

Grbavica

A film by Jasmila Zbanic (winner of the “Berlinale” film award 2006)

(Version shown at the conference: OV Bosnian with English subtitles)

Grbavica is a story about contemporary Sarajevo... Single mother Esma lives with her 12-year-old daughter Sara in Sarajevo's Grbavica neighborhood, where life is still being reconstructed after the 1990s Yugoslav wars. Unable to make ends meet with the meager government aid she receives, Esma takes a job as a cocktail waitress in a nightclub. Working all night is difficult for Esma physically and it also forces her to reluctantly spend less time with her daughter. Still haunted by violent events in her past, Esma attends group therapy sessions at the local Women's Center.

Sara's father becomes an issue when she requires the certificate proving he died a shaheed, a holy war martyr, so that she can receive a discount for an upcoming school trip. Esma claims acquiring the certificate is difficult since his body has yet to be found. Meanwhile, Esma searches desperately to borrow money to pay for Sara's trip.

Confused Sara becomes violently upset when some classmates tease her for not being on the list of martyrs' children. Realizing her mother has paid full price for the school trip, Sara aggressively demands the truth. Esma breaks down and brutally explains how the girl was conceived through rape in a POW camp. As painful as their confrontation is, it is Esma's first real step toward overcoming her deep trauma. Despite Sara's hurt, there is still an opening for a renewed relationship between mother and daughter.

Duration: 90 min

Format: 35 mm

Original language: Bosnian

Year of production: 2005

Genre: Drama

Origin of production: A / BIH/ D / CRO (Austria / Bosnia and Herzegovina / Germany / Croatia)

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World Premiere: 2006 Berlinale

medica mondiale actively supported the Bosnian campaign “Dignity for the survivors” by accompanying the presentation of the award-winning film *Grbavica* in Germany (“Esma's Geheimnis”). In the campaign, ten Bosnian NGOs working with torture survivors successfully advocated official recognition of women survivors of war rape as civilian war victims, culminating in the adoption of relevant legislation by the Federal Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina in June 2006.

medica mondiale hopes that the screening will result in gaining more interest in lives of the numerous traumatized Bosnian women nowadays – as well as gaining donations for the still existing and heavily struggling (for financial reasons) Women's therapy center **Medica Zenica** in Central Bosnia.

Please help us in supporting Bosnian women and make your donation:

medica mondiale e.V., Account number: 45 000 163 at Sparkasse KölnBonn, Bank Code 380 500 00, IBAN: DE24380500000045000163, BIC: BONSDE33

Keyword: “Esmas Geheimnis”

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