Press release

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**2022 Badjura Award Goes to Milena Zupančič**

The Festival of Slovenian Film Portorož, whose 25th edition runs from 25 to 30 October, traditionally presents the Metod Badjura Award for lifetime achievement in cinema. We are happy to announce that the panel of judges consisting of Jelka Stergel, Polona Juh, Viva Videnović, Dušan Milavec, and Boris Petkovič as the chair decided to give the 2022 Badjura Award to **film and theatre actress Milena Zupančič**. The award will be presented to Ms Zupančič at the Opening Gala on 25 October in the Main Hall of Avditorij Portorož.

Milena Zupančič (1946, Jesenice) is one of the best-known figures in the contemporary Slovenian cinema and television landscape and one of the stars of former Yugoslavia, its theatre and cinema. While her body of work for theatre is undeniably impressive, Zupančič made her acting debut in cinema, playing a student in Matjaž Klopičič’s *Oxygen* (1970). But it was her roles as Meta Presečnik in *Blossoms in Autumn* (1973) and Ms Žašler in *The Widowhood of Karolina Žašler* (1976), both also directed by Klopčič, that etched Milena Zupančič’s name in the Slovenian collective psyche. In more than five decades of appearances on film and TV screens, Zupančič has been cast in more than **80 roles**, working with the most highly acclaimed figures of Yugoslavian cinema.

In her works for cinema and TV, she has pushed the boundaries of what was considered conventional film acting, and won **dozens of awards**, including one Silver and two Gold Arenas at the Pula film festival, two Actress of the Year Awards at the Festival of Slovenian Film, the honorary Aleksandar Lifka Award for outstanding contribution to European cinema at the European Film Festival in Palić, and the Bert Award for Lifetime Achievements in film acting. In addition to awards in cinema, Milena Zupančič has also received the Borštnik Ring Award, the Prešeren Award for lasting contribution to Slovenian culture, and the Golden Order of Merit for her body of work in Slovenian theatre and cinema and her tireless efforts in support of the culture of solidarity.