



THE WIRE

A FILM BY
TIHA K. GUDAC

PART OF THE
BORDERLINE
COLLECTION

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Divided by a raising fence on the border of free Europe, a small community needs to find a way to deal with changes in order to survive.

A FILM BY	TIHA K. GUDAC	GENRE	CREATIVE DOCUMENTARY
WRITTEN BY	TIHA K. GUDAC IGOR BAŠIN FREDERIK NICOLAI	DURATION	77 MINUTES THEATRICAL 53 MINUTES TV-VERSION
CAMERA	DARKO HERIČ THOMAS SZACKA-MARIER	FORMAT	DCP 5.1 SOUND 16:9
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY	FRÉDÉRIC VERCHEVAL	SPOKEN LANGUAGES	CROATIAN, SLOVENIAN ARAB
EDITED BY	THIJS VAN NUFFEL	SUBTITLES	ENGLISH DUTCH SLOVENIAN CROATIAN
SOUND EDIT & DESIGN	RUNE HANSEN	PRODUCTION COUNTRIES	BELGIUM CROATIA NORWAY SLOVENIA LITHUANIA
SOUND MIX	JEAN-FRANÇOIS LEVILLAIN		
PRODUCERS	FREDERIK NICOLAI ERIC GOOSSENS		
CO-PRODUCERS	LJUBO ZDJELAREVIC KARL-EMIL RIKARDBSEN VIVA VIDENOVIĆ LUKAS TRIMONIS		

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SYNOPSIS (498 characters)

By constructing an iron fence, right through the beautiful KUPA-region, Slovenia has made Croatia somewhat an unwilling buffer for the influx of the refugees coming from Bosnia, trying to reach Europe.

Of cause of the fence, the usual way of life has collapsed and a new dynamic was generated. The region has become an arena of different faces of human nature brought forward by a time of crisis, in which local population needs to find a way to deal with this new situation in order to survive.



SYNOPSIS (855 characters)

Harsh living conditions in the canyon of river Kupa, on the Croatian-Slovenian border, have always been bringing the people of neighbouring nations together.

In the past people of two nations built hanging bridges over Kupa, under them love was made and so mixed families were formed on both sides of the river.

Today no one can cross these bridges, as they are cut off, and a different unexpected reality is evolving around the water. Recently some far-away bureaucrats decided to start construction of a razor-wire fence all along the Slovenian side of the river, as a protective measure against arrival of illegal migrants trying to enter European Union.

The new "wall protecting Europe" might seem to be a good solution on paper for decision makers, but those living around the border are feeling the true nature of separation lines drawn on paper.

SYNOPSIS (1244 characters)

The divine Kupa-region always had an ambiguous character and seems to be the involuntary setting of political conflict, in the past and again today. In Yugoslav times, a border did not separate Slovenia and Croatia. Today the EU connects and at the same time separates them. Both Croatia and Slovenia are in EU, but only Slovenia is part of Schengen, so it decided to build an iron fence in the banks of Kupa River to stop refugees and migrants from illegally entering the EU. Each day the river, presenting a stream of life, is being cut off more and more. Construction of fences, razor wire and strict border checks not only cut the landscape but also in the community living around the Kupa River.

The new iron fence made Croatia and Slovenia somewhat an unwilling buffer for the influx of refugees coming on the Balkan Route trying to reach Europe. The harsh, beautiful river canyon has become the arena in which migrants and refugees trying to reach Europe are starting to wake up spirits of the past and bring light to different faces of human nature brought forward by a time of crisis. Divided by a raising fence, and the arrival of strangers, the local population needs to find a way to deal with this new situation in order to survive.



DIRECTORS STATEMENT

Making this film about the Kupa river canyon has taken me to a border region where I have witnessed a gradual transformation of a community, over a period of four years. The region has been cut in half by a razor wire - which nobody wanted yet everyone has to live with.

Here free Europe is making its conscious clear by bureaucratically dealing with a challenge too big to be solved by simple decisions on offer. A community that has only recently lived together is now becoming two communities defined as "us and them".

I see this film story as a significant one, as the changes happening in Europe on a big scale are happening here, on a small and very indicative level. As a filmmaker I feel these kind of situations are precisely the ones we should be drawn to, as we are yet to learn all the layers and significance of change happening right in front of us. I feel as if it was both an obligation and a privilege to have a crew and an opportunity to document this moment in time.

ABOUT DIRECTOR/AUTHOR TIHA K. GUDAC

Is a filmmaker based in Croatia, where she's working as a director, scriptwriter and a producer. She has an MA as a Master of Film Arts and an MA in Business Marketing. As a director and scriptwriter and researcher she is working primarily on documentary projects. As a producer she has independently produced and worked on: fiction, documentary, and animated films and commercial and TV formats, some of which were awarded, or box office success. She debuted as a director with her film "Naked Island" (2014), which has received numerous international festival awards, and has had international theatrical, TV and educational distribution.

In the recent years she has directed, written and co-produced three TV documentary series programs for Croatian national TV Broadcaster HRT.

As a guest lecturer she teaches subjects of documentary film projects development and commercial TV production. Her early work background was marked by years of involvement with the NGO sector - developing international dialogue building and conflict resolution projects, as well as working in PR, working in film festivals and acting in theatre projects. She is a member of: Director's Guild of Croatia, Croatian Filmmaker Association and Croatian Independent Artists Association.



ABOUT PRODUCER OFF WORLD (Belgium)

Off World is an independent production company based in Brussels, capital of Flanders, Belgium and Europe. Off World's main goal is to produce international author documentaries. Over the last few years, the company has built up a large portfolio and a solid reputation as delegate producer and co-producer of many creative and original documentaries.

some recent films: **The Wire** a film by Tiha Gudac in coproduction with VRT-Canvas, Kinoteka (HR) RTV Sloveija, Urgh (SI), Relation04 Media (NO), In_Script (LT) // **We Will Remember Them** a film by Annabel Verbeke in coproduction with VRT-Canvas (Closing film VdR 2018) // **El Color Del Camaleon**, a film by Andrès Lübbert in coproduction with Blume Producciones (Chile) // **Exitus**, a documentary series by Toon Loenders and Bob Thissen, in co-production with Submarine, NTR (NL) and VRT-Canvas // **How To Meet a Mermaid** a film by Coco Schrijber in coproduction with Zeppers Film, VPOR (NL), House of Reel, DR (DK), IDFA 2016 // **Archibelge**, a documentary series by Sofie Benoot, Olivier Magis, Frederik Nicolai and Gilles Coton, in co-production with Playtime Films RTBF and VRT-Canvas // **Red Star Line**, a documentary series by Daniël Cattier and Fabio Wuytack, in co-production with Eklektik, RTBF and VRT-Canvas // **Desert Haze**, a film by Sofie Benoot, in co-production with Zeppers Film (NL) // **Reinoud, My Sculptor**, a film by Blaise D'Haese, in coproduction with RTBF // **Rêve Kakudji**, a film by Ibbe Daniels and Koen Vidal, in co-production with VRT-Canvas (IDFA 2015) // **Little Heaven**, a film by Lieven Corthouts, in co-production with DGOS, Lichtpunt // **Kongo**, a film by Samuel Tilman, in coproduction with Eklektik (BE), RTBF, ARTE, VRT-CANVAS // for complete filmography, visit www.offworld.be

ABOUT PRODUCER KINOTEKA (Croatia)

KINOTEKA is a audiovisual production company from Zagreb which was established in 2009. From its inception until today Kinoteka has positioned itself as one of the leading production companies in the production of comprehensive audiovisual content and commercials. In this sense, the company has established a long-term cooperation with the leading advertising agencies in Croatia, scientific institutes, museums, film festivals, and Croatian National Radio-Television Company, among many others. Providing peer support to young authors was one of the main criteria and postulates in selecting projects to be produced by Kinoteka from the very beginnings. It is our mission to serve as a platform which should enable self-formation and a breakthrough of new young authors and innovative film expressions.

ABOUT PRODUCER URGH! (Slovenia)

URGH! is a recently founded independent production company based in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Our main goal is to work with talented filmmakers and produce projects that deal with socially relevant issues, ranging from arts & culture to problems of contemporary society, people and the environment. Due to specific regulations regarding the possibilities of production funding in Slovenia the company is slowly building its portfolio with a variety of animation, documentary, short and feature fiction films in production or development, most of which are international co-productions.



THE WIRE IS PART OF THE **BORDERLINE** COLLECTION,
A COLLECTION OF 6 BORDER FILMS BY 6 EUROPEAN EMERGING DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKERS
BORDERLINE IS AN **OFF WORLD PRODUCTION** IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH **VRT-CANVAS,**
KINOTEKA (HR), URGH, RTVS (SL) RELATION04 MEDIA (NO), IN_SCRIPT (LT),
UMEDIA IN ASSOCIATION WITH **UFUND**

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WITH THE SUPPORT FROM **CROATIAN AUDIOVISUAL CENTER, LITHUANIAN FILM CENTER**

IMPACT PRODUCER



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