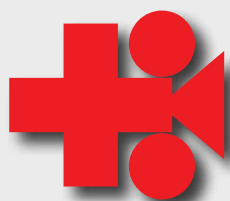
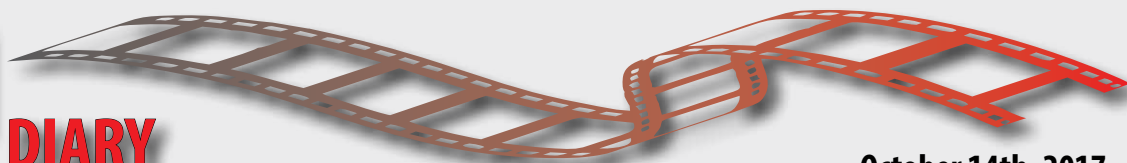


17TH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF RED CROSS AND HEALTH FILMS - VARNA 2017



DIARY



October 14th, 2017

DISCUSSION



The Day, before the Official Closing of the 17th International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, began with the last discussion of this year film forum in Varna.

The popular Bulgarian journalist Valeri Naydenov presented his concept of views and observations on theme "New Theories of the October Revolution on the Occasion of its 100th Anniversary". Analytically and thoroughly, he presented to the audience his reflections and looks on the historical event, to which 10th anniversary Russian film director and theoretician Eisenstein had dedicated his film "October".

Going through the great names of the Russian history such as Peter I, Ivan IV, Nikita Khrushchev, Stalin and others; through Oleg Strizhak's book "And I Had a Dream..."; comparing, analyzing and mediating on facts, Valery Naydenov presented "another truth" (Bozhidar Manov).

Provoked and feeling the theme of Russia close, actress Natalia Bardskaya took part in the discussion, finishing with the words: "I am brought up in the spirit of the Bulgarian culture, but I am also a descendant of Russians".



After the discussion, the audience had the possibility to see two documentaries of the festival program: “For the Love of God”, directed by Bejay Browne – Cyprus, and “My Poetry”, directed by Leide Jacob – Brazil.

The first tells the story of a father and his daughter in Egypt, choosing to accept Christianity. This makes them flee to Cyprus, being afraid for their lives. They have one dream – to live in peace.

Before the spectators could see the second film, in her brief presentation just before the screening, the Brazil director shared that this in fact is a very personal story – the story of her mother.

Presented as an audio-visual narrative, the picture shows the striking story of poet Leide Moreira, suffering of ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis). The only organ of her body she can move are her eyes, by the means of which she proceeds writing her poetry.

“My Poetry” touched and reached every one of the spectators. The picture is moving, exciting, overturning one’s sensitivity and soul. At the end of the screening, many of the present looked for the director, to express their agitation and congratulate her. The strong and radiant author of the film, accompanied by her husband, didn’t conceal her appreciation and joy of the viewers’ high evaluation.



**WE ARE INTRODUCING...****OLGA MARKOVA (FILM CRITIC)**

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

With pleasure! My name is Olga Markova and I am Doctor of Cinema Science. I am a lecturer at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Master's Degree Program "Literature, Cinema and Visual Culture", and an author of 10 books on problems of cinema, some of them translated in other languages.

What else important... For 45 years already I've been publishing in the press. I have been Deputy Chief Editor and Chief Editor. At the beginning – at the famous once newspaper "Puls", where a quarter of a century I was leading the Art Department. Then, by a competition of the Ministry of Education and Science

won by me, I created the national weekly newspaper "Az Buki", wholly on my concept, and for a decade was its Chief Editor. I've been publishing by today in fact, I continue writing. As a film critic, I have been a member of many international juries. I am happy that in my activity I am able both to teach future colleagues, and to "fight" on the international terrain our film makers to be awarded, when deserving.

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

In no case would I change it. Today it is more substantial than ever, because the world we live in is excessively intricate and troublesome. A world of total aggression. It is enough to take a look at the cases of child aggression, of child violence in school, even in front of the eyes of the tutors. One shivers with horror...

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

My hair stands on end when hear Red Cross. I realize at once that someone is in trouble and imagine running people, helping to the others. People in or without white gowns, because this society needs to be able to cope with every situation. Before the "white gowns" come, those who have happened to be around should have volunteered to help, not bypassing. A month ago it happened to me. I live at the so called 5 corners – the crossroad of "Hristo Botev", "Skobelev" and "Prague". Because of the numerous road repairs, traffic there is quite complicated. Traffic lights change from green to red for a second only. At such a moment I stumbled and fell. If I tell you what curses poured the drivers at my address, while their cars roared by me... A trivial situation, but making me feel vulnerable for few minutes. At that moment a young couple appeared – a boy and a girl that proved to have been my students. They gave me a hand to stand up and took me to the sidewalk. They really helped me! When you hear the word help, the first thing you imagine is a hand offered for support. But just the same, you have to offer your hand too in a similar situation. Young people should get used to offer their hands in help.

We would be glad if you share with us whether you have a favourite film or a film director.

A very difficult question. My everyday program includes almost 12 hours in front of the screen. It would be too complicated to point one title among all. Yet, I still feel pain after Fellini's death, and this pain reminds me of itself every time I see a new bright, associative work. On the other hand, the reformist work done by authors of the rank of Eisenstein and Antonioni has no equal up to today.

So, it is not easy at all to choose one director among the rest, or one cinema tendency to another.



Realism has had its high peaks. After that, Modernism has achieved its. Postmodernism keeps surprising us by now. I respect its production too, with some exceptions indeed. In it the narrative and the construction are too complicated, so it requires greater concentration of the modern viewer, who's prettily distracted in fact. One can often see in the cinema halls iPhones flashing, spoiling the normal perception...

Based on your vast experience, do you consider that more should be demanded of our festival? What should we improve?

Based on my experience, I should say at once, that in 1973 the Red Cross Film Festival (which was started in Varna as early as in 1965) received the highest festival category – A, equivalent to that of Cannes, Venice, Locarno. We cannot fail to be proud of this fact. There is no way to ignore it, as we cannot ignore that whole period was so beneficial for our national cinema and culture. That is why now the efforts necessary to restore it are much greater, twice more complex. But I am convinced that the future of the forum is laid, both in the universal motto of the festival and in the selfless zeal of its organizers and all the participants, by the level of the substantial discussions and films.

But frankly, what seems to me most important of all is how to make so that this unique event reaches the broadest audience. This is the greatest humanitarian action existing in the world. I don't know another festival with such an incredible store.

The restoration of the festival in 2014, with the huge efforts of my colleague and friend Ilko Raev, carries significant potential for the future. I wrote articles about the festival the last two years. To my regret, nothing else appeared in the press, and here keep coming other "writing brothers", as we say. It is very important both the films and discussions to receive broad publicity, so that all who are interested could get the real picture. This forum needs vast popularity, and it depends on all of us.

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

With great joy! This year 49 countries take part in the festival with their films. I wish with all my heart that over time they exceed 100! And every film presented to be of high quality!

You speak so captivately! Tell us something more for finish.

I'll mention a fact that might be interesting. I think that in 1981, I was a jury member of the Red Cross Film Festival. Once, last century, it was a real cultural epoch. Hundreds of specialists from all over the world used to come to it: prominent doctors, film makers and critics. That was the time when Prof. Barnard had performed the revolutionary human-to-human heart transplant. He came to Varna personally – what an honour!

I have another incredible memory too, of two years ago when the Director of Sofia Film Fest, whom I deeply respect, invited Pierre-Henri Deleau (the famous organizer of the Cannes Directors' Fortnight) as President of the jury. Then I found and showed him some photos from Red Cross Film Festival, with Deleau and me as members of the international jury. On one of the pictures you can see Deleau, my grace and Klaus Eder, who is still ahead of FIPRESCI, coordinating all the activities of the organization. So, that festival, which had existed for long years, didn't remain in the past only. And I hope its revival we are witnessing now is going to reach at a certain moment that level again. If it goes further the same way as we have seen in this year's excellent Discussion Forum.

It is my conviction that the basic principles of Red Cross should set the standard of all the movies done at the moment. If the world keeps remembering them more often, there will be no war, neither aggression.

We wish this too! Wonderful finish! Thank you so much!

SELECTED OF TODAY'S PROGRAM**AFTERIMAGE/ Powidoki**

Poland, 2016, 98', drama

Director: Andrzej Wajda; Script: Andrzej Wajda, Andrzej Mularczyk; Camera: Pawel Edelman; Музыка: Andrzej Panufnik; Cast: Boguslaw Linda, Bronislawa Zamachowska, Aleksandra Justa, Zofia Wichlacz

Producer: Michal Kwiecinski

Production: AKSON STUDIO; Bulgarian Distributor: 6A MEDIA Entertainment, with the support of the POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE

Awards and nominations: Toronto 2016 – official selection; the offer of Poland for Oscars 2017; Polish Film Festival 2016 – Special Award of the Jury to Andrzej Wajda

The last film in the career of the great film director Andrzej Wajda (who passed away at the age of 90 on October 9th, last year) inspired by the biography of the great Polish avant-garde painter Wladyslaw Strzeminski (1893-1952). Intellectual confession about the role of art and the freedom of expression of the artist.

Co-creator and lecturer of the Public Academy of Art in Lodz, charismatic painter Wladyslaw Strzeminski has the image of a leader and is adored by his students. But his life is changed after Stalin puts a hand on Poland in 1945. Strzeminski, who refuses to compromise his art with the doctrines of social realism, is persecuted, expelled from the Academy, and eventually erased from the walls of the museums. Supported by some of his students, he starts fighting for his ideas, his name turning into a symbol of artistic resistance against intellectual tyranny. Unfortunately, this fight for artistic freedom in the totalitarian system gradually leads to dramatic consequences in his own life.

MEMORIES OF FEAR

Bulgaria, 2016, 82', drama

Director: Ivan Pavlov; Script: Krasimir Krumov – Grets; Camera: Svetla Ganeva-Kuleva; Music: Bozhidar Petkov; Cast: Ivaylo Hristov, Ovanes Torosyan, Milko Yovchev, Blagoy Boychev, Stefka Yanorova, Krastyo Lafazanov, Yordanka Stefanova, Stefan Mavrodiev, Vasil Banov, Atanas atanasov, Valentin Tanev, Aleksandar Doynov, Aleksandra Vasileva, Ivan Savov, Malin Krastev
Producer: Mariyana Pavlova; Production: ART47



1968. Burnt books. Ruined lives. Humiliations that cannot be forgiven. Traumas that cannot be forgotten. Small "rebellions" and small "betrayals". A puzzle of many so human fates in which the small word "no" turns into a large "yes"...

Episodes of Konstantin Pavlov's script, not included in the film "Mass Miracle" (1980), have been used.



UPCOMING SCREENINGS ON OCTOBER 15TH, 2017 (SUNDAY)

Kamchia resort

2:00 p.m. **The Pitch** / Копобка (Russia), 2015

4:00 p.m. Retro Panorama of Red Cross Films

ELEONORA – THE FORGOTTEN QUEEN, Bulgaria, 2012, 30', documentary

WILLING HANDS, Production: Australian Red Cross, presented at 2nd IFRCHF – Varna, 1967

A MESSAGE FROM AALAND, Production: League, ICRC, Finish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, presented at 11th IFRCHF – Varna, 1985

SURVIVING CYCLONES, Production: League, UNESCO, WMO, presented at 6th IFRCHF – Varna, 1975

FOR A CHILD'S SMILE ALL AVER THE WORLD, Production: League, Hungary, Bulgaria, presented at 8th IFRCHF – Varna, 1979

FIRST AID, a series of 4 first aid training films, Production: WMO, ILO, League, presented at 7th IFRCHF – Varna, 1977

7:00 p.m. OFFICIAL CLOSING OF THE FESTIVAL

Medical University Varna, Hall 4

3:00 p.m. COMPETITION PROGRAM RED CROSS/
RED CRESCENT FILMS

Syria Humanitarian Operation (Turkey), 2015;

Saving a Life / AXA (Mexico), 2015;

Flood Resilience Program / Programa de resiliencia ante inundaciones (Mexico), 2015

Healthy Food (Bulgaria), 2015

his Isn't Me / No Soy Yo (Mexico), 2016

Dandelion/ Dent de Lleo (Spain), 2016;

Age of Hope (Hungary), 2016

Beyond Visible Scars (Switzerland), 2017;

First Aid (France), 2017

Make a Difference (France), 2017;

International Committee of Red Cross (India), 2014

Kitchen / Muftak (Turkey), 2017

Drawing on the Power of the Crescent

(Turkey), 2016

The Mineral Water of Turkish Red Crescent Is in a Special Bottle (Turkey), 2016

This Bottle Is the Beginning of Being

Good-Natured (Turkey), 2016

5:00 p.m. **Grey Matter** / Hersenleed (Netherlands), 2017

Varna Municipality, Plenary Hall

3:00 p.m. **Eclipse** (Iran), 2017

5:00 p.m. **88 MHz** (Bulgaria), 2016

7:00 p.m. **The Star of Algiers** / L'etoile d'Alger (Algeria), 2016

Social tea House

2:00 p.m. **The Tree Around Which Life Was Going On** (Bulgaria), 2016

4:00 p.m. COMPETITION PROGRAM SHORT FILMS

A Place / Un lugar (Spain), 2016

Candela (Spain), 2016

Simon, You Ass! / T'es con Simon! (France), 2016'

Zeppelin / Дирижабль (Russia), 2016;

The Way Home / Vagen hem (Sweden), 2015

So Close To Me (Italy), 2017

6:00 p.m. **Pani; Women, Drugs and Kathmandu** (Thailand and Nepal), 2017

Golden Varna

7:00 p.m. **Enemies** (Bulgaria), 2017

TOMORROW'S ACCENTS

KITCHEN / MUTFAK

Turkey, 2017, 17'21", documentary

Director: Armagan Pekkaya

Production: Turkish Red Crescent

One day, 20 Syrian, Iraqi and Turkmen refugee women come together with their Turkish neighbors in Turkey, in order to cook together and eat what they have cooked on the same table...