

Honorific Speech for Jasmila Zbanic

**on the occasion of the presentation of the Honour Award by the
Film Festival „Women'sWorlds“ of TERRE DES FEMMES for
„Committed support in
Defence of Human Rights of Women“**

on the 20th November of 2010 in Tuebingen, Germany

The speech is held by by Irene Jung, Festival Director

Jasmila Zbanic comes from Sarajevo in Bosnia, where she studied Theater and Film Direction. She subsequently worked for two years as a puppeteer for the "Bread and Puppet Theatre" in the USA. In 1997 she founded her production company 'DEBLOKADA.' After her initial documentary films, in 2006 her feature film debut, ESMAS GEHEIMNIS – GRBAVICA, was honored with the Golden Bear at Berlinale Film Festival. Her current film, NA PUTU, depicts tensions in postwar Bosnian society between strict Islamic traditions and modern lifestyle and its consequences for human rights of women – an issue often focused by TERRES DES FEMMES.

Jasmila Zbanic proves herself to be a filmmaker who with her films takes on burning social questions, and makes an impact on reality. With her film GRBAVICA, together with women's organisations, she successfully fought for raped women in Bosnia to receive the status as war victims, and thus, to have the right to a small pension. She often works with amateur actors, using unconventional methods for acting rehearsals.

Dear Jasmila, we first came into contact at Berlinale and continued to meet at various film festivals. Then in 2007, Luna Mijovic, the young star of GRBAVICA, came to our film festival and deeply impressed us. Not only because of the unbelievable maturity she demonstrated. Not only because she moved us with the stories of her friends, who, as the daughters of raped women live in SOS Villages, and for whom she sought help, also in Tuebingen.

Through her we gained profound insights into the way you make films: your style of interacting with the actors, letting them work through problematic scenes with insight and empathy, with an indispensable respect for themselves, other people, and their biografies. Your ability to give young actors like Luna the opportunity to mature. The enormous effort you make to avoid prejudgement in your films and to facilitate comprehension, though courageously addressing burning taboo questions. And not only in your films: over and over again you

have publicly and critically questioned why Serbian war criminals have still not been arrested and tried by the EU.

Your bravery, your sensitivity and commitment to the truth have deeply inspired us. We are enormously pleased that you could come this year with your new film, and that you are able to take part in the workshop with Mohsen Makhmalbaf at the Film Academy in Ludwigsburg.

We time and again try to acquaint young filmmakers with our issues. Because in the future their films can reach many people, touching them and motivating them to act in solidarity with women affected by violence. For that aim however, it is especially important that they confront the question about HOW to make a film that could be able to make that impact. And what can be better as to learn the HOW from the practical experience of an outstanding and dedicated filmmaker?

Most sincere thanks for your support and your encouragement. In this spirit, I would like to present you with the Women's Worlds Honorary Award for „Committed support in Defence of Human Rights of Women“ and with it, this figurine, to remind you of our shared Utopia: a world free from violence against women.