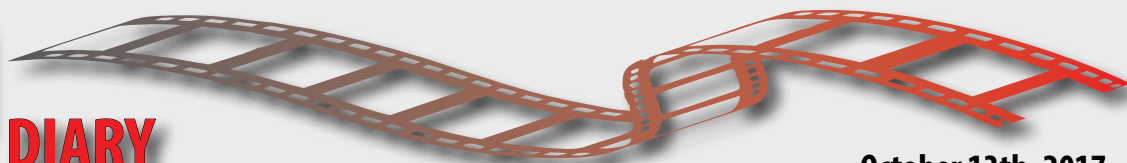


DIARY



October 13th, 2017

DISCUSSION

AGGRESSION, HUMANITY, CINEMA



The Discussion Forum in the day after festival's official opening, the was given start by D-r Slavita Dzhambazova, Deputy Director General of Bulgarian Red Cross. Her theme was "Red Cross and Red Crescent Volunteers and the Aggression throughout the World".

Dr. Dzhambazova put emphasis on the necessity of volunteers' activity. This "voluntary service" (one of the seven principles of Red Cross) is especially valuable and really necessary in a world like ours, becoming more and more complicated and unpredictable. All this is leading to constantly rising percentage of vulnerable people, and they practically need such a "precious resource", as volunteering is. Dr. Sofia Stoimenova, Chief Secretary of Bulgarian Red Cross, took part in the discussion too.

On the second theme, "Humanity without Sensation", main speaker was journalist Emil Spahiyski. He chose the visual approach and presented two short video clips, very precisely and wittily backing the topic and provoking the interest of the audience. In the discussion that followed, the theme of fear was also concerned. His view on it shared film director Ivan Pavlov, whose feature "Memories of Fear" was in the festival program.





DEMONSTRATION

In the frames of the 17th International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, Volunteer Disaster Response Teams of Bulgarian Red Cross from Varna, Dobrich and Burgas did a demonstration of first aid to victims on the beach. The volunteers presented their skills, their precise coordination with each other allowing them "to save the lives" of the endangered from drowning people.





GREETING SPEECHES

ILIYA RAEV:

(Director of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films)

Preparing the Festival, we had to select among 1890 films from 107 countries applying. Topical issues like aggression, war, refugee crisis, disasters, children labor, human rights are largely treated in the film's program. Out of the competition program the Festival venues are offering interesting screenings and panoramas. The Festival Documentary Filmmaking Academy will be teaching again young Red Cross volunteers and activists.

Guest and participants are coming from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, the International Committee of Red Cross and Red Crescent, from the Red Cross of Mexico, of Croatia, of Romania; the Red Crescent of Turkey, Iraq; the Red Cross Youth of Italy, film directors from Sweden, Poland, Romania, Greece, Russia, Switzerland and Cyprus.



PROF. DR. BOJIDAR MANOV

Artistic Director of the Festival

In the yearly calendar of international film festivals, burdened to the extent of satiation, it is extremely difficult for a new event of this kind to appear and to be affirmed; such an appearance is usually accompanied by countless number of difficulties. And, in case, when the biography of such a festival is saturated with a respectful, long-term tradition and memorable editions in the past, the responsibility for its successful restoration is getting significantly aggravated. All of us, who, during the recent years, are making efforts to continue and renew the chronology of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, we have in mind its inherited impressive biography and more and more we

consider its place and its importance in our extremely modified and complicated world.

For this reason, for a fourth year in consequence, regardless of the enormous difficulties, we are trying to present from the Festival screen some good and useful films, and to organize in the conference halls, with the help of some of the most competent in our thematic field experts, profound discussions on topical professional and human items.

The feature and the documentary films, included in the competitive and information programs, represent just a little particle from the enormous amount of world cinema production with similar thematic profile; but, in their contents, they are focusing on some important accents correlated to our topic area. And the general theme "Aggression and Humanity" serves as a frame for the concrete profound lectures to be exposed by the invited lecturers, and as a point of reference for the free discussions, with all the Festival guests and visitors taking part.

WE ARE INTRODUCING...**MIHAIL VESHIM**

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

They usually introduce me as a humorist writer, the two of the words always going together, and in Bulgarian they are written with a hyphen between them. Something like Rimsky-Korsakov. Therefore I am simply afraid to write anything serious, as then the first of them will drop out. And what if after that, the second one is to drop out too, what will remain then except the hyphen?

But if we have to be serious: I am born in Sofia in 1960. I graduated as journalist and in 1982 started work in Starshel (Hornet) newspaper, where I changed a lot of positions – where I was a boy for everything, a provider of quality alcohol, a binge organizer and editor's driver. At present I am the chief editor of the same newspaper and a driver of myself. In my free time, when I haven't been busy with editorial work, I have written few humorous books

– novels and collections of short stories or feuilletons. As well as some film and TV scripts and comic plays for the theater or the radio.

Lately I figured out that I have worked for 35 years at only one work place. But what is more interesting is that I am not yet bored with it.

The Festival's motto is "Aggression - Humanity – Cinema". Do you think it is substantial nowadays? How would you interpret it?

Unfortunately, we encounter aggression everywhere in our everyday lives – on the highway, while driving, in our children's school, on the street... Now, you cannot say the same about humanity – it is such a rarity that one can hardly notice it exists. It is good that the Festival's motto connects them – the appeal is that humanity should stand against aggression – by the means of cinema. Let's hope it will happen.

But as a narrow expert in my area, I would prescribe humor as a means against aggression too.

To me humor is universal cure, which may do the world better. This is exactly why I accepted the invitation of the festival organizers to take part in the discussions by sharing my observations...

Would you support the Festival's idea in future as well?

You may rely on me. There used to be, some time ago, a Russian vodka named Moskovskaya, with a green label. On the label - a medal from Brussels. And on the medal it was written in French: For a more humane world. So, after even the vodka struggles for a more humane world, how can I be expected to stay aside ...

We would be glad if you share with us whether you have a favourite film or a film director – could be of the festival program.

My hope is to find here a new favourite film. Checking the festival program, there are some interesting titles among the feature films. I expect much of the two Bulgarian films, as well as of the Iranian and the Russian...

Based on your vast experience, do you consider that one should demand more of our festival? What could we improve?

Once in every restaurant a Complaints and Praises Book used to be available – if one was satisfied with the Chef, he or she could write a praise of him, as well as he could complain from the waiter. It is my first time to be at the Festival of the Red Cross Films and I don't know whether they have such a book of remarks, but if they do, we'll make the countdowns of the praises and complaints at the end...

What is the first association coming to your mind when you here Red Cross?

The first to think about is a hospital, of course. And when I think of hospitals, I am always getting angry with the bureaucrats who in their typical jargon put before hospitals' names the abbreviation MHAT – meaning: multi-profile hospital for active treatment. As if someone would like to be treated passively in a hospital.

To me this abbreviation (MBAL in Bulgarian) sounds like a curse. The ears of the bureaucrats can hardly catch this, but the ear of the satirist does catch the abusive nuance – just pronounce MHAT and you can feel it too. Imagine how the abbreviation will sound if the hospital is not multi-profile, but one-profile and M is changed to E (in Bulgarian, a wordplay in result). In my opinion, no healthcare reform in Bulgaria can be successful, if not beginning with the abbreviations.

SELECTED OF TODAY'S PROGRAM**STALIN'S COUCH / Le divan de Staline**

France, Portugal, 2016, 92', drama
Director and script writer: Fanny Ardant
After the novel by Jean-Daniel Baltassat
Cinematography: Renato Berta, Renaud Personnaz
Produced by: Paulo Branco
Music: Hubert Gérard
Cast: Gérard Depardieu, Emmanuelle Seigner, Paul Hamy
Production: Alfama Films Production, Leopardo Filmes

Stalin retires for a three-day rest in a secret residence in the forest along with his long-time mistress Lydia. In his cabinet there is a couch just like Freud's couch in London. He suggests to Lydia to play psychoanalysis during the night. On the morning a young artist, Danilov, arrives to meet Stalin and present to him his project – Monument of Eternity, dedicated to the Leader. Danilov's project has been chosen among those of other artists by Lydia, but KGB nevertheless has to do its checks. The events take an unexpected turn when relations between Lydia and Danilov are born...

THE HAPPIEST DAY IN THE LIFE OF OLLI MAKI / Hymyilevä Mies

Finland, 2016, 92', black and white
Director: Juho Kuosmanen
Script: Mikko Myllylahti, Juho Kuosmanen
Camera: J-P Passi
Cast: Jarkko Lahti, Oona Airola, Eero Milonoff, Joanna Haartti, Esko Barquero, Elma Milonoff, Leimu Leisti, Hilma Milonoff, Olli Rahkonen, Joonas Saartamo, Henrik Palosaari, Sam-Peter Hirvikangas, Antti Naaka, Niklas Hyvärinen
Producer: Jussi Rantamäki
AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS:
Cannes 2016 – Un Certain Regard Award
Saint-Jean-de-Luz 2016 – Best Film
Zurich 2016 – Golden Eye for Best International Feature Film
Chicago 2016 – Golden Hugo for Best New Director
Saint Petersburg, Nachalo Festival 2016 – Grand Prix

Summer 1962, Olli Mäki has a shot at the world championship title in featherweight boxing. From the Finnish countryside to the bright lights of Helsinki, everything has been prepared for his fame and fortune. All Olli has to do is lose weight and concentrate. But there is a problem – he has fallen in love with Raija.

"It was 2011, and I met Olli and Raija in Kokkola. Olli has severe Alzheimer's disease now, but he still remembers his old stories. He told me about this championship fight back in 1962, and when he ended his story by saying: "It was the happiest day of my life," he had this smile on his face that forced me to ask incredulously "How come?" I didn't know much about boxing myself, but it was still obvious to me that if you're preparing for a world championship fight, you should be 100% dedicated to the fight. Then, as I started to dig deeper into Olli's story, I realised that it was full of beautiful details and complexity which lifted it from the average into something unique. Art is in the details, I've heard." Juho Kuosmanen



UPCOMING SCREENINGS ON OCTOBER 14TH, 2017 (SATURDAY)

Kamchia resort

- 2:00 p.m. Red Cross Shorts Competition Program:
HEALTHY FOOD - Bulgaria, 2016, 13'13", animated
DANDELION - Spain, 2016, 7', animated
AGE OF HOPE - Hungary, 2016, 3'52", documentary
THIS ISN'T ME - Mexico, 2016, 3'26", documentary
SAVING A LIFE - Mexico, 2'58", documentary
FLOOD RESILIENCE PROGRAM - Mexico, 3'25",
documentary
BEYOND VISIBLE SCARS - Switzerland, 2017, 10'15",
documentary
SYRIA HUMANITARIAN OPERATION - Turkey, 2015,
7'21", documentary
Out of competition:
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF RED CROSS,
India, 2014, 30", animation
KITCHEN, Turkey, 2017, 17'21", documentary
DRAWING ON THE POWER OF THE CRESCENT,
Turkey, 2016, 1'19", documentary
THE MINERAL WATER OF THE TURKISH RED CRES-
CENT IS IN A SPECIAL BOTTLE, Turkey, 1'10", documentary
THIS BOTTLE IS THE BEGINNING OF BEING GOOD-
NATURED, Turkey, 1', documentary
FIRST AID, France, 2017, 1'40", documentary
MAKE A DIFFERENCE, France, 2017, 1'37", documentary
4:00 p.m. **MEMORIES OF FEAR**, Bulgaria, 2016, 82', feature
6:00 p.m. **AFTERIMAGE**, Poland, 2016, 98', feature



Varna Municipality, Plenary Hall

- 3:00 p.m. **The Strayed** / Пріпутні (Ukraine), 2017, 98', feature
5:00 p.m. **Existence** / Dasein (Германия), 2017, 92', feature
7:00 p.m. **The Good Postman** (Finland, Bulgaria), 2016, 82',
documentary

Medical University - Varna, Hall 4

- 3:00 p.m. Competition Program Health Films:
Academic A.A. Pokrovski (Russia), 2015, 16', documentary
The Shepherd (The Netherlands), 2016, 22', documentary
MuPoetry / MINHAPOESIA (Brazil), 2016, 24', documentary
Dashiell: A Journey through Autism (USA), 2016,
6', documentary
The Recipient (New Zealand), 2016, 15', documentary
5:00 p.m. **I Know You Are There** (Belgium), 87', documentary

Social Tea House

- 2:00 p.m. **Delusions** (Bulgaria), 2016/2017, 109', documentary series
4:00 p.m. Competition Program Short Features:
Lurna (Spain), 2016, 15'
Damonia (Belgium), 2016, 13'30"
Dobri (Bulgaria), 2016, 16'34"
Dissociation (Bulgaria), 2016, 4'
Hit Me (Bulgaria), 2015, 14'
Sirin (Bulgaria), 2015, 16'34"
Room Number 3 (Bulgaria), 2017, 8'18"
I Wished to Perish (Bulgaria), 2016, 7'
6:00 p.m. **The Islands and the Whales** (UK, Denmark), 2016,
81', documentary

Bulgaran Theatre

- 5:00 p.m. **Stalin's Couch** / Le divan de Staline (France, Por-
tugal), 2016, 92', drama
7:00 p.m. **Fortunata** (Italy), 2011, 103', drama



Golden Varna

- 7:00 p.m. **21 Nights with Pattie** / Vingt et une nuits avec
pattie (France), 2015, 115', comedy

TOMORROW'S ACCENTS

KITCHEN / MUTFAK

Turkey, 2017, 17'21", documentary
Director: Armagan Pekkaya
Production: Turkish Red Crescent

THE GOOD POSTMAN

Finland, Bulgaria, 2016, 82', documentary
Director: Tonislav Hristov