

IN PRAISE OF "4 SUNS & A PIANO", a filmic labour of love by Boris Kovač

4 SUNS & A PIANO is a Hymn to Nature – a poetic song in celebration of Nature... It is also a Requiem for Nature – an ardent lament for the slow extinction and vanishing of Nature.

It is a Declaration of Love for a vanishing world – the world of those who have lived in harmony with Nature, who have conserved centuries-old traditions that cultivated a balanced exchange with Nature. This is the world of four extraordinary people – three farmers and a fisherman – who since birth have remained in awe over what Nature has provided them: all they need for a decent, healthy and happy life. And in their gratitude, they return to the earth that which they have taken and honour the cycles of the seasons. These perceptions and practises have given these four men a wisdom that is sorely missing in today's societies all over the world.

And as we people on this planet Earth now find ourselves in a tectonic shift, about to be thrust into a new era that wants nothing to do with our past and with our hard-wrought civilisation... as we find ourselves on the brink of an abyss... we wonder if we can still learn from these men of the soil and of the river before we destroy everything.

In its form, this film represents a rare return to the language of cinema, which, in our neoliberal globalist world, has been muzzled and almost silenced by a homogenised film industry that promotes conventional narrative-driven works that dull the senses and the soul.

It is telling and not by chance that such a film was made – not by red carpet celebrity or a recent graduate of a film school – but by a virtuoso composer of music and seasoned musician! This film dares to utilise those primary tools that comprise the essence of cinema: time, image, sound... Thus it touches our senses, inspires our imagination and stirs new thoughts in us.

Through the masterly composed images, the discerningly fine selection of sounds and the intermittent strains of evocative music... we are drawn into the world of the filmmaker, and we undergo a transformation that is akin to a spiritual experience. This is the true power and magic of cinema!

When we enter into that world... we can smell the rich soil, the vast undulating fields, the herds of sheep, the waters of the Danube, the smoke of cheering fires in winter... we can taste the harvested fruits, the fresh brewed coffee, the home-made rakia shared with friends, the freshly caught fish... we can touch the soft fur of the loyal dogs, the crusty scales of river fish, the supple leaves of the trees, the fibrous husks of the maize stalks... We can feel the wind, the rain, the night sky and the moon... We can briefly share the lives of these often solitary yet grateful men... And, through all that, we can once again experience what it is to be human on this bounteous planet and to be in awe of our existence and of the miracle of life all around us.

This film is moreover instilled with a metaphysical quality in that, within the musical flow of images and sounds, we can find our own space for contemplation and reflection.

In a space of nearly two hours we are abducted into a world where we can momentarily escape from the mad, senseless frenzy of our days and find some peace... and perhaps even some wisdom and an awakened spirituality.

- Nora Hoppe