



JACOB BRKOPAC

DANIELA SMITLENER

A TALE OF
FORBIDDEN
LOVE



STOLEN PATH



CRYSTAL PRODUCTIONS CORP. PRESENTS A GOLDIE SMITLENER FILM

STARRING DANIELA SMITLENER, JACOB BRKOPAC, ROBERT A. DUNCAN, DAVE WALDEN, MARK TER-HORST, DELIA TATTIANA, BRADY ROBERTS, AMBER HEARING, LAURA SEABROOK

EDITED BY SCOTT TAYLOR MUSIC BY SCOTT HETUREYN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY STEVEN LEPPINO WRITTEN BY GOLDIE SMITLENER AND DANIELA SMITLENER

BASED ON THE BOOK MOČ ZEMLJE BY JANKO MATKO © 2014

CONTACT

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Romance/Historical Drama • 2016 • Colour • HD

Running Time: 89 minutes

BC, Saskatchewan & Manitoba Rating: G
Not Yet Rated by the MPAA

Aspect Ratio: 1.78:1 (flat); 16x9
Format: DCP, Blu-Ray

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS & RECOGNITION FOR “STOLEN PATH”

INDY FEST ONLINE (Switzerland)

Recognition for Women in Film;
Recognition: Lead Actress

12 MFF (Romania)

Best movie of the Month, November 2015

MIAMI INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL (USA)

Special Mention for Feature Film

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & NEWCOMER (Jakarta)

Platinum for Feature Film

TORONTO WORLD INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

(Canada)

Best Actress

FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR (Jakarta)

Gold for Lead Actress; Gold for Producer; Silver for
Music Score; Platinum for Costume Design

CANADA INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL MONTREAL (Canada) - Best Canadian Film

IN COMPETITION

Sose International Film Festival
Melbourne World International Film Festival

Indie Film On Line - Switzerland
Jehlum International Film Festival - India

ACCEPTED TO SCREEN FOR AUDIENCES IN 2016 AT THE FOLLOWING:

Magwill International Film Festival LA
Garden City International film festival
World International Film Festival New York

World International Film Festival Singapore
World International Film Festival London
World International Film Festival Vienna

World International Film Festival Hong Kong



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FILM SYNOPSIS

STOLEN PATH – the new film from award-winning producer **GOLDIE SMITLENER** – tells the sweeping, true-life romantic tale of forbidden love, set against the backdrop of 19th century feudal Croatia. When otherwise-engaged heiress Victoria falls for strong-willed peasant boy Mathew, their passionate, clandestine affair results in a ripple effect that threatens to tear both lovers’ families apart forever.

Filmed on two continents and adapted from the best-selling novel, this costume drama stars newcomers **DANIELA SMITLENER** as Victoria and **JACOB BRKOPAC** as Mathew. **STOLEN PATH** was written by **GOLDIE SMITLENER** based on the novel “Moc Zemlie” by **JANKO MATKO**, produced by **GOLDIE SMITLENER** through **CRYSTAL PRODUCTIONS CORPORATION** and directed by **JOHN BANOVIĆ** and **TRACY D. SMITH**.

The 2016 feature-length film was fully financed by and is represented for international sales in all territories and media through **CRYSTAL PRODUCTIONS CORPORATION** of Vancouver, British Columbia. ■



Q&A WITH WRITER/PRODUCER GOLDIE SMITLENER

What was your inspiration for the film?

When I was 15 I read *MOC ZEMLJE* by JANKO MATKO - the basis for *STOLEN PATH* - and it never left me. The story and themes stayed with me for next 50 years. I always thought that it would make a wonderful film. There was an attempt some 20 years ago to make a movie of the book, but it did not materialize. So, I decided that I'd do it myself. My other inspiration was my granddaughter, Daniela. When she turned 16, she sat down next to me and out of the blue asked me what my dream was. I told her the whole story of *STOLEN PATH* and what I wanted to do with it. She immediately wanted to be part of that dream, and we both knew that this shared journey would create memories that would last the two of us a lifetime. So we did.

How did the film get off the ground?

It was a passion project for me, and for everyone. Firstly, I bought the rights to the novel. Then, I spent several months breaking the book down, adapting the story to a screenplay structure. This was my first script, but I knew the story well and how best to tackle it. Financing for the film came together quickly, and then I went out to casting. At the same time, I was bringing craftspeople on, crewing up for an international shoot, and all that entails. I made this film without financial support from any of the regular provincial film funding bodies or any national arts grants. I wanted to see this movie, so I reached into my own pocket and put the money up on the silver screen myself.

How did you manage to handle so many production roles on this film?

By trial and error. Had I known that I'd be involved in every aspect of this picture from creation to completion, I would never have undertaken so many duties on the project. But happily, ignorance is sometimes bliss.

How long was the shoot? Where did you shoot?

We shot the entire film in Croatia over the period of about a month. The shoot was quick and the cast and crew really teamed together to make it all work. When we started to assemble the film back in Canada and did a test screening, I realized that that we needed a few extra elements for the film to play its best for an audience. So, we re-assembled the cast and brought on a small crew to do some additional pick-ups in metro Vancouver, redressed as feudal 19th century Croatia. All in all, the shoot took about two months. The post-production took about another nine months.

What was the most difficult scene to shoot?

I can honestly say that NONE of them were easy. The level of difficulty was evenly spread around. We were shooting on a tight budget, on overseas locations, mostly outdoors, with a cast of newcomers. We had all of the challenges of a multi-million dollar extravaganza on a budget less than the bill for a day's catering on those shows. But we did it.

Why did you decide to tell this story?

I firmly believe that the word "love" is so misused in our society, that it has lost its true meaning. The period depicted in



the novel and the film *STOLEN PATH* was a simpler time when love was everything, meant everything, and lasted a lifetime. That was one part of what I wanted to show with *STOLEN PATH*: love can and will conquer everything. Even in making the picture, it was love that conquered all the challenges to get the movie to the screen. The second reason why I wanted to tell this story is that I was 67 when this whole film thing started. I wanted to show that my generation can and should still be productive. We still have a lot to say and do. And, all of us have dreams that seem bigger than life. Go for them! You can do it! Be an inspiration to your generation as well to the younger generation. When people learn that I went off and made a real feature-length movie without years of industry experience, they're flabbergasted by my persistence and amazed at the final product.

Describe the casting process and why location played such an important role in the film?

The cast was chosen after lengthy auditions were held in Vancouver. The only character we did not cast was Victoria. That role I specifically wrote for my 16 year-old granddaughter, DANIELA SMITLENER. Both she and the character were to be the cornerstone of the film, and I only saw her as the perfect Victoria. I believed in her. Daniela didn't want to do the role at first, and even said that we could recast if the dailies weren't working. But from Day 1 she was on her game – a total natural. As for locations, they were critical. The story contrasted privileged society and the unprivileged, so the locations had to show that. We also wanted to feature the beauty of the natural scenery, the quaint villages and the feel of the real Croatia, and so I made a decision really early in the production to shoot there. We visited the peasant's house where Victoria lived - it is still standing. I think our locations were like another character in the film, and shooting it in the Croatian countryside on location makes the movie even stronger for it.

What were some of the challenges or benefits of adapting a popular novel?

The benefits are that I had really good source material to start off with – novelist JANKO MATKO wrote a beautifully romantic story that really did happen. The challenges were many: because it is such a beloved novel in Croatia, the last thing I wanted to do was disappoint the fans. I knew what I wanted to bring to the film and what I personally wanted to say with it, but I also had to edit the text and pare the plot down to its essence. It was important to still tell the story that fans know and love, as well as best serving audiences coming into the film cold. I was also going into the writing process knowing that we were going to be doing a low-budget shoot, and so the script had to anticipate for that.

As the film's screenwriter, what do you think the essence of the film and its characters are about?

Love. Love. Love. Love forever.

What is next for Goldie Smitlener?

Sell *STOLEN PATH*. The film is in the can, and we're all really pleased with it. So now the grassroots marketing starts – getting the picture out in front of audiences on the festival circuit, and working with potential international distributors. As for the future, I've got one more film in me - except this time, I'll know exactly what I'm getting myself in to. ■



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ABOUT THE CAST

DANIELA SMITLENER/"Victoria"

STOLEN PATH is the first feature film for actress Daniela Smitlener. She loved the story and even though she was only 16, she became the embodiment of its lead character, Victoria. Daniela recently won Best Actress at the *World Toronto International Film Festival* for her performance in STOLEN PATH, as well as recognition from Switzerland's *Indy Fest Online*, Lead Actress Gold medal at the *Filmmakers Festival of the Year* in Jakarta and many others - the firsts of surely many more accolades expected for the beautiful screen newcomer. Although she has one feature film under her belt, Daniela is pursuing nursing as her practical life profession. She previously attended St. Francis School in Burnaby, British Columbia and Little Flower Academy in Vancouver, British Columbia.

JACOB BRKOPAC/"Mathew"

Jacob graduated from Douglas College Theatre Program, is currently with Carrier Talent Management and auditioning in Vancouver, British Columbia. The handsome romantic lead Mathew in STOLEN PATH is heavily influenced by iconic actors like Al Pacino, Sir Anthony Hopkins, Sir Ian McKellen and directors Quentin Tarantino and Martin Scorsese. Traveling to Croatia and embracing its rolling hillside was a highlight, and the country's laid-back rural culture during shooting was a real eye-opener for Brkopac, too. He says that he will most cherish the memories he made in Europe with the cast and crew. Currently, he is training in Vancouver with Andrew McIlroy and consulting with a director/producer on an independent film project.

MARK ANTHONY TER-HOST/"Richard"

British Columbia-based actor Mark Anthony Ter-Host is building himself a very solid acting career in feature films and television. Mark's recent screen credits include the 2016 horror-thriller PEELERS and a role in the short film THE PASSAGE (2013). As "Richard" in STOLEN PATH, he is the catalyst of conflict as "Victoria's" spurned socialite lover. Ter-Host resides in Vancouver, British Columbia.

LAURA SEABROOK/"Elizabeth"

As a child, Laura never imagined that her fault of getting hopelessly lost in her imagination would someday ignite life into her work as an actress! Her career began in 2008 when she landed a supporting role in a series pilot that received three AMPPIA award nominations. She went on to star in INNER QUEST (2010) as Samantha, a vibrant individual who sees no boundaries in cultural differences and fights to save a forbidden friendship between herself and a Muslim girl. Most notably, Laura was cast as Rachel Winslow in IN HIS STEPS (2013) as a free-spirited singer and songwriter with huge dreams and unshakable passion for her Creator. Finally, there is her most recent project – the independent romantic drama STOLEN PATH, where Seabrook shines in the supporting role of Elizabeth. Laura is known for her contagious zest for life and is a gifted Equestrian rider, singer, songwriter and pianist.



BRADY ROBERTS/"Peter"

Brady Roberts is a Canadian actor known for his roles in *ARROW* (2015), *NIGHTWING: THE DARKEST KNIGHT* (2014), *AIR BUD: RUSSELL MADNESS* (2015), and *AFTER THE STORM* (2013). He is also the personal trainer to many actors, including Emily Bett Rickards, Candice Patton, Lindsey Morgan, and Willa Holland. Before the acting bug bit him, Brady travelled the world for a decade as a professional wrestler. He is based in Vancouver, British Columbia.

ROBERT L. DUNCAN/"William Sr."

Robert L. Duncan was born and raised in Saskatchewan and after receiving a degree at the University of Saskatchewan, he moved to Vancouver, British Columbia in 2001 to pursue a career in acting. Robert has compiled quite the resume from numerous opportunities presented in Hollywood North, with several of his projects receiving attention at film festivals worldwide – including *STOLEN PATH*.

DAVID WALDEN/"John"

David Walden was born in Chile but grew up in Montreal and Ottawa. After a tour of duty in the Royal Canadian Navy, Dave enrolled in University and pursued a degree in Political Science, Business and Law, but his creative side drew him to acting. Since 2012 his talent and energy have resulted in Walden been cast in larger and larger principal roles. Dave has gone on to appear in the award-winning Spanish film, *DIA DE LOS MUERTOS* (2013), the feature films *GODZILLA* (2014) and *SCAMMERHEAD* (2014), as well as several TV series and documentaries featured on A&E. He was most recently featured in the short film, "I RAN" which screened at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival. Dave credits his training, support and positive feedback from casting directors, producers, directors and his acting coaches for his success and love of performing. Dave is an ongoing student of the Meisner Technique, and lives in Vancouver with his wife, Brooklin.



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ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

JOHN BANOVICH/Director

John Banovich is a seasoned, award-winning director with extensive experience as cinematographer having filmed across Canada and throughout the world. He has a passion for honest, quality stories and takes great pleasure in filming wildlife as well as drama. As a true story teller, he offers his unique creative and technical skill set for features, series, documentaries and reality television. He is a director with the DGC, a full member of the CSC and a Director of Photography with IATSE local 669. His work has been seen on Discovery, History, Biography, MTV Europe, SPACE, Vision TV, OLN, Oasis HD, Bravo, HDnet, CNN, CTV, Global TV, CityTV, CHUM, KVOS-TV, CBC, EWTN, CMT, BBC, WTN and the Comedy Network. John's movies and documentaries have screened at several film festivals and been distributed in many countries around the globe.

GOLDIE SMITLNER/Producer, Screenwriter

Goldie has been writing poems and stories as far back as she can remember, simply for the love of writing. Going thru her old papers, she found a script she had adapted from the novel MOC ZEMLE – the basis for STOLEN PATH - written 50 years ago. When she decided, at age 67, to produce this internationally shot film, many eyebrows rose. But it is in her character never to quit until she finishes what she started to the best of her ability, and she sincerely hopes that this film might inspire others of her generation to follow their own dreams. The result of her hard work and talent is the award-winning STOLEN PATH. The production is Goldie's first feature film, and it was done out of her love for the original novel and to see the best-seller realized for all to enjoy on the big screen. She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

TRACY D. SMITH/Co-Director, Second Unit Director

In 1996, Tracy Smith received a B.A. in English Literature from the University of British Columbia. She returned to UBC in 2000 for graduate school and attained an M.F.A. in Creative Writing with an emphasis on fiction and screenplay. From early 2003 to January 2006, Tracy was part of the Brightlight Pictures' Development Department in which she was active in the development of projects such as GOING THE DISTANCE (2004) for CHUM Television and Bruce Sweeney's feature, AMERICAN VENUS (2007). Tracy is on the board of directors for Women in Film and Video Vancouver and heads up the Exchange Mentorship program which puts women filmmakers in touch with established industry professionals who provide guidance and professional support. Her short film, SANDRA GETS DUMPED (2005) (with Carly Pope), which she wrote and directed, was one of the five winning shorts for the 2005 Crazy8s Film Competition. The sequel, SANDRA GOES TO WHISTLER (2005) (aka "SANDRA GETS LAID"), was one of three projects for the Whistler Film Festival's Whistler Stories Program and screened as part of the Opening Gala Event in December 2005. Tracy made her feature film directing debut with TAMING TAMMY in 2007 and followed that with EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE in 2011. She is also a prolific television director, with several episodes of OM INC. and YOGA TOWN to her credit.



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INTERNATIONAL REVIEWS

indyred.com

STOLEN PATH

★★★★ (out of 5)

To write that I'm not a huge romance fan would be a massive understatement, yet watching "Stolen Path" was not, surprisingly hard to accomplish. Generally, if I happen to get a straight up movie of this genre it's literally like pulling teeth to get through it. Then, I have serious issues staying objective. Here though, I found it really easy getting lost in the world that Goldie Smitlener has penned out for me. "Stolen Path" may not be the next Terminator movie, but it doesn't claim to be... or need to be. **What we do have here is one hell of a well put together film.** Charming and entertaining, yet so seemingly familiar for a film set so long ago. I was pleasantly surprised and maybe... just maybe I'll be a little easier on future movies in this genre. Or maybe a little less, **since I've seen how it should be done.**

There is no doubt this is a beautifully shot film, but the cinematography only makes up half the visual beauty. Costuming, props and the rich locations all do their part making "Stolen Path" very easy on the eyes. Some simple yet polished editing, and an excellent job in post add the icing on the already delicious cake. Really, there's not much of an "indie film" footprint throughout the entire movie. Not much... which brings me to some of the audio. For the most part, we are treated to a solid dialog track. A few spots do exist however, where the audio seems to fail on some small levels. Volume and clarity all take a hit at times and I was left wondering what happened? For a movie that looks so good, and with 90% of the audio being excellent, what happened during these few instances and why were they not fixed? My other audio related pet-peeve was the overall scoring of the film. I'm not saying it was bad, it was actually pretty damn great... just... why so much? I kept going back and forth with my thoughts on this subject. In hindsight, I can't imagine "Stolen Path" without all the scoring; at the same time however, I've always felt that the scoring should compliment a film, not attempt to become the on-screen action. Very few scenes in this movie contain no scoring and since this is not a music video, I kept asking why? As I wrote above however, it was all done well. In fact, very well. So for me it's really hard to tell if I liked it or not. I suppose since it did fit in well with the movie, and I was entertained throughout, that it was actually a good thing. I just wonder what some scenes would have been like without the symphonic story-teller in the background. Finally, I would like to touch on the large cast themselves. For most of the film the actors do a great job in their respective roles. Times do exist however, when the dialog felt hollow or scripted. It may just be the attempt to add an "old-school" flare into the lines; on a few occasions though, it just felt... off. Don't get me wrong, the majority was well acted and pretty darn convincing. Just a few B moments seemed to stick with me.

"Stolen Path" is one of those sad, happy, sad again films that will find its audience with genre lovers young and older. It has a quality and charm to it that will easily entertain almost anyone, even if they won't admit it. For 97 minutes I was taken back many decades and found **a solid, entertaining film** that my wife would love. At least, that's the excuse I would make to friends as they pointed it out on my movie shelf. -JT

SOURCE LINK: <http://www.indyred.com/stolen-path-review.html>



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CREDITS

CRYSTAL PRODUCTIONS CORPORATION presents • a GOLDIE SMITLENER film • **STOLEN PATH**

Original Music Score by IVICA PEPELKO and SCOTT HETOREYN • Film Editors JOSEPH SCHWEERS and SCOTT TAYLOR

Director of Photography CLAYTON RICHARD LONG • Co-producer JOHN BANOVIICH

Produced by GOLDIE SMITLENER • Screenplay by GOLDIE SMITLENER based on the book "MOC ZEMLIE" by JANKO MATKO

Directed by JOHN BANOVIICH and TRACY D. SMITH

CAST

Daniela Smitlener Victoria
Jacob Brkopac..... Mathew
Mark Anthony Ter-Host..... Richard
Laura Seabrook..... Elizabeth
Brady Roberts Peter
Robert L. Duncan William
Delia Tatiana Katherine
Dave Walden John
Amber Hering Maria
Sinisa Krizanec Priest
Zdenka Poljak..... Grandmother

BACKGROUND TALENT

Daniela Luongo Peasant Girl
Arrianna Ormond..... Peasant Girl
Nola Ruzic Servant
Dan McPeak..... Stable Boy
Henrieta Servant
Sara Biegel Evans..... Servant
Leo Leskovar William Jr.
Eric Leskovar..... William as a Baby

Special Guest Appearance by
Victoria Matko

CREW

Second Unit Director..... Tracy D. Smith
Assistant Director Don Knoedel
A-Camera 1st Assistants
..... Nicholas Doucette & Jonathan Yip
A-Camera 2nd Assistant
..... Richard MacDonald
B-Camera Operators
..... Larry Portman & Caragh Fitzsimmons
B-Camera 1st Assistant..... Harold Bernard
B-Camera 2nd Assistant..... Andy Johnson
Drone Operator John Chionga
Gaffer Alisandair Toms

Best Boy Allen Yang
Canadian Hair/Makeup Amelie Soucy
Set Photography Brook Thompson
Post Supervisor..... Joseph Schweers
Sound Recordists..... David Hechenberger
..... Kevin Hemmingson
Sound Editors Chris MacLaren,
..... Sound Kitchen Studios & Scott Taylor

Digital Effects and Colour Timing by
Technicolor®

CROATIAN UNIT

Camera Operator Tomislav Hecimovic
Makeup/Hair & Croatian Costumes
..... Lucija Juros
Sound Recordist Colin Boorman
Production Co-Ordinator
..... Gordana Krizanec Ruzic
Production Manager Alyssa Thompson
Assistant Director..... Sarah Spence
Music Editor..... Nenad Hoic

MUSIC

"Victoria"

Written by Ivica Pepelko
performed by Ivica Pepelko
and Gabriela Hrozenjak

"Burning Down"

Written by Keith Stark
Performed by Shaune Ann Feuz
Copyright © 2013 Keith Stark

"Na Te Mislim" "Silent Night"
"Ava Maria"

performed by Ivica Pepelko

Gregorian chant "Veni Creator"

Waltz Medley
by Johann Strauss

VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO
ETNO SELO KUMROVEC

Special Thanks to:
Etno Udruga "Zipka"
Kulturno Umjetnicko Društvo "Pregrada"
Sinisa Krizanec - Castle Bezanec
St. Mirko Church
Mario Matko
Gordana Krizanec Ruzic

Filmed on Location in Croatia at
Castle Bezanec and Etno Selo Kumrovec
and in Canada at Hycroft Manor,
Fort Langley Museum, Langley Stables,
16 Pastures Golf Course & Harmony Farm

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No animals were harmed in the making of this
film.

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MARKETING & MEDIA ASSETS

The below media assets for **STOLEN PATH** are available now
from Crystal Productions Corporation:

- 27"x 39" STOLEN PATH Theatrical Poster
- STOLEN PATH Theatrical Trailer - <https://vimeo.com/132573732>
- STOLEN PATH Blu-Ray Review Screener
- Cast Photographs - <http://stolenpathmovie.com/cast.htm>
- Production Stills – <http://stolenpathmovie.com/gallery.htm>
- High-Resolution Cast & Production Stills Available by Request
- Song “Burning Down” by Shaune Ann Feuz – <http://stolenpathmovie.com/index.htm>
- Ad Mats & Handbills
- Official Website: www.StolenPathMovie.com
- Official Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/StolenPath/>
- Official IMDB Page: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3624022/?ref=fn_al_tt_1
- Cast, Directors & Producer available for interviews and personal appearances

For additional information, please contact



GOLDIE SMITLENER, Producer - “STOLEN PATH”

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