With the kind hospitality of Kamchia resort, the 17th International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films was officially opened. Under the patronage of the Vice-president of Republic of Bulgaria Mrs. Iliana Iotova and with the participation of the the Bulgarian Navy Representative Brass Orchestra, a start was given to the film competition, which will take place in Varna and Kamchia from 12th to 15th of October and the audience will enjoy some of the most successful European film titles of the last year with free admission.

Before the first Festival screening, Bulgarian and foreign guests ceremonially walked the red carpet. Then they got on the stage of the Raduga cinema hall, where the Vice-President Iliana Iotova greeted the organizers, the hosts and the participants. Short greeting speeches were delivered also by Prof. d-r Krasimir Ivanov, Rector of Medical University “Prof. d-r Paraskev Stoyanov”- Varna, and Acad. Hristo Grigorov – President of Bulgarian Red Cross. Congratulatory addresses by the Minister of Culture
Boil Banov, the Mayor of Varna Ivan Portnih, and the Governor Stoyan Pasev were read. The Director of the Festival Iliya Raev and its Artistic Director Prof. d-r Bozhidar Manov announced the opening of the film competition with the screening of the last work of the film director Sergio Castellitto “Fortunata”, that brought to Jasmine Trinca the Best Actress Award at Cannes Film Festival this year.

Among the festival guests, beloved Bulgarian actors and filmmakers as Philip Trifonov, Stoyan Alexiev, Lyuben Chatalov, Orlin Pavlov, Evtim Miloshev, Yana Marinova, the script writer Georgi Mishev and many others could be seen.

A lot of foreign guests have also arrived in Varna to take part in the 17th International Festival – among them representatives of the International Committee and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Croatian, Romanian and Italian Red Cross, The Turkish and Iraqi Red Crescent, directors and journalists from Sweden, Iran, Cyprus, Brazil.
**GREETING SPEECHES**

*Iliana Iotova - Vice president of Republic of Bulgaria*

Dear Organizers,
Dear Participants,
It is a great honor for me to be a patron of this year’s International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films entitled "Humanism, Aggression, Cinema". Between the 12th and the 15th of October 2017, we all will be both participants and spectators in one of the largest cultural initiatives boasting a rich history. The Kamchia resort will not only host a film event. During the few days of the festival the complex will become a venue for encounters, talks and discussions among health organizations. Kamchia will be the capital of the largest humanitarian movement in the world.

I sincerely wish you the event to remain an integral part of the Bulgarian, European and international cultural calendar!

**Acad. Hristo Grigorov, Dr. H. C. - President of the Bulgarian Red Cross**

Three years ago, with the support of the Medical University of Varna and after an interruption of 25 years, the Bulgarian Red Cross succeeded in restoring one unique cultural global-scale event – the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films. I welcome the participants in the Festival - distinguished world and Bulgarian filmmakers and journalists, for their friendly, professional and responsible attitude towards the realization of such international cultural event that actively joins the struggle for peace and friendship in the world, through art and humanism. “Humanism, aggression, cinema” is the focus for the screenings, discussions and creative performances at the 17th edition of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films in October 2017 – yet another acknowledgment of our firm commitment in our civilisation choice - helping this world become a better one.
Prof. Dr. Krasimir Ivanov, PhD, DSc - Rector Medical University – Varna

With the 17th edition we will pursue our main goal, and that is to shatter the everyday way of thinking, to use the power of film art to show that the path to the world of peace originates from humanism. The Festival is significant because it is focused on global and eternal values. For a second consecutive year the Film Academy for Documentary Cinema will be held within the framework of the Festival, through which we aim to educate and train valuable experts that we will expect to be involved with their projects in our forthcoming editions. Today, more than ever, we need to appreciate the eternal human values - kindness, charity, love of mankind, and to make efforts to strengthen them.

Ivan Portnih - Mayor of Varna

Международният фестивал на червенокръстките и здравни филми внася особен колорит в културния календар на Варна, утвърждавайки се като красив есенен финал на активното творческо лято. Оценявам високо работата на организаторите, които всяка година обогатяват програмата, надграждайки я с нови идеи и събития.

SELECTED OF TODAY’S PROGRAM

FORTUNATA

Italy, 2017, 103’, drama
Director: Sergio Castellitto
Script writer: Margaret Mazzantini
Cast: Jasmine Trinca, Stefano Accorsi, Emanuela Aurizi, Alessandro Borgh

The story of a young mother (Jasmine Trinca) with a failed marriage behind her, who fights daily for her dream to open a hairdressers salon, challenging her fate in an effort to free herself and gain independence and right to happiness.
UPCOMING SCREENINGS ON OCTOBER 13TH, 2017 (FRIDAY)

Kamchia Resort
2:00 p.m. – Program of MU-Vi.tv
- A LIFE WITH DOWN SYNDROME – Bulgaria, 2017, 6’40”, documentary
- A SOUL OF SEA - Bulgaria, 2016, 11’18”, documentary
- WE RECALL... - Bulgaria, 2017, 20’, documentary
- GROWING BIG - Bulgaria, 2017, 10’24”, documentary
- GREEN DEVILS OF VARNA – Bulgaria, 2017, 30’, documentary

4:00 p.m. – Red Cross Documentaries
- ODE TO LIFESAVING JOY - Greece, 9’29”
- CROATIAN RED CROSS CAMPAIGN – Croatia, 2017, 33”
- MOTHER/CHILD CLUB: MOTHER/CHILD HEALTH - Switzerland, 2016, 3’17”
- EYE-CARE: OPHTALMOLOGIC, EYE OPERATIONS, CATARACT, HOSPITALS – Switzerland, 2016, 3’21”
- MALARIA PREVENTION – Switzerland, 2016, 7’17”
- ME, YOU AND FRIENDS – Bulgaria, 2017, 27’28”
- COMMUNITY CENTER IN SYRIA – Turkey, 2015, 12’30”
- DAILY LIFE OF A SYRIAN FAMILY – Turkey, 7”

6:00 p.m. – STALIN’S COUCH – France, Portugal, 2016, 92’, feature

Bulgaran Theatre
7 p.m. AFTERIMAGE / POWIDOKI (Poland), 2016

Social Tea House
4 p.m. SMALL PEOPLE. BIG TREES (Russia), 2016
6 p.m. EXODOS (France), 2017

Golden Varna
7 p.m. THE HAPPIEST DAY IN THE LIFE OF OLLI MAKI / HYMYILEVA MIES (Finland), 2016

Varna Municipality, Plenary Hall
5 p.m. THE EYE OF THE MINOTAURE (Bulgaria), 2017
7 p.m. VOYAGE OF TIME (USA), 2016

Medical University - Varna, Hall 4
3 p.m. TUMOUR (Iran), 2016
5 p.m. TURN LEFT NOW: SURVIVING THE UNBELIEVABLE (USA), 2017

TOMORROW’S ACCENTS
ME, YOU AND FRIENDS (Bulgaria), 2017, 27’28” Author: Tsvetelina Atanasova
Director: Borislava Dimova

STALIN’S COUCH / LE DIVAN DE STALINE (France), 2016, 92’
Director and scriptwriter: Fanny Ardant

EXODOS (France), 2017, 69’50”
Director: FABIEN

THE HAPPIEST DAY IN THE LIFE OF OLLI MAKI / HYMYILEVA MIES (Finland), 2016, 92’
Director: Juho Kuosmanen