

ISTROS NEW BOOK: PRESS RELEASE

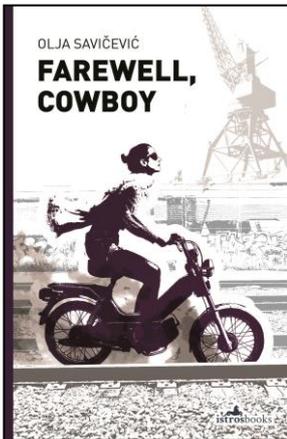
A tale of loss and redemption; heroes and glamour; and unfulfilled small-town yearnings.

A truly remarkable novel from one of Croatia's best-known female writers – now available in English

PUBLICATION DATE: 14 April 2015

Meet the author - various launch events during The London Book Fair 14-16 April 2015

"Of the remaining graffiti of interest to me, there is one up by the railway track ... It's a drawing of a young, smiling, freckled cowboy, riding, instead of a bareback thoroughbred mare, an old bike, 50cc, towards the setting sun. Underneath, it says: DANIEL, R.I.P. THAT'S WHERE COWBOYS GO. ..."



FAREWELL, COWBOY

by Olja Savičević

(translated from the Croatian by Celia Hawkesworth)

ISBN: 978 1 908236 48 7 Paperback RRP: £9.99 APRIL 2015 Istros Books



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Challenging our perceptions of heroism by contrasting the idols of the silver-screen with the lives of real people, this is a tough yet poetic novel from the pen of one of Croatia's best-known, award-winning authors.

"I imagine the cowboy as he is on the poster in my bedroom – A tough guy of unshakeable resolve with a cobalt gaze and eyebrows of wire, a great white hero. Although, to be honest, in all the more recent pictures in the newspapers he's already old and crumpled, with a very red neck."

Dada returns to her shabby hometown on the Adriatic coast hoping to unravel the mystery of her brother's death. Although young, smart and popular, her brother Daniel has apparently thrown himself under a train in mysterious circumstances.

In her search for clues, Dada meets an array of eccentric characters and succumbs to the charms of Angelo, a member of the film crew who are shooting a Western on the nearby 'prairie'. Slowly and painfully Dada discovers all there is to know about her brother's death and that – unlike the heroes of the silver screen – contemporary heroes often have feet of clay.

This novel is rich with local colour, fascinating characters and conflicting emotions. Olja Savičević playfully transports the genre of a traditional Western drama to the contemporary world. In the process she compares and contrasts our nostalgic concept of a righteous hero (as portrayed in the cinema) with what it actually takes to be "a hero" in today's world.

"...memory is the present of all remembered events. The tape rolls forward and backwards ... it stops at important places, some images flicker dimly frozen in a permanent pause, unclear. But memory is also the saboteur editor in the back room, cutting and pasting, reframing to the every end, or at least until Alzheimer's."

please see over for information about the author and launch events being held in the UK >>>



To request review copies or to be put in touch with the author or the publisher, please contact
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ISTROS NEW BOOK: PRESS RELEASE continued

FAREWELL, COWBOY by Olja Savičević

PUBLICATION DATE: 14 April 2015



About the author: Olja Savičević (born in 1974) is an award-winning poet and novelist, who burst on to the literary world with her collection of short stories, *Make the Dog Laugh*, in 2006. She has published six collections of poetry to date, including *House Rules* which won the Kiklop Award for Best Poetry Collection of 2008 – an annual prize given at the Pula Book Fair. Her best-selling novel, *Farewell, Cowboy*, has already achieved great success in her native Croatia, and has been adapted into a stage play. Part of the novel was included in Dalkey Archive's *Best European Fiction 2014*.

Olja Savičević was born and brought up Dalmatia – the Croatian region on the Adriatic coast that is familiar to so many holiday makers. Although she enjoys travelling, Savičević has no plans to leave Dalmatia. She currently lives in Split. Discussing *Farewell, Cowboy*, Savičević says: "It is a poetic and sometimes humorous story of life in a suburb of a town in a region that is a suburb of the world. It also explores the principles of honour and justice that triumph in films and can triumph in a novel but rarely triumph in real life. I have also brought many of my childhood memoirs to the novel. For my generation, growing-up during (and in the aftermath of) the Yugoslav wars of the early 90s could be compared with being in a frontier town in the Westens."

Media opportunities: Extracts/serialisation. The author is available for interviews in London in mid-April 2015.

London Events to mark the publication of FAREWELL, COWBOY – please join us and meet the author

- **16:00 on Tuesday 14 April 2015 at The London Book Fair, Olympia Stand No. 5C131 (The Croatian Writers' Society Stand)**
Join the author, the translator and the publisher for celebratory drinks
- **18:30-21:00 Tuesday 14 April 2015 at The Croatian Embassy 21 Conway Street, Bloomsbury, London W1T 6BN**
Join the author, the translator and the publisher for a free reception generously hosted by His Excellency, The Croatian Ambassador, Dr Ivan Grdešić
- **13:00- 14:30: Thursday 16 April 2015 at the Tristram Bates Theatre 1a Tower Street, London WC2H 9NP – Admission £5**
A rehearsed reading followed by a book-signing and celebratory drinks. This one-off performance brings together the author, the director of the original Croatian theatre adaptation and two of Croatia's leading actors.

For further information about any of these events please get in touch.

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