



A CALL GIRL

(Slovenka)

Directed by Damjan Kozole

"Nina Ivanisin's performance as the title character [is] one of the most coolly calculating anti-heroines to grace the silver screen." – Alissa Simon, **Variety**



Slovenia / 2009 / Drama
Slovenian with English subtitles / 90 min.

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SYNOPSIS

Having grown up in small-town Slovenia, 23-year-old Alexandra embraces the excitement and anonymity of big city life when she moves to the capital. She styles herself as a call girl, planning to take advantage of everything the city has to offer. But her isolated existence—English studies and mortgage payments by day, call girl lifestyle by night—is shattered when one of her clients, a visiting politician, dies of a heart attack on her watch. Alexandra must suddenly confront fear, guilt, and desperation as she finds herself pursued by a band of local pimps, as well as the cops, hot on her trail. The old village life she had escaped from might now become her only refuge.

FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

WINNER- Best Actress (Nina Ivanišin), **Valencia Film Festival of Mediterranean Cinema**

WINNER - Best Supporting Actor, **Slovene Film Festival**

Official Selection –

Toronto International Film Festival

Rotterdam International Film Festival

Palm Springs International Film Festival

Sarajevo Film Festival

Reykjavik International Film Festival

Raindance International Film Festival, London

Pusan International Film Festival

Montreal International Film Festival

Warsaw International Film Festival

Sao Paulo Film Festival

Kyiv International Film Festival “Molodist”

Leeds International Film Festival

Cairo International Film Festival

Palm Springs International Film Festival

Tromso International Film Festival

Santa Barbara Film Festival

Alpe Adria Cinema International Film Festival, Trieste

Rotterdam International Film Festival

Goteborg International Film Festival

Portland International Film Festival

Mexico City International Film Festival

Cinequest Film Festival San Jose

Sofia International Film Festival

European Union Film Festival Chicago

Cleveland International Film Festival

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Damjan Kozole

In Slovenia, classified ad newspapers come out twice a week. At least ten pages of personal ads appear, in very small print. About a thousand of these ads are placed by girls offering sex for money. Half say they are students, although many lie about their age or status. There are indeed many students among them – young women who do not look like prostitutes. None of their friends, colleagues and families could ever suspect that they have anything to do with prostitution. The story of one of these girls intrigued me the most – her greed, her frank indifference, and the unbearable lightness of her practiced sex-for-money philosophy. It's almost as if it has nothing to do with her or her body. She shifts to automatic pilot while doing her clients.

Slovenian Girl is a portrait of a desperate young woman torn by conflicting feelings about herself and the world around her. She loses her sense of reality and appreciation of her own body, all because she wants to assure herself a better life.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY & FILMOGRAPHY

Damjan Kozole

Damjan Kozole was born in 1964, Brežice, Slovenia (then Yugoslavia). At the age of 22 he made his debut with a low-budget film **The Fatal Telephone**, one of the first independent films in the former Yugoslavia.

His feature film **Spare Parts** (2003 – a Film Movement release) won a nomination for the Golden Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival (IFF) in 2003. The film won several international awards and was among candidates, selected by the European Film Academy, for the best European film of that year. British film critic Peter Bradshaw wrote for the Guardian that **Spare Parts** was “one of the most powerful and provocative films of the year”.

In 2004, Kozole participated in the international omnibus **Visions of Europe** (2004) together with 24 other European directors (among others with Fatih Akin, Sharunas Bartas, Peter Greenaway, Aki Kaurismaeki and Bela Tarr)

In 2005, a retrospective of his feature films was hosted by the American Film Institute. Films were shown in Washington, DC (AFI Silver), Chicago, New York, Boston, Cleveland, Vancouver and in Ottawa. His feature film **Labour Equals Freedom** (2005) premiered at the Locarno IFF and was awarded the Golden Palm and Best director award at Valencia IFF in 2006.

His eighth feature film **Forever** (2008) premiered at the Rotterdam IFF 2008, while his latest feature film, the international co-production **A Call Girl** was completed in April 2009.

Kozole is one of the most prominent Slovenian film directors. He is a voting member of the European Film Academy.

Filmography: (only feature films)

2009 **A Call Girl**

2008 **Forever**

2005 **Labour Equals Freedom**

2004 **Visions of Europe: 25 European Directors. 25 Visions. 1 Film** short feature

2003 **Spare Parts**

2000 **Porn Film**

1997 **Stereotype**

1988 **Remington**

1987 **The Fatal Telephone**

SELECT ACTORS' BIOGRAPHIES & FILMOGRAPHIES

Nina Ivanišin (Alexandra)

Born in 1985 in Maribor, Slovenia, Nina Ivanišin graduated on Ljubljana Film and Theatre Academy (AGRFT). Appeared in several student films. The role of Alexandra in Kozole's **Slovenian Girl** is her first professional film role. After that, she appeared also in the Croatian movie **Just Between Us** directed by Rajko Grlić. Since autumn 2008, she has been a member of The Slovene Theatre in Celje.

Peter Musevski (Edo)

Born in 1965 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Peter Musevski studied drama acting at the Ljubljana Academy AGFRT. Musevski is internationally recognized, and one of the most valued, popular and frequently awarded Slovenian actors. He appeared in many award-winning films that received prizes at the world's most eminent festivals.

He is a member of The Prešeren Theatre in Kranj.

Filmography (just a selection):

2008 **Forever** by Damjan Kozole

2007 **I'm from Titov Veles** by Teona Mitevska

2005 **Labour Equals Freedom** by Damjan Kozole

2005 **Tuning** by Igor Šterk

2003 **Spare Parts** by Damjan Kozole

2001 **Bread and Milk** by Jan Cvitkovič

CREDITS

Crew

Director	Damjan Kozole
Screenwriters	Ognjen Sviličić, Matevž Luzar, Damjan Kozole
Producer	Danijel Hočevar
Coproducers	Alexander Ris & Jörg Rothe, Jelena Mitrović Anita Juka, Amra Bakšić Čamo
Production manager	Matija Kozamernik
Director of photography	Aleš Belak
Music by	Silence
Editors	Andrija Zafranović, Jurij Moškon
Production designer	Maja Moravec
Costume designer	Zora Stančič
Sound designer	Julij Zornik
Sound mixer	Martin Schinz
World Sales	m-appeal

Cast

Aleksandra	Nina Ivanišin
Edo	Peter Musevski
Zdravko	Primož Pirnat
Vesna	Maruša Kink
Grega	Uroš Fürst
Alexandra's Friend	Andrej Murenc
Mile	Dejan Spasić

Peter
Fat Musician
Helmut Buder
Customer no. 1
Professor
Bank Clerk
Customer no. 2
English Client
Italian Client
Aleksandra's mother
Aleksandra's young brother
Taxi driver

Aljoša Kovačič
Primož Petkovšek
Ivan Godnič
Cedric B. von Sidow
Aleš Valič
Marjuta Slamič
Valter Dragan
Philip Burt
Danijel Malalan
Maja Sever
Sven Kozole
Drago Milinović