**Zijad Mehić, fulltime professor at the Academy of Performing Arts, Sarajevo**

**Sarajevo, 08 June 2011**

Esteemed Senior lecturer Tanović,

Distinguished Rector,

Dear guests, ladies and gentlemen,

The Teaching and Scientific Council of the Academy of Performing Arts, at the session held on 01 February 2010, supported the initiative started by the Department of Directing that Danis Tanović, director and Senior lecturer at the Academy of Performing Arts, be conferred with the University of Sarajevo’s honorary doctorate.

The Teaching and Scientific Councils of the Academy of Fine Arts, the Musical Academy, and the Councils of following faculties: Faculty of Philosophy, Faculty of Architecture, University of Sarajevo supported the initiative started by the Academy of Performing Arts.

Danis Tanović was born in Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 20 February 1969. He grew up in Sarajevo, where he received primary education and ended the high school. In 1989, he enrolled at the Academy of Performing Arts, University of Sarajevo, Department for Directing in the class of Prof. Haris Pašović. Following the siege of Sarajevo in 1992, he enlisted in the Army of B-H, first as a soldier, and then as a member of film set where he directed and shot a series of documentaries. In 1994, after the third year of studding at the Academy of Performing Arts, he went to Belgium, where at the INSAS film institute ended his studies and graduated with honors.

In 2001, he ended his first feature film "No Man's Land". The film, among many other awards, received an Oscar for the best foreign film and became the most award-winning debut film of all time.

In the present moment, Danis lives in Sarajevo, he is married, father of five and teaches at the Academy of Performing Arts, University of Sarajevo.

Danis Tanović has achieved the greatest success in the art of film in the history of Bosnian cinematography making him one of the most successful Bosnians of all time. What is represented by the Nobel Prize in Literature won by Ivo Andrić, or in chemistry, won by Vladimir Prelog, that is in the realm of film art the American Film Academy Award - Oscar. In addition to the Academy Award for feature film "No Man's Land " whose screenplay Danis Tanović wrote, he composed the music and directed the film, winning dozens of international awards, including the awards considered as the most important film recognitions that can be won by an individual:

Best Screenplay Award at the Cannes Film Festival,

The Golden Globe Award,

The European Film Academy Award – Felix,

The César Award -national film award of France and many other.

Danis Tanović's film “No Man's Land“ is the most award-winning debut film in the history of world’s cinematography.

Danis also directed the feature films "Hell", "Triage" and "Circus Columbia ", in which play major French, British and Irish actors. He also directed the documentary film "My Shaheed (Martyr) mother“(along with his colleague Dino Mustafić) during the siege of Sarajevo and the award-winning documentary film "The Awakening" (Joris Ivens Award - First prize of one of the most important international festivals of documentary film - International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA).

Danis Tanović is a Film Ambassador of the European Film Academy, a member of the American Film Academy, European Film Academy, the French Film Academy, awarded with the medal Knighthood of Order of Arts and Writing" and "Officer of Order of Arts and Writing" in France, he was a member of the official jury of the Cannes Film Festival, the winner of the Sixth April Award of the City of Sarajevo and winner of many other national and international awards.

At the same time, Danis Tanović has, in a particularly important way, made famous Bosnia and Herzegovina on all continents and in the best light. Before reaching the fortieth year of his life, Danis has become a classic of European cinema. We are proud that this artist lives and works in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the artist who has contributed in the most important way that people in this country believe in themselves, in their country, culture, arts and education.

The Teaching-Scientific Council of the Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo with a particular pleasure started a procedure for awarding an honorary doctorate at the University of Sarajevo to Senior lecturer Danis Tanović.

Based on this initiative and support by the Academic Council of Arts Group, Teaching-Scientific Councils of the Faculty of Philosophy, Faculty of Architecture, the University of Sarajevo's Senate on the 25th Session, which had been held on 26 January 2011, reached a unanimous decision that Mr. Danis Tanović, director and Senior lecturer at the Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo, be conferred with an honorary doctorate of the University of Sarajevo (doctor honoris causa Universitatis), as the recognition for his outstanding contribution and supporting the academic development of the University of Sarajevo, its affirming of the artistic work, and as well as for the promotion of art and culture of Bosnia and Herzegovina.