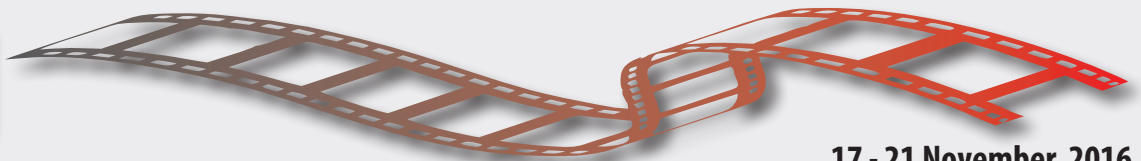


INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF RED CROSS AND HEALTH FILMS AUTUMN ACADEMY 2016



17 - 21 November 2016

HUMANITY AND CINEMA



The Bulgarian Red Cross and the Medical University in Varna, with the kind hospitality of the Sanatoria and Health Complex "Kamchia", gathered together some of the greatest Bulgarian authors, journalists, analysts, theoreticians and practicians of cinema art for the Autumn Academy of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films.

Who is offering help nowadays and how, where is humanity displayed in modern world and how – these are the questions and items important for us concerning the aggression, humanity and cinema, and they became the motto of the three basic modules of the Autumn Academy 2016:

- Lectures and discussions: "Documentary and Artistic Depiction of Topical Events" (Prof. Bozidar Manov); "Humanity– the fundament of the Bulgarian Red Cross activities. Aggression counter posing" (D-r Slaviva Djambazova); " Which side should the reporter take while depicting a conflict" (Emil Spahiiski); "Bulgarian vision upon the Near East situation" (Toma Tomov); "Sofia Film Fest – history and now" (Stefan Kitanov);
- Atelier-workshop "How to Produce Documentaries" with Martichka Bozilova and Aleksander Nikolov;
- Documentary, short-length and premiere feature films: "Fire in the Sea" (Italy, 2016), "Insight" (Russia 2015), "Dheepan" (France 2016), "The Face of Ash" (Iraqi, 2015), "Everything will be fine" (Germany 2015), "Enklave" (Serbia 2016), and others.





INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF RED CROSS AND HEALTH FILMS - AUTUMN ACADEMY 2016

The Academy enjoyed participants like: Prof. Bozidar Manov, art director of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, D-r Slavita Djambazova, Vice General Director, Bulgarian Red Cross, d-r Tcvetelina Turpomanova, Varna Medical University, the journalists Emil Spahiiski, and Toma Tomov, Ass.Prof. Marin Damyanov from the National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts, Martichka Bozilova producer, Prof. Stanimir Trifonov, film director, Stefan Kitanov, producer, festival manager and films distributor, as well as many others. The thematic uniting all the modules is prompted by the world scale society topical problems - the widespread aggression and the diminishing display of humanity. How are the two tendencies manifested, how do we depict them and how do we overcome them – this situation was described by the Academy lecturers and enriched during the discussions.

Special guests to the Academy were many famous persons who support the ideas of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films – Ivan Pavlov, Alexander Donev, Luben Chatalov, Ioana Bukovska, Anya Pencheva, Ivailo Karanyotov, Natalia Bardskaya, Iliya Raev, Ivan Laskin and others.





Prof. Stanimir Trifonov



Could you introduce yourself...

It has always been very difficult for me to speak for myself, because I find it immodest and unimportant in a way, but ... I am a film director and producer. For 30 years now I am dealing with this business professionally. What else... I am teaching in two Universities. If I try to sum up the films and the theatre productions I have done as director and producer, the figure will be scary high. Honestly said, I have never counted them, because I have stopped in a way to make my personal archives since I came over an incredible thought of Balzac saying that the best collector of his own creations is the untalented one; therefore I protect myself from making such statistics. That's it. I am occupied teaching my favorite students; at present I am the producer of a film for the humanity, called "K22" with Ivan Traikov and Alexander Krumov as film directors and supported by the National Film Centre.

You are a guest to the Autumn Academy, part of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films. What is your opinion on the restoration of the Festival and on the idea in general?

I remember the time it was closed; in fact it was not closed but stopped for a time. At that epoch, 1991, there was a total wavering. There was no impulse of analyzing and considering the important things from the past before deciding how to treat them, there was just action, mechanical and not very intelligent action. This Festival is, of course, very important, because the Red Cross is very important. There are few organizations in human history with such importance. I myself cannot consider any other. Saying Red Cross we mean also Red Crescent, of course. The name itself of this organization clearly prompts its genesis, its affiliation to these two religions, and, in this sense, its thorough and only human and humanitarian essence. I find the idea to organize the Festival every two years a very clever idea; and in the interim year – how do we say, like in music or in poems – alternating stressed syllables to unstressed syllables – to use the unstressed time and organize film Academy. I came this year with enthusiasm, as I learned, that my colleagues are going to teach Bulgarian Red Cross activists from the whole country how to produce documentaries. It is a wonderful idea, I have just listened to the great lecture by D-r Slavita Djambazova and I understood the important role of the Red Cross during three exterminating wars during the 20th Century – the two Balkan Wars and the First World War - enormous migrant waves - who would take care of them if not the state... 1922 - the army of Baron Vranghel here in Varna – 25 thousand people, the Russian famine of 1921–22, also known as Povolzhye famine caused by the bolshevik terror, by the way in Ukraine, ruled by a Bulgarian – Christian Rakovski, the father of the concentration camps. It is extremely important to teach the young people how to produce correct films, literate films in the best meaning of the word, so that to preserve the memory of the Organization. The news reporters and the journalists are representing one profession, what they are doing is another thing, all the more that they are volunteers. I like the idea very much. What attracts me to this idea furthermore is the fact that the organizer – Ilko Raev – is the Tzar of making festivals, as you know.

What is the first association you make when you hear Red Cross...

Mercy, the nurses, it comes from the Medieval monasteries, from the women monastery called "The Sisters of Mercy", the God's daughters, pledged themselves to God, serving Him and Him only. There is, in this organization, a very thick; I do not know why no one mentions this, a very thick religious layer, which is not bound to one religion only. The crucifix, the Crusaders is one thing, the crescent bearers are something different; probably the other big religions have such affiliations. This is in the non-priest, above-the-church meaning, a worldwide organization, because every religion defends its thesis that in fact God is one only and it is just His names that differ depending on the religion. The Red Cross and the Red Crescent are illustrating this perfectly and the world is global. This is an example of a nice game of the History, the Red Cross idea is charged with monstrous globalism. And you see now, that the Red Cross feels well, though its cares and mercifulness are bound to discomfort, to terrible things, but this organization is trying to mitigate the imperfections of the human being. That's how God created us and these oceans blood shedding, make the existing of the Red Cross a necessity. I am terrified to learn about the xenophobe of the Bulgarian people and this scares me. I hope we shall not start making soap out of gypsies and use the skin of other ethnic groups to make lampshades out of them, because this will be our failure. In this sense I find the Red Cross to be a special peacemaker, an organization, which is trying, even in an anti-religious form to reconcile God and Devil inside a person, because we all carry them inside us. The fact itself, that two religions – Christianity and Islam are connected in one organization, this fact is a unique gesture for itself.



If you have the opportunity to make a film for the next edition of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, which topic and what name of your film would you choose?

The Russians have a prayer: "No More War!", and this prayer contains an enormous biography in itself. Russian people have suffered, just like the German people during the two monstrous wars in the 20th Century, because at wartime, in every war, there are only losing parties, no winners. The fear from war coming with the increasing talking about war makes me disgusted. I am a Bulgarian officer from the reserve, I have sworn to be loyal to my country and I will not give up my word. And, really, let God save Bulgaria.



Ass.Prof. Marin Damianov

Could you introduce yourself...

Marin Damianov – assistant professor at the National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts, screen righter with more than 10, maybe about 15-16, I am missing the exact number, of films already. I have worked also for several serials already. I teach in NATFA, basically film dramaturgy and psychoanalysis and film dramaturgy.

You are a guest to the Autumn Academy, which is a part of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films. What do you think of its restoration and of the idea in general?

I remember the Festival being a very prestigious one, at a very high level, and what makes me impressed is that now it is very well organized, the Academy in particular. Everyone is very kind. It is impressive. I cannot say the same for many of the festivals lately. We are really met here as friends and as guests, and the atmosphere is friendly. I hear interesting discussions and things from the colleagues, people that I know, but we have never sat across each other to talk on professional topics ... and it comes out that we have to come here to talk.

So it means that the motto of the Festival "Through humanity to peace and friendship" is valid with full strength?

Yes, that's true, and besides, there is a fully professional benefit. It was interesting for me to listen to Martichka (Martichka Bozilova) for example, and to Emil Spahiiski.

What is the first association you make when you hear Red Cross...

My last impression is from a refugee camp in Greece – 37 degrees C under shade , no water, and I see people from the Greek Red Cross, supplying water to the people, giving medical aid , simply saving people, and this picture stuck in my head. For a first time I saw them functioning in reality, and not as a theory. They also gave me a bottle of cold water, I was drained. This is an organization of the good in the purest sense of the word; it simply disseminates the good and tries to influence the people with this good. They have no guarantee they can reach everyone, but they manage to reach so many people and this leaves traces. Many people will remember that they have been helped absolutely gratuitously, without expecting any revenge. Hopefully, they may help on their turn other people, thus gradually making the world a little better or at least not worse.

You have a lot of films in your career, that might thematically take part in the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, but still, if you have the opportunity to make a film specially for the next film program, what would it be and what would be it's title?

We have just produced such a film and it is under montage at the moment. It is connected to the refugees' thematic and if I knew I would be coming here, we could pay more attention to the Red Cross role. It's working title is "Refugees", it may turn to be something else, but still I do not know what we have done, how it will be montaged, what will be the sound, otherwise I could say we participate with a great pleasure. I would come again with a great pleasure and join the Festival.





Martichka Bozilova



Could you introduce yourself...

My name is Martichka Bozilova – movie and TV producer.

What do you think of the restoration of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films and the idea in general? Do you remember it from the near past?

I had heard of the Festival very briefly and also I was among the people that did not know much about the Red Cross, so I had a double reason to be curious what it means, but at the same time I have a great respect to the people behind this Festival, as I know them for their former activities. I was sure that I could expect something really important and essential to happen.

You are a lecturer to the pilot edition of the Autumn Academy for Red Cross Films. Have you been able to carry out you planned ideas and what would you recommend to be improved in future?

I did really have three extremely rich and intensive days and I could learn a lot about the Red Cross and its activities and mission. I watched films that really arise reflections and feelings of transformation and in fact I felt full of desire to join and to contribute with my knowledge and skills to help these activities and campaigns be depicted in a professional way to allow them reach more and more people. Because we know, the films – feature films and documentaries - are the most accessible media in the 21st century, the thing that submits the information in the easiest, the most accessible and the most emotional way. So, what could be more natural than to give an impetus to an idea and to a mission, than to depict it in a film. Therefore, it was of utmost interest to me to be in that workshop, to meet so many different people, different in age, coming from different cities, with different problems and points of view, but with one desire, to make their intentions real and these intentions in this case were coinciding with the intentions of everybody else: to try to depict in documentaries the life and the events that arise emotions and are important for the people.

What is the first association you make when you hear Red Cross...

A problem, a humanitarian crisis, life saving, assistance, aid, hope.

If you have the opportunity to make a film for the next edition of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, which topic and what name of your film would you choose?

This is a very complicated question, but it really deserves, if a person, better acquainted with the problematic, tries to make a more profound research about the people participating, because they are not ordinary people. They are people, who share their time, their personal time, part of their personal life, devoted to this cause. They desire to be spiritually enriched through the discussions and watching thematic films, and, according to me, they are just good people. And, if this could be shown in a film, an enriched report about the Festival, I am sure it could reach many people and could popularize the Festival a lot after its restoration. I would give the film a name in prima vista "From the Bottom of the Heart".

Emil Spahiiski

Could you introduce yourself...

I am a journalist in "Trud" newspaper, a political observer, as well as the "Media on Air" program producer of "Bulgaria on Air" TV, a screen righter of documentaries and feature films. That's it.

What do you think of the restoration of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films and the idea in general? Do you remember it from the near past?

I knew about the Festival from a distance, as I had not taken part in it until now, and I haven't had a significant touch



with it. What I think is that such a Festival is a must. Besides popularizing the Red Cross activities, it also creates stimulus for many people, while doing their jobs, to show to the public – to people like me, having watched the things from afar – the whole panoply of emotions, of feelings, of difficulties, which, the volunteers and the Red Cross activists, along with many more people, all the people engaged to help other people, experience. This is of great importance. Because we start considering our need of help only then, when we experience disaster. And, very often, even when we are appealed to help, we prefer to remain home to watch on TV the next Turkish serial, or the national lottery drawing lots and we are eager to know whether we will become millionaires, than

go and help. But fortunately enough, the Bulgarians have not lost their desire to help other people. Therefore, such films and such a Festival is capable to encourage more and more people to become volunteers.

You are a lecturer to the pilot edition of the Autumn Academy for Red Cross Films. Have you been able to carry out you planned ideas and what would you recommend to be improved in future?

Yes, it may sound very trivial, but I am satisfied with the Academy. At least because there are very interesting discussions here, provoked by almost all the lecturers until now, and I am impatiently expecting the next day with some new lectures. As far as the possible improvement, what is needed is to make the Academy more popular to more people and to bring the national televisions to stay here and make reports, because the Festival itself needs more publicity. I am convinced, that a lot more people would join, minding that in the future, besides the prize fund, it would be wise to think of competitions, in the sense of gaining distinctions. To give distinctions for the efforts of journalists, free-lancers, Red Cross activists, including amateurs. As it is said for the big awards: “for the contribution to” popularizing the Red Cross activities, for the humanity mostly. I think the humanity, which is intrinsic for the Red Cross, should be mostly popularized. This can attract the attention of the big media.

What is the first association you make when you hear Red Cross...

Since my childhood I remember the volunteers gathering donations for good causes, but I associate it with the humanitarian catastrophes, the Nepal earthquake, the refugee waves from Syria and Iraqi, after the invasion of the Islam State and the atrocities there... This is what Red Cross and Red Crescent mean to me – where hope is gone, there come the tents of the Red Cross.

If you have the opportunity to make a film for the next edition of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, which topic and what name of your film would you choose?

The future is not clear to see, because the title comes with the story. I myself would trace the path of a family from Rakka in Syria, running from Islam State through the Aegean Sea and reaching to some of the isles, because if you manage to trace the hardships and sufferings of these people, the public will change its opinion concerning the refugee problems. Even we could trace the path of the Afghans, the people we call economic migrants, alas, we always tend to forget, that the Bulgarians are mostly proud with for the fact that Asparuh emigrated from Volga to Bulgaria. And it's true, we have been met with fences and knives, but we remained here and in the final analysis we did not fail, and we made an Empery of civilizations, and it is not in any way inferior to no one of the Western civilizations, even on the contrary. With their humanity, the Bulgarians have demonstrated much more, than most of the Western countries and we have enormous cultural heritage. I hope we shall leave no less heritage and let us not forget that when we mutter against 7 thousand people, we should not forget about the 2 million migrants we sent to the western countries.

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