

## GUARDING HANNA

"Thoroughly unique black comedy ... delightfully perverse and oddly touching story."  
*Publishers Weekly, USA*

"*Guarding Hanna* is deceptively complex and ambitious ... Funny, readable, realistic and profound, *Guarding Hanna* offers a rewarding reading experience from an unlikely corner of the world."  
*Salon.com, USA*

"In his new book, *Guarding Hanna*, his first to be translated into English, [Mazzini has] created a bestial protagonist striving toward a dubiously enlightened humanity ... This bleakly comic work opens with its epilogue: 'How hard I tried! And fucked everything up.' ... The book's last 50 pages race along in one huge chase scene, with bones crunched and blood everywhere, until a shocking reversal loaded with bitter, lancing ironies."  
*Village Voice, USA*

"A tonic mix of menace and comedy that keeps things hopping right up to the book's twist ending ... Still, the novel provides a superb introduction to a vital new voice in Eastern European literature, and most of it reads beautifully, as Mazzini pits primal instinct against comforting domesticity and misanthropic gloom against the wells of generosity."  
*Seattle Times, USA*

"This is weird. Very very weird. Funny, black, totally unique. From-orphanage-to-organized-crime story / Beauty and the Beast story (gone terribly wrong) / typical thriller ... sort of. You have to see it to understand.  
I like it ... I think. Can't put it down."  
*Selfnoise, USA*

"An emotionally charged novel ... is recommended as being a particularly involving and deftly written saga."  
*Midwest Book Review, USA*

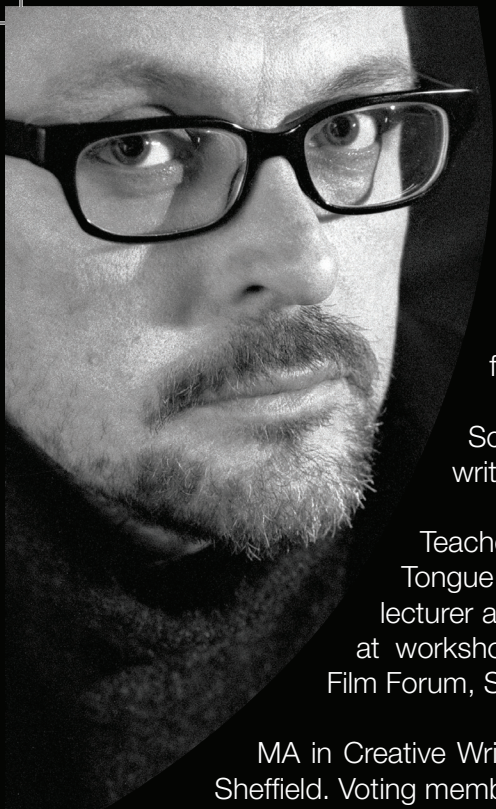
Nominated for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award,  
Selected by critics as one of the best foreign novels of 2008 in Serbia,  
Booksense's THE DAILY PICK for March 17, 2003.

photo by Tomaž Grafin



MIHA MAZZINI

design | Studio U3rek d.o.o.



## MIHA MAZZINI

is a writer, author of 22 published books translated in 8 languages. His work was selected for many anthologies.

Screenwriter of 2 award winning feature films and writer and director of 4 short films.

Teacher of writing for film at the Slovenian Show Your Tongue School of film narration (1999–2005), visiting lecturer at the Croatian Academy of Dramatic Art (2001), at workshop Palunko (2004–2005) and the Northwest Film Forum, Seattle, USA (2004).

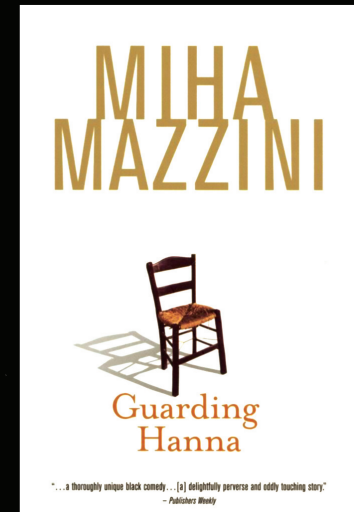
MA in Creative Writing for Film and Television at the University of Sheffield. Voting member of the European Film Academy.

Computer consultant specialized for user interfaces on the web and mobile phones applications.

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## GUARDING HANNA

The book was translated by Maja Visenjak-Limon



The hero of the novel was born hideously deformed. His posture and his physical strength are that of a gorilla, whilst his face, with its bristles and large teeth, like that of a wild boar. What does a person of above-average intelligence do with such a body other than to retreat into solitude, far from prying eyes? How can he evade the pointless attempts to socialise him made by the orphanage, mental hospital, psychiatrists and police? This farcical group cannot really help him but cannot, in an age with a firm belief that everything can be healed, admit defeat and leave him in peace either. The only person who can help him is a mafia boss who removes the burden of the do-gooders from his shoulders and supplies him with an apartment in a ghetto area, where he can at last be alone, away

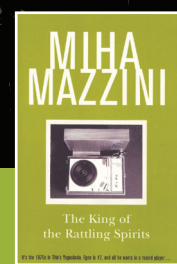
from the people he cannot bear and whose presence drives him to aggressive attacks of uncontrolled biting and strangling. A great favour, which he will one day need to return; such is their deal.

And that day finally comes. The beast must return to live once more among other people. He has to spend a week in a small suburban apartment with Hanna Woycik, guarding her from all danger as her personal bodyguard.

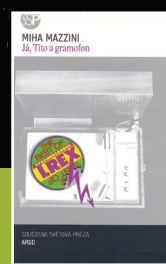
First published in 2000, 288 pages.

## SOME BOOKS BY MIHA MAZZINI

The King of the Rattling Spirits



Ja, Tito a gramafon



Slatki Snovi



Il Giradischi di Tito



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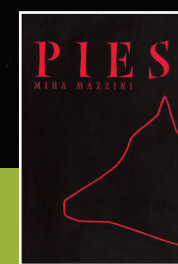
USA (Scala House Press)



USA (North Atlantic Books)



POLAND (Grube Ryby)



SERBIA (Klett)

