



WORKING CLASS HEROES

by Miloš Pušić

Serbia
2022 | 85' | Drama



LOGLINE

Lidija (Jasna Đuričić) is a cold-hearted business woman working for a construction investor of dubious morals. When the illegal workers at the construction site decide to stand up for their rights, the site becomes the setting, where social classes and morals clash.

SYNOPSIS

Lidija (Jasna Đuričić) is a cold-hearted business woman working for a construction investor of dubious morals. Lidija's main task is to oversee the work of the illegal workers working on the construction site and protect the image of the company at all costs. In the meantime, the workers are brought face to face with the brutal reality of capitalism. Unpaid and exhausted, they have to take their fate in their own hands. When they decide to stand up for their rights, the construction site becomes the setting, where social classes and morals clash.

Five years in the making, *WORKING CLASS HEROES*, starring EFA winner (for *QUO VADIS AIDA?*), Jasna Đuričić, exposes relentless corruption, capitalism and injustice in a game of “big fish eats small fish”.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In the beginning, a few years ago, there were a bunch of newspaper articles about workers dying in accidents at various construction sites. I was surprised how little impact this news had. There was no follow up and there were no consequences, no one was accounted for these incidents. Just like that, there was one life less. That's when the idea for the film came forth. Further research revealed bad statistics.

Years later, the transition in Eastern Europe and the Balkans was strange and difficult. It was a long and exhausting process that still goes on. But now, we can say that we entered a new era of liberal capitalism that we craved so much. Workers were the collateral damage.

The rules of the game have changed. Money is the king. For a few people, this is a time of wealth, but for the majority it looks like going back to feuds. Workers are marionettes in their own lives, the tiniest cogs in the infernal machinery of politics and greed. They are looking for their place under the Sun, trying to keep their jobs at all costs.

Our heroes are ordinary people that we pass by each day without noticing them. They are building our towns, our streets and our flats. Without insurance, medical care and a secure salary, they don't know what tomorrow will bring, and sometimes - they don't care at all.

They are people forgotten by the society, the same society which establishes a false image of caring for everyone. Almost invisible, they are easy to manipulate and cheap to hire, because they have no choices left.

An isolated construction site is a microcosm, where we can easily see today's values a la carte. How can we destroy by building? We were lucky to find the main location in the film. This monumental abandoned construction site was abandoned for decades. Tons of concrete and real sounds at the location gave the film its character.

I always loved films that deal with important topics. I love the idea that a film can help by pointing to the problem and raise the questions. Recently, I had a feeling that a lot of movies dealing with social themes are too polished and inauthentic.

My idea was to make a film that starts from a documentary style drama and turns into a suspense thriller and back. It was shot without any cosmetics. We wanted to portray the life of the workers as it is, without any embellishment. The camera was their co-worker, moving free among them. We shot the film based on improvisation and by combining fantastic actors with non-professionals, capturing some scenes like shooting a documentary.

In the end, this film should look, feel and sound like a punk song. It has only a few riffs, but hopefully they are angry enough to stay in your ears for a while.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1980, in Senta, Serbia. He works as a director, screenwriter and a producer. He directed one short film *Lullaby for a boy* (2007), which screened in festivals worldwide, and two feature films: *Autumn in my Street* (2009), which premiered in Sarajevo Film Festival and *Withering* (2013), which Premiered at Karlovy Vary.

Recently, he produced the feature *My Morning Laughter* (2019), directed by Marko Djordjevic. It premiered at Rotterdam IFF and was one of the most successful indie films in Serbia in recent years.

Working Class Heroes is his third feature film.

He is currently shooting a documentary about Dragan Stojkovic Piksi, Serbian and Japanese football icon.

He also works as an assistant professor at the Academy of Arts Novi Sad.

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

Lullaby for a Boy | 2007 | short

Autumn in My Street | 2009

Withering | 2013

Working Class Heroes | 2022

MAIN CREDITS

Title: Working Class Heroes

Original title: Heroji radničke klase

Directed by: Miloš Pušić

Written by: Dušan Spasojević, Ivan Knežević, Miloš Pušić

Cast: Jasna Djuričić, Boris Isaković, Predrag Momčilović, Stefan Beronja, Aleksandar Djurica, Bojana Milanović, Ervin Hadžimurtezić, Mihajlo Badža Pleskonjić, Filip Djurić

Produced by: Alvertise

Producer: Miloš Pušić

Co-producers: Jasna Đuričić, Boris Isaković, Predrag Momčilović, Aleksandar Đurica, Stefan Beronja, Bojana Milanović, Aleksandar Ramadanović, Filip Đurić, Miljena Vučković, Marina Sremac, Ivan Knežević

Countries of production: Serbia

Cinematography by: Aleksandar Ramadanović

Editing by: Ivan Knežević, Miloš Pušić

Production design by: Miljena Vučković

Costumes by: Marina Sremac

Music by: Jovan Obradović - Špira

Assistant director: Goran Filipaš

Sound recording: Lazar Živanac, Nikola Malogajski

Sound design by: Stevan Milošević, Boris Zaborski

Sound mix by: Stevan Milošević, Boris Zaborski

Production manager: Aleksandra Rakić

Production assistant: Goran Sadžak

Executive producer: Stefan Isaković

VFX by: Csaba Polgar

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