



CINEMA OF CROATIA

The beginning of Croatian cinema and the starting rise of the Yugoslavian film industry from 1940.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Although motion pictures appeared in Croatia relatively early, for most of the early 20th Century film was almost exclusively the domain of a few dedicated amateur enthusiasts, most notably **Josip Karaman** in Split and, later, **Oktavijan Miletić** in Zagreb.
- In 1906, the first permanent movie theatre was established in Zagreb.
- **Josip Halla** produced and directed early documentaries during the years 1911. and 1912. (Plitvice, Sinjska alka).
- The first full-length movie was **Brcko u Zagrebu** released in 1917, and directed by *Arsen Maas*.



WORLD WAR II

- The cinema of Croatia became an institution after the establishment of the **Independent State of Croatia** (NDH) in 1941.
- The new **Ustaše** regime quickly realised the need for modern propaganda tools modeled on those of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy.
- *Political and military propaganda*, Croatian journals, films, In the territory of NDH existed 154 permanent cinemas, Lisinski cinema in 1944.
- Croatian filmmakers like **Branko Marjanović** produced, in 1943, the documentary *Straža na Drini* which later won the Golden Lion award at the Venice Film Festival, attended by Axis power countries.



FIRST GOLDEN ERA: LATE 1950S

- Croatian feature films from the 1950s were not easily distinguishable from those made in the rest of Yugoslavia and they had their first serious peak in the late 1950s.
- The most important author of that era was **Branko Bauer**, a Dubrovnik-born director (*Don't Turn Around Son / Ne okreći se, sine*; 1956)
- **Nikola Tanhofer** - former cinematographer and specialist for various action genres.
- Tanhofer's most famous film is **H8** (1958), a reconstruction of a real traffic accident in which several passengers on an intercity bus between Zagreb and Belgrade were killed, and in which the driver of the car who caused the accident escaped.



MODERNISM

- In the 1960s, Croatian cinema saw changes of style and embraced modernism.
- The first modernist film was *Prometej s otoka Viševica* (*Prometheus from Island Viševica*, 1965) by former cartoonist Vatroslav Mimica.
- The most popular author of that era was **Krešo Golik**, a director of comedies (*Tko pjeva zlo ne misli* / *Who Sings Doesn't Mean Wrong*; 1970)
- In 1969, the film *Battle of Neretva* directed by **Veljko Bulajić** was the one of the most expensive foreign language films made in Yugoslavia.
- In the early 1970s Croatian Communist authorities pushed for tighter control over films. As a result, the general quality of Croatian films declined.



PRAGUE SCHOOL AND GENRE CINEMA

- Fresh air came to Yugoslav cinema in the late 1970s and early 1980s with the so-called **Prague School**, a group of authors educated at the famous Prague Academy FAMU.
- **Lordan Zafranović** (*Occupation in 26 Pictures*, and *The fall of Italy*, both shown at Cannes Festival).
- In the 80' there was created the *Zagreb Circuit of the film critics* and State directors and critics were still controlling the public opinion. The influence of Prague School was very visible in Croatian Cinematography of that time.



1990'S: PERIOD OF CRISIS

- When Croatia became independent in the 1990s, Croatian film suffered a difficult crisis.
- In the period of the rule of **Franjo Tuđman**, the government avoided direct censorship, but demanded more nationalist content, making it less accessible not only to audiences in other countries, but also in Croatia itself.



CROATIAN FILM TODAY: THIRD GOLDEN ERA

- After the political changes in 2000, Croatian cinema proved it could work in a completely free environment for the first time.
- One of the most popular authors in the contemporary Croatian cinema is **Vinko Brešan** whose comedies *Kako je počeo rat na mom otoku* (*How the War Started on My Island*, 1997), and *Maršal* (*Marshal Tito's Spirit*, 1999) mix grotesque humor and political provocation.



ANIMATION

- Zagreb school of animated films, known internationally, **Dušan Vukotić** won the Oscar for his film *Surogat* in 1963.
- Professor Baltazar – the most known Croatian cartoon character abroad , in many countries.



CROATS IN WORLD CINEMA



Many Croats participated in world cinema. Famous actor Rade Šerbedžija (Sherbedgia) was born in Croatia. Actor starring in the ER TV series, Goran Višnjić, is Croatian, as well as the two time Academy Award winner producer Branko Lustig, and actress Mira Furlan, known for her roles in Babylon 5 and Lost TV series. Furthermore, John Malkovich and Australian-born Eric Bana are of Croatian ancestry.



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