## **PRESSBOOK**



# MALDITA A LOVE SONG TO SARAJEVO

Neither the weight of arms, nor the onslaught of history, nor the envy of those who want a "pure" world have managed to end Sarajevo, which today is resurfacing stronger than ever. Božo Vrećo, the most revolutionary of Balkan artists, embodies perfectly the soul of the "innocent city", and with his easy-going attitude, bridges the gap between past and present, between men and women, between origins and regions. Maldita. A love song to Sarajevo is a song to life and to the love story between two cities, Sarajevo and Barcelona, who knew how to meet in difficult moments to never say goodbye again.

## All the information and the documentary online at:

### www.lovesongsarajevo.org



Božo Vrećo



Clara Peya



Elma Hašimbegović



Mustafa Nikšić



Jasmin Adilović



Ivan Zahínos

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## Božo Vrećo

Legend has it that Božo was born on October 18, 1983 in Foča, a city in eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of Serbian origin, he lived a tough childhood, fatherless, in the company of his mother and sisters. From his mother he inherited the love of art and in particular the Sevdalinkas (Sevdah songs) that he listened to on an old radio while cooking. Božo emigrated to Belgrade where he studied archeology, but his love for music led him to Sarajevo, a Mecca of Sevdah (Sevdah-Makkah).

Sarajevo embraced him and in a few months he was singing in some kafanas and restaurants. His voice and experimental approach captivated the city, increasingly interested in rescuing the Sevdah. Božo had already started his mission: to open the hearts and minds of the Balkans. Coming from Belgrade and embracing the Sevdah, he has already built the first bridge over the interethnic and cultural barrier. Sarajevo hugged him like a son, as he has done with everyone and everyone who has come from abroad (if there is anything outside of Sarajevo...).

Modernizing the Sevdah, he has been the first composer of original pieces in the last 50 years and, opening it to other musical styles, such as jazz, electronic or pop, has established another intergenerational bridge between a population anchored in tradition and a youth who need to connect with their roots.

But what no one believed, in a society often described as macho and intolerant of sexual and gender diversity, is that Božo was going to be able to build a third bridge, showing himself as defined, "male and female at the same time".



## Clara Peya

With an impressive resume behind her, Clara Peya is musically unclassifiable. Restless, visceral and transcendent, flees from clichés and, above all, believes in the power of art as a tool for social transformation.

Clara Peya, considered one of the most prolific and transgressive pianists in Spain, is energy and feeling in its purest form. Always with the piano as the center of gravity to compose and write songs, he drank from the sound of artists such as Samora Pinderhughes, RY X, Patrick Watson, Douglas Dare, Beady Belle, or established references such as Portishead or Björk.

Clara's generation lived through the beginning of the conflict in the Balkans very young, and probably the memories of that time are closely associated with the war. Clara can symbolize the population of Barcelona today, wanting to know what happened to Sarajevo, with an open mind to see things in a different and current way.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN BOŽO VRE**Ć**O AND CLARA PEYA

Most of the documentary is shot in Sarajevo, with Božo and his people. Božo will discover in the distance to Clara the essence of Sevdah and Sarajevo. Together, they will perform a song in Barcelona, previously worked on.

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#### **TECHNICAL DATASHEET**

Original title: Maldita. A Love song to Sarajevo

**Country of Production:** Spain

Filming country: Bosnia and Hercegovina, Spain

Year of production: 2021

**Duration:** 27 minutes

Original format: 4K
Display format: 16:9

**Projection formats:** Bluray, DVD, ProRess, DCP

**Original version languages:** Spanish, English, Bosnian and Catalan **Subtitles:** Spanish, English, Bosnian and Catalan

**Sound:** 5.1

#### **TEAM**

Address: Raúl de la Fuente and Amaia Remírez
Script: Amaia Remírez and Ivan Zahínos

Original idea and story: Ivan Zahínos
Producer: Ivan Zahínos
Executive Producer: Amaia Remírez

With the participation of: Božo Vrećo and Clara Peya

Direction of photography:Raúl de la FuenteStill photography:Mila ZahínosEditing:Raúl de la Fuente

Music: Original song "MALDITA".

Performed and composed by: Božo Vrećo and Clara Peya

Lyrics: Božo Vrećo

Original music composition: Clara Peya

Musicians in Sarajevo: Marko Nikolić. Acordeón; Branko Vučetin. Bass guitar

Direct Sound:Inma CarrascoProduction Management:Amaia RemírezProduction Assistant:Inma CarrascoProduction in Sarajevo:Milanka LjubojevicSound Editing:María Rodríguez-Mora

Sound Design:Ernesto SantanaFoley:Sergio GarciaGraphics and grading:Natxo LeuzaProduction Assistant:Mikel GonzálezSound postproduction:Ernesto Santana

**Graphic Design:** Sonia Beroiz, KÖ ESTUDIO

**Production company:** Medicus Mundi Mediterrània and Kanaki Films

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#### MEDICUSMUNDI:

medicusmundi was born in 1963 in Barcelona, at the hands of a group of health professionals who carried out tasks of cooperation in South Countries, and that joined medicusmundi Internacional, founded in 1962 in Germany. Since then, continuously, working in Cooperation Development, especially in the health field through the promotion of primary care transformative education and the political incidence.

In Spain, the Federation of Associations of **medicusmundi** is made up of 8 territorial associations that act with autonomy, with a total of 5,000 members, around 500 volunteers and 67 people hired. People convinced that health is a universal right and who work every day to make it possible.

"Maldita. A love song to Sarajevo" is a documentary by the association **medicusmundi Mediterrània**, Maldita. A love song to Sarajevo is a documentary by the association **medicusmundi Mediterrània**, whose scope of action is Catalonia, the Valencian Community and the Balearic Islands. medicusmundi Mediterrània has worked since 2018 in Bosnia and Hercegovina, in the improvement of women's rights, including the right to live in a healthy environment free from violence. The work strategy in the countries where it is present is based on the defence of the right to health, with the conviction that the best way to achieve it is by comprehensively addressing all the social determinants of health (environment, food, education, working conditions, gender roles, access to health services, etc.) and building a public health system based on the principles of primary care.

medicusmundi Mediterrània is a founding member of Lafede.cat - organizations for global justice. It has been recognized with the Princess of Asturias Award (1991), the Creu de Sant Jordi (St George's Cross) of the Government of Catalonia (2003) and was declared an organization of public interest in 1992.

#### **KANAKI FILMS:**

KANAKI FILMS was founded in 2009 by the film director Raúl de la Fuente and producer Amaia Remírez. The production company is specialized in the development and production of feature films and documentaries, always with a view to the international market.

Kanaki Films has produced numerous documentary short and feature films, including MINERITA, shortlisted for the 88th Edition of the Oscars© and winner of the Goya for Best Spanish Documentary Short Film in 2014 and that has obtained more than 40 awards and 130 selections at festivals. VIRGEN NEGRA was nominated for a Goya for Best Documentary Short Film in 2012 and the feature film I AM HAITI, premiered in 2014 at the San International Festival Sebastián and has been awarded at the Social Impact Media Awards in Los Angeles (in the USA) and it was the opening film of the Zinemaldi Cat in Barcelona.

Kanaki Films has shot in Lapland, Sierra Leone, Algeria, Mongolia, Ethiopia, Venezuela, Peru, Cuba, Bolivia, Guatemala, Ecuador, Russia, Kazakhstan, Poland, Romania, USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Switzerland, New Caledonia, Haiti, Morocco, Benin, Togo and Mozambique

In 2018, they released ONE MORE DAY WITH LIFE, an animated film for adults based on the novel by Ryszard Kapuscinski. The film has joined the very select group of animated films presented in the OFFICIAL SECTION OF THE FESTIVAL OF CINE DE CANNES (May 2018), it has been the first Spanish film to win the AUDIENCE AWARD AT THE FILM FESTIVAL IN SAN SEBASTIÁN and the first Spanish animation film to win an EFA award, EUROPEAN FILM ACADEMY, AS BEST EUROPEAN ANIMATION FEATURE FILM. He has obtained the GOYA FOR THE BEST ANIMATION FEATURE FILM 2019 and the PLATINO AWARD FOR THE BEST IBERO-AMERICAN ANIMATION FEATURE FILM.

EL INFIERNO, which had its premiere in 2019 at the Warsaw Film Festival, was nominated for the Goya 2020, qualified for the Oscars 2021 and received the Award for Best Documentary and Best Cinematography at the SIMAs in Hollywood.

His productions have received the support of Eurimages, MEDIA, ICAA, the Basque Government, the Government of Navarra, among others. More information in en www.kanakifilms.es andwww.anotherdayoflifefilm.com

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A production of:





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