

THE MELON ROUTE

Produced by
TELEFILM d.o.o.

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Producer STANISLAV BABIĆ

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Produced by
TELEFILM
HRT

Producers
STANISLAV
MIRKO GALIĆ

Written by (screen writers)
BRANKO SCHMITD
OGNJEN SVILIČIĆ
Based on the idea of IVO GREGUREVIĆ

Directed by
BRANKO SCHMIDT

Director of photography,
VJEKOSLAV VRDOLJAK H.F.S.

Art director
MLADEN OŽBOLT

Costume designer
ŽELJKA FRANULović

Key make-up artist
SNJEŽANA TOMLJENOVIĆ –BUBA

Edited by
VESNA LAŽETA
HRVOJE MRŠIĆ

Original Music by
MIROSLAV ŠKORO

Sound design
MLADEN PERVAN
RANKO PAUKOVIĆ

CAST

Mirko KREŠIMIR MIKIĆ	
Chinese girl	SUN MEI
Meho	ARMIN OMERVIĆ
Šeki	LEON LUČEV
Gojko	EMIR HADŽIHAFIZBEGOVIĆ
Ćale	IVO GREGUREVIĆ
Waiter	SLOBODAN MAKSIMOVIĆ
Spider	ZIJAH SOKOLOVIĆ
a petrol station worker	FILIP ŠOVAGOVIĆ
(gas station worker)	
a colleague	ILJO BENKOVIĆ – DRCA
the interpreter	MARELLA OPPENHEIM
Rivette	ZORAN ČUBRILO
a man with the paralysis	DARIJO VELIĆAN
Russian girl I	DORA LIPOVČAN
Russian girl II	ELENA DLESK
an old Chinese man	SHANIM CHEN
spider's wife	IVANA BOLANČA
Eufor man	DINO STEVIĆ
a baggar	MIA BUČEVIĆ
a female singer	VESNA PEZO
Mirko's double	PETAR BENČIĆ

Assistant director DRAGAN JURIĆ

Assistant to the direction
(continuity) NINO JOSIPOVIĆ

Script MARIJA KOSOR

Assistant to the direction – volunteer	DINO STEVIĆ
Team directors/managers	STANISLAV BABIĆ DRAGO NUSSHOL
TV producer	VESNA MORT
Assistant director	BOŽICA OBAD
Chief of filming	HRVOJE PERVAN
Organizer	SILVIJA BORKO
Production secretary	MARGARETA JELČIĆ
Business secretary	TAMARA TOMŠIĆ
Extras casting	FANITA PAVLOVIĆ
First assistant camera – focus puller	BRANKO KNEZ
Video assistant	BRANIMIR HAINŠ
Second assistant camera – loader	MARKO VRDOLJAK
Second video assistant	VLADO LONČARIĆ
Still photographer	ZLATKO MRAKOVIĆ – MRKVA

The Screenplay

Branko Schmidt and Ognjen Sviličić are the authors of the screenplay for the feature film The Melon Route, originated by the idea of Ivo Gregurević.

It is dramatized by Pavao Marinković and Drago Kekanović.

The producers are TELEFILM and CROATIAN RADIO TELEVISION (HRT).

Some two hundred pages of descriptions, dialogues, instructions and remarks are the basis for the words on the paper to become the pictures on the screen. The black letters on the white surface can so easily picture the life surroundings of the leading and supporting characters, as well as their emotions and thoughts, their fears and their aspirations. Here is how the director Branko Schmidt put it concisely:

"The Mellon Route is the film about people trafficking, PTSD (Post-traumatic-stress-disorder), and above all, love. The action of the film takes place in the Balkans – a region known for its century-long conflicts among different civilization and religion. The last of those conflicts broke out after the SFRJ breakdown. It was difficult to maintain peace and order in the newly formed countries, so the certain regions became crime harbouring places.

People trafficking – one of the worst evils of present time follows the so-called Balkan route that directs the trafficking to the West. There are many reports in the Bosnian, as well as in Croatian daily newspapers, about the groups of illegal immigrants which were discovered by the police, and the frequent-ones are those informing about the immigrants which lost their lives that way.

The Mellon Route is the story inspired by a true story about twelve illegal immigrants which got drowned in the river Sava on the Bosnian-Croatian border. In the screenplay, this accident is expanded and seen through the eyes of a young Chinese girl who loses her father in the accident. It also shows the relationship between her and former Croatian army soldier, an ex drug-addict suffering from PTSD, who lost everything in the war. The language and cultural barrier between the main characters gives a special dimension to the film which is imbued with a painful comprehension – how hard it is to deal with the burden that can never be discarded – the place of birth."

Director

Branko Schmidt was born in Osijek, in 1957. After a short-term attendance of Economic College, he graduated from the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Zagreb, film and television directing. His graduation thesis was a noticeable TV play "Rano sazrijevanje Marka Kovača" (1981). The next year he did a drama for television - Hildegard - which was declared – the best TV drama on the Yugoslavian state area. In 1988 he directed his first feature-length film Sokol ga nije volio – following the play by Filip Šovagović, and won The debutant of the year award at the Pula Film Festival. In the course of his career he has done a lot of plays, documentary films and also TV series for children – Operacija Barbarossa (1989) – following the novel of Ivan Kušan. In the Nineties he directed 4 more feature-length films: Đuka Begović (1991), Vukovar se vraća kući (1994), i Božić u Beču (1997) for which he was awarded with the Golden Arena for typescript. In 1999 he films Srce nije u modi. For his last film Kraljica noći (2001) he won The Golden Arena for typescript and production. He was a member of the International film festival in Moscow in 2004.

Producer

Stanislav Babić was born in 1945 in Zagreb. He graduated from the Economics Faculty in Zagreb in 1968.

From 1970 till 1989 he worked as the director of the representative bodies for the marketing programmes for the Beograd, Titograd and Pristina TV in SR Croatia.

In 1990 in Vienna- Austria, he formed his own production company 'Vestaco G.M. B. H.', and in 2001 he founded another production company in Zagreb – TELEFILM d.o.o.

Besides marketable films he produced documentary films and feature films, like: KONJANIK and THE MELON ROUTE.