



# HIVE

**DIRECTED BY BLERTA BASHOLLI**

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY **BLERTA BASHOLLI** PRODUCED BY **YLL UKA, VALON BAJGORA, AGON UKA** DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **ALEX BLOOM** ART DIRECTION **VLATKO CHACHOROVSKI**  
EDITED BY **FÉLIX SANDRI, ENIS SARAÇI** COSTUME DESIGNER **HANA ZEQA, FJORELA MIRDITA** MAKEUP **FIONA ABDULLAHU** COMPOSER **JULIEN PAINOT**  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS **IGOR PAVLOVSKI** SKINNY DESIGN AND MAKEUP **PHILIPPE CIOMPI** CO-PRODUCERS **BRITTA RINDELAUB, TOMI SALKOVSKI, KRISTIJAN BUROVSKI, PASKAL SEMINI**



# Facts

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**Original Title**

Zgjoj

**Genre**

Drama

**Production Year**

2021

**Country of Origin**

Kosovo

**Language Spoken**

Albanian

**Length**

84 min

**Director/Scriptwriter**

Blerta Basholli

**Cast**

Yllka Gashi, Çun Lajçi, Aurita Agushi,

Kumrije Hoxha

**Production Company**

Ikonë Studio & Industria Film

**Producers**

Yll Uka, Valon Bajgora

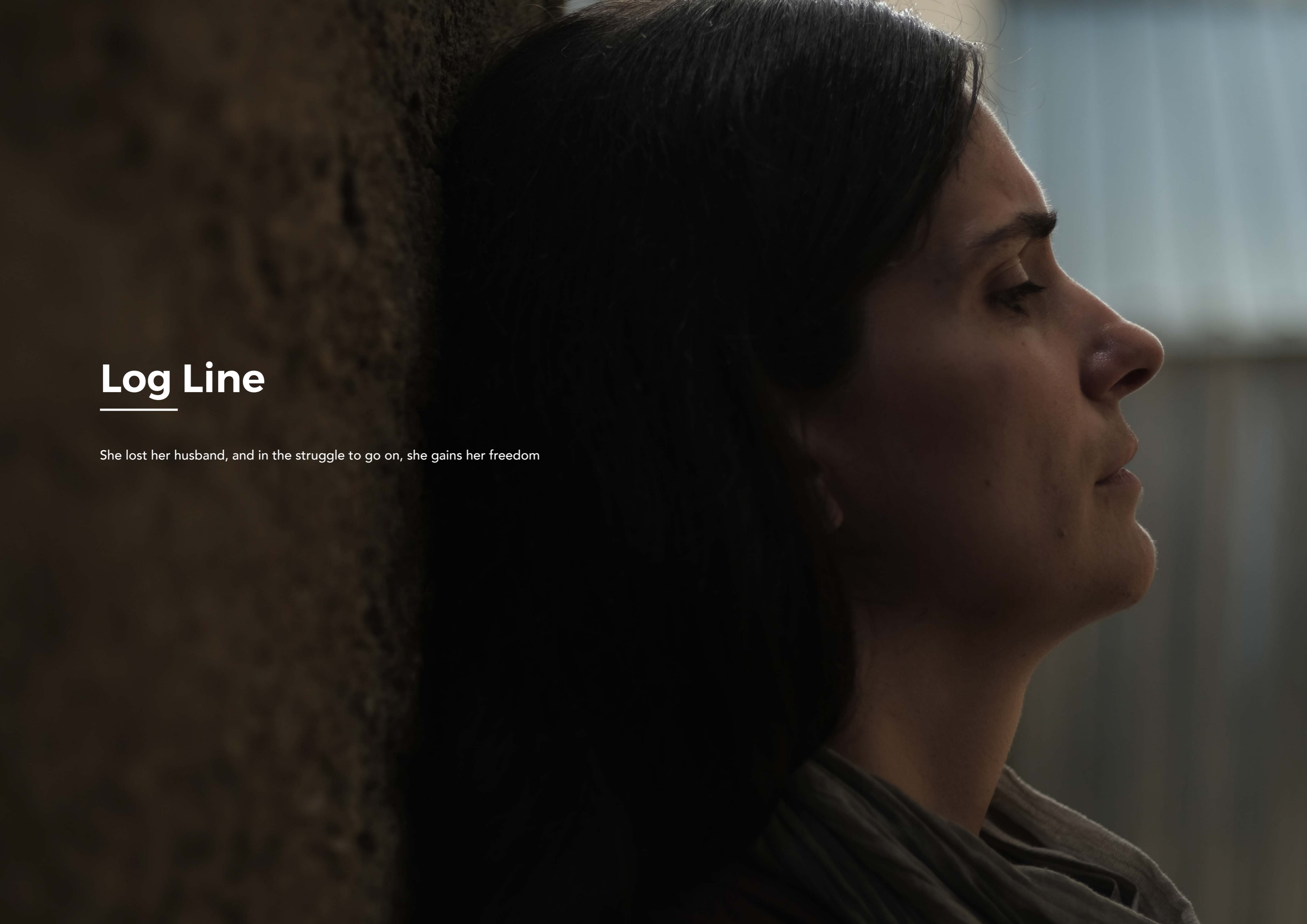
**Release Date**

Fall 2021



# Log Line

She lost her husband, and in the struggle to go on, she gains her freedom





## Synopsis

Fahrije's husband has been missing since the war in Kosovo, and along with their grief, her family is struggling financially. In order to provide for them she launches a small agricultural business, but in the traditional patriarchal village where she lives, her ambition and efforts to empower herself and other women are not seen as positive things. She struggles not only to keep her family afloat but also against a hostile community who is rooting for her to fail.



# The Team

## DIRECTOR & SCRIPTWRITER



**Blerta Basholli** is a Writer/Director with a unique realistic visual style. Her stories touch upon social and gender issues from the country where she was born and raised, Kosovo. In 2008 she was awarded with the Deans Fellowship at the Film Graduate Program at Tisch School of the Arts at NYU. She lived in New York City for four years where she had the opportunity to work on several film projects as a student. In 2011, she returned to her birthplace where she wrote/directed and worked on many short and feature films. "Hive" is her debut feature, which she has developed since 2011.

## PRODUCER



**Yll Uka** is a Producer with an ability to envision the genesis of a creative idea and manage conceptual projects successfully from beginning to end. Resourceful and innovative, producing inspiring works with little resources and small budgets. Among his previous credits is Kosovo's candidate for Oscars 2021 EXILE.

## PRODUCER



**Valon Bajgora** studied film directing from 2004-08 at the Marubi Film & Multimedia Academy in Tirana, Albania. During the study time in Tirana, he worked in various film productions as a 1st assistant Director and Production manager. After his return home he founded the film production company Ikone-studio with his friend Yll Uka.

# Statement

## Blerta Basholli

DIRECTOR

"A widow should only do housework, respect her in-laws and stay at home."

These were the words Fahrije Hoti heard every day as soon as she got a driver's license and started to provide for her kids, having lost her husband during the last war in Kosovo.

I was sitting in my apartment in Brooklyn, NY, trying to finish writing my school project while I was listening to a TV Show from Kosovo. A woman was talking about getting her driver's license and the whole village gossiping about how she had humiliated her family. At first, I thought it was a joke. It was funny yet very sad, hard and motivating. Fahrije Hoti, a widow and a mother of two, had to do something to survive, and she did. She got a driver's license and got a job. Everyone was talking about it and going crazy, but she did it. One day she opened a little business where she employed other widows and now, she produces pickled vegetables sold all around Kosovo.

Besides being a woman and a mother myself, I was intrigued by her will and power to not only survive, but to achieve something great and never look back. Her positivity and energy are fascinating. That is something I want to bring on screen, a strong female character full of colors, a woman protagonist that needs to be seen by Kosovo and a wider audience. Her decision to continue with her life no matter what was confusing, painful, sometimes even funny, but deeply inspiring.







# Based on a True Story

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**Fahrije Hoti**

The real Fahrije Hoti was born on September 18, 1969 in Rogova i Hasit, Gjakova Municipality. She worked as a tailor while her husband and father of their two children, Bashkim Hoti, worked abroad for three years. Due to the war and his work, Bashkimi and Fahrijia only lived together for six of the nine years of their marriage. Fahrije's good family life turned into a tragedy in 1998, when Serbian paramilitary forces occupied Prizren and Rahovec. To save the lives of her children, Fahrije immediately left for Albania on March 26, where they stayed for three months and returned at the end of June 1999 to a destroyed village and a new life with her husband missing.

Needing to resume her life after the end of the war and to be able to provide for her children, she founded the "Krusha" food company, which is led one hundred percent by women and employs around fifty, most of whom were widowed during the recent war in Kosovo. With their locally made products, these women supply about 28 markets in the big cities of Kosovo. Their products are also sold abroad and have been available in the Swiss market since 2014.

Fahrije Hoti has not seen her husband since she fled, and now 20 years after the war ended, she is still searching for him. Together with many other men and young boys, Bashkim remains on the missing persons list from a war that has taken more than ten thousand lives.



# Background



Kosovo conflict, (1998–99) conflict in which ethnic Albanians opposed ethnic Serbs and the government of Yugoslavia in Kosovo resulting in more than 13,000 people were killed or went missing. The conflict gained widespread international attention and was resolved with the intervention of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

In 1989 Ibrahim Rugova, leader of the ethnic Albanians in the Serbian province of Kosovo, initiated a policy of nonviolent protest against the abrogation of the province's constitutional autonomy by Slobodan Milošević. Milošević and members of the Serbian minority of Kosovo had long objected to the fact that Muslim Albanians were in demographic control of an area held sacred to the Serbs. Tensions increased between the two ethnic groups, and the international community's refusal to address the issue lent support to Rugova's more radical opponents, who argued that their demands could not be secured through peaceful means. The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) emerged in 1996, and its sporadic attacks on Serbian police and politicians steadily escalated over the next two years.

By 1998 the KLA's actions could be qualified as a substantial armed uprising. Serbian special police and, eventually, Yugoslav armed forces attempted to reassert control over the region. Atrocities committed by the police, paramilitary groups, and the army caused a wave of refugees to flee the area, and the situation became well publicized through the international media.

The Contact Group—an informal coalition of the United States, Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, and Russia—demanded a cease-fire. The KLA regrouped and rearmed during the cease-fire and renewed its attacks. The Yugoslav and Serbian forces responded with a ruthless counteroffensive and engaged in a program of ethnic cleansing.

Diplomatic negotiations began in Rambouillet, France, in February 1999 but broke down the following month. In June NATO and Yugoslavia signed a peace accord outlining troop withdrawal and the return of nearly one million ethnic Albanians as well as another 500,000 displaced within the province.

Tensions between Albanians and Serbs in Kosovo continued into the 21st century. In February 2008 Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia. Although the United States and several influential members of the European Union chose to recognize Kosovo's independence, Serbia did not.\*

\*Historical overview taken from Britannica.

# Poster



## Link

### TRAILER

<https://vimeo.com/490726586>

### DIGITAL PITCH

<https://vimeo.com/489752225/bf2efda182>



# HIVE

## *LevelK*

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WWW.LEVELK.DK / GL. KONGEVEJ 137 B, 3RD FL. DK - 1850 FREDERIKSBERG C, DENMARK

### LEVELK TEAM

**TINE KLINT**

(FOUNDER & CEO)

TINE.KLINT@LEVELK.DK

**DEBRA LIANG**

(HEAD OF SALES)

DEBRA@LEVELK.DK

**NIKLAS TENG**

(FESTIVAL & TRAFFIC MANAGER)

NIKLAS@LEVELK.DK

**NATASCHA DEGNOVA**

(PR & MARKETING MANAGER)

NATASCHA@LEVELK.DK

INTERNATIONAL PUBLICIST (USA)

HOOK PUBLICITY / JESSICA UZZAN

JESSICA@HOOKPUBLICITY.COM

**SWISS FILMS**

**°efp** film  
sales  
support