

search [view recent](#)

[advanced search](#)

My History +

My Kept Articles +

My Suggested Articles

All Publications

All Columnists

All Topics ▾

- Arts & Entertainment
- Business
- Current Affairs
- Family
- Health & Fitness
- Lifestyle
- Relationships
- Science & Humanities
- Sports & Leisure
- Technology

All Featured Topics

VARIETY

Get it delivered at home, with a print subscription.

[Get the details](#)



 track | [keep](#) | [add note](#) | [print](#) | [e-mail](#) | [- rate this article](#)

CHEESE AND JAM (KAJMAK IN MARMELADE)

 [Free Article](#)

by JONATHAN HOLLAND | oct. 11 '04

(SLOVENIA)

An ATA Produkcija, Radio Televizija Slovenija production. (International sales: Slovenian Film Foundation, Ljubljana, Slovenia.) Produced by Janez Jauh.

Directed, written by Branko Djuric. Camera (color), Sven Pepeonik; editor, Miran Miosic; music, Sasa Losic; art director, Greta Godnic; sound (Dolby), Brane Atanaskovic. Reviewed at Valencia Film Festival (competing), Spain, July 17, 2004. Running time: 91 MIN.

With: Branko Djuric, Tanja Ribic, Dragan Bjelogrić.

A lively, cross-cultural black comedy with the taste of bittersweet dark chocolate, Branko Djuric's "Cheese and Jam" wittily explores the trials and tribulations of a Bosnian fellow trying to win back his Slovenian girlfriend. With a winsome central perf from Djuric himself, a commitment to social truth telling, and one brilliantly exploited running gag, pic's virtues outweigh the occasional sloppy moments. Film looks destined for further fest exposure, with offshore arthouses an outside possibility. Locally, it's been the third biggest hit ever, after "Titanic" and "Jurassic Park."

Djuric, along with several other cast members, was featured in Danis Tanovic's Oscar-winning "No Man's Land." Here, he plays Bozo, a stubble-chinned slob who's dumped by his g.f. Spela (Tanja Ribic) because of his unfeeling reaction to her failed pregnancy. She goes home to her ultra-bourgeois parents and Bozo decides to get a grip on his life and make some money.

He falls in with shady buddy Goran (Dragan Bjelogrić), who first offers Bozo work dressing up in a Mickey Mouse costume, and then driving a truck which will supposedly take illegal immigrants into Italy. The comedy here feels clumsy, the joke seemingly on the immigrants themselves.

A week after their separation, Spela returns to Bozo. Then comes the central gag: Goran goes to Bozo's house to pay him for his help, but finds Spela there alone. Goran offers Spela money for a look at her breasts, and Spela reluctantly agrees. When Bozo returns, Goran tells him, "I left your money with Spela." Darkly laugh-aloud fare opens up a view of a culture where money, however little, matters more than everything else, and nothing in the rest of pic quite matches it.

Performances are fine, with Djuric exploiting his naturally comic demeanor and extracting charm from a character who's superficially weak, immoral and sexist. Bjelogrić is superb as awful wheeler-dealer Goran, whose professional strength is that he doesn't know the difference between right and wrong.

Script's comic surface works in counterpoint to the dark background as Bosnians and Slovenians try uneasily to settle into a new relationship

following the horrors of the Balkan conflict. Appropriately, lensing is low-budget grainy.

 **Free Article**

We think it's important to explore our service, and experience the site as a KeepMedia subscriber. So we provide selected content free in an effort to let our new users experience the benefits of KeepMedia.

[Learn more about KeepMedia](#) or [Subscribe today and get 30 days FREE!](#)

Copyright 2000-2005, Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc.

Click here to visit:



View more articles in [Arts & Entertainment](#) | [Find more results like this one](#)

Search KeepMedia:

| [advanced search](#)

