



XXI
INTERNATIONAL
RED CROSS
AND HEALTH
FILMS
FESTIVAL
Varna
12-20.06
2025





SOLVAY SODI

With a commitment to sustainable development
in a business that brings value
to people in a better world

We connect with people and society

Solvay Group Volunteering Day 2020:

We teach children to safety and save children lives

Solvay Sodi's initiative "With a seat belt in the back seat" started in 2015. In 2016, we conducted a large-scale campaign with more than 200 volunteers, which reached about 15,000 children.

Since 2017, the initiative has been under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria. The campaign enjoys the support of various institutions and many partners. Our goal is to teach children (from 1st to 4th grade) safe behavior in the car: always sit in the back seat, on a specially designed seat, with a properly fastened seat belt.

The project continued in 2020, as part of the international volunteering day of the Solvay Group. We organized it in an innovative, digital way: 4 days, 24 online presentations, 3300 children, 17 schools in Varna and the region. All of these 3,300 kids are now proud seat belt inspectors and know that seat belts save lives!



New investment

Solvay Sodi has received a Class "A" Investment Certificate from the Bulgarian Investment Agency for its "Bicarbonate of Soda Production, Packaging and Storage Facility" project, which will increase the production capacity of this product to 200,000 tons at the plant in Devnia. The implementation of the project will meet the increased needs for bicarbonate used in animal feed (Bicarex), flue gas cleaning (Solvair) and other applications.

Solvay Sodi is one of the largest investors in Bulgaria, a two-time winner of the prestigious national award "INVESTOR OF THE YEAR" in 1997 and 2007.



With health and safety in mind

Health and safety is our core value.

We work with the utmost care for the health, safety and well-being of our employees.



60 Years of Cinema in the Name of Humanism – Varna Celebrates

The International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, founded in 1965, marks its 60th anniversary with an inspiring program that unites art, culture, and human values. Once again, Varna, as the host city, becomes a stage for dialogue, solidarity, and commitment to global challenges.

Revived in 2014 through the initiative of the Bulgarian Red Cross and the Medical University of Varna, the festival will hold its 21st edition from June 12 to 20, 2025. The forum is held under the patronage of the Vice President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Iliana Yotova, who will attend the official gala ceremony on June 14.

Under the motto “Humanity Every Day in a Changing World,” this year’s event emphasizes the power of cinema as a tool for empathy, understanding, and social transformation. In times of challenges to health, the environment, and human dignity, the featured films inspire compassion and open new horizons of hope.

The anniversary edition is visually marked by a special poster created by prominent Bulgarian artist and poster designer Dimitar Traychev, encapsulating the forum’s philosophy with the message: “Films Heal the Wounds of the Soul.”

The International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films is not merely a cultural event, but a visionary platform for sustainable development and social responsibility. Each year, the festival introduces innovative practices inspired by the spirit of “green festivals”: promoting waste reduction, alternative urban mobility, lowering the carbon footprint, and actively involving socially responsible enterprises and environmental initiatives.

Throughout its six-decade history, the forum has remained true to its mission—to place the human being, their health, and dignity at the center of attention. Varna celebrates not just an anniversary, but the sustainable path of cinema in service of humanity.

This year’s competition program includes a record-breaking 226 films from 63 countries, selected from over 2,800 submitted productions. Screenings will take place at the Festival and Congress Centre – Varna, and will be divided into four competitive categories: fiction, documentary, Red Cross, and health films. Additional sections focus on ecology, mental health, cultural integration, and the relationship between art and sport.

We dedicate this celebratory edition to all donors and volunteers—those whose dedication and commitment make this cause a reality. We express our heartfelt gratitude for the financial support and broad partnerships from companies and institutions that stand behind the mission of this event.

The anniversary forum is made possible with the support of the Culture Fund – Municipality of Varna, the National Culture Fund, the Recovery and Resilience Plan, as well as through partnerships with the Bulgarian Red Cross and the Medical University of Varna.



XXI INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF RED CROSS AND HEALTH FILMS

IS POSSIBLE THANKS TO



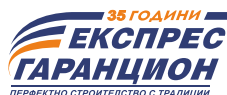
Национален план
за възстановяване
и устойчивост
НА РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ



ИЗПЪЛНИТЕЛНА
АГЕНЦИЯ
МЕДИЦИНСКИ
НАДЗОР



Областна
администрация
Варна



Висше военноморско училище
„Никола Йонков Вапцаров“



MEDIA PARTNERS



WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL CULTURE FUND
WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE CULTURE FUND OF VARNА MUNICIPALITY



ORGANIZERS



**BULGARIAN
RED CROSS**



**MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY
VARNA**



An edition of
**International Festival
of Red Cross and Health Films**

BULGARIA, 9000 Varna
3 Bratya Shkorpil Str.

e-mail: ircfilmfest@redcross.bg

www.redcrossfilmfest.org

Organizers keep the right to change the
program, locations and films in this catalogue.

For last changes you should check
the festival facebook page and the site:
redcrossfilmfest.org

WELCOME	1
CONTENT	3
ADDRESSES	4
60 YEARS OF FESTIVAL	12
BULGARIAN RED CROSS	18
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY	19
PROGRAM	20
HIGHLIGHTS	22
AWARDS	23
JURY	24
SPEAKERS AND LECTURES	30
DONATE BLOOD / GET A TICKET	38
RED CROSS FILMS	40
HEALTH FILMS	42
FEATURE FILMS	49
SHORT FEATURE FILMS	57
DOCUMENTARY FILMS	64
SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILMS	76
SILVER SCREEN	80
SPORTS	81
SHORT FILMS IRAN	84
SERIES / DISCUSSION	85
PANORAMA FEATURE FILMS	86
ELI SKORCHEVA	88
CHILDREN'S FILMS	90



Dear organizers,
Dear participants and guests,
Dear benefactors,

Best of luck to the XXI International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films! The residents and guests of Varna are once again eagerly awaiting the interesting program of the festival, the meetings with the participants. Each edition writes history, but this year is special because the festival celebrates its 60th anniversary. A long biography, which is a source of pride for its organizers and its many friends. A biography that has left a deep mark on the minds of many.

The International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films is a lesson in philanthropy, necessary for each of us in today's world of unnecessary confrontation, denial, intense change and uncertainty. A lesson that reminds us of the power of human virtues - a person is a person when they offer a hand for support and help, when they empathize with both the joy and pain of others, when they want to and can hear, understand and accept them.

Thank you for the unwavering energy and faith in the good of all the shining people who have left and continue to leave a part of themselves for the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films! Benefactors who infect us with goodness through their good deeds - for that, a vaccine will never be discovered!

It is an honor for me to be on your team!

Iliana Iotova
Vice President of the Republic of Bulgaria

DEAR MR. RAEV,
ESTEEMED PARTICIPANTS, GUESTS,
AND ORGANIZERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
OF RED CROSS AND HEALTH FILMS,



It is both an honor and a privilege to warmly welcome all of you to our city for the 21st edition of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films—an event with a rich legacy, which this year proudly marks its 60th anniversary.

Varna is home to many festivals and, over the years, has become a dynamic center of cultural, musical, scientific, and educational life—and among these, this festival occupies a truly unique and cherished place. More than a cultural gathering, the festival stands as a vital bridge between art, humanity, and social responsibility. For decades, it has provided a platform for dialogue, empathy, shared values, and creative inspiration—principles we must not only uphold but also pass on to future generations.

I express my deepest congratulations to all participants for their commitment to telling meaningful stories and creating impactful artistic experiences. Your boldness in exploring innovative forms of expression, addressing pressing social issues, and offering fresh perspectives on complex and sensitive topics is truly commendable. I also express my genuine gratitude to the organizers, whose professionalism and unwavering dedication have sustained the spirit and legacy of this remarkable forum.

My appreciation extends as well to the volunteers, healthcare professionals, artists, and audience members who bring this festival to life and transform it into a celebration of human dignity, empathy, and shared understanding. Your commitment to guiding younger generations toward solidarity and mutual support in today's fast-paced, often challenging world is profoundly admirable.

I applaud each of you for your distinctive creative voice, which has, for so many years, fostered open and honest dialogue about the urgent issues of our time. May this jubilee edition of the festival move us one step closer to a more compassionate, resilient, and humane world!

Wishing you all inspiring days, great success, and well-being.

Blagomir Kotsev
Mayor of Varna Municipality



Dear participants, guests, and friends of the Festival,

It is both an honor and a pleasure to welcome you to the **21st edition of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films** – an event with deep-rooted traditions, an inspiring mission, and a lasting contribution to humanitarian culture.

This year, we mark the **60th anniversary of the Festival** – a worthy milestone that reaffirms Varna as a global center of cinema dedicated to the human condition, health, solidarity, and the moral dimensions of the modern world.

Under the emblematic motto “**Through Humanity to Peace and Friendship**,” the Festival continues to unite artists, doctors, volunteers, and audiences from all continents, transforming into a platform for dialogue, sharing, and inspiration.

We are honored that the Vice President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Ms. Iliana Yotova, is the patron of the Festival. This is not only a sign of institutional support, but also an inspiring message to all of us – that culture, solidarity, and human values continue to serve as guiding principles in today’s society. Through her public engagement and consistent support for humanitarian causes, Ms. Yotova brings depth and authority to our mission.

We are particularly proud that **Bulgarian cinema** is in the spotlight of this year’s program, with 24 titles that proudly represent our national cinematography to the international audience. Among more than 2,800 submitted films from around the world, the selection of 226 films from 62 countries stands as a testament to the prestige and **global** reach of our forum.

I extend my sincere thanks to all who, through their hard work, heart, and vision, have transformed this Festival into a celebration of humanism – to the organizers, partners, institutions, volunteers, and of course, the participants from Bulgaria and across the globe.

I express special gratitude to our long-standing partners from the Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna for their dedicated support and key role in establishing the Festival as a significant international event.

May this remarkable forum inspire us to continue working for a world in which kindness, compassion, and mutual understanding are the leading values.

I wish you a fruitful participation, unforgettable encounters, and moving cinematic experiences!

Acad. Hristo Grigorov, dr. h.c.
President of Bulgarian Red Cross



Dear Organizers,
Dear Participants,
Dear Guests,

Please accept my warmest congratulations on the opening of the 21st edition of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, which this year marks the 60th anniversary of its founding!

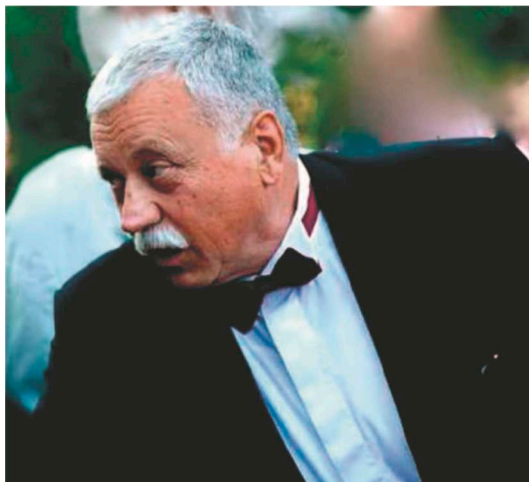
It is an honor for the Medical University – Varna to be part of this event, which has a long-standing tradition in our maritime capital and enjoys significant public recognition. Our commitment to humanitarian values, to high-quality education, and to innovation in healthcare finds its natural expression in supporting initiatives like this one—initiatives that bring together professionalism, empathy, and cultural dialogue.

I am confident that the rich and diverse program will once again inspire the festival's loyal audience, sparking meaningful discussions and fresh ideas in the name of human dignity and well-being.

I wish you all good health and every success.

Best wishes for a successful event!

Prof. Dimitar Raikov, MD, PhD, DSc
*Rector of the Medical University
"Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna*



Dear friends,

With great excitement and pride, I welcome you to the 60th anniversary edition of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films – a cultural and humanitarian event with deep traditions and a strong future!

Sixty decades – this is not just a number. It is a span of time filled with mission, with countless stories of humanity, suffering, hope, and recovery. It is a stage where cinema speaks from the heart, in service of universal humanitarian principles and health as a core value.

Fifteen years ago, the Festival was revived through hard work, love, and faith – and today, it once again stands as an important forum that brings together creators, professionals, and audiences from around the world. Together, we continue to build a space for dialogue, empathy, and the shaping of a better future.

I thank all those who have supported the Festival over the years – institutions, partners, volunteers, artists, and audiences! Without you, this journey would not have been possible.

Long live the Festival!

Long live Humanity!

Ilko Raev
Director of
International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films



Dear participants and organizers,
Dear guests,
Dear volunteers,

In 2014, after nearly a quarter of a century of interruption, we revived one of the most prestigious festivals of our maritime capital – the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films – driven by enthusiasm, faith, and a desire to create.

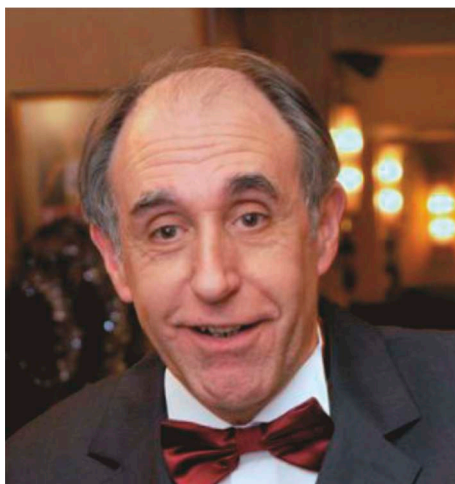
Alongside our primary goal at the time – to gather and showcase the finest films focused on pressing humanitarian and health-related issues, produced by Red Cross organizations around the world – we also set ourselves a higher mission: to transform Varna into a spiritual haven for art and health, a home of compassion and solidarity.

Today, as we eagerly anticipate the opening of the 21st edition of this remarkable film forum, which this year celebrates its 60th anniversary, I am once again filled with hope and confidence. I firmly believe that the challenges of the modern world can be overcome through education, science, and culture.

As a leading educational and scientific institution, the Medical University – Varna fulfills its mission not only through the training of students, doctoral candidates, and specialists, but also through its service to society at large. I am convinced that during the festival, Varna will become not only a stage for the best health-related films, but also a cradle for the revival of the high moral values that make us truly human – humanity, kindness, compassion, empathy, solidarity, gratitude, and integrity.

Let us work together to build a world in which goodness has a lasting future.

Prof. Dr. Krasimir Ivanov, MD, PhD, DSc
Chairman of the General Assembly
Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna



Dear participants and guests,
Dear festival audience,

It so happened that I am writing these lines on the very International Day of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, when the radio reminded me of the date just as I was sitting down in front of the computer and calculating how many years have passed since Henri Dunant's spontaneous idea, after the bloody battle of Solferino (1859), to organize the people from the surrounding villages and care for the thousands of dead and wounded left on the battlefield.

Today, we all commemorate this memorable day, paying tribute to the millions of volunteers and humanitarian workers who tirelessly help people in need all over the world. It is no coincidence that volunteering is one of the seven purest and most powerful principles of the international Red Cross movement, because humanism, or as we say in Bulgarian – humanity, is the ordinary manifestation of everyday morality, without which our existence loses its meaning. This undeniable truth is most concentrated in the simple verbal motto: "Blood is red everywhere."

These timeless ideas are dedicated to the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, which was born here in Varna 60 years ago, and later, rightfully so, received the highest "A" category in the international festival rankings. Unfortunately, its highly beneficial cultural flame was extinguished after the changes of 1989, but with the efforts of the Varna Regional Red Cross Council, in collaboration with the Medical University and with the decisive support of the National Council of the Bulgarian Red Cross, the festival was revived in 2014 to once again light up the screen with a rich and diverse film program, along with many other parallel events. This is what the present XXI edition will also be like! We hope that not only the viewers in Varna, but also through the media across the entire country, will appreciate the significance and value of such a cultural event, especially important in the difficult times we are living in.

May 8, 2025

Prof. Dr. Bozhidar Manov
Artistic Director

Festival and Congress Center – Varna has 10 multifunctional halls with a capacity of 50 to 1000 seats, a restaurant, cafe-bars and summer terraces, located under one roof on 4000 square meters on the busiest street in Varna – on the largo in front of the central entrance of the Sea Garden and only 50 meters from the beach promenade. Built in 1986 according to a project by arch. Kosyu Hristov, with its 80000 cubic meters, almost half of which is underground, with its clean lines and modern silhouette, its building looks both impressive and elegant and today is one of the architectural symbols of Varna. Events of various kinds are held daily in the halls of the Festival and Congress Center: film screenings, concerts, theater tours, literary readings, children's performances, art exhibitions, various exhibitions, conference events, seminars, company presentations, trainings, national and citywide celebrations, school holidays and corporate events. All of them create the image of the multifunctional complex as a center of events.





HUMANITY EVERY DAY IN A CHANGING WORLD

The International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films celebrates its 60th anniversary with a program that unites cinema, culture, and humanitarian values.

The XX1st edition of the festival will be held June 12 - 20, 2025, in Varna, Bulgaria, traditionally under the patronage of the Vice President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mrs. Iliana Yotova. The motto of this year's edition – "Humanity Every Day in a Changing World" – emphasises the role of art as a means of dialogue and social change in the context of global challenges related to health, human dignity, and the environment.

The special poster created for the anniversary edition is the work of the renowned Bulgarian poster artist Dimitar Traychev, who presents his idea with the words: "Films heal emotional wounds."

The program of the anniversary edition of the festival includes 226 films from 63 countries, chosen from over 2,800 submitted productions. The films in the competition programme are selected by a committee chaired by Prof. Dr. Bozhidar Manov, artistic director of the festival. The program presents over 20 premiere titles, accompanied by meetings with their creative teams.

Particular attention is paid to the importance of cinema for special groups, as

part of the program includes Cinema for Children, with the aim of educating the younger generation in love for cinema and a critical attitude towards films. The special program "Silver Screen 60+" is aimed at viewers in their third age.

The festival also offers an Academy with training and workshops, a Discussion Forum for the exchange of ideas, a Panorama of awarded films from previous editions, and an interactive exhibition. The Cross Section initiative offers a meeting of genres and themes, while international events enhance the prestige of the festival and stimulate international cooperation.

The screenings take place in the Festival and Congress Center – Varna, distributed in four competition categories: feature films with a humanitarian focus, documentaries on the themes of medicine, healthcare, ecology, migration, human rights and disasters, health films with a focus on medicine and healthcare, and films of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, reflecting the activities of organisations around the world. Additional sections are dedicated to ecology, mental health, cultural integration, and the connection between art and sports.

The Artistic Director of the Festival is Prof. Dr. Bozhidar Manov. The international



'75 "GOLDEN SHIP" - GRAND AWARD OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE BULGARIAN RED CROSS

jury, which evaluates the films in the competition program, includes leading eminent names from the world of cinema, culture, healthcare and humanitarian work. The Chairman of the jury is Denis Bojic from the Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina, a two-time laureate of the Festival for Best Film (2023) and Best Director (2019). Among the members are film directors Assoc. Prof. Martichka Bozhilova and Zlatina Teneva from Bulgaria, as well as producers Dimitar Dereliev – Darzi (Bulgaria) and Luis Valentí (Spain), creator director of the International Film Festival in Girona, Spain, actors Eli Skorcheva and Paraskeva Dzhukelova (Bulgaria), art critic and cultural manager Kamen Balkanski, as well as Giuseppe Cuscuza from Italy – director of the International Film Festival COLIFFE in Rome, contribute their expertise. Representatives of the organisers also participate in the jury – Medical University

Varna and Bulgarian Red Cross.

Parallel to the competitive part, the festival offers a diverse accompanying program of meetings, discussions, and round tables, in which leading experts such as Kamen Balkanski, Prof. Tatyana Burudjieva, sociologist, Dr. Tsveteslava Galabova, psychologist, Pavlina Zheleva, film critic and producer, Prof. Alexander Donev, Georgi Cholakov, Borislav Chuchkov, producers, as well as actors from the series "Anxiety" – Iliyan Dzhevelev, Ani Papadopulu, and Dr. Ivan Igov, psychologist, take part. The lectures are available online through the festival's YouTube channel, and viewers have the opportunity to ask questions via social media.

This year, special emphasis is placed on the possibilities for an ecological lifestyle in the modern urban environment. Innovations for urban transport with the help of shared electric bicycles from the

OPENING OF IX-th FESTIVAL (1981)





partners of Top Mobility are presented, care for the environment through planting flowers in small neglected spaces and the use of materials with a short lifespan, such as billboard vinyls from previous editions, to create durable and useful accessories such as bags and pencil cases.

During the festival, the campaign "Donate Blood - Get a Ticket" is held, organised jointly with the Regional Center for Transfusion Haematology. It is realised thanks to Vladislav Nikolov with the campaign "I believe and help", which collects plastic caps to support the purchase of life-saving medical equipment and specialised ambulances.

In 2025, Nikolov will be awarded the title "Honorary Citizen of Varna" for his charitable activities.

The anniversary edition of the festival includes a special Gala ceremony for donors, during which volunteers, blood donors, and organ donors receive well-deserved recognition. Within the festival, a special award is presented for contribution to cinema dedicated to humanity, which is awarded to actress Eli Skorcheva. She was



GOLD MEDAL of 10-th FESTIVAL (1983)

awarded for the main role twice at the festival for the films "Adaptation" (1979) and "Eva on the Third Floor" (1987).

The International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films (IFRCHF) was founded in 1965 and is the first of its kind international film forum in Bulgaria. The event is carried out with the support of UNESCO, the World Health Organisation, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as the Bulgarian Red Cross. Thanks to its category "A" status from the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF), it ranks among the



leading festivals in the world – on par with those in Cannes, Berlin, and Venice.

Its beginning was set in Varna, where one of the central cinemas hosts an international film review on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Bulgarian Red Cross. Within a week, 53 productions from 16 countries, dedicated to health topics and humanitarian causes, are presented. The films are evaluated by an international jury, and most of them are the work of national Red Cross societies and health education institutions.

Spurred by the enthusiasm of organisers and participants – doctors, film creators and humanitarian workers – the idea arises to establish the event as a regular international festival. It is decided to be held once every two years and to include television and feature films with a social and medical orientation. The organisation is taken over by the Central Committee of the BRC, and international support comes from the then League (now Federation) of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, WHO, and UNESCO. It is usually held in the months of May or June.

The festival receives the highest international rating from other institutions, such as the International Federation of Film Critics (CIDALK). This prestige places it among forums of the highest class such as those in Venice, San Sebastian, and others.

The festival developed intensively until 1991, when it was interrupted due to changes in the socio-political environment. After more than two decades of pause, in 2014 it was restored on the initiative of the Bulgarian Red Cross, Medical University - Varna, and Iliya Raev with a renewed concept and expanded international scope.

The "International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films" foundation was established by the BRC and MU – Varna, with a governing body and secretariat. Mr. Ilko Raev was elected as the director - creator of numerous international forums, including the film festival "Love is Folly." From the very beginning, the motto of the festival - "Through Humanity to Friendship and Peace" - inspires its program and continues to guide it today, as the power of cinema is used to focus on important social themes such as healthcare, human rights,





ecology, migration and personal destinies. The aims of the forum are aimed at supporting the humanitarian principles of the Red Cross, promoting tolerance, cooperation and intercultural dialogue, stimulating social integration and the development of personal and professional potential, as well as forming values and respect for human life.

The festival is a biennial, which after its restoration is under the patronage of the Vice President of the Republic of Bulgaria. In 2015, the Academy of the festival was created - an educational format that combines lectures, workshops and a specially selected film program for professionals and the general public. In recent years, it has expanded its scope with the initiative "Traveling Festival Panorama", through which selected films are presented in various cities and universities in the country, with the aim of engaging a wider audience and inspiring young people with humanitarian themes.

The festival is establishing itself as a sustainable cultural model, which actively contributes to the revitalisation of the artistic scene in Varna. Through an interdisciplinary program combining cinema, science, photography and performing arts, connections are built between culture, society and nature - in the spirit of the "New European Bauhaus" initiative.

Evidence of the festival's growing authority are the six regular editions and five academies with a rich accompanying program:

- * in 2014, the fifteenth edition, 125 film productions from 20 countries participated;
- * in 2015 - 145 films from 25 countries participated;
- * in 2017 - 1890 films from 107 countries were submitted for the competition, 201 from 49 countries were selected;
- * in 2019 – a record of over 3000 films

from 118 countries, 206 were selected from 59 countries;

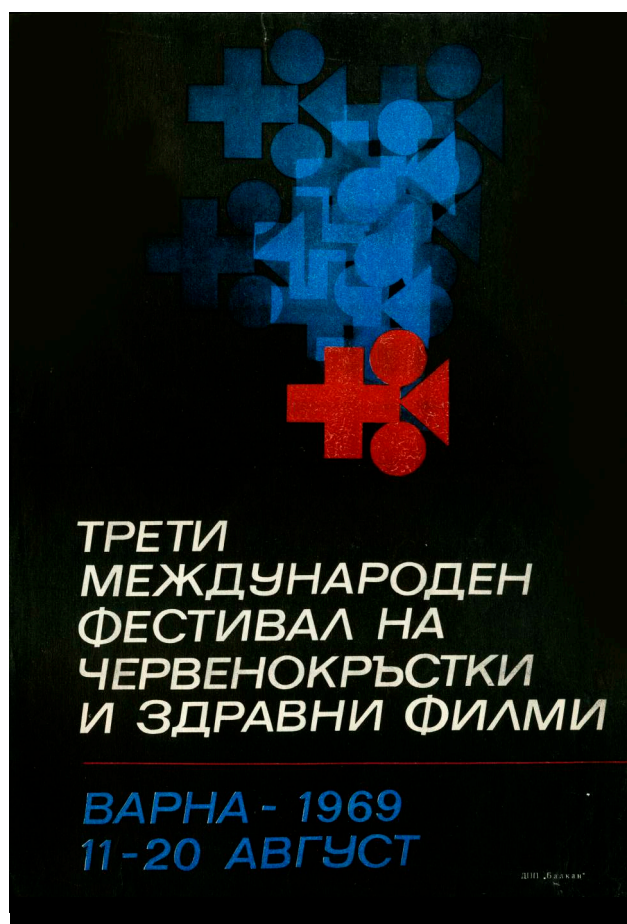
- * in 2021 - 1281 films from 101 countries, 68 were selected from 18 countries;

- * in 2023 – 1416 films from 92 countries, 30 films were selected from 21 countries.

The Film Academy is held in the years between the competition editions under the title "Aggression – Humanity – Cinema". It presents non-competitive films that put important humanitarian problems on the agenda. The discussion forums, in which the topics set by the screen and by society are discussed by representatives of the Red Cross, filmmakers, leading doctors, sociologists, psychologists, journalists and an active audience, are particularly valuable. Through partnerships with leading media, these conversations reach a wide audience and contribute to the popularization of Red Cross ideas.

These data show that society not only continues to be interested in the idea embedded in the festival's motto - "Through humanism to friendship and peace" - but also actively supports it.

II-th FESTIVAL POSTER (1969)



TOP MOBILITY

SHARED ELECTRIC BIKES





BULGARIAN RED CROSS

The Bulgarian Red Cross carries out its activities in fulfillment of its main goal to alleviate and prevent human suffering with impartiality and neutrality, without making any distinction as to nationality or race, gender, social status, religious beliefs or political views. The Bulgarian Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross Movement and is guided by its fundamental principles: neutrality, humanism, impartiality, independence, voluntariness, unity and universality. Through its network of volunteers throughout the country, the BRC supports vulnerable people in disaster and crisis situations. Through activities for the benefit of society, it contributes to the alleviation and prevention of suffering in all its

forms, protects health and life and ensures respect for the human person. In fulfillment of its humanitarian mission, the BRC implements activities related to reducing the vulnerability and social exclusion of the most needy in order to improve their quality of life, provides services and conducts campaigns and trainings related to protecting the life and health of people - in first aid, in road safety prevention, etc. The Bulgarian Red Cross assists the state in the event of disasters, accidents, crises and military conflicts. The organization is part of the country's Unified Rescue System. The Bulgarian Youth Red Cross, through its thousands of volunteers, carries out activities throughout the country to promote humanitarian values, prevent violence and socially significant diseases, educate children and young people in a healthy lifestyle, first aid, psychological first aid and psychosocial support. The Bulgarian Red Cross provides assistance through the Mountain Rescue Service to victims of incidents in the mountains, and the Water Rescue Service trains qualified water rescuers and works to prevent water trauma.





Medical University – Varna was established in 1961 and bears the name of Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov – the man who laid the foundations of the first Bulgarian surgical school in the history of medicine in our country. MU-Varna offers uncompromising quality in education. It is the first and only university in the country to introduce the Business Excellence model of the European Foundation for Quality Management in 2008. The diplomas issued by the university are recognized in all European countries. The attractive multinational environment, high-tech teaching methods and tools, training in real and simulation environments, highly qualified teachers, modern educational and clinical facilities, wonderful conditions for sports in the seaside capital are just some of the reasons why students from Bulgaria and 53 countries around the world have chosen to study at Medical University – Varna. The university educates more than 5,000 students, postgraduates and doctoral students in the faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and

Public Health, in the Medical College and in the branches in Sliven, Veliko Tarnovo and Shumen. The educational institution partners with more than 80 international partners from 5 continents. The university is also proud of the sporting achievements of its graduates in swimming, football, volleyball, basketball, tennis, handball and boxing. The university also has a sailing team that competes with its own sailing boat. The theater troupe "Infarct" and the Student Dance Ensemble "Diana" at MU-Varna have won numerous awards at national and international competitions. The university also develops active community service activities by initiating and conducting a number of social, health and information campaigns organized by students and faculty, such as blood donation drives, "Diabetes" campaigns, anti-spin campaigns, a student "No Tobacco Smoke" campaign, campaigns promoting oral health and many others.

**June 12, 2025 / Thursday /**

Square in front of the
Festival and Congress Center

18:00 Welcoming guests

HALL 1

18:30 OFFICIAL OPENING /
BATTLEFIELD (2024) Italy, 104'

21:00 FALLEN LEAVES (2023) Finland, Germany, 81'

June 13, 2025 / Friday /**HALL EUROPE**

18:30 Pharr, Texas (Denmark), 2025, 78', feature

20:00 Poet on the River (South Korea) 2025, 103',
feature

HALL 5

15:00 Health Films #1

16:30 The Burden of Debt (Bulgaria), 2024, 52',
documentary

17:30 Eve on the Third Floor (Bulgaria), 1987, 95',
panorama actor

HALL 6

15:00 Documentary Short Films #1

16:15 Documentary Short Films #2

17:30 The Last Letter to Nasser (Egypt), 2023, 60',
documentary

PRESSCENTER

15:00 Short Feature Films #1

16:15 Short Feature Films #2

17:30 Through Elizabeth (Norway), 2023, 76',
documentary

19:00 Anxiety (Bulgaria), 2025, 54', panorama health
films

June 14, 2025 / Saturday /**HALL 1**

18:30 Gala Evening Nothing Can Stop You (Bulgaria),
2025, 56', documentary

20:30 The Blue Trail (Brazil, Mexico, Netherlands,
Chile), 2025, 85', fiction

HALL EUROPE

18:30 The Smell of Burnt Milk (Germany), 2024, 79',
feature

20:00 Water Lilies (South Korea), 2024, 119', feature

HALL 5

15:00 Short Documentaries #3

16:15 How to Kill a River (Brazil), 2025, 96',
documentary

18:00 Firestorm, fires in Patagonia (Argentina),
2024, 61' documentary

HALL 6

15:00 Short Feature Films #3

16:15 The Volunteers (Argentina), 2024, 63',
documentary

17:30 State of Passion (Lebanon), 2024, 90',
documentary

PRESSCENTER

15:00 Clarice's Dream (Brazil), 2023, 83', children's

16:30 Sports Shorts #1

19:00 Beautiful Days (Japan, Germany), 2023, 124',
fiction

June 15, 2025 / Sunday /**HALL EUROPE**

18:30 Lykke After Birth (Sweden), 2025, 86', fiction

20:00 Wait to Hear Mine (Turkey, Bulgaria,
Romania), 2025, 114', fiction

HALL 5

15:00 Short Feature Films #4

16:15 Short Feature Films #5

17:30 Goodbye Breasts! (Australia, United Kingdom),
2025, 69', documentary

HALL 6

15:00 The Fugitive Dodo (Bulgaria), 2025, 32',
children's film

15:45 Oblivion (Bulgaria), 2021, 28', documentary

16:15 Silver Screen Short Films

17:30 Red Cross Films:

The Red Boat Passes By (USA), 2024, 39'

Women of Mercy (Russia), 2023, 26'

June 16, 2025 / Monday /**HALL EUROPE**

18:30 When Santa Claus Was a Communist (Bosnia
and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia), 2024, 86',
feature

20:00 Continental 25 (Romania, Switzerland,
Luxembourg, Brazil, United Kingdom), 2025,
109', feature

HALL 5

15:00 Short Films No. 6

16:15 The Wing of LAMASU (Iraq), 2024, 45',
documentary

17:30 Body (Slovenia), 2023, 92', health

HALL 6

15:00 Panorama Short Films IRAN #1

16:15 Panorama Short Films IRAN #2

17:30 Dash (Lebanon), 2023, 98', documentary

PRESSCENTER

15:00 Short Documentaries #4
 16:15 Health Films #2
 17:30 Short Sports Films #2
 19:00 Anxiety (Bulgaria), 2025, 54', panorama health films

June 17, 2025 / Tuesday /

HALL EUROPE

18:30 Take Me Home (Bulgaria), 2024, 83', feature
 20:00 Vrutos (Argentina), 2024, 100', feature

HALL 5

15:00 Health Films #3
 16:30 Children Beyond War (Austria, Belgium, France, Moldova, Republic, Ukraine), 2024, 48', documentary
 17:30 Incompatible with Life (Brazil), 2023, 93', documentary

HALL 6

15:00 Short Films #7
 16:15 The Oath (Spain), 2024, 73', health films
 17:30 9 Month Contract (Georgia, Bulgaria, Germany), 2025, 79', documentary

PRESSCENTER

15:00 Documentary Shorts #5
 16:15 Documentary Shorts #6
 17:45 La Chimera (Italy, France, Switzerland), 2023, 131', feature

June 18, 2025 / Wednesday /

HALL EUROPE

18:30 Eternity Package (Bulgaria, Italy), 2024, 85', feature
 20:00 Lambs May Graze in Peace (Italy), 2024, 90', feature

HALL 5

15:00 Health Films #4
 16:15 Health Films #5
 17:30 Joppari - The Nurse, Miki Hanada (Japan), 2024, 89', Red Cross

HALL 6

15:00 Short Fiction No. 8
 16:15 Diagnonsense (Norway), 2024, 73', health
 17:30 School of Hope (Bulgaria), 2024, 82', documentary

PRESSCENTER

15:00 Documentary Short Films #7
 16:15 Documentary Short Films #8
 17:30 ARI - A Story of Love and Life (Spain), 2024, 56', documentary
 18:30 Flow (Latvia, France, Belgium), 2024, 84', children's

June 19, 2025 / Thursday /

HALL EUROPE

18:00 On Board the Adaman (France, Japan), 2023, 109', documentary
 20:00 Blaga's Lessons (Bulgaria), 2023, 114', panorama actor

HALL 5

15:00 Panorama Short Films IRAN No. 3
 16:15 Step by Step (Switzerland, Ukraine), 2024, 61', documentary
 17:30 Geri's Wish (Bulgaria, Finland), 2024, 83', documentary

HALL 6

15:00 Short Films No. 9
 16:15 Sinara (Russia), 2025, 72', health
 17:30 The Doche River is Missing (Brazil, France), 2024, 72', documentary

PRESSCENTER

15:00 Documentary Shorts #9
 16:15 Naima (Switzerland), 2024, 98', documentary
 18:00 Cracking the Code: Phil Sharp and the Biotech Revolution (USA), 2024, 109', health

June 20, 2025 / Friday /

HALL EUROPE

18:30 CLOSING
 20:30 Everything Has an End (Croatia, Bulgaria, Serbia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey), 2024, 89', feature

ALL SCREENINGS TAKE PLACE IN THE HALLS OF



НАЦИОНАЛЕН ДВОРЕЦ НА КУЛТУРАТА - КОНГРЕСЕН ЦЕНТЪР ВАРНА
 NATIONAL PALACE OF CULTURE - CONGRESS CENTRE VARNA

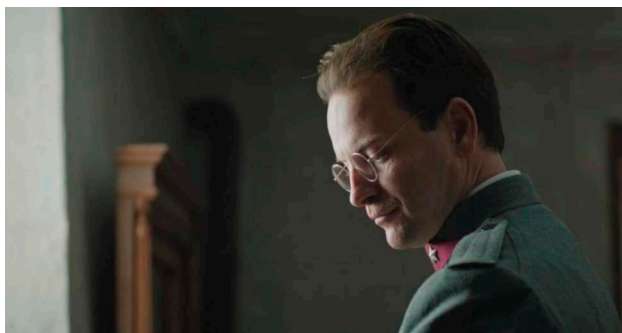
The organizers reserve the right to make changes to the program.
 The current program can be found on the festival's Facebook page and on the festival website: redcrossfilmfest.org



HALL 1 / 12.06 THURSDAY 18:30

OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL

The official opening will be held in Hall 1 of the festival complex in Varna with the film **Battlefield** (Italy).



HALL 1 / 14.06 SATURDAY 18:30

GALA EVENING

On the occasion of World Blood Donor Day, the Gala evening organized by the International Federation of Blood Donors (IFB) will be attended by all the guests of honor of the festival. At the end of the evening, the film **"Nothing Can Stop You"** (Bulgaria) will be screened for three of the major charity campaigns in Bulgaria.



EUROPE HALL / 20.06 FRIDAY 18:30



CLOSING
AWARD CEREMONY



PRESSCENTER / 13-20.06 - 10:00

Every morning with coffee and a croissant you will be able to sit in the FC Press Center and hear what highlights of the day are coming up, as well as meet with artists who presented their films the day before.

PRESSCENTER / 13-20.06 - 11:00

The time for waking up has passed and we can seriously sit down to discuss the topics that concern us daily - mental health, volunteering, transplants, ecology, urban environment and many others. Don't miss the speakers in our lectures from 11 am every day in the press center of the Festival Complex - Varna.

AWARDS

1./1/ **The Grand Prix** of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films – for the best film of the Festival;

Special Award of the Jury – for a film representing work of art, innovation, civil positions or else, formulated by the Jury as cinematic achievement;

Best Director Award;

Best Screenplay Award;

/2/ The 1/1/ awards are nominated among all the films in the competition regardless of their category of competition.

2. Awards in the competition categories :

/1/ Red Cross and Red Crescent Films Category:

Best Film Award;

Special Award on behalf of the President of the Bulgarian Red Cross

/2/ Documentary films category

Best Full-length Film Award;

Best Short-length Film Award;

Special Award on behalf of the Rector of the Medical University of Varna

/3/ Cross-section films category

Best Film Award;

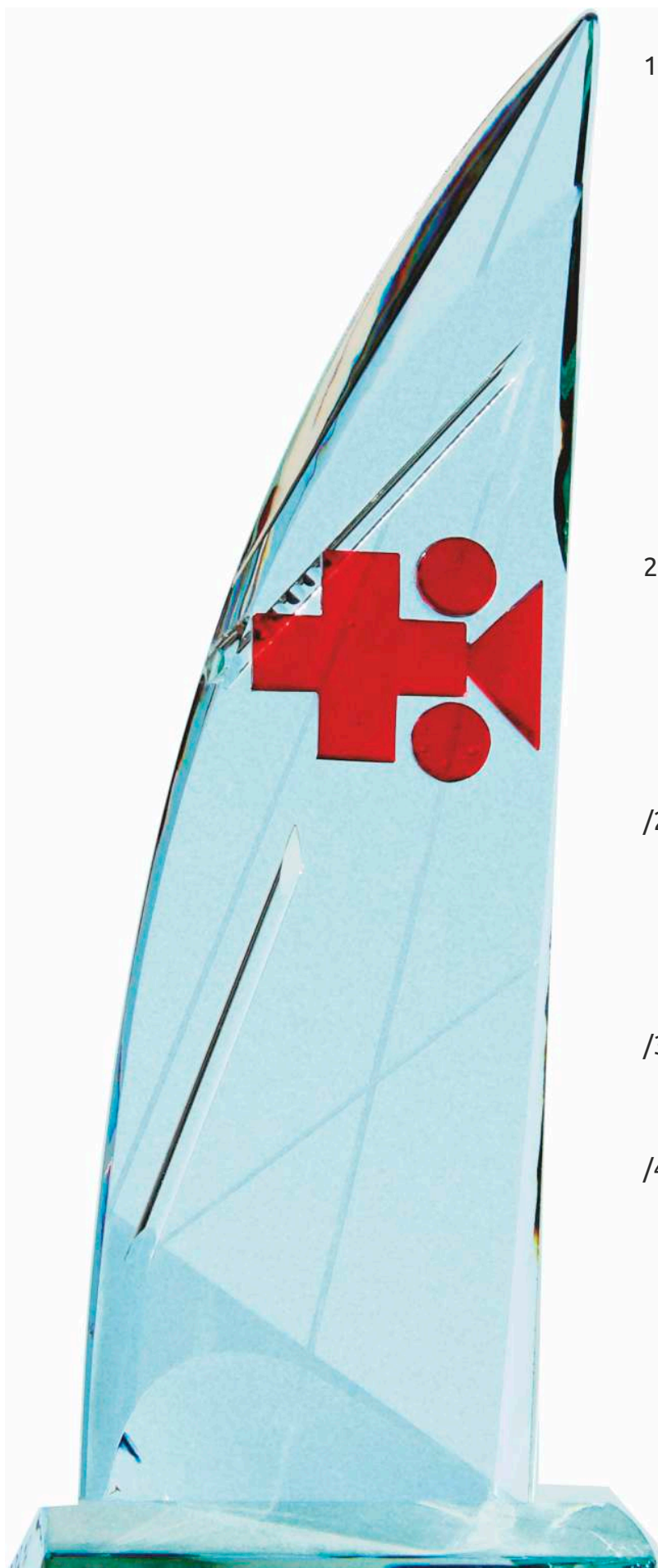
Special Award;

/4/ Feature films category:

Best Full-length Film Award;

Best Short-length Film Award;

Special Award on behalf of the Mayor of Varna (for a film with high quality, regardless of the length)





Denis Bojic
Republika Srpska
chairman

Denis Bojić (born in Bjelovar, Croatia) is a film director, screenwriter and journalist from Republika Srpska. He graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy in Banja Luka, majoring in journalism, and is defending his master's thesis in the field of political analytics, focusing on the role of civil society in democratic processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since 2013, he has been working in the documentary department of Radio Television Republika Srpska (RTRS). He is currently the director of the Memorial Center of Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bojić is the author of a number of documentaries, including Vukovar Blues, Children and Faces of Lafora. The film Faces of Lafora (2017) follows a family's struggle against the rare genetic disease Lafora disease and was presented in the French Senate and the European Parliament.

The film Children received the main award "Golden Knight" at the Russian festival of the same name. In 2021 Bojic received a special recognition from UNICEF for the film "Some New Broadway", which tells the story of young people with Down syndrome participating in a theater company. In 2023, his film "Some New Broadway" won the award for best documentary in the field of health at the International Film Festival "Golden FEMI" in Sofia. Denis Bojic is a two-time winner of the IFCHF Best Director award. His work is distinguished by deep humanity, social commitment and a desire for change through the power of documentary cinema.



Prof. Martichka Bozhilova
Bulgaria

Assoc. Prof. Martichka Bozhilova is a lawyer, theologian, art manager, curator and lecturer in "Film and Television Production". She is the founder and director of the production house AGITPROP, one of the most innovative film companies in Southeast Europe, winner of numerous international awards.

She produced the documentaries "George and the Butterflies", "The Mosquito Problem and Other Stories", "Corridor No. 8", "Concrete Pharaohs" and "Hotel Paradise" - the first original Bulgarian productions for HBO. She is also one of the producers of the first Bulgarian omnibus film "15".

She is the winner of the prestigious International Trailblazer Award, awarded by Robert Redford and the Sundance Channel in 2006 in Cannes, for her contribution to contemporary documentary cinema.

Assoc. Bozhilova is the director of the Balkan Documentary Center, a lecturer at European workshops, the official representative of the European Documentary Network (EDN) for Bulgaria, and the producer of the documentary film Bear with Me – the first Bulgarian finalist at the Content Warsaw 2024 forum.



Zlatina Teneva
Bulgaria

Zlatina Teneva is a Bulgarian documentary filmmaker, director, and producer. She graduated in journalism from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and has worked as a director and researcher on projects for ARTE and Deutsche Welle. In 2020, she participated in the prestigious European documentary workshop DOC Campus.

Her directorial debut, "A Provincial Hospital" (2022), co-directed with Iliyan Metev and Ivan Chertov, was presented in the main competition program of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival and won the Ecumenical Jury Prize. The film was awarded Best Film at the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films (IFRCHF) in 2023.

Zlatina Teneva is part of the new generation of socially engaged authors in Bulgarian documentary cinema, combining journalistic insight and cinematic sensitivity.



Dimitar Dereiev - Darzi
Bulgaria

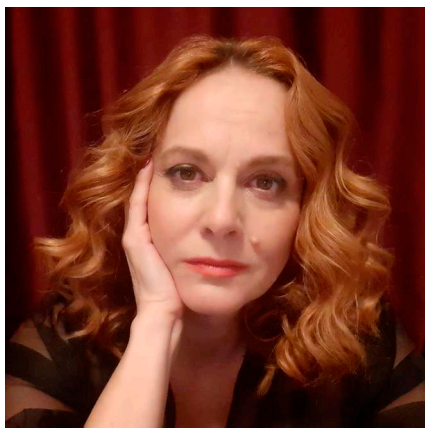
Dimitar Dereliev – Darzi is a Bulgarian producer, screenwriter, and director, born in Asenovgrad. He graduated in law from Sofia University (1980) and specialised in electronic media in London (1995).

He is the founder and director of the National Film Center (1991–1999, 2002–2003). Over the years, he has held numerous key positions in the cultural and film sphere: member of the interim National Council for Radio and Television (1992–1997), chairman of the "Filmautor" Association (2000–2001), member of the Board of Directors of "New Boyana Film" (2006–2009, 2011–2018), lecturer at NATFIZ "Krustyo Sarafov" in the discipline "Entrepreneurship in Audiovisual Production," as well as founder and member of the Management Board of the Bulgarian Film Institute.

He is also the founder and director of Studio Zmei – an animation studio inspired by Balkan folklore and traditions. Dereliev is a member of the Bulgarian Association of Film and Television Directors (BAFTRS). In 2009, he was appointed Deputy Minister of Culture in the government of Minister Vezhdi Rashidov, responsible for cultural policy and creative industries.

In 2016, he participated as an assistant producer in the short documentary film "Bulgaria: Cradle of Civilization."

Dimitar Dereliev is the author of more than forty documentary films, editor of over a hundred films, and in recent years has been a consultant for documentary and feature films.



Paraskeva Dzhukelova
Bulgaria

Paraskeva Dzhukelova is well known to the audience for her roles in films such as "Elevation", "Gundy - Legend of Love", "Without Wings", "Incineration", "The Naked Truth about a Zhiguli Group", in which she recreates characters that have left a deep mark on contemporary Bulgarian cinema.

She plays at the National Theater "Ivan Vazov" (1992 - 1997), the Satirical Theater "Aleko Konstantinov", the Municipal Theater "Vazrazhdane" and the Theater "Bulgarian Army".

She also has roles in foreign film productions such as "Versengentorix" (2001), "Air Marshal" and "I Am David" (2003), "Icon" (2005), where she partnered with Patrick Swayze), "The Abandoned" (2006). Paraskeva Dzhukelova received the Grand Prize "Golden Rose" for best female role in the films "Season of the Canary Birds" (dir. Evgeniy Mikhailov, 1994) and "Incineration" (dir. Strahil Blagoev, 2004). She has received awards from theater festivals, as well as recognition from the guild and the audience.

Actively supports a number of social, cultural and humanitarian causes. Supports civic initiatives and cultural policies.

"With great excitement I join the jury of this festival, which has a unique significance in supporting the values of solidarity and humanity. Cinema is a powerful tool for social change and I am happy to be part of this important initiative," says Paraskeva Dzhukelova.

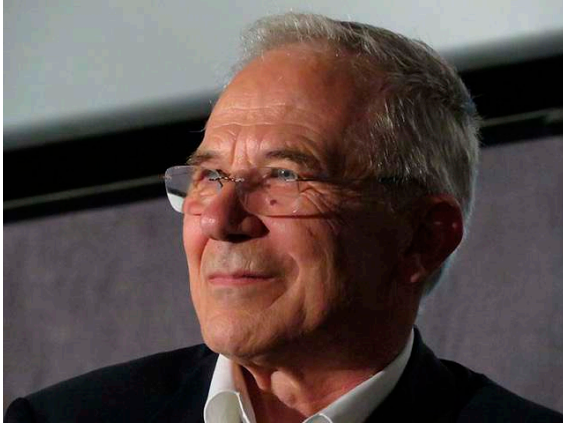


Eli Skorcheva
Bulgaria

Eli Skorcheva is a Bulgarian actress with a bright presence in cinema, theatre, and television. From her first roles, she ranks among the most memorable faces of Bulgarian cinema from the 1980s.

Her career began with exceptional success and led to participation in emblematic films such as "Boris I," "Ladies Choice," "Hotel Central," and "Adio, Rio." Among her most famous roles are Veronica and Tony in the films "Adaptation" (1979) and "Eva on the Third Floor" (1987), for which she won the awards for Best Actress at both editions of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films. She combines her artistic strength with screen charisma, which makes her one of the most recognisable actresses of her generation.

After a long hiatus from the stage and cameras, Skorcheva makes a remarkable return with the lead role in "Blaga's Lessons" (dir. Stefan Komandarev, 2023) — a film that wins the Grand Prize "Crystal Globe" for Best Film at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. For her role, Skorcheva received the award for Best Actress, which confirms her status as an actress of exceptional class. Recognition is not delayed in the public sphere either – she is declared "Person of the Day" by Radio Free Europe.



Luis Valentí
Spain

Lluís Valentí is a Spanish director, screenwriter, producer, and cultural organiser with a long-standing contribution to European and Latin American cinema. He is the founder and director of the Girona Film Festival, which since 1989 has established itself as one of the most prestigious platforms for discovering new talent in cinema, with a focus on films with humanistic and social themes.

Valentí is the founder of the Catalan Film Academy, as well as several significant awards: Premis Barcelona, Premis Carles Duran, Premis Xavier Cugat, and Mexican Talents Awards. He is the director of the College of Film Directors in Catalonia and represents Catalonia in the Assembly of the Federation of European Film Directors (FERA).

As a producer, Valentí has worked on over 60 films, including the last three films by director Josep Maria Nunes and "Azaña" by Santiago San Miguel. In 1992, he founded the production company Valentí Films, which focuses on auteur and reflective cinema. In 2005, he merged the activities of this company with the distribution company Versus Films, specialising in the distribution of dramatic, comedy, and documentary films in Spain.

Valentí holds a doctorate in art history from the University of Barcelona. He has taught cinema at prestigious institutions in Mexico.

His work is aimed at promoting cultural diversity and social engagement in cinema, providing a platform for new voices and perspectives in world cinematography.



Giuseppe Cuscusa
Italy

Giuseppe Cuscusa is an Italian cultural activist, an established expert in the field of marketing and communications, with extensive experience in the political and institutional sector, sports, and cinema, president of the APS Pianeta Empatia association.

He is a producer, as well as the founder and president of COLIFFE – Coliseum International Film Festival in Rome – a forum dedicated to independent cinema and new voices in directing, which emphasises the social role of the seventh art.

An active advocate for social and environmental causes through cultural platforms, in 2024 Cuscusa is a member of the jury of the 36th edition of the Girona Film Festival in Spain. In addition to his activities in cinema, he is also involved in sports civic participation through the MyROMA – Supporters Trust organisation, where he holds a leadership position.



Kamen Balkanski
Bulgaria

Kamen Balkanski is an art historian and cultural manager with diverse interests in the field of contemporary art. He holds a Master's degree from the National Academy of Arts, which he graduated from in 1994. From 1997 to 2002, he was the executive director of the CIS Foundation for Contemporary Art, and in 2002-2003 he lectured at the National Academy of Arts in Sofia. In the same year, he became the administrative director of "Television MM", and from 2004-2006 he was an advisor to the managers of the same television.

In 2004, he started working as the director of the MEDIA program office of the EU in Bulgaria. From 2015 to 2017 and from 2021 to the beginning of 2022, he was the executive director of the National Film Center. He is currently the head of the "Creative Europe MEDIA" office – Bulgaria.



Ivelina Martinova
Bulgaria

Ivelina Martinova was born in Varna in 1974. Her first contact with cinema took place at the magical Summer Cinema in the city. She graduated from French Philology in Sofia. She works as an assistant director of feature and documentary films in France, Italy and Lithuania. In Bulgaria, she works with the production companies Sofilm, New Image, Eyevision, Belle Epoque. She writes and translates for Bulgarian and French publications: *Dolce far niente*, *Perfect day*, *le Monde*, *l'Express*. Since 2014, she has been working on the project to create a university television at the Medical University - Varna and is currently responsible for the specialized program of the media. Outside of work, she can most often be found with her phone turned off in a far seat in a darkened cinema.

sopharmacy



sopharmacy
More care

Нашите ценности



Грижа

Ние се грижим за клиентите си като им предлагаме индивидуален здравен съвет и ефективно обслужване



Доверие

При нас клиентите се чувстват в спокойна, открита и дружелюбна среда



Богат избор

Предлагаме богат избор от различни брандове с качествени продукти на добра стойност, които клиентите обичат



Иновативност

Въвеждаме нови и иновативни продукти и услуги с грижа към нашите клиенти



Отдаденост

Ние печелим доверието, защото работим с вдъхновение, екипност и професионализъм, мислим за нуждите на клиента и ги поставяме на първо място



The topic of **“Mental health in society”** through the lens of cinema will be presented by **Dr. Tsveteslava Galabova**, psychiatrist.

She graduated from the Medical University in Sofia (1992) and earned a degree in Business Administration at UNWE (2006). Since 1994, she has worked at the National Psychiatric Hospital “St. Ivan Rilski” in Kurilo, starting as a resident and advancing to head of the men’s ward for acute psychoses. Since 2009, she has been the hospital’s director. Since 2003, she also practices outpatient psychiatry. Dr. Galabova has served as a forensic psychiatric expert for over 20 years and is the national expert in psychiatry for the Bulgarian Medical Association.

As the head of one of the largest psychiatric hospitals in the country, Dr. Galabova is a vocal advocate on issues of mental health in Bulgaria. She frequently voices concern about the rising levels of addiction among Bulgarians and the overall decline in national well-being. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she joined the Medical Council on Coronavirus, offering valuable advice on coping with stress and anxiety. She pays



Dr. Tsveteslava Galabova

special attention to emotional intelligence and the importance of real human connection in the digital age.

As part of the festival, film lovers will have the opportunity to meet the creators and main cast of the series “Anxiety”, and engage in a first-person conversation about its message and the major issues it raises. The series focuses on urgent and deeply personal questions—mental health, family dynamics, and the challenges facing young people in modern society.

The project is produced by Miramar Studio and directed by Ilian Djevelevkov. With its strong psychological depth and impressive performances, led by Ani Papadopulu, “Anxiety” stands out as both impactful and socially relevant. Joining them at the 21st International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films is the content consultant for the series—renowned psychologist Ivan Igov.

Ilian Djevelevkov is a Bulgarian director, screenwriter, and producer.

He began his studies in psychology at Sofia University and later graduated in film and television directing from the National



Ilian Djevelevkov

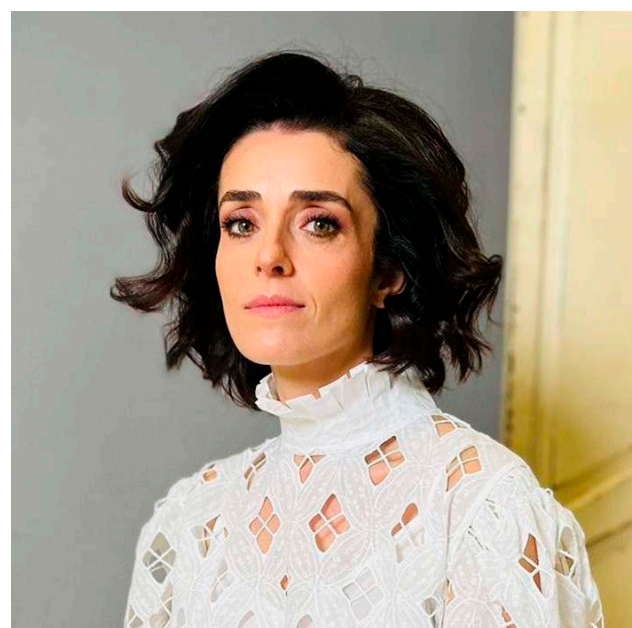
Academy for Theatre and Film Arts under Acad. Lyudmil Staykov. During his studies, he worked as a director for the student program Ku-ku.

In 1993, his short film *I Want to Be Free* won Best Short Film at the Golden Rose International Film Festival in Varna. From 1994 to 2000, Djevelekov worked as a producer and director at Ku-ku Film.

In 2001, along with Matey Konstantinov and Georgi Dimitrov, he founded the production company Miramar Film, which is now one of the leading studios in Bulgaria for fiction, documentary films, and TV commercials.

Djevelekov's debut as a feature film producer was *Zift* (2008), directed by Yavor Gardev. The film won the Silver Saint George at the Moscow International Film Festival and the Golden Rose at the Bulgarian Film Festival in Varna, and went on to appear at numerous prestigious international festivals.

His directorial debut came with the film *LOVE.NET*, released in 2011. With more than 206,000 viewers, it ranks among the ten most successful Bulgarian films of all



Ana Papadopulu

time in box office revenue. At the Golden Rose Festival, the film won awards for Best Actress (Lilia Maraviglia), Best Screenplay (Nelly Dimitrova, Matey Konstantinov, Ilian Djevelekov), and Best Directorial Debut.

Ana Papadopulu is a distinguished Bulgarian stage, film, and television actress.

She graduated in acting from NATFA "Krastyo Sarafov" in 2000, in the class of Prof. Stefan Danailov. Still a student, she made her debut at the Ivan Vazov National Theatre in the role of Anna in *The Lower Depths* by Maxim Gorky, directed by Alexander Morfov.

Since then, she has been a permanent member of the theatre troupe, building a remarkable career with dozens of roles in classic and contemporary plays. Her most iconic performances include Beatrice in *Decameron* or *Blood and Passion* by Boccaccio, Salome in *Salome* by Oscar Wilde, Adela in *The House of Bernarda Alba*, Anna Petrovna in *Ivanov*, Anya in *The Cherry Orchard*, Julie in *Jake's Women*, and Perdita in *The Winter's Tale*.

Alongside her theatre work, Papadopulu has developed a strong film and TV career. Among her notable roles are in *Letter to America* (2000), *The World is Big and Salvation Lurks Around the Corner* (2008), *Mission London* (2010), *The Petrov File* (2015), and *Monkey* (2016), as well as in the TV series *Stolen Life*, *Missing Persons Unit*, and *Fourth Estate*.

For her role in *Letter to America*, she received the "Nevena Kokanova" Debut Award (2001), and in 2018, she was honored with the "Askeer" award for Best Supporting Actress in *The Little Foxes*.

In 2024, she plays the role of Dr. Magdalena Yasenova, a child psychologist, in the series *Anxiety*, which explores themes of mental health and the struggles of today's youth.

Ivan Igov is a renowned Bulgarian psychologist, specialized in child, adolescent, and school psychology.

He graduated in psychology from Sofia University and has over 25 years of professional practice. Igov is one of the pioneers of the “school psychologist” profession in Bulgaria, working at the National High School of Mathematics and actively contributing to the development of educational psychology in the country.

He is the author of textbooks and publications, as well as the national standards for psychology education in secondary schools. As the coordinator of the “School Without Violence” project by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education, Igov has worked to improve school environments and prevent violence.

In 2024, he serves as a psychological consultant on the TV series *Anxiety*, which explores significant social themes related to mental health and the problems facing young people. His expertise ensures psychological authenticity and depth in the production.

Ivan Igov remains actively engaged in the field, emphasizing the importance of supporting youth and the need for reforms in the educational system.



Ivan Ignev

Dr. Tatyana Burudzhieva, sociologist, Pavlina Zheleva, film critic, Prof. Alexander Donev, film critic and artistic director of “Golden Rose,” Georgi Cholakov, producer, cinematographer and former head of the National Film Center, and Borislav Chuchkov, director and producer, will also take part in the discussions and professional meetings.

Dr. Tatyana Burudzhieva is a respected Bulgarian sociologist and lecturer in the Department of Sociology at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski.”

She is a scholar with deep knowledge of social theory, political processes, and institutions, focusing on the impact of social structures on contemporary society.

Burudzhieva is known for her analyses of political parties and their role in Bulgaria’s social dynamics. She regularly participates in media debates on current political and social issues and has offered expert commentary on the development of the political landscape in the country.

As an academic, Dr. Burudzhieva is the author of numerous studies and publications that enrich the understanding of social structures and challenges in modern Bulgarian society. Her contributions to social sciences and public discourse have established her as a prominent figure in the Bulgarian academic community.



Dr. Tatyana Burudzhieva



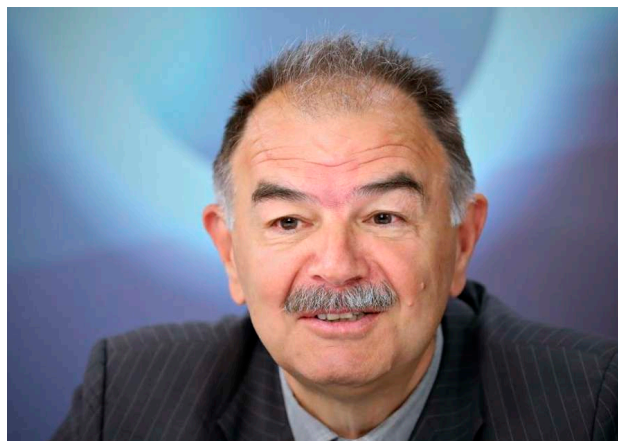
Pavlina Zheleva is an established Bulgarian film critic, producer, and active participant in international film festivals.

She studied film studies at NATFA “Krastyo Sarafov” and began her career as an editor for the magazines Bulgarian Films and Cinematography. In 1993–1994, she was Bulgaria’s national representative at the Eurimages fund of the Council of Europe and headed the “Criticism” guild at FIPRESCI.

Zheleva is known for her longstanding contribution to both Bulgarian and European cinema. She is a frequent attendee of prestigious events like the Berlinale and the European Film Awards, where she analyzes cinematic trends and the social themes explored through film. Her criticism is noted for its depth and attention to contemporary social issues.

As a producer, Pavlina Zheleva is co-founder of the film company Geopoli and has been involved in successful projects such as *Requiem for Mrs. J* and *Miracle*. These films have been featured at industry platforms like Mannheim-Heidelberg and received international recognition.

In 2017, Zheleva chaired the jury of the Golden Rhyton festival, where she evaluated documentary and animated films. She plays a key role in the development of Bulgarian cinema, supporting emerging talents and fostering critical thought in the industry.



Prof. Alexander Donev is a prominent Bulgarian film critic and artistic director of the International Film Festival Golden Rose.

With years of experience in cinema, he is respected for his in-depth analyses and critical insights that enrich the understanding of Bulgarian and international film.

Donev teaches cinema and visual arts and actively participates in Bulgaria’s cultural life. As a film critic, he has authored numerous articles and essays on cinema, often exploring the relationship between film and the social, political, and cultural processes of our time.

As artistic director of the Golden Rose festival, Prof. Donev is responsible for film selection and program design, with a focus on innovative and socially engaged projects. He plays a crucial role in the development and promotion of Bulgarian cinema on the international stage. Prof. Donev is not only a critic but also a mentor and inspiration to a new generation of Bulgarian filmmakers.



Georgi Cholakov is an established Bulgarian cinematographer, producer, and cultural figure with over four decades of experience in the film industry.

He graduated in cinematography from VITIZ “Krastyo Sarafov” and built a rich creative portfolio with numerous documentaries and feature films noted for their strong aesthetics and social relevance.

He represented Bulgaria in Eurimages (1993–1995). Between 1991 and 1995, Cholakov served as deputy director of the National Film Center, and from 2014 to 2015, as its executive director. As the head of the institution, he actively supported auteur cinema and worked to improve film production mechanisms in Bulgaria.

Over the years, he has produced and shot several significant Bulgarian productions, including the documentary *The Poet Shoots at His Heart* (2012), acclaimed for its profound portrayal of Bulgarian poets’ lives and work. He is also the founder of the production company Geopoli and is known for his dedication to cultural causes, young creators, and the sustainable development of national cinema.

His professionalism, critical eye, and long-standing commitment to Bulgarian film art place him among the leading figures in the contemporary film scene of the country.



Borislav Chuchkov is a Bulgarian producer, director, and actor with an active presence in contemporary cinema and television.

He graduated in acting from NATFA “Krastyo Sarafov” and later specialized in audiovisual management, allowing him to develop a successful career both in front of and behind the camera.

In 2003, together with his brother—the director Viktor Chuchkov Jr.—he founded the production company Chouchkov Brothers. The two are behind several key titles in Bulgarian cinema, such as *TILT* (2011), Bulgaria’s submission for the Oscars, *18% Grey* (2020), *Singing Shoes* (2016), and *Shakespeare Like a Street Dog* (2023). Their films are known for their strong visual style, contemporary language, and social sensitivity.

Borislav Chuchkov also contributes to television production, and in recent years, he has returned to acting. He is an active figure in the cultural scene, co-organizing events like Sofia Summer Fest and being involved in the management of the Dom na Kinoto (House of Cinema) in Sofia.

With his visionary energy and creative approach, Borislav Chuchkov is among the key figures shaping modern Bulgarian cinema.



Prof. Stanimir Trifonov is a Bulgarian director, screenwriter, and producer.

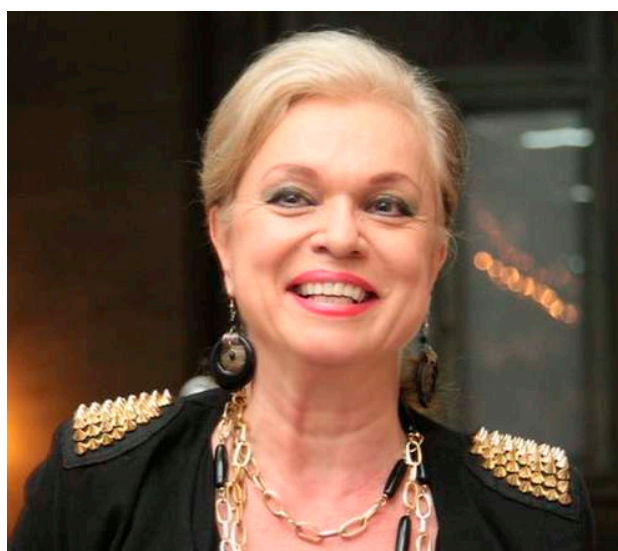
In 1986–1987, he worked as a director at Bulgarian National Television. From 1987 to 1993, he was a director at the Studio for Popular Science and Documentary Films Vreme, where he served as artistic director until 1999. From 2002 to 2010, he was the studio's director. He teaches film and television directing at the South-West University "Neofit Rilski" and film and television arts at the New Bulgarian University.

His first documentary Until Tomorrow... Four Portraits and One Memory premiered on May 8, 1988, in Veliko Tarnovo.

He has directed both documentaries and feature films, including:

Elias Canetti. Reply to a Letter (1992, winner of the "Silver Rhyton"), An Impossible Image (1996, Golden Rose), the TV series Wolf Hunt (2000, Golden Chest), as well as Burning Out (2004, Golden Rose),

On the Border (2015, Best TV Series by the Bulgarian Film Academy), The Glass River, and others.



Iskra Radeva is a well-known Bulgarian actress.

She graduated from VITIZ in Acting for Dramatic Theatre under Apostol Karamitev and immediately joined the Youth Theatre's troupe. In the 1980s and 1990s, she was active in dubbing TV series for BNT—her most famous voice role was Meggie Cleary in The Thorn Birds. She also worked on the dubbing of Rich Man, Poor Man and Return to Eden. In the 1990s, she became active in show business, pop music, and chamber performances, writing lyrics and show scripts.

In 1997, she left the Youth Theatre and in 1999 founded her own company—Iskri i sezoni ("Sparks and Seasons"), taking on the roles of producer and director. In 2000, she staged the show Goodbye, 20th Century, and her production company IRD organized some of the biggest show performances in Bulgaria. She has played numerous roles in theatre, television drama, film, and TV.



Olga Markova is a prominent Bulgarian film critic.

She holds degrees in philology and journalism. With a PhD in film studies, she works as an art critic and journalist specializing in arts and culture. She is the author of ten books, most of them devoted to cinema. Some, like *The Role of Bulgarian Culture in World Civilization*, have been translated into English and distributed through Bulgarian embassies and cultural centers worldwide.

For her two extensive volumes *Masters of the Great Cinema* and *The Last Mohicans of Cinema*, she received the "Golden Feather" from the Union of Bulgarian Journalists, as well as the Golden Diploma Pedestal for Distinguished Film Critic at the Golden Knight forum in Russia. In 2019, she published the third part of the trilogy: *The Last Become First*.

For over a decade, she has taught a course on Literature, Cinema, and Visual Culture in the master's program at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski." In her long career, she has served as an editor in Information for Abroad at BTA, as head of the "Art" department for 25 years at the national weekly Puls, and as founder and editor-in-chief of the national weekly Az-Buki, where she received multiple awards.



PRESSCENTER / 13-20.06 - 10:00

Every morning with coffee and a croissant you will be able to sit in the FC Press Center and hear what highlights of the day are coming up, as well as meet with artists who presented their films the day before.

PRESSCENTER / 13-20.06 - 11:00

The time for waking up has passed and we can seriously sit down to discuss the topics that concern us daily - mental health, volunteering, transplants, ecology, urban environment and many others. Don't miss the speakers in our lectures from 11 am every day in the press center of the Festival Complex - Varna.



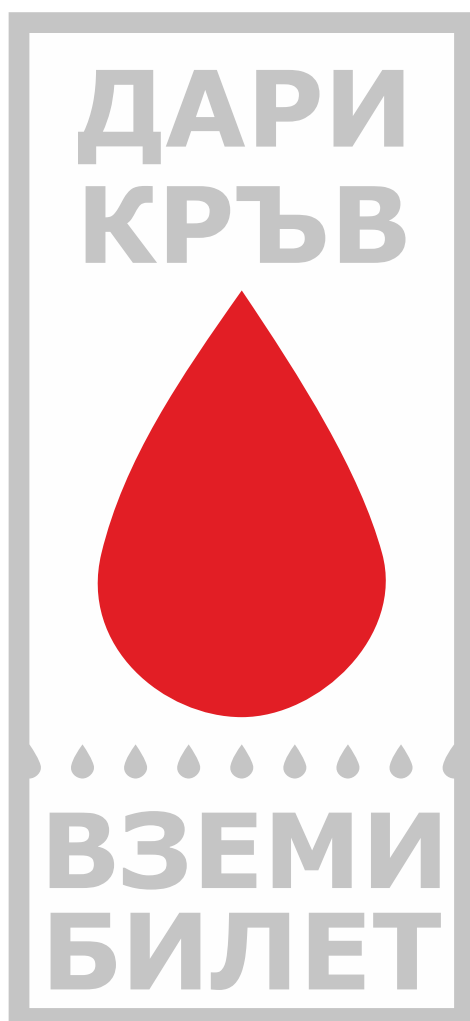
With a tradition since 1995. Klas Pile is a story of a lot of human work, dedication, love and perseverance. Every day at dawn we light the fire and stir our warm, delicious and fresh food.

At lunch and dinner we gather familiar faces.

You, our loyal customers.

Our family.

klaspile.com



On June 10, 2025, a special minibus will stop in front of the Festival Complex in Varna. This is the mobile blood donation station "I believe and help". There you will be able to donate blood, in return for which you will receive a ticket for two to a film from the festival program.





The charity campaign **"I Believe and Help"** was created in 2015 in the city of Varna as a small neighborhood campaign and is the first in Bulgaria and the longest-running one for collecting plastic caps to help premature babies.

To date, the campaign has collected and handed over for recycling over 341,500,000 kilograms of plastic caps and donated over 25 medical devices, equipment, machinery, hundreds of accessories and tools, the unique children's/neonatal ambulance "I Believe and Help" and the first specialized mobile blood donation point in Bulgaria "I Believe and Help".

+10 YEARS
HELPING TOGETHER

+50 AND MORE
CHARITY EVENTS

+10 000 LIVES SAVED
THANKS TO THE DONATIONS

+800 000 LEVA DONATIONS
FOR MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Learn more about us and see how You can help at: azviarvamipomagam.bg



DISTRICT CENTER FOR TRANSFUSION HEMATOLOGY VARNA

Let's say "YES" to Free, Regular and Voluntary Blood Donation in the city of Varna and the region

We all know how painful the news of our loved one, friend or relative being admitted to hospital is. The questions that arise are many, and our actions are limited and reach the threshold of the ward in which the patient is admitted. One of the biggest problems is providing a blood donation note.

We at the Regional Center for Transfusion Hematology /Blood Center/ - Varna understand your stress and worries. We also realize that people's lives should not depend on a blood donation note. Our mission is to provide enough free blood so that you have peace of mind and time to take care of yourself and the victim. Blood donation must be done in a stable physical and emotional state.

We call on the residents of the city of Varna and the region not to rely on the catchphrase "I will donate when necessary". The time for processing and testing blood is not that fast. The only urgent thing is saving a human life.



JOPPARI - The Nurse, Miki Hanada (Japan), 2024, 89'

Director: **Sho Igarashi**

Miki Hanada, known as the "Nightingale of Aomori," dedicated her life to saving others. After World War II, she worked as a nurse at Hachinohe Red Cross Hospital, playing a crucial role in the widespread treatment of polio (pediatric paralysis). As a military nurse, she was dispatched to war zones three times, where she helped save countless lives. She also provided medical care in remote areas and fought to reduce infant mortality rates. This film tells the inspiring story of Miki Hanada, a woman who devoted her life to protecting the health and well-being of her community.

HALL 5 / 18.06 WEDNESDAY 17:30



Red Boat Crossing (USA), 2024, 39'

Director: **Jeanne C. Finley**

Sixty-five years after the Allied invasion of Southern France, the director's mother, Cecily Barker Finley, tries to recall her involvement as a social worker aboard a WWII Red Cross ship called the Château Thierry.



Women of Mercy (Russia), 2023, 26'

Director: **Galina Malova-Gra**

The film tells the story of women's non-medical charity during the wars in Russia.

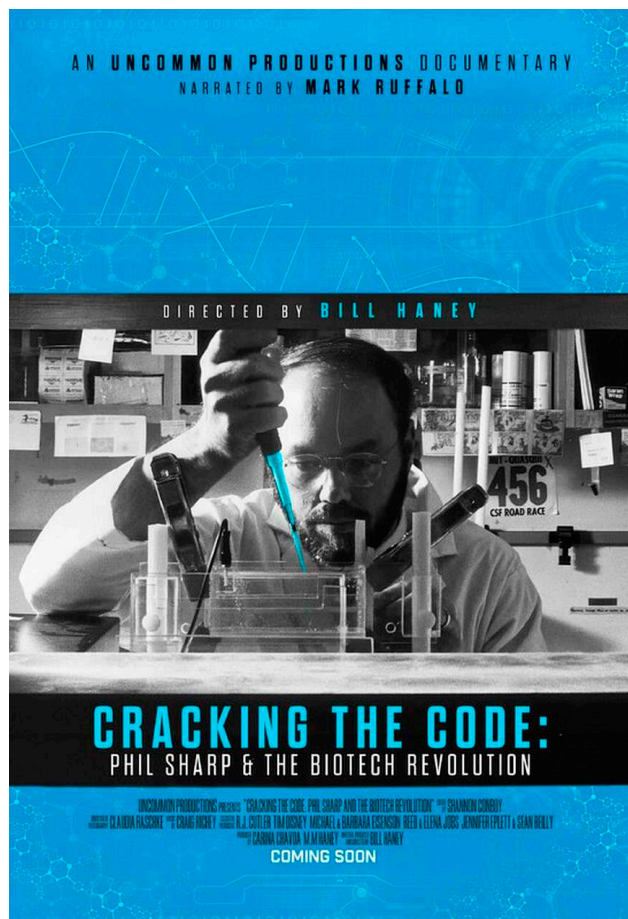
HALL 6 / 15.06 SUNDAY 17:30



HOTEL
CAPITOL
VARNA

WELCOME TO ART HOTEL CAPITOL





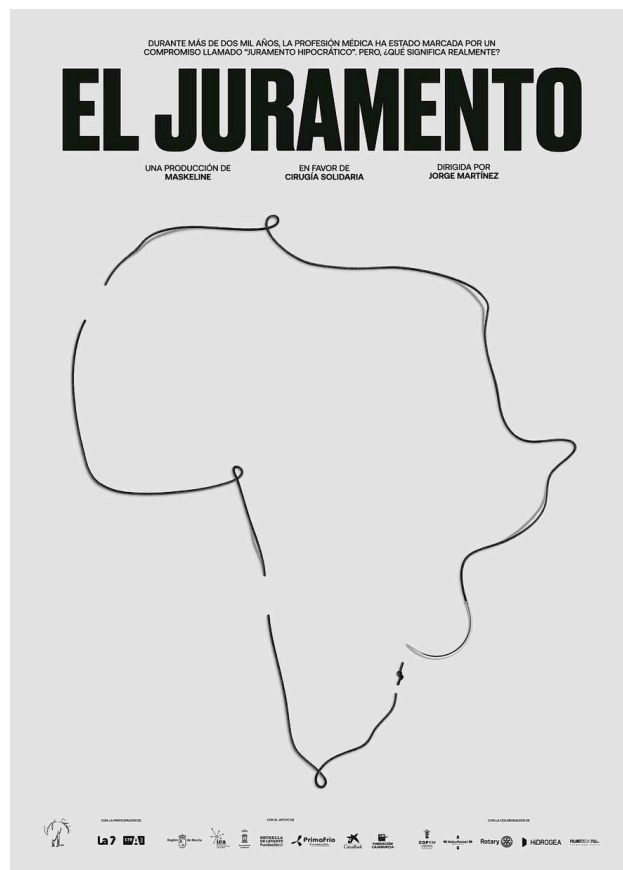
Cracking the Code: Phil Sharp and the Biotech Revolution

(USA), 2024, 109'

Director: **Bill Haney**

Cracking the Code, narrated by Mark Ruffalo, is an inspiring story of vision, perseverance, and the power of science to change the world. Phil Sharp's journey from a Kentucky farm boy to Nobel laureate embodies the American Dream and the triumph of entrepreneurial spirit. His 1977 groundbreaking discovery of RNA splicing rewrote the rules of molecular biology and ignited a life-saving scientific revolution, laying the foundation for an industry that has become a cornerstone of global innovation and economic growth – and transformed the health of billions of patients worldwide.

PRESSCENTER / 19.06 FRIDAY 18:00



The Oath

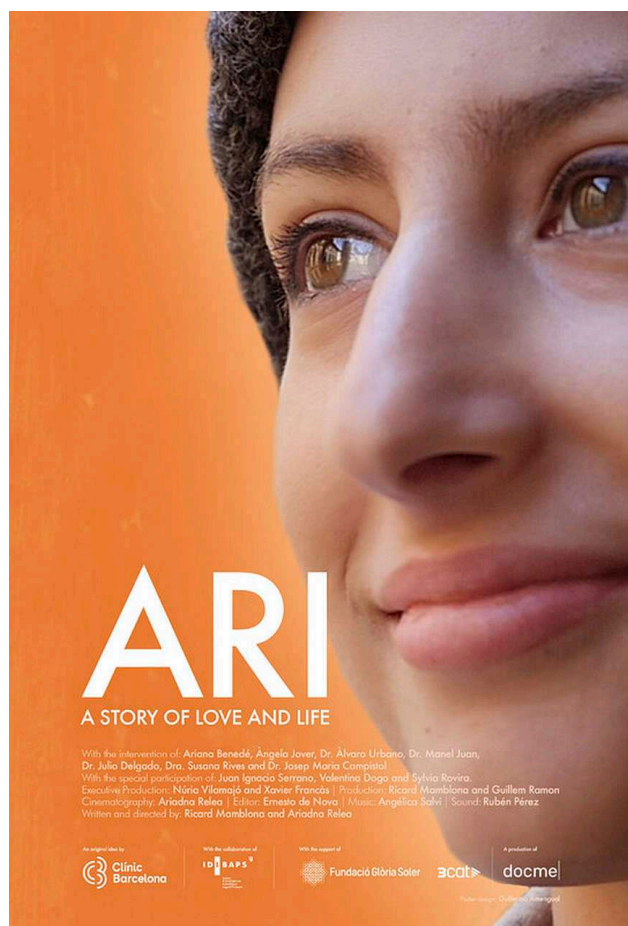
(Spain), 2024, 73'

Director: **Jorge Martínez**

Solidary Surgery has been carrying out urgent and silent work for over two decades. These healthcare professionals, who work daily in our country's hospitals, return to Africa each year to fulfill the oath they once made. It's a story of courage and personal growth, of love and empathy, of commitment and loyalty, of pain and salvation, of friendship and affection. It's a life story that deserves to be told.



HALL 6 / 17.06 TUESDAY 16:15



ARI - A Story of Love and Life

(Spain), 2024, 56'

Directors: Ricard Mamblona, Ariadna Relea

Ariana Benedé, Ari, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia at the age of 13. Alongside her mother and a team of health care professionals, they embarked on a race against time to pioneer the first clinical trials of CAR-T therapy, an innovative treatment that modifies immune cells to effectively combat cancerous cells. The documentary narrates the story of a mother and daughter's battle to bring new hope to patients like Ari, who had exhausted all therapeutic options and had little hope left. Ari never lost her spirit or her hope to achieve this. Along the way, many people supported her, society responded, and it all served to mobilize professionals and researchers to make Ari's dream a reality – saving lives with this new treatment.

PRESSCENTER / 18.06 WEDNESDAY 17:30



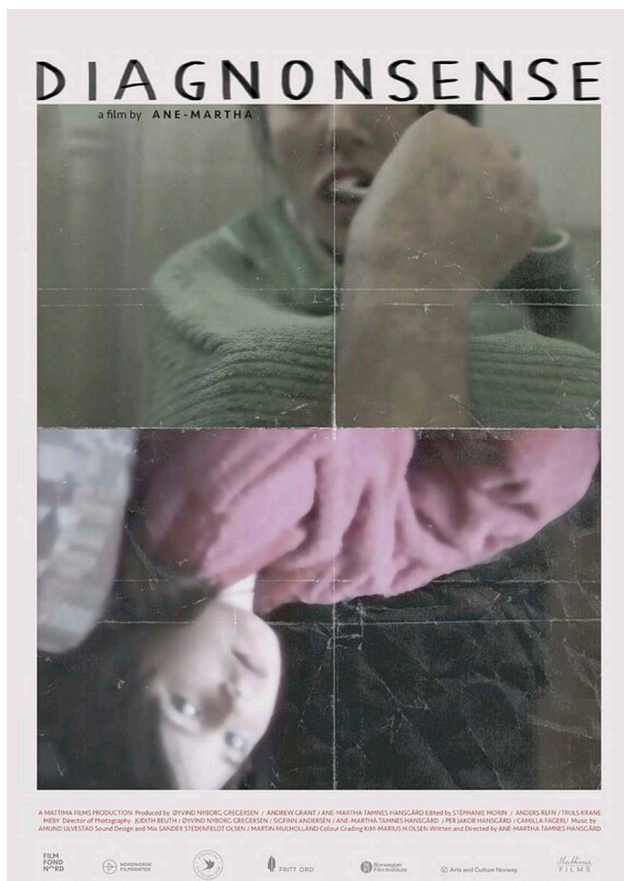
Sinara

(R), 2025, 72'

Director: Natalia Lobko

Sinara is a gynecological surgeon, the last hope of many women. She really works wonders by performing risky surgeries and giving women the happiness of motherhood.

HALL 6 / 19.06 THURSDAY 16:15



DIAGNONSENSE

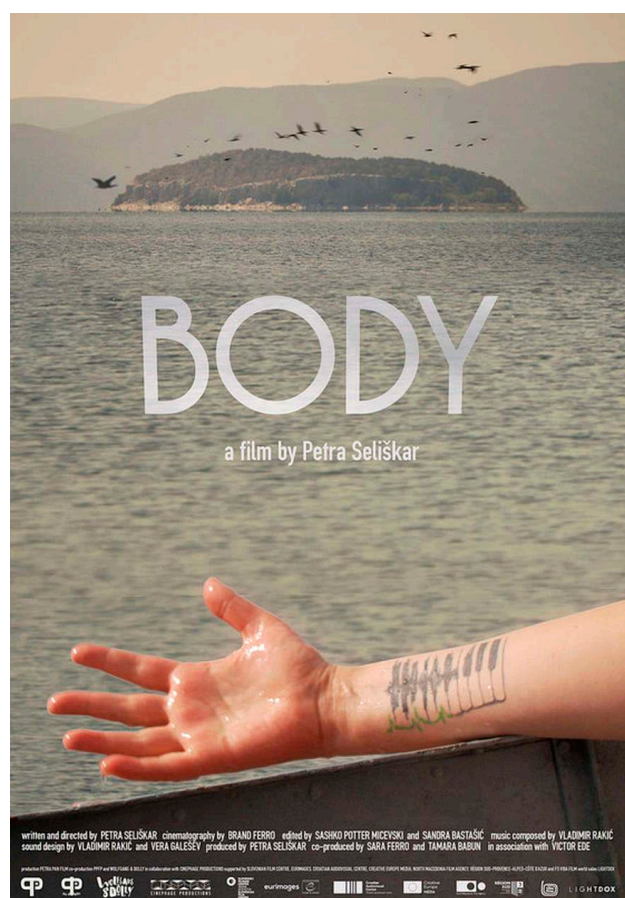
(Norway), 2024, 73'

Director: **Ane-Martha Tamnes Hansgård**

At the age of 15, Ane-Martha Tamnes Hansgård was given her first psychiatric diagnosis. Over the next decade, more followed—each bringing new labels, medications, and side effects that shaped her identity in ways she never questioned. Until she did. **DIAGNONSENSE** is an intimate, raw, and unexpectedly humorous documentary about the ways psychiatric diagnoses can shape—and sometimes overshadow—a person's sense of self. Using a mix of intimate home videos, video diaries, and newly filmed material, the film traces Hansgård's journey from adolescence to adulthood—capturing the struggle of growing up under psychiatric labels, the painful process of breaking free from them, and the terrifying but liberating act of figuring out who you are beyond them. Honest, deeply personal, and at times darkly funny, **DIAGNONSENSE** doesn't

HALL 6 / 18.06 WEDNESDAY 16:15

impose answers—it invites the audience to question, reflect, and find their own perspective on what it truly means to live beyond a diagnosis.



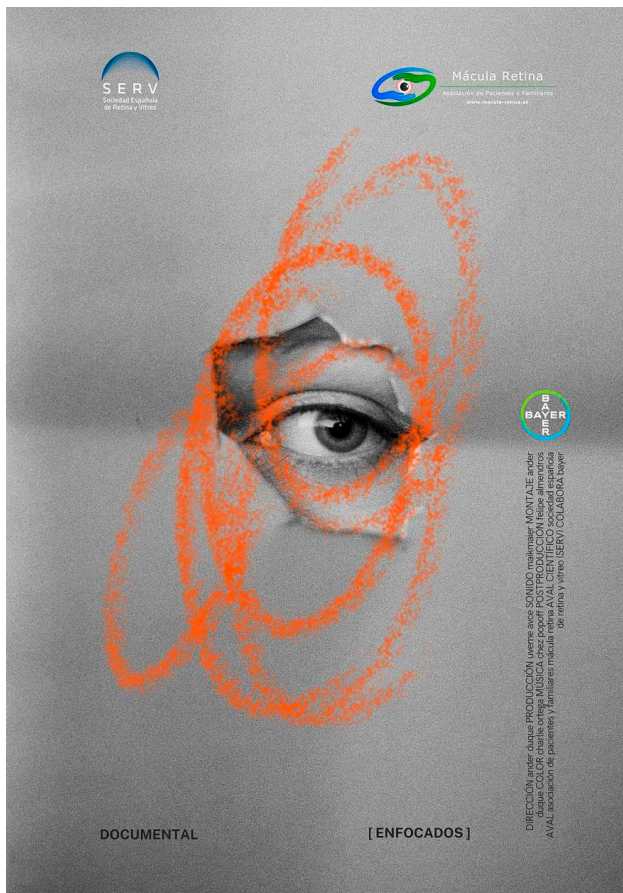
BODY

(Slovenia), 2023, 92'

Director: **Petra Seliškar**

Filmed over a period of 20 years, **Body** is a sensitive and intimate exploration of the extraordinary life and intricate inner world of a woman who fights to resist a series of rare autoimmune diseases with her indomitable spirit.

HALL 5 / 16.06 MONDAY 17:30



PROGRAM Nº1

In Focus

(Spain), 2024, 29'

The Mother's Way

(Brazil), 2024, 4'

Alzheimer's Disease: Causes, Consequences and Prevention

(Brazil), 2023, 7'

My Neuroplasticity

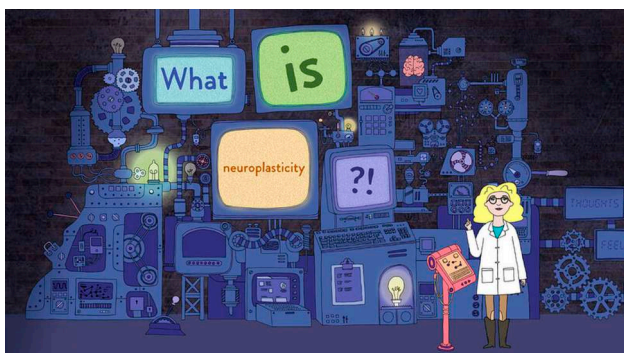
(UK), 2023, 3'

Walking with Parkinson's

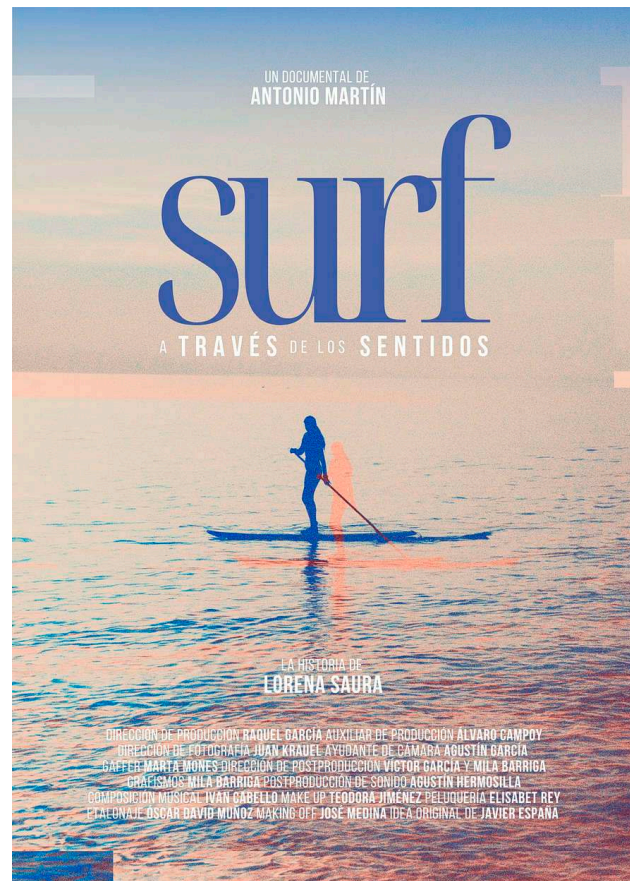
(Spain), 2023, 10'

Crossing Worlds: Hope for Nadia

(Bulgaria), 2025, 12'



HALL 5 / 13.06 FRIDAY 15:00



PROGRAM Nº2

Surfing Through the Senses

(Spain), 2024, 17'

Diminuendo

(Indonesia, USA), 2024, 15'

What are the danger signs for a pregnant mother?

(Nepal), 2023, 2'

Healthy Heroes of the Himalayas

(Switzerland), 2025, 14'

The Importance of Healthy Eating

(Bangladesh), 2023, 4'

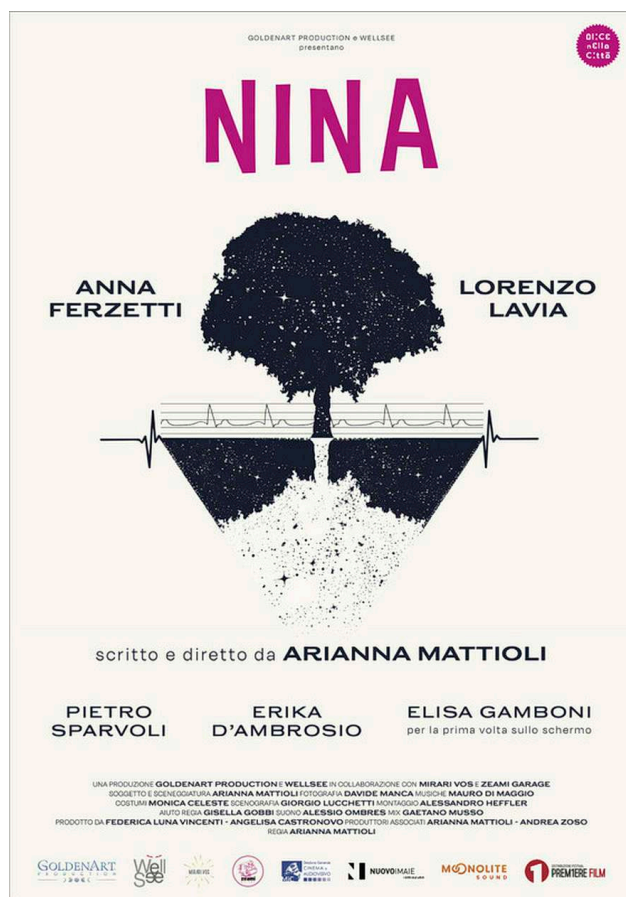
Community Health Workers: Building Bridges to Health

(India), 2025, 9'

Remember: Near Field

(UK), 2023, 9'

PRESSCENTER / 16.06 MONDAY 16:15



PROGRAM N°3

NINA

(Italy), 2024, 20'

International Water Rescue Program "Rescuer Charlie"

(Greece), 2024, 3'

Overdiagnosis

(Japan), 2024, 8'

The Steps I Long for

(Indonesia), 2025, 2'

Authentic Voices: Intimate Stories of Psychic Life

(France), 2025, 7'

The Voice of Evil

(France), 2025, 4'

Glass Man - Cam Adam

(Turkey), 2025, 16'

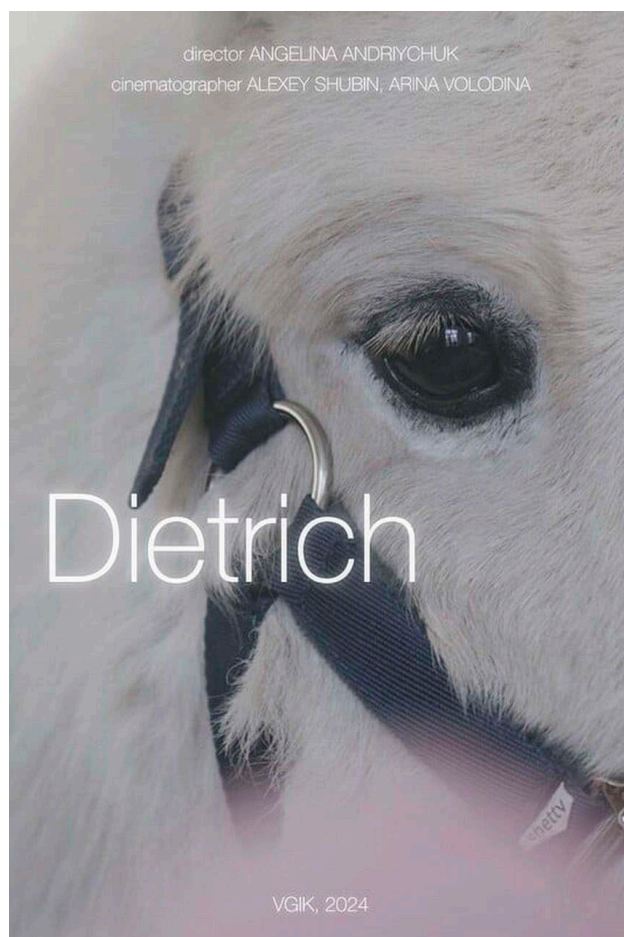
Eat!

(Italy), 2024, 13'

Crossing Worlds: Dorothea - A Gift from God

(Bulgaria), 2025, 12'

HALL 5 / 17.06 TUESDAY 15:00



PROGRAM N°4

Yes! For Life!

(Bulgaria), 2024, 25'

Dietrich

(Russia), 2024, 11'

The Duchenne Race

(Spain), 2024, 20'

Foot Care for Diabetics

(India), 2024, 4'

The Gut-Brain Axis: Exploring the Link Between Gut Health and Neurological Disorders

(USA), 2024, 2'

Embrace Your Signal: Loneliness, Art, and the Brain

(USA), 2024, 3'

HALL 5 / 18.06 WEDNESDAY 15:00

PROGRAM №5

FILMS FROM MU-Vi.tv



MU-Vi.tv is the only university television in Bulgaria licensed by the Council for Electronic Media. On May 24, 2015, the program of the specialized media with a main profile in medicine and healthcare was officially launched on the Internet.

The information essence of MU-Vi.tv is based on two main directions - a scientific and educational program for students, postgraduates and doctoral students, as well as for practicing specialists in the fields of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and public health.

As a university television, MU-Vi.tv has exclusive access to the operating rooms of the University Hospital "St. Marina" - Varna, the main base for student training, as well as to other training facilities in the city. In this way, it enriches the knowledge and skills of future specialists by filming and providing for use specific and rarely encountered operations and manipulations.

MU-Vi.tv fully records the lectures and practical trainings of world-class scientists and lecturers who visit the Medical University of Varna or the university facilities, and they become available to anyone who wishes to build on what they have learned.

The second emphasis in the production is aimed at the broader, non-specialized audience.

The public media has the important and responsible task of providing the right to informed choice to its viewers for the prevention and prophylaxis of their health and to outline the correct guidelines for a healthy lifestyle. The MU-Vi.tv teams have the unique opportunity at their disposal to be some of the best and proven specialists in the field of practical healthcare - prestigious doctors and scientists who have built their authority in Bulgaria and around the world, national consultants, scientific leaders, preferred lecturers and moderators. Through the freely accessible studio broadcasts and hundreds of reports, their advice, experience and expertise become available to anyone who seeks out the university media's television production.

And more... MU-Vi.tv will tell you about history, archeology, art, music, natural landmarks, tourist beauties. About the achievements, skills and talent of young people, about dreams and the path to their fulfillment, about the first timid steps at the beginning of the professional path and about the trace that our ancestors and our teachers leave behind.

MU-Vi.tv tells about good examples and practices, about bold projects, about innovations and technologies, about the endless dedication and humanity of people in white coats.

For 10 years now, the television of the Medical University - Varna has been "Your Health Encyclopedia". Browse its colorful and interesting pages with just one click!

AXIOM

insurance company

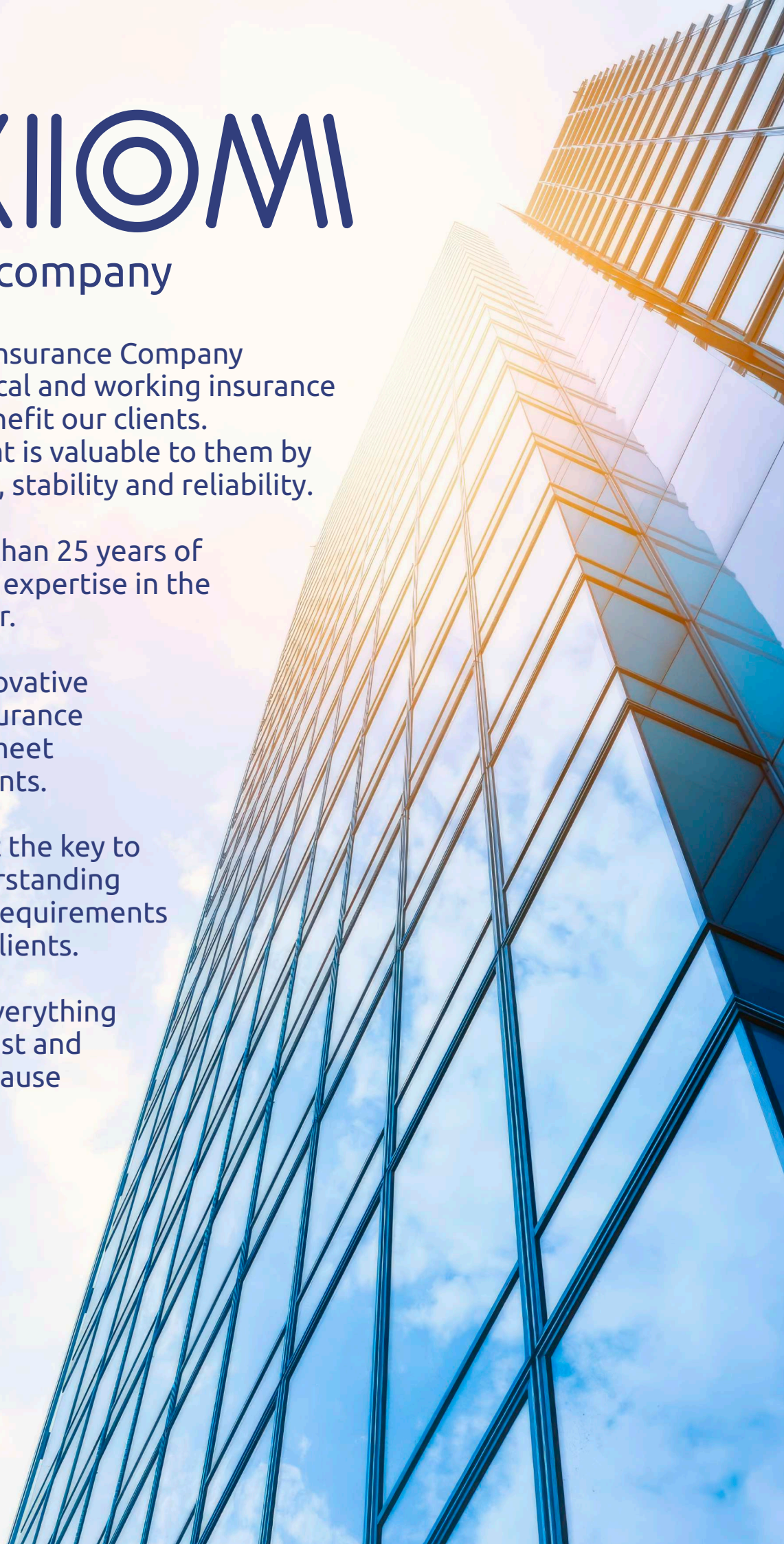
We are Axiom Insurance Company
We offer practical and working insurance
solutions to benefit our clients.
We protect what is valuable to them by
ensuring safety, stability and reliability.

We have more than 25 years of
experience and expertise in the
insurance sector.

We provide innovative
and flexible insurance
solutions that meet
your requirements.

We believe that the key to
success is understanding
the needs and requirements
of each of our clients.

We approach everything
new with interest and
enthusiasm because
we simply love
what we do.





BATTLEFIELD

(Italy), 2024, 104'

Director, screentwriter: **Gianni Amelio**

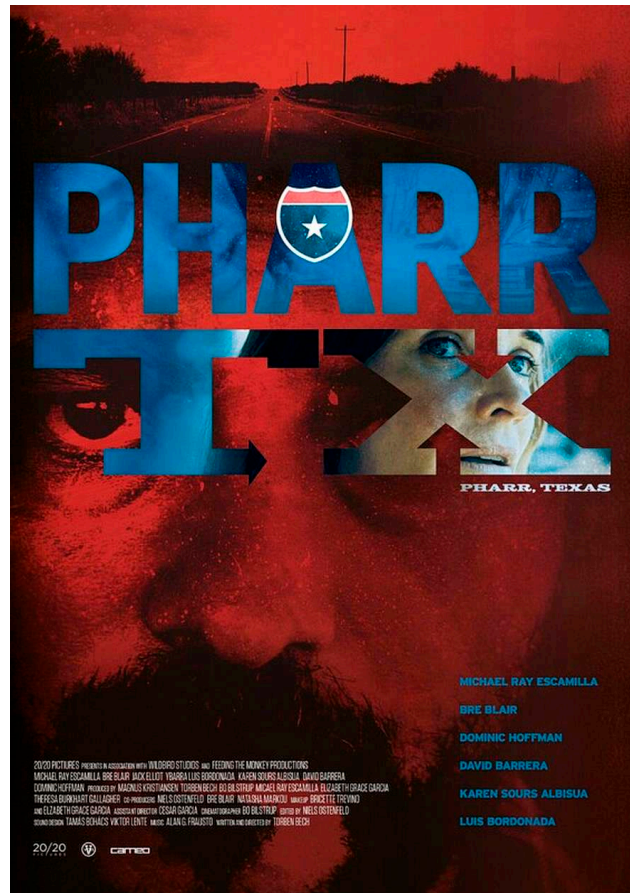
Screenwriters: **Carlo Patriarca, Alberto Taraglio**

Cast: **Alessandro Borghi, Gabriele Montesi, Federica Rossellini**

In 1918, at the end of World War I, two military medics, Stefano and Giulio, childhood friends, work in a military hospital. Stefano is a staunch nationalist and does everything he can to send wounded soldiers back to battle. Giulio, an expert in biology, is moved by pity and amputates limbs to leave the soldiers in the hospital. They also share a love for the same woman, Anna, a Red Cross nurse.

An infectious disease spreads among the soldiers. Giulio, in his attempts to catalog the bacteria and find a cure, decides to hasten his own death by injecting himself with the infected contents of a test tube.

HALL 1 / 12.06 THURSDAY 18:30



PHARR, TX

(Denmark), 2025, 78'

Director, screenwriter: **Torben Bech**

Cast: **Michael Ray Escamilla, Bre Blair, Jack Elliott Ibarra**

In Pharr, Texas, truck driver Jim turns to drug dealing to pay for his son's medical treatment. Morality and decency fade as the stakes get higher. Jim must face the consequences of his actions, doing whatever it takes to save himself and his family as he navigates the dangerous world of drug trafficking.

HALL EUROPE / 13.06 FRIDAY 18:30



A poet of the river

(South Korea), 2025, 103'

Director, Writer, and Producer: **Jungkook Han**

Starring: **Hyojin Kim, Juntae Kim**

An 18-year-old North Korean defector, Lee Sun-hwa, crosses the Duman River, crossing the thin line between life and death, and arrives in South Korea. After completing her resettlement program in Hanawon, she is placed in a public housing complex in Nowon, Seoul. Yet life in the South seems like an uncharted world. Choosing to enroll in a South Korean high school rather than extend her stay in Hanawon, she soon finds herself up against a challenge—both academic and cultural. Her only desire is to be reunited with her family.

2024 MITAK Film Festival, Seoul, Korea / Grand Prix

HALL EUROPE / 13.06 FRIDAY 20:00



The Blue Trail

(Brazil, Mexico, Netherlands, Chile), 2025, 85'

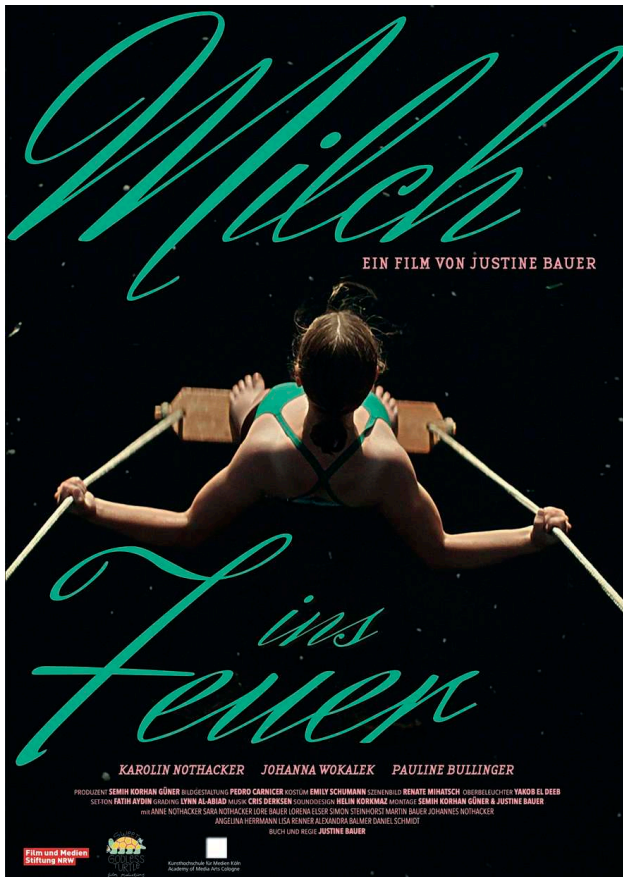
Director, screenwriter: **Gabriel Mascaro**

Screenwriters: **Tiberio Azul, Morillo Hauser**

Starring: **Denise Weiberg, Rodrigo Santoro, Miriam Socarras, Adanillo**

To maximize economic productivity, the government orders the elderly to move into remote housing complexes. 77-year-old Teresa refuses - instead embarks on a journey through the Amazon that will change her fate forever.

HALL 1 / 14.06 SATURDAY 20:30



Smell of Burnt Milk

(Germany), 2024, 79'

Director, screenwriter: **Justine Bauer**

Cast: **Pauline Bullinger, Anne Nothaker, Caroline Nothaker, Sarah Nothaker, Johanna Wotzalek**

Three generations of farmers under one roof. Anna is pregnant and all she can think about is castration. Katinka may not be able to become a farmer and wear a bikini in the milking parlor, but grandma's tomatoes are better than ever this year. A story about one summer on several dying German farms.



HALL EUROPE / 14.06 SATURDAY 18:30



Water lilies

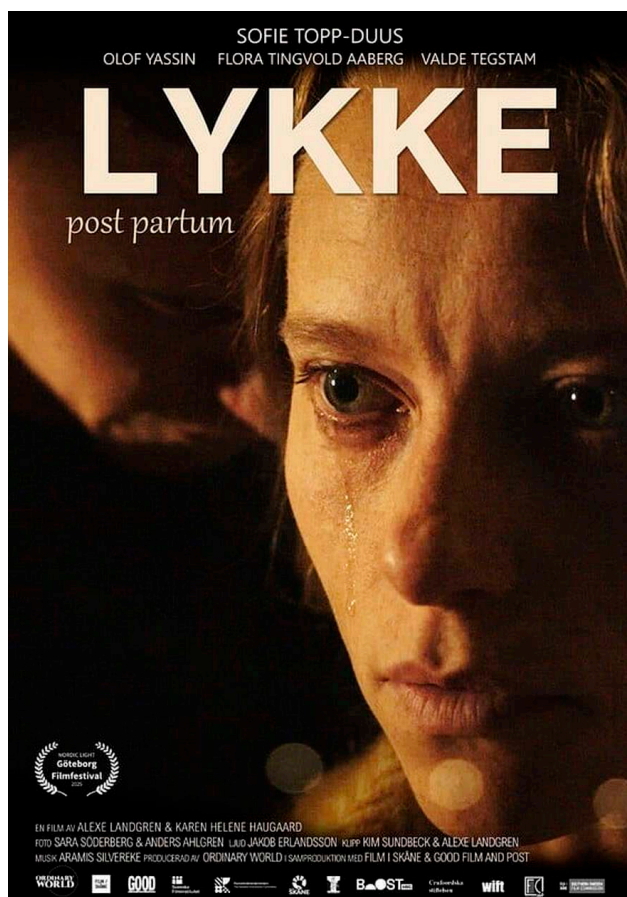
(South Korea), 2024, 119'

Director, screenwriter: **Chano Lee**

Cast: **Hyo-won, Lee Eun-seo, Choi Lee Seung-yoon**

Hyo-won, who dreams of becoming an actress, runs away to Seoul with Eun-seo, a high school dropout. The two girls step into the big city with their fragile hopes, clinging to its promises like lifelines. Their first home is a basement, gloomy and miserable, the air thick and heavy, but for them it is a refuge, a nest of possibilities. Eun-seo takes on any job to keep them afloat, while Hyo-won, drawn by her dream, takes on the most menial tasks in a theater company, taking acting lessons from Su-yeon, the theater's leading actress. She says: "Acting is the art of embodying the suffering of another."

HALL EUROPE / 14.06 SATURDAY 20:00



LYKKE after birth

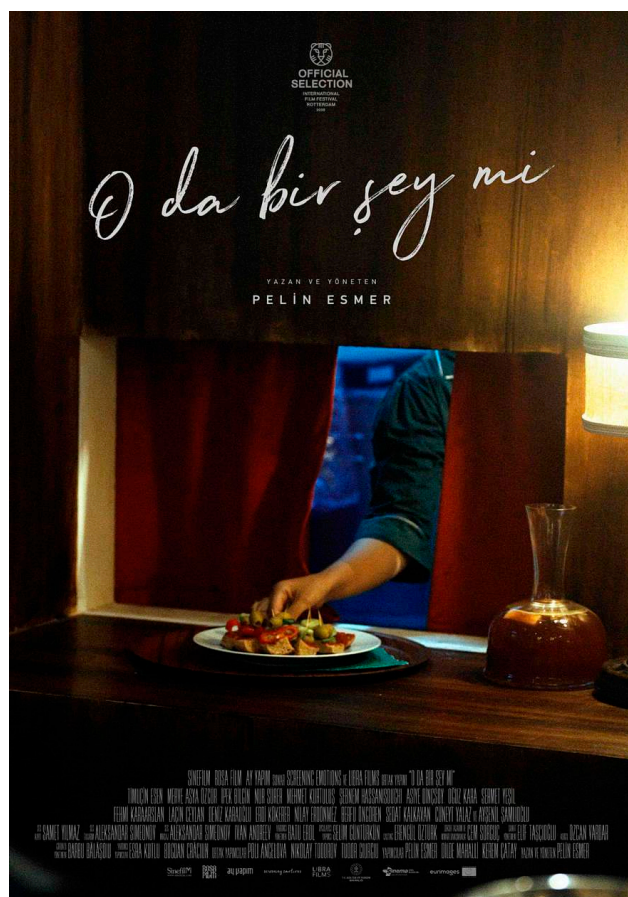
(Sweden), 2025, 86'

Directors, writers and producers: **Alexe Landgren, Karen Helene Haugaard**

Cast: **Sophie Top-Duus, Olof Yassin, Flora Tingvold Aaberg, Walde Tegstam**

The peaceful life at a racehorse stud farm in rural southern Sweden is shattered when Lyke and Christian's second child is born in their hallway. What should be a time of happiness turns into a descent into darkness as Lyke is consumed by postpartum depression. As her world unravels, Christian struggles to strengthen herself - until, fearing for their children, she makes the heartbreaking decision to leave. Lyke herself must fight her way back from the abyss, rediscovering her strength and rekindling the hope that the family will be reunited.

HALL EUROPE / 15.06 SUNDAY 18:30



And the Rest Will Follow

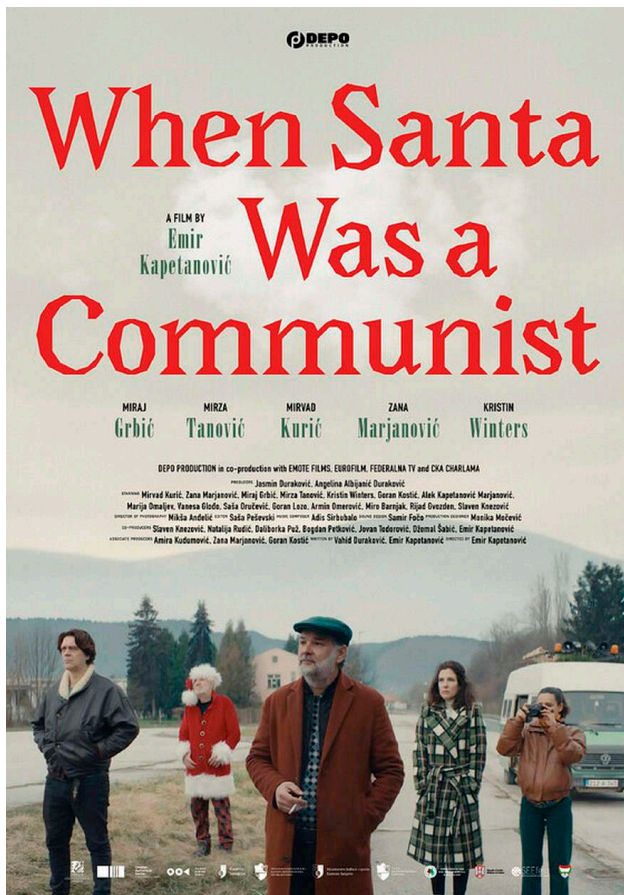
(Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania), 2025, 114'

Director and screenwriter: **Pelin Esmer**

Cast: **Timuçin Esen, Merve Esiya Özgür, İpek Bilgin, Mehmet Kurtuluş, Nur Surer**

The housekeeper, Alie, spends her days lost in her thoughts between hotel rooms, finding solace in the lives of the guests. After a brief encounter with a famous director, she decides that she has something to tell, which leads to the interweaving of life situations and fictions. Alie is a fan of the famous director Levent, who has arrived at the hotel as an honored guest at the Söke Film Festival. At first, while the locals inundate the director with stories of their bitterness and broken hearts, hoping to be immortalized on the big screen, she quietly watches them from afar. Before long, however, Alie drags Levent into the murky waters of the past.

HALL EUROPE / 15.06 SUNDAY 20:00



When Santa was communist

(Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia), 2024, 86'

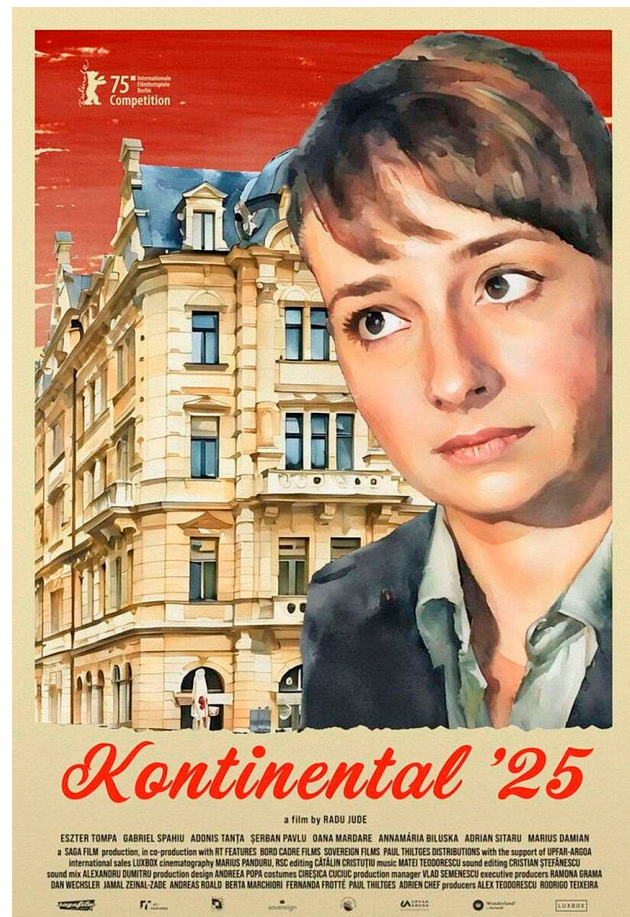
Director, screenwriter: **Emir Kapetanović**

Cast: **Mirvad Kurić, Zana Marjanović, Miraj Grbić, Mirza Tanović, Kristin Winters, Goran Kostić**

December 2023. An acting troupe goes on tour with a play about Santa Claus to spread holiday cheer in the small towns of post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina. While the children are delighted, the appearance of Santa Claus reignites old conflicts between the adults.



HALL EUROPE / 16.06 MONDAY 18:30



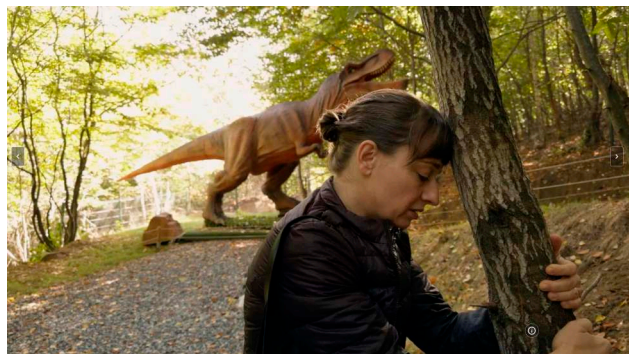
Kontinental '25

(Romania, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Brazil, United Kingdom), 2025, 109'

Director, screenwriter: **Radu Jude**

Cast: **Ester Tompa, Marius Damian, Anamaria Bilushka, Oana Mardare, Serban Pavlu**

In the capital of Transylvania, Cluj, Orsolya works as a bailiff. One day, she has to evict a homeless man from a basement, which has disastrous consequences and raises a moral dilemma that Orsolya must try to resolve.



HALL EUROPE / 16.06 MONDAY 20:00



Bring me home

(Bulgaria, Italy), 2024, 85'

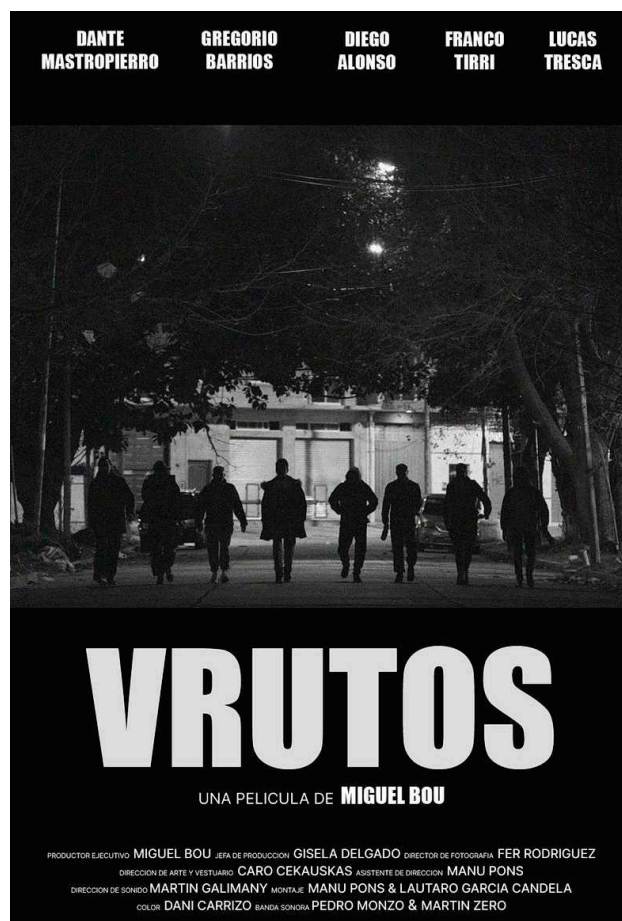
Director: **Martin Genovski**

Screenwriter: **Mihail Veshim**

Actors: **Alex Marinov, Asen Blatechki, Koyna Ruseva, Kitodar Todorov, Albena Koleva, Petar Kalchev**

A star rises in an orphanage - Zlati, a celebrity, showman and host of the "Golden Show", arrives. The social initiative "Take Me Home" is launched. Zlati invites one of the children, Ian, to visit his home and celebrate Christmas together. In one day, the child finds himself in the spotlight and makes many discoveries about television, show business, advertising and the false glow of success.

HALL EUROPE / 17.06 TUESDAY 18:30



Vrutos

(Argentina), 2024, 100'

Director and screenwriter: **Miguel Bu**

Cast: **Facundo Bu, Jorge Diesler, Monica Divela, El Chon, actors, Mariano Fulchi**

Brian (23) hopes to inherit the respect of Pablo (55) from his father's criminal days. He fights a group of elite rugby players after feeling humiliated by them and is injured. It is difficult for his father to intervene to take revenge, as he has left all forms of violence in the past to focus on raising him. Therefore, El Negro, Pablo's partner, fights back and severely injures the aggressors. Brian continues his chaotic life, stealing and taking drugs in the neighborhood. He returns to the conflict club, but this time armed and in the ensuing brutal confrontation, Brian is beaten to death. Pablo decides to avenge his son's death with his comrades....

HALL EUROPE / 17.06 TUESDAY 20:00



Eternity package

(Bulgaria, Italy), 2024, 85'

Director: **Magdalena Ilieva**

Cast: **Stoyan Doychev, Mariana Krumova, Kitodar Todorov, Aleksandra Sarchadzhieva, Vanina Kondova, Konstantin Todorov, Zhivko Iliev**

"Eternity Package" follows Bobkata - a failed funeral director in a corrupt provincial town, where old grievances never die, but are passed down through generations. His business is on the verge of bankruptcy, his wife is leaving him, and his main competitor - a scoundrel with connections in the hospital - is quietly taking over the entire "death market".

Burdened by debt and tormented by the painful loss of his parents, Bobkata is ready to do anything to save himself. In his desperation, he comes up with an absurd plan - to give dance lessons in a nursing home and thus recruit clients for his prepaid funeral services.

HALL EUROPE / 18.06 WEDNESDAY 18:30



The lambs can graze in peace

(Italy), 2024, 90'

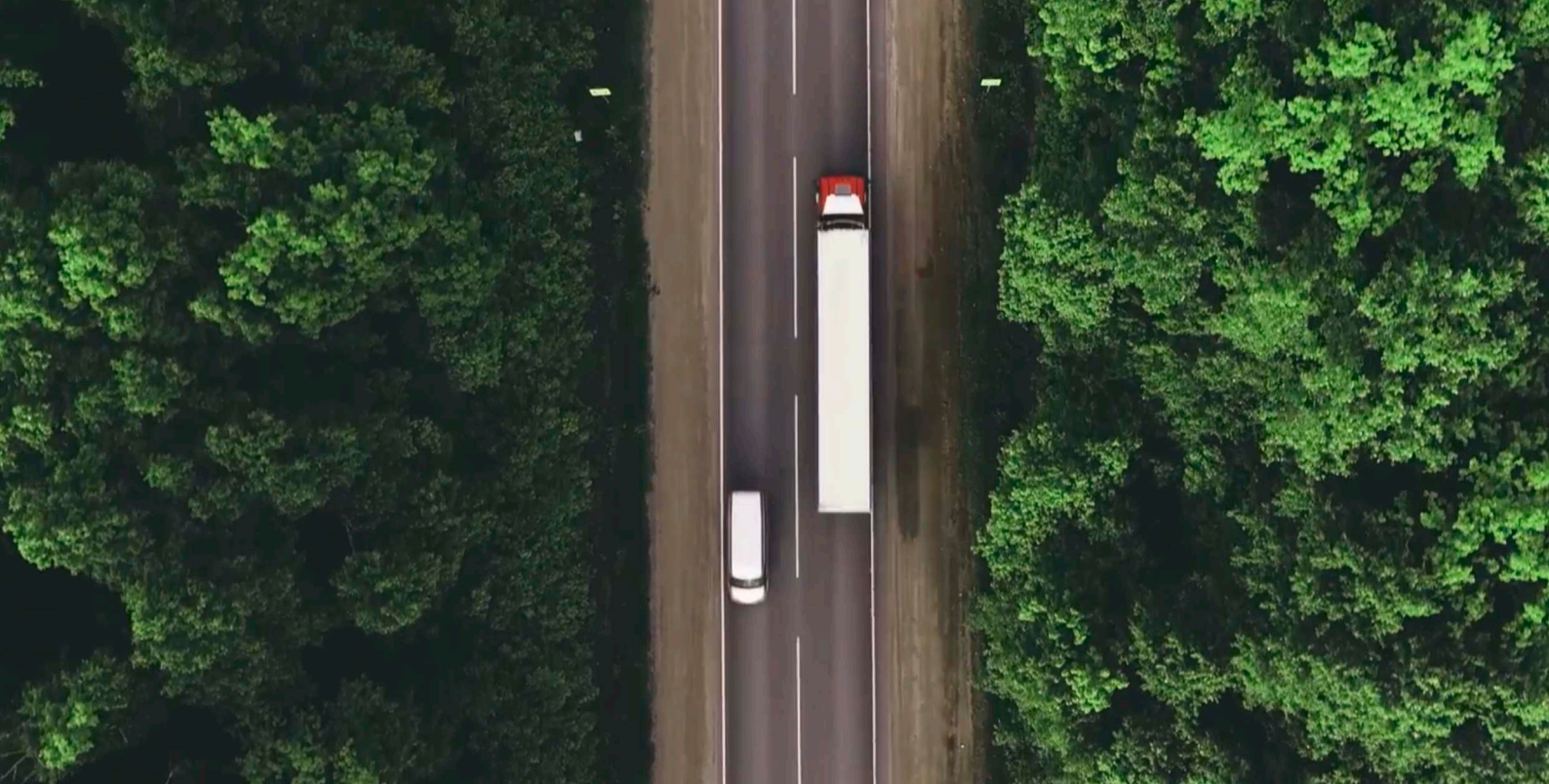
Director, screenwriter: **Beppe Cino**

Cast: **Maria Grazia Cucinotta, Massimo Venturiello, Valentina Gadaleta**

Apulia. The Virgin Mary of Sorrows, the sacred icon of the city, appears in a dream to Alfonsina Miletari, a naive woman from the city. The Madonna speaks with a foreign accent and asks for help because she is buried under a tree.

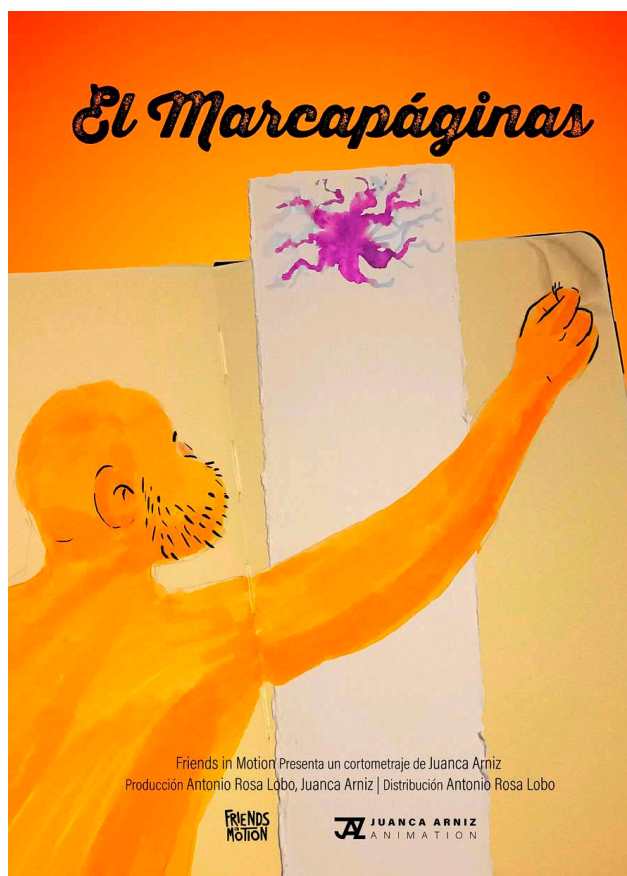


HALL EUROPE / 18.06 WEDNESDAY 20:00



NTZ

Logistics
and traditions
from 1995.



PROGRAM N°1

The Bookmaker

(Spain), 2025, 5'

Dear Lorenzo

(Spain), 2024, 3'

The March

(Chile), 2024, 5'

A Finnish and Paranoid Dream

(Argentina), 2024, 7'

Alpha Packs

(Spain), 2025, 5'

Victor

(France), 2025, 2'

The Curious Case of the Human Cannonball

(Ecuador), 2024, 10'

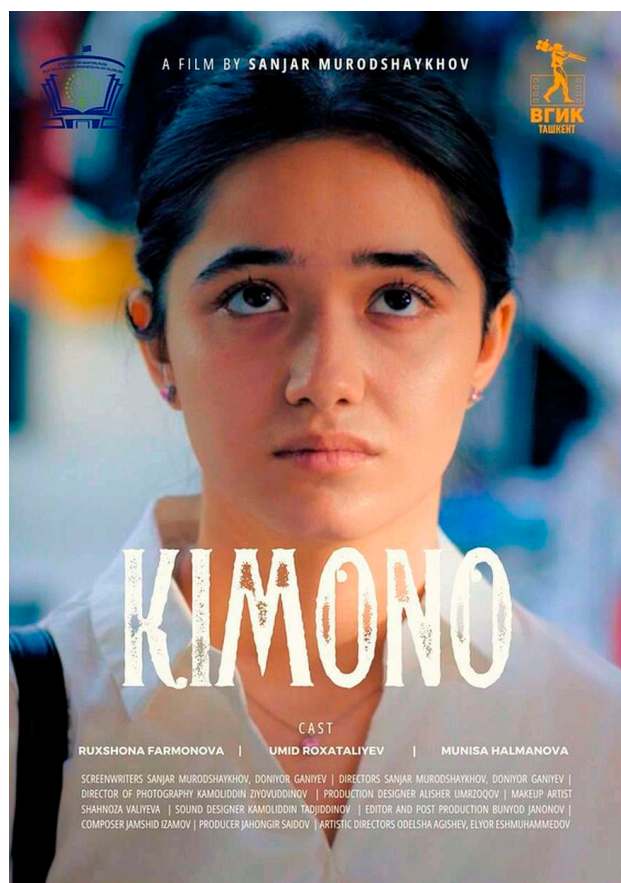
Reflection

(Bulgaria), 2024, 30'

A Hard Game

(Turkey), 2024, 2'

PRESSCENTER / 13.06 FRIDAY 15:00



PROGRAM N°2

Overaged

(China), 2025, 14'

Is it my fault

(Sweden), 2025, 7'

Kimono

(Uzbekistan), 2024, 20'

Get Connected

(Canada), 2023, 3'

Children of Apartheid

(Jordan), 2025, 13'

Steering

(France), 2024, 12'

Happiness can be heard

(Hong Kong), 2024, 1'



PRESSCENTER / 13.06 FRIDAY 16:30

**PROGRAM N°3****Come to me to look at me**

(Russia), 2021, 2'

DP [Display picture]

(India), 2024, 14'

Silence for the Children

(Iran), 2025, 1'

MEDLEY

(Italy), 2024, 18'

The Scrawl

(Italy), 2023, 15'

Bittersweet Stars

(Russia), 2024, 16'

Don't Gamble Your Life Away

(Italy), 2024, 3'

HALL 6 / 14.06 SATURDAY 15:00

**PROGRAM N°4****The Chamber**

(Morocco), 2024, 20'

The Girl and the Hermit

(Norway), 2025, 34'

Together

(Tajikistan), 2024, 18'

TOTAL ENERGY - 100 Years of Pollution

(Zimbabwe), 2024, 4'

First Step

(Spain), 2024, 2'

HALL 5 / 15.06 SUNDAY 15:00



PROGRAM N°5

Kidney Trial

(Israel), 2025, 20'

The Experiment

(Kazakhstan), 2024, 15'

Bright City

(Bulgaria), 2023, 12'

Bitterland

(Italy), 2024, 10'

Yungai

(Spain), 2024, 8'

Candlelight

(France), 2024, 2'

Home

(Iran), 2025, 2'

Black Sun

(Taiwan), 2025, 2'



PROGRAM N°6

Siren

(Turkey), 2024, 3'

Fire Tendon

(Iraq), 2024, 30'

Alive

(Ukraine), 2023, 12'

The Blue Sky

(Nepal), 2024, 12'

17 O'Clock

(Republic of North Macedonia), 2024, 10'

Miserable island

(Egypt), 2023, 3'



HALL 5 / 15.06 SUNDAY 16:15

HALL 5 / 16.06 MONDAY 15:00

**PROGRAM №7****Mother**

(Poland), 2024, 29'

Munji Mithi

(Pakistan), 2024, 14'

Stolen Childhood

(Argentina), 2025, 10'

Prayer

(Iraq), 2025, 6'

Taif

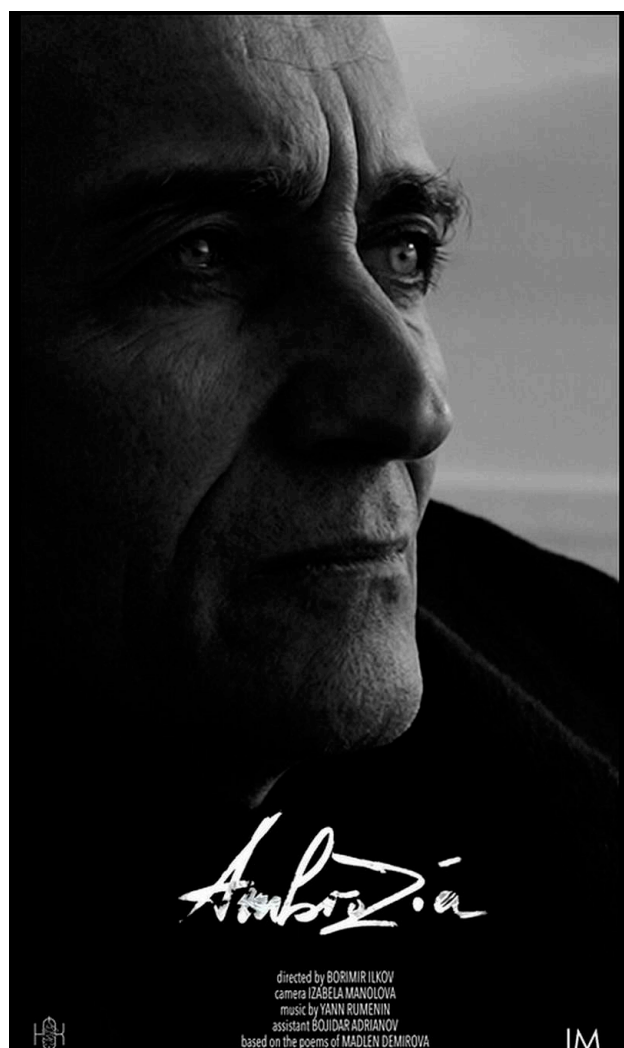
(Iraq), 2024, 6'

Hard Days

(Egypt), 2023, 2'

Lucky Fish

(USA), 2024, 1'

**PROGRAM №8****Ambrosia**

(Bulgaria), 2023, 17'

Parallel Poles

(Cyprus), 2024, 17'

Becalmed

(France), 2024, 10'

Action!

(Mexico), 2024, 5'

Our Island

(Peru), 2024, 8'

Cloudless

(Switzerland), 2024, 13'

HALL 6 / 17.06 TUESDAY 15:00

HALL 6 / 18.06 WEDNESDAY 15:00



PROGRAM Nº9

Sowing the Earth

(Brazil), 2023, 9'

No to War

(Argentina), 2025, 1'

The Newspaper

(Bangladesh), 2024, 6'

Collective Memory

(France, Peru), 2025, 15'

Tuppers & Tuppers

(Spain), 2025, 4'

Don't Look

(Chile), 2025, 3'

Shadow and Light

(Egypt), 2024, 5'

Transit

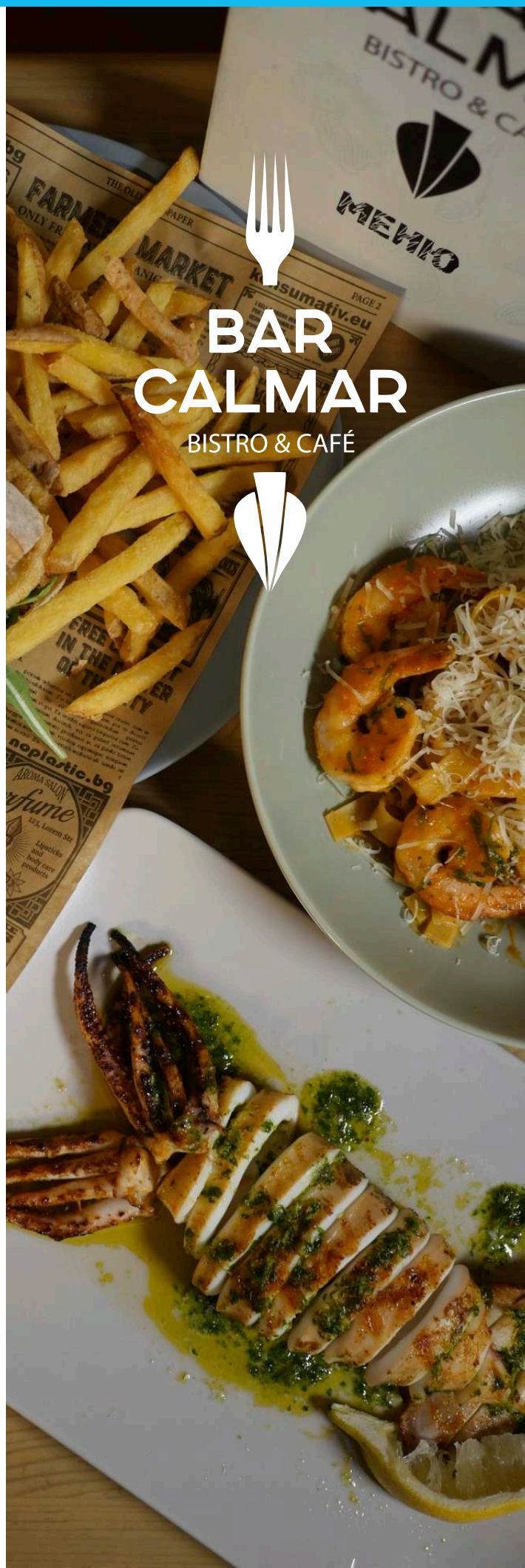
(Iraq), 2023, 16'

Dawn

(France), 2025, 10'

Hope

(India), 2025, 1'





ИЗПЪЛНИТЕЛНА АГЕНЦИЯ МЕДИЦИНСКИ НАДЗОР

The Executive Agency for Medical Supervision exercises control over the activities of medical institutions, medical activities and the quality of medical care and performs the function of a competent authority for management, coordination and control of transplantation in the Republic of Bulgaria.



www.expressprint.bg

EXPRESS PRINT

**НИЕ
СЪЗДАВАМЕ
РЕКЛАМА**





creating memories





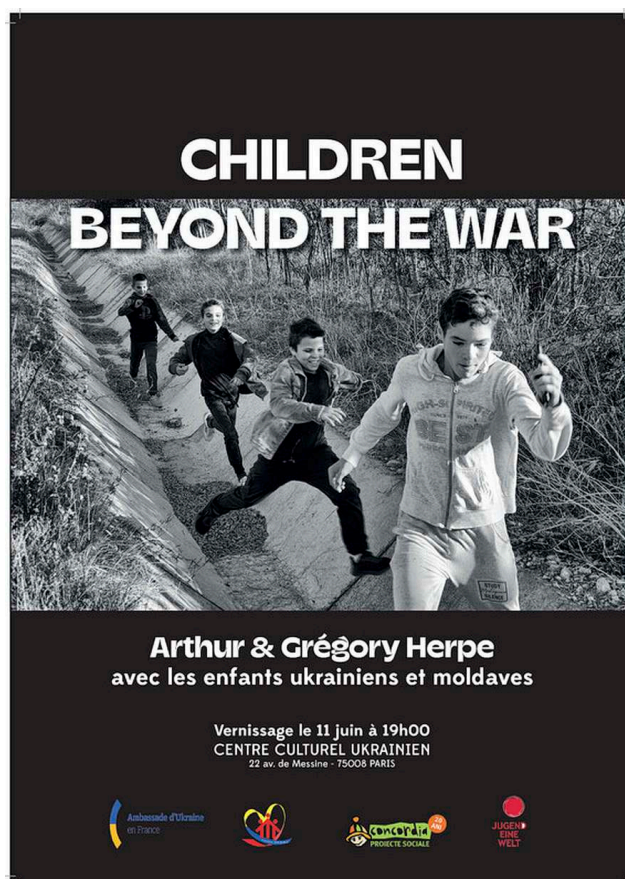
Goodbye breasts!

(Australia, UK), 2025, 69'

Director: **Joanna Callaghan**

The film chronicles the inspiring and unconventional recovery of Joanna Callaghan, a two-time survivor of hereditary cancer. She takes a radically creative approach to healing from breast cancer. After a double mastectomy, Joanna reclaims her body in the most unexpected ways – building a giant inflatable breast, creating song-and-dance routines, post-surgery exercises, and throwing a party to celebrate her breasts. Her journey is not only one of physical healing, but also a powerful exploration of body acceptance and resilience.

HALL 5 / 15.06 SUNDAY 17:30



Children beyond the war

(Austria, Belgium, France, Moldova, Ukraine), 2024, 48'

Directors: **Gregory Herpe, Arthur Herpe**

In October 2023, Gregory Herpe, a French professional photographer, and his son Arthur, a video director, go to Moldova (Chisinau and Gagauzia) at the request of several NGOs to make a photo report and documentary about Ukrainian war orphans living with Moldovan social orphans. Gregory comes up with a project to teach children photography in a fun way and with the help of fun games, the children get excited about this art form, forgetting the dramas of their lives. The father and son make a documentary during their stay in the country to show the project and allow the children to talk about their lives, their dreams, their future, etc.

HALL 5 / 17.06 TUESDAY 16:30



Firestorm, fires in Patagonia (Argentina), 2024, 61'

Directors: **Luciano Naci, Axel Emilien**

On March 9, 2021, the most catastrophic rural fire in Latin America broke out in the province of Chubut, Patagonia. Victims recount how they lost their homes and belongings while trying to survive the voracious fire. There are suspicions that political and economic intentions lie behind the origin of the fires.

HALL 5 / 14.06 SATURDAY 18:00



The volunteers (Argentina), 2024, 63'

Director: **Juan Pablo Lepore**

"The Volunteers" tells the story of a group of medical students who travel to northern Argentina to help various indigenous communities suffering from the dispossession of their lands.

HALL 6 / 14.06 SATURDAY 16:15





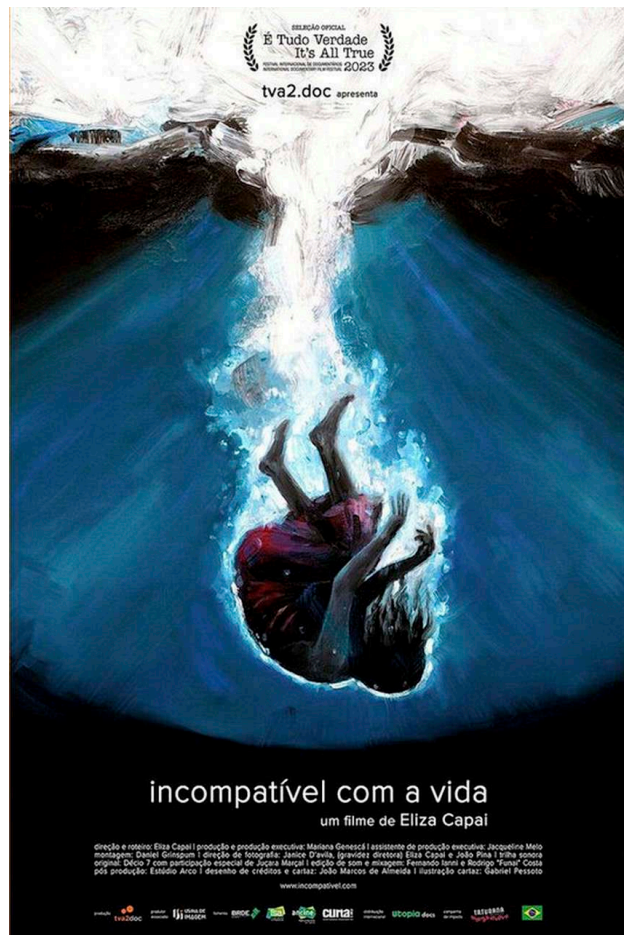
How to kill a river

(Brazil), 2025, 96'

Director: **Chicao Santos**

“How to Kill a River” is a raw and poetic account of the impact of drought and forest fires that are suffocating life and river culture in Rondônia. Through the voices of local residents, the film reveals the slow agony of a river that is not dying by accident, but is the victim of human negligence. The film is a testament to resistance and an urgent warning of the impact of environmental destruction.

HALL 5 / 14.06 SATURDAY 16:15



Incompatible with life

(Brazil), 2023, 93'

Director: **Elisa Capai**

From her own experience of a pregnancy diagnosed with a fetal malformation incompatible with life, director Elisa Capai speaks to other women who have gone through similar situations, creating a powerful and moving chorus of voices that reflect universal themes: motherhood, prenatal grief, and abortion. All from Brazil, a place where abortion in these cases can result in three years in prison.

HALL 5 / 17.06 TUESDAY 17:30



Missing Rio Doce

(Brazil, France), 2024, 72'

Director: **Claudia Neubern**

Nine years after Brazil's worst environmental disaster, Claudia Neubern travels to the affected area to meet with the locals. She finds a people who are determined and resilient, yet powerless against a mining company that is shirking its responsibilities.

HALL 6 / 19.06 THURSDAY 17:30



Burden of debt

(Bulgaria), 2024, 52'

Director: **Juan Pablo Lepore**

What to do when you don't know how you'll feed your children tomorrow? How to resist social pressure and deal with endless debts? The documentary "The Burden of Debt" tells the stories of four Bulgarian citizens who overcame circumstances, offering four compelling reasons to rethink the importance of financial literacy.

HALL 5 / 13.06 FRIDAY 16:30



Nothing can stop you (Bulgaria), 2025, 56'

Director: **Nikolay Urumov**

The story follows the activities of three of the largest volunteer organizations in the country, three smaller initiatives and a spontaneously created children's cause in the town of Zlatitsa. This is a story about those who, despite the absurdity of the times we live in, do everything in their power to create good.

HALL 1 / 14.06 SATURDAY 18:30

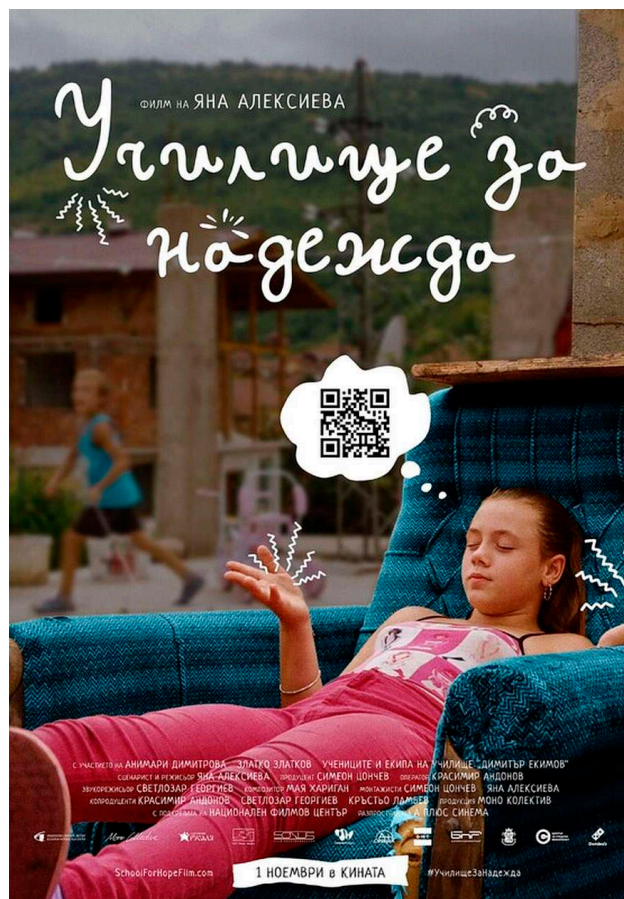


Forgetfulness (Bulgaria), 2021, 28'

Director: **Valentina Fidanova-Kolarova**

A film about Dr. Stefan Cherkezev, who pulled forty-seven people out of a burning bus on August 15, 1963 – Golyama Bogoroditsa and died from the burns. A film about the feat and oblivion.

HALL 6 / 15.06 SUNDAY 15:45



School for hope (Bulgaria), 2024, 82'

Director: **Yana Alexieva**

Annimari and Zlatko take seven-year-old Rosi to their unique boarding school in rural Bulgaria for her first year of school. As she progresses through second grade, making good friends along the way, Anniemari and Zlatko face numerous challenges to keep the school running. A poetic, whimsical journey through their lives over the course of a year, the film explores the limits of what they are willing to do to protect their students and help them thrive.

HALL 6 / 18.06 WEDNESDAY 17:30



Gery's Wish

(Bulgaria, Finland), 2024, 83'

Director: **Tonislav Hristov**

Geri is 18 years old and about to graduate from high school. For her, this is more important than for her peers, because she will have to leave the home for children without parental care where she grew up. While studying for her exams, she dreams of going to university, prepares for her prom, and her older stepbrother helps her understand why her mother abandoned her.

HALL 5 / 19.06 THURSDAY 17:30



9 month contract

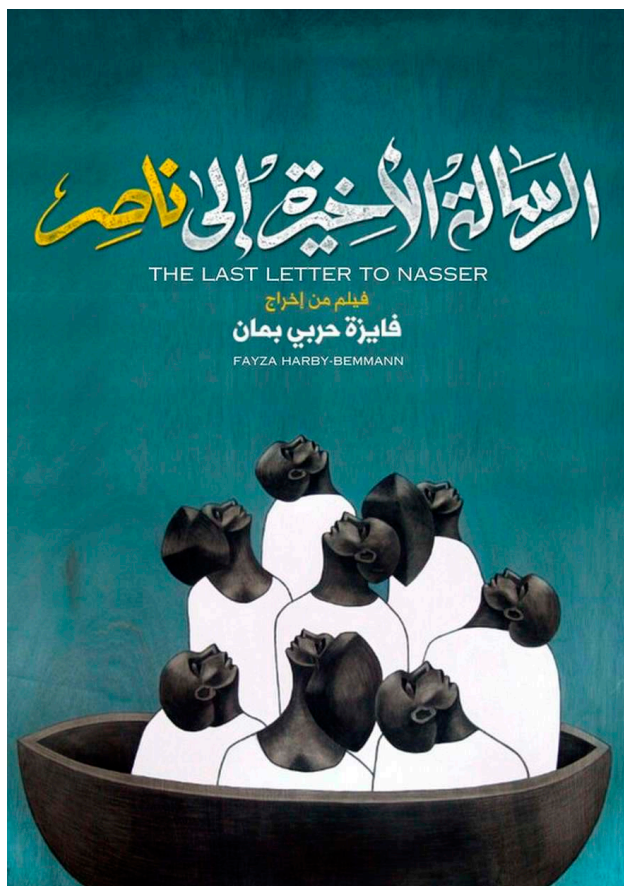
(Georgia, Bulgaria, Germany), 2025, 79'

Director: **Ketevan Uageshvili**

Nine months of pregnancy for \$14,000? The long-standing friendship between the director and the main character develops into a film about surrogacy and dignity in an unregulated industry in Tbilisi.

HALL 6 / 17.06 TUESDAY 17:30





LAst leter to Nasser

(Egypt), 2023, 60'

Director: **Faiza Harbi Beman**

A filmmaker finds herself in a dilemma while filming the Nubian migrations and searching for an answer to her question. In the meantime, she decides to write to then-Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

HALL 6 / 13.06 FRIDAY 17:30



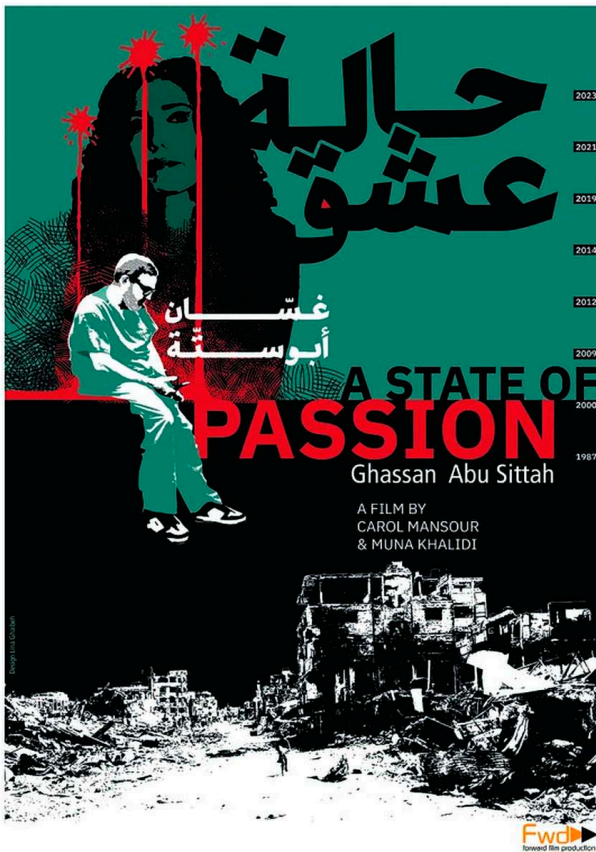
LAMASSU's wing

(Iraq), 2024, 45'

Director: **Hassan Galawe**

The film examines the humanitarian issue of the severe consequences of war experienced by the country in a dark era. It tells the story of minorities, including Christians and Yazidis, illustrating the displacement, persecution and killing of Muslims. The theme of changing the curriculum and the incitement to violence and terror is a powerful one. The film explores the psychological trauma and long-term effects on the lives of people who, after many years, return to rebuild their communities, establishing mosques and churches, and building a new beginning for their city.

HALL 5 / 16.06 MONDAY 16:15



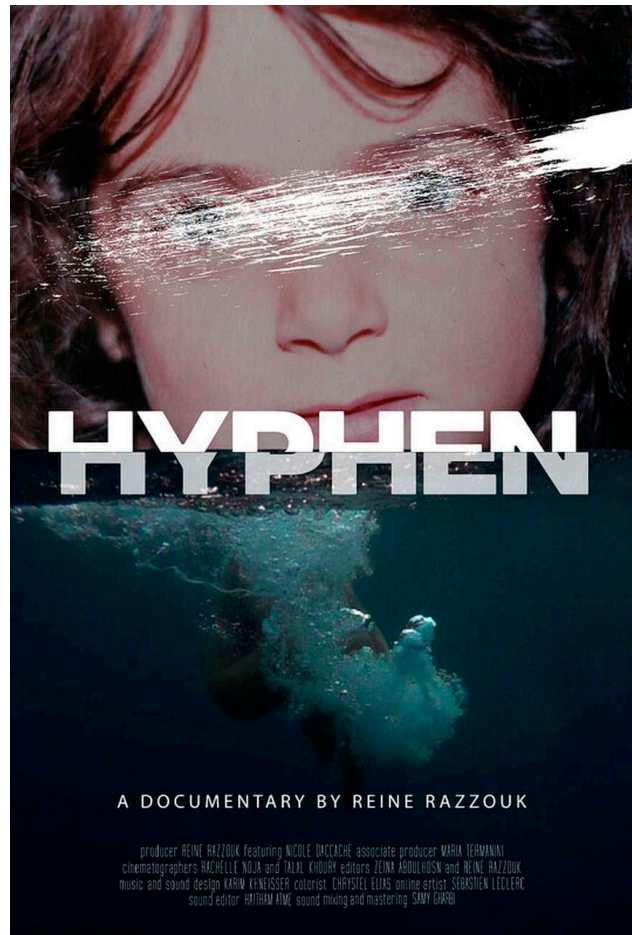
A state of passion

(Lebanon), 2024, 90'

Director: **Carol Mansour**

Palestinian-British reconstructive surgeon Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah decides to go to Gaza for help. The film follows his perilous journey through war-torn Gaza, where he spends 43 grueling days providing life-saving medical care amidst relentless bombardment. It was Ghassan's sixth and most horrific "war" in Gaza

HALL 6 / 14.06 SATURDAY 17:30



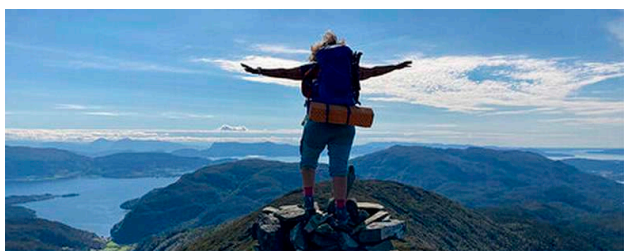
Hyphen

(Lebanon), 2023, 98'

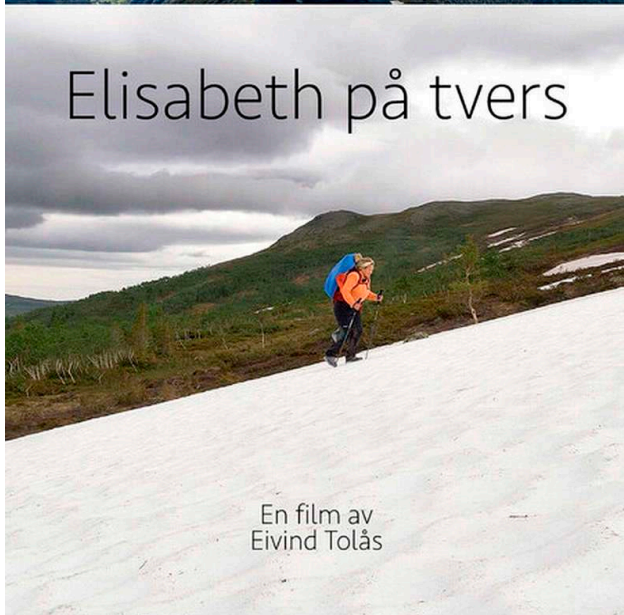
Director: **Reine Razzouk**

When Nicole reveals to her childhood friend and cousin Reine that she has been addicted to heroin since the age of 13, they decide to document Nicole's journey to recovery. The film follows her struggle to present herself to the world as a grown woman, despite a lack of economic opportunity and a toxic cultural upbringing that teaches young women to suppress their ideas and sexuality and to follow a set of religious and cultural rules.

HALL 6 / 16.06 MONDAY 17:30



Elisabeth på tvers



En film av
Eivind Tolås



Elisabeth Across

(Norway), 2023, 76'

Director: **Eivind Tolos**

Where do you go when the road seems to disappear? Elisabeth is a young woman who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. She has always been positive and fun, but everything about this disease is hard mentally and physically. Elisabeth seeks what she has always taken for comfort - nature and the mountains. And now she wants to cross Norway with good friends.

PRESSCENTER / 13.06 FRIDAY 17:30



On the Adamant

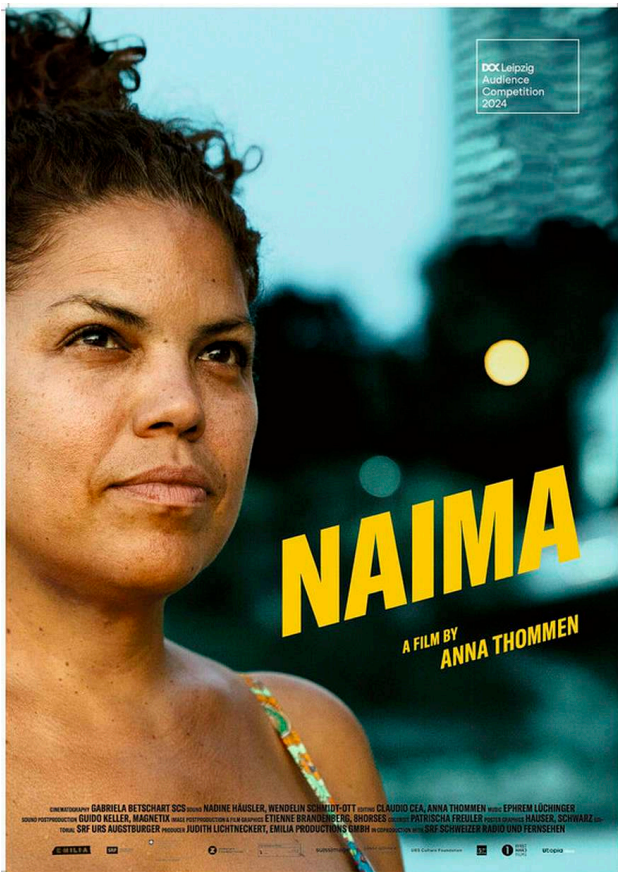
(France, Japan), 2023, 109'

Director: **Nicolas Filbert**

Follows patients and caregivers in a psychiatric center with a unique floating structure located in the middle of the Seine River in central Paris.



HALL EUROPE / 19.06 THURSDAY 18:00



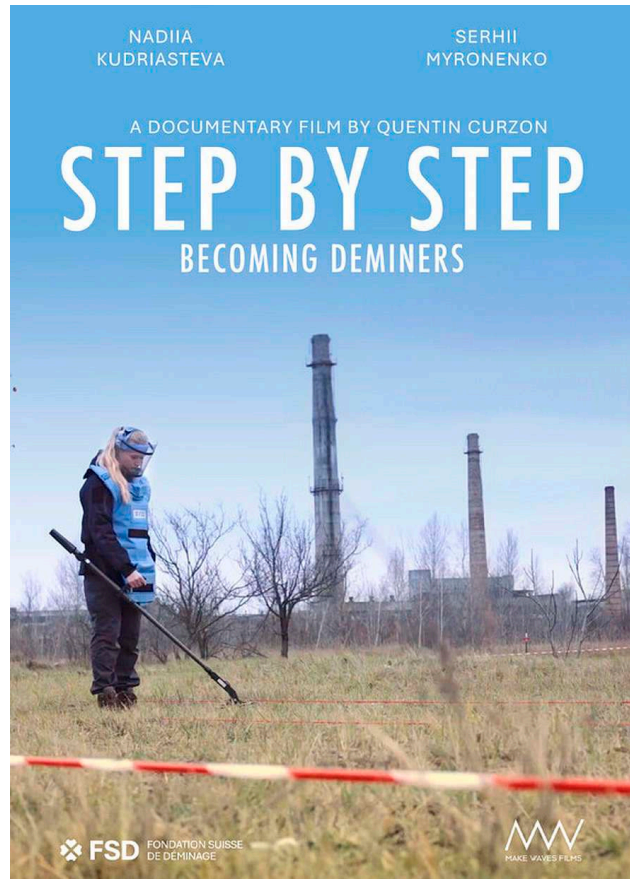
Naima

(Switzerland), 2024, 98'

Director: **Anna Thomen**

Naima, a 46-year-old Venezuelan, lives precariously in Basel and after many years in the low-paid sector, secures an internship as a nurse. However, her happiness clashes with harsh reality: patients love her compassionate humor, but her colleagues perceive her as lacking professional distance. When she fails her internship, her world falls apart. Yet Naima rises to fight her toughest battle: standing up for herself.

PRESSCENTER / 19.06 THURSDAY 16:15



Step by step

(Switzerland, Ukraine), 2024, 61'

Director: **Quentin Curzon**

Witness the first steps taken by a newly trained team of sappers to rebuild their nation after the war in Chernihiv, Ukraine. After the war in Ukraine derails their lives, a young married couple, a former environmental officer, and a displaced family join others on a new path to become professional sappers. Experience their captivating two-year journey as they undergo intensive training amidst the uncertainty of the Russian invasion. Follow their ups and downs as they adapt to their new reality and witness their resilience in the face of adversity. An inspiring documentary that celebrates the courage of the human spirit to overcome even the most difficult challenges.

HALL 5 / 19.06 THURSDAY 16:15



PLAZA HOTEL

Cheap and Comfortable
Business Accommodation
in the City Center





Експрес Гаранцион ООД стартира нов жилищен комплекс **Sun City Residence** с 5 етапа на изграждане. Намира се в **кв. Галата** на територия от **180 хил. м²**. Разполага с уникална панорамна гледка към морето и града.

Тел. 0889 486 505 / 0888 399 955
www.complexsuncity.com



Bulgaria Air



**22 ГОДИНИ
ЛЕТИМ
ЗАЕДНО**



**NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ARTS
"DOBRI HRISTOV" - VARNA**



**НАЦИОНАЛНО
УЧИЛИЩЕ
ПО ИЗКУСТВОТА**

1944



**ДОБРИ
ХРИСТОВ**





PROGRAM Nº1

Songs for After the Revolution
(Spain), 2024, 5'

Emilia
(Spain), 2024, 20'

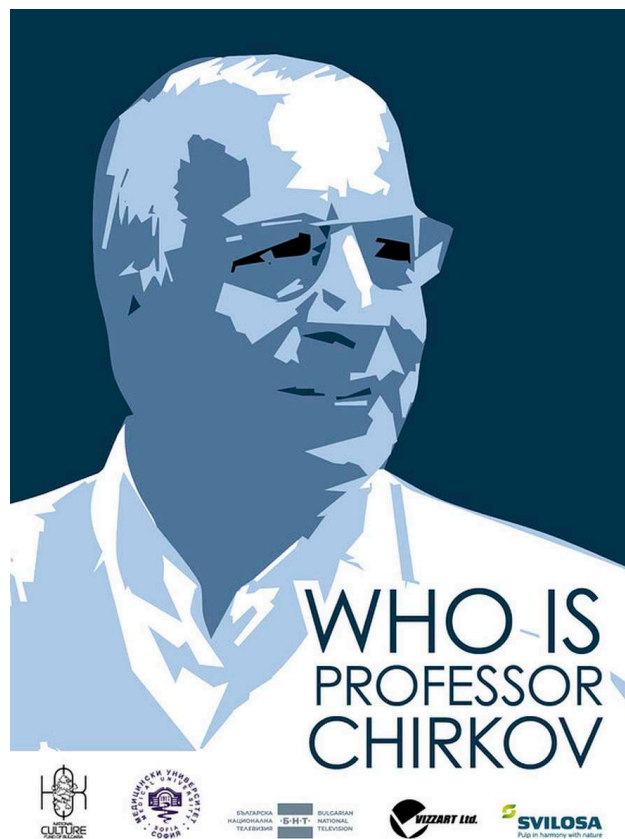
Amazon XXI
(Brazil), 2023, 7'

Between Windows
(Brazil), 2025, 15'

Anima
(Bulgaria), 2024, 23'



HALL 6 / 13.06 FRIDAY 15:00

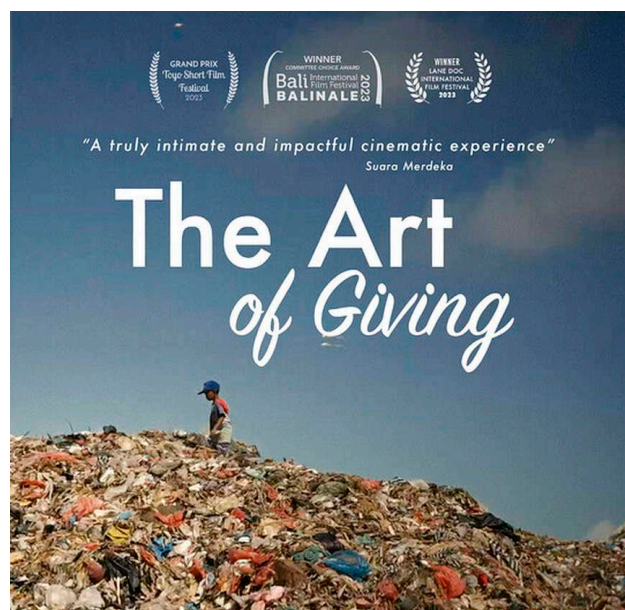


PROGRAM Nº2

Who is Professor Chirkov?
(Bulgaria), 2024, 33'

The Art of Giving
(Indonesia), 2023, 12'

In Zainab's Paradise
(Pakistan, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates), 2023, 25'



HALL 6 / 13.06 FRIDAY 16:15



RÉALISATRICE Lila AMARA ASSISTANT RÉALISATRICE / OPV / OP Camille CARDENAS SCÉNARIO Lila AMARA & Amélia MYERS
ÉCRITURE DE PRODUCTION Kathleen LAMPIN CHEF OPV Nathan VERGÉ SECURITE Amélia MYERS
MONTAGE / IMAGE / MONTAGE SON Kathleen LAMPIN ÉCRITURE Camille CARDENAS COMPOSITEUR Fabio WIELGOSZ

PROGRAM N°3

Beyond Fantasies

(France), 2024, 13'

In Zephyr

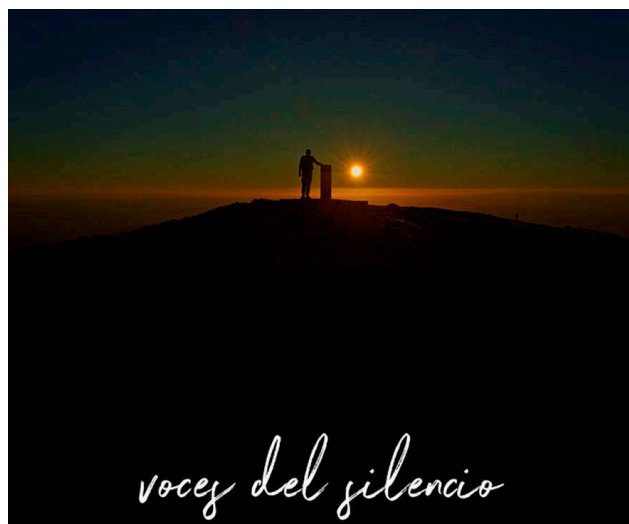
(Iran), 2023, 30'

The Island

(Turkey), 2024, 5'

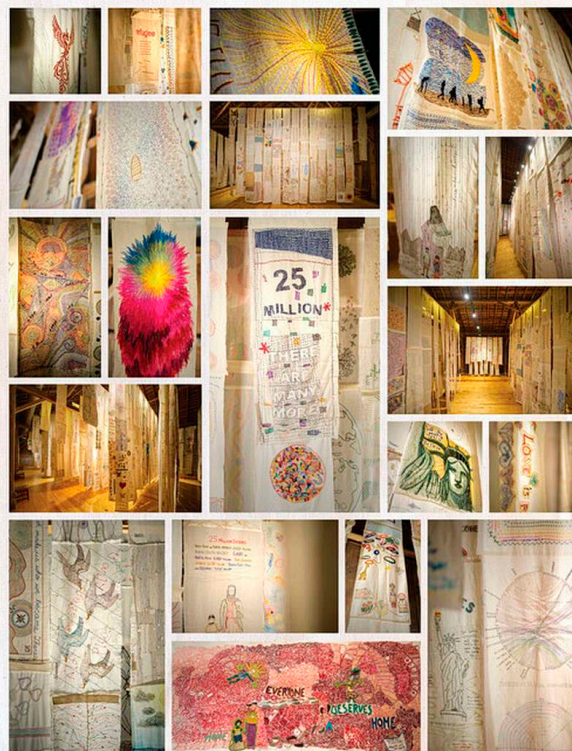
The Voices of Silence

(Spain), 2024, 20'



HALL 5 / 14.06 SATURDAY 15:00

25 MILLION STITCHES: ONE STITCH, ONE REFUGEE



PROGRAM N°4

25 Million Stitches: One Stitch, One Refugee

(USA), 2024, 9'

Ruins

(France), 2024, 4'

Maternal

(Brazil), 2025, 6'

Labels

(Venezuela), 2025, 2'

Silt

(Bulgaria), 2024, 23'

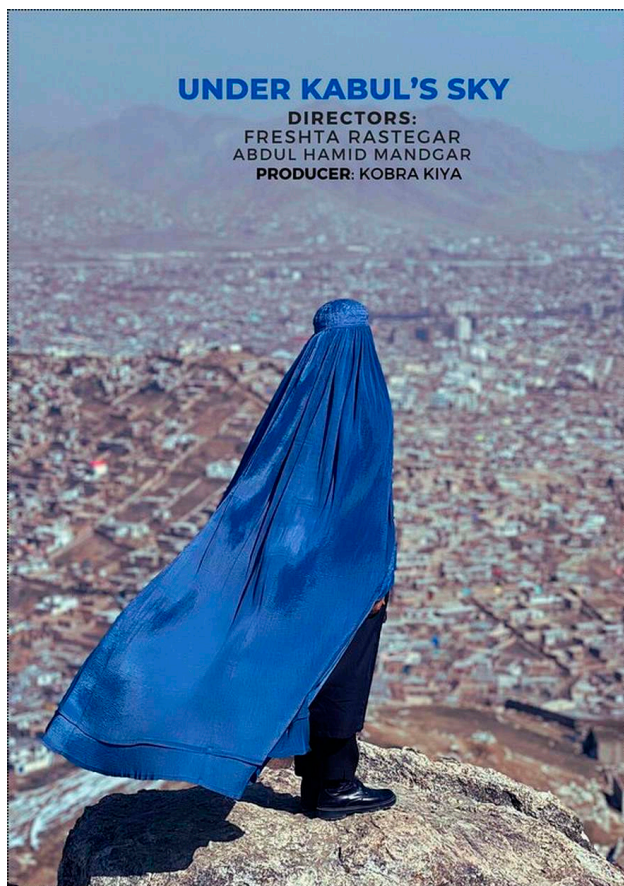
Under the Burden of Life

(Iraq), 2024, 15'

The Forgotten

(France), 2023, 9'

PRESSCENTER / 16.06 MONDAY 15:00



PROGRAM №5

Echo of Ubaka

(China), 2025, 16'

Under Kabul's Sky

(Afghanistan), 2025, 9'

Three Views Through the Stereoscope

(Norway), 2025, 14'

Ambassadors of Hope

(Turkey), 2025, 12'

Opera for Children - The Song of the Countryside

(Brazil), 2024, 16'



PRESSCENTER / 17.06 TUESDAY 15:00



PROGRAM №6

Hayastan

(Armenia), 2024, 13'

Long Journey

(Sweden), 2025, 15'

Our Voices Can Bring Change

(Kenya), 2024, 15'

The Salomon Maternity Hospital

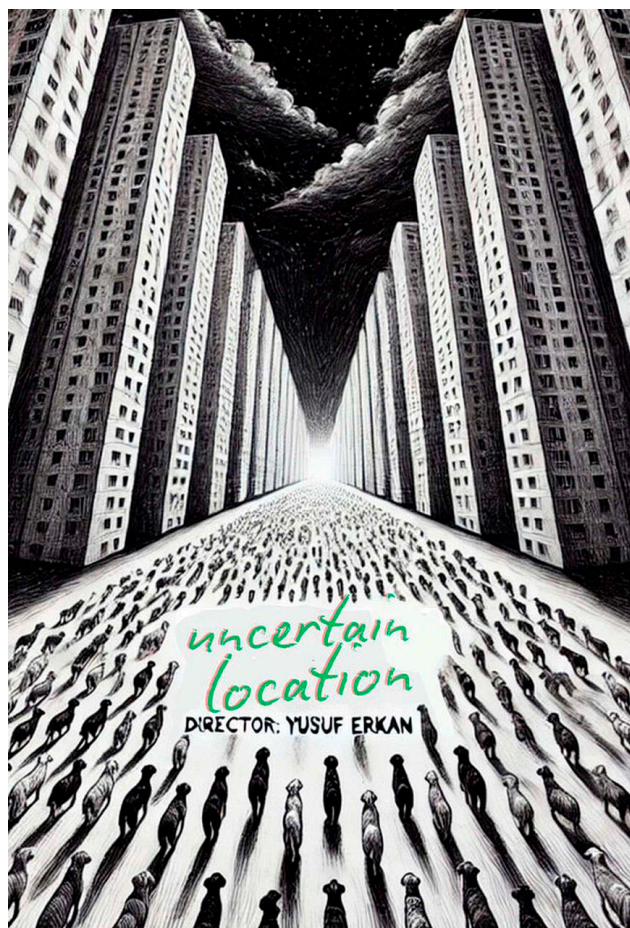
(Singapore), 2024, 7'

Green Ocean Gold

(UK), 2024, 17'



PRESSCENTER / 17.06 TUESDAY 16:15



PROGRAM №7

Invisible Victims

(Bulgaria), 2025, 27'

Munessa

(India), 2024, 19'

Until the beginning of the war in the Gaza Strip in 2008

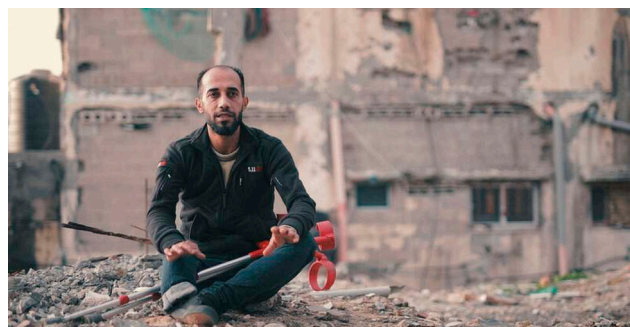
(Palestine), 2023, 3'

Uncertain location

(Turkey), 2024, 15'

More than things

(Russia), 2024, 5'



PRESSCENTER / 18.06 WEDNESDAY 15:00



PROGRAM №8

Face of Disaster

(Canada), 2024, 7'

Doctor

(Kyrgyzstan), 2025, 25'

Following the Light: ZAZ

(Turkey), 2024, 15'

We Are Here

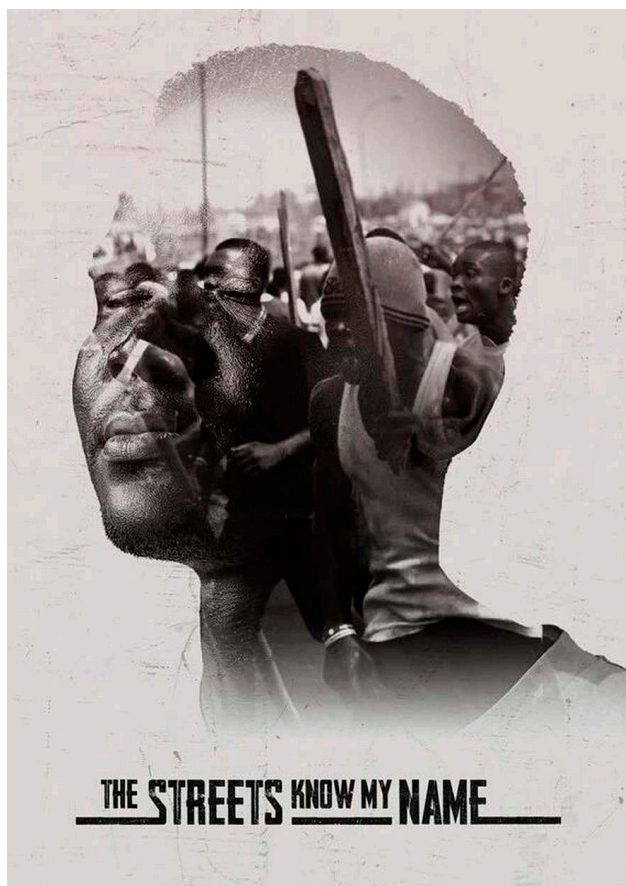
(Iran), 2024, 12'

Revision

(Germany, Sweden), 2024, 10'



PRESSCENTER / 18.06 WEDNESDAY 16:15



PROGRAM Nº9

Unsustainable: The Reality of Oil in the Amazon

(Brazil), 2025, 17'

While You Wait

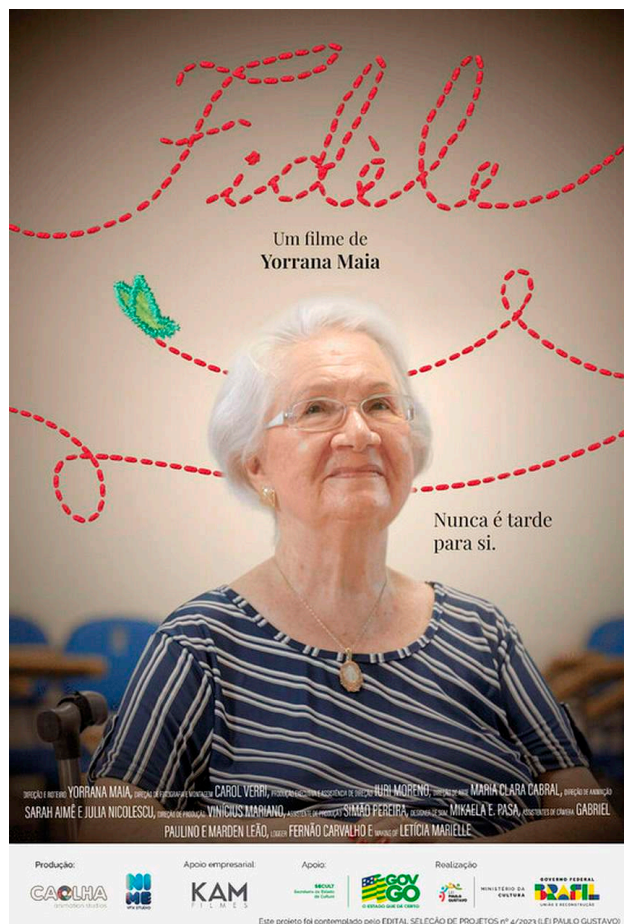
(UK), 2025, 13'

The Streets Know My Name

(UK), 2024, 40'



PRESSCENTER / 19.06 FRIDAY 15:00



SILVER SCREEN

Fidele

(Brazil), 2025, 14'

And That's for This Christmas

(Bulgaria), 2024, 15'

Metacyclica

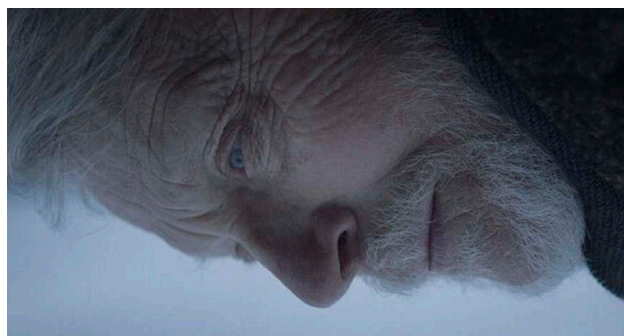
(Spain), 2024, 18'

Appointment at midday

(Italy), 2025, 14'

Karl Gustav

(Sweden), 2024, 12'



HALL 6 / 15.06 SUNDAY 16:15



SHORT SPORT Nº1

Silver Strike

(Chile), 2025, 2'

Run for Life

(Australia), 2023, 10'

This Is What It Means to Live

(Spain), 2024, 19'

The Wall

(Turkey), 2023, 19'

Awakening

(Brazil), 2024, 26'

Resilience

(France), 2025, 2'



PRESSCENTER / 14.06 SATURDAY 16:30



SHORT SPORT Nº2

Olympic Dream

(France), 2024, 15'

Arena

(France), 2024, 5'

Hungry

(Saudi Arabia), 2024, 23'

Let it be Sezni

(Turkey), 2024, 12'

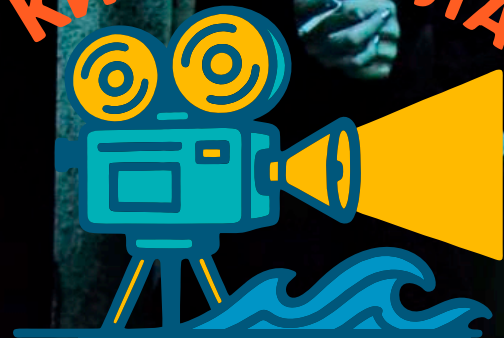
Endometriosis: Let's make the invisible visible

(Spain), 2024, 15'



PRESSCENTER / 16.06 MONDAY 17:30

КИНО ШКОЛА



БРАТЯ ЛЮМИЕР

ЦПАР - ОБЩНСКИ ДЕТСКИ
КОМПЛЕКС ГР. ВАРНА



VARNA
WINERY



Higher Naval School "Nikola Yonkov Vaptsarov"

Centuries-old traditions – Modern horizon

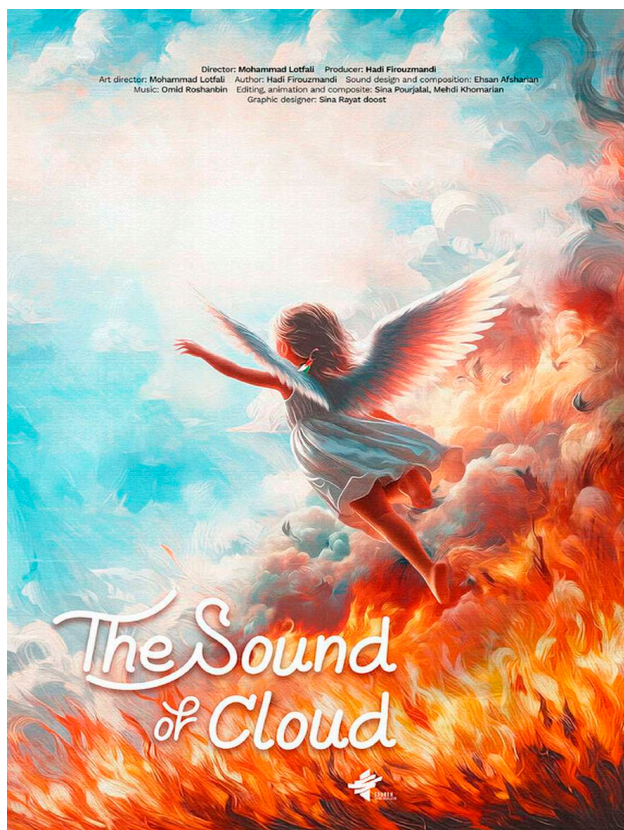
The Maritime School has rich traditions that date back to the 19th century. They include combining theoretical training with practice, upbringing in a spirit of discipline, teamwork, and love for the sea.



Coca-Cola

Our planet, people and communities matter

Our goal is to create a more sustainable and better shared future. To change the lives of people, communities and our planet by doing business the right way. We strive to become an ever better company, contributing to building a stronger and more sustainable future for all of us.

**IRAN N°1****Stratosphere**

(Iran), 2024, 12'

The Sound of Clouds

(Iran), 2024, 4'

Borders Never Die

(Iran), 2023, 15'

Aside Before Use

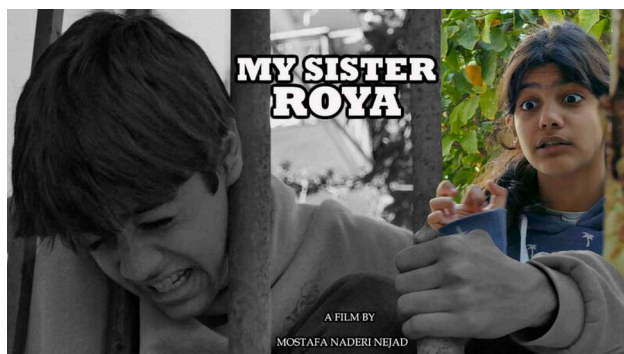
(Iran), 2025, 8'

Faith

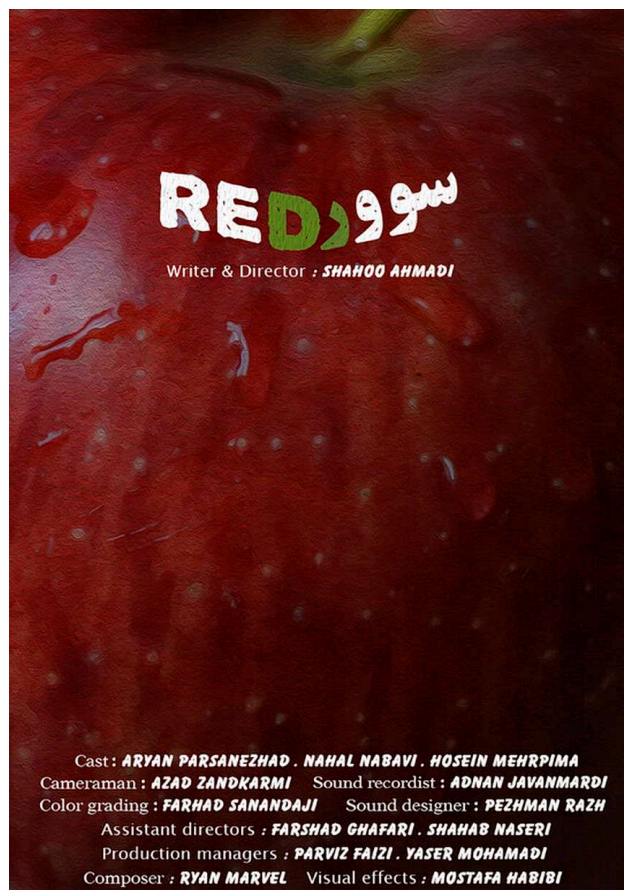
(Iran), 2023, 15'

My Sister Roya

(Iran), 2025, 15'



PRESSCENTER / 16.06 MONDAY 15:00

**IRAN N°2****Red**

(Iran), 2024, 8'

Hope

(Iran), 2025, 3'

Happiness

(Iran), 2024, 2'

Silent

(Iran), 2024, 9'

Taxi Driver

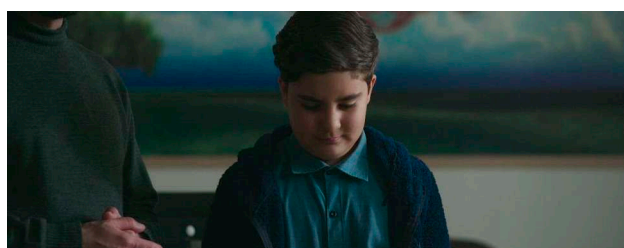
(Iran), 2025, 8'

Kabul's Apples are Sweet

(Iran), 2024, 11'

Warp

(Iran), 2024, 13'



PRESSCENTER / 16.06 MONDAY 16:15



IRAN №3

Birth

(Iran), 2024, 6'

Piano

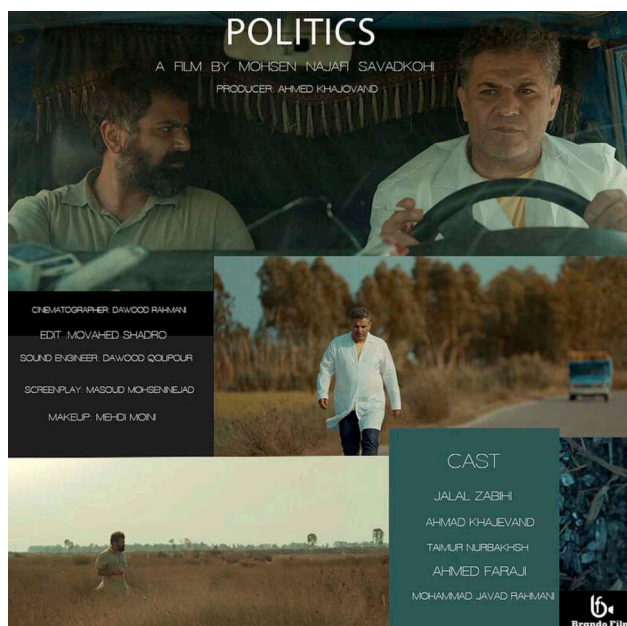
(Iran), 2023, 7'

Politics

(Iran), 2024, 21'

Ant

(Iran), 2023, 30'



HALL 5 / 19.06 THURSDAY 15:00



SERIES

Anxiety

(Bulgaria), 2025, 54'

Screenplay: **Matey Konstantinov, Iliyan Dzhevelev, Radoslava Topalova, Emil Stefanov**

Director: **Iliyan Dzhevelev**

Cinematographer: **Martin Balkanski**

Music: **Petko Manchev**

Starring: **Penko Gospodinov and Ana Papadopoulou, Irmene Chichikova, Radena Valkanova, Maria Stefanova, Stefaniya Kocheva, Nikola Dodov, Boyan Mladenov, Petar Dachev, Dimitar Ivanov – The Captain, Tsvetan Peychev, Victoria Koleva, Desislava Stoycheva, Ina Dobрева, Nevena Kaludova, Elena Kabasakalova, Lora Hristova, Alexander Kanev, Georgi Zlatarev, Greta Georgieva, Todor Nedyalkov and others.**

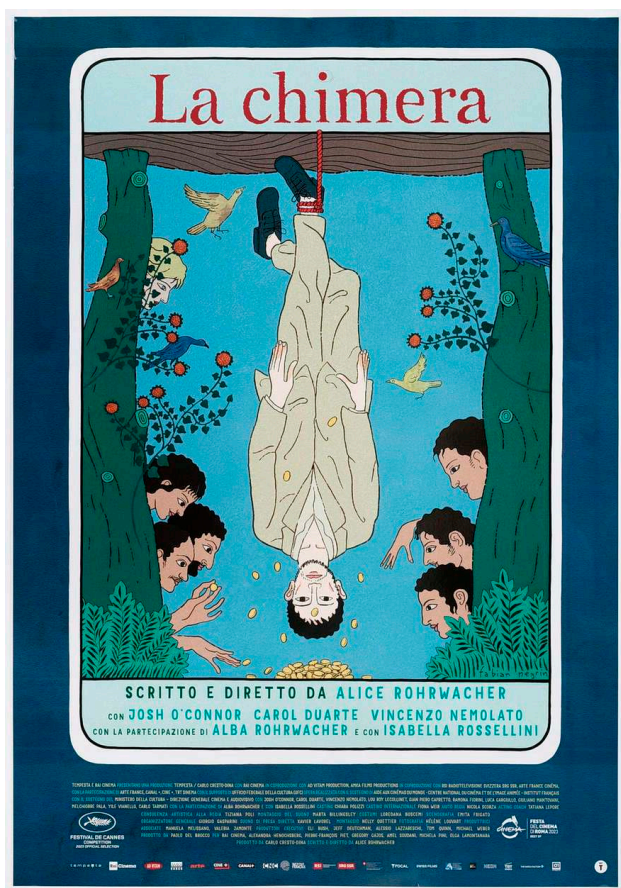
"Anxiety" reveals the conditions of people who have sought psychotherapeutic help - voluntarily, consciously or involuntarily.

The therapists are Dr. Radoslav Manov - an internationally recognized psychoanalyst and his wife Dr. Magdalena Yassenova - a specialist in Child and Adolescent Psychology.

People enter their offices who have decided to take the "ultimate step" to share something about themselves. In front of them are trusted interlocutors, committed to understanding what is happening and where it comes from. Every meeting and confession of the patients is combined with the relationships between the therapists themselves, who are also susceptible to emotions and breakdowns. It seems that no one is omnipotent, and there are always two sides to help.

PRESSCENTER / 13.06 FRIDAY 19:00

PRESSCENTER / 16.06 MONDAY 19:00



La Chimera

(Italy, France, Switzerland),
2023, 131'

Director: **Alice Rohrwacher**

Writers: **Marco Pettenello, Alice Rohrwacher, Carmela Covino**

Starring: **Josh O'Connor, Alba Rohrwacher, Isabella Rossellini, Vincenzo Nemolato, Carole Duarte, Louis-Roy Lecolinet**

Freshly released from prison, distraught English archaeologist Arthur reconnects with his rebellious gang of grave robbers. They survive by looting tombs and stealing the ancient treasures they dig up.

PRESSCENTER / 17.06 TUESDAY 17:45



Fallen leaves

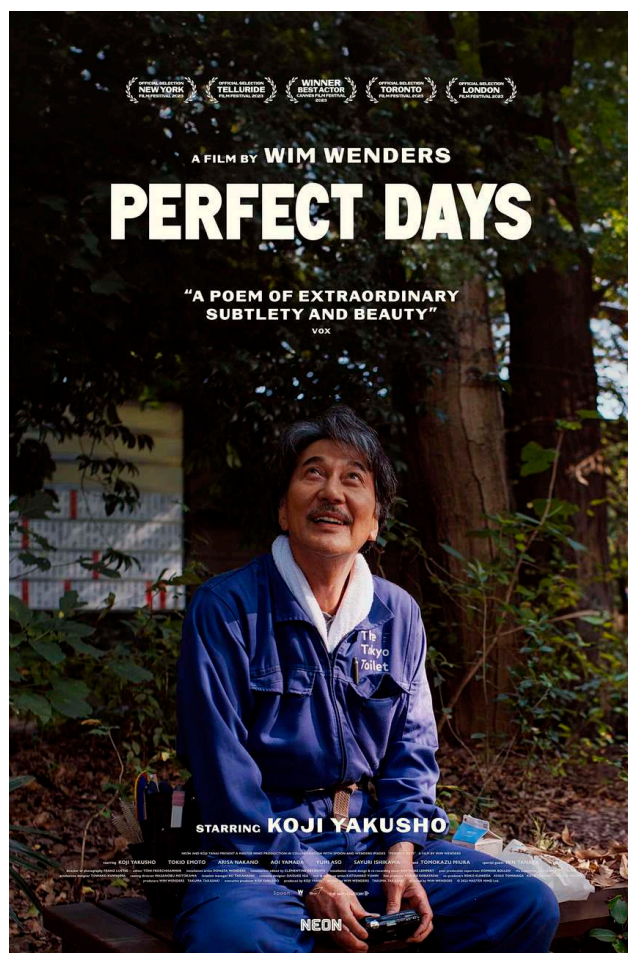
(Finland, Germany), 2023, 81'

Director: **Aki Kaurismäki**

Cast: **Alma Peiusti, Jussi Vatanen, Sakari Kuosmanen, Juho Kuosmanen, Martti Suosalo, Alina Tomnikova**

Fallen Leaves tells the story of two lonely people who meet by chance at night in Helsinki and try to find the first, only and last love of their lives. Their path to this noble goal is marred by the man's alcoholism, lost phone numbers, complete ignorance of the other's name and address, and the usual difficulties that life throws at those seeking happiness. This gentle tragicomedy is the continuation of Aki Kaurismäki's trilogy about the working class (Shadows in Paradise, Ariel and The Girl from the Factory).

HALL 1 / 12.06 THURSDAY 21:00



Perfect days

(Japan, Germany), 2023, 124'

Director: **Wim Wenders**

Hirayama cleans public toilets in Tokyo. He lives his life in simplicity and daily tranquility. Some encounters make him think about himself.



Everything has an end

(Croatia, Bulgaria, Serbia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey), 2024, 89'

Director: **Rajko Grlić**

Successful Zagreb lawyer Max Pinter acquits his client, the rich and influential Dinko Horvath, of the murder of two of his workers. At the party, the drunken Max tells Dinko that he killed the workers in cold blood, who had simply come to ask for their wages. A clash with one of the most influential figures in society will make Max undesirable. He will lose his partner and clients, his wife will leave him... With the help of Nina, his love from his student days, Max devises a plan for revenge. On the other hand, in this story everyone is connected and no one is innocent.

PRESSCENTER / 14.06 SATURDAY 18:00

HALL EUROPE / 20.06 ПЕЋЬК 20:30

ELI SKORCHEVA

Eli Skorcheva is a Bulgarian film, television and theater actress, born on March 8, 1954 in Plovdiv. She graduated from a technical school in construction and architecture, then studied acting at the VITIZ "Krustyo Sarafov", graduating in 1977 in the class of Prof. Nadezhda Seikova.

She made her screen debut in 1974 in the television series "The Blue Lamp". Her first significant success came with the leading role of Veronika in the television drama "Adaptation" (1979) directed by Valo Radev. This role established her as one of the most promising actresses of her generation.

In the 1980s, she starred in a number of films, including "The Queen of Tarnovo" (1981), "Constantine the Philosopher" (1983), "In the Name of the People" (1984), "Eve on the Third Floor" (1987) and "Madame Bovary from Sliven" (1991). Characteristic of her performances are the psychological depth and restrained emotionality.

In the early 1990s, Skorcheva retired from active acting, disappointed by the compromise proposals and the state of Bulgarian cinema and theater at that time. In the following decades, she worked in the insurance sector and rarely appeared in public.

In 2023, she made an impressive comeback with the main role in the social drama "Blaga's Lessons" directed by Stefan Komandarev. Skorcheva's performance was highly praised, with her receiving the Best Actress award at the 57th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, and the film winning the Crystal Globe Grand Prize. Eli Skorcheva remains one of the most memorable actresses in Bulgarian cinema, known for her magnetic presence and deep, emotionally charged roles.





Eva on the third floor (Bulgaria), 1987, 95'

Director: **Ivanka Grabcheva**
 Screenwriter: **Darina Gerova**
 Cast: **Eli Skorcheva, Marin Yanev, Pepa Nikolova, Katya Paskaleva, Maria Statulova, Maria Kavardzhikova, Zhivko Garvanov, Evgeniya Barakova**

On one of the floors of the clinic, several women are waiting for their turn to have an abortion. On another floor, other women are fighting to keep the fetus in their pregnancy. The main character Toni must decide whether to give birth to a child who will not have a father. The fate of the women around her forces her to choose life for her unborn child.

HALL 5 / 13.06 FRIDAY 17:30

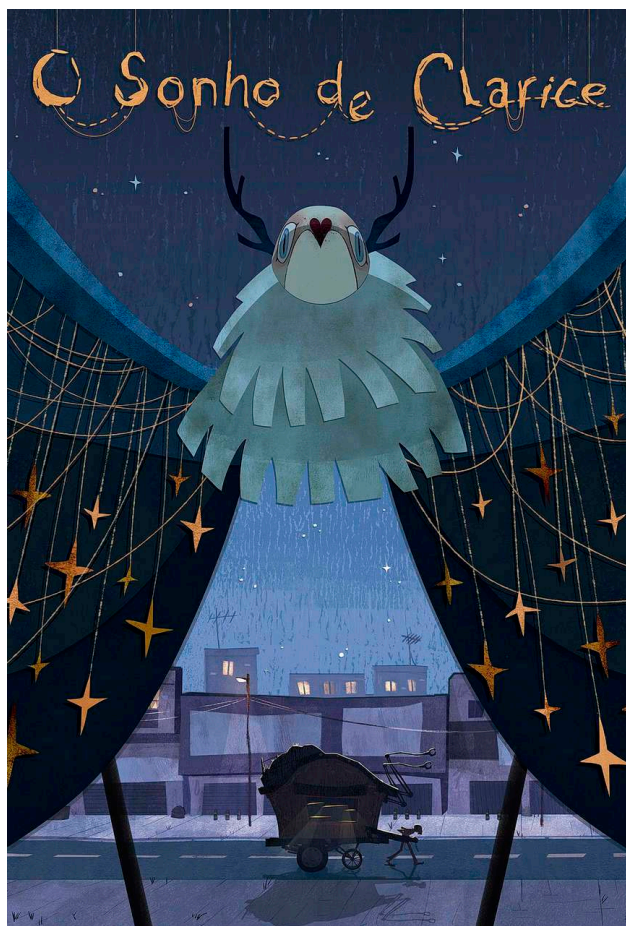


Blaga's lessons (Bulgaria), 2023, 89'

Director, screenwriter: **Stefan Komandarev**
 Cast: **Eli Skorcheva, Stefan Denolyubov, Ivaylo Hristov, Ivan Burnev, Gerasim Georgiev – Gero, Rozalia Abgaryan, Asen Batechki, Irini Zhambonas**

Blaga – a retired teacher from Shumen, suffering from the recent death of her husband, becomes a victim of a telephone scam while trying to raise money for a memorial plaque on his grave.

HALL EUROPE / 19.06 THURSDAY 20:00



Clarice's Dream

(Brazil), 2023, 83'

Directors: **Fernando Gutierrez, Guto Bicalho**

"Clarice's Dream" tells the story of an extremely creative girl who goes through the process of overcoming the loss of her mother. It is a film that speaks of friendship, camaraderie and the many beauties that surround us every day, often unnoticed.

PRESSCENTER / 14.06 SATURDAY 15:00



The fugitive Dodo

(Bulgaria), 2025, 32'

Director: **Miroslava Arnaudova**

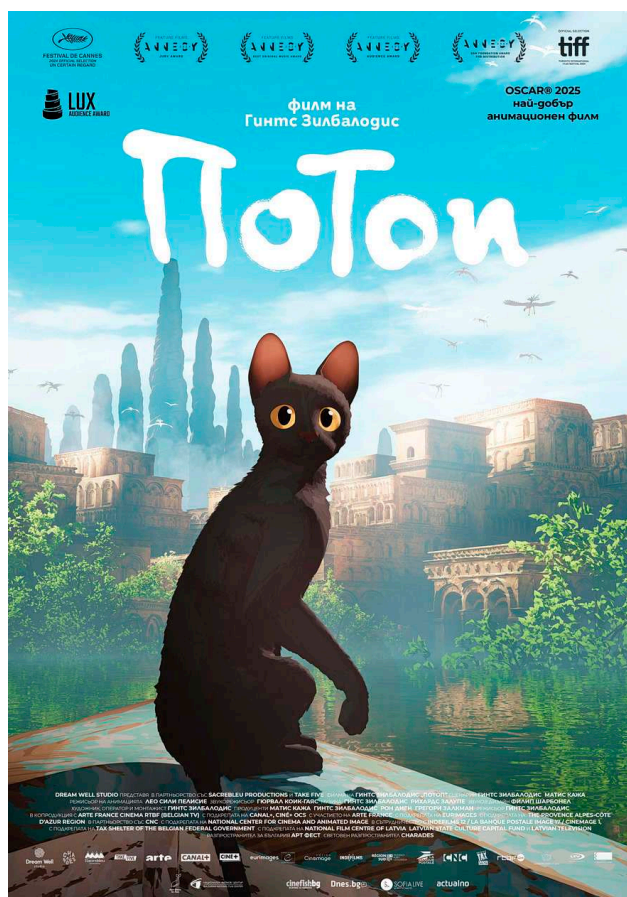
Screenplay: **Svilen Ivanov, Miroslava Arnaudova**

Music: **Stratsimir Pavlov**

Voiced by: **Neycho Petrov (Reggie), Evgeniya Vasileva, Boyan Stoyanov, Antoanela Petrova**

Dodo is a different bunny with many spots and that's why everyone at school makes fun of him. In search of friends one night he leaves his mother Lulu and gets lost in the forest. There he will meet brother and sister bunnies Fluke and Lori, who are scared at first because they think he is a big and scary pest. But what will this meeting actually bring?

HALL 6 / 15.06 SUNDAY 15:00



Flow

(Latvia, France, Belgium), 2024, 84'

Director: **Gints Zilbalodis**

A cat is a solitary animal, but when her home is devastated by a major flood, she finds refuge on a boat inhabited by different species and must form an alliance with them, despite their differences.

An animated film with a unique vision, made by a very small team using the free 3D animation software Blender.



CAFÉ
Matinée





BOUTIQUE SPLENDID

A MEMBER OF PLANEX HOTELS



ЕЛДОМ

ВЪВ ВСЕКИ ДОМ

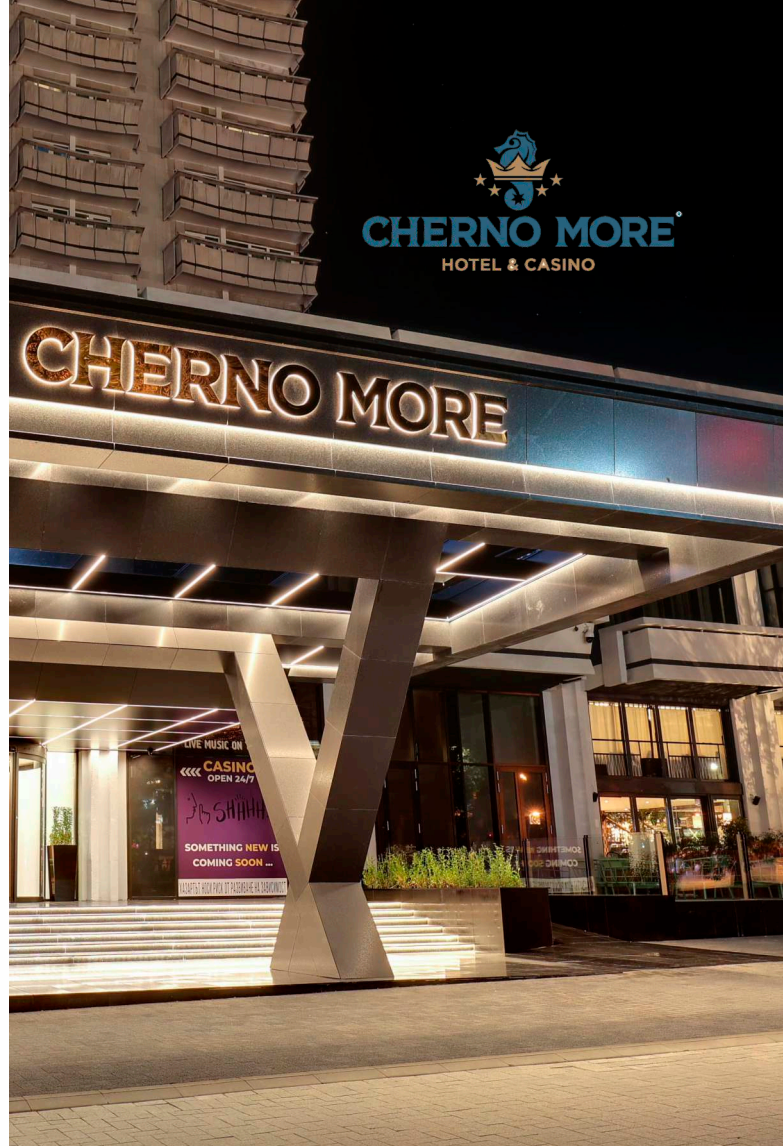


НОВО

ЕЛЕГАНТНОСТТА
ИМА НОВ ЦВЯТ

**ELDOM
BLACK**

ЧЕРЕН МАТ



Rosa Imper
COSMETIC COMPANY

PROFESSIONAL
PRODUCTS
@ HOME





ORGANIZERS



**БЪЛГАРСКИ
ЧЕРВЕН КРЪСТ**



**МЕДИЦИНСКИ
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
ВАРНА**



ОБЩИНА ВАРНА



**NATIONAL
CULTURE
FUND OF BULGARIA**



**Финансирано от
Европейския съюз**
NextGenerationEU



**Национален план
за възстановяване
и устойчивост
НА РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ**

redcrossfilmfest.org