**Address by Danis Tanović, Senior Lecturer**

Please allow me to at the start express my gratitude to Mr. Rector Prof. Dr Faruk Čaklovica, to Dean of the Academy of Performing Arts professor Zijad Mehić, Teaching-Scientific Councils of the Faculty of Philosophy and Faculty of Architecture, to Teaching-Scientific Councils of the Academy of Fine Arts and Musical Academy, to Professor Haris Pašović and everyone whose authority and efforts made this conferring an honorary doctorate of the University of Sarajevo upon me possible.

I want to thank my dear parents, without whom I would not have been what I am; without whom I certainly would be not present here tonight. Thank you for your concerns, love and understanding which you have giving me all these years. Thanks mom. Thanks Dad.

Maelys, Merci d'etre toujour la pour moi.

I have received many awards and recognitions all over the world, but the one I am receiving this evening has special importance because it is from my colleagues in my home town, the town where I grew up and studied.

The fact that I am the first film director, who has been given this great honor, obliges me to dedicate myself to shift this brief address to the importance of arts and culture in our lives and society.

Unfortunately today and in this age, many people find culture and art as unnecessary luxury, or have it identified with a cheap, meaningless fun.

And so in this moment in front of you, I am making an appeal against the physical and intellectual violence, which mutilated our society that we fight with far greater commitment and by investing in culture and art.

arts and culture are not only the best ambassadors of our country - the culture and art are awaking the best in every man, in every one of us, the most humane in all of us.

Art, the any form of art, is the best way for a man to share its personal experience with other people - but also to enrich his life with experiences of others.

Our artists, in all fields, by their work are in correspondence with relevant artistic standards in the world. Fullness of their expression, a sense of irony and humor, an essential understanding and describing the world are some of the characteristics that the world has recognized. It would take me too long to mention all the awards and recognitions that Bosnian artists received in the past decade.

But individual successes of our artists cannot and should not be a substitute for national cultural policy. These successes are just evidence that our culture is a part of the world's cultural heritage. It is our obligation to humanity to preserve and improve it.

History was not favoring our country.

War, destruction and shameless materialism have seriously wounded our society. But we need - by drawing strength from our ethnic and religious diversity that are our greatest wealth - to find what intrinsically link all of us who live in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and it is our millennial culture. Fighting for its adequate treatment by the state is a challenge that we must not succumb.

In the to which we go to a world without borders, state and national identities can be preserved only in those societies which plan and significantly invest in the preservation of their cultural history, but also in the creation of new artistic values ​​that future generations will keep as their cultural heritage.

To live without art and culture is to live without spirit.

To live without spirit means surrender.

Mr. Krleža in his essay about Mrs. Europe, when speaking about stećaks says that no one ever found a stećak where a Bosnian is kneeling. Never.

We must not betray our ancestors; we must never give up.

Thanks.