

Nil production presents



**ALBANIAN
FILM WEEK**

OPENING NIGHT - BLACK TIE EVENT

Bow Tie Cinemas (260 W 23rd St, New York, NY 10011)

Oct. 30th, 31st & Closing Night Nov. 5th Time: 6pm to 10pm

PC Theatre (358 W 44th St, New York, Ny 10036)

November 1st, 2st, 3st, & 4st Time: 6pm to 10pm

**ALBANIAN FILM WEEK
PROGRAM OF 2015**



IV Edition
OCT 30 - NOV 05 - 2015

Albanian Cinema
in Manhattan

www.albanianfilmweek.net

OPENING CEREMONY

OCTOBER. 30. 2015 – FRIDAY /

Bow Tie Cinemas, Room 7- 260 W 23rd St, New York, NY 10011

6:30pm - Red Carpet Black Tie Event

8:00pm - Opening Ceremony / Introduction 20'

8:20pm - Three Windows And A Hanging / Isa Qosja / Feature film 1'34"

Cast: Irena Cahani, Donat Qosja, Luan Jaha, Leonora Mehmetaj, Xhevat Qorraj.

Synopsis: In a traditional village in Kosova, a year after the war when people rebuilding their lives, the female school teacher Lushe is driven by her inner conscience to give an interview to an international journalist, telling her that she and three other women from the village were raped by Serbian forces. As soon as the village men realize that it was Lushe who spoke to the journalist, they start a hate campaign against Lushe and her little boy, asking her to leave the village. An insightful portrait of a Balkan village, of a patriarchal microcosm, and of its mayor who desperately wants to control the village life. A reflection of rituals which not only show gender inequality, but also the absence of freedom of expression within the male community.

Followed by Q & A

Afterparty TBA

OCTOBER. 31. 2015. – SATURDAY /

Bow Tie Cinemas, Room 1 - 260 W 23rd St, New York, NY 10011

6:00pm - Liberation / Burim Haliti / Drama, Comedy 27'.

Cast: XhelalHaliti, ValmirSelimi.

Synopsis: During the war, a teacher and a student, remain trapped in a primary school, they will survive inside the school for a few months, suddenly at the end something will happen to them!

-The Good Life over There / Izer Aliu /Drama, 29'.

Cast: Ridvan Mustafa, Arben Alim

Synopsis: Sami is an illegal worker in Oslo that minds his own business and breaks his back to support a family in his home country. When forced to babysit the son of a boss he admires, and aims to become like, Sami faces the choice we all try to balance on a daily basis; family and work. Both require loyalty. Both want dedication. Both change us, but whichever we spend most time with changes us in its own direction.

- The last battle / Alban Zogjani / short. 11'

Cast: Xhejlane Terbunja, Andi Bajgora, Bislim Mucaj, Maki Miftari, Besart Sllamniku, Rifat Smani, Blin Berisha.

Synopsis: Linda, a thirty-year old widow takes care of her son who is passionate about the football team Real Madrid especially about Ronaldo. Ylli is sick. Real Madrid comes to play in Kosovo for its first time, of course Linda and Yll have bought the tickets but one day before the match something happens.

- Kali / Alban Ukaj & Yll Citaku/ Short film 14' 20".

Cast: Izudin Bajroviç, Florist Bajgora, Ermal Gërdovci, Lum Berisha.

Synopsis: October 1st, 1997. Students turn out on the streets of Prishtina to protest for their rights, against the repressive regime. Among them, three teenage friends also attend the protest, finding themselves in unimaginable situations.

Followed by Q & A

8:00pm - Amsterdam EXPRESS / Fatmir Koçi /drama. 91'.

Cast: Blerim Destani, James Biberi, Flonja Kodheli.

Synopsis: A young Albanian emigrant is precariously caught in Amsterdam among the promise and allure of the rich city, threats of ruthless Albanian drug dealers & sex traffickers and his white marriage with a Dutch girl. At the heart of this lies a true love in his poor and backward country. BEKIM, 30, will do anything to make fast money. He instead, returns to his country empty handed after giving up his last Euros to save a young girl at the Windows of Red Light District.

Followed by Q & A

Afterparty TBA

NOVEMBER. 01. 2015. – SUNDAY /

PC Theatre- 358 W 44th St, New York, NY 10036

2:00pm - Festival Lunch – By Invitation Only

6:00pm - Ansambli Shota/ Ismet Sijarina/doc. 19'

Synopsis: For the past fifty years the National Songs and Dance Ensemble "Shota" has played a crucial role in the preservation, cultivation and development of the Albanian song and dance as well as bringing genuine national cultural values such as authenticity of costumes, authentic melodies and exotic unique dances with which this ensemble is presented in more than 50

countries around the world and in all the continents performing more than 7000 concerts.

- **The Womens Land / Orhan Kerkezi /Doc. 24'.**

Synopsis: Krusha e Madhe is a very special case of a war in Kosovo. War consequences created a very painful reality. Village (Krusha e Madhe) after the war had left almost without no men, which produced a very serious social and economic situation in this village. Survival is the best word to describe their reality, which entails challenges, experiences, joys, everyday achievements and failures of the people of Krusha e Madhe and their efforts to return to life and normality.

- **A century away from Boletin /Zija Miftari & Fatos Zogaj /Doc. 49'30".**

Synopsis: 'A century away from Boletin' is a story about the remains of the Kosovo Albanian national hero, Isa Boletini (1864 – 1916). It begins with the description of his life, focusing on his activities for the Albanian national cause and to this day is known as one of the key figures in Albanian modern history and the establishment of the Albanian state. Boletini was killed in Montenegro in 1916 and buried in Podgorica. This documentary tells the story of the journey of his remains, which were secretly brought from Podgorica to Mitrovica in 1998, when war had already begun in Kosovo. The place where the remains were being hidden was kept secret for years. The documentary sheds light to every detail, including many controversies, until the day he was finally buried in his birthplace – Boletin. 'A century away from Boletin' premiered in January this year, but due to new developments related to reburial ceremony of Boletini's remains (the ceremony took place in June 10) the last part of it is being edited and it will also be subtitled in English.

8:00pm - Piano / Xhelal Haliti / Drama, 26'.

Cast: Labinot Lajqi, May-Linda Kosumovic, Selman Lokaj, Lulzim Guehelli, Alban Shahiqi...

Synopsis: Time is everything. When you understand that you have only few days left to live, what will be the things you would do? What are things that have higher value? In normal life that we live, unexpected things happen.

- **Destinity / Çlirim Uksana /D rama 7' 36".**

Cast: Hajrullah Ramizi, Fikrete Miftari, Blerim Dardhishta, Visar Etemi, Albina Hoti

Synopsis: The destiny of two young people is set to met, fall in love and be together till death tears them apart. Their romance takes place in three stages within three years.

- **The Sonate /Durim Kryeziu / Drama, 29'.**

Cast: Labinot Lajci, Albulena Kryeziu

Synopsis: "The Sonata" is a film based on the well Leo Tolstoy novel "The Kreutzer Sonata". Every intervention which is pressed into this has been for a intention only to explain the plain logic perception for circumstances in Kosovo. The love which holds two very different characters in everyday bases starts to build unsatisfying problems which these character attack each other drawing lines with questions such as: "What is love?", "What is marriage?" "How long do they last?" Can they be treated with time, years, months, days, and hours. These come to be explained from each characters point of view.

- **The Eaters / Besim Ugzmajli / Drama, Thriller, 3' 20".**

Cast: Labinot Lajçi, Orgesa Mehmeti

Synopsis: ...they want to eat everything, they want to have everything, they want just to do thing just for only for themselves But, things goes different when smart youth want to have freedom and bright feature.

**Followed by Q & A
Afterparty at PC Theatre**

NOVEMBER. 02. 2015 –MONDAY /

PC Theatre- 358 W 44th St, New York, NY 10036

4:00pm - Open Debate: Albanian Cinematography and our country's image

6:00pm - The Underground Electrician / Valmir Tertini / Doc.12' 23"

Cast: Ajet Ferizi.

Synopsis: The documentarist profile of Ajet Ferizi, shows us his routine that preoccupies him as a worker of mines. "The Underground Electrician" is an observe documentary, without voice over and no pre setup interview. Through the images is shown the profession of Ajet, 38 years experience of work. Hardships, desires to work in a mining, communicating with his colleagues, the character and the family with tell us the life of the minor 57 years, Ajet Ferizi. He is not a rock crusher, he is an electrician of heavy machinery.

- Mbresa / Nora Marku /doc. 11' 04".

Cast: Hytbi Tarelli

Synopsis: Hytbi Tarelli is an Albanian visual artist whose love for art has sustained him his whole life. Immigrating to Canada has only inspired him to push his art further.

-Kush jam une/ Selmon Beha/ Doc. 50'

Synopsis:The story of young Kosovans struggling to define themselves, beyond socially constructed identities and within their efforts towards a prosperous future, while maintaining a sense of humour and profound optimism.

8:00pm - **The Last Breath / Leart Rama /Drama 9'.**

Cast: Fioralba Kryemadhi, Sokol Hajrullai, Arian Ejupi, Era Mahmutxhiku, Briselda Shehu, Fiona Wachberger

Synopsis: 28 year old woman named Elise is doing her best to make a baby but she fails every time. For the fifth time the doctor closes her at the hospital to make anti human examinations.

- Dita e Pensionimit / Fisnik Muji /Drama 14' 05".

Cast: Sylë Kuqi, Ilire Vinca, Hajat Toqilla, Vjosa Malokaj, Dardan Blakaj etc.

Synopsis: Agim Kryeziu, a 65 year- old, physics professor in gymnasium high school, is in his last day of teaching. His students and the school staff is preparing a farewell party for him. Everything is going perfectly well, when a night before his retirement, he experiences one of the technology tricks from his students, so we find him in the hospital "fighting for life".

- Loren / Guxim Klinaku / Romance, Mystery 21'.

Cast: Sunaj Raca, Genta Retkoceri, Veton Osmani, Bekim Mulaj, Vjosa Malokaj.

Synopsis: Based on "Was it a dream ?!", a short story by Guy De Maupassant which is also known as " The dead girl", with circumstantial changes added by the screenwriter. A love story between a painter and his girlfriend Loren, mixed with tones of mystery and horror. When Loren falls ill with a deadly disease, the painter will give her all of his love and caring while he sees her condition getting worse day by day. After the death of Loren, in a dark and scary night, the painter will reveal a hidden and painful truth of human nature.

Followed by Q & A
Afterparty at PC Theatre

NOVEMBER. 03. 2015 –TUESDAY /

PC Theatre- 358 W 44th St, New York, NY 10036

6:00pm - **Beyond the Mountain/ Merita Çoçoli / 40' 30".**

Cast: Elina Duni Shemin Adili, Ismail Murati, Blerim Bonjaku, Besa Myftiu,Admir Mehmeti

Synopsis: The main subject is Elina Duni, a popular singer with Albanian origins, who tells the history of her move, schooling and success in Switzerland. She talks about her idea to remake traditional Albanian songs into Swiss jazz, which brought her success in various halls around the world.

- Kang e Defa / Vincent Moon /Doc. 29'.

Synopsis: Berlin based singer Fatime Kosumi from ANDRRA and Vincent Moon, an independent filmmaker from Paris, who is known for his music videos for indie rock bands like REM, Arcade Fire or Beirut, traveled to Kosova to find and record nearly forgotten old female folk songs. They were in search of a specific approach to folk music, that of, rhapsodies sung by peasant women.

8:00pm - **Untold story / Arber Krasniqi / drama. 15'**

Cast: Basri Shala & Ardiana Rexhepi

Synopsis: During communist era in Kosovo, Ilir was in elementary school, the school secretary Isuf, a sworn communist entered the class where Ilir was, and said that Kosovo is not Republic, but Kosovo belongs to Yugoslavia and no one shall make a mistake and say that Kosovo is Republic. The next day, Ilir said what he shouldn't, so he was beaten up and locked in the school basement where he was abused by communist system for a few days. Since then Ilir lives a homeless life in train carriages that were abandoned 25 years ago. After 25 years he provided a camera to tell his story but he wasn't lucky.

- Saturday Cigarettes/ Aldi Karaj. Short 10'37"

Cast: Erand Sojli, Eglantina Cenomeri .Kreshnik Ibrahim,Arjan Kondi,Rezart Bajroti,Mir Sojli.

Synopsis:Saturday. Three Guys are on a bar drinking. A girl is starring them... She is very sexy and attractive. But when it comes to the ladys those who always speak god of wemen do not know them well, those who always speak god for wemens do not know them at all.

- *If We Can Do It We Will Do It / Genc Berisha / Action, Comedy, Crime, Drama, War, 26'*

Cast: Besart Sllamniku, Besnik Krapu

Synopsis: Considering their country as a place that conditions to make movies are deplorable, two actors discuss how to make a successful film. One of them is realistic, while the other one is in dreams.

**Followed by Q & A
Afterparty at PC Theatre**

NOVEMBER. 04. 2015 –WENESDAY /

PC Theatre- 358 W 44th St, New York, NY 10036

6:00pm - Old Men's Last Stand/ Arben Thaci (Doc. 36' 26")

Cast: Garip Ibrahim, Rafi Halili, Mile Taleski-Kukun

Synopsis: Fati i tri pleqëve është i lidhur ngushtë me drurin prej të cilit ata nxjerrin kafshatën e gojës dhe ngjajshëm me drurin edhe personazhët synojnë hapësirën qiellore gjersa gjithçka rreth tyre ngulmon ti rrëzojë për toke.

The fate of the three old men is closely linked to the fate of the tree from which they ensure their existence. Same as the tree, the characters aim for the heavenly heights while everything around insist on keeping them in the ground.

- *Hapi i Celikte/ Ilir Kabashi/ Doc. 59'/ Noncompetition*

Synopsis: Hapi i Celikte", sjell rrefimin biografik të valltarit dhe koreografit të Ansambllit të Kengeve dhe Vallleve të Shqiperise, z. Rexhep Celiku. Ky film na dergon te hapi i pare koreografik i valltarit Celiku, qe me kohe do te behet 'Hap i Celikte". Rrefim intim i nje artisti qe lartesoje larte vallen shqipe kudo brenda dhe jashte Shqiperise.

8:30pm - *Think Twice / Naser Shillova / Animation 8'*

Cast: Vanesa Tahiri

- *Shkruta / Arzana Kraja / Drama, family, war, 20'*

Cast: Kaona Sylejmani, Bislum Mucaj.

Synopsis: Shkurta, (eng/short) is a name given to girls by traditional families to cut short the line of daughters. Superstitiously they believe that a boy will be born afterwards....A short and silent story about Shkurta, the youngest daughter of the family. Shkurta and her father are the only ones to survive

the war. Now they struggle to survive the new reality, Shkurta trying to hold on to what's left and her father a life without a son.

- *Where is Don / More Raça / drama 10' 10"*

Cast: Flutra Zymi, Bekim Mulaj

Synopsis: An episode in life of a journalist living unprotected under the nightmare of threats.

- *Reporteri / Leotrim Idrizi / Drama, Aksion, 8' 30"*

Cast: Luan Kryeziu, Besarta Fejza, Agim Sylejmani

Synopsis: Sakrificat e gazetarëve në luftën e shqiptarëve kundër regjimit të Millosheviqit 1999 në Kosovë!

- *Skenderi / Sabri Pajaziti / Fiction, 17'*

Cast: Hafir Bislimi, Anisa Ismajli,

Synopsis: The story happens during 1995, couple time before starting war in Kosovo. Skender hesitates to with family to see the clown, because he knew the situation.

**Followed by Q & A
Afterparty at PC Theatre**

NOVEMBER. 05. 2015 –THURSDAY /

Bow Tie Cinemas, Room 1 - 260 W 23rd St, New York, NY 10011

6:00pm - *Bota / Iris Elezi & Thomas Logoreci/ Feature film 1'44"*

Cast: Flonja Kodheli, Artur Gorishti, Fioralba Kryemadhi, Tinka Kurti, Luca Lionello, Alban Ukaj, Erand Soji, Elda Sorra

Synopsis: One week at the Bota café. Nothing happens. Everything happens.

Followed by Q & A

9:00pm - *Awards Ceremony*

CLOSING NIGHT

Afterparty TBA

AFW AWARDS 2015

- 🏆 BEST FEATURE FILM
- 🏆 BEST SHORT FILM
- 🏆 BEST DOCUMENTARY FILM
 - 🏆 BEST ACTOR
 - 🏆 BEST ACTRESS
 - 🏆 BEST MUSIC
 - 🏆 BEST CAMERA
 - 🏆 BEST DIRECTOR
- 🏆 PRODUCTION AWARD
- 🏆 PUBLIC AWARD



ILLYRIAN CULTURE IN AFW 2015



Albanian Film Week 2015 will accommodate as part of its Fourth Edition a presentation of the culture and traditions of Illyrians, our ancestors.

We are proud to provide to you the possibility to see artistic works and handicrafts with Illyrian motifs that will be exclusively displayed during Albanian Film Week 2015.

These works clearly witness our nation's ancientness and civilization we belong to.

AFW Jury 2015

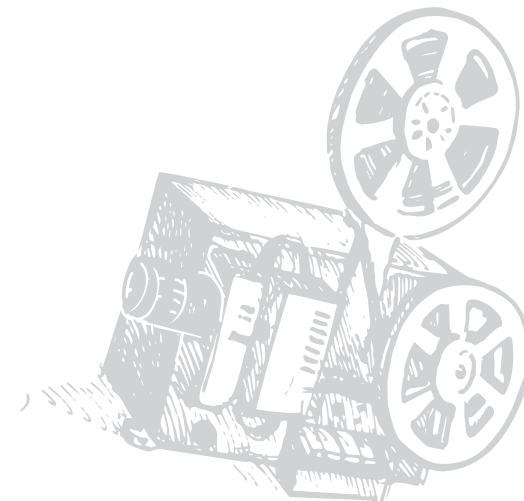
Louis Romano-Author Entrepreneur from New York.

Gjilberta Lucaj-Music-cello, from Albania and she lives in NY.

Xhevat Limani-Director & Actor from Macedonia. He lives in NY.

Vlora Qosja-Screenwriter from Montenegro. She lives in California

Shpend Xani-Actor from Kosova. He lives in New York.



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