

Lost in Transition

a documentary by
Thom Vander Beken



PITCH

Lost in Transition is a documentary on a generation of youngsters in Serbia trying to come to terms with the role their fathers and former heroes played in the Balkan conflicts in order to build their own future.

SAVAGEFILM
SAVAGE PRODUCTIONS bvba

Director
Producer
DOP
Duration
Support
Format
Budget
Delivery schedule

Thom Vander Beken
Bart Van Langendonck
Nicolas Karakatsanis
52'
digital video
digital betacam - color - stereo
€ 181.107
September 2008

Contact

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SYNOPSIS

Dado and Velibor were both 12 when the former Yugoslavia fell apart in the early nineties. The Republic of Croatia where they both were born, was overrun by war, and a lot of Serbian families fled to relatives in Serbia. It was the propaganda of the Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic that brought the fatal stab to the Yugoslavian federation. War was never inside Serbia, but because of the mobilization, the propaganda on the national television RTS, the international embargo, and the isolation, war was always present in their heads and in their living rooms. Nemanja remembers seeing the images of fellow Serbians being beaten and murdered. He can still remember the hatred he felt as a little 12 year old watching those images on television. After the war peace returned to the Balkans but the past was hard to forget. Every day young people in Serbia are confronted with the same problems: unemployment, poverty, isolation, and an uncertain future. They don't expect solutions to come from their politicians; in fact, amongst the young people there is a great mistrust towards politics. Sports, music and celebrities. That is the only thing that most of the young Serbians are interested in. The newspaper sales are dropping, but the sales of gossip magazines is still rising. Celebrities like Ceca and other stars are an example and role model for the young people in Serbia. While heroes used to embody qualities like sense of justice and honesty, the new heroes of the 21st century embody a whole different set of values and qualities. Because of their turbulent history many young Serbians ask themselves questions about life. What is really important? And especially: how can they give their past a place in their future? In 2002 Ognjen and his Belgrade based rap group Beogradski Syndikat made headlines. They wrote the first anti-political song in Serbian history. The song makes an end to the tradition of following political leaders and their ideology without asking questions. If the Serbians want to make something of their lives, they have to become heroes themselves!

CV PRODUCER

After a career in music management and programming, and ten years as manager for choreographer Wim Vandekeybus' internationally renown dance company 'Ultima Vez', Bart Van Langendonck was the fiction and documentary department producer at the Belgian production company CCCP from September 2002 until October 2006. He produced a range of diverse fiction, arts and documentary films (among which the internationally sold series Gas Station). In November 2006 he launched his own production company SAVAGE FILM, presently developing the feature films of Wim Vandekeybus, Michaël R. Roskam, the documentaries At Night (Bram Van Paesschen), Lost in Transition (Thom Vander Beken) and ExtrAction (Jeroen Van der Stock) and associate-producing director Patrice Toye's second feature film Spring Ritual.

CV DIRECTOR

After becoming a Master in Dutch and English literature, Thom Vander Beken went on to obtain a Masters degree in directing from St.-Lukas film school in Brussels. His first film 'Ik droomde Ons' (2002) won the student's award at the Viewpoint film festival and his graduation film 'Alice' (2004) was screened on several national and international documentary film festivals and won the prize at the COURTIZANE film festival in Ghent, Belgium. After graduation he worked for several production companies and as an assistant to the director for the Flemish Opera and Muziektheater Transparant, both based in Antwerp. Since 2006 Thom has been working on the documentary film 'Lost in Transition'. He recently also shot the commissioned work, 'Grand Tour' for the socio-cultural organisation De Figuranten, based in Menen, Belgium.

