

love

a film written, directed and edited by vladan nikolic

produced by jim stark
in association with
thoke+moebius film
mikado film
why not productions
surla films

co-produced by
vladan nikolic
executive producers
christoph thoke
luigi musini
co-executive producer
axel moebius
associate producers
maggie haese
betty garcia

Cast:

sergej trifunovic
geno lechner
peter gevisser
didier flamand
mario padula
al naz
liat glick
eric frandsen
kerry rossi

Bellydancers:

laura prokopenko
mindy haywood
blanca hanna
deepa jain

vladimir subotic
director of photography

sorangel fersobe
production designer

olivera gajic
costumes and make up

damien leone
special effects & special fx make up

joshua levine
assistant director

ayse ayanoglu
lisa sardinas
aleksandar kostic
line producers

fulko kuindersma
production & location manager

logan susnick
sound recordist/audio tech

standing in lines
original music score

additional music

vladimir nikić
"accordion"
© vladimir nikić 2002
courtesy of vladimir nikić

sxip shirey - mutant harmonica
"moon in her belly"
© gene shirey 2004
courtesy of sxip shirey

jehan
"deja vu"
© noiz records 2005
courtesy of noiz records

LOVE SYNOPSIS

Set in New York City, among stranded characters from all over the world, the film explores the characters' stories from their different points of view. Through their subjective realities, the film reconstructs their conflicts, and the drama and action that stem from it.

An absurd coincidence intertwines the lives of a Yugoslav hit-man, his former wife, with whom he is still obsessively in love with, and her boyfriend - a New York cop, whose father was a criminal.

"Uncle Vanya", as is his code name, grew up as an orphan in Bosnia. He didn't know his parents, so he didn't know if he was Serb, Croat or Muslim. A victim of his circumstances and his past in war-torn Bosnia, he became a hit man against his own will. He constantly wants to quit but can't, because he is blackmailed by his boss — a burnt-out former covert operations agent.

Vanya's supposedly last job is a money for drugs exchange in a hotel, where everything goes wrong. Vanya takes a hostage - only it turns out the hostage is his former wife, Anna. Her boyfriend - the cop Dirk Malloy - gets on their trail, as well as Vanya's boss and two of his inept thugs - illegal immigrants from Lebanon and Italy.

All of these characters do what they do out of or for love - or what they believe to be love. While on the run, Vanya and Anna argue and fight about their past, rediscover their passion, but again realize they can't be together. Dirk finally catches up with them, only to realize that Anna went with her kidnapper willingly. Through a series of confrontations, their lives and relationships unravel. For some, the end is another beginning, and for others it is another telling of the same story.

Re-defining independent filmmaking

168 Scenes, 60 NYC Locations, Actors Flying in from 5 Countries, shooting on DV, transferring to 35mm film—on an incredibly low budget!

A true New York experience: a film set where 23 different languages are spoken

Second-time feature-film director Vladan Nikolic originally of former Yugoslavia, collaborated with acclaimed independent film producer Jim Stark (“Down by Law”, “Night on Earth”) to make the feature film “love”, starring internationally accomplished actors and actresses, all name-talents in their countries: Sergej Trifunovic (Yugoslavia) from “Cabaret Balkan” (Best Film at Venice Film Festival, ‘98), Geno Lechner (Germany) of “Schindler's List”, Peter Gevisser (South Africa) of the movies “The Beach” and recently “The Life and Death of Peter Sellers”, Liat Glick (Israel) from “Kippur”, and Oscar-nominated Didier Flamand (France) with over 80 major feature and TV film credits. Together with the multi-national crew, this film production was a mini-version of the United Nations.

The film was shot digitally in 21 days, with help from Patrick Lindemaier, founder of the famed Swiss Effects film lab, and support of Mikado Film, Italy, Why Not Productions, France, and Thoke+Moebius Film, Germany, which made the 35mm film transfer possible. “A true labor of love,” says the director, who prompted Amy Taubin of the Village Voice to write, *"Vladan Nikolic proves himself a director to watch with this intense, nightmare thriller about Yugoslavian refugees in New York,"* with his first feature “Burn”.

In “love” the writer/director and editor Nikolic creates another powerful, conflicted Yugoslavian character, an exile in New York who’s a hit man by circumstances. What’s supposed to be a last job intertwines his life with his former wife: a German doctor, whom he’s still in love with, and her boyfriend: an American cop whose father was a criminal. Through a looping, non-linear narrative, told from the characters’ different points of view, the film reconstructs their stories, moral conflicts, and the drama and action that stem from it.

The cast, like the characters in the story, and NYC – the setting of the film, is truly international, and its theme universal. “love” is not only a stylish, atmospheric thriller and an amazing production for its budget, but with its New York settings in parts of the city that are vastly changing, including Brooklyn Greenpoint, Gowanus, Williamsburg, and Manhattan, attests to a point in time in New York City.

BIOS- FIXED:

Vladan Nikolic - Writer, Director, Editor

Vladan Nikolic is an award winning filmmaker from Belgrade, Yugoslavia, who now lives in New York City. Before coming to New York, he worked as a director for the first independent TV network in Yugoslavia. Mr. Nikolic has worked as writer, director and editor on feature films, documentaries, commercials and music videos. His awards include the TV Sarajevo Award and Zeta Film Award for Best Screenplay, Eastman Kodak Award for his short film "Serendipity", Telluride Indiefest best film Award for his feature "Burn", and others. Mr. Nikolic also teaches Film Directing, Production and Digital Filmmaking at The New School, Film Video Arts, and at NYU. His first narrative feature film "Burn" (2001) prompted Amy Taubin of the Village Voice to write that "Vladan Nikolic proves himself a director to watch with this intense, nightmare thriller about Yugoslavian refugees in New York."

Jim Stark - Producer

Jim Stark is an independent producer based in New York. He has more than 20 years of experience as a producer, and more than a dozen feature films to his credit. Many of the films he has worked on were critically acclaimed and some were landmark independent productions, such as Jim Jarmusch's "Down by Law" (1986) and "Night on Earth" (1991). He also produced Jim Jarmusch's award winning film "Mystery Train" (1989), Alexandre Rockwell's "In the Soup" (1992) (winner of the Grand Prize, Sundance Film Festival), the Icelandic cult favorite "Cold Fever" (1994), the romantic comedy "I'll Take You There" (1999) starring Ally Sheedy, and the forthcoming film "Factotum" (2005), with Matt Dillon, Lili Taylor and Marisa Tomei, based on Charles Bukowski's novel.

Sergej Trifunovic – Vanya

Sergej Trifunovic is one of the best and most popular actors in his country. He starred in numerous Yugoslav films, among them in *Cabaret Balkan*, which won the 1998 Best Film Award at the Venice Film Festival. His first film in the US was "Someone Else's America," with Tom Conti. He also starred in the Dogme #5 movie "Lovers", in "Savior", produced by Oliver Stone, with Dennis Quaid, and with Danny Glover and Pam Grier in "3 AM".

Geno Lechner – Anna

Geno Lechner started her career in the theater and has performed extensively on stage in Germany, England and France. Since 1990, Ms. Lechner has acted in such memorable films as Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List", "Immortal Beloved" with Gary Oldman, Hal Hartley's "Flirt", as well as in Raoul Peck's "Not About Love", Wonsuk Chin's "Too Tired to Die", and many others. In 1996, Ms. Lechner received the Best Actress Award at the Mar del Plata International Film Festival in Argentina for her lead role performance in "Gesche's Gift". She has collaborated with such notables as Jon Jost, Arto Lindsay, Joan Jonas, David

Byrne, Fouad El Khoury and Nan Goldin.

Peter Gevisser - Dirk

Peter has played in "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers", with Geoffrey Rush, "The Beach" with Leonardo DiCaprio, and various TV and independent films and stage productions in England.

Didier Flamand – Jean

Legendary French actor whose 1993 short film which he directed, "LA VIS / THE SCREW" was nominated for an Oscar. Since 1973, he has appeared in over 80 French films and television series.

Liat Glick – Faye

Nominated for the Israeli Film Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for the film "Girafot," Liat has also starred in "Kippur" and "Ben Gurion", and is regarded as one of the most promising Israeli actresses.

Vladimir Subotic – Director of Photography

Award winning cinematographer Vladimir Subotic was born in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. His professional career began in 1995 in Cyprus with TV commercials and music videos.

He has worked on short and feature films, which have been screened at numerous international film festivals. He received the Kodak Visions of Light Best Cinematography Award at the 2004 Los Angeles International Short Film Festival.

Sorangel Fersobe – Production Design

A New York based, Dominican born Production Designer / Art Director, Sorangel has designed many commercials, such as Ajax, Coca-Cola, Parmalat, Smirnoff, and others. She has also designed music videos, short films, participated in the film "Fidel" made for Showtime, art directed the film "Cuba Libre", produced by Harvey Keitel, and worked as on-set dresser for Andy Garcia's directorial debut.

standing in lines – Original score

The New York based duo standing in lines creates film scores, documentary soundtracks and other forms of interesting sound experiments. They combine standard music techniques with cutting edge electronics and often incorporate non-musical sonic elements into the mix. The score for "love" is a classic film form combining strings, pianos and rhodes, with additional music cues in styles as varied as new age and ethno.