

MNEMONICS

a short film by Daniela Repas



2016 // USA // Bosnian // 12 min 15 sec // HD 16:9

FILMMAKER CONTACT:

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LOG LINE

A refugee stores her memories in boxes that are animated to life when she revisits them in her secret room.

SYNOPSIS

Mnemonics takes place where mind is physical and memory is catalogued. A Bosnian refugee tells a story of her home, logged and kept as stacks of drawings carefully stored in boxes on the shelf of her secret room. Animated portrayals of her past come to life with her touch as hand drawn animation reveals Bosnian customs, landscapes and people.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Mnemonics is a story important in ways of heart, heritage and experiment. Being a refugee from Bosnia for a decade of my life, I have learned that memories of home hold balance to finding place within new and current.

I visit Balkans frequently and the Bosnian way is still alive and present in my life. However, with every new visit the overarching situation of everyday life seems to be challenged with more difficulties and never-ending consequences of war. On one of my trips, I decided to capture quite the opposite. I brought a camera with me and filmed every custom I was witnessing, every song I was a part of, every genuine moment that captured Bosnia in a light that was familiar from my childhood days. It was important for me to show that Bosnia is not just a wounded animal and that it still breathes fire.

Throughout my travels around the world, I have come across people that either don't know about our war in the early 90s or that only know about that version of my country. Very few have the knowledge of gracious nature of Bosnian hospitality, warm acceptance to all things that lead to good times with friends and undeniably strong family connections that are kept even through the most ridiculous outbursts of Balkan's history trivia. As I filmed, more people were interested in my project and willing to share their opinions about what is important to capture and make timeless. With younger generations turning to western cultures for inspiration, hope and salvation in many cases, there is a sense of urgency in capturing ways that are slowly disappearing. For me, that was the important thing to do. West is where I live. Bosnia is where my heart lives.

Capturing imagery with a pretty bad camera did not end in desired results. My footage was poor quality and did not have the aesthetic I imagined. Being an illustrator and an animator, I quickly realized that hand drawn animation is not only going to fix technical problems but also bring the romance of drawing to every moment I filmed. I have then spent a year-and-a-half working on animation sequences. Drawing my grandmother's face for a hundredth time turned my endless hours over the drawing table into spending time with familiar faces of friends and family.

Once finished, the animation segments needed a structure to hold them together. As a film editor, I have become familiar with film storylines and decided to have film as a skeleton for my story. Being seven months pregnant with my son Ilija, I filmed for three days straight and with the help of a stellar crew created my first short film. Mnemonics captures live action and animation on a single platform, which gives room for surreal and magical to become one with reality.

-Daniela Repas

RUNNING TIME

11min 54 sec

TRAILER

<https://vimeo.com/181112577>

CAST&CREW

DANIELA REPAS

director / writer / editor / animator

Daniela Repas is a visual artist based in Portland, Oregon. Her work depicts storytelling through multiple mediums, from painting and animation to installation and film.

She has showed her work nationally and internationally, participating as an artist, a curator and as one of the founding members of DripDrop collective. With focus always being on hand drawn illustrations, she created large scale installations, animation and film.

She is a recipient of prestigious Dorothy Lemelson Scholarship at the Pacific Northwest College of Art, where she holds a BFA in Intermedia Arts. In collaboration with DripDrop Collective she won Best Installation Award at PLATFORM International Animation Festival and has since continued to create work inspired by her Bosnian origin, relentless exploration of human condition and art as a vessel for primary means of communication.

CINTAMANI CALISE

producer

Cintamani currently works as a Freelance Producer in commercial and film, traveling to location from her home base in Portland, OR. Recent commercial projects include Adidas, Nike, Google, Uber and Public School.

After getting a degree in Film & Broadcast Production at London Guildhall University, Cintamani worked at Killer Films in New York, interning on critically acclaimed, award-winning productions such as Far From Heaven and Hedwig & The Angry Inch.

Following her love of music, she worked as a Freelance Music Photographer for several years before bringing her keen eye to reconnect with film as a Producer over the past few years.

HAYES ROY LEWIS

director of photography

Hayes Roy Lewis was born in 1978. He attended film studies at Colorado Film and Video Instructional Studios through The University of Colorado at Denver. Hayes has written and directed web commercials for many local businesses as well as his own shorts. His work has been featured in many festivals, such as Telluride, and televised short film showcases.

MATTHEW WALSH

first camera

Matthew Walsh is a filmmaker from Portland, OR. Born to a photographer, his interest in visual arts was sparked at a young age while carefully flipping through endless stacks of his father's photos. That spark never faded, instead finding a natural match with Matthew's love for storytelling. Film became an obvious outlet for these interests, starting with story-rich music videos and branching out into documentary projects and work on short films. Today Matthew primarily works in the camera department, filling the role of Assistant Camera, Camera Operator, or Director of Photography.

KYLE METZGER

gaffer

Kyle Metzger has been working as a Gaffer and lighting technician in Portland, OR for the last 5 years. He has worked on Grimm, Librarians, Portlandia, and multiple feature length films. As a Gaffer he has lit many commercials for a wide range of different clients including Nike, Visa, and Adidas. As a Key Grip he worked on two commercials for Philips entitled "Afterglow" and "Darklight" that both won critical success internationally. Most recently, he is credited as cable cam operator on Vin Diesel's new film XXX: The Return of Xander Cage.

TANJA MILJEVIC

actress

Mnemonics is the acting debut for Balkan born Tanja Miljevic, who has previously performed live in various bands.

IVANA REPAS

writer / narration

Ivana Repas was born in 1982 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She has traveled the world as a refugee and as an adventurer, capturing her experiences through a written word. In 2012 she became a member of DripDrop Collective. As a part of the *PaperPlaneProject* she conducted interviews with international array of artists, musicians and humanitarians. In 2016 she had a debut as an actress in short film *Bearing Witness*. Her latest work consist of written and spoken narrative for short film *Mnemonics*.

ADAM JOHNSON

sound editor / re-recording mixer

Adam Johnson is a Portland based video and sound artist, photographer and editor with a background in electronic music production. He has released music on international record labels, created original music, sound design and licensed music for video installations, advertising and documentary films.

As a video editor, sound editor and re-recording mixer, his work includes narrative short films, documentaries, art museum and design exhibition artist profiles, music performances, and commercials.

He holds a BFA in Photography from the Pacific Northwest College of Art, and is the 2013 recipient of the William H. Givler Thesis Award for Fine Arts for the video, "The Weather Where You're From." His work is informed by psychology, avant-garde art and music, eastern philosophy, and the search for authenticity, meaning and truth.

TODD TAWD

soundscapes and foley

Todd Tawd is a musician, composer and producer in Portland, Oregon. He is the sound of the large-scale art installation group, DripDrop Collective (winner Best Art Installation, Platform International Animation Festival, 2007). As part of their 2011 installation entitled Pre-Nostalgic, Tawd invented a 16 channel audio platform allowing him to compose music in 360 degrees, his orchestrations able to become mobile while moving around, merging and encompassing the audience. His solo project Satin Flack involves emotional and climactic orchestrations made of more than 30 instruments which he composes, performs, records and produces himself. He has worked on multiple films, contributing foley, sound design and original sound tracks.

STILLS



CREDITS:

director / writer / animator / editor	Daniela Repas
written and spoken narration	Ivana Repas
actress	Tanja Miljevic
soldier	Andy Lee-Hillstrom
producer	Cintamani Calise
director of photography	Hayes Roy Lewis
first camera	Matthew Walsh
gaffer	Kyle Metzger
props	Mike Albino
still photographer	Fernando Cabrejos
translation	Ivana Repas
	Todd Tawd

EXTRAS:

Jessica Breedlove-Latham

Joshua Latham

Bob Martin

Laura Farina

John Fish

Casimir Kopacki

sound design / sound editor / re-recording mixer	Adam Johnson
soundscapes and foley	Todd Tawd
compositors	Daniela Repas
	Adama Johnson
	Caleb Coppock
graphic design	Jason Duerr
color	Adam Johnson

MUSIC:

"June Lake Freilach"
the Underscore Orkestra
from the album *A Little Bit of Magic in Every Batch*

Child singing "Oudna Jada Od Mostara Grada"
on a street of Mpstar, Bosnia and Herzegovina (31/03/2012)

"Bm Kelzmer"
The Underscore Orkestra
from the album *A Little Bit of Magic in Every Batch*

"Hora Din Clejani Cigansko"
The Underscore Orkestra
from the album *A Little Bit of Magic in Every Batch*

"Rainchecks"
Dylan Lee Johnston
from the album *Just Like Rain*
composed by Dylan Lee Johnston

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