



THUMBS UP
ENTERTAINMENT

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT REPORT

*From
BUREK
to
JERËM*



#jerëm

FROM “BUREK” TO “JERËM”

After having my first consults with my Script Doctor on the first draft titled BUREK, I’ve shared the script with a few other Professionals and Producers as well.

The idea was to collect different opinions and see their reaction. I asked them to write me short comments. After reading these notes, I went through the script myself and found that the draft involved too many characters, and the story had the tendency to include too much information.

Therefore, I found myself in the junction between many interesting lines that were interrupting each other. So, it was the moment to decide which way to go. Always, based on the importance of the topics, within the narrative of the script. It was not easy, but necessary, to choose in between a social drama that treats the issue of illegal migration, two men romance LGBTi story, post-traumatic war consequences, the war in general, or post-war socio-economic transition.

All of them were beautiful lines, with a lot of potential and good feedback from the readers. Yet, firstly I had to wisely consider the importance of each topic related to the particular moment when the film is expected to be released, budgetary opportunities, and last but not least Kosovo Film Center project supporting policies.

Among all these elements somehow all things went upside down, and the less-expected topic to dominate “Post-war socio-economic transition” was fitting best in all terms (Dramatically) and conditions (Financially).

By focusing on the above-mentioned topic, I have not put away totally other elements. I have included most of them in the second draft titled JERËM, but in a milder form.



THUMBS UP
ENTERTAINMENT

A FILM BY
ISMET SIJARINA

JERËM

SUPPORTED FOR DEVELOPMENT
SEE CINEMA NETWORK
QENDRA KINEMATOGRAFIKE E KOSOVES

ALBASKY

JERËM LOGLINE

Jerëm/Logline

A couple for whom life has in store extraordinary challenges decide to fight back one last time.

#jerëm



POST-WAR SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSITION

We live in an era when the migration of people is our everyday news and conversation. People are on the move all the time for different reasons. Some leave, others come often causing cultural clashes, as conflicts arising from the interaction of people with different cultural values.

By moving physically, they carry their stories and histories that often hesitate to share. I wanted to dig deeper into this topic, and discovered that their stories are much more interesting than their physical migration.

That's how I ended up following the main character Hektor and explored glimpses from his life while living in Kosovo. All this is to deeply explore the whole society and its socio-economic transition that somehow lasts forever.

I always intend to treat stories that are more character-driven, and Hektor and the story behind him served as a good pivot/axis that triggered my mind and emotion. Around him, I've built other relevant characters who also have their own stories, but always in the service of the main axis, that of Hektors.

Other characters represent all the lines that were mentioned above. Minka (Hektor's wife) represents the war and its consequences, and Peter is a western artist who's moving to Kosovo. With a complex character Peter represents the migration axis, but vice versa since he is moving from Germany to Kosovo.



SYNOPSIS

JERËM-SLEEPWALKING (eng.)

Hektor, a middle-aged man, works in a dog shelter built by a German foundation. The shelter is built away from the city because dogs are considered as unwanted animals among humans and wherever they are found, they are killed by organized groups. The distance from work to home means that Hektor is away from his family, or rather say his wife Minka, every other week.

In fact, Hektor and Minka, even when near each other, they haven't talked to one-another for over 15 years now. They continue to live together for the sake of a beautiful past, which was broken, by the bitter event that ruined their lives.

Minka and Hektor are summoned to court to testify about the act of violence that was committed towards them. In order to protect his integrity and deny rumors that he and his wife were sexually abused during the war Hektor refuses to testify. However, the facts speak otherwise! There are 101 children, one of them brought to life by his wife Minka, who roam the streets and are not noticed by anyone.

They are the conscience of the whole society, but they continue to remain the "shame" denied by all.

Sleepwalking is the next common destiny of this couple. Limited by "shame" to communicate in reality, they meet and love each other in another parallel universe, where moral conventions set by people do not matter.

In the coldest winter that can be remembered, Hektor is trapped by snow at the dog shelter along with Peter, a German artist, who comes to perform with the piano for 72 hours live on ZDF. An artistic performance in defense of dogs. This organization does not go well, since on the first day of the performance, the snow interrupts the broadcasting. Peter is trapped, inside the small hut where Hektor stands. This closeness to Peter reveals another side of Hektor.

After a few days, with lots of incidents and love, Peter and Hektor decide to set off for the city despite the heavy snow. The hut burns down the night before and Peter barely rescues Hektor, who falls into his characteristic deep sleep. From this state, Hektor can only wake up if he hears the dog barking, a sound that reminds him of painful moments. The road to the city incites a completely banal conflict between Hektor and Peter, which turns out to be fatal for the latter.

Hektor returns home and finds Minka asleep. He notices that she had eaten food while sleepwalking, a characteristic of her, which keeps her overweight. The tired Hektor falls asleep, this time a deeper sleep than ever. He wakes up in spring. He is violently brought to court by the police, but refuses to testify before another incident unfolds. At the trial break, Hektor and Minka, after many years of distance between them, lean on the corridor seats. This long-lost energy makes Hektor fall back into a deep sleep. Unable to obtain his testimony, the case is closed in Court. The lights of the courtroom go out, while inside on the public seats, in the shape of silhouettes, stand only 101 teenagers, waiting, for the truth to come out.

From BUREK to JERËM

THE TITLE

BUREK

I had two reasons to name the story "BUREK".

Burek is more than a food in the region;

Burek is word that attracts people to talk about it;

Burek is the most common food in the whole Balkans. You have it at every family's table, regardless of nationality or ethnicity. But, Burek is not just food it is a culture, synonym, and our identity. A Balkan story takes on full meaning under this title.

In terms of marketing, the title aroused tremendous interest in the media and among people. The reason for this is precisely why people are accustomed to this word, and it relates to what I said earlier. It is our identity! So, the second reason was marketing.



#jerëm

From
BUREK
to
JERËM

THE TITLE

JERËM

"JERËM" means sleepwalking.
I found this human element and assigned it to the main character thus illustrating the current state of an entire society.

Therefore, the title "Burek" was no longer meeting the requirements of the story. I concluded that "Jerëm" is and will be an appropriate title.



#jerëm

The mountain scenes which make up the majority of the film will be shot in Kosovo. Kosovo has ideal mountains and landscapes that fulfill the requirements of my creative concept. The urban parts of the film will be shot in a small town called RUBIK in northern Albania. In this city in terms of infrastructure, the time has stopped somewhere in the early 90s. It is simply a city where we do not have to make large investments to fit into a long-forgotten and abandoned place.

Berlin, Germany is where the ZDF scenes will take place. Yet, it has an agreement to be done with them.



Rubik, Albania

**Shooting location:
Kosovo/Albania/Germany**

#jerëm

The script “downgraded” in terms of the location where the story takes place. It used to be Berlin, Germany, and now it is Kosovo. Yet, three scenes will take place in Germany, more concrete in ZDF Channel.

I do believe that this was a smart move since the story gains authenticity and a dramatic level.

STORY LOCATION



Vasilevë, Kosovo



#jerëm



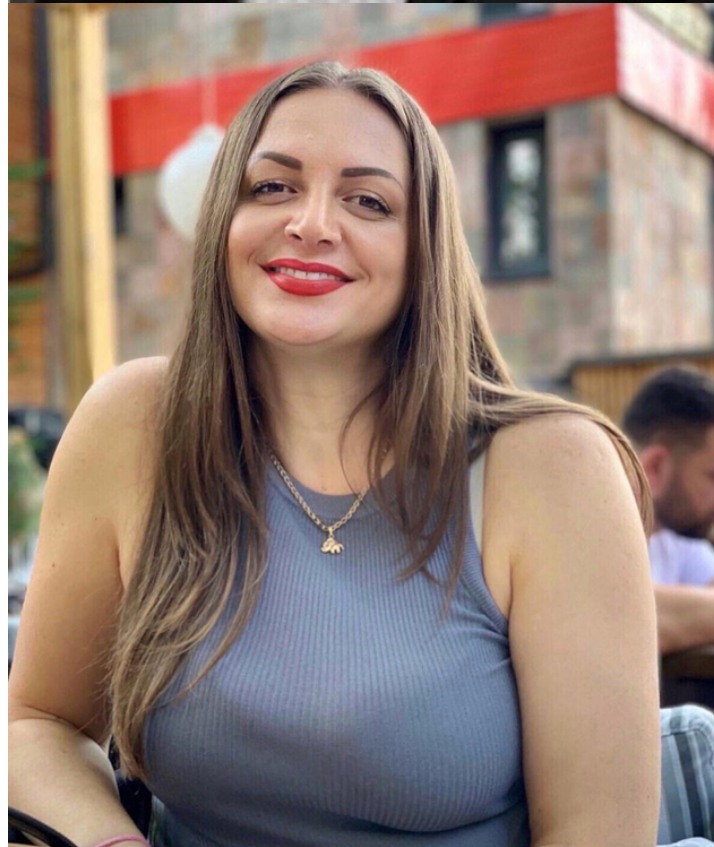
CREW:

Paskal Semini (Co-producer/Albania)
Geoffroy Grison (Script Doctor)
Arian Krasniqi (Local Script Doctor)
Leonora Lushtaku (The
Administrator/Project Assistant)
Agim Maxhumi (Finance expert)
Vlora Vitija (Translator)



DIRECTOR:

ismet Sijarina
Producer, Screenwriter, Director



HEKTOR



**NIK
XHELILAJ**



BUFI



**FATMIR
SPAHIU**



#jerem



JERËM/Sleepwalking

2nd draft

The second draft of “Jerëm” is expected to be completed by Sep. 10. It will take another 10-14 days to be translated and reviewed by the Script Doctors. As per the plan “Jerëm” will be totally ready to apply at this year's call by Kosovo Film Center (QKK).

Please find attached to the complete folder the file with the title “Jerem-2Nd Draft Scanned.pdf” if interested to see all the processes for improving from “Jerëm” draft one, to draft two.

Currently, I’m working intensively to make all the changes that I’ve considered.

Attached to the general folder you have the translated script of JERËM in English, as well as the original version in Albanian.

A FILM BY
ISMET SIJARINA

JERËM

#jerëm

TORINO FILM LAB
CINELINK SARAJEVO
AGORA CROSSROADS
COPRODUCTION
FORUM ETC.

JERËM/SLEEPWALKING

I have not sent the script to the labs this year due to the work that had to be done in previous draft. The first attempt for this year was Balkan Film Market. I've sent it, and have been already informed that the project is accepted.

I do have plans for labs in next year.

On the left are some of them where I plan to apply:



THUMBS UP
ENTERTAINMENT

JERËM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SCREENWRITING LAB

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#jerëm

