

## VŠMU BRATISLAVA 2017

October 24, 17-21h

### HOW TO FILM NOTHING

A lecture by Boris Mitić

An inspiring overview of the creative & production challenges of making *IN PRAISE OF NOTHING*, a whistleblowing documentary parody about Nothing, in which Nothing, tired of being misunderstood, runs away from home and comes to address us for the first & last time.

The global project started in bankrupt Serbia as a pure rhetorical provocation by a self-taught filmmaker and took 8 years to make, shuffling its way through 20.000 pages of a most eclectic bibliography, which ended up being distilled, to its author's great surprise, in childish verse narration, read by Iggy Pop, scored by cabaret grandmasters The Tiger Lillies and illustrated by 'documentary footage of Nothing', filmed in 70 countries by 62 cinematographers, superstars and beginners alike, who first got carte blanche and then increasingly precise instructions from the director, as collectively discussed through a unique custom-made anonymous online brainstorm platform.

The film eventually got record domestic support, co-production funding from a politically antagonistic country, highly competitive French film monies, the first ever European Union grant to a Serbian film project, art-world support from Geneva to Buenos Aires, IDFA's production grant and prebuys from eight European broadcasters, including a web-series version. It premiered in Locarno, secured German, UK & US theatrical distribution and ultimately a selection in IDFA's Masters 2017.

The lecture will be preceded by an in-class screening of the film.

*Boris Mitić is playing blitz chess for money, that he then spends on breakfast. 4 films, 200+ festivals, 20 awards, 20+ broadcasters, global lecturing track record. [www.dribblingpictures.com/academia](http://www.dribblingpictures.com/academia)*

**Filmography:** *Pretty Dyana* (2003), *Unmik Titanik* (2004), *Goodbye, How Are You?* (2009), *In Praise of Nothing* (2017)

**Recommendations:** Viktor Kossakovsky, Anne Parker (Sheffield DocFest), Jani Thiltges (EAVE), Mikael Opstrup (European Documentary Network), Dymme Plomp (IDFA Academy), Martichka Bozhilova (Balkan Documentary Center), Hana Rezkova (Institute of Documentary Film), Asja Makarević (Sarajevo Talent Campus), Nilotpal Majumdar (DocEdge Kolkata), Ali Khechen (Qumra Doha), Abir Hashem (Docudays Beirut), Manuela Buono (DocAtWork Firenze), Chung Lixin (Taipei Film School), Diana Ingraham (Silverdocs), Peteris Krilovs (Riga Film Academy), Yair Lev (Greenhouse/Sam Spiegel Film School), Stefano Tealdi (Doc in Europe), Leena Pasanen (Dok.Leipzig), Noe Mendelle (Scottish Documentary Institute), Nick Higgins (University of Edinburgh), Stephen Schoefeld (UQAM Montreal), Mille Haynes (CPH:LAB), Jean Perret (HEAD Geneva), Peter Kerekeš (VŠMU Bratislava)

**Info:** <http://dribblingpictures.com/slatko-od-nista/praise/> (also attached below)

**Excerpt:** <https://vimeo.com/231050267/b4b3ccc11d>

**Making of teaser:** <https://vimeo.com/226649598/75d8bfcd1f>

**Making of interview:** <http://www.cineuropa.org/vd.aspx?t=video&l=en&did=333326>

**Contact:** Boris Mitić, mob/w'app/viber +385.91.1255.845, Bitoljska 2, 11030 Belgrade, Serbia  
boris@dribblingpictures.com, fb/skype: borismitic, www.dribblingpictures.com