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# DJEČACI IZ ULICE

MARKS & ENGELS

FILM NIKOLE VUKČEVIĆA

FIRST TIME TO KILL, FIRST TIME TO LOVE.

The Kids from the Marx and Engels Street

a film by Nikola Vukcevic

GALILEO  
PRODUCTION



[www.djecaci.me](http://www.djecaci.me)

THE  
OSCAR

MONTENEGRIN NATIONAL CANDIDATE



# STORY ABOUT TWO BROTHERS:

in the same night - older brother, Stanko (30), is going to kill a man for a first time - and his 16-years brother Vojo is going to make love for the first time. No one of them is prepared and ready for his task.

Many things between two brothers will cross them on that important night, and - will review the meanings of terms: family, trust, youth, loyalty and priority. What seems to be easy - it is not at all at Balkans ... and what is the price of being filled with satisfaction?



A thirteen-year old boy Stanko witnesses his father, a basketball coach, being beaten up after an important game (1991). The father soon dies of injuries sustained. The club management forces Stanko and his heavily pregnant mother to move out of the family apartment. Stanko recognises one of the club managers as his father's murderer and swears that one day he will have his revenge.

Five years later (1993), Stanko is the frontman of a popular Montenegrin band with a hit single. Stanko's younger brother Vojo, born after their father's death, adores his elder brother. Few day before Stanko turns eighteen his mother finds a gun hidden in his belongings. For fear that he may commit a crime she reports him to the police, who arrests him. His father's murderer, now an influential politician, threatens Stanko with prison, or army (these were war years in former Yugoslavia) - offers a "painless" solution: Stanko is to leave the country. Stanko consents and leaves.

Eleven years later we find Stanko in a famous London music studio, making a record with famous musicians. During the break, in the studio, he watches the finale of European Waterpolo Championship (2009) in Istanbul on TV. Montenegro wins. While he celebrates, among the officials celebrating Montenegrin victory on TV, he recognizes his father's murderer. This reminds him of the unfulfilled pledge. Without an explanation, Stanko leaves the studio and heads back to Montenegro to complete his vow. But once he lands, he finds that nothing is the same as he left it, the town, or people. His younger brother Vojo (16) is excited to see him. Stanko finds that Vojo has a few problems he can't fix himself so Stanko tries to help him, postponing the revenge. Stanko emerges to his brother as a man very different to what he imagined, with dark past, and whose actions caused problems for many.

That same night, Stanko and his father's murderer finally meet. Will Stanko find his revenge...?

On the other side of town, will Vojo and his girlfriend find their needs...?...and what is the price of being filled with satisfaction?



'The Kids from the Marx and Engels Street' directed by Nikola Vukoevic iz Montenegrin national Oscar candidate, for Best Foreign Feature Film 2015. We are confident that this feature film has several important elements that guarantee a strong cinematic experience: great family story about youth, truth and belief, with precise dramaturgy mathematics, made by Montenegrin leading film director - Nikola Vukoevic, professor of Film directing at Montenegrin national Faculty of Dramatic Arts (University of Montenegro). Our movie is about personal history, as opposite side of collective history - as fact. During the last twenty years - the history has been relentlessly and violently unfolding on the Balkans: wars, revolutions, strikes, violent government changes, fight for survival, murders, criminal, corruption, twisted system of values. In the shadow of these events, on their margins, are the personal histories of young people: first kisses, emotional growth, first and true loves are thwarted, twisted by the circumstances in their surroundings. This film places at the centre stage young people whose personal histories have no alternative and whose hopes and desires are stronger than the circumstances that divide them. In the search for their goals - they will learn more than they hoped for.



# LOVE & REVENGE

One of the film's "characters" is the city of Podgorica itself. The capital of almost unknown country Montenegro (it was Former Yugoslavia, up to 2006) is undergoing transformation from communist city to modern capital, from old to new, from province to a metropolis, unsure of its own value but certain of its existence in its specificity, through its urban myths that have not yet been told cinematographically. This will, no doubt, be of interest to international audiences.

**Running time 95 minutes.**

'In his life, a man needs to walk great distances  
outside his main path, so he can walk a short  
straight line on his way back.'

Edward Albee

cast

MOMČILO OTAŠEVIĆ GORAN BOGDAN

ANA SOFRENOVIĆ EMIR HADŽIHAFISBEGOVIĆ

NEBOJŠA GLOGOVAC BRANKA STANIĆ PETAR BOŽOVIĆ

BRANIMIR POPOVIĆ DAMIR URBAN & NENAD KNEŽEVIĆ KNEZ

special guest star



'This movie made me proud!'

Ana Sofrenović



"Life is something you learn  
about step by step and it serves  
to inhale it fullest, not instant."

DJEČACI IZ ULICE

MARKS'A



ENGELS'A

FILM NIKOLE VUKČEVIĆA



ANĐELA MIĆANOVIĆ

FILIP ĐURETIĆ

young actors

a film by

# NIKOLA VUKCEVIC

**BIOGRAPHY AND FILMOGRAPHY OF THE DIRECTOR** Nikola Vukcevic is a Montenegrin film director, born in 1974, in Titograd (Socialist Republic Montenegro), in Yugoslavia. He graduated as Stage and film director, independent producer since 1995, member of Film board of Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts (CANU), and professor at national Faculty of Dramatic Arts - Cetinje. Also, Artistic director at City theater Podgorica, since 2003. Vukcevic worked as the director/ author in around 80 projects, including one feature film (A View from the Eiffel Tower, presented at around 30 international festivals), ten theater performances, (performed and awarded at a number of important festivals, i.e. Budva Theatre City, Infant, Exit, TIBA, etc.) He also directed four short films, 25 half-an-hour documentaries for Montenegrin Broadcasting Service TV CG, as well as numerous music videos, commercials, TV clips.



From 2003 to 2010 Vukcevic is at the position of Artistic director of City Theater Podgorica (second important theater in state of Montenegro, after its National theater), and artistic head of new productions, with more than 25 stage productions in charge. Vukcevic is well versed in the use of modern cinematic technology, a skill he learned through collaboration with experienced production and postproduction crews (including Arkadena - Slovenia, Vizije - Croatia) as well as through attendance of international festivals, workshops and training sessions. Nikola Vukcevic has been named an Ambassador of Montenegrin Culture by the EU's Directorate General Enlargement. The Directorate is a project set up to promote the countries applying for membership of European Union, and the Ambassadors of culture will represent their country during the accession. His second film - 'The Kids from the Marx and Engels Street' by the selection committee of Montenegrin Ministry of Culture - is official Montenegrin national Oscar candidate for The Best Foreign film 2015.



**EDUCATION** Vukcevic received a Bachelor of Arts in Film and Theatre Directing from the Academy of Arts Novi Sad, Serbia, studying under supervision of internationally acclaimed film and theatre director Vlatko Gilic (films on Cannes film festival - 1973, 1977, 1980; Berlin, Oberhausen, Moscow, New York ...), as Student of Generation 1998 from Drama section. Vukcevic has been included in category of the best University students in Novi Sad. In June 2001 he received a Master Degree of Arts in drama. His thesis was awarded and published as a book "I Influence of Film On Theatre of New Forms". Since November 2010 Vukcevic has PhD, on cinematic and theater poetic of Ingmar Bergman.





# A Kid from the Street of Honey and Tears

Interview with director Vukcevic

'It is claimed that the word Balkans is actually a Turkish word meaning honey and tears. I would say that this is a good concept when making a film – you are making it with simple language, with lots of laughter; but that laughter must actually be a reflection of something more serious. Of course, this does not only relate to our Balkan context – it is obviously about the specificity of the wider Slavic character, both when it comes to film and the approach to culture in general. Just remember all those Polish, Russian, and Czech films we grew up with, or the great Miloš Forman, all the way to the novels and scripts of Milan Kundera – these are all extremely funny stories with a lot of serious and yet more serious layers. I really like that form.'

**'The Balkans is our joint denominator: its total experience is sweet honey mixed with tears.'**

**How much is the Kids ours, and how much is it a universal story? Who are these kids of yours?**

Well... the Kids is a story about growing up and parents, about certain parents. Above all, it is about mothers. About mothers who knew how to make very hard decisions while managing to preserve the honor and honesty of their families. Our society has inherited patriarchal values, while crucially not appreciating what the mother has always done in the Montenegrin family. Although, this is not only the case with the Montenegrin family, I believe that it is an issue in the entire Balkans.'

**Regardless of the bitterness, you still give the impression of an optimist; I would say that you do not lack hope. Do you ever get tired because of this?**

'I recently turned 40 and I think it is the time to "put on the brakes". I have been part of the same action, the same fight since 1994, when I first enrolled at the Academy of dramatic arts in Novi Sad. When the Kids goes into the cinemas, I want to review what is it that I have done so far and deliberate on what to direct the rest of my life to. So far, I have always been giving, now I want to deal with myself a bit and with my own wishes.'

**What influenced you to choose your direction: growing up in the Marx and Engels Street, the theatre in our town or the fact that your father, Ivo Vukčević, was an actor?**

'I think that it is the ill fortune of genes... I grew up at rehearsals in the Pioneer Theatre, and even today I remember the basement in the library building, where the theatre was located. I remember the darkness in these modest rooms, through which we wandered during the rehearsals, I remember the darkness just before the beginning of a play, then the floodlights...the smell of the theatre auditorium, as well as the wardrobe, the set... However, genes did influence me, whether I wanted it or not.'

**'Anyone who believes in victory will find his way; the one who believes in excuses, will always stick to them.'**





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GALILEO PRODUCTION I MINISTARSTVO KULTURE CRNE GORE PREDSTAVLJAJU FILM NIKOLE VUKČEVIĆA "DJEČACI IZ ULICE MARKSA I ENGELSA"

MOMČILO OTAŠEVIĆ, GORAN BOGDAN, ANA SOFRENOVIĆ, EMIR HADŽIHAFISBEGOVIĆ, BRANKA STANIĆ, FILIP ĐURETIĆ, ANĐELA MIČANOVIĆ, NEBOJŠA GLOGOVAC, BRANIMIR POPOVIĆ, JULIJA MILAČIĆ, ZORAN DRAGIČEVIĆ, MIŠO OBRADOVIĆ, FATMIR SPAHIU, PETAR BOŽOVIĆ, NIKOLA PERIŠIĆ, OGNORIM KOIKU, PETAR BURIĆ, IVO VUKČEVIĆ, SLAVKO KALEŽIĆ, ALEKSANDAR ČARAPIĆ ČARO, FEATURING DAMIR URBAN, NENAD KNEŽEVIĆ KNEZ, PO MOTIVIMA DRAME "INSTANT" - BORBA MILOSAVLJEVIĆA, SCENARIO MILICA PILETIĆ, NIKOLA VUKČEVIĆ, PRODUKCIJA NIKOLA VUKČEVIĆ, IVAN ĐUROVIĆ, RADE VOJVODIĆ, NINA PEDŽEPAGIĆ, DARIO DOMITROVIĆ, RATKO JOVANOVIĆ, DIREKTOR FILMA IVAN ĐUROVIĆ, SCENOGRAFIJA STANISLAV NIKČEVIĆ, KOSTIM JELENA ĐUKANOVIĆ, ŠMINKA/MASKA NATAŠA ŠEVCNIKAR, KOMPOZITOR VLADIMIR MORITZ, ZVUK IGOR VOJVODIĆ, POST.ZVUKA DUŠAN MAKSIMOVIĆ, DARIO DOMITROVIĆ, DIREKTOR FOTOGRAFIJE DIMITRIJE JOKOVIĆ, MONTAŽA SRĐAN STANOJEVIĆ, REDITELJ NIKOLA VUKČEVIĆ

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