



# PRESS KIT

# The Same

documentary film

[www.thesame.rs](http://www.thesame.rs)

[www.facebook.com/TheSameDocumentary](https://www.facebook.com/TheSameDocumentary)

[www.instagram.com/the\\_same\\_documentary](https://www.instagram.com/the_same_documentary)



## ABOUT THE FILM

**Film title**  
THE SAME

**Genre**  
Documentary film

**Production Company**  
Independent Film Center Filmart

**Co-production Company**  
Cinnamon Films

This film has been supported by  
Film Center Serbia

**Country of Production**  
Serbia

**Date of completion**  
2017

**Technical info**  
HD | 16:9 | color | stereo  
Serbian with English subtitles

**Running Time**  
16:23 minutes

**Contact**  
office@film-art.org

Independent Film Center Filmart  
11 Radnicka Street  
31210 Požega  
Serbia

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## SYNOPSIS



**The Same** is a film that shows the everyday life of convicts and jailers in some of the biggest jails in Serbia by using it as a metaphor to present the loss of personal identity in modern society. This documentary compares a jail system to fixed social rules and raises questions about the relativity of human freedom.

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## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



There are lots of questions and answers arising from thinking about the relativity of human freedom that every one of us can find in their personal experience. From your early childhood you are tamed and learned how to live your life, what is acceptable behavior and what is a proper road to take if one wants to become a decent person. When you are a child you are trained like a pet by a system of rewards and punishments. You feel good each time you are rewarded and so go on doing what others expect from you. You try to meet the expectations of your parents, teachers and bosses by pretending to be someone else. You lose your own self and completely embrace the version of your personality that is supposed to be morally acceptable by different cultural patterns and so become a person similar to others and the one they all expect you to be. Then you go on taming yourself following the system of rewards and punishments you already accepted. You become a robot that lives in delusion and falsely believes to have your own will and freedom to make decisions. And one day, when you become a parent yourself, you start controlling and taming your children the same way.

**The Same** is a film that presents a jail as a metaphor for the system that prevents us from making our own decisions based upon our wishes, thoughts and beliefs. It is the system that erases the unique personality of an individual, the system that regulates our behavior by imposing punishments, the system that hinders and forbids.

This is a story about the relativity of personal freedom, making decisions based upon others' expectations and the loss of the all-important feeling of individuality.

It was filmed in Penal Correctional Facility in Sremska Mitrovica, Penal Correctional Facility in Požarevac – Zabela, Penal Correctional Facility for Women in Požarevac and Penal Correctional Facility in Niš.

## CREW BIOS

**Dejan Petrović**

producer / screenwriter / director

Dejan Petrović was born in 1974 in Užice. He graduated from the Academy of Arts in Belgrade where he now works as a professor at the department of Film and TV directing and editing.

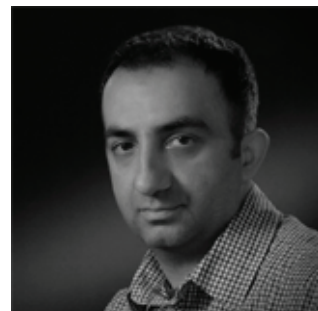
He wrote screenplays and directed several short feature and documentary films, promos, commercials, music videos and TV shows. As a producer, he took part in the production of about 40 short documentaries and one medium-length. He was a producer, screenwriter and director of 4 documentary TV series that were filmed with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia.

He is a founder and general manager of the Independent Film Centre *Filmart* that carries out several projects such as International Student Film Camp *Interaction*, among others.

He was a lecturer, moderator and a jury member at several workshops and festivals both in Serbia and abroad (Russia, UAE, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina).

He is a member of *DOKSRBIJA* – the Association of Documentary Filmmakers of Serbia.

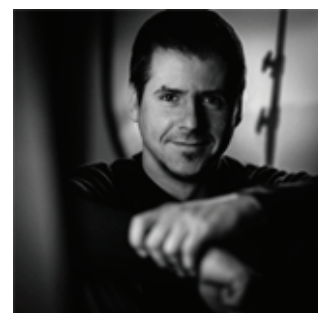
He was awarded a few times at film festivals and won the Golden medal of Belgrade for the best screenplay at the 62nd Belgrade Documentary and Short Film Festival for his film *Restart* that was supported at the Film Center Serbia competition in 2014.

**Dragan Vildović**

director of photography

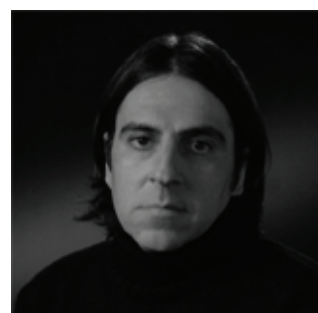
Dragan Vildović is a cinematographer and professor of photography. He studied at Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade and worked on a great number of awarded films of various forms, from student projects, promotional videos, to featured and documentary films.

[www.draganvildovic.com](http://www.draganvildovic.com)

**Aleksandar Popović**

editor

Aleksandar Popović was born in 1971 in Belgrade. He graduated from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade, editing department. He now works as a professor at the Academy of Arts in Belgrade at the department of Film and TV directing and editing. He edited several Serbian feature-length films – *The Samurai in Autumn*, *Fifth Butterfly*, *Trolling*, *Little Buddha*, *Miloš Branković*, etc. as well as some TV series – *Military Academy*, *Bitter Fruit*, *Goose Feather* and others. He also edited a few full-length documentaries – *The Boy from Junkovac*, *Djilas*, *Walter*, etc.





**Nikola Cvijanović**

sound recordist and designer

Nikola Cvijanovic was born in 1980 in Belgrade. He got a degree in sound recording and sound design at the Academy of Arts in Belgrade.

He has done sound in several feature films (*Black horses*, *Stripping*, *No one's child*, *Absurd experiment and heavenly trick*) as well as a few short feature films (*Second-hand*, *Predisposed*, *Doll's tool box* and *Don't break my torbo-folk heart*).

As a boom operator and sound designer he participated in the production of TV series *Goose feather* and *Jagodici* (*The Jagodic family*). He's also done sound recording and sound design for some documentaries (*Schizophrenia*, *Asomania*, *Exit 05*, *Jeremy McClintock Show*, *Partisan film*, *White button* and *Restart*) and two documentary TV series (*Football and something more* and *Department store*).

He worked as a sound designer for documentary TV film *Funeral*, as well as some other television projects (*Eurovision Song Contest* – Belgrade, 2008; reality show *House of dreams*, music and entertainment programme *Show of all time*, music show *Hitorama* and music and entertainment quiz *I love Serbia*). He has also done sound for several theatre shows (*Florentine Tragedy*, *Fedra's love*, *Who cares for Ana Karenjina*, *Fringe* and *Who the fuck started first?*) as well as a classical music album (*The sound of light*).

He was a sound supervisor at **ZelIG** – School for Documentary Film, Television and New Media (Bolzano / Italy, 2005) and at the University Dokuz Eylul Güzel Sanatlar (Izmir / Turkey, 2011). In 2006, he participated in the ISFC Interaction as a sound supervisor.

**Vojin Ristivojević**

composer

Vojin Ristivojevic was born in 1976 in Belgrade. He studied at the Faculty of Drama Arts in Belgrade, department of Sound recording and sound design. Extensive experience he gained in studio and concert work with the bands *Sunshine* and *Zemlja Gruva*, proved itself valuable in the field of applied music and was a great help to him in composing, sound designing and practising teamwork in many films (*One on one*, *Serbian film*, *Stripping* and *Equal*), theatre shows (*Pavilion*, *Circus history*, *Relatives* and *Behind the scenes*), theatrical spectacles (the opening ceremony of the *Universiade in Belgrade* and a ceremony in celebration of *150 years of industrialization*) as well as numerous TV formats.



## CREDITS

**filmed at**

Penal Correctional Facility in Sremska Mitrovica,  
Penal Correctional Facility in Požarevac – Zabela,  
Penal Correctional Facility for Women in Požarevac,  
Penal Correctional Facility in Niš

**written, directed and produced by**

Dejan Petrović

**cinematography by**

Dragan Vildović

**edited by**

Aleksandar Popović

**sound design by**

Nikola Cvijanović

**music composed by**

Vojin Ristivojević

**co-producer**

Ivica Vidanović

**production manager**

Zorana Vučićević

**assistant director**

Stefan Krasić

**sound recordist**

Nikola Cvijanović

**camera assistants**

Miloš Živanović  
Velimir Lukić

**color correction**

Goran Todorović

**graphic designer**

Uroš Pavlović

**translator**

Jelena Ćuslović

**driver**

Ivan Arsić

**the filmmakers wish to thank**

Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia  
Administration for the Enforcement of Penal Sanctions

Slađana Petrović Varagić, Miloš Rakić, Sreten Vuković,  
Dragan Elčić, Vladimir Perović, Goran Stanković,  
Boban Brkić, Dalibor Tonković

**this film has been supported by**

Film Center Serbia



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