

REQUIEM FOR MRS J.

(REKVIJEM ZA GOSPOĐU J)

DIRECTED BY
BOJAN VULETIĆ

SYNOPSIS

Mrs J., a former administrative clerk, decides to complete all her tasks: she washes a sink full of dishes, goes to the store, and digs up an old family pistol. It is her late husband's pistol. She is determined to kill herself with the gun on the anniversary of her husband's death in a week's time.

Mrs J. decides to go to a stonemason and hire him to place her picture on the tombstone, next to her husband's. Afterwards, she goes to church for confession before Easter and returns a borrowed chair to her neighbor on the first floor.

Mrs J. decides to make peace with her pregnant older daughter Ana. For the first time, she visits Ana at the hypermarket. She confronts Ana's boyfriend to tell him what it means to be a man in the house.

Mrs J. decides to collect her severance pay from the bankrupt factory where she spent half her life working. She collects her life insurance, and corrects a typo in her name on her birth certificate.

She is prepared to finish all private and administrative details so that she may commit suicide her way. In order to begin the process, she needs just one thing: a certificate about her employment over the past 20 years. In a country that is going through social transition, this will be highly complicated. Because living in transition is complicated. To die is even more complicated.

TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/201147299>

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The idea for the story of **REQUIEM FOR MRS J.** originates from the intimate story of a woman, whom it seems, embodies a typical victim of the transition process in Serbia. She is a modest, quiet woman, who avoids interacting with people.

Mrs J. is feeling hopeless without a job or redundancy pay, no husband and has no desire to leave her apartment. She is perplexed by the strange occurrence at the parking lot in front of her apartment building. Feeling unwanted and rejected by her family, Mrs J. discovers parts of an old family gun and decides to assemble it.

The film deals with one of the painful and unavoidable issues in Eastern Europe – social transition and economic crisis. The new political and economic system is altering the old face of socialism, bringing big changes in the value system, which inevitably leads, as in this case, to an identity crisis.

REQUIEM FOR MRS J. is a dark comedy portraying political and social transition that eats its own children. People have always worked hard and yet failed to cope with the age

of transition where corruption, bureaucracy and double moral standards rule. After 20 years in an economically and morally devastated post-war Serbia, these people have no hope left. They have lost the will to adjust only to be left confused and drained. The only transition they perceive as salvation is the one to the “other world”.

However, in Serbia, bureaucracy and corruption make not only life difficult, but also death. Given this, transition to the other world is slow and unknown; just like searching for a lost document at the administration system counter. This topic is universal, as well as the destiny of Mrs J., which can easily be experienced in other countries affected by the global economic crisis.

This gives the film a much broader dimension.

This is a satirical black comedy on the subject of the difficult social and psychological state of the people in Serbia today. Their lives are often tragi-comic and absurd. While living in a time of social transition and economic crisis is complicated, dying is more complicated.

TECHNICAL DETAILS, CREW AND CAST

Cast:

Mirjana Karanović
Jovana Gavrilović
Danica Nedeljković
Mirjana Banjac
Vučić Perović
Valcho Karamashev
Srđan Todorović
Boris Isaković

Production Companies:

SEE Film Pro (Serbia) with Geopoly Film (Bulgaria)
and Skopje Film Studio (Macedonia)

Producers:

Nenad Dukić, main producer (SEE FILM PRO, Serbia),
Pavlina Jeleva (Geopoly Film, Bulgaria),
Tomi Salkovski (Skopje Film Studio, Macedonia)

Co-producers:

Alexander Rodnyansky (Russian Federation)
Alice Ormières (France)

Executive Producer:

Miroslav Mogorović (Art and Popcorn, Serbia)

Genre: Black comedy

Length: 94'

Language: Serbian

Subtitles: English

Year of Production: 2017

Directed by: Bojan Vuletić

Screenplay: Bojan Vuletić

Director of Photography: Jelena Stanković

Production Designer: Zorana Petrov

Edited by: Vladimir Pavlovski

Costume Designer: Lana Pavlović

Makeup & Hair Designer: Jasmina Mina Lilić

Sound Designer: Boris Trayanov

Sound Recordist: Alexander Bachvarov

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Bojan Vuletić was born in Belgrade in 1977. He holds a M.A. in Film and TV Directing from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade.

As a co-writer, he has collaborated with Stefan Arsenijević on the omnibus film „Lost and Found“ (Serbian story) and the feature „Love and Other Crimes“, which premiered at the 58th Berlinale (*Panorama Special*) and won two Best Script awards at national festivals.

His first feature film “Practical Guide to Belgrade with Singing and Crying” premiered at Karlovy Vary Film Festival in East of the West competition. It won several national and international awards such as: *FEDEORA Critic Award* at Pula Film Festival, *FIPRESCI Award* at Cinema City Film Festival, and *Special Jury prize* in Jeonju, South Korea FF.

His second feature *REQUIEM FOR MRS J.* is having its world premiere at 67th Berlinale in the selection *Panorama Special*.



SCREENING DATES:

Market Screenings:

12 FEB 15:30 Cinemaxx 12

14 FEB 11:00 Cinemaxx 13

Festival Screenings:

11 FEB 17:00 Cubix 9

13 FEB 19:00 Zoo Palast 1 (Premiere)

14 FEB 09:30 CinemaxX 7

15 FEB 14:30 Cubix 9

Press Screening:

13 FEB 10:00 CineStar3

Potsdamer Platz

INTERNATIONAL SALES:



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