

FACTORY TO THE WORKERS



A FILM BY
SRĐAN KOVAČEVIĆ

106 mins / 2021 / Croatian, English Subtitles / Croatia



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AWARDS

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Best Croatian Documentary Film & Grand Prix Award – Croatian Film Days Festival

Best Croatian Film Documentary – Croatian Society of Film Critics

Best Documentary – Motovun Film Festival

Best Documentary – Liburnia Film Festival

FILM FESTIVALS

Sheffield DocFest

Sarajevo Film Festival

DocLisboa

The FilmFestival Cottbus (FFC)

True/False Film Fest

the Ljubljana International Film Festival

The Subversive Festival

DOK.fest München

Beldocs International Documentary Film Festival

globale Film Festival

The Tirana International Film Festival

SYNOPSIS

In 2005, a machine tools factory in Croatia was occupied by its workers. Since then, they have been operating collectively, making it the sole successful case of a worker occupation in post-socialist Europe. Today, as they strive to establish a new model of collective ownership, they face the challenges of contending with the globalized market economy. A decade later, the question arises: can the slogan "Factory to the Workers" be sustained, or is it merely a utopian dream?

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

I belong to a generation whose coming of age was strongly marked by the process of Croatian postwar privatization, the transition of commonly owned resources into private hands. I've witnessed the shutdown of many factories which kept whole families fed. ITAS was a different example. The only factory in former Yugoslavia (and Europe), in which the workers organized, physically took over and managed to continue the production. My initial intention was to show an good example, to share the knowledge with the hope that such endeavors can pave the way to a more fair economy. But my daily presence among workers made me realize that the story is much more complex. Capitalism as a system is still the framework within which all alternative forms of production have to survive. The workers are torn between the loyalty to the idea of self-management and the need for bigger incomes that ITAS can't provide, while on a bigger scale, ITAS is an outsourced plant to big German companies, and is stuck in its peripheral position. Factory to the Workers aims to show the complexity of capitalist economy, which determines alternative organizational models far more than a romanticized view is ready to admit.

Srđan Kovačević

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Born in Zagreb, Yugoslavia in 1982. Received MA degree in cinematography on Academy of Dramatic Arts, University of Zagreb in 2009. From year 2000. was working as cameraman for various independent regional film and tv productions ('Fade-in', 'Pro.ba', 'Drugi plan', 'Factum', 'Restart', etc.) shooting documentary films, TV-series, reportage and short films. As cinematographer and cameraman made several documentary films such as 'Naked' directed by Tiha Klara Gudac, 'Days of madness' directed by Damian Nenadić, 'Kinofil' directed by Damir Janeček, 'Place of memory: Vukovar' directed by Veljko Bulajić, 'Nobody's' directed by Jadran Boban, etc. Lives and works in Zagreb, Croatia.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Writer & Director

Srđan Kovačević

Director of Photography

Srđan Kovačević

Editor

Damir Čučić

Additional Editors

Srđan Kovačević, Iva Kraljević

Sound Design

Ranko Pauković

Producers

Sabina Krešić, Luka Venturin

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FADE IN

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