A young child with a somber expression is the central focus of the image. The child is positioned in the upper left, looking directly at the viewer. The background consists of a blue sky with bare tree branches. The lower portion of the image features a hand-drawn, sepia-toned cityscape with domes, a minaret, and buildings. The title 'FINDING BOSNIA' is written in white and yellow text across the upper right. The entire image is framed with a rough, yellow border.

# FINDING BOSNIA

a  
*Mamamama*  
production



## SYNOPSIS SHORT

*Finding Bosnia* presents the personal journey of a young woman who is seeking to reconnect with an identity she left behind after fleeing war in the early 1990s. Join Ivana Horvat as she returns to her home country of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the first time in twenty years.

### DIRECTED BY:

LLAMAMAMA Productions

Ivana Horvat

Adrian Hopffgarten

**GENRE:**  
Documentary

**COMPLETED:**  
July 2015

**LOCATIONS:**  
Bosnia & Herzegovina, France,  
Croatia, United States

**RUNTIME:**  
90 minutes

**FORMAT:**  
1920 x 1080 HD

# SYNOPSIS LONG

*Finding Bosnia* presents an intimate and personal journey of a Bosnian war refugee raised in the United States who seeks to reclaim her Bosnian culture and identity. As a small child, Ivana Horvat fled Sarajevo with her mother during the beginning of the Yugoslav wars, leaving her family and city behind. Once her family was reunited, her parents took turns capturing home videos of their new life together in Oregon, and twenty years later their footage becomes a lens with which Ivana watches her transition from being a young Bosnian child to an American woman.

Ivana makes it her goal to create her own "Bosnia" by returning to her hometown and interviewing other Bosnian refugees from around the world. Home video footage, stories from various generations of Bosnians, and experiences with newfound family and friends, create a bridge into her Bosnia. *Finding Bosnia* explores the spirit of the Balkans, the experience of living in between two cultures, and sheds light on the aftershock of starting a new life as a refugee.



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I am a Bosnian-American. I have Serbian, Croatian, and Muslim roots. I was displaced from my home along with over two million others between 1992-1995 because of the war in the former Yugoslavia. After living in the U.S. for the majority of my life, I became increasingly aware of my hyphenated identity. How was I Bosnian if I had been raised in the United States for almost my entire life? Why did this matter so much to me? What did it mean to be Bosnian?

I grappled with these questions until I was compelled to do something drastic in order to find the answers. In the summer of 2012, I moved back to Sarajevo. I was inspired to share my experience once I realized how many others struggle with the same questions that drove my decision to move to Bosnia and document this film.

Unlike the majority of films about Bosnia & Herzegovina, I wanted *Finding Bosnia* to portray the country in a positive light. I wanted people to experience this beautiful and overlooked part of the world with me. I believe this film can impact anyone who has had the experience of being caught between cultures and who has a distorted concept of identity and "home". *Finding Bosnia* puts a human face on the aftermath of displacement and the struggles refugees face long after asylum is reached. It is important to understand these pertinent issues as our world becomes more interconnected with hundreds of thousands of people being displaced each year because of war and natural disasters.

For the first time in my life I have personally become connected with other members of the Bosnian diaspora, and I am less alone than I had originally thought. My dream is to continue to connect people through *Finding Bosnia*.



# VISUALS & APPROACH

The making of this movie was a way for the filmmaker to explore and learn from her past in hopes of creating a collective narrative. The approach to this documentary was to be "in the moment", therefore the filmmaking was hands-on and guerilla style. This film seeks to mirror the rhythm and tempo of learning abroad.

*Finding Bosnia* includes both original and Balkan music to complement the subtleties of movement between ancient and contemporary culture. The film features two hand-drawn, stop-motion animations to provide historical context for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The tactile grace of the stop-motion animation creates a thoughtful and delicate treatment that illuminates the horrors of war.



# REVIEWS

An absolutely fantastic documentary film that brings to life emotions, feelings, facts, tradition, humor, and most importantly the mindset and values in and of the life in Bosnia and my hometown Sarajevo. I was amazed and touched by the quality, heart, and completeness that made such a complicated idea so easily understandable, uplifting, and lovable to follow...a wholehearted, a must-see recommendation for all who want to better understand their friends from Bosnia, and also for those who came from former Bosnia and other parts of former Yugoslavia. Incredible stuff and a true work of art.

- NENO BROWN, *Bosnian Diaspora*, St. Louis, Missouri

*Finding Bosnia* is fantastic and captures a special moment in Ivana's life. It's especially interesting given the discussion the world has been having about refugees in light of the Syrian conflict. Ivana is just one of the Bosnian War refugees that I've befriended during the past couple of years, and it's my opinion that Portland is a much richer community for all of them.

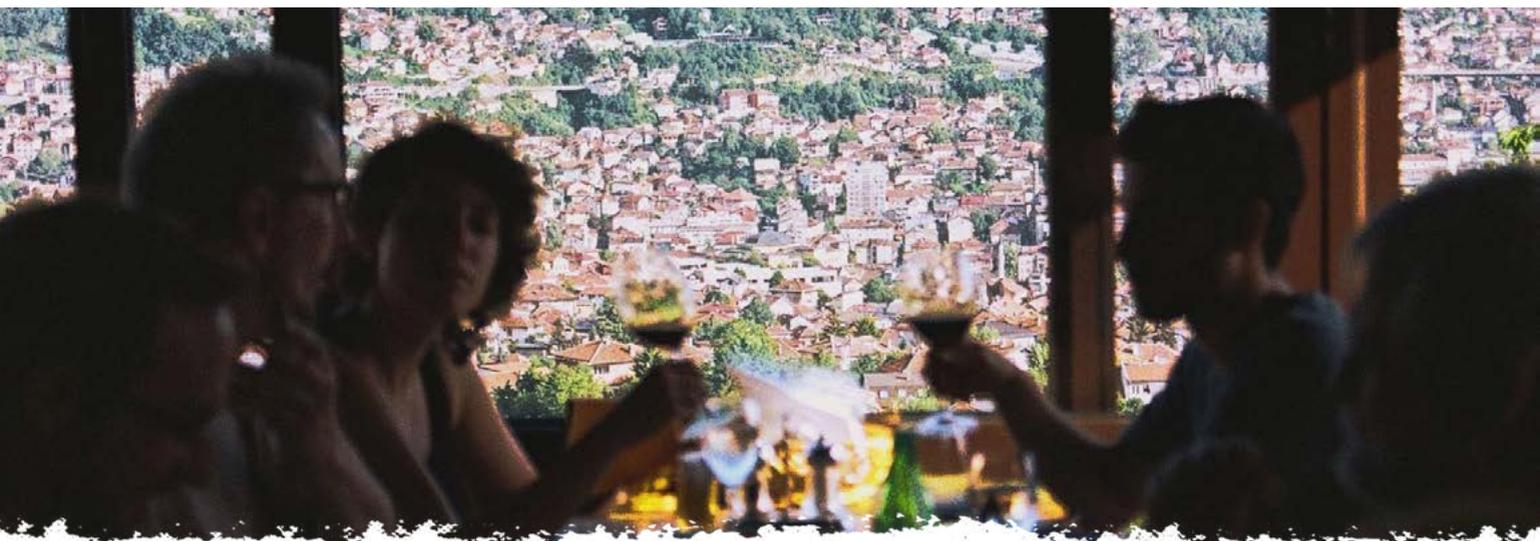
- MIKE PHILLIPS, AM:PM Public Relations, Portland, Oregon

I want every one of the staff members in my district to watch this film. They have been involved with our people and have been teaching our children for 20 years, but it has always been hard for them to see a complete picture of Bosnia. Watching this powerful educational and objective film completes this picture.

DRAGICA DIZDAREVIC, Mehlville School District, St. Louis, Missouri

Horvat's journey to find and share a narrative with other Bosnians is a captivating look at what growing up removed from your history and family can mean for the formation of personal and cultural identity. That's a topic especially prescient today as thousands of Syrian refugees flee their war-torn region. And it's a topic St. Louis' Bosnian community would have much to say about.

- KELLY MOFIT, St. Louis Public Radio, St. Louis, Missouri



# CREW

## IVANA HORVAT

director / producer

Ivana Horvat began directing films when she started using her father's old camcorder in grade school. A decade later she produced her first documentary, which was screened at film festivals and universities in 2009. She co-founded LLAMAMAMA Productions in 2010 and has continued producing documentaries and films.



## ADRIAN HOPFFGARTEN

director / producer

Adrian Hopffgarten is a multimedia producer with a background in social justice documentary and stop-motion animation. She makes up one half of LLAMAMAMA Productions. Her passion for storytelling begins with her curiosity and belief in human potential. She produces documentaries and crafts digital stories in Portland, Oregon.



## ADO HASANOVIC

camera / producer

Ado Hasanovic is an award winning Bosnian film director born in Srebrenica. He earned the "Best Student" title at the Sarajevo Film Academy where he directed and produced three award-winning films, The Angel of Srebrenica, The Blue Viking and MAMA. He became the Art Director at the Mediterranean Short Film Festival in 2015.



## EVAN FEENSTRA

sound design

Evan Feenstra is a producer and musician who has a special ear for all things sound. He produces original music for commercial and personal use and develops musical and educational software for creative expression



## NENAD KOVACEVIC

sound design

Nenad Kovecevic is a Bosnian sound designer who taught himself music during the years of the Bosnian conflict. With a strong old school background but no stranger to modern beats, Nenad Kovacevic sits perfectly somewhere in between. He has worked on many documentaries, commercials, and films about the Balkans.





## CONTACT



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