SYNOPSIS

In 1992, the multi-ethnic city of Banja Luka, Bosnia was invaded by militant Serb forces. Fearing for their children's lives, Emir and Aida Vajrača sent their 15 year-old daughter and 6 year-old son to safety in nearby Croatia. Eleven months later, Aida followed, leaving behind her husband and home.

Forced out of his own house, and under the constant threat of "ethnic cleansing," Emir struggled to save the country he loved by joining a humanitarian organization dedicated to bringing aid to prisoners of war and helping people escape nearby concentration camps.

In 1996, with the signing of a peace treaty, Banja Luka was handed over to the Serbs. Defeated, Emir left and joined his family, living in America.

In 2003, inspired by the promise of reconciliation, the Vajračas return to Bosnia to reclaim their family home, still occupied by the Serb family who claimed it as their own, ten years before.

What begins as an innocent journey into their history quickly changes to a nightmare. The country has changed, the landscape is ravaged, many inhabitants have fled. People living there now are surviving through a mixture of cunning, force, and luck. The reconciliation the Vajračas hoped for quickly deteriorates into a heartbreaking confrontation with the Serb family still living in their apartment.

Shot in the style of cinema verité and interlaced with personal accounts, *Back to Bosnia* follows the Vajrača family, as they discover what kind of life begins, when a war is over.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Documentary film by Ali Hanson and Sabina Vajrača

Directed by	Sabina Vajrača
Produced by	Ali Hanson and Sabina Vajrača
Associate Producer	Loren Bevans
Director of Photography	Damir Okanović
Sound by	Mark Huang
Edited by	Ali Hanson
Story Consultant	Fernanda Rossi
Original Music by	Jon Crider

TECHNICAL SPECS

Production Company	Alternate Plan Productions 2212 8th Ave., #2A New York, NY 10026 U.S.A.
Production Format	This film was shot on Mini DV NTSC using a Sony PD 150 and a Sony TRV 27
Screening Formats	MiniDV, VHS (NTSC), DVD, BetaSP (NTSC and PAL)
Total Running Time	67 min.
Original Languages	English and Bosnian
Subtitles	English and Bosnian
Filmed on Location in	Bosnia, Croatia and USA
Foreign Titles	Na put kući, u tuđinu *(Bosnian)*

CONTACT INFO

Alternate Plan Productions
2212 8th Ave., #2A
New York, NY 10026
U.S.A.
Tel.: +1 212 961 9717
Cell: +1 917 658 9924
Email: backtobosnia@yahoo.com
www.backtobosnia.com

Sabina Vajrača – Director / Producer

Sabina Vajrača was born and raised in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where she lived until the war broke out in 1992. She moved to the US in 1994 with her mother and little brother, as a part of the political refugee resettlement program.

She first ventured in the world of theatre in 1993, when, with the help of four friends, she founded and edited the first official theatre magazine in Croatia, *Teatralije*. She has worked professionally in theater for 12 years, as a director, writer, producer and stage manager. She is a member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab, and 2003 winner of Visa/MSN Ideas Happen Award.

Back to Bosnia is her first film.

Ali Hanson – Producer / Editor

Alison Hanson was born and raised outside of San Francisco, CA, and attended UC Irvine, after which she made the jump to New York City. She began her career as the production manager for The Culture Project, working with directors and performers such as Edgar Landsbury (1995 *In Circles*), Andrea Marcovicci (1996 *I am Anne Frank*), Anne Cattaneo and the Juilliard Directing Fellows. She launched such projects as Opera at the Algonquin, the saucy operetta *Suc Daddy*, and a dynamic rendition of *The Changeling*.

She is an inaugural member of The Holderness Theater Company, an acclaimed downtown troupe. Over the years, Ali has worked on both sides of the curtain, performing and producing; working with such masters as Steven Wangh, Walton Wilson, Wendyll Beavers, Katherine Fitzmaurice, and Rebecca Holderness. Her featured New York City productions are *Einstein's Dreams*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *The 24 Hour Plays* (which forced her to give up acting and reinvigorate her faith in it in the same evening).

In film and television Ali is accredited with editing the short film *Shirley Street*, and the student short *4 Winters Without Autumn*, a film written and performed in Mandarin Chinese. She has worked as a production assistant on numerous New York City productions ranging from commercial shoots to PBS shorts and independent productions. This is Alison's first documentary film.