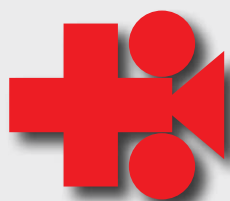
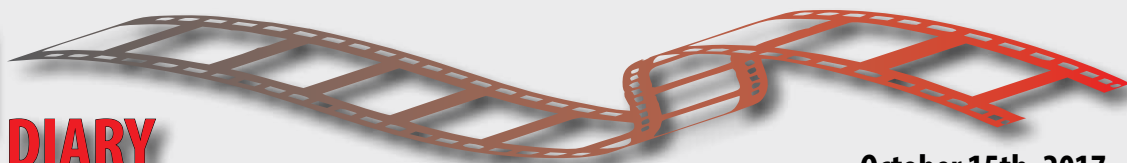


17TH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF RED CROSS AND HEALTH FILMS - VARNA 2017



DIARY



October 15th, 2017

CLOSING



After three exciting days of pleasant emotions, creative work, discussions, screenings, various events and international meetings by the sea, time came for the Official Closing of the 17th International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films 2017.

The grand ceremony of awarding the winners in the festival competition categories took place in Kamchia Resort – the official host of the film forum. The night was opened by the Festival's directors – Mr. Ilko Raev and Prof. Bozhidar Manov. The hall was full of audience, the atmosphere – festive, and the expectation in the eyes of the spectators and the smiles on their faces proved that the endeavours to organize this significant cultural event have not been in vain.

First of all, their certificates received the participants in the Festival Academy of Documentary Film Making. The trainees had acquired new skills and became acquainted with new techniques for making this type of films. The audience enjoyed the screening of the 3 shorts, result of their work during the Festival. After that, time came for the long-awaited Jury's judgment of the films in the competition. The participants were eager to hear the decisions taken by Pavel Vasev, Armagan Pekkaya, Beppe Cino, Associated Prof. Emanuela Mutafova and Yana Marinova – the Jury members. Definitely, their choice had not been easy, as the films in the festival program were many, of high quality and precisely selected. While the awards were announced, the hall was overflowing with emotions.

**The awards:****In Category RED CROSS/RED CRESCENT FILMS:**

The BEST RED CROSS/RED CRESCENT FILM AWARD went to DANDELION, dir. Jorge Bellver, Spain – for the non-standard approach to the Red Cross topics by the means of the animated cinema and for its outstanding artistic quality

The SPECIAL AWARD FOR A RED CROSS/RED CRESCENT FILM was given to the Turkish Red Crescent for its 3 films about the work of the organization with the Syrian refugees: COMMUNITY CENTER, DAYLY LIFE OF A SYRIAN FAMILY, SYRIA HUMANITARIAN OPERATION – for the highly responsible public commitment to one of the most serious problems of our time and for the humanity of their message.

The AWARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES was won by HISTORY OF GOODNESS, production of the Romanian Red Cross, dir. Alexandru Triska.

ME, YOU AND FRIENDS, directed by Borislava Dimova, Bulgaria, received the AWARD OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE BULGARIAN RED CROSS.

SPECIAL DIPLOMA FOR MASTERFUL STORYTELLING OF RED CROSS EVENTS – “ODE TO (LIFE-SAVING) JOY” – directed by Stathis Avramidis, Greece.

In Category DOCUMENTARIES:

The BEST DOCUMENTARY FILM AWARD was given to SMALL PEOPLE. BIG TREES, dir. Vadim Vitovtsev, Russian Federation, and the BEST HEALTH FILM AWARD – to TUMOUR, dir. Abbas Roozbahani, Iran.

The BEST DIRECTOR AWARD in the category was received by Leide Jacob for her film MY POETRY, Brazil – for the inspiringly presented screen story of the never-giving-up human creative spirit.

The AWARD OF THE RECTOR OF MEDICAL UNIVERSITY – VARNA, was won by 88 MHZ, dir. Yana Titova, Bulgaria – for the sincere empathy with which the young authors approach the complex and delicate theme of their peers in a disadvan-



taged position and for the inspiring example of the young film hero.

The Jury gave a SPECIAL DIPLOMA to the TELEVISION OF MEDICAL UNIVERSITY – VARNA, for its participation in the Festival with the films THE



ELISAVETA CASE, dir. Daniela Ivanova, OPTIMAL CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH HAEMOPHILIA, dir. Iva Martinova, and DIAGNOSIS CANCER...YOU ARE NOT ALONE, dir. Silvia Nikolova – for the respect and responsibility with which its young TV team regards the specialized themes, thus engaging the public attention to them.

Two other SPECIAL DIPLOMAS were given to films which, as the Jury announced, could not be left without attention – THE GOOD POSTMAN, dir. Tonislav Hristov, Finland-Bulgaria, and THE RECIPIENT, dir. Caitlin A. McKenna, New Zealand.

In Category FEATURE FILMS:

The BEST FEATURE FILM AWARD was won ENEMIES, dir. Svetoslav Ovcharov, Bulgaria

The BEST SHORT FEATURE AWARD was given to THE WAY HOME, dir. Begonia Randhav, Sweden - for the deeply emotional approach to one of the most important topics of the world today.

The BEST DIRECTOR AWARD in the category was for ARKADIY NEPYTALIUK for the film THE STRAYED, Ukraine, and the BEST SCRIPT AWARD – for Krasimir Krumov-Grets, post mortem, for the film MEMORIES OF FEAR, Bulgaria.

The AWARD OF MAYOR OF VARNA for a significant creative achievement went to THE PITCH, dir. Eduard Bordukov, Russian Federation – for the passion, with which the exceptionally serious problem of the growing aggression and violence

among young people is presented most attractively to young audience on the screen.

The Jury awarded the GRAND PRIX of the 17th International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films to the documentary film TURN LEFT NOW: SURVIVING THE UNBELIEVABLE, dir. Andru Anderson, USA

As finish of the night, the audience enjoyed the magic performance of the famous illusionist Astor, whose focuses contributed to the common good mood.

With this, the 17th edition of the film festival, organized by Bulgarian Red Cross and Medical University – Varna, was closed.



**WE ARE INTRODUCING...****GRANT MITCHELL**

Would you please introduce yourself to the guests and the audience of the 17th International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, 2017.

I am Grant Mitchell, Library and Archives Unit Manager of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva.

During your lecture in the frames of the Festival Academy of Documentary Film Making, you showed us few films about refugees, made before 1991. What was their purpose?

I selected some films, shot between 1957 and 1991, to demonstrate to the participants in the Academy the different kinds of approach to documentary cinema and to stimulate a discussion on the way films of the Red Cross activities should be made.

We have seen in the films that Red Cross was in the past quite active in providing humanitarian aid for the refugees. And what is the situation nowadays, according to you?

I am not an expert in distributing aid to refugees, but since then the things have been drastically changed. As you have seen in the film of 1967 with the Hungarian refugees, in most of the cases they themselves have been responsible of the things happening in the camp. They have been given food and clothing, but they have cooked and taken care of the camps by themselves. Today we give money to the refugees, and they buy food and clothes. I believe this is done to assure them greater independence. I am not an expert. I just think so.

Why have you chosen these films?

I have chosen them to demonstrate the way the filmmaking has been changing. The older films are long and full of explanations, now they are shorter, with more facts. The time we live in is much faster and we must keep in mind that people don't need unnecessary twists, but just the essential information.

You have an enormous archive in Geneva, do you keep there some things of Bulgarian Red Cross?

We don't have any specific documents or files of Bulgarian Red Cross, because every national organization is to keep its own archive and history. But every mention of Bulgarian Red Cross wherever, in documents or correspondence, is preserved.

And is it possible for the Bulgarian Red Cross to use the archive in Geneva for its own needs and for the popularization of the organization's activities?

Of course it is. A lot of our societies do this. For example, historians of the Australian Red Cross keep coming to Geneva to use our archive while writing their Red Cross history. One of them spent 3 weeks in the archive. A lot of the societies look for specific information connected with facts of their activities or those of Red Cross as whole. We are able to provide such information.

How do you feel as a part of an international film festival?

That's my first time at a film festival and I didn't know what to expect. I am not a cinema person and for me that's a new territory. What surprised me was that some of the films had no English subtitles, so, not speaking Bulgarian, I wasn't able to understand them. But I have met many interesting people and that was terrific.

Would you come again?

Of course.

SELECTED OF TODAY'S PROGRAM**Eleonore – the Forgotten Queen**

Bulgaria, 2012, 30', documentary
Autor: Eliana Dimitrova;
Director: Oleg Kovachev;
Camera: Anna Andreeva;
Produced by Bulgarian National television, rubric „In Frame“

On September 12th, 2017, the 100th anniversary since the death of queen Eleonore Bulgarian – the second wife of king Ferdinand, was commemorated.

A nurse and a Samaritan, she is the first woman honored with the Military Cross "For Bravery". She is the German, whom Bulgarian soldiers have called Mother. She is the savior of the Boyana Church.

Enemies

Bulgaria, 2017, 101', drama
Director: Svetoslav Ovcharov
Script: Svetoslav Ovcharov
Camera: Rali Ralchev
Cast: Asen Blatechki, Ivan Barnev, Valentin Ganev, Hristo Ushev, Stefan Mavrodiiev, Leart Dokle, Dimitar Ovcharov
Producers: Svetla Tsotsorkova, Svetoslav Ovcharov
Production: Omega Films, with the support of National Film Centre



The spring of 1913. The Balkan War. A Turkish battleship terrorizes the Bulgarian army with its long-range guns. Despite the controversy between them, a group of desperate warriors decide to carry a boat to the coast. They want to turn the boat into a human torpedo and cause the battleship sink. On their way they collide with some Turkish soldiers and instead of enemies they become their allies. Sometimes the contradictions between the Bulgarians may prove to be stronger than the hatred to the enemies.

The Star of Algiers / L'étoile d'Alger

Algeria, 2016, 101'
Director: Rachid Benhadj
Cast: Cherif Azrou, Sofia Nouacer, Abdelbacet Benkhalfa, Hacene Kerkache, Arslane Lerari, Nadjia Debbahi, Hakim Traidia, Merouane Zmirli, Azzedine Bouchemal, Slimane Horo, Raouf Fakroune

Moussa, a musician, dreams to be the Michael Jackson of Algiers. Talented and full of energy, he carries out his crazy dream by playing with his small group of musicians first at wedding parties, then in a night club. The new star of Algiers, he is going to collide with the absolute shaggy of an Islam.

