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OFFICIAL SELECTION  
37<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ROTTERDAM

# ZAVEDNO FOREVER

A FILM BY DAMJAN KOZOLE

# ZAVEDNO FOREVER

Produced by  
in collaboration with

**VERTIGO/EMOTIONFILM  
E-FILM**

## **TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

Film	<b>35 MM (SHOT ON HDCAM)</b>
Screen Ratio	<b>1 : 1.85</b>
Duration	<b>82 MINUTES</b>
Length	<b>2250 METERS</b>
	<b>IN COLOUR</b>
Sound System	<b>DOLBY DIGITAL SR-D</b>





## CAST

Tanja  
Mare  
Neighbour  
Neighbour's Wife  
Taxi Driver  
Policemen

and

**MARJUTA SLAMIČ**  
**DEJAN SPASIĆ**  
**PETER MUSEVSKI**  
**MOJCA PARTLIJČ**  
**PRIMOŽ PETKOVŠEK**  
**ALJOŠA KOVAČIČ**  
**MATIJA KOZAMERNIK**  
**BLAŽ VALIČ**

## CREW

Director and Writer  
Producer  
Director of Photography  
Editor  
Art Director  
Music by

Sound Designer  
Sound Recording (on set)  
Make Up Artist  
Production Manager  
Still Photographer

**DAMJAN KOZOLE**  
**DANIJEL HOČEVAR**  
**ALEŠ BELAK**  
**JURIJ MOŠKON**  
**ZORA STANČIČ**  
**IGOR LEONARDI**  
**PATETICO**  
**LAIBACH**  
**BOŠTJAN KAČIČNIK**  
**SAMO KOZLEVČAR**  
**MOJCA GOROGRANC**  
**MATIJA KOZAMERNIK**  
**LENA BALANT**



**FILM**



## SYNOPSIS

Tanya is 35, with a successful career. Her husband Mare is an architect. One Friday, Tanya comes home late at night. Mare confronts her and they exchange some edgy words; Mare is clearly jealous, he loses control of himself and slaps her in the face. Obviously, it is not the first such incident.

Tanya locks herself in the bathroom. They continue their conversation over the locked doors. Mare calms down, but when Tanya comes from the bathroom, he becomes abusive again. The noise wakes up a neighbour who reports them to the police. The police arrive and the couple calms down. When the police leave, the couple resorts to psychological abuse. What follows is the night of hateful and skilful twisting of words that unveils, step by step, all the dark secrets of their relationship. Behind a façade of a successful couple, there are suppressed feelings of inferiority, weaknesses, deceit, frustration and traumas from their youth.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The original Slovenian title “Za vedno” is a pun, meaning either Forever or Aware. What goes on behind locked doors of people’s apartments? How do seemingly perfectly normal couples, people like you and I and our friends really function? Film speaks about psychological violence, about mental abuse that we frequently tolerate in our relationships, failing to recognize it as real violence that undermines interpersonal relations. A film that will make the viewers aware of the subliminal components of their personalities.

Damjan Kozole

## DIALOGUE FROM THE FILM

**TANJA:** Mare, we can't go on like this. This just keeps happening. This is no kind of life.

**MARE:** What do you know about life?

**TANJA:** I know enough to know I'm not happy.

**MARE:** You know how many people there are in Ljubljana? Not all of them can be happy...

## FROM THE INTRODUCTION TO THE SCREENPLAY

The whole story takes place in one night in an apartment in Ljubljana. The shooting will take from three to five days (nights) at the most. The cast includes just two protagonists and a few mini-roles.

Although the entire story actually takes place in real time (from 3.30 to 5.00 a.m.), it is highly condensed and emotional. The key question or the suspense is whether she will or will not walk out on him. The spaces in between leave enough room for the two leading actors to include their improvisations and experiences.

95% of the plot takes place in the apartment, on several tens of square metres only. To the director, it will be a special a challenge to create the right volume of the true film illusion, to create a dark drama packed with suspense and suppressed morbid secrets that we so fervently hide from the world. There will be no scenes of physical aggression (apart from two small exceptions), no hysteria (nil!) or shouting (maybe one or two remarks in raised voices at the most). The film will be built on the verbal conflict between the two protagonists, on skilful and reproachful twisting of low-voiced words and facts, and on immense psychological stress.

Damjan Kozole

## TRIVIA

The film was shot in six April nights in the director's apartment. Two scenes taking place in the neighbour's apartment downstairs were shot in the apartment of the producer Danijel Hočevar.

Marjuta Slamič studied acting at the Guildford School of Acting in London. One of her lecturers was also Willem Dafoe.

Dejan Spasić made four attempts to be admitted to the Ljubljana Academy of Acting (AGRFT), but failed entrance examinations repeatedly, so he decided to study dramaturgy instead. His debut film role in a student film *My Little Sweethearts* won him a Vesna for the best actor, the best actor award given at Festival of Slovenian Films.

The film was made at the time when the entire film production in Slovenia was blocked or better bureaucratically forced to a standstill. That is why in one of his interviews director Damjan Kozole stated that this film story of mental abuse could well be a metaphor for the abuse of Slovenian film creativity and cinematography by the Slovenian government.









# DAMJAN KOZOLE

WRITER AND DIRECTOR

## 1964

Brežice, Slovenia.

At the age of 22 made his debut with a low-budget film *The Fatal Telephone*, one of the first independent films in ex-Yugoslavia.

## 2003

*Spare Parts* won a nomination for the Golden Bear in Berlin. The film won several international awards and was among candidates for the best European film that year.

British film critic Peter Bradshaw wrote for the Guardian that *Spare Parts* was “one of the most powerful and provocative movies of the year”.

## 2004

Kozole participated in the international omnibus *Visions of Europe* together with several other European directors (Kaurismaeki, Greenaway, Tarr, Akin...)

## 2005

A retrospective of the films by Damjan Kozole was hosted by the American Film Institute and his films were shown in Washington, Chicago, New York, Boston, Cleveland, Vancouver and in Ottawa.

## 2006

His previous, sixth feature film *Labour Equals Freedom* was awarded the Golden Palm at the 2006 IFF in Valencia.

## 2008

Kozole is currently working on a new project, an international co-production film *Slovenian Girl*.

## FILMOGRAPHY (ONLY FEATURE FILMS)

- *The Fatal Telephone* (1987), drama
- *Remington* (1988), road movie
- *Stereotype* (1997), black comedy
- *Porn Film* (2000), comedy
- *Spare Parts* (2003), drama
- *Visions of Europe: 25 European Directors. 25 Visions. 1 Film* (2004), Slovenian episode, short feature – Europe (5 min)
- *Labour Equals Freedom* (2005), black comedy
- *Forever* (2008), drama
- *Slovenian Girl* (2008, in pre-production), drama



# CAST





## MARJUTA SLAMIČ

TANJA

1974, Postojna, Slovenia.

She graduated from Guildford School of Acting in London. She's regularly engaged at the Slovenian National Theatre in Nova Gorica.

Her role in feature film *Labour Equals Freedom* (d. D. Kozole, 2005) is her debut film role. Her latest film appearance in *Forever* is her first main film role.

## DEJAN SPASIĆ

MARE

1974, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

He studied dramaturgy at the Ljubljana Academy AGRFT. Directed several theatre shows. His debut film role in a student film *My Little Sweethearts* (d. Matjaž Ivanišin, 2006) won him a Vesna for the best actor, the best actor award given at Festival of Slovenian Films.

## PETER MUSEVSKI

NEIGHBOUR

1965, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

One of the most praised Slovenian actors.

Full-length feature films (a selection): *Bread and Milk* (d. Jan Cvitkovič, 2001), *Spare Parts* (d. Damjan Kozole, 2003), *Tuning* (d. Igor Šterk, 2005), *Labour Equals Freedom* (d. Damjan Kozole, 2005), *I'm from Titov Veles* (d. Teona Mitevska, 2007) .

Winner of many Slovenian and international actor's awards at festivals in Valencia, Sarajevo, Bratislava ...

# CREW



## ALEŠ BELAK

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

1967, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

He works as a director of photography, second unit cameraman, camera operator, steadicam operator.

Feature films (selection): *Peterka – Years of Decision* (documentary, d. Vlado Škafar, 2003, DoP), *The Ruins* (d. Janez Burger, 2004, cameraman/camera operator), *Visions of Europe* (Slovenian episode, d. Damjan Kozole, 2004, short, DoP), *Labour Equals Freedom* (d. D. Kozole, 2005, DoP), *Tuning* (d. Igor Šterk, 2005, cameraman/camera operator), *Plan B* (d. Urška Kos, 2006, DoP), *Forever*.

## IGOR LEONARDI

COMPOSER

1958, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Studied jazz and classical guitar at the Music Academy in Graz, Austria. Travelled throughout Asia and Africa, learning many musical instruments: Indian and Arabian lute, oud, saz, gaita, kora harp... Co-founder and member of music bands Quatebriga, Begnograd, Miladojka Youneed, and now Fake Orchestra. During the years 1989 to 1999 he worked in the USA as a studio musician, co-operated with Don Cherry and heavy metal band Metallica, and was engaged as a specialist for world music in Oakland, California.

He wrote the music for around 40 plays, directed by Slovenian theatre director Vito Taufer and for 4 films, directed by Damjan Kozole: *Spare Parts* (feature, 2003), *Europe* (short, 2004) *Labour Equals Freedom* (feature, 2005) and *Forever*.

## ZORA STANČIČ

ART DIRECTOR

Renowned Slovenian contemporary artist, winner of many international awards. Exhibits in Europe and in the USA. *Forever* is her first film project.



VERTIGO / EMOTIONFILM

## DANIJEL HOČEVAR

PRODUCER

1965, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Film producer. In 1986 he established Emotionfilm (together with film director Damjan Kozole), the first independent film production company in Slovenia and among first in former Yugoslavia. In 1994 they established Vertigo, as a "sister company" to Emotionfilm.

They produced or co-produced more than 25 feature films including *Labour equals freedom* (2005) and *Spare parts* (2003, Berlinale Competiiton), both by Damjan Kozole, *Bread and milk* (2001, Venice FF, Lion of the future award) by Jan Cvitkovič, *Estrellita* (2007) and *Beneath her window*, (2003) both by Metod Pevec, *Ruins* (2004) and *Idle running* (1999), both by Janez Burger, *Red coloured grey truck* (2004) by Srdjan Koljević, *Suburbs* (2005) by Vinko Moederndorfer, *Loners* (2000) by David Ondriček. Films produced were screened widely internationally and received many awards on different film festivals. Among them, some films gained international success and were distributed theatrically, on video and aired on television, mainly in Europe.

Danijel Hočevar, managing director and producer of Vertigo and Emotionfilm has been selected among Variety's "Ten Producers to Watch" in 2001. He is also a member of European Film Academy.

More about Vertigo and Emotionfilm on [www.emotionfilm.si](http://www.emotionfilm.si)

### FEATURE FILMS (SELECTION FROM 2006)

*The world is big and salvation lurks around the corner*

by Stephan Komandarev  
Bulgaria – Germany – Slovenia – Hungary  
2008

*Forever*

by Damjan Kozole  
2008  
[www.emotionfilm.si/zavedno](http://www.emotionfilm.si/zavedno)

*Estrellita*

by Metod Pevec  
Slovenia – Germany  
2007  
[www.emotionfilm.si/estrellita](http://www.emotionfilm.si/estrellita)

*I am from Titov Veles*

by Teona Mitevaska  
Macedonia – Slovenia – France – Belgium  
2007  
[www.sistersandbrothermitevski.com](http://www.sistersandbrothermitevski.com)

*Border Post*

by Rajko Grlić  
Croatia – Slovenia – Bosnia – Macedonia – Serbia – UK – Hungary  
2006  
[www.borderpostmovie.com](http://www.borderpostmovie.com)  
[www.emotionfilm.si/karavla](http://www.emotionfilm.si/karavla)

Production Company

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