

 Locarno Festival
Official selection

 idfa
MASTERS

IN PRAISE of NOTHING

AN UNLIKELY FEELGOOD DOCUMENTARY Written and directed by BORIS MITIĆ Narrated by IGGY POP
Brainstormed and filmed by 62 CINEMATOGRAPHERS in 70 COUNTRIES Edited by BORIS MITIĆ
Music by PASCAL COMELADE, THE TIGER LILLIES Sound mix by BRUNO TARRIÈRE, IVAN UZELAC
Produced by BORIS MITIĆ, FABRIZIO POLPETTINI ©DRIBBLING PICTURES, ANTI-ABSURD, LA BÊTE 2017

WWW.NOTHING.EXPOSED



IN PRAISE OF NOTHING

(dir. Boris Mitic, 2017, Serbia, Croatia, France, 78')

www.nothing.exposed

www.vimeo.com/ondemand/inpraiseofnothing

<https://www.facebook.com/inpraiseofnothing/>

- **tagline:** Iggy Pop narrates Nothing's weekend on Earth

- **synopsis:** A satirical documentary parable about Nothing, in which Nothing, tired of being misunderstood, runs away from home and comes to address us for the first and the last time. Researched through 20.000 pages of the most eclectic bibliography ever used in a documentary film, shot over 8 years by 62 cinematographers in 70 countries; scored by cabaret grandmasters Pascal Comelade and the Tiger Lillies; narrated – in simple childlike rhymes – by Iggy Pop.

- **screenings:** Locarno FF, IDFA (Masters), Moscow FF, Shanghai FF, Sarajevo FF, CPH:DOX, Visions du réel Nyon, Transcinema Lima FF, El Gouna FF, Sofia FF, Jihlava DFF, Bosphorus FF, DocPoint Helsinki/Tallinn, ZagrebDox, Tempo DFF Stockholm, One World Romania FF, Ljubljana DFF, Lichter FF Frankfurt, Go East FF Wiesbaden, Frames of Representation FF London, Mediawave FF, Riga Pasaules FF, Beldocs FF (opening film), Dok.Fest Munich, Docs Against Gravity FF Warsaw (opening film), Seattle FF, Cinemambiente FF Torino (closing film), 86 FF, Underhill FF Podgorica, Solo Positivo FF Šibenik, Golden Apricot FF Yerevan, 3 Smoked Olives Island Festival, Dokufest Prizren, Liburnia FF, Makedox FF Skopje, Nancy FF, Meetings in Siberia FF Novosibirsk, Balinale FF Bali, Manaki Brothers FF Bitola, Festival de Cine Radical Bolivia, Festifreak FF La Plata, Saratov Sufferings FF, DokuArt Bjelovar, Bergen FF, DokuBaku, L'Alternativa Barcelona (closing film), Escales documentaires de La Rochelle, Etonnants voyageurs FF Saint-Malo, On vous ment FF Lyon, Tirana FF (closing film), Fifigrot FF Toulouse, Ficlo FF Olhao, Biennale de l'Image en Mouvement Geneva, Faena Art Center Miami/Buenos Aires, Institute of Contemporary Arts London, Palazzo delle Esposizioni Rome, Palazzo Grassi Venezia, Art Encounters Timisoara, Discutia secreta Arad, Momenta Biennale de l'image Montreal, Turning Tides Greenwich, Beijing Biennale LoveLoveLove, Lyrical Visions Auckland...

- **broadcasters:** Arte (France/Germany), RTS (Switzerland), SVT (Sweden), YLE (Finland), KRO-NCRV (Holland), TVC (Spain), HRT (Croatia), RTSH (Albania) RTRS (Bosnia), RTS (Serbia)

- **financiers:** Film Center Serbia, Croatian Audiovisual Center, CNC Cosip, Procirep, IDFA Bertha Fund, Creative Europe MEDIA Program, Center for Contemporary Art Geneva, Faena Art

- **original version:** English (narrated by Iggy Pop)

- **available subtitles:** Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, Azeri, Belaurssian, Bengali, Brazilian Portuguese, Bulgarian, Catalan, Chinese (simplified/traditional), Croatian, Dutch, English, Esperanto, French, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Latin, Latvian, Macedonian, Maltese, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese

- poster, stills, director's photo (print resolution, 300dpi):

<http://dribblingpictures.com/nothing-press-stills.zip>

- poster, stills, director's photo (web resolution, 72dpi):

http://dribblingpictures.com/nothing_72dpi.zip



- trailer: <https://vimeo.com/323202268>

- film excerpt: <https://vimeo.com/323201912>

- making of teaser: <https://vimeo.com/226649598/75d8bfcd1>

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

- script: <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/60831436/the-nothing-libretto>

- press kit: <http://dribblingpictures.com/nothing-info.pdf>

- a playlist of songs about Nothing:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcAfUE_7tAocST9nRKP0ISvEGxOHN4whk



“This is like something from the Renaissance or something.” – Iggy Pop

“Apothéosique!” – Pascal Comelade

“A torrential blues litany, tickling the limits of hope.” – CineLapsus

“Too wise to be poetic.” – Film Explorer

“Iggy Pop is the voice of Nothing in a film about everything. Confused? This is just the beginning of a massive cosmic comedy.” – CPH:DOX

“Turns out Zeitgeist has a voiceover of an aging ageless punk icon. How appropriate!” – Forbes

“Please be the voice in my car GPS system!” - Ailen Schnee Roc

“This palate cleanser from director Boris Mitic is never less than gorgeous.” - The Financial Times

“A sensationally strange slice of avant-garde pontificating.” - The Guardian

“Challenges the pieties of documentary’s presumptive sobriety.” - Sight & Sound

“This was the only real thing I saw today.” - Miss Romania

“A monumental abstraction!” - Radio Belgrade 3

“Watching this film is like a mixture of feelings from before and after making love.” – Agron Domi

“Can I screen this film at my funeral, twice?” – Johan Kolinsky

“The most watched documentary this year on MUBI” - MUBI Awards 2019

Boris Mitic – director/writer/producer



Born in 1977 in southern Serbia.

Lived on a few continents, worked for a few years for the most prestigious global media, understood a few things and dedicated the rest of his life to creative parenting, creative football and creative documentaries: a Gypsy Mad Max recycling saga, a claustrophobic tragicomedy of the absurd, a satirical documentary fairy tale, a feelgood parable about Nothing.

250+ festivals (Locarno, IDFA, Edinburgh, Abu Dhabi FF, Mar del Plata FF, Jerusalem FF), 20 broadcasters (ARTE, SVT, YLE, VPRO, RTS, RAI...), 18 awards (Sarajevo, Madrid, Rome, Mexico, Montevideo...), global lecturing track record (Edinburgh, Beirut, Doha, Kolkata, Copenhagen, Moscow, Geneva, Sofia, Sarajevo, Florence, Bergen, Shanghai, London, Taipei)

Filmography:

Pretty Dyana (2003)

Unmik Titanik (2004)

Goodbye, How Are You? (2009)

In Praise of Nothing (2017)

And Now What and Then What? (2024)

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Contemporary documentaries have become trapped in the web of good intentions, reduced to either hyperbolized and often manipulated life bites, or to patronizing moralization in the name of some higher or ideal values that don't really exist, or at least not in sustainable quantities.

There are no appropriate discourses either, be they conservative, liberal, catastrophic or idealistic, which could provide much needed epistemological comfort. Hence this quest into Nothing, majestic and scary, imminent and distant, everybody's orphan.

Nothing as a permanent possibility of new beginnings, Nothing as post-ideological deflation, Nothing as a cinematic response to the everything and the anything that we are so confusingly running after.

I personally don't feel any emptiness in life, quite the contrary. I remember my best football moves way back to the early Eighties; I've paid due respect to my parents, to my country, to most friends and to my personal religion; I have adorable kids, a resilient body and a playful mind.

Yet, it is the very conscience of Nothingness that makes our lives even more fulfilled, and provides the most honest ground for assessing our attitudes and achievements, both personal and professional – and one really doesn't need to be a guru, a physicist or a philosopher to get that.

The goal of this film is to make each viewer experience this positive potential of Nothing in his or her own individual way, through pure cinematic pleasure. If this little smile on the corner of your mouth remains until the end of the screening, the mission will be more than accomplished.

I would be most happy to develop this film for another 30 years and complete it at the fine age of 68, but I still don't think that the overall idea would change.

What I wanted is to do is to make a visual equivalent to the best satirical book ever, Erasmus's 1513 classic "In Praise of Folly", in which Folly goes around the world convincing people that it is smarter to be mad than to be smart. I want to do the same, 500 years later, in these new Dark Ages, with Nothing in the main role.



COMPANY PROFILE

“In Praise of Nothing” is produced by Dribbling Pictures, a 20-year-old Belgrade-based production company devoted exclusively to creative documentaries and documentary academia.

All our previous productions have premiered at A-class festivals, toured hundreds of others, won dozens of awards and got broadcasts on almost every European television, with major international and coproduction funding.

We also guest lecture globally on the realpolitik of the documentary film industry, in praise of authentic storytelling.

www.dribblingpictures.com

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