



Karlovy Vary
International Film Festival
East of the West – Competition

AGA'S HOUSE

a film by LENDITA ZEQIRAJ

N'ART + WOOF FILMS IN ASSOCIATION WITH SACREBLEU PRODUCTIONS, SKA-NDAL AND SY13 PRESENTS "AGA'S HOUSE" A FILM BY LENDITA ZEQIRAJ
STARRING ARTI LOKAJ, ROZAFI CELAJ, ADRIANA MATOSHI, BASRI LUSHTAKU, SHENGYL ISMAILI, MELIHATE QENA, REBEKA QENA, MOLIKE MAXHUNI

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY LENDITA ZEQIRAJ DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SOFIAN EL FANI SOUND ENGINEER NICOLAS MAS PRODUCTION DESIGNER LENDITA ZEQIRAJ
EDITED BY KEKA BERISHA AND THOMAS MARCHAND SOUND EDITING SUPERVISOR JEAN-BARTHELEMY VELAY SOUND EDITING PELLUMB BALLATA SOUND MIX AYMERIC DUPAS
PRODUCED BY BUJAR KABASI CO-PRODUCED BY RON DYENS AND GENÇ PERMETI EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BUJAR KABASI, LENDITA ZEQIRAJ AND HAMEZ ZEQIRAJ ASSOCIATE PRODUCER RIO KOJIMA

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NART FILMS



SY13



WOOF FILMS



AGA'S HOUSE

(original title: SHPIA E AGËS)

Drama, Social, Coming of Age, Women
Kosovo / Croatia / France / Albania
107 minutes

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY: Lendita Zeqiraj

CAST: Arti Lokaj, Rozafa Çelaj, Adriana Matoshi, Basri Lushtaku,
Shengyi Ismaili, Melihate Qena, Rebeka Qena,
Molikë Maxhuni

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE: Albanian

PRODUCED BY: Bujar Kabasi
PRODUCTION COMPANY: N'ART FILMS, Kosovo
IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH: WOOF FILMS, Croatia;
SACREBLEU PRODUCTIONS, France;
SKA-NDAL PRODUCTIONS, Albania
SY13 FILMS, Albania

OFFICIAL FILM WEB-PAGE: www.agashouse.com
OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE: www.facebook.com/agathefilm

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LOGLINE

A young boy living in a house of women must hurry to save a woman who is teaching him Serbian, so that he can continue the search for his missing father.

SYNOPSIS

Aga, a 9-year-old boy is secretly struggling to find his missing father, while living with five frantic women in the house outside the city. He makes money by selling cigarettes on the street, where he meets Cera, an arrogant and abusive man who has a restraining order to get near the house because of molesting behavior towards one of the women. But when one of the women attempts a suicide, he is the only one around to help Aga take her to the hospital.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I am an observer of the world around me and my inspiration is everyday life experience and authentic people mindset. I find the individual's life experience particularly fascinating but I am specifically interested in a human relationship.

This comes probably from life experience as a witness of many different changes in our society where some of them were difficult and painful. There was a time where all the existence values crushed down, letting us immersed in an absurd state of mind.

All my past and current projects have dealt with the complexity of human relations and the vulnerability of people, placed in the very particular contexts. I have also worked in documentaries and experimental short films in search for new mediums and means of expression. Even my latest films "BALCONY" and "FENCE" speak about a situation where complex human relations reveal the mentality and the actual problems of our society, where humor and violence are present elements that characterize our mentality. Therefore, in all of my projects this far, the line between comedy and tragedy is very thinly, almost unnoticeably drawn.

The characters in "AGA'S HOUSE" are people that surround me every day. Daring people who, even after their horrific experiences, manage to live their lives. I find fascinating their ability to maintain the joy, smile and sense of humor, and at the same time, live with it and not get crushed. Their life is very simple and basic, with few moments that define people's mindset, deep societal wounds, in a culture and a country where humor is the only therapy that they have.



I want to capture the feeling of many mixed emotions of this very complex issue, where deep wounds are hidden and the best way to deal with them is to manage to live with them, through the process of enduring, adapting and surviving. The occurrence is particular to Kosovar women, who get wrapped up in this system by pressing their desires and feelings, getting crushed into a constant anxiety that ends up defining them.

They discover new boundaries for their emotional pain, loss, happiness and exhilarating joy, they need a medium through which to express and convey their feelings. Searching for love and affection to fulfill the emptiness of the missing father, Aga approaches and hugs Cera. Zdenka shows affection to Aga, in order to reach her own daughter. Kumrija is able to speak out her own story through the intermediary of a journalist.

The story is simple, but yet it reveals many complex issues of our society, showing the ways in which people filter and digest their bruising experiences, when no one is around to help them, or without any professional care.

It's a very small slice of characters' daily life in today's Kosovo society, with all its angst, pressure, and complexity of relationships.





LENDITA ZEQRIRAJ / Writer & Director - Born in Kosovo, award winning film director Lendita Zeqiraj is declared 'National Filmmaker of the Year 2014', and won "The Annual Film Excellence Award for Cinematic Achievements" by the Kosovo Ministry of Culture. She's worked on a number of shorts and documentary films, which have participated in over 300 International Film Festivals, such as International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, Thessaloniki, Cairo, Leeds, Vilnius etc., winning prizes in a number of them.

Her last short film FENCE, won Best Short award at Palm Springs Int'l ShortFest, Hamptons and New Orleans film festival and has been triple Qualified for Oscar® Academy Award, and continues traveling throughout worldwide film festivals.

Her previous short film BALCONY, premiered at 70th Venice Film Festival and screened at over 170 International Film Festivals, such as Telluride Film Festival, Palm Springs Short Fest, Warsaw Film Festival, Busan International Film Festival etc. and won over 35 international awards, including the Special Jury Award at the AFI FEST 2013.

FILMOGRAPHY

- AGA'S HOUSE – feature / 2019
- FENCE – short / 2018
- BALCONY – short / 2013
- ANOTHER CHANCE – short documentary / 2013
- AMNESIA – short experimental / 2012
- WE'RE NOT IN PARADISE – short documentary / 2011
- ALBANIAN EGYPTIAN – short documentary / 2010
- CRY FOR RECOGNITION – short documentary / 2009
- EXIT – short fiction / 2003

CHARACTERS

AGA, aged 9, grew up in refuge house with his mother, he's selling cigarettes and marijuana on the street to support his mother and save money to achieve his goal, to find his father who he never met. To achieve this, he connects with Zdenka, a Croatian woman so she can teach him Serbian language.

EMIRA, aged 21, is cheerful but naïve city girl. A talented singer who became victim of forced prostitution while trying to pursue her career. After escaping traffickers, she found refuge in the house with other women, becoming best friends with Luma.

LUMA, aged 23, rural girl, a victim of forced marriage. After her much older husband dies, she left home with Cera from whom she soon escapes and finds refuge in the house.

CERA, aged 43, a hustler, a gambler, a local thug. He has a restraining order to approach the refuge house, cause of molesting behavior towards Luma. But anyways, he continuously goes around hoping he'll catch her.

KUMRIJA, aged 32, is Aga's mother, rape victim in the time of war, who was forced to seek refuge in the house when she found out that she's pregnant.

GJYLA, aged 70, a widow whose son was killed in the war, and since she has no living male member of the family, she's been forced out from her home by the relatives. She found a refuge in the house while waiting the court decision about her case.

ZDENKA, aged 40, is depressed middle age divorcee of a different ethnicity (Croatian).



ACTORS

ARTI LOKAJ, 2009, is a Kosovar young talented actor, in less than two years he played in three features and two short films.

Selected Credits: AGA'S HOUSE (2019), Fields of Black-birds (2018), FENCE (2018), Rooftop Story (2017), Lost in Hope (2017).



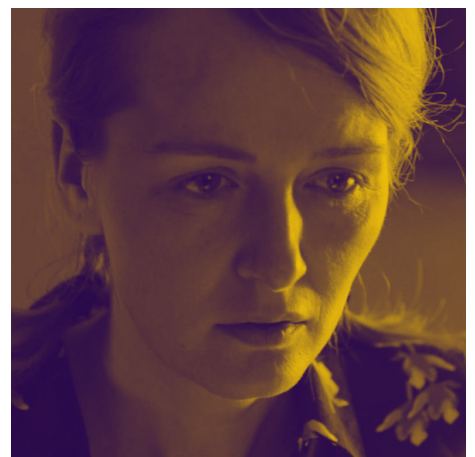
ROZAFI ÇELAJ, 1994, is a multitalented Kosovar student of film directing, her acting talent has been discovered by Lendita Zeqiraj in her film FENCE and a bit later AGA'S HOUSE.

Selected Credits: AGA'S HOUSE (2019), FENCE (2018).



ADRIANA MATOSHI, 1980, is an award-winning Kosovar Actress. She's worked on over 40 Theatre Plays and Films. With her work she participated in many International Film and Theatre Festivals and is 4 times winner of best actress prize. Lately she's focusing her acting in films.

Selected Credits: AGA'S HOUSE (2019), FENCE (2018), Cold November (2018), Marriage (2017), Unwanted (2017), Father (2015), BALCONY (2013), The Return (2012)



BASRI LUSHTAKU, 1973, a Kosovar actor active both in film and theater, he worked on over 20 Theatre Plays and Films.

Selected Credits: AGA'S HOUSE (2019), The Three of Us (2013), Double Life (2007), Kosova: Desperate Search (2006), Metroplet (2005).



SHENGYL ISMAILI,

Selected Credits: AGA'S HOUSE (2019), A Month (2017), Kanarinët e Dinë (2014), BALCONY (2013).



MELIHATE QENA, 1949, is a Kosovar actress, theater and TV director, she's worked on over 60 Theatre Plays and Films.

Selected Credits: AGA'S HOUSE (2019), FENCE (2018), Marriage (2017), Kësulatat (2017), A Dream (2017), A Performance (2016), Shok (2015), Donkeys of the Border (2009).



REBEKA QENA,

Selected Credits: AGA'S HOUSE (2019), Edhe 5 Minuta (2013), Besa (2013), Varsja (2002).



FULL CREDITS

Written and Directed by: LENDITA ZEQRRAJ

Produced by: BUJAR KABASI

Co-Producers: GENC PERMETI
RON DYENS

Executive Producers: BUJAR KABASI
LENDITA ZEQRRAJ
HAMËZ ZEQRRAJ

Cast: ARTI LOKAJ
ROZAFI ÇELAJ
ADRIANA MATOSHI
BASRI LUSHTAKU
SHENGYL ISMAILI
MELIHATE QENA
REBEKA QENA
MOLIKË MAXHUNI
EGLA CENO
LAURA BUNA
ANTHONY MOREAU

Director of Photography: SOFIAN EL FANI
Production Designer: LENDITA ZEQRRAJ
Editing: KEKA BERISHA
THOMAS MARCHAND
Associate Producer: RIO KOJIMA

Line Producer: BUJAR KABASI
Production Manager: LIRIDON CAHANI
1st Assistant Director: ANTHONY MOREAU
2nd Assistant Director: HANA QENA
Production Supervisor: BUJAR KABASI



1st Assistant Camera:	Wafa Mimouni	Production Coordinators:	Bujar Kabasi
2nd Assistant Camera:	Jetmir Zenelaj		Claire Burnoud
DIT:	Nart Zeqiraj	Post-Production Co.:	Bujar Kabasi
Editing Intern:	Anouk Delpeut	Casting Associates:	Bardha Celaj
Color Grading:	Yov Moor		Lendita Idrizi
Make Up:	Jeanne Dehee		Vesa Qena
Sound Engineer:	Nicolas Mas	Set Photographer:	Atdhe Mulla
Boom Operators:	Olivier Pelletier	Production Assistants:	Ylli Berisha
	Doriane Racine		Remzi Ajazi
S. Sound Editor:	Jean-Barthelemy Velay		Alvis Muja
Sound Editor:	Pëllumb Ballata		Tomor Cahani
Sound Mix:	Aymeric Dupas		Manon Messiant
Assistant Sound editor:	Nok Selmani	Assistants to producers:	Uresa Selimi
Opening Titles:	Nata Zeqiri Berisha		Elida Rasha
Wardrobe:	Krenare Rugova	Continuity:	Laura Buna
Props & Set Design:	Burim Arifi	Accountants:	Fidaim Dobra
Props Assistant:	Armend Ratkoceri		Dario Tolic
Wardrobe Assistants:	Deltina Sylla		Maxi Cortez
	Yllëza Mazreka	Legal Advisors:	Jean-Michel Orion
Gaffer:	Astrit Bica		Balazs Zachar
Best Boy:	Berat Hajdari		Jerome Boucher
Key Grip:	Trajche Velichkovski	Interns:	Juliette Marquet
Electricians:	Ar Lind Brajshori		Donatienne Bertherau
	Zgjim Jashari		Emillie Charles
Location Manager:	Marko Jelavic		



CONTACTS

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