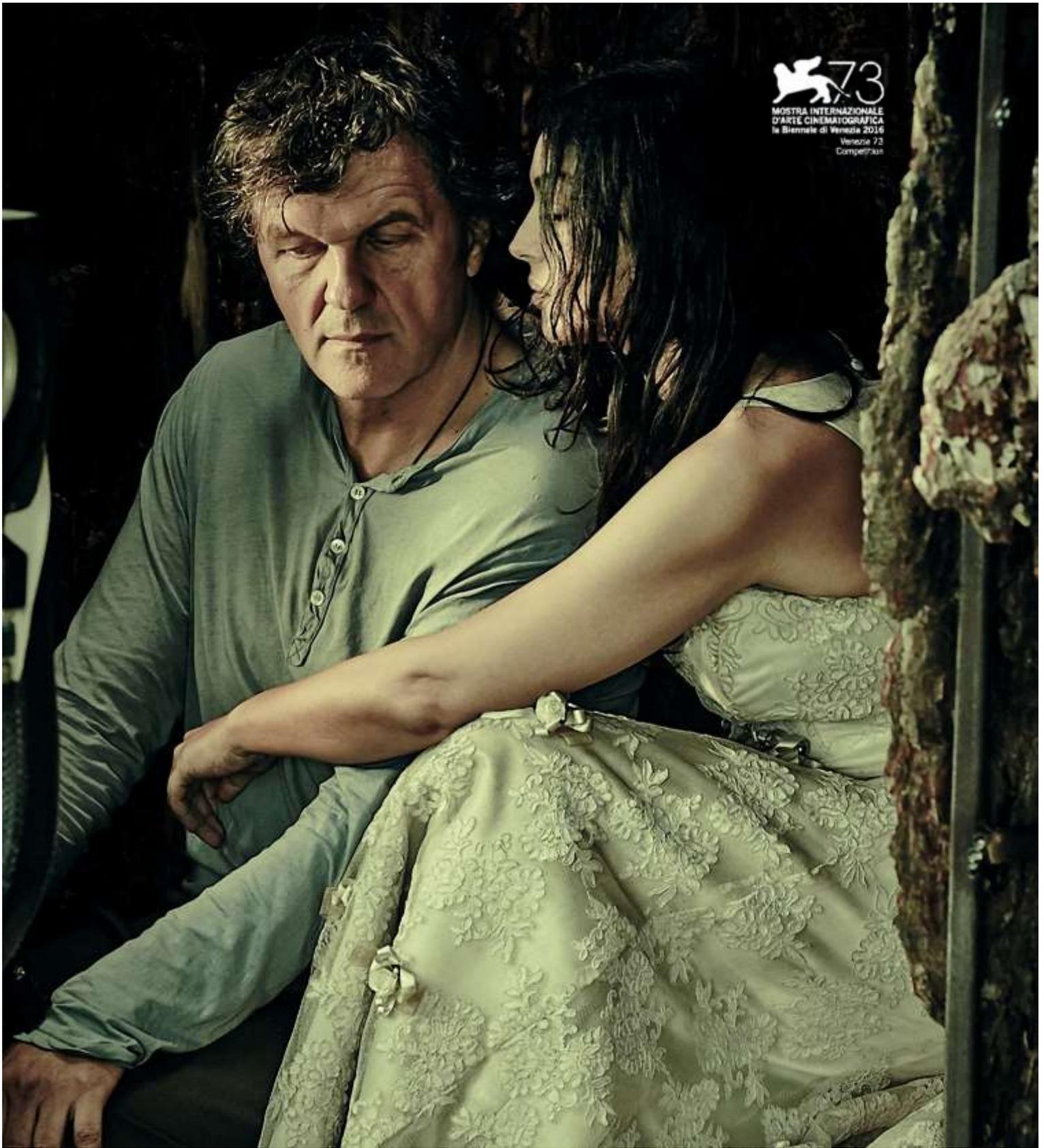


  
MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE  
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA  
la Biennale di Venezia 2016  
Venezia 73  
Competition



# ON THE MILKY ROAD

Written and Directed by Emir Kusturica



# ON THE MILKY ROAD

A film by Emir Kusturica

starring

Monica Bellucci and Emir Kusturica

Serbia/UK/USA – 125 min – Color – 5.1 – 2016

## INTERNATIONAL SALES – WILD BUNCH

Vincent Maraval & Noémie Devide  
ndevide@wildbunch.eu

Carole Baraton & Fanny Beauville  
fbeauville@wildbunch.eu

Emilie Serres  
eserres@wildbunch.eu

Silvia Simonutti  
ssimonutti@wildbunch.eu

Olivier Barbier  
obarbier@wildbunch.eu

## US SALES – ICM PARTNERS

Peter Van Steenburg  
pvs@icmpartners.com

## INTERNATIONAL PR – DDA

Paul Saunter  
Cai Mason  
Dana Archer

onthemilkyroad@ddapr.com

## ITALIAN PR – PressPress

Lucrezia Viti  
lucreziaviti@presspress.it

Livia Delle Fratte  
liviadellefratte@presspress.it

# Synopsis

Spring in wartime. Each day a milkman crosses the frontline on a donkey, dodging bullets to bring his precious wares to the soldiers. Blessed with good fortune on his mission, loved by a beautiful villager, a peaceful future seems to await him... until the arrival of a mysterious Italian woman turns his life upside down.

Thus begins a story of passionate, forbidden love that will plunge them both into a series of fantastic and dangerous adventures. They have been joined by fate, and nothing and no one seems able to stop them...

# Director's statement

For me, cinema remains as intense an experience and work as it was the first time. With this film I am going to Venice, exactly as I did when I was starting out at the age of 27. The incredible thing about cinema is that you always know nothing; it's as if you're starting from zero. I was as excited about reaching this new point with *On the Milky Road* as I was afraid of how much I had to discover on my first movie, *Do You Remember Dolly Bell?*

I have directed a modern fairy tale – at the same time – and all of this was as thrilling as any movie I have made. In this film I discovered beauty, and I discovered intense, *human* worlds.

*On the Milky Road* developed from many layers of my own life. If I could compare my cinema before and now, this time I would look much closer at the origins. At different times in my life, cinema has existed in a dialogue with other arts: literature, painting, and so on. This time I was very straightforward in developing a film within the purity of cinematic language.

While making *On the Milky Road*, my life was very concentrated around the film. It was a long process and my approach to shooting was in line with my philosophy and my relationship with nature and the way people really feel about life.

This is a very simple story that was a great physical challenge to make and more difficult than it might appear. We shot for a very long time, fighting with the environment, mainly filming exteriors, as I was looking for landscapes that captured the profound underlying inner space of the main characters: a man and a woman who fall in love and who are willing to sacrifice themselves in nature.

# Emir Kusturica

## Biography

Serbian director Emir Kusturica was born in 1954 in Sarajevo. He graduated in film directing from the prestigious Academy of Performing Arts (FAMU) in Prague in 1978. During his studies, he won several awards for his short films, including *Guernica* (1978), which took first prize at the Student Film Festival in Karlovy Vary.

After graduation, he directed several TV movies in his hometown. In 1981, he made his successful feature debut with *Do You Remember Dolly Bell?*, which won the Golden Lion for Best First or Second Film at the Venice Film Festival.

His second feature, *When Father Was Away on Business*, was unanimously awarded the Palme d'Or at the 1985 Cannes Film Festival as well as the FIPRESCI Prize, and was nominated for the Academy Award® for Best Foreign Language Film.

In 1989, Kusturica won the Best Director award at Cannes for *Time of the Gypsies*, a film about selling children from Yugoslavia to Western Europe. His first English language movie, *Arizona Dream*, starring Johnny Depp, Jerry Lewis and Faye Dunaway, was awarded the Silver Bear at the 1993 Berlin Film Festival. *Underground*, a bitter surrealistic comedy about the Balkans, won Kusturica a second Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 1995.

In 1998, he won the Venice Film Festival's Silver Lion for Best Director for *Black Cat, White Cat*, a farcical comedy set in a Gypsy settlement on the banks of the Danube.

In 2001, Kusturica directed *Super 8 Stories*, a documentary road and concert movie about The No Smoking Orchestra, of which he is a member.

In 2004 he completed *Life is a Miracle*, a love story between a Serbian man and a Muslim woman during the Yugoslav Civil War of the 90s. It premiered at Cannes the same year, and a year later received the César for Best Foreign Film.

Emir Kusturica was appointed President of the Jury of the 2005 Cannes Film Festival. His film *Promise Me This* premiered at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival.

During 2007, Kusturica and Nele Karajlić prepared a punk opera, *Time of the Gypsies*. The premiere took place in June 2007, at the Opéra Bastille in Paris, to positive reviews.

His film *Maradona*, a documentary about Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona, premiered in Official Selection at the Cannes Film Festival in 2008.

## Selected filmography

### As director

- 1978 *Guernica*, short
- 1981 *Do You Remember Dolly Bell?* (*Sjećaš li se Dolly Bell*)
- 1985 *When Father Was Away on Business* (*Otac na službenom putu*)
- 1988 *Time of the Gypsies* (*Dom za vešanje*)
- 1993 *Arizona Dream*
- 1995 *Underground* (*Podzemlje*)
- 1998 *Black Cat, White Cat* (*Crna mačka, beli mačor*)
- 2001 *Super 8 Stories*, documentary
- 2004 *Life Is a Miracle* (*Život je čudo*)
- 2006 *Blue Gypsy*
- 2007 *Promise Me This* (*Zavet*)
- 2008 *Maradona*, documentary
- 2014 *Words with Gods*
- 2016 *On the Milky Road* (*Na mliječnom putu*)

### As actor

- 1995 *Underground* (*Podzemlje*) - Emir Kusturica
- 2000 *The Widow of Saint-Pierre* (*La Veuve de Saint-Pierre*) - Patrice Leconte
- 2002 *The Good Thief* - Neil Jordan
- 2009 *Farewell* (*L'affaire Farewell*) - Christian Carion
- 2011 *Nicostratos le pelican* - Olivier Horlait
- 2012 *7 Days in Havana* - Julio Médem, Laurent Cantet, Juan Carlos Tabío, Benicio del Toro, Gaspar Noé, Pablo Trapero, Elia Suleiman
- 2014 *The Ice Forest* (*La Foresta di Ghiaccio*) - Claudio Noce
- 2014 *Words with Gods* - Guillermo Arriaga, Emir Kusturica, Amos Gitai, Mira Nair, Warwick Thornton, Héctor Babenco, Bahman Ghobadi, Hideo Nakata, Álex de la Iglesia
- 2016 *On the Milky Road* (*Na mliječnom putu*) - Emir Kusturica

## Awards

1981 Golden Lion for First or Second movie - Venice Film Festival for *Do You Remember Dolly Bell?*

1985 Palme d'Or - Cannes Film Festival for *When Father Was Away on Business*

1985 FIPRESCI Prize - Cannes Film Festival for *When Father Was Away on Business*

1985 Academy Award® for Best Foreign Language Film Nomination for *When Father Was Away on Business*

1989 Best Director Award - Cannes Film Festival for *Time of the Gypsies*

1993 Silver Bear - Special Jury Prize - Berlin Film Festival for *Arizona Dream*

1995 Palme d'Or - Cannes Film Festival for *Underground*

1998 Silver Lion - Venice Film Festival for *Black Cat, White Cat*

2001 Silver Plate for Best Documentary - Chicago International Film Festival for *Super 8 Stories*

2004 Lifetime Achievement Award - 26th Moscow International Film Festival

2005 Best European Union Film - César Awards for *Life is a Miracle*

# Monica Bellucci

## Biography

After law school and a career as a model for leading fashion designers, Monica Bellucci studied acting before launching her cinema career in 1990 in *Vita Coi Fligi* directed by Dino Risi. In 1991, she landed her first major film role in *La Riffa* by Francesco Laudadio. A year later, Francis Ford Coppola cast her in *Dracula*, as one of Dracula's brides.

After several roles in Italy, Monica Bellucci went to France and established her name in 1996 as Lisa in *The Apartment* directed by Gilles Mimouni, for which she was nominated for the Most Promising Actress César in 1997. In the late 90s and early 2000s, she starred in several major French productions, giving particularly memorable performances as Nathalie in *Dobermann* (1997) directed by Jan Kounen, Cleopatra in *Asterix & Obelix: Mission Cleopatra* (2002), and Alex in the controversial *Irreversible* (2002) by Gaspar Noé, in which she co-starred with Vincent Cassel and Albert Dupontel.

Alongside her work in France, Monica Bellucci, who speaks Italian, French and English, continued to develop her international career. In the USA, she worked, among others, for Stephen Hopkins in *Under Suspicion* (2000), Antoine Fuqua in *Tears of the Sun* (2003) and the Wachowskis in the popular *Matrix* saga (*The Matrix Reloaded* and *The Matrix Revolutions*, 2003). In 2004, Mel Gibson directed her in the role of Mary Magdalene in *The Passion of the Christ*.

Since then, Monica Bellucci has participated in more than 20 productions and collaborated with leading filmmakers including Bertrand Blier, Gabriele Muccino, Terry Gilliam, Spike Lee, Paolo Virzi, Rebecca Miller, Alain Corneau, Marina de Van, Philippe Garrel and many others. In 2014, she played Milly Catena in *The Wonders* by Alice Rohrwacher, a highly acclaimed entry at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival, where it won the Grand Prix.

Recently Monica Bellucci appeared alongside Daniel Craig in the new James Bond film *007 Spectre*, directed by Sam Mendes.

## Selected filmography

- 1991 *Bram Stoker's Dracula* - Francis Ford Coppola  
1996 *Dobermann* - Jan Kounen  
1997 *A Los que Aman (L'Heure des Nuages)* - Isabel Coixet  
1999 *Under Suspicion* - Stephen Hopkins  
2000 *Asterix & Obelix: Mission Cleopatra* - Alain Chabat  
2000 *Brotherhood of the Wolf (Le Pacte des Loups)* - Christophe Gans  
2000 *Malena* - Giuseppe Tornatore  
2001 *Irreversible* - Gaspar Noé  
2001 *The Matrix Reloaded* - Andy and Larry Wachowski  
2001 *The Matrix Revolutions* - Andy and Larry Wachowski  
2002 *The Passion of the Christ* - Mel Gibson  
2003 *The Brothers Grimm* - Terry Gilliam  
2003 *She Hate Me* - Spike Lee  
2005 *How Much Do You Love Me? (Combien Tu M'aimes ?)* - Bertrand Blier  
2005 *The Stone Council (Le Concile de Pierre)* - Guillaume Nicloux  
2006 *The Second Wind (Le Deuxième Souffle)* - Alain Corneau  
2006 *Shoot'em Up* - Michael Davis  
2008 *Baaria - La Porta Del Vento* - Giuseppe Tornatore  
2008 *Sanguepazzo* - Marco Tullio Giordana  
2009 *Don't Look Back (Ne Te Retourne Pas)* - Marina De Van  
2009 *The Private Lives of Pippa Lee* - Rebecca Miller  
2009 *The Whistleblower* - Larysa Kondracki  
2010 *The Ages of Love (Manuale D'am3re)* - Giovanni Veronesi  
2011 *A Burning Hot summer (Un Eté Brulant)* - Philippe Garrel  
2012 *Rhino Season (False Kargadan)* - Bahman Ghobadi  
2014 *The Wonders (Le Meraviglie)* - Alice Rohrwacher  
2014 *Ville-Marie* - Guy Edoin  
2015 *007 Spectre* - Sam Mendes  
2016 *On the Milky Road (Na mliječnom putu)* - Emir Kusturica

# Cast

Monica Bellucci	Bride
Emir Kusturica	Kosta
Predrag Manojlović	Žaga Bojović
Sloboda Mićalović	Milena

# Crew

Casting	Slobodan Dedeić
Original Score	Stribor Kusturica
Production Designer	Goran Joksimović
Costume Designer	Nebojša Lipanović
Sound Recordist	Novica Jankov & Aleksandra Perović
Editor	Svetolik Mića Zajc
Director of Photography	Goran Volarević and Martin Šec
Production Manager	Dunja Kusturica, Nana Kusturica
Executive Producers	Alex Garcia, Pilina Gonzalez and Guillermo Arriaga
Producers	Paula Vaccaro, Emir Kusturica, Lucas Akoskin and Alex Garcia

Written and Directed by Emir Kusturica

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wild bunch