

BELLA - MIA Film by Gertrud Pinkus / Topic: domestic violence, 27 minutes

Different texts for publicity:

Short texts:

BELLA – MIA, - when love turns to violence-, tells the story of two lovers whose love cannot withstand the challenges of everyday life, told in an unusual narrative form: yet entertaining, despite its tragic topic: domestic violence.

BELLA - MIA deals with “domestic violence” in an unusual narrative form. The film is partly set in a surreal underwater world, because the essence of a relationship runs in secret beneath the surface. It tells the story of two lovers whose love cannot withstand the challenges of everyday life. Narrated with light humorous touch, yet entertaining, despite the tragic topic: domestic violence.

BELLA – MIA. When love turns to violence.

"Domestic violence" is a multi-layered issue and deeply rooted in social structures. This film focuses on the aspect of "love". If love turns into violence, all trust in a family community disappears. Add to this the fact that a large part of humanity is in emigration, i.e. outside its own culture and values, and it is very difficult for victims of domestic violence to find a way out. That is why the film is mainly set in an underwater world, in secret, because it is hard to see from the outside what exactly leads to a spiral of violence between two people in a close relationship.

BELLA - MIA is a poetic film-essay told with an unusual narrative form. The film is partly set in a surreal underwater world, because the essence of a relationship runs in secret beneath the surface. It tells the story of two lovers whose love cannot withstand the challenges of everyday life. Narrated with a light and humorous touch. yet entertaining, despite its tragic topic: domestic violence.

Directors Statement:

BELLA - MIA tells the story of two lovers whose love cannot withstand everyday life - light and entertaining, but with a tragic background: domestic violence. I deliberately decided against making a documentary on this subject. Firstly, I don't want to brand those affected for their entire lives by bringing their case to the public and secondly, a fictional story allows the stages of a spiral of violence to develop, in which the audience can recognize when and how the tragic end could still have been averted.

The scenes and dialog were created in close collaboration with the lead actress and the lead actor, both professional actors with a migration background. This aspect was very important to me, because during my research in women's shelters and victim and perpetrator groups, I realized how crucial family tradition plays a role in domestic violence. The original language of the film is Italian. There are subtitles in various languages.

Last but not least, it was important to me to tell the film in a playful and attractive way. It begins in a traditional style and then plunges into the water with the bride on her wedding day. From then on, the "scenes of a marriage" take place in a surreal underwater world, because the essence of a relationship takes place under the surface, in secret.