

I AM FROM TITOV VELES

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Macedonia - Germany

Teona Strugar Mitevaska

Teona Strugar Mitevaska was a child actor for television and theatre. Later she trained as a painter, finishing her BA in the graphic design. She was art director for companies such as Saatchi & Saatchi. In 1998, she started the M.F.A film programme at the Tisch School of Arts, NYU. Together with her brother and sister, she founded a production company.

Filmography

Veta (2001, short) Berlin Film Festival - Jury Special Mention, *Amer in America* (2002, doc)

How I killed a Saint (2004, feature): Tiger competition-Rotterdam Film Festival; Award for the Best film- Crossing Europe Film Festival, Linz ; Best Actor at the Sarajevo Film Festival ; Special Mention - Cinema Jove Film Festival, Valencia ; more that 40 festivals around the world.

Production Company :	Sisters & Brother Mitevski Production (Macedonia)	Shooting format:	35mm
Category:	Fiction	Locations:	Macedonia
Length:	90'	Casting:	Labina Mitevaska as Afrodita
Language:	Macedonian		
Shooting dates:	April 2006		

Introduction

When you have spent your life living for others what is left after they go.

I Am from Titov Veles is a sad story of a dissolving and decaying family. The rat race allows no love, no compassion, brings only confusion and destruction. *I Am from Titov Veles* captures these absurdities with painful honesty.

Synopsis

Slavica, Sapho and Afrodita are three sisters who use/misuse each other.

They sacrifice for each other only when they have something to gain from that. Each of them behaves in an immoral way but those are the rules of the world. (they all lie to the outside world). And in this immorality there is also a link between them all, which is what their family is based on, what they share: love and misuse, or love and sacrifice.

I am from Titov Veles is a story of a marriage. Slavica is getting married. By arranging that marriage Sapho hopes to get a visa to Greece. If Slavica gets a husband, the whole family might get some money, but Slavica is a methadone addict and in order to go on with the preparations of the wedding she needs more methadone. Therefore Afrodita has to sacrifice herself and sleep with Aco. Afrodita is a virgin, mute and 27. Afrodita falls in love with Aco, but Aco is a man on his own, one whose single idea is his own survival. Their love starts almost as a rape and grows into a passionate love affair. Viktor, the future husband of Slavica, is a man that makes everyone's dream come true, he is rich and powerful; he is also a pig in the eyes of Afrodita. Suddenly but not unexpected by Victor gives Slavica back (returns her, after discovering her addiction). He feels cheated, they have lied to him and he has every right to be furious. He asks for a "replacement" of Slavica, that old junkie, and it is Afrodita. If not, he has the power to make all three sisters miserable. So in order to save the family Afrodita has to marry the man.

The reaction from Afrodita is unexpected; she argues that she cannot marry Viktor because she is an angel. Which is not an argument, really, but she proves to be right.

The MOOD or genre in which the script is built is something between a drama of exile, with a historical background, combined with magic and poetry. A Poetic drama on exile / home leaving. There is a very strong feminine and poetic side that dominates the script.

Director's statement:

I have been working on the script of *I am from Titov Veles* for two and a half years now. It is a story that has taken a long time to mature; this has been so because of my insistence to follow the so called feminine logic of action. By this I mean the intuition and emotional logic of development of the characters and the predicaments they find themselves in. It has been my goal in developing the script in this manner to arrive to the most organic solutions and paths of movement for the characters. Also by following the feminine and poetic side, the story and the information are given, the script gains an entirely different dimension.

I am from Titov Veles is a film in search of beauty in uncomfortable places; this is present in the form as much as in the story itself.

I am from Titov Veles is social drama of a family falling apart, where the final act of sacrifice of Afrodita, our main character is in essence a noble act and a cry for something that was and is not any more.

The way things are told and presented might shock you, and what the three characters/sisters go through and especially the character Afrodita will deeply emotionally effect you. This is all done because of my strong belief in delivering my experience through cinema, using this form to its full potential, and through this experience, triggering the important questions and emotions the story was written for.

I see the film as a symbiosis of still frames in the manner of Ozu with the emotional intensity of Polanski's *Repulsion*.

Production company:	Sisters & Brother Mitevski Production (Macedonia)
Budget:	950.000 euros
Financing in place:	650.000 euros
Partner attached:	Flying Moon (Germany)

Company Profile

Sisters and Brother Mitevski is a family production company based in Macedonia.

Labina, Teona and Vuk successfully launched their company in 2001 with the short film *Veta* (14min.), which premiered at the Berlin Film Festival, and travelled to more than thirty established festivals all around the world. The first feature film that Sisters and Brother Mitevski produced is *How I Killed a Saint* in 2002-2003. *How I Killed a Saint* had its world premiere at the Rotterdam International Film Festival, 2004- VPRO Tiger Awards Competition.

It was awarded post-production grant by Hubert Bals Fund of the IFFR. Awards:

"Crossing Europe Award for the Best film"- Crossing Europe, International Film Festival Linz, Austria, 'Special Mention by Jury' -Cinema Jove International Film Festival, Valencia, Spain, "Best Actor Award" – Sarajevo Film Festival. *How I killed a Saint* had travelled successfully to more than 40 festivals around the world.

Sisters & Brother Mitevski Production is currently preparing their next feature film *I am from Titov Veles* ,

Goals at Paris Project : Finding pre-sales, sales agent, funds

People attending Paris Project: Teona Strugar Mitevaska (director), Labina Mitevaska (producer), Helge Albers (co-producer)

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