



FILM MOVEMENT

# ***THE TRAP***

*(Klopka)*

“Beautifully executed...deeply moving...a thoroughly involving cinematic experience.”  
–The Hollywood Reporter

Directed by Srđan Golubovic



**Serbia/Germany/Hungary | 2007 | Drama | In Serbo-Croatian with English subtitles | 115 min.**

Film Movement Press Contact:

Claire Weingarten | 109 W. 27th Street, Suite 9B | New York, NY 10001 |  
tel: (212) 941-7744 x 208 | fax: (212) 491-7812 | [claire@filmmovement.com](mailto:claire@filmmovement.com)

Film Movement Theatrical Contact:

Rebeca Conget | 109 W. 27th Street, Suite 9B | New York, NY 10001 |  
tel: (212) 941-7744 x 213 | [rebeca@filmmovement.com](mailto:rebeca@filmmovement.com)

## **SYNOPSIS**

A modern Film Noir reflecting the true face of Serbian “society in transition,” THE TRAP is an archetypal story of a parent’s worst nightmare—a dying child—and how far a man is willing to go to save him. In post-Milosevic's Serbia there is no more war, however normal life remains almost unreachable, and when Mladen is offered an only chance to save his son, he must confront moral and existential demons and decide how to measure the worth of a human life.

## **FESTIVALS AND AWARDS**

WINNER – Grand Prix, **2007 Sophia Int’l FF**

WINNER – Best Director; Best Actor, **Milano Int’l FF**

WINNER – Best Director, **Cinequest Int’l FF** (San Jose)

Official Selection – **Berlin Int’l FF, Toronto Int’l FF, Palm Springs Int’l FF, Dubai Int’l FF, Portland Int’l FF, Thessaloniki Int’l FF, Copenhagen Int’l FF.**

Short listed – **Oscar** for Best Foreign-language film (Serbia's entry for 2007)

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Says, director Srdan Golubović, "THE TRAP is a film about an ordinary man, who is forced to choose between [the] life and death of his own child. It is a story about the moral dilemma of the protagonist—whether to save the life of his son by accepting to become a killer. It is a story about a man who is trying to exchange death for life, to change his misfortune for someone else's. It is about the event that should bring the salvation to his family, and suffering to another family. It is about the freedom of choice, which actually doesn't exist...

THE TRAP is a 'personal story' kind of film. In a way, it is a contemporary Balkan version of "Crime and Punishment". It is about the crime that saved the life of [the] protagonist's child, and punishment that comes from within.

THE TRAP is a psychological drama with thriller elements—[a] realistic, hard and raw film. Film of long silences, emptiness and hollowness, reflecting the loneliness and helplessness of the protagonist. Film with a lot of close-ups, with use of telephoto lenses, rich sound texture in which music is becoming almost a part of atmosphere and sounds; camera movements through which we are coming into protagonist's face, his inner world which is becoming unbearable like a nightmare.

THE TRAP is a film about an ordinary man becoming a killer. About a man who thought he will never be able to kill. About the crash of all moral values in which he believed. About the protagonist who has in front of him two solutions—both leading to pain, guilt and misfortune. About a man in [a] moral and existential trap."

## **BACKGROUND OF THE TRAP**

Portland Film Fest Review: THE TRAP

By Eric D. Snider

Directed by Srdjan Golubovic and based on a novel by Nenad Teofilovic, this is a film that genuinely provokes thought. Your first instinct is that of course killing this man is wrong. But consider the alternative: If he doesn't do it, his son will die. What parent wouldn't trade the life of a stranger -- a bad guy, apparently -- for the life of his own child?

THE TRAP takes the story further than that, in ways I won't mention except to say that Mladen's situation becomes even more desperate and bleak. Eventually he comes to resemble not just a film-noir anti-hero but the protagonist of a Greek tragedy, too. How can someone with such good intentions end up so screwed?

The film finds bitter irony in the uneven distribution of wealth, where obscenely wealthy people live alongside -- and do nothing to help -- lower-income families. It is noted that an acquaintance of Marija's paid 30,000 Euros for a picture frame -- not even for the painting in it, but for the frame alone. That frame is worth the same amount of money as Marija's son.

Nebojsa Glogovac's central performance is good, though I'm frustrated that he doesn't become emotional until the end. For most of the film, his impassive face is a barrier between the audience and his existential crises. Considering how much focus there is on his inner turmoil, it would be nice if he gave us any way of accessing it. You don't have to wear your heart on your sleeve, but come on. Throw us a bone here.

Despite some misgivings, I can still recommend the film as a haunting melodrama. It may have some extra padding, but its bone structure -- the basic story and the way it's laid out -- is impeccable.

## **DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY**

### **SRDAN GOLUBOVIĆ**

Srdan Golubovic was born in 1972 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. During his studies at the University of Drama he directed several short features, THREESOME, that received several international and domestic awards and one story HERTZ MINUTE for the omnibus film THE PACKAGE that became a cult movie for the young generation. He established the production company Baš Celik with a team of young film artists, producing video clips for the most famous local music groups and singers, as well as acclaimed commercials and marketing campaigns.

He shot his first feature film APSOLUTNIH STO (ABSOLUTE HUNDRED) in the executive production of Baš Celik in 2001, with which he participated in the main programs at over 30 international film festivals: **San Sebastian, Toronto, Thessaloniki, Cottbus, Rotterdam, Pusano, Paris, Palm Springs, Trieste, San José**. The film has won 10 international and 19 local awards. International awards: **Thessaloniki Film Festival** (Audience Award for The Best Foreign Film, Best Actor Award), **Cottbus Film Festival** (Special Award of The Intl. Jury, FIPRESCI Award, The Ecumenical Award), **Festival Du Film De Paris** (Best Actor Award). **Grenzland Filmtage** (Hawk Cinematography Award DOP 2002 for Best Camera Work), **Teplice Film Festival** (Golden Key For Best Cinematography), **Palic International Film Festival** (Silver Tower For the Best Film).

## **SELECT ACTORS' FILMOGRAPHIES/AWARDS**

### **ANICA DOBRA**

LOVE AND OTHER CRIMES (2008)  
ERLEUCHTUNG GARANTIERT (2001)  
LOVE SCENES FROM PLANET EARTH (1999)  
TOCKOVI (1999)  
AM I BEAUTIFUL? (1998)  
HONIGMOND (1996)  
ROULA (1995)  
FRAUEN SIND WAS WUNDERBARES (1994)  
SERGEANT ZUMBUHL (1994)

#### **Awards:**

1988 Critic's main award, International Film Festival Madrid for her performance in REFLECTIONS  
1990 Bavarian Film Award for the best new coming actress in ROSAMUNDE

1993 Yugoslavian Film Award for the best actress of the year for **BLACK BOMBER**

2005 Nominated for the Goldene Kamera, Germany

**NEBOJSA GLOGOVAC**

KAD PORASTEM BICU KENGUR (2004)

DRZAVA MRTVIH (2002)

T.T. SYNDROME (2002)

BOOMERANG (2001)

THUNDERBIRDS 2001)

NORMALNI LJUDI (2001)

HOTEL BELGRAD (1999)

SKY HOOK (1999)

RANJENA ZEMLJA (1999)

CABARET BALKAN (1998)

**NATAŠA NINKOVIĆ**

MADE IN YU (2005)

WAR ALIVE (2000)

PROFESSIONAL (2000)

SAVIOUR (1998)

THREE TICKETS FOR HOLLYWOOD (1993)

Awards:

Saviour- Best Actress Award at **Intl. Film Festival in Valence, France**

Golden Knight for the Best Actress, **Russian International Film Festival**

Grand Prix for the Best Actress, **Nis Film Festival**

**MIKI MANOJLOVIĆ**

ENFER, L' (2005)

ZE FILM (2005)

MI NISMO ANDJELI 2 (2005)

100 MINUTA SLAVE (2004)

NE FAIS PAS ÇA (2004)

HURENSOHN (2004)

MATHILDE (2004)

GATE TO HEAVEN (2003)

A SMALL WORLD (2003)

LOST SEAMEN (2003)

## **Credits**

### **Crew**

Directed By: Srdan Golubović

Scenario/ Written By: Srdan Koljević  
Melina Pota Koljević

Based On The Novel By: Nenad Teofilović

Produced By: Jelena Mitrović  
Nataša Ninković  
Alexander Ris, Jörg Rothe  
Laslo Kantor

Executive Producer: Igor Kecman

Director Of Photography: Aleksandar Ilić

Production Designer: Goran Joksimović

Edited By: Marko Glušac, Dejan Urošević

Costume Designer: Ljiljana Petrović

Music By: Mario Schneider

Sound Designer: Sebastian Schmidt, Erik Mischijew

Sound Recordist: Branko Dordevic

### **Cast**

Mladen: Nebojša Glogovac

Marija: Nataša Ninković

Jelena: Anica Dobra

Kosta Antic: Miki Manojlović

Nemanja: Marko Durović