

WORLD PREMIERE

DOX Leipzig  
International  
Competition  
Documentary Film  
2025



scriptwriter,  
cinematographer  
and director  
srđan kovačević

script editor  
olga dimitrijević

editors  
klara šovagović  
damir čučić

sound design  
001

producer  
sabina krešić

co-producers  
viva videnović  
marta popivoda  
jelena angelovski

FADE  
IN→

ICA  
THEORY  
& WORK

URGH!

BLOK

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# THE THING TO BE DONE

## (ONO ŠTO TREBA ČINITI)

**A film by Srđan Kovačević**

Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia

2025 - 88 mins

## PRESS NOTES

**World premiere @ DOK Leipzig 2025**

[>> Press materials](#)

[>> Trailer \(vimeo\)](#)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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CONTACTS & SCREENING DATES.....	3
SYNOPSIS.....	4
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT.....	5
ABOUT THE DIRECTOR AND PRODUCTION.....	6
CREDITS.....	7



## CONTACTS & SCREENING DATES

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### Producer

FADE IN  
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### Director

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## SCREENING DATES @ DOKfest Leipzig 2025

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<b>Tues, Oct 28</b>	<b>14:30 pm</b>	<b>CineStar 7</b>	<b>World premiere, Q&amp;A with the director</b>
Thurs, Oct 30	20:00 pm	CineStar 6	repetition
Sat, Nov 1	11:00 am	CineStar 4	repetition





# SYNOPSIS

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## *SHORT*

In the heart of Ljubljana, the Workers' Advocacy Office (Delavska svetovalnica) stands as a beacon of hope for society's most vulnerable: working men and women, the unemployed, the disabled, pensioners, and migrants. Far surpassing the traditional boundaries of union work, this extraordinary organization fosters solidarity, champions justice, and envisions a more equitable future for the working class.

## *LONG*

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The film intimately follows the lives and struggles of three compelling protagonists: Laura Orel, a compassionate social worker; Goran Zrnić, a former electrician turned advocate; and Goran Lukić, a steadfast union activist. Through their tireless efforts, we witness the profound impact of their work as they assist countless individuals who turn to their office for help with a wide array of challenges, from unpaid wages to workplace abuses.

Their story crescendos with an ambitious campaign to support over 1,200 outsourced workers at the Port of Koper, a microcosm of the struggles faced by laborers in a globalized world. Against the backdrop of modern Europe's deep inequalities, the film delves into the transformative power of creative union activism, shedding light on both its inspiring possibilities and its daunting limitations.

THE THING TO BE DONE is not merely a story of struggle; it is a testament to selfless solidarity and the enduring fight for workers' rights. In a time of overwhelming odds, it offers a glimmer of hope—an urgent reminder that collective action can still forge pathways to justice.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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The inspiration to shed light on the work of *Delavska svetovalnica* and their victories stems from my personal encounters with precarious employment and professional uncertainty. Additionally, it arises from the shared insecurities experienced by a majority of young individuals in my surroundings. On a statistical note, in my country, a staggering 90% of new hires have been under fixed-term contracts over the past decade, entailing various forms of precarious employment.

In the Croatian film industry, there is no established trade union for film workers. We navigate our professional lives from one project to another, often enduring prolonged working hours and diverse working conditions. We grapple with delayed payments for months, striving to avoid conflicts with employers, and face the harsh reality of pension insurance that promises nothing but impoverishment in our later years. So, when I first came across this small miracle based in Ljubljana, I knew I had to make a film about them.



## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR AND PRODUCTION

### Srđan Kovačević - Director

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Srđan Kovačević is a filmmaker and artist whose work explores labor, migration, spatial relations, and social transformation through collective and community-based dynamics. His acclaimed documentary *Factory to the Workers* chronicles a rare case of worker self-management in a post-socialist factory, using intimate, observational storytelling developed over five years to highlight labor rights, economic precarity, and solidarity.

Kovačević is committed to documenting collective struggles and imagining alternative social realities. This approach led him to initiate and co-author the Solidarity Film Agreement—a collective authorship contract aimed at more fairly regulating relationships between production companies, filmmakers, and protagonists.

Based in Zagreb, he is a member of the association BLOK, the cooperative *Prva za druge*, and the non-profit art organization Jagoda. He actively engages in projects focused on public space, collective memory, and social participation, bringing a distinctive visual and emotional depth to contemporary documentary narratives.

#### Filmography

FACTORY TO THE WORKERS (2021) - feature length documentary  
DVOSTRUKI TERET (2015) - Short film

### Fade In (Zagreb) - Production Company

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In 2000, Fade In emerged as a platform for young authors with a strong affinity for acting through socially engaging film and video. In 25 years, Fade In became the leading production company in the field of documentary film with more than a hundred remarkable authors. We have always been working hard to stay in touch with the current social issues, aiming for better democracy and citizens' rights. We have produced more than 60 short and feature-length documentaries, short feature films, animated and experimental films presented at more than 300 festivals, as well as over 200 episodes of docu-series regularly broadcasted on national television - HRT and VOD platforms - making us the most productive company in Croatia in the field of documentary film and video.

## CREDITS

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Written & directed by	SRĐAN KOVAČEVIĆ
With	LAURA OREL GORAN ZRNIĆ GORAN LUKIĆ
Cinematography	SRĐAN KOVAČEVIĆ
Editing	KLARA ŠOVAGOVIĆ
Sound Design	001
Producer	SABINA KREŠIĆ
Co-Producer	MARTA POPIVODA, JELENA ANGELOVSKI, VIVA VIDENOVIĆ

