

 25.  
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Film Festival

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EUROPE

# Dad

a film by  
**Vladimir Bilenjki**

 Best Rising Filmmaker  
Winner MIWAFF

A FRICTION FILMS PRODUCTION A VLADIMIR BILENJKI FILM "DAD" MAŠA LIZDEK AND BRIANNA DAGUANNO  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BRACO KALMAN COSTUME DESIGNER MICHAEL ZOFFRANIERI DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY STEPHANIE WEBER BIRON EDITED BY VLADIMIR BILENJKI  
MUSIC BY ARCHITECTS OF ROSSLYN CASTING BY LINDA BUTLER PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT SOFIA LANE WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY VLADIMIR BILENJKI

# Dad

## SYNOPSIS (short)

Deborah visits her teenaged sister, Deanna, at their family cottage in anticipation of their father's arrival late at night. While making up for lost time together, Deborah and Deanna begin to uncover their hidden traumas.



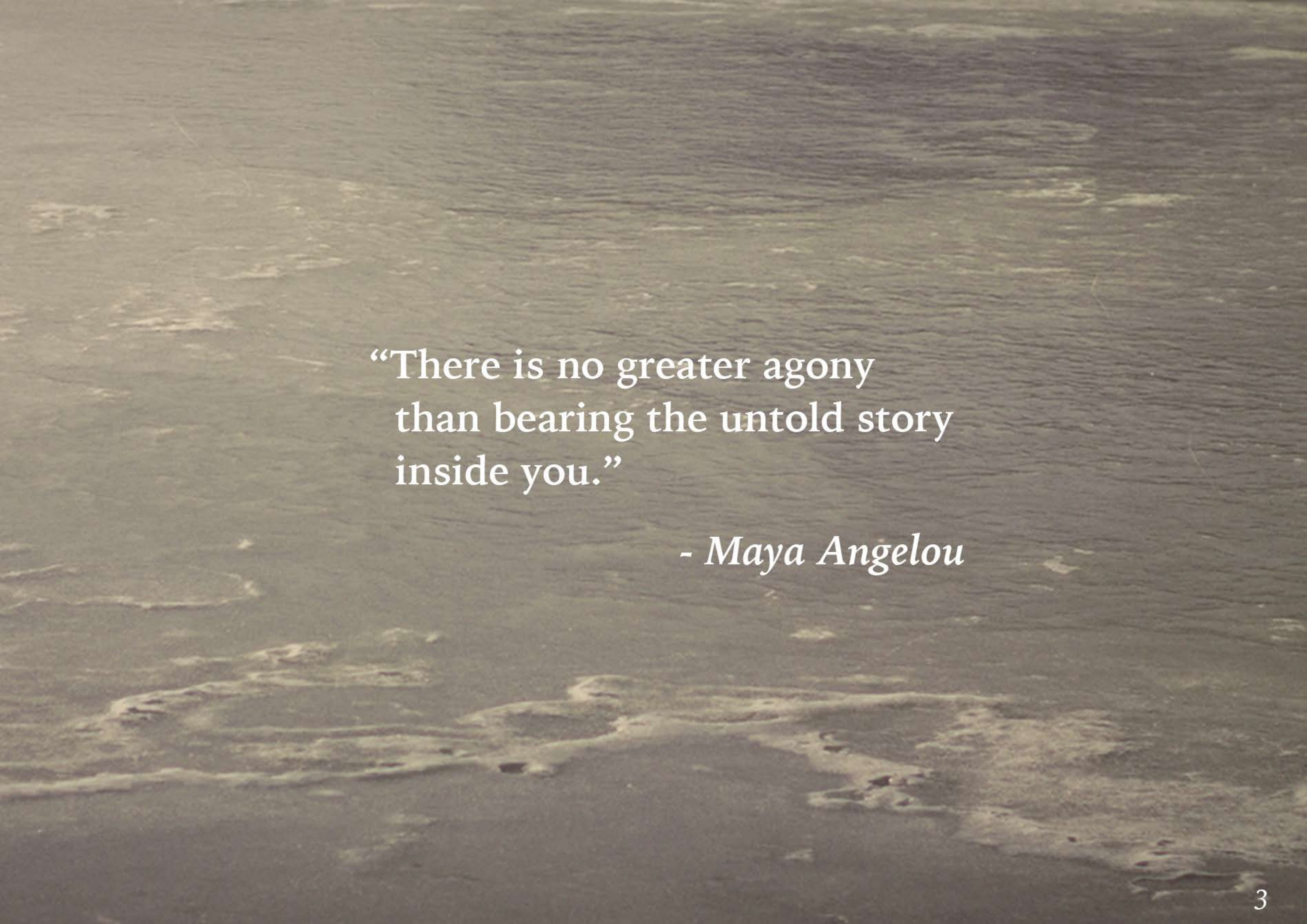
## SYNOPSIS (long)

Deborah visits her teenaged sister, Deanna, at their family cottage in anticipation of their father's arrival late at night. Deanna feigns interest in Deborah's timid small talk and the disconnect between them only deepens when Deborah opens up about her disturbing history with their father, putting the two sisters at

odds with one another.

An intimate chamber piece on the rekindling of a broken family, 'Dad' finds Deborah and Deanna coming to terms with their mutually warped affection for their father on the advent of their reunion, all while a man in the woods encircles their cottage.





“There is no greater agony  
than bearing the untold story  
inside you.”

- *Maya Angelou*

# Dad

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

'Dad' came to me in 2016 after a screening of Bergman's 'Persona' and the entire script materialised in a week. It naturally came to me as a conversational piece as the most vivid scenes are those expressed in words because they work on our imagination, which we use to piece together our own vision of the story being told. The protagonists in 'Persona', as with 'Dad', speak openly about their traumas and through them we can experience cinema as catharsis - this is why I made 'Dad'.

The inspiration for 'Dad' came from real-life stories of sexual abuse and trauma that have been told to me by the victims. Their feelings were often confused because they did not always paint the perpetrators as predators. Often, they were family members and in a few cases they were their father. These stories are not often told because of the shame and fear the victims of sexual abuse may feel but they are very real. Around the time I was developing 'Dad', survivors started coming out and speaking up.



I always felt I had been called upon to make 'Dad' and now it had become clear why. 'Dad' was shot by a cinematographer with whom it felt as though her and I saw through the same eyes, within a female-majority crew. They enabled Maša, Brianna and I to empathetically approach the film's difficult subject matter. I hope it is cathartic for those who suffer in silence yet cannot bear to separate themselves from their abuser.



- *Vladimir Bilenjki*



# Dad

## CAST



**MAŠA LIZDEK**  
Deborah

Maša Lizdek was born in Vienna, raised in former Yugoslavia and migrated to Canada during the civil war. Maša is known for her guest star appearances on 'The Detail' (2018), 'Man Seeking Woman' (2015) and 'Murdoch Mysteries' (2013). Lizdek also starred in 'The Waiting Room' (2015) as Sanja (supporting lead), performing in Serbo-Croatian. The film was nominated and screened at Toronto International Film Festival, Locarno International Film Festival and several others.



**BRIANNA D'AGUZZO**  
Deanna

Brianna D'Aguzzo is a Canadian actress that has worked in almost every form of entertainment media, including film, television, animation, voice, theatre and live performances. She currently voices the animated character of 'Lily' in YTV's animated series 'Oh No! It's an Alien Invasion', the character of Tweet in the CBC Kids series 'Chirp', and the villainous character of 'Luna Girl' in the Disney Junior series 'PJ Masks'. Brianna also plays the role of Kira McGrory in CBC's 'Mr. D'.

## CREW



**VLADIMIR BILENJKI**  
Writer/Director/Producer/Editor

Vladimir Bilenjki is a Bosnian-Croatian, Canadian-born writer, director, and producer and the head of Friction Films. Born in Toronto, he is a graduate of York University's Film Production program and has directed numerous shorts, documentaries and commercial films including his debut feature, 'Dad'. He is a CMPA member and is currently based in Manchester.



**GAËLLE KOMÀR**  
Location Sound Mixer

Gaëlle Komar is a Belgian sound mixer, engineer and producer. Her work includes 'Dreamcatcher Bios' and other international productions.



**STÉPHANIE WEBER BIRON**  
Director of Photography

Stéphanie Weber Biron is a Quebecois cinematographer and director who is known for her award-winning work on Xavier Dolan's 'I Killed My Mother' and 'Heartbeats' (Best Cinematography Hamptons Film Festival, nominated for Achievement in Cinematography at the Genies), Ashley McKenzie's 'Stray', Guy Maddin's 'The Forbidden Room' and the Warner Bros / Spike Jonze short, 'Higglety Pigglety Pop!'.

**MICHAEL ZOFFRANIERI**  
Costume Designer

Michael Zoffranieri is a Canadian fashion designer and the head of ZOFF. An apprentice of David Dixon and graduate of Ryerson's School of Fashion, Michael's label garnered a Suzanne Roger's Award as well as a nomination for Swarovski's Emerging Talent Award at the CAFAs.



# Dad CREW

**CHRISTIAN MOUZARD**  
Gaffer

Christian Mouzard is a Quebecois gaffer and set designer who has worked on Hollywood and independent Quebecois productions including 'Heartbeats' and 'Standstill'. His work in television includes 'Great War Diaries' and 'Lâcher Prise'.

**INA LOPEZ**  
1st Assistant Camera

Ina Lopez is a Quebecois camera-woman and an electrical specialist who has worked on films by Xavier Dolan and Guy Maddin alongside Stephanie Weber Biron and Christian Mouzard, as well as on 'Journey to the Center of the Earth' and 'The Woods'.

**DOMINIC CLOUTIER**  
2nd Assistant Camera

Dominic Cloutier is a Quebecois camera and electrical technician whose credits include Luc Besson's 'Brick Mansions', Radu Mihaileanu's 'The History of Love' and many more.

**MARY CUFFE**  
Makeup Artist

Mary Cuffe is a British makeup artist working in the film industry who is based in Toronto. Her work includes Vincent Cassel's 'Partisan' amongst many others.

**SOFIA LANE**  
Production Manager

Sofia Lane is a Russian-born director and cinematographer. A graduate of McGill University and Sheridan College, she has shot music videos for Romes and Diamante.

**ANDREW MOREL**  
Key Grip

Andrew Morel is an editor, cinematographer and producer from Ajax with credits on the TIFF short 'Meddy' and 'Future Docs' amongst several others.

**ARCHITECTS OF ROSSLYN**  
Scoring

Architects of Rosslyn is a musical collaboration made up of Mancunian musicians Howard Jacobs and Mandy Wigby. Their commissions include Delia Derbyshire Day 2016 for the Women in Electronic Music week as well as the Sensory Sound Pit for the European City of Science and the Manchester Science Festival in 2016.

**BRACO KALMAN**  
Producer

Braco Kalman is a Bosnian producer and the co-founder of Tub-life Ltd.. As an investor in the arts, he has helped foster growth within the Bosnian-Canadian film industry.



**CAMILLE LESSARD**  
**GENEVIEVE THIBERT**  
Boom Operation

**SIDHARTH POPLI**  
**ROSE LU**  
Catering

**OMAR BISHIR**  
Script Doctor

**MARK EDMONDSON**  
Dialogue Editor/Mixer

**CHARLES BOILEAU**  
Colourist

**GEMMA DONN**  
String Arrangement

**JAMES WALKER**  
Special Effects

**KIRSTY MCGEE**  
Instrumentation

**MATT DICK**  
Set Dressing

**MELANIE D'AGUANNO**  
Chaperone to Brianna

**MATEO PALMISANO**  
Recording Engineer





“Of course, it’s only you and dad in my prayers.”



“Maybe you should have prayed a little bit harder.”



# *Dad*

## TECHNICAL ASPECTS

### TOTAL RUN TIME

92 mins

### LANGUAGE

English

### ASPECT RATIO

Flat (1.85:1)  
3996 x 2160

### SHOT ON

4k CinemaDNG RAW  
24 fps

### EXHIBITION FORMAT

Cinema DCP 4k  
stereo

### PRODUCTION

Bosnia & Herzegovina  
Canada

## INQUIRIES

### WEBSITE

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

### PRESS CONTACT

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friction  
films