

For Immediate Release

SEE FEST South East European Film Festival
Los Angeles, CA
www.seefilmla.org

Contact: Vera Mijojlic
E: vera@seefilmla.org
T: 310-709-5497

CINEMA GEMS FROM SLOVENIA IN LOS ANGELES

Friday, September 9 – Monday, September 26

Billy Wilder Theatre at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles

(<http://hammer.ucla.edu/about/index.html>)

(Los Angeles, August 2011) –UCLA Film and Television Archive (<http://www.cinema.ucla.edu/>), Slovenian Film Center (<http://www.film-center.si/>), and the South East European Film Festival, SEE FEST (www.seefilmla.org) will present “*Slovenia Begs to Differ*”, a retrospective of the best Slovenian films from the past 60 years from *September 9 through 26* at the Billy Wilder Theatre at the Hammer Museum in Westwood, 10899 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90024. The retrospective was curated by Vera Mijojlic and Shannon Kelley.

This series features some of the most influential and fascinating Slovenian films from mid-century forward, offering lyrical, poetic and free-spirited stories of endearing misfits. Highlights include *Valley of Peace*, which won Best Actor at Cannes in 1957; *Vesna* (1953), one of Slovenia's most popular films; *Dance in the Rain* (1961), an elegant and enigmatic love story that often tops national critics' polls; and a concluding double bill with an ironic comedy *Gravehopping* (2005), and a psychological thriller *9:06* (2009).

“Collaboration with the UCLA Film Archive is an important milestone in our almost decade-long effort to expand the presence of films from South East Europe in the U.S.,” said **Vera Mijojlic**, founder and artistic director of SEE FEST. “It is a great joy to finally bring to Los Angeles some of the treasures of Slovenian cinema that were never seen here before.”

“UCLA Film & Television Archive is pleased to present a selection of treasures from Slovenia’s rich cinematic tradition,” says **Shannon Kelley**, Head of Public Programs for the UCLA Film & Television Archive. “The achievements of this film culture are too little known, but the

Slovenian cinema offers thrills and pleasures on a par with its famed European and American counterparts. It's wonderful to be able to introduce Southern California audiences to these treasures in archival prints that magnify the best work of Slovenia's leading filmmaking talents."

This program activity of SEEFest is funded in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency, as well as the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. For more information, please go to <http://www.cac.ca.gov/>

Screening schedule:

Sept 9, 7:30pm: "Valley of Peace", 1956, and "Kekec", 1951
Sept 10, 7:30pm: "Vesna", 1953, and "100% Slovenian", 2005
Sept 16, 7:30pm: "Dance in the Rain", 1961; and "A Sand Castle", 1962
Sept 18, 7:00pm: "Stronghold of Thugs", 1967; and "Paper Planes", 1967
Sept 25, 7:00pm: "Raft of the Medusa", 1980
Sept 26, 7:30pm: "Gravehopping", 2005; and "9:06", 2009

More film info at: <http://www.cinema.ucla.edu/events/2011-09-09/slovenia-begs-differ>
Screeners available for film reviewers – email your request to info@seefilmla.org.

About UCLA Film & Television Archive (<http://www.cinema.ucla.edu/>)

The UCLA Film & Television Archive is the second largest moving image archive in the United States after the Library of Congress, and the world's largest university-based media archive. Containing over 250,000 films and television programs, and 27 million feet of newsreel footage, the UCLA Film and Television Archive contains materials dating back to the 1890s.

About SEE FEST (www.seefilmla.org)

Founded in 2002, the South East European Film Festival, SEE FEST is the leading voice in the U.S. for the presentation of cinematic and cultural diversity of South East Europe. Annual Festival and year-round programming bring to American audiences films that tell a larger story about South East Europe, and unlock the delicate doors into human existence in this troubled region. SEE FEST also serves as the hub for cultural exchange, and resource for scholars and filmmakers on cinema and cultures of the region.

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