

Silent Sonata / Circus  
Fantasticus

# Silent Sonata



(Slovenia/Ireland/Finland/Sweden, 2010)

directed and written by Janez Burger  
drama, 75 min, no spoken language

**European School Mamer**

**Salle des Fêtes**

**Thursday Oct 18 at 14.55 and 16.45**

A film about grief, dying and insecurity, but also about human generosity, compassion and love.

## Short introduction

A



man stays alone with his children in a half demolished house in the middle of a desolate field. His wife has just been killed by a grenade in a military battle ... Is it possible for anything beautiful to happen in this landscape of war and death?

Janez Burger: "When we think of how humanity has lived for the past few thousand years, we don't get the impression that it lived in peace which was occasionally broken by wars. On the contrary, it lived in war with occasional cease fires. [...] *Silent Sonata* is a film set in a war-zone which is not linked to any place or time. People don't speak in this film but that does not mean that it's a silent film. Words are meaningless in war. *Silent Sonata* is a film of feelings, atmosphere, sensibility, surreality."

### Awards

- Festival of Slovenian Film Portorož 2010 (Vesna Award for Best Feature Film, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor, Best Sound, Best Music ...)
- Pula FF 2011 (Best Actors Award)
- Alexandria IFF 2011 (Best Artistic Achievement Award)
- Slovenian candidate for Oscars in 2012

### About the Writer & Director

Janez Burger was Born in Kranj, Slovenia. He studied at the Faculty of Economics in Ljubljana and at the FAMU in Prague (Film and TV School of Academy of Performing Arts) where he graduated in 1996 from film and TV directing. His filmography includes feature films *Idle Running* (1999) and *Ruins* (2004). *Silent Sonata* is his third feature film. He lives in Ljubljana.

### Questions

#### Suggested questions before watching

1. People share certain needs and rights in every situation of life, even in war. Which are they? Can you name a document in which this is written? (Read some paragraphs from a constitution or an international convention.)
2. Is the war a necessary element in our human civilization? Explain your opinion.
3. How do you imagine a world without war? Can you paint your imagination?

#### Suggested questions after watching

4. How would you summarize the content of the film? Which meaning do you find in the story?
5. Where do you see a connection between war and circus in the film?
6. The film has been described by critics with the following question: *Is it possible to realize that death does not exist?* How would you express your opinion about that question: in verbal, with painting, with music? Express yourself.
7. What is sonata? How, in your view, does the title relate to the movie? How did you like the music in the movie?
8. What are the advantages/setbacks of such an international crew?

### Examples of the international crew



Diviš Marek, Director of Photography  
born in Prague, Czech Republic



Drago Ivanuša, Composer  
born in Lendava, Slovenia



Leon Lučev, Father  
born in Šibenik, Croatia

### Trivia

The original title of the movie is *Circus Fantasticus*. I therefore foreign producers added the title *Silent Sonata* director.



Rene Bazinet, Old man  
born in Bochum, Germany



Pauliina Räsänen, Beauty  
born in Tampere, Finland



Ravil Sultanov, Circus leader  
born in Altin-Topkan, Tajikistan