

Documentary



T H E S C R E A M

Topic: *The biggest mass murderer in Europe*

Genre: *Documentary*

Duration: *III 45 min. episodes*



01 PROJECT EXPLICATION

In Jabukovac, a village in eastern Serbia which is 20 km away from the junction of three borders of Romania Bulgaria and Serbia, on the 27 July 2007 the biggest mass murder in Europe was committed. Jabukovac is a village in which there live Valach people live, the people that live all over the Balkans. They are peaceful and hard-working people who preserved their own tradition and customs wherever they live.

On that fateful day in Jabukovac, without any reason 36-year-old Nikola Radosavljević killed nine of his neighbors from a shotgun.

How did the biggest mass murderer in Europe happen? What were the causes of the crime? Could all this have been prevented? How did a calm neighbor of whom nobody could say a bad word and become a cold-blooded murderer? These are topics of our story.

In the documentary «The Scream» we used extraordinary documentary material which was shot immediately after the crime. At the time of the arrest our cameras were with members of the police force and they recorded so far unseen documentary shots as well as the very moment of the arrest. Nikola Radosavljević's trial was also shot and our team spent one day in the special prison hospital where we taped the conversation with ninefold murderer. The key moments and events which preceded the crime were acted out.



I episode of THE SCREAM content and explication

In the first part we evoked the atmosphere in Jabukovac and showed the way life of Valach people in the isolated villages of Eastern Serbia, which is unusual by many things.

- men beat women unpunished while the neighbors deem it a family matter
- psychological and physical disorders are treated by magic and exorcism
- psychological disorders are kept secret because they are disgrace
- most of them work abroad (they work abroad black and live according to the rules and standards from their own village). Nikola Radosavljević also work abroad.
- Children in the villages are raised by their grandparents

- the size of the house is the measure of success (the house built in a mountainous village in which nobody lives and where the only thing that matters is that the house is higher than the neighbor's and decorated with as many figures made of plaster of Paris as possible)

In such circumstances psychological problems of Nikola Radosavljević were constantly progressing, with the neighborhood wrongly interpreting his outbursts. This inevitably led to a terrible crime...

After a short documentary introduction we start the story from the beginning, uncovering until now some unknown but shocking details from the life of mass murderer Nikola Radosavljević:

- Nikola Radosavljević was born in a mud hut, in a roadless area of the Homolje Mountains. His father used to beat his mother (on one occasion he broke both her arms).
- Nikola Radosavljević experienced psychological problems for the first time one year before the crime when he was coming back to his village from Austria where he was working. Then, in one bus near Belgrade he attacked a passenger accusing him of attempted murder. The driver called the police which after the fight arrested Nikola and took him to hospital. Despite the incident his shotgun was not taken away from him.
- Nikola Radosavljević was hospitalized with the use of force in Austria twice but was quickly sent to home treatment.
- One day before the crime in the church in Jabukovac a local priest secretly performed exorcising the devil from the body of Nikola Radosavljević.
- Immediately before the crime Nikola Radosavljević beat his wife. This was eyewitnessed by many people from the village but nobody reported it. He attempted to commit suicide by jumping headfirst into the well. Even then there was no reaction on the part of people from his neighborhood.

We end the first episode with a scene in which Nikola Radosavljević comes out onto the street with a shotgun in his hand...



II episode of THE SCREAM content and explication

In the second part we reconstructed the crime and all the circumstances in which the crime took place.

We used extraordinary documentary shots which were taken the same night when the crime was committed in a few days after the crime. Acted out reconstructions were used only when it was necessary, and everything was shot in authentic places a sve je snimljeno na autentičnim mestima. Special authenticity is heightened by the participation of the special antiterrorist squad which arrested the murderer.

We reconstructed the crime committed by Nikola Radosavljević by following the actions of the murderer but also following what was going on in the houses of the victims who didn't suspect anything. In that way we managed to personalize the victims and show how big shock and tragedy it was for their families.

This crime completely shook the whole country on all levels. They all reacted: the local police, judiciary bodies, the special forces and Interior Ministry Mr. Dragan Jočić. The arrest was highly uncertain because the police was supposed to locate and arrest the man who:

- murdered nine people
- was armed and ready for anything
- was a hunter and who knew well inaccessible mountainous areas around Jabukovac

We also reconstructed the very action of arrest, dilemmas and confusion of the members of police force and the judiciary at those moments.

The second episode ends with the scene of murderer's arrest at a village cemetery and him being taken away...



III episode of THE SCREAM content and explication

In the third episode we reconstruct the state of mind of Nikola Radosavljević at the moment of his committing a crime. We also give answers to the following questions:

- why Nikola Radosavljević committed unheard-of crime
- was he incompetent
- was black magic the cause of the crime
- what punishment did he deserve
- what did the crime look like from his perspective

It's interesting that it turned out that Nikola Radosavljević committed a crime at the directive of the witches which told him that he was affected by black magic of the people he shot at. In conversation with our team the murderer and his father were describing frightening black magic rituals performed by the witches.

In the third episode we used extraordinary documentary shots from the funerals of the victims and the trial of Nikola Radosavljević. Special authenticity to this episode is heightened by the fact that our team spent one day in the special prison hospital in Belgrade where we recorded the conversation with a mass murderer.

Court epilogue are the findings of a court expert that Nikola Radosavljević was incompetent at the moment of committing the crime.



We are also showing a court council which passes the decision that he be sent to mandatory treatment. This raises suspicion among families of the victims that after some time he can be a free man but also a debate whether Nikola Radosavljević evaded well-deserved punishment?

In the third episode these questions are raised:

- if Nikola Radosavljević was incompetent could this crime have been prevented?
- How is it possible that nobody was responsible for the biggest mass murder in Europe?

At the end we go back to the murderer again and show a man, average in all, who immediately before the crime and during the crime experienced even physical change of which we hear from survived eyewitnesses.

According to the neuropsychiatrist who admitted him into „Laza Lazarević“ hospital and who diagnosed the illness, that state is best depicted by the graphics of Edvard Munk „the Scream“ showing the primal fear of man who utters a terrifying scream, horrified at what had

befallen him. This symbolically and in the most brutal way puts together the destinies of all actors of our story into a scream which represents a cry for help.

This crime in a bizarre way directed attention towards Jabukovac and the people who mostly work in Europe but who are still slaves of their prejudices, superstitions, customs... In a fatal way this is reflected on their whole community. This is proven by statistical data:

- in 2006 and 2007 150 people died in Jabukovac while only 11 children were born in the same period.
- More than 90% of the children from Jabukovac end up with primary education only.
- More than half of the population of Jabukovac work in the countries of Western Europe.
- More than 90% of the population of Jabukovac believe in black magic and seek various services from the witches...

