



NILPRODUCTION



ALBANIAN FILM WEEK

6 EDITION

/// PRESENTS ///

ALBANIAN CINEMA IN NYC

May 26th to 29th

**Opening Ceremony-Black Tie Event /
May 26 / 7pm to 10pm
Venue: SVA Theatre / 333 W 23rd
St, New York, NY 10011**

May 27, 28 & 29 / 4pm to 10pm

**Venue: PC Theatre / 358 W 44th St,
New York, NY 10036**



 www.albanianfilmweek.net

 www.facebook.com/albanianfilmweek

 www.eventbrite.com/e/albanian-film-week-2017

2018 Edition: AFW Announces New Name "IFFNY"
INTERNATIONAL FILMMAKER FESTIVAL OF NEW YORK

 www.iffny.com

The winner of International Screenwriting Competition **2017**

Feature film:

- Louis Hatson	Gangster Jack	\$6,000.00
- Adis Bakrac	Everyone Has Moved	\$5,000.00
- Vin Cassel	Earth Aged	\$4,000.00
-David Trueda	Unexpected Visitor	\$3,000.00
- Kastriot Caka	Lazarat's Paradise	\$2,000.00

Short film:

- Abel Winter	Best Friend	\$5,000.00
- Melanie Laurent	It's Rudolf's Birthday	\$4,000.00
- Glen Acosta	Life Without You	\$3,000.00
- Kale Marcel	Dirty Tricks	\$2,000.00
- Ibrahim Deari	Dog Man Dog	\$1,000.00

Documentary:

- Rita Ramadani	Difficult Journey	\$4,000.00
-Bastien Dupon	The Land Priceless	\$3,000.00
- Elizabeth De Felita	Behind Any Realities	\$2,000.00
- Luli Kurti	Never S Never	\$1,000.00
-Dennis Delmar	BB Generations	\$500.00

International Screenwriter Competition 2018

OPEN CALL FOR NEW ENTRIES WILL BE ON JUNE 1st to DECEMBER 31st.

More INFO: www.nilproduction.net / <https://www.facebook.com/NILPRODUCTION/>



I remember clearly the first edition of Albanian Film Week, as if it were today – November 2012, New York; and the surrounding areas were facing the consequences of Hurricane Sandy. The massive floods had locked numerous areas, which made it impossible for people to move. Tribeca Cinema was the theater we planned to have the opening of our festival for the first time. Tribeca Officials informed us that the theater basement was filled with water and they were doing their best to remove the water. They suggested to us to cancel the festival, because it would be difficult to put the generators to work. This broke my heart and I could not agree to cancel the festival; I was sure there would be a solution.

That night, on November 5, 2012, in the middle of many difficulties and dilemmas, our festival, with the help of my team “Turned the Generators On” and the journey began, presenting 100 movies of the Albanian cinematography in the first edition.

The Albanian Film Week, founded six years ago, positioned itself in the history of the Albanian art as one of the major events that promotes the Albanian culture and artists in New York. An event that in its own creative way presented and promoted the Albanian culture to the American public, for it to be accepted and liked.

In the past 5 editions, the AFW Festival has screened about 300 movies of Albanian and international artists. Over 1000 Albanian artists have travelled from all over the world to present their movie projects to AFW. It was not easy to arrive to the sixth edition. Sometimes we nearly had our “Generators Turned Off” and doubted

our work; whether all we were doing was the right thing. Then, I would see my team: Bajram, Egzon, Arlinda, Ermira, Vlora, Ela, Julian; they supported me unconditionally. It is these amazing individuals, who for six years have never asked for compensation. It is them who continuously believed in me and my idea, and together we founded the New York Albanian Film Festival. They put their soul and

heart to give life to this sixth edition too. I do also have a long list of people who support me, which grows every year. I appreciate and value your love and care. There are many of you who wholeheartedly support the festival, and we welcome you all in every edition, whether it is next year, the tenth or the thirtieth edition.

The Albanian Film Festival has now earned a respected name that has entered in the history of the world cinematography. We wish it excels for many more years to come and serve to build bridges of cooperation with all the artists worldwide. This was our mission since the inception of the festival. We will continue with the same mission further on as International Filmmaker Festival of New York.

Once more welcome to our Festival! Let’s watch the wonderful movies of the Albanian artists and experience the most marvelous feeling of art: the magic of the MOVIE.

*Yours Sincerely,
Mrika Krasniqi, Executive Director and Founder
New York Albanian Film Week (International Filmmaker
Festival of New York)*



4:00pm - Drums of Resistance/ Mathieu Jouffre/ Documentary/65'00''

Synopsis: When ex-YU began to fall apart in the early '90s, the Serbian regime banned Kosovar Albanians from participating in public life. Albanian employees across

public institutions were fired; Albanian media outlets were closed down; many elementary and high schools were closed to Albanian students; the entire university system was shut down. But a self-organization took place, and it was mostly evident within the education sector.



6:00pm - Brava/ Bujar Alimani & Erand Sojli/ Drama/22'13''

Cast: Rina Narazani, Erand Sojli, Flonja Kodheli, Greta Sojli

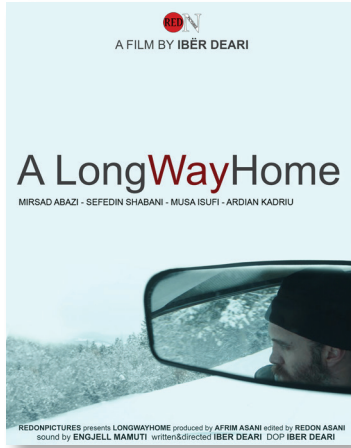
Synopsis: Arian, a forty year old man, living in Tirana, Albania, goes to the rink in order to take the belongings of his late, seven

years old, son. At the parking lot he encounters Asia, a Syrian single mother and Leila, her daughter. They are homeless and Arian decides to help them, by offering them a hotel for a while. The two refugees are not welcome in the hotels Arian accompanies them, so he decides to take them at his place. While Asia and Leila are getting some rest from their difficult journey,



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Flora, Arian's wife, comes home and discovers the two refugees.

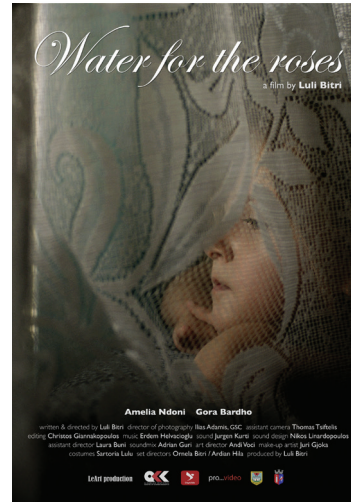


**-A Long Way Home/
Iber Deari/Drama/14'**

Cast: Mirsad Abazi,
Sefedin Shabani, Musa
Isufi

Synopsis: Olti has
served a long prison
sentence for killing
a man based on the
ancient code of revenge.

He wishes to see his
mother and help his family but the ancient code prohibits
him from entering the village. Now, on his way home, he
has to choose between abandoning his family and risking
his life just to be with them.



**-Water for the
roses/ Luli Bitri/
Drama/15:45**

Cast: Amelia Ndoni,
Gora Bardho

Synopsis: Lena, a
5-year-old girl, is
spending her summer in
a small village in South
Albania. Her mother
and her grandmother
are taking care of her

newborn brother. The family awaits the father to return,
who immigrated abroad. One day an unexpected visitor
will turn their life upside down. It is 1997 and Albania is
in turmoil.



-Lost Souls/Xhustin Kristian/Drama/9'45

Cast: Xhustin Kristian, Sindi Cela, Enkel Gurakuqi

Synopsis: It's Gabriel's birthday. He is determined to celebrate this special day even if

alone. He ends up having dinner with Orelia. This casual meeting will affect their lost souls.

Followed by Q&A

8:30pm - Home sweet Home/Faton Bajraktari/Drama/ 92'

Cast: Donat Qosja, Arta Muçaj, Shkumbin Istrefi, Mona Mustafa, Lea Qosja, Albin Bajraktari



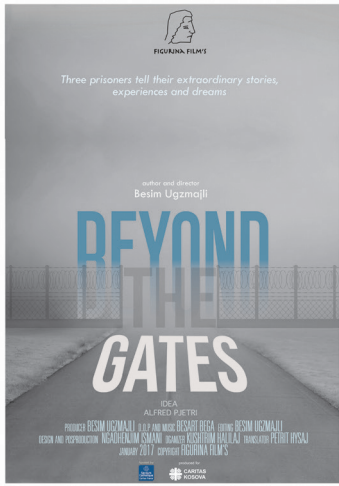
Synopsis: Agron, a soldier for the Kosovo Liberation Army, was long considered dead after he went missing during the war. One fine day, he returns home, to the shock of his family: his wife Hana, and his children Drita, Luan and Blerta. As the family copes with the new situation, with the help

of family friend and former fellow soldier-turned-school headmaster Bashkim, they try to find the best way of breaking the news to the whole village. But everyone has moved on and adjusted to life without Agron.

Followed by Q&A

MAY 28/SUNDAY/

PC THEATRE (358 W 44th St, New York, NY 10036)



5:00pm - Beyond the Gates/Besim Ugzmajli/ Documentary/22'

Synopsis: A 3 prisoners, a young guy, painter, (A.I) sentenced to 4 years in prison, A 40 years woman (Q.I) sentenced to 14 year, and N.S. sentenced to 4 years, tells their stories on courses

and workshops that have held in prison. -first prisoner become a painter,-second prisoner become a tailor,-third prisoner become a hairdresser. This made it possible for us to be present in the detention centers of Kosovo



6:00pm -The Last Journey/Elis Gjoni/ Fiction/7' 13''

Cast: Ndrec Mustafa, Ergest Musabelliu

Synopsis: Space experiences and feelings that accumulate within us when we lost relatives, members

of the district makes a strong enclosure inside and forced a monotone. In this case, is the grandfather he was trying to encourage his grandson for a way out of this dream in color without leaving behind any realities that influenced coverage for a withdrawal.



**-Ana/Ajola Daja/
Drama/26' 29"**

Cast: Ina Gjonci, Igli Zarka, Enkel Gurakuqi

Synopsis: Ana (28) a literature teacher at the University of Languages, lives together with her boyfriend Beni (32) a successful businessman. Ana has an affair with one of her students, Ergi(22)

who likes motor racing and sea sports. Beni tries to get Ana back. At some point, Ana must make a choice.



**-Meeting/Durim Kryeziu/
Drama, Comedy/25' 00"**

Cast: Hysen Binakun, Miradije Muriqi, Ramadan Kurti

Synopsis: Bush as Director of a cultural institution has an appointment for some investments, he has prepared the agreement, speech and cocktail, but there is only one thing he doesn't have..!?

-Fairytale/Sabidin Aliu/Drama/13' 00"



Cast: Sefedin Nuredini, Merita Cocoli, Arsim Kaleci, Shpetim Beadini, Aurela Shabani, Naime Azizi, Elmedina Ahmeti

Synopsis: The sad love story between Agron and Lena will



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be the next story that Grandfather Beni will tell his niece Rona.

-Në pritje të fatit/Kastriot Avdyli/Short/5'12"

Cast: Liridona Shehu, Ismail Kasumi, Hamdi Rashiti, Bekim Ismani



Synopsis: “In one Albanian village of Balkan where the youth are unemployed and they do not see

any perspective for their future, everything is a routine and their only activity is “killing (wasting) time” in the “Coffey Bar of Village”, where is prevailing only one subject which t is: “How to emigrate in the West (Western countries of world). Where hero is the one who gets married with some foreign woman “Regarding documents for citizenship” having no consideration about the age differences and assuring some kind of false visas form the criminal traffickers.”

Followed by Q&A



8:00pm -Eho/Dren Zherka/Drama/90'00”

Cast: Klara Hofels, Selman Jusufi

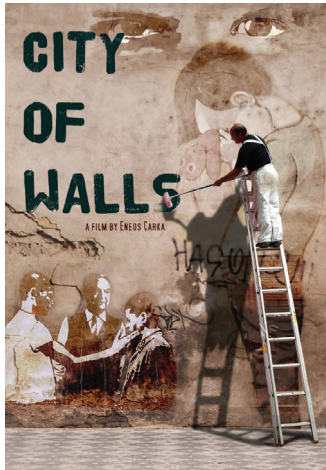
Synopsis: Hanna, a 65 year old woman is involved in an accident in Germany. Subsequently, a young man Luan dies. Hanna tries to condole with

the young man’s family, but she finds out that nobody knows who is because he stayed illegally in Germany (under a false name). Out of guilt she tries to find the unknown family. Little by little she is involuntarily exploring the man’s life in Germany and opening her own well of sadness.

Followed by Q&A

MAY 29/MONDAY/

PC THEATRE (358 W 44th St, New York, NY 10036)



5:00pm - City of Walls/Eneós Çarka/ Documentary/22'00"

Cast: Stivi Imami, Franko Dine, Sidrit Tarifa, Çeta, Shook Ones

Synopsis: This documentary gives an insight on the street art & graffiti culture in Tirana, Albania. During the

shooting process, City Hall interferes in the art scene with their own project and creates a conflict with a political street art collective.



6:00pm - Toka/Ibrahim Deari/Drama/24' 41"

Cast: Adem Karaga, Afrim Mucaj, Amernis Nokshiqi, Sefedin Nuredini, Sefedin Shabani, Vebi Qerimi and Muzbajdin Qamili

Synopsis: The father, who is old and in death bed, calls his oldest son Bardi. He gives him advice how

trough effort and hard work, he will ensure a better future for his family. For him, the land is priceless. Just after the death of the father, the younger brother Lis appears who lives for eight years in a west European country, and in the meantime has lost contact with his family. He, actually, returns to his village to sell part of the family land to pay off his debt to some people from the underworld.



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**-Beneath the Surface/
Dhimitër Ismailaj-
Valona/Drama/11'**

Cast: Danny Boushebel,
Khalid Alzouma, Raleigh
Dean, Elza Zagreda, Jason
John Beebe, Rick Lewis,
Christopher Dickerson

Synopsis: A father and
son of Arabic ethnicity
is traveling home and

waiting for a train on the platform when confronted by a gang of four. They hurl racist comments as jokes and taunt the father to “do something about”. A small crowd that is around the father and son look dismissive at them while watching the news of a recent terrorist attack on their cell phones. The situation seems to get critical when a large MC Biker type comes in and places himself between the gang and the father & son.



**-My Hero/Arbër
Krasniqi/Fiction/13'**

Cast: Labinot Lajci,
Awni Dalipi, Fron Zehri,
Çerkin Krasniqi

Synopsis: After a fierce battlefield, unit understands that one of the soldiers had remained somewhere injured, between the area that is controlled by them and the area that is controlled by the enemy. Ilir, one of the soldiers and friend of the injured soldier, whose name is Genc, goes to seek for his friend. Mali, Ilir’s son, seven years old child, makes military salute in front of the cemetery, one by one by the gravied and in front of the tomb of his father.

Followed by Q&A

8:30pm Award Ceremony

CLOSING NIGHT

Albanian Film Week **Jury 2017**



Amina Zhaman

Filmmaker, musician, critic and scientist

Winner of Golden Apricot 2013 (Armenia, “Contribution in a Debut Film” Award), Loutraki International Film Festival 2013 (Greece, “Brightest Debut”), International Rights Film Festival “STEPS” 2013 (Ukraine, “Best Script”, “Best Actress”, “Best Music Video Against War”) etc.



Diar Xani

Actor, director, producer

Diar Xani as actor, director and producer has worked in different states such as: Kosovo, Macedonia, Albania, Switzerland,

Germany and Turkey.



Jamal Hodge

Director, screenwriter, producer

Jamal Hodge is a filmmaker who believes that the tribulations of his childhood have formed a deep understanding of pain, identity, and the importance of compassion. In his films Hodge strives to



Lulzim Guhelli

Actor, director, screenwriter

Lulzim Guhelli is an award-winning professional actor, director, screenwriter and producer. He has been in an array of iconic films, theater performances and TV projects. Born in Prizren, Kosovo Lulzim graduated in 1995 from the University of Prishtina, Faculty of Arts with an Acting degree.



FATRIN KRAJKA

Composer & classical pianist

Fatrin Krajka is an award winning composer and classical pianist based in New York City. The latest film he scored “Nocturne in Black” won the Gold Medal in at the Student Academy Awards 2016 and was shortlisted for the 2017 Oscars in the Live Action Short category .

More about festival jury:

<http://albanianfilmweek.net/festival-jury-2017/>



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‘I am thrilled that AFW provides another avenue to build cross-cultural bridges to create art. It is empowering the local voices bringing them forth to the international arena, thus stimulating powerful dialogue. The engine behind this unstoppable force, the great Mrika Krasniqi has single-handedly contributed to the artistic and economic development of both New York City, and the European counterparts. Mrika is Kosovo’s and America’s pride!’ said Ermira Babamusta.

Ermira Babamusta is the owner and founder of **NY Elite Magazine**, a cultural diplomacy magazine, and **Prishtina Press Newspaper**, the first Albanian-American newspaper to be published in Kosovo after its independence in 2008.

Ermira Babamusta, Ph.D. is the recipient of many awards in recognition of her professional achievements and leadership in politics and community building, such as:



NY Elite Magazine.org

Inaugural 10 Under 10” Award 2017, Woman of the Year, President’s National Service Award, by President Obama, the White House, Distinguished Humanitarian Award by US Congress, Woman of Courage Award, etc.

“I value and support the great American nation and hope to share my love for the country and Christ by bringing forth brilliant artists and extraordinary achievers who make creative art and positive change,” said, Ermira Babamusta.

“Albanian Film Week has tremendously helped Albanian artists gain ground within the international artistic community. AFW has also lured European entrepreneurs and visitors, contributing to New York’s tourism and economic development. Besides film promotion AFW has also embarked on a number of initiatives, including humanitarian, women empowerment, and human rights, I look fw to IFFNY in 2018”, added Ermira”.

FESTIVAL AWARDS 2017



Best Feature Film



Best Short Film



Best Documentary



Best Actor



Best Actress



Best Production Award



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