

## **South East European Film Festival 2013 Brings Gems of International Cinema To Los Angeles**

*8<sup>th</sup> Annual SEEFest Takes Movie Fans on an Cultural Journey Featuring New Works From Albania, Austria, Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania and Turkey*

**By Nicole Muj**

**Los Angeles Informer**

Promising to be its biggest and best year ever, the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual South East European Film Festival (<http://www.seefilmla.org>) will present some of the best works from 15 countries of the region from May 2-6, 2013.

No longer a secret to international cinema lovers, the works by filmmakers of South East Europe are now receiving critical acclaim and recognition by the top film festivals, something SEEFest recognized early on.

“For many people South East Europe is still a place of mystique and confusion, rooted in the past and burdened with historical injustices, and by-products of too many armies and wars for such a small place,” comments Vera Mijojlic, SEEFest founder and president. “SEEFest essentially takes you to places and experiences you never thought would be possible there, filled with gorgeous music, beguiling characters, and beauty. It’s not all serious and heavy. There are films to lift your spirits, and to fill your soul.”



SEEFest Founder & President Vera Mijojlic

Opening night will feature the Romanian comedy by director Tudor Girugui, **OF SNAILS AND MEN**, based on a true story about a union organizer ([Andi Vasluianu](#)) and his most unusual proposal to buy a factory and save jobs, leading to hilarious situations involving a double love triangle, and a clinic for sperm donation which puts the workers' machismo to the test. The film's director and gorgeous Romanian lead actress **Monica Barladeanu** will join in the festivities at The Writer's Guild in Beverly Hills on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Official Poster “Of Snails And Men”- Romania

*Official Trailer OF SNAILS AND MEN*

May 6<sup>th</sup>'s closing night at UCLA's James Bridge Theater will feature the Turkish film **PRESENT TENSE**, about a young woman dreaming of the West while engaging in a perennial

astern tradition of fortune-telling from a coffee cup.



“Present Tense” – Turkey

*Official Trailer* **PRESENT TENSE**

Other features, shorts and documentaries scheduled for the five day festival include:

Albanian/Greek saga **AGON** about two immigrant brothers, each with a different approach to making a living, who bring traditional familial ties to the breaking point;

Croatian drama **HALIMA’S PATH**, with stellar performances by its two female leads, united in a struggle to hide an unwanted baby of star-crossed lovers caught in the inter-ethnic storm and Bosnian wars of the 1990s;

Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg’s cautionary student short **BETWEEN THE LINES** offers a rare glimpse into the tragic circumstances of non-combatant German minority in Hungary forced into exile in Germany at the end of World War II;

Powerful Bosnian documentary **THE LIVING MONUMENT** providing a chilling but dignified account of the inhuman treatment of women during the wars of the 1990s, reminiscent of Errol Morris’ Oscar-winning documentary “*The Fog of War*”;

Austrian documentary **CROSSING BORDERS**, narrated by writer Robert Menasse, quietly and deftly dismantles the very notion of borders by reaching across these artificial and outdated divides;

**PHARMAKON** from Albania whose innovative cinematic language probes the hidden traps of corruption in a newly-minted medical establishment;

Slovenian documentary **THE LONG VACATION** about 20,000 people whose citizenship was erased overnight when Slovenia became an independent state;

and Italian feature **VOICES IN THE DARK** which takes a close look at the dysfunctional family of a university professor in Trieste who becomes undone through involvement with refugees who fled Yugoslavia in the late 1990s.

The annual festival also features a business conference, hosted by the Goethe-Institut, scheduled on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am to noon, followed by a networking lunch.

Films and events will be held at various Los Angeles locations, including The Writer's Guild, Goethe-Institut and UCLA's James Bridge Theater. For tickets and more information, visit <http://www.seefilmla.org/seeifest/> or visit <http://www.itsmyseat.com/SEEFEST.html>

With its inventive tagline “*a lot to see*,” this year's festival is on track to deliver on that promise!

*Photos Courtesy of SEEFest*

<http://www.seefilmla.org>



**Nicole Muj**

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