

STARAGARA PRESENTS:



A STOP-MOTION BY SANDRA JOVANOVSKA

No One Ever Looked at Elephants as You Do

STARAGARA



Creative
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MEDIA



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SCHOOL OF ARTS



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Facts sheet



Title: No one ever looked at elephants as you do

Technique: stop-motion, pixilation, object animation...

Length: 9 min.

Director: Sandra Jovanovska

Writer: Sandra Jovanovska

Composer: Ivan Antić

Production company: Staragara (Slovenia)

Producer: Miha Černec and Nina Robnik

Genre/audience: experimental poetic stop-motion for adults and parents

Format: 1920x1080, DCP, color



Logline:

A visual exploration of the organic bond between mother and baby reflects the inseparable connection with nature.

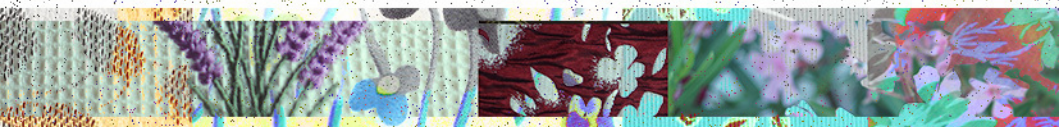
Synopsis:

Imagine that something is growing inside you. It stretches your interior, yet it is a tiny little soul. It dreams of life, the clouds and the moon, while listening to a perfect melody in the womb. It grows and becomes extraordinary each day, every day, increasingly. It teaches you to always look straight at the center. It reminds you of the birds, the puddles, and the stones. Together you explore all the anthills and you explain to yourself why the tree reaches towards the sky. You see nature bare, unadorned, with all the smelly, fragrant spirits. You transform, you purify. You become a fountain. You go wild.

It is all happening too fast. You might want to go back and mummify time. You might need a decelerator to encapsulate all the playgrounds, the flowers and the meadow, so you can build a souvenir to parenthood and honor all new life yet to come.

Teaser:

<https://vimeo.com/719587679/35a67b001d>



Director's note of intention

I anticipate this animation to be a powerful intimate vision into my growth during the process of early maternal life. Because I experienced pregnancy and early motherhood as a fairly isolated journey, I have an irresistible feeling of sharing this superimposed emotional state. I missed talking with other pregnant mamas, I missed my parents touching my stretched belly, I missed my husband holding my hand while I felt the biggest pain in my life... Therefore, I have this overwhelming sensation to talk about motherhood and pregnancy. To have an outburst about this unique journey. For heaven's sake, something was growing inside me, deformed my stomach, deviated my back, and went bananas on my hormones, so that my body can go back to normal again as an elastic band and then straight out of the blue turn into a self-sustainable food factory. Does this make sense? Or it rather sounds like a Cronenberg science fiction horror series with many seasons and an everlasting twist? I sleep less than a Chinese worker in a sweatshop, yet my spirit is intact and ecstatic. I am a little girl, invigorated, distilled and fine-tuned harmoniously to all the natural life flavors, yet in the supermarket I stink as an animal. On that note, I also grew hair. Everywhere. Hair longer than ever before, curled in an endless Fibonacci spiral. And I have never legitimately taken part of any feminist naturalist movement. I was simply forced to let me be.

Is it because I am boundless food and comfort for a tiny new individual, day and night uninterruptedly? I am that tree in the park that shelters the cat that was chased by a Doberman. I am an algae in which the fungi comfortably build a house. I am a superb ecosystem. I am a brave extension of the universe on a micro level and I am doing damn fine to tell you the truth. I look life straight in the eyes each day, all day wondering which color of excrement I am going to feast my eyes on. I experience so much love. It is like flower flavored milkshake music. And there is a big field of it as far as the eye can see. There is enough for everyone, and there is natural harmony and I want to share this with the cosmos. I see life growing, unfolding and dancing in front of me and I feel butterflies are making a carnival in my stomach. I want to build a temple of memorabilia to parenthood and remind all fathers and mothers that their children are of this world and not some extraterrestrial force that kidnapped all the love in their heart just to give it all to them.

I feel the best way to do this is by means of images and poetry. Abstract to some extent. Controlled but without any need to be in control. I am also quite intrigued by how we look at things, in particular how babies, unburdened by societies interacts with objects in everyday life. I cannot help but notice that a baby gazes at things that have eyes. By photographing different portraits and aligning them in such a way that the eye has its own trajectory, I want to explore if the brain distinguishes the depictions normally due to the natural flow of movement. The same goes for shapes and patterns. Following the idea of a fluid natural cycle I want to see how textile or printed patterns can be transformed into organic arrangements. Along these lines I shall experiment with drawings on paper and other objects by burying them in the ground or merging them with organic materials to get a more coherent backgrounds or excerpts. In such a way, I wish to balance the rough visual material and bring it closer to the poetic narrative.

Ultimately, as the music and sound design are tightly tied to the pulse of the animation, the collaboration with my partner who is a sound artist makes me confident that the acoustic landscape will be emotionally and personally integrated.

However, having said all that, another, perhaps a most important director's vision comes from the new being that entered my life and makes each day a valuable new lesson. Hence, I would leave a small amount of this director's note unspoken, to let new growth come to life.

Sandra Jovanovska
Director, Writer Animator

Visual style

Unlike classical animation, the storyteller here are objects, entities and transformations, which together with the mix of different animation techniques and styles will constitute the language of the film and give it a patina of dirt, chaos and ultimately, life.





Creative team



Producer - MIHA ČERNEC

Miha Černek was born in 1975 in Ljubljana. He studied Slavic languages and literature at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. During his studies he wrote reviews and translated. He was one of the founders of the cultural journal *Balkanis* which covered current events and issues from the countries of former Yugoslavia and was published in several languages. He was member of the editorial board for five years. During this period he became increasingly involved in film production where he is still active today. Several years of work together helped SG to create a homogenous production team, which now has an established name that can choose among the best Slovene directors. He is EFA and EDN member and president of Association of Slovenian producers. In 2014 he graduated at EAVE in 2014 and ExOriente in 2015. In 2015 he was selected as Producer on the Move and in 2019 he graduated at EAVE+.



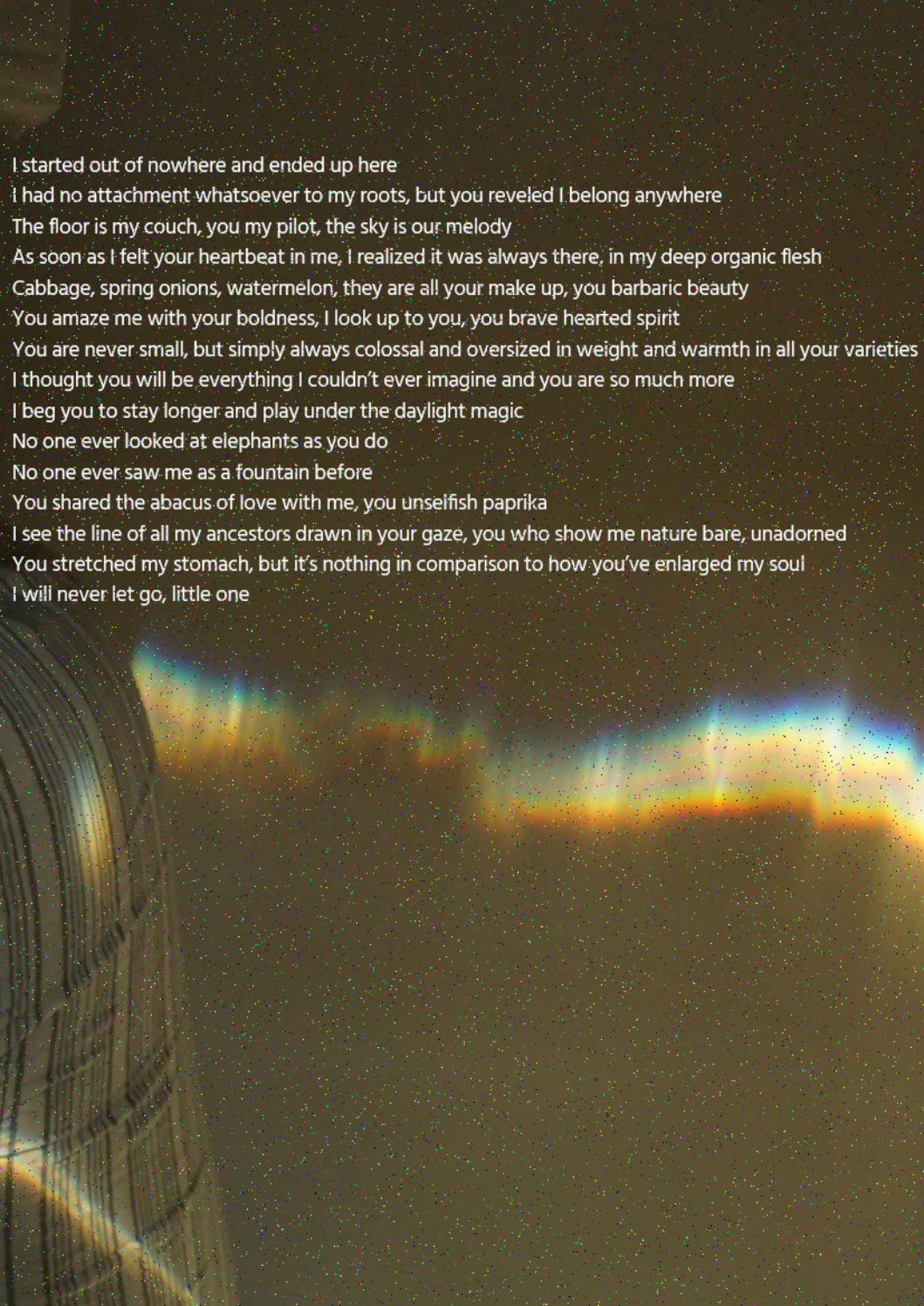
Director - SANDRA JOVANOVSKA

Sandra Jovanovska is a multimedia artist working in the field of arts and culture. After her BA studies in French and English language in Skopje, Macedonia 2013, she continued her MA qualification in multimedia with a major in animation at the School of Arts (University of Nova Gorica) in Slovenia 2015. She has been working as a festival pre-selector and a student competition programmer at Makedox (2013-2017), worked and co-founded the festival Pod Zemlja Polesno se Dishe (2012-2020) and since 2019 she is the head programmer of the film program for First Crossings (A Tribute to a Vision). She has also been part of the art collective Kompressor (2012-2020), co-founded and worked in the cultural center Kula in Skopje (2013-2015) and instituted the duo-jewelry brand Mei-Ro (2012-2018). Her films and animations traveled at a number of festivals and won several awards. Sandra is currently working on her new stop-motion animation.



Sound artist - IVAN ANTIĆ

Ivan Antić is a Balkan-based freelance composer, sound recordist, sound engineer and author. Since 1996 he has been involved in numerous music, theater, dance, documentary film and video projects. Ivan has composed music for theater, both in Serbia and the United Kingdom, with the acclaimed choreographer Charles Linehan as well as music for film and animation with authors such as Sandra Jovanovska and Matjaž Ivanišin. In 2007 he started working as a freelance sound technician, recordist and engineer. He has worked on many awarded projects on television, documentary and feature films. He was also a member of the production team of the Dis-patch festival in Belgrade and MakeDox, festival for creative documentary in Skopje, Macedonia. After moving to Slovenia in 2019 he also gained a position of mentor for sound at School of Arts (University of Nova Gorica).



I started out of nowhere and ended up here
I had no attachment whatsoever to my roots, but you reveled I belong anywhere
The floor is my couch, you my pilot, the sky is our melody
As soon as I felt your heartbeat in me, I realized it was always there, in my deep organic flesh
Cabbage, spring onions, watermelon, they are all your make up, you barbaric beauty
You amaze me with your boldness, I look up to you, you brave hearted spirit
You are never small, but simply always colossal and oversized in weight and warmth in all your varieties
I thought you will be everything I couldn't ever imagine and you are so much more
I beg you to stay longer and play under the daylight magic
No one ever looked at elephants as you do
No one ever saw me as a fountain before
You shared the abacus of love with me, you unselfish paprika
I see the line of all my ancestors drawn in your gaze, you who show me nature bare, unadorned
You stretched my stomach, but it's nothing in comparison to how you've enlarged my soul
I will never let go, little one