



60 Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Competition

ON THE PATH
NA PUTU

a film by Jasmila Žbanić



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Bosnia and Herzegovina/ Austria/ Germany/ Croatia, 2009, 100 min, color



Loving young couple Luna and Amar try their best to overcome unexpected obstacles that threaten their relationship. After Amar's dramatic change in a fundamentalist community, Luna tears herself apart searching if love is truly enough to keep the couple together on the path to a lifetime of happiness ...

From the director of the award-winning GRBAVICA – ESMA'S SECRET
(Berlinale Golden Bear, AFI Grand Jury Prize)

Synopsis

Loving young couple Luna and Amar try their best to overcome unexpected obstacles that threaten their relationship. Luna is forgiving of her husband's fun-loving late nights out, but airport ground control will not tolerate his drinking on the job. Amar is suspended from work and he stubbornly rejects substance abuse counseling. The couple is faced with another blow when, after two years of trying to get pregnant with no success, they must now proceed with artificial insemination.

Amar is eventually led to a computer teaching job after a chance meeting with Bahrija - an old army buddy turned strictly orthodox Wahhabi Muslim. Luna is unenthusiastic since Amar will be forced to live hours from the city, and she also doesn't like the looks of Bahrija and his black veil-covered wife. But Luna realizes that frustrated Amar cannot refuse the well-paid job, as he is becoming increasingly more desperate because of his unemployment.

Cut off from contact with Amar, Luna is finally allowed to visit him where he is working at the secluded Wahhabi commune situated on an idyllic lake. She discovers a mysterious environment of veiled women and ritual. The fundamentalist Muslim community is a world from years gone by with no alcohol, cigarettes or cell phones, and a society in which the daily lives of men and women are separated and under strict surveillance. Luna begs Amar to come



home, but he convinces her that the isolated sanctuary of prayer has brought him peace and helped him stop drinking.

When Amar returns home several weeks later, Luna begins to notice a dramatic change in her husband. He makes a scandal at a family gathering with his newfound orthodox preaching. He spends more and more time in the mosque, in addition to practicing disciplined prayer at home.

Luna begins to realize the growing rift between her and her husband when Amar pushes her to read religious dogma. He suggests that they abstain from sex and not have a child until they are married under Islamic law. Luna confesses that she feels like she doesn't know him anymore, and Amar insists that he is just trying to become a better man.

Distraught Luna tries to understand the new Amar and his beliefs, making her more confused than ever. She begins to question everything that she has believed in, even her desire to have a child. As the wounds of a tragic war-filled past continue to haunt her, Luna tears herself apart searching if love is truly enough to keep her and Amar together on the path to a lifetime of happiness.



Comments from writer-director Jasmila Žbanić

ON THE PATH

ON THE PATH is a literal translation of the original title NA PUTU. In Bosnian, it means to be on the way toward something. Like in English, it also has a spiritual meaning used to explain someone's search for himself/herself, a person in the process of making choices, trying to reach some goal. As a couple, Amar and Luna are on the same path of love and life in unity. But then their path becomes different and they must make decisions as a couple and also as individuals. We also use NA PUTU to refer to a woman being pregnant, meaning that the baby is on its way to being born.

CONDITIONS OF MOTHERHOOD

In ON THE PATH, Luna wants to have a child with the man she loves, and she actually has the choice of whether or not to conceive a child. In my first feature, GRBAVICA, Esma did not have this choice, having been raped while held in a war detention camp. Past is an important aspect for both women, but Luna has to make her decisions in the present. Her love is conscious of the responsibility towards her relationship, but also towards herself and her own future. She passionately desires to be a mother, but she also wonders about the conditions and the price. This is a decision she has to make on her own after (re)constructing her world.

TWO DIFFERENT KINDS OF LOVE

GRBAVICA and ON THE PATH are very different films, telling stories about two different kinds of love. I even think that perhaps we should find a new word to differentiate the love between a mother-daughter and between a man-woman. These two pairs mobilize different elements of love and different social patterns. ON THE PATH is a story of a couple in contemporary Sarajevo.

In addition to being in love, Luna and Amar are connected by a similar past which makes their bond even stronger. Both Luna and Amar are trying to make bearable the pain of their war-torn past within themselves. While writing the script, I looked at the two characters as one body made of two very different parts. They had similar interests, the same friends. But the obstacles of everyday life make them react differently. Their everyday situation begins to change and they react differently in trying to adapt to that change. I wanted to explore this need to adapt to the other in a relationship. I also wanted to explore the need to hold on to one's true self in a relationship. What is the set of emotions, acquired knowledge, experiences and imagination that shapes a relationship? How much does the perceptions of the world we believe in affect the rhythm of our bodies when we make love?

UNDER THE LINE OF VISION

I am interested in characters who seem to be functional on the surface, but who, in fact, hide the hard experiences of life deep inside themselves. I am interested in the moment when this history springs up, like a seed from the soil. The story of Luna and Amar happens under the line of vision. Luna is a woman who has been able to find her way into the present. She is instinctive and she gave her past its rightful place, allowing herself to be functional. She thought that all her troubles were behind her. Now she can't understand what is happening when Amar becomes someone different to her. She tries to understand Amar wants to be a "better man" but she does not agree to allow "outside" rules to arrange their life. Under the surface Amar has layers and layers of past that have tectonic movements provoked by everyday life obstacles. He is trying to give his life a structure in the hopes of putting things deep inside him in order. Amar's new structure upsets the functioning

harmony with Luna. When he tries to fix his past with new tools, she has to face her own past - returning for the first time to Bjeljina, to the house where she was born and which she was forced to leave during the war.

ISLAM IN BOSNIA

The majority of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina are Bosniacs who are Muslims, either practicing or simply having been brought up around Islamic traditions, like myself. On one side of my family, my grandparents were very religious and they prayed five times a day. On the other side, they considered themselves Muslims but they were not practicing, were very liberal toward alcohol. However, they did respect basic Islamic tradition. The Eid celebration in ON THE PATH is pretty much how my family celebrates in Bosnia. My parents were children of Communism which regarded religion as opiate for the masses. Despite their Marxist ideas, they still participated in some Islamic holidays and customs. Religion has beautiful rituals and art and that was as much a part of me as the rites of socialism. After the war, Bosnian Muslims who survived the genocide were left on a barren field where old ideas had been massacred along with their human rights. For many of them, religion became a comfortable blanket. Bosnian Muslims consider themselves Europeans, but the European Union isn't convinced that we belong with Europe. So the question is where do we belong?

A MORE RELIGIOUS WORLD

Numerous studies have shown that religion is becoming a bigger part of our lives than it was 10 years ago. There are claims that Western civilisation is not only becoming more and more religious, but also more right wing and puritanical. I myself have noticed that more and more people my age and younger are finding comfort in religion. As much as religion plays a crucial part in ON THE PATH, it was not my intention to make a film about religion. The issue is how Amar's religious transformation affects his relationship with Luna. Although Luna's attitude is often critical, I did not set out to make a film attacking Islam. Islam was chosen since it is the organized religion that I'm most familiar with. I think that ON THE PATH could easily have been about a

couple in which one spouse turns to strict Orthodox Judaism, fundamentalist Christianity or even Hare Krishna.

REFUSING TO SHAKE HANDS WITH WOMEN

Once in the house of friends, I met a man who refused to shake my hand. He said he did not shake hands with women. I felt insulted. I wanted to know why he didn't and why it made me furious. I was told that this man was a Salafi Muslim and I decided to do some research on this relatively small group of people (in Bosnia). I was surprised to discover that many were ex-punk fans, some former drug addicts, but also some very ordinary young people from ex-Communist families. Most had very different motivations for turning to Salafism: a quest for sense and certainty in a world that is falling apart, the need to be accepted, a quest for identity, a quest for 'tranquillisers', an alternative... Those young men eventually became my inspiration for Amar in ON THE PATH. Salafism is a widespread orthodox Islamic movement which is often referred to as Wahhabism, a fundamentalist Islamic sect. But Salafis will never refer to themselves as Wahhabis and some might even consider it insulting. Although the word Wahhabi was originally used derogatorily by opponents, it has today become commonplace as modern Wahhabis are considered to be Salafis.

PREJUDICE

In the public eye, the media has successfully associated Salafism with terrorism. This is true in the case of the fundamentalist group Al-Qaida, but it would be unfair to say this about all doctrinally rigid Muslims throughout the world. I chose the Salafis for ON THE PATH because the general prejudice toward them seemed like the right challenge for my story of a young couple in Sarajevo. Since most Bosniacs are Muslims, there is a real anti-Wahhabism attitude in our region as everyone wants to make it very clear that they are not connected to terrorism just because they still celebrate Eid. From the start, Luna does not hide her prejudice toward Amar's "Wahhabi" friend and his veiled wife. Luna's TV journalist friend is representative of how quickly the media can spread both fact and rumor.

Like Luna, I was not without prejudice. I felt very emotional and negative, of





course, about the violence which has resulted from fundamentalist Islam. I had to be very careful not to impose ideas and beliefs that would turn the film into propaganda. I am not here to judge nor defend Salafism, Wahhabism, Islam or any other religion. I love my characters and I let their personalities dictate the story. I was more interested in creating realistic human characters than politically correct advocates. So prejudiced Luna remains suspicious, although she tries to understand. She wants to overcome her prejudice when she recognizes that good has come out of Amar's association with the Wahhabis. If nothing else, the former excessive drinker has given up alcohol completely. Where Luna draws the line is when she feels that her husband has been taken over by someone else. She feels like Amar is no longer hers.

When I make a film, I go through a self-exploration and self-realization similar to my characters. In the case of ON THE PATH, in addition to trying to understand the time I live in and my place in it, I also asked questions about my own identity and beliefs.

AMAR'S TRANSFORMATION

Just like many other men in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Amar is a former soldier who lost the ground beneath his feet. He drinks to compensate for the emotional void created by his brother's death, the war, and the difficulties of modern life. He is fragile and he tries to find sense in the new circumstances. He feels the need for fraternity, for male support, for protection. He finds that in religion. On the other hand, Luna's love for him and his love for her are equally important. I wanted to explore Amar and his transformation. In my research, I found that transformation was usually very fast if the emotional void was huge. Amar seeks comfort, sense, explanation, and identity. With the Wahhabi community, Amar finds the peace that he has been searching for, the answers that he so desperately needs and the feeling that he is a welcomed member of a group.

MEETING THE WAHHABIS

I met a former Salafi through a mutual friend, and he facilitated my contacts with the community. However paradoxical it may sound, on the basis of my

experiences I can now say that the fact that I am a woman even facilitated my communication with the Salafis. I spoke with a lot with people who had turned Salafi. I went to mosques, talked to theologians and anthropologists. I attended religious studies. I spoke to their female partners. I studied how they felt and what they thought. All the other members of the creative team followed. The costume designer even included some of the women in her team. They helped select the clothes and set the veils. The make-up artist examined the specific features of Wahhabi beards and produced and applied dozens of them in mass scenes. The set designers collaborated closely with the organizers of the original Wahhabi camp on which our reconstruction is based in ON THE PATH. Everybody told us that this project was going to be dangerous, but we did not have any negative experiences in dealing directly with the Salafis.

RESEARCH BY THE CAST

Actresses Mirjana Karanović, Jasna Žalica and Luna Mijović met with veiled women. They spoke openly about their everyday lives and the actresses joined them in the mosque. While preparing for their roles, actors Leon Lučev and Ermin Bravo spent time in mosques and in Salafi circles. They learned how to pray, they explored the depths of life in Islam. Ermin had an especially difficult task as he had to recite the Koran to reach Amar's heart. He spent two months working with a hafiz, an expert in reciting the Koran, on this 1.5-minute scene. The hafiz was delighted, since it normally takes at least one year to master all the sounds of the Arabic language. We also had the real-life Salafis for shooting the mosque scenes. When Ermin recited the Koran, they said that they could not believe he was just acting, that he seemed to do it truly from the heart. Some of the men and women we met during our research ended up becoming extras in ON THE PATH.

THE WAHHABI CAMP

The camp in ON THE PATH is our reconstruction of an actual Wahhabi camp which existed in the same spot on Lake Jablanica. There have been several such summer camps in the region in recent years. For our reconstruction, I spoke to the organizers of the original camp and I corresponded with people

who had been part of that community, even lived there. I searched for details like what kind of dishes they ate from, what were their daily activities, what their tents were like, etc.

It actually took us a long time to find the right tents. The ones we saw in photos of the actual camp had this Eastern flavour; they were of ideal size, made of natural materials and released enough light, which was ideal for the camera. We tried similar models, but they didn't work as well. By chance, we finally tracked down the original tents that had been sold off when the camp was demolished.

While scouting for a location to reconstruct the camp, we also realized that the original site was the best. First it seemed unrealistic, since the nearest road is five kilometres away, which was a problem for our trucks and generators. No drinking water or electricity at the site was also a huge difficulty, particularly in light of the heat we experienced during the shoot.

THE MOSQUE

We wanted post-war mosques, as they bring with them the spirit of new times. Old Bosnian mosques are always connected to poetic gardens and often cemeteries, to show that death is a part of life. Such mosques are small and warm, and in them a person feels big. The new mosques are huge structures with walls of cold-looking marble, blank slates with no art on the walls, like in the old mosques. A huge concrete wall and surveillance cameras surround these mosques, separating them from the neighbourhood. Flowers, trees and life have been erased by concrete. I insisted that we should use the King Fahd Mosque in Sarajevo's Alipašino Polje neighbourhood. It is right next to blocks of Socialist residential buildings. In two scenes in ON THE PATH, the residential blocks seem to be pulled aside like curtains, revealing the mosque at centre stage, as Amar walks towards it. For me, this image is a visual representation of the new societies in the Balkans.

THE LAYERS OF SARAJEVO

Sarajevo is a superbly beautiful and a superbly ugly city, highly sophisticated, and yet very primitive, all at the same time. All its layers of history live in

parallel, in the same time, and they all have their purpose. We looked for locations according to how Luna and Amar felt about the city. It was very important to immerse their intimacy into the city. We wanted a flat with a view, since the aspect of the city within their intimate space was important for us. Eventually, we created a flat in the attic of an office building in the city centre. Their flat is, in fact, their bedroom and their bathroom. This is the space that brings loneliness and togetherness, Eros and Thanatos, solid yet fragile, delicate yet stable and strong. That is why we used strong beams combined with frilly curtains and the softness of delicate bed linens.

“YUGOSLAV” CAST

Our cast is not only from Bosnia, but also Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia. Most of them had to learn Bosnian. Language brings in the spirit of the environment Amar and Luna belong to. In order to understand the soul of their characters, the actors had to accept their language. It was important for all of us that the characters belong to this community, and all actors did their best to understand its specificities. They worked very hard and they managed because they are great actors: Zrinka is an unexplored ocean filled with pearls, most precious shapes, undiscovered wells of emotions. Leon is such an incredible human being who gives himself completely to his art, approaching acting as also a way of self-exploration. Mirjana Karanović always surprises me with her richness, her unique and truthful view on life. Ermin Bravo is such a talent with huge passion and dedication. The entire cast enriched ON THE PATH with their energy and beauty: Nina Violić, Sebastian Cavazza, Ermin Bravo, Luna Mijović, Marija Köhn, Jasna Ornela Bery, Izudin Bajrović, Vanesa Glodo... With my “Yugoslav” colleagues, I share the spoken language and similar traditions of being from the same cultural area. The horrific experience of war led to an erosion of this cultural area and people were forced to look out for new ones. Not attempting to defend myself from the adjective “Yugoslav”, although I think it has become an extinct form, now we work in much wider contexts. Our collaborators are from European countries, in addition to countries of former Yugoslavia, and this is the future of the cinema of our region.





Jasmila Žbanić, scriptwriter/directress

ON THE PATH is Jasmila Žbanić's second feature film. Her feature debut GRBAVICA won the 2006 Berlinale Golden Bear (as well as the Ecumenical Award and the Peace Prize), the AFI (American Film Institute) Fest Grand Jury Prize and the Grand Prix Odyssey of the European Council for Human Rights. The moving story of war survivor and single mother Esma and her harrowing secret about her teenage daughter found its way into the hearts of audiences everywhere.

Jasmila's early films and video works have been displayed in dozens of art exhibitions worldwide. Highlights include her short BIRTHDAY, a look at the different paths taken by two young girls - one Croatian, one Bosniak; documentary RED RUBBER BOOTS, which follows Bosnian mothers searching for their children; and documentary IMAGES FROM THE CORNER, a personal account of a young woman seriously wounded during the war. Born in Sarajevo in 1974, Jasmila is a graduate of the her native city's Academy of Dramatic Arts, department for theater and film directing. Before filmmaking, she also worked as a puppeteer in the Vermont-based "Bread and Puppet" Theater and as a clown in a Lee DeLong workshop. Since 1997, Jasmila has produced through Deblokada, the artist's association which she founded.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

- 2009 ON THE PATH / NA PUTU
- 2008 PARTICIPATION (short, part of the omnibus STORIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS)
- 2007 BUILDER'S DIARY (documentary)
- 2006 GRBAVICA
- 2004 BIRTHDAY (short, part of the omnibus LOST AND FOUND)
- 2003 IMAGES FROM THE CORNER (documentary)
- 2000 RED RUBBER BOOTS (documentary)



Zrinka Cvitešić (as Luna)

Croatian actress Zrinka Cvitešić was selected for the 2010 "Shooting Stars" (Europe's Best Young Actors) based on her recent starring role as Luna in Jasmila Žbanić's ON THE PATH. Zrinka previously received much acclaim for 2003's HORSEMAN/KONJANIK, her first leading role in a feature, and for 2006's WHAT IS A MAN WITHOUT A MOUSTACHE? (winning her Best Actress awards at both the Sarajevo and Pula Film Festivals).

While still an acting student, Zrinka made her television debut in 2000's THE BIG CLEANING/VELIKO SPREMANJE. Other TV credits include a recurring role in the series VRATIĆE SE RODE and appearances in the films VOLIM TE/I LOVE YOU, BORE LEE: ČUVAJ SE SINJSKE RUKA! and THE LADY MUSKETEER.

Zrinka was born in 1979 in Karlovac, Croatia. She graduated from Zagreb's Academy of Dramatic Arts (ADU) in 2002. Since 2005, Zrinka has been a member of the Croatian National Theatre (HNK). She is also a trained pianist, singer and dancer. With her partner Nicolas Quesnoit, Zrinka was the winner of the 2006/7 inaugural season of the Croatian version of "Strictly Come Dancing"/"Dancing with the Stars".

Zrinka will soon be seen in Daniel Marušić's feature BELLA BIONDINA.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2009 ON THE PATH / NA PUTU (dir. Jasmila Žbanić)

2009 ZAGREB STORIES (segment "Game Over", dir. Dario Pleić)

2006 WHAT IS A MAN WITHOUT A MUSTACHE? (dir. Hrvoje Hribar)

2003 HORSEMAN / KONJANIK (dir. Branko Ivanda)

2001 CELESTIAL BODY / NEBO SATELITI (dir. Lukas Nola)



I hope the audience recognises in Luna the beauty of both a woman's strength and her fragility. Luna, who is vulnerable and weak, and Luna who is strong and powerful. A woman and a child. A person fighting for the man she loves, but staying true to herself. A person withdrawn into her own world, yet joyful and lively. I believe that life and people are never black or white. Luna was an endless source of all shades, never just black, never just white. And shades are the field of my interest. That is why I found Luna in myself and why Luna found herself in me.

Luna and Amar have both experienced the horrors of war, which leave scars behind, as well as powerful emotions, which all engendered a special kind of bond and ultimately a special kind of love. What I'd like the most is for people to recognise the love in ON THE PATH -- the love that governs all of us and what it makes us do, what we're prepared to do for it. To remind people that we should fight for love. Until our last breath. But should save that last breath and stay true to ourselves. For whoever is not in peace with themselves and within themselves, cannot find happiness with others.

I was a child of war once too. I was the child of refugees, so I was already familiar with this part of Luna's personality. I had heard about the horrors in Bijeljina and Sarajevo, although not much as being a child at the time, in Croatian war, I was protected by my parents as much as possible from war news and images. I visited Sarajevo for the very first time in 1998, when everything was still very fresh.

I knew nothing about Wahhabism before we started working on this film, I didn't even know it existed. I try to keep a distance from political, religious or any other kind of extremism. I understand that people can find salvation and purpose in something like that, particularly in difficult times in their lives, when they lose sense of their own lives – but I am not one of those people. I personally believe that tolerance and understanding should be the greatest religions of the world, as they are the most wonderful and the most important elements of a human being. For those two words bring with them the key to the most precious thing for me: peace.

I'm very honoured to have been selected as one of the ten "Shooting Stars" for 2010 because of my work in ON THE PATH. Being recognised as one of Europe's best young actors is a wonderful gift, and of course, receiving praise always feels good. But the most important in this recognition for me is that I hope it will help me to continue to work on films which I believe in strongly, films that I feel could change something or at least point at certain issues.

Leon Lučev (as Amar)

Leon Lučev is one of Croatia's most popular and acclaimed actors. He recently won Best Supporting Actor at the Pula Film Festival for 2008's A WOMAN WITH A BODY and Best Actor at the Sarajevo Film Festival for 2008's BUICK RIVIERA. Leon's other feature credits include Hrvoje Hribar's WHAT IS A MAN WITHOUT A MUSTACHE? and Vinko Brešan's WITNESSES and HOW THE WAR STARTED ON MY LITTLE ISLAND (Leon's screen debut). Leon has also had starring roles in the recent TV comedy series OPERACIJA KAJMAN and KAZALIŠTE U KUĆI.

Born in 1970 in Šibenik, Croatia, Leon attended Zagreb's Academy of Dramatic Arts (ADU) in 1994 after performing with the independent theatre group "Montažstroj". Leon continues to work in theater, having played in over 10 productions with Zagreb's ITD Theatre over the past several years. As co-founder and managing director of Živa Production, Leon co-produced Jasmila Žbanić's feature ON THE PATH, and has several projects in development.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2009	ON THE PATH / NA PUTU (dir. Jasmila Žbanić)
2009	STORM (dir. Hans-Christian Schmid)
2008	BEHIND THE GLASS / IZA STAKLA (dir. Zrinko Ogresta)
2008	A WOMAN WITHOUT A BODY / NIJE KRAJ (dir. Vinko Brešan)
2008	BUICK RIVIERA (dir. Goran Rusinović)
2007	THE TRUE MIRACLE / PRAVO ČUDO (dir. Lukas Nola)
2006	THE MELON ROUTE / PUT LUBENICA (dir. Branko Schmidt)
2006	GRBAVICA (dir. Jasmila Žbanić)
2005	WHAT IS A MAN WITHOUT A MUSTACHE? (dir. Hrvoje Hribar)
2004	WITNESSES / SVJEDOCI (dir. Vinko Brešan)
2003	INFECTON (dir. Krsto Papić)
2001	ALONE / SAMI (dir. Lukas Nola)
1999	CELESTIAL BODY / NEBO SATELITI (dir. Lukas Nola)
1996	HOW THE WAR STARTED ON MY ISLAND (dir. Vinko Brešan)



I am connected to Amar by the war, by the post-war destruction and the need to be accepted again after all that. Amar is one of thousands of young men whom I know, and I am one myself -- those who experienced the war actively and left it behind them with trauma and pain, who tried to move on with their lives. But it didn't work. I see Amar as an injured human being, whose youth was marked by the war and the loss of his brother, as a man who is trying to live his life with his pain, hiding behind alcohol and his seemingly 'normal' life and his love for Luna. Once his inner problems start to escalate and his world begins to crumble, he seeks security and acceptance.

While I was in Sarajevo, I tried to live through as much of Amar's own experiences as I could. I learned how to pray and how to behave properly in a mosque. I also met members of the Salafi movement and some of them have become my friends. I tried to meet people who resembled Amar's own friends and I tried to learn actively about the Salafi movement (through prayer and visits to the mosque) and then I tried to memorise that within my acting space, so that by the time of the shooting I could be the real Amar.

Amar chose to make Salafi his life and, as an actor, I had to agree with this. Amar would say that he felt acceptance, security and fulfilment with the Salafi. I say that I respect Amar's choice but that his lifestyle contains slightly too many rules. But I was surprised by my inner acceptance and understanding of the Salafi movement, which played itself out through Amar. During some of the shoot, particularly in the mosque scenes, I was even extremely irritated by people who did not observe the rules. I found this slightly disconcerting as I see myself as a tolerant liberal.

My production company Živa participated in ON THE PATH, helped raise money for the film. It was very interesting to work on a project that I believed in and I wanted to convey this belief to others. There were days when I had to travel to Zagreb after a day of shooting, then back to the set, but not too often. We had decided beforehand, that as soon as the shoot started, playing Amar would become my primary focus.

The process of working with directress Jasmila Žbanić is a great shared learning experience. What remains of the very intense and very profound experience after nine weeks of shooting -- when your actual body starts to complain and protest the gruelling 12-hour days -- is that my inner being was so filled with Amar that I could have continued to work on that character for a few more months. All this for me is an indication that work with Jasmila is a two-way process, an open-ended creation.



Technical info

Title: **NA PUTU**

Duration: **100 min**

Format: **35mm, digital cinema**

Original language: **Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian**

Year of production: **2009**

Genre: **Drama**

Cast:

LUNA

Zrinka Cvitešić

AMAR

Leon Lučev

BAHRIJA

Ermin Bravo

NAĐA

Mirjana Karanović

GRANDMOTHER

Marija Köhn

ŠEJLA

Nina Violić

DEJO

Sebastian Cavazza

DOCTOR

Jasna Ornela Bery

JUSUF

Izudin Bajrović

WATCHWOMEN

Jasna Žalica

DIJA

Luna Mijović

Crew:

director and screenplay:

Jasmila Žbanić

director of photography:

Christine A. Maier

production designers:

Lada Maglajlić & Amir Vuk

costume designer:

Lejla Hodžić

editor:

Niki Mossböck

makeup artist:

Halid Redžebašić

sound designer:

Igor Čamo

music composer:

Brano Jakubović

re-recording mixer:

Lars Ginzl

casting:

Oriana Kunčić

producers:

Damir Ibrahimović, Bruno Wagner,

Barbara Albert, Karl Baumgartner,

Raimond Goebel, Leon Lučev

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