

«When there is a Hitler on the ground, what can you do?»

By Milan Ruzic

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Anyone who has ever read the titles of the films and scripts by [Emir Kusturica](#), must have realized that they are the perfect material for reflection, and therefore for great questions. The next ones are inspired by some of those titles, and people who will answer them deserve at least one movie with their name as a title.

Iskra's today's interviewee, answering questions inspired by the titles of films by Emir Kusturica, is the renowned Cuban writer Daína Chaviano.

Milan Ruzic

Tell us a truth about lies.

Human beings are intrinsically good. It is society that turns them bad.

Is this the autumn of the world or some other season, considering that every nation is arming itself?

I don't know. But I prefer to think that after every winter, spring comes.

¹ Iskra is an online magazine founded by Serbian film director Emir Kusturica (Golden Lion, Venice Film Festival, 1981; *Palme d'Or*, Cannes Film Festival, 1985 & 1995; Silver Lion (Venice Film Festival, 1999). Among his films and documentaries are *Words with Gods*, *Life is a Miracle*, *The Brides Are Coming*, *Underground*, *Guernica*, and *Black Cat*, *White Cat*, among others.



Picasso painted a dramatic picture, called GUERNICA, about a town that was bombed. Do you think that bombing another country can bring that country anything but suffering?

I am against any type of aggressive actions, but what can you do sometimes when there is a Hitler (or someone like him) on the ground?

Whose brides are coming?

The ones that don't need permission from her husbands to speak, think, or act.

If you were now on the TITANIC and knew its fate, what would you drink?

Some hot chocolate to keep me warm on the icy waters.

If you could ask all the people in the world about one of the greatest forgotten artists, who would you ask them about?

The British painter Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema.

Did God desert people, or the people deserted him?

God never deserts people. It's us (some of us) who have deserted Him.

If you had a house only for hanging something in it, what would you hang there?

A painting: Water Lilies, by Monet.

We all heard about American dream. What does the Cuban dream consist of?

It depends on the Cuban you ask. The majority of Cubans living in the island dream about leaving the island. The majority of the Cubans already living outside dream about going back to their country after everything change there.



If we talked about Cuba, and someone started a sentence with these words “Once there was a country”, how would you finish it?

... that should have deserved a better fate.

Is the world of crime hidden underground or has it finally surfaced?

I guess these people exist at any level, even above our heads.

If you had a magic bus, where would you go?

Rivendell.

If we look at the political situation in the world, who would, in your opinion, be a white cat (winner), and who would represent a black cat (loser)?

The only white cat I know is the one I feed every morning at home. Everything else in the world has different shades of grey--and not in the erotic sense.

If you had to make a list of 8 greatest artists or intellectuals in the world, who would you put on it?

Albert Einstein, Leonardo Da Vinci, William Shakespeare, Homer, Michelangelo, J. S. Bach, Galileo Galilei, Louis Pasteur.

Life is a miracle! Why is this sentence true in your opinion?

Because it's an impossible that has managed to happen despite all odds.

Is art going to die any time soon?

I don't think so. It's just mutating.

Is the world about to burn, or the people will figure out something so they don't destroy this planet?

We better not open that Schrödinger box. We might be already dead.



As people, who did we not listen to enough, and we were supposed to?

Buda and Christ.

Who is the best writer ever in your opinion?

I can't decide. There are several that could deserve that position.

If you could talk to God, what would you ask him?

Next time, let me be born on another planet.

Who do you think of as the last hero alive?

I suspect is someone we have not heard of. The greatest heroes tend to be anonymous, and do the highest sacrifices without anyone notices.

What in this world can one man change?

Everything and nothing. It depends on his purpose in life and some luck.

