

## When America Knocks on Your Door

By Živana Jovančić

*The opportunity given to her by film director Cristóbal Krusen to act among our best actors in the film Sabina K. makes her happy, admits Alena Dzebo. While she impatiently waits to see the finished movie, she prepares herself for the play 'Stories of the Old Tram.'*

Alena Dzebo (36), an actress from Sarajevo, has just finished filming the movie Sabina K. in which she plays the leading actress, the most important role in her career so far. The movie, which is based on a true story of an anonymous Bosnian lady, is written and directed by American Cristóbal Krusen, who has also visited Bosnia before. He enjoyed the country, he liked the people, he loved communicating with them, he liked hearing about them, about other people's lives, and about stories that were different. One of them he set apart for a project on the big screen. Cristóbal Krusen was searching for actors he wanted to see in his movie; so he decided to see some of the most successful Bosnian films, among which was the short film 'Alena's Journey' where he noticed actress Alena Dzebo. After seeing the film, he decided to call her for an audition in Sarajevo, where he finally confirmed his choices for the cast.

"It is simply amazing and there is nothing more beautiful when your own work recommends yourself for a role, especially when someone doesn't even know you personally, but the only thing he sees is the artwork you have done before", Alena Dzebo says with excitement. She is pleased with her work and proud to be acting among Bosnia's best cast such as: Senad Basic, Enis Beslagic, Vesna Masic, Miralem Zubcevic, Jasna Diklic and Mirsad Tuka.

### New movie brunette

A woman like Sabina, divorced and a mother of two, we can encounter in any city, here and anywhere in the world. She is a woman who will experience love once again, with her new partner Sasha, played by Alban Ukaj. Sabina is infinitely happy with Sasha, but unhappy at the same time; their relationship is complicated not only because of their different backgrounds but also because life itself is very tough (hard, difficult) and in the moment when everything starts going downhill, their relationship breaks and tears apart. Krusen's film is full of twists and turns, emotions and atmosphere, but let's leave the end of their love story for you to discover in the cinemas.

"The most important thing for me is that I go through a huge transformation in the movie. My emotions rise to unspeakable happiness, and soon after that they collapse. You don't see a character like that in our films a lot (It's very rare to see a character like that in our films), so I worked a lot in order to prepare for the role. I am a very committed actress (I like when I work out the character I play in every detail) to the point where I become annoying, but I really want to see things clearly. The director was very patient with us, we talked a lot, analyzed the characters, rehearsed every scene separately. Cris, as we used to call the director, was literally like a father to us (was the father figure among us), radiating a very calm and pleasant energy on the film set", says Alena, who dyed her blonde hair and became a brunette for the sake of the role so she would look just as the director imagined Sabina. Not only did she have to prepare to play the character of Sabina, but she also had to prepare physically. She deliberately

emphasized this as the filming was demanding and it was spread over less than a month mostly in Sarajevo, but also in Mostar and on the Korcula Island.

The feature film *Sabina K.* is now in post-production in Belgium, which will be continued in the USA where the final sound and image post production will take place. The film is expected to be completed in fall 2014. The entire cast and crew are curious and impatient to see the final outcome of their work. As an official trailer was launched recently, the waiting becomes even more exciting.

### **She is Still Looking for a Job**

Don't ask Alena if she works in a theater full time. Every actor has that dream, and so has she. Ever since she graduated from drama school, she works as a freelancer and somehow manages to find herself jobs. She acts in plays for children with the informal theater group Altteatar. They also organize summer school for acting, workshops for primary school pupils in Sarajevo. The newest project she is involved with is with the Puppetry Studio where they discover acting talents and prepare a play called 'Stories of the Old Tram' which demonstrates the historical and cultural development of Sarajevo. With the premiere, which is expected in July, they will commemorate 100 years of World War I, as well as a decade since Altteatar was founded. It looks like she loves to work and to be busy.

However, she also has some free time for herself. "Filming is exhausting. Your home feels like a hotel where you come only to sleep at night. Afterwards, of course you would like to compensate for the things you love." That's why right after the filming was completed, for a national holiday in May, she left on a trip to Montenegro with her husband Amer Hec. They use every opportunity to go out for a walk, perhaps spend time with their family, to rest and to travel. From time to time they even sail to the other side of the ocean, to America, where Alena's parents and sister have lived for a while. Because of her love towards acting, she refused to move with them 17 years ago, as she didn't want to interrupt her studies. It turned out it was a good thing to stay, "As you can see, America knocked on my door", she finished.