

Želimir Žilnik - Screening and Workshop



Žilnik is a key Serbian film director and one of the major figures of the Yugoslav Black Wave. Žilnik was born in a concentration camp in 1942; his parents, members of the anti-Nazi resistance, were both killed during the war. He is noted for his socially engaging style and for his criticism of the censorship commonplace during the Yugoslav Communist era. His work includes over 50 films focussed on contemporary social issues, from *A Newsreel on Village Youth in Winter* (1967), *The Unemployed* (1968) and *June Turmoil* (1969), *Black Film* (1971) and *Uprising in Jazak* (1973) to his more recent work examining the breakdown of Yugoslavia.

The problems facing refugees and immigrants in the new circumstances of an extended Europe became the focus of Žilnik's most recent films *Fortress Europe* (2000; "Victor Award" for Best Film of the Year, Ljubljana), *Kenedi Goes Back Home* (2003; "Zlatna Mimoza Award" in Herceg Novi), *Kenedi, Lost and Found* (2005), *Europe-next-door* (2005; Award for Best Regional Film at the Festival of Belgrade 2006 and ZagrebDox 2007), *Soap in Danube Opera* (2006) a story of modern Roma life.

Since 1997 Žilnik has taught workshops for film students around the world. His unusual working style uses a combination of documentary research and his own version of 'docu-drama'.

Screening:

Date: Monday Oct 28th 6:30 - 9:00PM

Zilnik will screen and discuss work from his prolific oeuvre with the Hunter Community and the public.

Uprising in Jazak (18 min, Yugoslavia, 1973)
plus segments of more recent work.

Kenedi Goes Back Home (75 min, Serbia and Montenegro, 2003)

Fortress Europe (80 min, Slovenia, 2000)

Uprising In Jazak - People from the village of Jazak in Fruška Gora Mountain show how they fought undercover against the Nazi occupation forces during the WWII. They speak about the dramatic events - of how they helped to hide partisans and how young people joined the resistance.

Kenedi Goes Back Home - This film looks at the repatriation of refugees from the breakup of Yugoslavia as they are forced out of Western Europe, following the fates of the story of two friends Kenedi and Denis, and the Ibinci, a Roma family, during the first couple of days after they return.

Fortress Europe - This docu-drama was shot in the border region between Hungary, Slovenia and Croatia at the south-eastern edge of the EU. The plot spins around a Russian family - Svetlana, living in Trieste with her friends, is waiting for her daughter Katja's arrival. Katja is escorted by Svetlana's former husband Artjom. But during their travels the two find themselves in a strange country without documents.

Workshop:

Date: Thursday, Oct 31st. Time TBA.

Zilnik will work with a group of a half-dozen IMA students in a special workshop. The goal: to create a spontaneous documentary. Interested students should contact Marty Lucas
mluc@hunter.cuny.edu.

Filmography: See <http://zilnikzelimir.net/>

Zelimir is also appearing at the Flaherty Seminars

The Permanent Dissident: Zelimir Zilnik

Tuesday, October 29, 7:00pm @ Anthology Film Archives

<http://flahertyseminar.org/the-permanent-dissident-zelimir-zilnik/>