EUROPEAN EPILEPSY DAY 2014



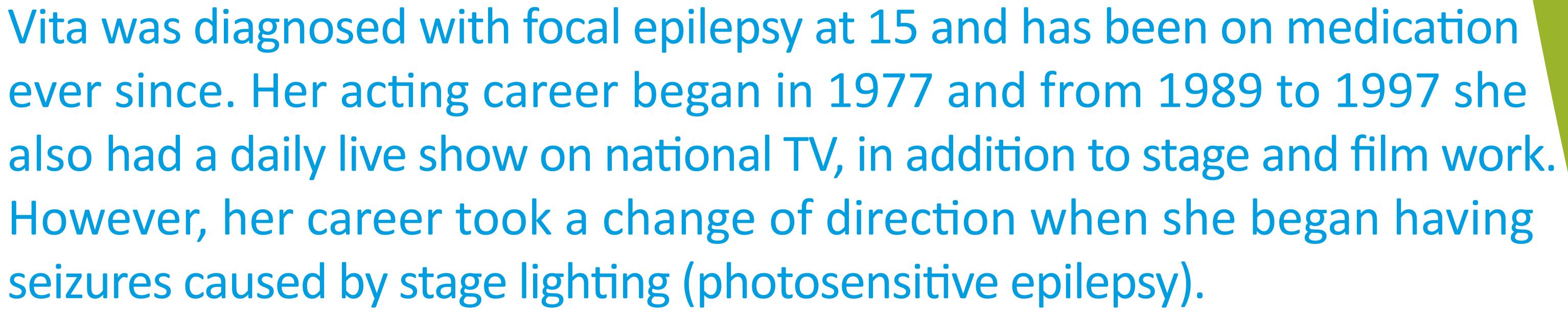
VITOMIRA LONCAR

Actor

CROATIA

Epilepsy is more than seizures

I had two seizures on stage and then I realised that it was the end....



"I had my last opening in autumn 2004. I had two seizures on stage and then I realised that it was the end..." But while the curtain closed on one career, Vita sought new opportunities. Aged 47, "when no-one believed in me", she began



- PhD studies and became a scientist. She is still the only actor in Croatia with a PhD. Today she focuses on stage production; runs her private theatre; and is assistant professor at the Music academy of Zagreb.
- "When I came 'out of the shadows', my daughter was 12. School kids were cruel to her. She was also stigmatised because I was on the front page of magazines. In Croatian we have a politically incorrect term for people with epilepsy and they called me that. 50% of the population then thought that epilepsy was a psychiatric disease". Vita says epilepsy stigma remains an issue in Croatia although, personally, she now receives good public support. However she is still the only Croatian celebrity to have
- gone public with her epilepsy.







European Epilepsy Day is organised by Epilepsy Advocacy Europe Task Force, European Advocates for Epilepsy MEP special interest group, and by national epilepsy associations across Europe