

# MERLINKA IN SARAJEVO



## MERLINKA IS FOR EVERYONE

January 29/30 2016  
FREE ENTRANCE

Art Cinema Kriterion  
Obala Kulina bana 2

Friday, January 29, 2016

7 p.m.

**APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR, Desiree Akhavan, USA, 2014, 86'**

Language: English

Subtitles: BCS

Shirin is struggling to become an ideal Persian daughter, politically correct bisexual and hip young Brooklynite. But she's not quite Persian enough, not quite gay enough, not quite anything enough. She fails miserably in her attempt at all identities, and being without a cliché to hold onto can be a lonely experience. After being dumped by her girlfriend Maxine, Shirin faces an unimaginable task: trading the idyllic lesbian haven of Park Slope for a shared artist's loft in Bushwick. Unable to let go of the memories of their excruciating highs and lows, the endearingly superficial narcissist finds herself plotting to win back her ex.

Saturday, January 30, 2016

2 P.M.

**THE MASK YOU LIVE IN, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, USA, 2015, 97'**

Language: English

Subtitles: BCS

Man up! Boys are raised to become 'real men' by living up to specific gender roles. This movie investigates masculinities as a concept and the norms connected to our stereotypical ideal of men. Through interviews with guys who talk about their personal experiences, we explore masculinity as something which is instilled in society and can reveal itself as harsh homophobia in sports and other cultural contexts. This documentary deals with shocking facts about our boys and the way we raise our kids, through a discussion about masculinity itself.

4 p.m.

**Recording of the performance *Merlinka's confession* and short films**

Directed by: Stevan Bodroža

Cast: Aleksandar Trmčić,

Čarni Đerić

Text: Miladin Ševarlić

Producer: Predrag Azdejković

Duration: 60'

Language: BCS

English subtitles

This is a monodrama based on the autobiography of Vjeran Miladinović Merlinka, Theresa's son that was published in 2002 in Belgrade. The text was written in 2003 when Vjeran was tortured and killed, and has waited for more than ten years to be set on stage. Merlinka Festival produced this performance that premiered in January 2014.

***Strawberries, Jelena Lela Milosević, Montenegro, 2013, 23'***

Language: BCS Subtitles: English

The story follows a younger couple (Nježni, Čupka). They live isolated life. The emergence of Mladić, brings all their problems to the surface. They are childless. Nježni persuades Čupka to conceive a child with Mladić. She goes to Mladić and they have a quite agonizing sex. Nježni saw that, and starts to run disturbed. Čupka looked for him followed by Mladić and found him naked and then we realize that Nježni is a woman. Mladić tries to rape him but Nježni takes a pitchfork and stabs him to death. Three years after, couple have two years old child.

***Just be Safe and sound, Tamara Skrozza/Živojin Čelić/ Predrag Azdejković, Serbia, 2015, 11'***

Language: BCS

A film about parenthood, relationship between parents and children, relationship between parents and LGBT children.

***Like Other Girls Do, Melissa Potter, USA/Serbia, 2015, 26'***

Language: English/Serbian Subtitles: BCS

In an old Balkan custom, a girl became her father's son to keep the home she would otherwise leave when she married. In a nearby city, five women live far from such traditions.

6 p.m.

***THE NEW MAN, Aldo Garay, Uruguay/Nicaragua/Chile, 2015, 79'***

Language: Spanish Subtitles: BCS

"The New Man" is an intense and strong depiction of transgender Stephanie Mirza's life. Growing up in Nicaragua as Roberto, Stephanie was interested in education and politics at an early age. However, due to unbearable family problems Stephanie was adopted away to Uruguay. In the finest way, director Aldo Garay portrays Stephanie's turbulent life - including a psychologist conversation about sex change and childhood trauma, and not least her journey to meet her biological family for the first time since she was given up for adoption 38 years ago. The film won this year Teddy Award for best documentary at the Berlinale.

8 p.m.

**LeZbor Concert**

The special guests of the festival are the members of Le Zbor, the first Croatian lesbian-feminist choir that was formed out of the desire to encourage and promote the lesbian-feminist socio-cultural visibility.

**Merlinka Party - Sonja Sajzor (BG)**

For the fourth time, Sarajevo Open Centre will organise and host Merlinka, the International Festival of Queer Film at the Art Cinema Kriterion on January 29th and 30th.T

he Festival is named after a murdered trans\* person - Vjeran Miladinović Merlinka.

This year's Merlinka in Sarajevo diverges from the previous ones because its programme differs from Belgrade's edition - the featured films will be premiered, and the Festival will last for two days. During these two days of the festival programme, three feature-length films, four short films, and a recording of the performance will be shown and the audience will enjoy the musical performance of lesbian-feminist choir LeZbor.