



Slaughter Nick for President

*The uplifting and inspiring new feature-length documentary
by Rob Stewart, Liza Vespi & Marc Vespi*

Produced by Liza Vespi
Written by Rob Stewart & Marc Vespi

Shot on Location in
Belgrade & Novi Sad, Serbia
Toronto & Brampton, Canada

Canada 2012 - 72 & 60 min. - HD

World Premiere
NXNE North by Northeast
Music & Film
Festival
2012

WINNER
Best Documentary
Zagreb International Film
Festival
2012

Official Selection
Cinema City
International Film
Festival
2012

Official Selection
Chicago International
Movies & Music
Festival
2013

Canadian Distribution



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SYNOPSIS

When an out-of-work Canadian actor accidentally discovers through Facebook that he's been wildly famous in Serbia for almost two decades, he sets out to discover the reasons why.

Rob Stewart is a 47-year-old journeyman Canadian actor. The ups and downs of his career have been extreme. After 20 years in the biz, the one-time CBS TV star finds himself living with his parents after being forced to move from Los Angeles back to Brampton, Ontario.

It's late 2008 and Stewart's son introduces his father to Facebook where a quick vanity search yields an astonishing discovery: Rob Stewart is wildly famous... in Serbia. With little else on his agenda, Rob decides to travel to the Balkan state to find out more.

Wonder of wonders. Rob's long-forgotten starring role as Nick Slaughter -- a pony-tailed beach-bum detective on the 1990s American TV series *Tropical Heat* (aka *Sweating Bullets*) -- is by far the most popular show in the history of Serbian television. But it gets even more bizarre -- Stewart learns of the student protests against former Serbian Dictator Slobodan Milosevic and how the character of Nick Slaughter became a symbol of freedom and democracy for the movement that eventually led to his downfall. A whole generation of Serbians grew up watching the show and a punk rock band called Atheist Rap had even written a song about Rob's character: "Nick Slaughter, Serbia Hails You."

SLAUGHTER NICK FOR PRESIDENT chronicles Stewart's journey to Serbia, dubbed "Slaughtermania" by the national press. With TV appearances, a punk rock concert, interviews with heroes of the resistance movement and even the making of a commercial, in the midst of a frenzied media circus, Rob uncovers the surprising meaning behind the show's popularity and gains redemption in the process.

(291 words)



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FILMMAKER BIOS

Liza Vespi

Co-Director/Story Editor/Executive Producer

Liza holds a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Waterloo and studied Screenwriting at George Brown College. She has worked as an interactive graphic artist, production designer, writer and producer in film, television and communications for over 20 years. At Nelvana, Canada's premiere animation studio, she supervised pre-production on over 30 television series and feature films, including *Bob and Margaret*, *Babar*, *Franklin*, *Little Bear* and *Maurice Sendak's Seven Little Monsters*. SLAUGHTER NICK FOR PRESIDENT marks her debut as a documentary filmmaker.

Rob Stewart

Co-Director/Producer/Writer

Rob is a television actor with 25 years' experience in TV series and MOWs, including *Tropical Heat* (aka *Sweating Bullets*), *Painkiller Jane*, *Nikita*, *LA Complex* and *Heartland*. Rob began his career as a writer/director, and later, while starring as the lead character Nick Slaughter in *Tropical Heat*, he also wrote and directed five episodes. SLAUGHTER NICK FOR PRESIDENT is Rob's first foray into documentary filmmaking. He lives in Brampton, Ontario, a suburb of Toronto, where he spends much of his time in a beat-up Dodge Caravan driving his athletic son to hockey and soccer matches.

Marc Vespi

Co-Director/Producer/Writer

Artist/Filmmaker Marc Vespi studied Cinema at Carleton University and earned a degree from the now-defunct New School of Art. During the mid to late 1990s Marc worked mainly as a painter, but he later retired from the visual arts when a solo show in Toronto ended in litigation, with the Harper Administration attempting to have Marc brought up on charges of "gross public indecency" and "over-zealous use of creative freedom." Among his many writing credits, Marc enjoys the dubious honour of having been a staff writer for the worst show in the history of television.

Chuck Scott

Story Consultant

Chuck Scott is an award-winning producer/director with over 240 documentary and factual television programs successfully completed. His production company has partnered with many producers in Canada and abroad. These shows were shot in over 50 countries around the world. Chuck's shows have aired on major broadcasters such as BBC, Five, PBS, NHK, CBC, CTV, Global, Discovery Channels in Canada and the US on National Geographic, Science Channel, Discovery Health and many more. Chuck has also produced and/or directed hundreds of commercials, music videos, corporate videos, a comedy feature film, two documentary features, children's shows and a daytime talk show.

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APPEARING IN THE DOCUMENTARY

Srdja Popovic

Executive Director, CANVAS - Centre for Applied Nonviolent Action & Strategies

While still a university student, Srdja Popovic became one of the founders and key organizers of the Serbian nonviolent resistance group Otpor! (Resistance!). Otpor!'s campaign to unseat Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic found success in October 2000 when hundreds of thousands of protestors converged upon and peacefully seized Serbian Parliament, effectively ending the Milosevic regime.

Robert Nemecek

TV Programming Director

Award-winning programming director Robert Nemecek was responsible for bringing *Tropical Heat* to Serbia during the UN trade embargo of the '90s. With civil wars raging and the people becoming depressed under an oppressive regime, Nemecek hit upon the notion to select a TV series "to make some kind of contrast to the dark days of Milosevic."

Aleksandar Timofejev

Director and Editor-in-Chief of RTV Studio B

During the time of the Serbian student protests of '96-'97, Aleksandar Timofejev was working as a journalist for Radio B92, a popular media outlet which was successful in transmitting the resistance movement's message to the people despite the Milosevic regime's attempts to silence them.

Petar Peca Popovic

Rock Journalist

Award-winning rock journalist and promoter Petar Peca Popovic is legendary in Serbia for shaping youth culture and developing the music scene of the Former Yugoslavia. He was responsible for organizing the massively popular New Year's Eve concert of 1997. With over a half million in attendance in Republic Square, Belgrade, the promoters, musicians and citizens sent a loud message of resistance to their dictator.

Atheist Rap

Legendary Serbian Punk Band

Atheist Rap is a punk band from Novi Sad, Serbia, which was formed in 1989 by Aleksandar (Dr. Pop) Popov and Vladimir (Pecinko) Kozbasic. Guitarist and driving force Radule joined the band shortly after. Atheist Rap is often characterized as being "happy punk" for its cheerful music and vocals. But their sound belies their sly lyrics which are often a criticism of society and politics. Their song "Slaughteru Nietzsche, Srbja ti klice" ("Nick Slaughter, Serbia Hails You!") is an ironic anthem against corruption and tyranny.

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WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING SO FAR...



A real find is this truly bizarre documentary. [One] of the best indie cinematic treats of the festival.

- Philip Brown, Film Critic, The Toronto Star

An endearingly weird consideration of niche stardom from the inside out.

- Norman Wilner, Film Critic, NOW Magazine

An offbeat examination of fame.

- Jay Stone, Film Critic, The Ottawa Citizen

Recommended.

- Danielle D'Ornellas, Film Blogger, BlogTO

A wonderful story about the way artists influence lives in ways never imagined by the original work.

- Jim Henshaw, Screenwriter

Light-hearted and ironic.

- Seamus Gearin, Culture Blogger

One of the most unconventional yet uplifting documentaries in years.

- John Dash, Film Blogger

The greatest documentary ever about Canadian TV and what it can do.

- Denis McGrath, Screenwriter

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CREDITS

SLAUGHTER NICK FOR PRESIDENT

A film by
Rob Stewart, Liza Vespi & Marc Vespi

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This film is dedicated to all those who peacefully resist tyranny,  
and especially the people of Serbia.

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Produced by
LIZA VESPI

Written by
ROB STEWART & MARC VESPI

Director of Photography
ZORAN JOVANOVIĆ ŽOFR

Cinematographer
ČASLAV PETROVIĆ

Story Editors
LIZA VESPI
MARC VESPI

Edited by
DARRELL MacDONALD

Supervising Sound Editor
SCOTT McCORIE

Original Music Composed by
MEIRO STAMM

Producers
ROB STEWART & MARC VESPI

Producer
BANE ANTOVIĆ

Co-Producers
VERICA ANDREJIĆ

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DRAGANA TEŠIĆ
LJUBOMIR RADOVANOVIĆ

Consulting Producer
GEORGE FLAK

Creative Consultant
STEVE BEINICKE

Story Consultant
CHUCK SCOTT

Executive Producer
LIZA VESPI

Cast
(in order of appearance)

ROB STEWART
MARC VESPI
SRDJA POPOVIĆ
ZORAN JOVANOVIĆ ŽOFR
BANE ANTOVIĆ
MILOŠ DJURIČIĆ
SLAVKO BELESLIN
MARIJA KILIBARDA
IVAN ZELJKOVIĆ
RADE ŠERBEDŽIJA
ROBERT NEMEČEK
ALEKSANDAR TIMOFEJEV
BISER RADUSINOVIĆ
BOGDAN ERDELJAN
JOHN STEWART
ZORAN KESIĆ
PETAR PECA POPOVIĆ
AMBASSADOR JOHN MORRISON

Featuring the Music of

ATHEIST RAP:

RADULE

DR. POP

PEĆINKO

ATZKE

DULLES

ZLATKO BARDUN

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Production Managers

DRAGOLJUB JEFTIĆ
MILAN ĐOLOVIĆ
ELENA RAĐENOVIĆ

Camera Assistant
MIHAJLO DOBRIĆ

Gaffer
KOSTA PETROVIĆ

Sound Recordist
DAMJAN POPADIĆ

Sound Operator
GORAN BELOVIĆ

Additional Cinematography

LIZA VESPI
PETAR VUJANIĆ
IGOR GREGOVIĆ
DRAGAN ĐORDJEVIĆ
CELIANA CÁRDENAS
JOHNNY VONG
GREG MACHULA

Assistant Writer
M. ISOBEL MCGREGOR

Graphic Designer
STEVE BEINICKE

Post-Production Supervisor

LIZA VESPI

Offline Editing Facility
50 GRANT ENTERPRISES

Audio Post Facility
DUDLEY SCOTT AUDIO POST GROUP

Sound Effects Editor
EVAN TURNER

Mixed by
SCOTT McCORIE

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Picture Post Facility
FEARLESS POST

Online Editor and Colourist
KERRI LOCKE

Machine Room Supervisor
CHRIS STEARMAN

Business Affairs
GEORGE FLAK

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DOMINIQUE LOOYE
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Translation
JASNA MAKSIMOVIĆ

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www.sixdegreesrrc.com

Catering
STAN BINK INC.

TROPICAL HEAT footage courtesy Kushner Locke LLC

PIRAMIDA footage courtesy RTV Pink

FAJRONT REPUBLIKA footage courtesy RTV Fox – Prva

Archival Marshall Tito footage courtesy T3 Media / Corbis Motion

Archival protest footage courtesy MediaNet

Still Photographs courtesy
IGOR JEREMIĆ
JUSTIN LEIGHTON

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B92 RADIO
ROY DEISMAN
SUSAN VANDENDAM
GETTY IMAGES
PHOTOFEST

Comic Book Illustration courtesy
ALEKSA GAJIĆ

Additional Narration
STEVE BEINICKE

Music Supervisor
LIZA VESPI

“Beauty Americana”
Composed by John Herberman (SOCAN)
Published by Ceola Music Publishing (SOCAN)

“Tropical Funktion”
Composed by Stuart Moore (ASCAP)
Published by Lynne Publishing (PRS)

“My Brother”
Composed by Philip Curran (PRS)
Published by Philip Curran (PRS)

“Slaughteru Nietzsche”
Composed by Radule
Lyrics by Dr. Pop
Performed by Atheist Rap & Rob Stewart

