

# White White World

A love story between King, the local strong man in a dying city, and the wild, troubled Rosa, leading inevitably to tragedy for them and the people around them.

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**Written by:** Milena Markovic  
**Director:** Oleg Novkovic  
**Production Company:** WEST END PRODUCTION  
**Producers:** Milena Garfield, Uliks Fehmiu  
**Budget approx:** 900,000 €  
**Partners attached:** Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia / KLAS Film, Sofia / TV B92, Belgrade

## Milena Markovic

A 1998 graduate of the Academy for Drama in Belgrade, her theatre plays are performed all over Europe, including **Pavilions** and **Tracks** in Austria, Macedonia, Poland, Germany, Slovenia and Serbia. **Tracks** was published by Theatre Heute, the most prestigious European theatre magazine. **The Forest is Glowing** was produced by Schauspielhaus in Zurich in February 2005.

In the same year, Markovic wrote the documentary **The Miner's Opera**. In 2006 she authored the screenplay for Oleg Novkovic's **Tomorrow Morning**. She has also published two collections of poems, the second one presented in public reading in the Royal Theatre in Stockholm.

Awards: 1998 – Special Award in Viennese Theatre for **Pavilions**; 2004 – Special Award of the National Theatre Festival Sterijino Pozorje for the play **Tracks**; 2005 – Special Achievement in Theatre for the play **Boat of Dolls**; 2006 – Best Screenplay (**Tomorrow Morning**) at Alexandria and Minsk Film Festivals and Serbian National Screenplay Festival in Vrnjacka Banja; 2007 - National Theatre Award for **Nahod Simeon**.

## Oleg Novkovic

His sensitive portrayals of ex-Yugoslavia's "lost generation" have won him the attention of international film festivals and audiences. According to Variety, "His movies have the delicate balance of well measured emotional tensions and hyper-realistic expression." In his most recent film, **Tomorrow Morning** he was one of the first Serbian authors to address the problems of compromised morality in the post-civil-war culture, and harrowing choice between emigration and self-isolation that has tormented his generation. Serbian film critics proclaimed **Tomorrow Morning** one of the most important Serbian films of the decade. It's blend of bitter sincerity and documentaristic reality caught attention of the film festivals, winning awards and competing side by side with some of the most acclaimed Romanian movies of last year's festival circuit.

Filmography (feature fiction): 2006 **Tomorrow Morning** (Cottbus - Best Film, FIPRESCI prize, Distribution Prize; Karlovy Vary - East of the West Award - Special Mention; Haifa - Best Screenplay, Best Actress); 2001 **Normal People** (Cottbus, Mannheim, Moscow, TV ARTE); 1993 **Why Have You Left Me?** (Moscow, Rotterdam, New York, Edinburgh, Cottbus, TV: ARTE)

## Synopsis:

In the mining town of Bor, lives King, owner of the local tavern. He is a handsome former boxing champion, about 40, with a nasty scar on his head. He is dangerous and unpredictable.

Rosa is 16, wild and beautiful. She lives with her one armed grandfather Crni (Blackie), once a miner in Bor, now just an unemployed drunkard. Ruzica is Rosa's mother, just released from long years of imprisonment for killing Rosa's father. She barely knows her daughter Rosa, but she knows life very well. Beli (Whitey) always loved Ruzica. He runs a poor little hamburger stand. Tigar (Tiger) is almost

20, living a dissolute life of drugs and petty theft. He wants to be with Rosa.

One evening Rosa visits King's bar. King starts to see the girl as a woman, but tries to suppress his passion.

Ruzica, Crni, Beli and Rosa live together. Ruzica and Beli marry and build up their hamburger stand. Ruzica tries to tame the wild Rosa until Rosa can no longer bear it. She leaves home and takes up with Tigar. Now free and blossoming, she again visits King's restaurant. This time King cannot resist. Jealous, Tigar confronts King and is soundly thrashed, but he manages to land one blow on

King on the head, where the scar is.

King is in love for the first time in his life, alternating between brutal discipline of Rosa and tender attention. Rosa loves him more and more, but she is also more and more dependent on drugs. King locks her up to protect her, but she runs off with Tigar to the big city, where she sells her body for drugs. King finds them. Again, he fights with Tigar, and this time the blows to the head leave him nearly blind. Tigar OD's and dies. King takes Rosa back to Bor.

King is blind. He marries Rosa, but can no longer run his tavern. He spends the day sitting and drinking. He is the Big Man no more. After they make love, he pleads with Rosa to kill him. For once, she obeys.

For days, Rosa lays in bed next to her dead husband. Her mother finds her. Rosa is pregnant. Ruzica takes the blame for King's death and goes back to jail. Beli stays with Rosa and sends her to the White World to find happiness somewhere else.

## Director's statement:

This is a movie about longing for escape from the destiny of anguish and hopelessness.

This is a movie about people who live on the edge of existence, from day to day, with no future and with dreams that surpass them, because the life itself surpasses them

This is a movie about destruction and collapse. This is a movie about longing for living and longing for death. This is a movie about fatal love. And most of all this is a movie about indestructible life, because lives can but life can not be destroyed.

The movie takes place in the miner's town of Bor, once a symbol of Yugo-prosperity, now a moldering symbol of its deterioration. In the setting of gray, dusty, crumbling social-realistic architecture a fatal love occurs.

The story takes place in absolutely realistic setting (restaurants, flats, street kiosks, urban ruins) with very little if any scenographic interventions.

Hand-held camera will produce the necessary dynamics, telobjectiv the poetic effect and Cinemascope the scale.

The acting is hyper-realistic. The lines in songs are pronounced like realistic dialogue

Acting is naturalistic. Acting without acting. The actor is totally identified with his role. Songs in the movie are sung as a part of the action without a pause in storytelling.

The music is an original score -- Balkan tango, passionate and heartbreaking.

Totals (wide frames) are essential for this movie. Wide frames of the town of Bor, the deep mine shafts, the vast polluted lake, huge vacant facto-

ries, disused chimneys and endless blocks of socialist apartments. And then wide frames of Belgrade, masses of hurrying people in crowded streets. And then back to Bor, where the lonely, tiny characters are swallowed up by expansive frames.

This is wild and passionate love story between dark, cruel older man and lost young girl. It's about a search for freedom and escape, doomed by fate and the dark side of the human soul. It happens in a decaying world where the most powerful man is powerless to change his own destiny. It's a dance with the devil, a Balkan Tango in a Balkan hell, where to love is only to die.

## Company profile:

WEST END PRODUCTIONS - whether producing a feature film or staging a Broadway revival, West End Productions is dedicated to one mission: finding the nexus between art and box office. With our unique capacity for marketing innovation, we find ways to make that piece irresistible to even the most resistant public. In the end, West End provides audiences a higher quality product than they are accustomed to experiencing, and we give artists larger audiences than they have ever gathered.

The company, which produced in East Europe mainly from offices in the West, was founded in 2003 by Milena Garfield and Uliks Fehmiu.

Garfield is a pioneer of private and theater production in Eastern Europe. As associate artistic director and marketing director of Belgrade Drama Theater, she produced biggest hits of the '90s using her concepts of theater marketing.

Uliks Fehmiu, an actor, a film and theater star in Yugoslavia, left for America in the '90s to continue his professional career. In 2006 he returned to the region with several leads in the films from Slovenia, Serbia and Bosnia. He lives in New York City.

## Contact:

WEST END PRODUCTION  
Stanislava Sremcevic  
11000 Belgrade, Serbia  
artisanpa@yahoo.com  
Tel: +381 64 719 7017 (Belgrade)  
+1 646 247 7361 (New York)  
+1 301 340 2801 (Washington D.C.)

## Attending the market:

Milena Markovic, writer  
Oleg Novkovic, director  
Milena Garfield, producer  
Uliks Fehmiu, producer