

# HARGROVE ENTERTAINMENT INC.

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## Yugoslavia: The Avoidable War

Running Time: 165 mins.

Directors: George Bogdanich & Martin Lettmayer

World Theatrical Premiere – 15 March 2002 [Outstanding 6 week run in New York City]

If anyone doubts that it is time for a clear and critical look at Western intervention in the Balkans, consider this: The forces that the US supported in Bosnia and Kosovo were and are closely allied with Osama Bin Laden's al-Qaeda network. Bin Laden, himself, was a regular visitor in the office of Bosnia's President Alija Izetbegovic in early 1993, when the US government was touting his commitment to moderation and multi-ethnic cooperation.

"Yugoslavia: The Avoidable War" makes a compelling case that Western backing of separatist forces led directly to the outbreak of war. "The intelligence agencies were unanimous in stating that if you recognize Bosnia, it will blow up," George Kenney of the State Department reveals. Why then did the US proceed to do so sparking four years of savage warfare? How did we end up on the same side as Osama-Bin Laden in Bosnia and Kosovo? Newscasters and columnists continue to refer to Kosovo as a victory for the US, but this documentary shows that the region is infinitely more divided and dangerous than it was when NATO bombing commenced in March of 1999. The region is more unstable and US troops are likely to be stuck in harm's way much longer than originally anticipated.

Press:

*"Should be seen by all those concerned about the Yugoslav situation"*

- Lord Peter Carrington, former British Foreign Minister and European Community Envoy

*"An absolutely brilliant film, which I hope reaches a wide mass audience. I was one of the very few journalists to be in Kosovo while the bombardment was going on. "Yugoslavia, The Avoidable War" presents tragic events as I observed them on the ground, in contrast to most of the television reporting at the time. It is one thing to write about these events. It is another to have the visual evidence before you."*

- Eve-Ann Prentice, London Times reporter and author of "One Woman's War"

*"A superb account of misguided intervention. "Yugoslavia, The Avoidable War" brings together important witnesses to events, both military and diplomatic, who leave no doubt that our elected leaders carried out an interventionist policy that was reckless, counterproductive and in violation of international law."*

- Ret. Major General Paul Vallely US Army

*"Does an impressive job of relating the complicated history of the war and of filling in the background."*

- Stephen Holden, New York Times

*"The film is so thorough it should be worth a couple of credits at NYU."*

- TimeOut New York

*"Fascinating"* - Matthew Zoller Seitz, New York Press

*"Persuasive"* - The Onion

*"I was appalled to learn that so much of what I thought I knew about the conflict in the Balkans was at odds with facts carefully documented in "Yugoslavia, The Avoidable War." An essential part of the picture missing from press accounts is provided by Mr. Bogdanich and Mr. Lettmayer."*

- Gary Null, WBAI, Pacifica Radio

*"A riveting documentary ...truly accomplished...It argues quite persuasively that Western intelligence agencies armed separatists, while also secretly taking sides in ethnic skirmishes - while claiming to be working toward peace. The numerous strategic missteps by the West, and the endless political doublespeak are carefully detailed; the tragedy of the situation seems to multiply before your very eyes as the film clearly proves that so much of the bloodshed could have easily been prevented."*

- Ernest Hardy, LA Weekly

*"Yugoslavia, The Avoidable War" is a brilliant, gripping and even shocking film. It challenges the view that the NATO powers were only innocent onlookers at the disintegration of Yugoslavia, who belatedly entered its wars for "humanitarian" reasons. The film makes the case that Germany and Austria at first, and then the United States as major intervener, encouraged the breakup, took sides and armed their favored parties.*

*The film utilizes a remarkable array of well-qualified journalists, specialists in the Balkans, political insiders, and uses them effectively to examine the motivations of the key players and to expose the false claims on which the war-makers built their case for war. As the film shows that the mainstream media played a key role in disseminating propaganda and helping mobilize for war, their willingness to allow this film to enter into the national debate on the Balkan wars will be a good test of their integrity--and of the effectiveness of U.S. democracy."*

- Edward S. Herman (co-author, with Noam Chomsky, of Manufacturing Consent, and co-editor, with Philip Hammond of Degraded Capability: The Media and the Kosovo Crisis)

*"For anyone who wishes to understand how the US and NATO became entangled in the Balkans, "Yugoslavia, The Avoidable War is an invaluable guide. We learn how leaders of both political parties in the US became captives of public relations firms and ethnic lobbies producing policies that have made the Balkans increasingly dangerous and unstable and placing our military forces in harms way for the foreseeable future."*

- Paul Alexander and John Batchelor WABC Radio New York

*"Yugoslavia, The Avoidable War" not only exposes the media coverage of the wars as scarcely better than interventionist agitprop, it also documents the damage done to everyone in the former Yugoslavia by the determination of Germany and America to present violent solutions as the only effective option and then to impose their will on the rest of the international community."*

- Dr Michael Stenton, historian, author of 'Radio London and Resistance in Occupied Europe: British Political Warfare 1939-43

*"Quite apart from being a splendidly produced and gripping film, it teaches us lessons that go far beyond Yugoslavia. It explores the problems of modern mass democracy, which needs to be solved on the ground, not in the air, with a proper understanding of the peoples concerned."*

- John Coleman, Editor New European

*"...features interviews that list like a Who's Who of World Politics."*

-Raindance Film Festival

*"A first rate documentary"* - George Szamuely, New York Press