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## **MATEVŽ LUZAR - DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

### **Good to go film**

#### **The loneliness of old age**

I already explored the loneliness of old age as a theme in my graduation short film *Wulfy (Vučko)*, however I wanted to explore it in even more depth, in my first feature film. Is there a time limit on a person's lust for life? Can we find enough courage and self-confidence to start afresh – to find a new interest or even to find love with somebody new, when we are already close to the finishing line? I wanted to create a story based around the idea that it is never too late to start living.

#### **Courage to live life to the full**

I came across an article about the most common regrets of dying people, written by Bonnie Ware, an Australian nurse who spent several years working in palliative care. She put her observations into a book called *The Top Five Regrets of the Dying*. At the top of the list was: "I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me." Most people had not fulfilled even half of their dreams and had to die knowing that this failure was due to choices that they had made, or had not made. My story is dedicated to the courage of an old man who fights several personal battles to overcome fear and finally become true to himself.

#### **Happiness is a choice**

Another common regret I found in this article was: "I wish that I had let myself be happier". Many did not realise until close to the end of their lives that happiness is a choice. They had remained stuck in old patterns and habits. Fear of change had led them to put up a front and pretend to others, and to themselves, when deep within, they longed to laugh properly and allow silliness and humour back in their lives again. I wanted to face our protagonist with the complete loss of everything that he believes makes sense of his life; leave him completely empty and alone – and then allow him to finally make a positive choice for the rest of his life – however limited that time may be.

#### **The company and closeness of others**

This is not only a story about the endless choices and changes that can happen at any time in one's life. It is also a story about relationships, about the closeness and happiness that other people can bring into our lives. Our protagonist believes that the retirement home is the end of



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the road, but it actually opens the door to a new life and even to new love. Once our hero lets go of all his preconceptions, expectations and judgments, he manages to find new ways to deal with existing relationships and he also finds himself facing the exciting prospect of new relationships.

### **A simple story inspired by life**

The film has a clean and simple aesthetic style that suits the story. It is an emotionally truthful slice of life about the seemingly small choices that change the hero's life – just at the point when we think that he has given up. The drama is rooted in everyday experience and the theme is one that everyone can relate to. The art direction and shooting style echo this pared-back, simple and uncontrived aesthetic.

Source: [www.good-to-go-movie.com](http://www.good-to-go-movie.com)

Please, read interview with Matevž Luzar: *How to shoot youthful movie about old age?*

Link: <http://www.dnevnik.si/kultura/1042556609#>