

Serbia - 2021 - 1.85 - 5.1 - 106 min - Serbian

## **Logline**

Tired of replacing almonds with walnuts, butter with margarine, sex with masturbation, a group of friends in Yugoslavia looks for something real

## **Synopsis**

In Belgrade, 1993 Marijana throws a sleepover party for her daughter's 8th birthday, with family and fellow parents attending. Grabbing the rare opportunity when their children are kept entertained in the other room, the parents open a few bottles in the kitchen and enjoy their reunion. Marijana suddenly realizes that she longs for more than a bunch of drunken guests and an inattentive husband, so she sets out to discover the thrills the night has to offer. She sneaks out of the house strolling around the empty streets, seeking genuine experiences instead of mere substitutes. While she reaches an orgasm and smokes a cigarette with a stranger, the party slowly disperses, just like Yugoslavia, the country Marijana and her friends were all born in.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"Celts" is a family drama with elements of comedy written with a desire to make a fun, crazy, nostalgic, emotional film that audiences wish would never end. It's a film about the disappearance of one's country and loss of one's identity, portrayed through three different generations within one family, and their daily routine while preparing the birthday party for the youngest daughter. The idea was to simultaneously deal with my childhood and with my adult life, by trapping them inside one house and one day, and by giving an eight-year-old perspective on that period, with an opportunity to grasp what my parents were going through, now that I've reached their age.

The year 1993 in Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) marks the end of Dafiment bank - a Ponzi scheme that was supported by president Slobodan Milosevic, which ultimately led to hyperinflation. Milosevic's regime deeply damaged the country's GDP, as well as the living standards of all citizens. Moreover, his regime was one of the main causes of wars in Bosnia and Croatia, which by then reached devastating points.

Through these characters - family members, I wanted to represent a person's development path from childhood, through adolescence, until adulthood. By doing so I tried to explore the ways in which these characters were shaped by their experiences. The question which interested me was if in some cases, a certain experience can have such an effect on one's life, that from that point on, everything goes irrevocably wrong. In the same way, I wanted to explore the epoch, approaching it with distance from the present moment and with a desire to comprehend where it all went irreversibly wrong with the country we were born in, Yugoslavia. At the same time, together with my characters, I tried to question my identity, or to consider the possibility of obtaining a new one - as UNCLE does in the film, which would imply giving up or negating the past completely.

Nineties are used as a frame for an intimate family story, but also as a metaphor of our present time and inevitable repetitions - which are displayed in personal relationships, political contexts and events. This film points out that what my parents' generation witnessed and lived through in the nineties, has everything to do with what we live through and witness right now.

Milica Tomović



## PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

Milica Tomovic and I met after a premiere of her short film "Graduation". Still under the influence of the film, I was surprised that someone so young had already built up their own cinematic style. What also stands out is her exceptional work with actors, reaching emotional nuances and profiling of characters. After the success of her last short film "Transition" (Sarajevo FF, Heart of Sarajevo, Locarno FF, Toronto IFF, Cottbus FF, Premier Plans Angers, IFF Rotterdam, etc.) we are proud to present Milica's debut feature "Celts".

Somehow an underdog, "Celts" made it on its own. With no co-producers on board, the film was mainly funded in Serbia. On top of that, we won awards on SEE Cinema Network, FEST Forward and Locarno First Look. Being a part of this year's Berlinale Panorama is the confirmation of the hard work we've put into this project for the last three years.

Vladimir Vasiljević

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

**EED Productions** based in Belgrade, Serbia was founded out of the pure desire for storytelling. Over the past 6 years, their films screened and won awards on festivals such as Toronto IFF, Locarno FF, IFF Rotterdam, Cottbus FF, Premier Plans Angers, Tampere FF and others.

This year's participation in Berlinale happens with Milica Milica's debut feature "Celts", as part of Panorama's programme. EED productions was founded by Vladimir Vasiljevic, an EAVE 2015 graduate.

## BIOS

### Director

**Milica Tomović** (1986. SFR Yugoslavia), graduated from the Academy Of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade in 2011 with the omnibus film "October", which she made together with her classmates. The film was shown in Cottbus, Trieste, Sofia Film Meetings, Isola Cinema and others. In 2016. her short film "Transition" had its International Premiere in Locarno (Pardi di domani), followed immediately by a premiere in Toronto (Short Cuts). "Transition" won several awards: the Golden Plaque in Serbian in the short fiction film selection of the Belgrade FF, the Heart of Sarajevo Best Short Film Award in the Sarajevo FF, the Best Director Award at the International Short FF of Cyprus and others. She directed five episodes of "Morning Changes Everything", a successful Serbian TV series in 2018. In 2021, Milica finished her feature film "Celts".



# BIOS

## Producer

**Vladimir Vasiljević** was born in Serbia in 1981. While living in Singapore as a teenager, he learned the basics of film production. He graduated from the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade (Film and TV production department). For ten years he has been working as a freelancer and in 2013 he founded EED productions. In 2015 he graduated from EAVE.

With his production company, EED Productions, based in Belgrade, Serbia, his primary goal is to tell inspiring stories while cooperating with young authors. Over the past two years, with EED Productions he has produced "The Black Pin", a feature by Ivan Marinović, a documentary, "Gora" by Stefan Malešević, "Transition", a short fiction 'by Milica Tomović, "Mooch", a short film by Ivan Bukvić and "Celts" by Milica Tomović.

### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2021.

Celts by Milica Tomović

- WP: Berlinale, Panorama

2019.

Žicka by Ivan Bukvić

- Tampere FF (competition)

2016.

Tranzicija by Milica Tomović

- Belgrade Documentary and Short FF, 2016

- Locarno FF, Pardi di domani, 2016

- Sarajevo FF, 2016., Heart of Sarajevo

- Toronto IFF 2016

- Cottbus FF 2016

- Trieste FF 2017

- Premier Plans Angers, Competition 2017

-IFF Rotterdam, 2017

2016.

Gora, by Stefan Malešević

- Sarajevo FF, 2016

- Beldox, 2017

- Cinema City, 2017

2016. The black pin, by Ivan Marinović

- Sarajevo FF, 2016

- Cinedays Skopje FF 2016., CineBalkan selection

- Santa Barbara IFF 2017





## CREDITS

**Directed by:** Milica Tomović  
**Written by:** Milica Tomović, Tanja Šljivar  
**Production Company:** EED productions  
**Producer:** Vladimir Vasiljević  
**Executive producer:** Jelena Radenković  
**Co-producers:** Film Danas  
**Cinematographer/DoP:** Dalibor Tonković  
**Set Designer:** Marija Mitrić  
**Editor:** Jelena Maksimović  
**Sound Editor/Mix:** Jakov Munižaba  
**Composer:** Ana Đurović  
**Supported by:** Film Center Serbia

### CAST

**MOM/MARIJANA** Dubravka Duda Kovjanić  
**DAD** Stefan Trifunović  
**MINJA** Katarina Dimić  
**TAMARA** Anja Đorđević  
**GRANDMA** Olga Odanović  
**FIĆA** Konstantin Ilin

### SPECIAL APPEARANCE

**LADY IN TAXI** Jelica Sretenović

**ANKA** Milica Grujičić  
**NEŠA** Slaven Došlo  
**UNCLE** Nikola Rakočević

**ZAGA** Nada Šargin  
**TANJA** Jovana Gavrilović  
**CECA** Jelena Đokić

**LANA MARJANOVIĆ ACTRESS** Milica Mima Trifunović  
**DAD'S BROTHER** Jovan Belobrković

**GUY** Ivan Jevtović  
**BABY** Jovana Stojiljković

**BELI** Aleksandar Gligorić Gliga  
**ALMIRA** Nataša Tasić Knežević

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