



PROJECT TITLE: THE HIGH SUN (CROATIA)

LOGLINE

The story of *The High Sun* is an original take on a classic Romeo and Juliet story. As in every Romeo and Juliet story the premise is the same – two young people from two neighbouring villages of different religions and ethnicities fall in love. But the people around them do not consider their love to be appropriate, and are deadly set against their union. The same stories repeats from one decade to the other (as well as from one century to the next) – it is difficult to overcome a deeply-rooted hatred. By speaking about the inter-ethnic hatred so well known on our shores, our story aims to speak of hatred in general, which is the hatred and mistrust of the OTHER.

CREDITS

Director: Dalibor Matanic

Scriptwriter: Dalibor Matanic

Production Company: Kinorama

Producers: Ankica Juric Tilic, Ivana Simic

Total Budget: €980.000

Secured Financing: €115.056

Percentage of Secured Financing: 11,74 %

SYNOPSIS

Dalmatia, 1990, 2000 and 2010. The story of THE HIGH SUN is an original take on a classic Romeo and Juliet story. As in every Romeo and Juliet story, the premise is the same – two young people from two neighbouring villages fall in love. The film is divided into three parts. It will tell the story of Jelena and Ivan, two young people from different ethnic groups, across three different decades. Thus, it will follow a total of six characters over three consecutive decades, each character in a separate decade played by the same actor. The lovers always meet in exactly the same location, at exactly the same age (she is always 24 and he is always 28). But the stories themselves take place at ten-year intervals – each one begins a decade after the story that preceded it. While the same stories repeat themselves from one decade to the other, it seems impossible to overcome a deeply-rooted hatred. However, the last story offers a ray of hope: altruism and some degree of civilized progress will allow our heroes' neighbourhood to take a step forward and show that there is always hope that things may change for the better. The story about Jelena and Ivan is actually the story aiming to speak about hatred in general, which is the hatred and mistrust of the Other.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As an artist, I have been long intrigued by the ever-present inter-ethnic hatred in the Balkan region, and by conflicts rooted in war, religion or politics. With this film, I intend to explore these themes by contrasting the destructive emotion of hatred with its exact polar opposite: love, and the act of falling in love.

In the first story, a romantic attraction – the purest human urge – is forced underground when love becomes a forbidden luxury as a result of pre-war madness, confusion and fear. In the second story, the war is over, but a relationship between two lovers from different communities is still forbidden because the scars of war simply cannot heal that easily, and inter-ethnic hatred still has a powerful and malignant hold over people's lives. The third story takes place in the present day, it offers a solution where love finally becomes possible when people manage to overcome the darkness in their souls and try to live once more according to basic human principles. Catharsis succeeds, but alarming side-effects appear.

I would like to combine the sun-scorched Dalmatian landscape, the fecund natural world and the carefree certainty of youth with human actions that are the fruit of long-standing hatred, history, tradition, confusion and fear. With such a contrast, I will follow our main characters with the camera.

From the initial story's light-heartedness and lack of restraint, through the war-ravaged and traumatised couple in the second story, we will come to the present day and the need to raise ourselves above the horrors of the past and the need to revitalize the spirit of essential youthful innocence and mutual tolerance.

I want an unquenchable vitality to break through the frames of this film.



DIRECTOR'S PROFILE AND FILMOGRAPHY

Dalibor Matanić was born in Zagreb in 1975 and holds a degree in Film and Television Directing from the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Zagreb. After shooting several shorts, he made his award-winning feature debut *THE CASHIER WANTS TO GO TO THE SEASIDE* in 2000. His filmography includes seven feature films and several shorts screened at many international film festivals. His feature *KINO LIKA* and his short *PARTY* were shown at 80 international film festivals and received 27 awards. Currently, his *MOTHER OF ASPHALT* (2010) is on the international festival circuit, while this year's Pula Film Festival showed the premiere of his latest feature *DADDY*. Matanić is a member of the European Film Academy.

COMPANY PROFILE

Kinorama is a Zagreb-based production company specialized in film production, which was founded in 2003. Within the past two years, we produced three feature films and four shorts, winning more than 40 international film awards. At the moment, we are finishing two new features to be released soon and are developing four new projects. Some of the most promising young directors as well as already recognized and respected Croatian filmmakers are attached to our company. Since we are also eager to co-produce, we are always present at international co-production markets, both looking for partners for our projects and trying to find interesting other ones.