

THE INEVITABLE

The attempt to screen in Reykjavik the best short feature, animated and documentary films from Western Balkans prompted a deep cut into the reality that is generally thought to be suppressed. Bearing in mind that the selection involves primarily films made in this millennium, the deposits of recent past have surfaced in the completeness of their own darkness. In the films that you are about to view, there are no bombs, war or shooting. But there is a lot of what the conflicts have generated: fear, lost identity, general disorientation, hopelessness and such. Only occasionally there is a smile based on absurdity, a specific shield from the past and from the new reality. Films dealing with this topic represent an important group within this program.

Constituting the second group are the films having animals as their protagonists. A plastic cat, a rabbit or a fox, crows, dogs, invisible or barely visible animal species are just stylized reflections of human behavior. It is a way of living reality on film in a less direct but deeper way, one that is also easier to bear.

The third group encompasses films authored by Rastko Ćirić, one of the most coherent contemporary artists in Serbia, a successful maker of animated movies and a reputable art designer. After being dreamt about and worked on for more than a decade and a half, his animated films finally blended together in the full-length film by Dinko Tucaković called "The Rubber Soul Project", based on the reconstruction of lost Beatles' songs.

That is what makes these 2 x 90 minutes. Neither awards nor the topics treated by the films were the criteria used in choosing them. Only their quality which – despite of the financial desperation in this region – manages to survive, and quite successfully, I think.

program selector
Nebojša Popović