

# BULGARIAN FILMS 2023



НАЦИОНАЛЕН ФИЛМОВ ЦЕНТЪР  
BULGARIAN NATIONAL FILM CENTER



НАЦИОНАЛЕН ФИЛМОВ ЦЕНТЪР  
BULGARIAN NATIONAL FILM CENTER

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**BULGARIAN  
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# FEAT URES



# A BULGARIAN SHIP IS SINKING IN A STORMY SEA

COMPLETED

*Balgarski korab potava v burno more*

**Bulgaria, 2022, 96'**

**Director:** Petrinel Gochev

**Script:** Gegana Zmiicharova, Petrinel Gochev

**Cinematography:** Rumen Vasilev

**Cast:** Mihail Mutafov, Alen Angelov, Hristyan Manolov

**Production:** Gala Film

**Producers:** Galina Toneva, Kiril Kirilov

**Co-production:** Magic Shop, Maxim 15

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center; Agrokom

**Contact:** +359 888 451 632, galafilm95@gmail.com

Seven-year-old Petyo is eager to grow up. Counting the days to the start of the school year when, on a sunny morning, his mother lies to him that his father has gone abroad. Petyo is sent to his grandfather's village and there he makes friends with six-year-old Philip. The two boys are faced with the Gang and the Truth.

**Festivals & Awards:** The Audience Award, Trieste IFF 2022.



# ANNA

Bulgaria, 2022, 97'

COMP  
LETED

**Director:** Borimir Ilkov – Bono

**Script:** Teodora Markova, Nevena Goranova, Georgi Ivanov,  
Teodora Doncheva

**Cinematography:** Martin Dimitrov

**Music:** Minko Lambov

**Cast:** Radina Kardzhilova, Nedka Yordanova, Krasimira Fatima-Leyla  
Karabulut, Valeri Lekov, Stanka Kalcheva, Plamena Getova, Vasil Binev,  
Yordan Russin, Dobrin Dosev, Veselin Mezekliev

**Production:** Geopoly

**Producer:** Pavlina Jeleva

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 888 605 350, geopoly@gmail.com

Anna dreams of having her own child. In the absence of a partner, she decides to conceive from an anonymous donor. At the same time, her work takes her to a Roma family, and she becomes attached to it. After a serious turnaround in her life, Anna makes the most difficult decision.

**Festivals & Awards:** Selections, Golden Rose FF 2022 Official  
Competition; Sofia FF 2023 New Bulgarian Cinema.



# BOTEV

Bulgaria, 2022, 140'

COMPLETED

**Director:** Maksim Genchev

**Script:** Desislava Kovacheva, Maksim Genchev

**Cinematography:** Hristo Genkov

**Music:** Dobromir Kisyov

**Cast:** Deyan Gekov, Neda Spasova, Niki Iliev, Matey Genchev, Boyan Fartzov, Tzvetomir Angelov, Georgi Kadurin, Raya Guncheva

**Production:** Dema Film

**Producer:** Desislava Kovacheva

**Co-production:** Bulgarian National Television

**Contact:** +359 876 393 950, demafilm@abv.bg

It is 1876, and a group of young Bulgarian revolutionaries gathers in Romania to plan a popular uprising and establish a Freedom Apostles Assembly. They aim to liberate Bulgaria after 500 years under Ottoman rule. Poet Hristo Botev abandons the pen to lead back 200 brave men to support their insurgent brethren in Bulgaria.



# ESCAPE

*Byagstvo*

**Bulgaria, 2022, 103'**

COMP  
LETED

**Director:** Victor Bojinov

**Script:** Delyana Maneva

**Cinematography:** Anton Bakarsky

**Music:** Petar Doundakov, with the special appearance of Lisa Gerrard

**Cast:** Alexander Kenderov, Diana Dimitrova, Hristo Petkov, Snejana Makaveeva, Benoit Marechal, Ivan Savov, Dimitar Sulev, Ventsislav Sariev

**Production:** Gala Film

**Producers:** Galina Toneva, Kiril Kirilov

**Co-production:** Magic Shop, Maxim 15, Concept Studio, Leon Audio

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center, MEDIA Programme

**Contact:** Galina Toneva, +359 888 451 632, galafilm95@gmail.com

Rural commune meets boot camp: while some are looking for happiness in an abandoned mountain village, others work with almost merciless discipline to liberate drug abusers from their addictions. When a youngster escapes from the rehab facility to the mountains, conflict arises.

**Festivals & Awards:** Cottbus 2021 – HITS, Golden Rose Varna 2022, Sofia IFF 2023 New Bulgarian Cinema.

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FEAT  
URES



# HUMBLE

*Smiren*

**Bulgaria/Romania, 2022, 96'**

COMPLETED

**Director:** Svetoslav Draganov

**Script:** Svetoslav Draganov, Nevena Borisova, Bogomil Dimitrov

**Cinematography:** Vesselin Hristov

**Music:** Boris Changarov, Sebastian Zsemlye

**Cast:** Hristo Petkov, Miroslava Gogovska, Atanas Bachorski, Sashka Bratanova, Detelin Benchev, Zdravko Dragnev, Yana Draganova, Maria Statulova, Boris Lukanov and Kalin Gardev

**Production:** Cineaste Maudit Production (Bulgaria), Parada Film (Romania)

**Producers:** Svetoslav Draganov, Katya Trichkova, Calin Peter Netzer, Oana Iancu

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center, Romanian Center of Cinematography, Romanian National Television

**Contact:** Svetoslav Draganov, +359 888 370 839, kinosvet@gmail.com

Vassil, a 40-year-old documentary director, not happy with his career, devotes less and less time to his family, wholly focusing on filming the breakdown in his characters' relationship and the emotional finale of his film.

**Festivals & Awards:** The Special Jury Award, Sofia IFF 2022 International Competition.





# LISTEN

*Chuy me*

**Greece/Bulgaria, 2022, 108'**

COMP  
LETED

**Director:** Maria Douza

**Script:** Maria Douza

**Cinematography:** Zafeiris Epaminondas

**Music:** Anna Stereopoulou

**Cast:** Efthalia Papacosta, Nikos Koukas, Yoana Bukovska – Davidova, Yorgos Pырpasopoulos, Dimitris Kitsos, Vangelio Andreadaki

**Production:** Steficon (Greece), Ars Digital (Bulgaria)

**Producers:** Michael Sarantinos, Ivan Tonev

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center, MEDIA Creative Europe

**Contacts:** Ars Digital Bulgaria, +359 888 436 145, [i\\_tonev@arsdigital.org](mailto:i_tonev@arsdigital.org), [arsdigital.org](http://arsdigital.org); Steficon Greece, +306 937 052 630, [msarantinos@steficon.gr](mailto:msarantinos@steficon.gr), [www.steficon.gr](http://www.steficon.gr)

Financial upheaval forces Valmira, a deaf teenage girl, to leave her progressive school in Athens and return to her father's struggling island, where she is confronted with the menace of prejudice and intolerance—most shockingly, her own.

**Festivals & Awards:** Best Feature Film Award at Dhaka IFF 2022 Women Filmmakers' Section; Official selections: IFF Thessaloniki, Cairo IFF, Black Nights IFF Tallinn.



# LUKA

COMPLETED

Belgium/Italy/Netherlands/Bulgaria/Armenia, 2021, 118'

**Director:** Jessica Woodworth

**Script:** Jessica Woodworth, inspired by the classic novel The Tartar Steppe by Dino Buzzati

**Cinematography:** Virginie Surdej; **Music:** Teho Teardo

**Cast:** Jonas Smulders, Geraldine Chaplin, Jan Bijvoet, Samvel Tadevossian, Django Schrevens, Sam Louwyck, Valentin Ganev

**Production:** Bo Films, Krater Films, Palosanto Films, Volya Films, Art Fest, Dokino

**Producer:** Peter Brosens; **Co-producers:** Maarten D'Hollander, Tim Martens, Diana Elbaum, Flaminio Zadra, Pilar Saavedra Perrotta, Denis Vaslin, Fleur Knopperts, Stefan Kitanov, Mira Staleva, Anzhela Frangyan

**Supported by** the Flanders Audiovisual Fund, Ministero Della Cultura-Direzione Generale Cinema e Audiovisivo, Eurimages, Netherlands Film Fund & Netherlands Film Production Incentive, Sicilia Film Commission, Bulgarian National Film Center, Centre du Cinéma et de l'Audiovisuel de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Creative Europe MEDIA Programme, National Cinema Center of Armenia

**International Sales:** Films Boutique, +49 30 6953 7850, [contact@filmsboutique.com](mailto:contact@filmsboutique.com);

**Bulgarian Distribution:** RFF International, [press@siff.bg](mailto:press@siff.bg)

Luka, a young soldier craving battle, embeds himself in an isolated fort where, for ages, men have been waiting in vain for a mythical enemy to strike. A contemporary adaptation of Dino Buzzati's classic novel, The Tartar Steppe.

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URES

**Festivals & Awards:** Selection, Rotterdam IFF 2023 'Big Screen' Competition.



# MEN OF DEEDS

COMPLETED

*Mazhe na delata*

**Romania/Bulgaria, 2022, 100'**

**Director:** Paul Negoescu

**Script:** Radu Romaniuc, Oana Tudor

**Cinematography:** Ana Draghici

**Music:** Marius Leftarache

**Cast:** Iulian Postelnicu, Vasile Muraru, Anghel Damian, Crina Semciuc

**Production:** Papillon Film (Romania), Tangaj Production (Romania)

**Producers:** Anamaria Antoci, Paul Negoescu

**Co-production:** Screening Emotions (Bulgaria)

**Co-producers:** Poli Angelova, Nikolay Todorov

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center,  
Romanian National Film Center, Eurimages, MEDIA Programme

**Contacts:** +359 898 568 640, [screening.emotions@gmail.com](mailto:screening.emotions@gmail.com),  
[www.screeningemotions.com](http://www.screeningemotions.com)

Ilie, a man in his late 30s, is enjoying the easy life of a provincial policeman. His passivity over a series of violent events soon makes him an accomplice to murder. Tension accumulates in the village, forcing Ilie to make a drastic decision.

**Festivals & Awards:** Official Selection at Sarajevo IFF, Warsaw IFF, Arras IFF, Tallinn Black Nights IFF, Cottbus IFF, Thessaloniki IFF, Antalya IFF, Kinenova IFF, Tirana IFF.



# PLAGUE

*Chuma*

**Bulgaria, 2023, 100'**

COMPLETED

**Director:** Ivan Vladimirov

**Script:** Boyan Bioltchev

**Cinematography:** Rumen Vasilev

**Music:** Petko Manchev

**Cast:** Svejen Mladenov, Evelina Bibova, Matey Michev, Lyudmila Slaneva, Velislav Pavlov, Dobrin Dosev, Stanislav Peev, Lyubomir Bachvarov

**Production:** Miramar Film

**Producers:** Ilian Djevelekov, Matey Konstantinov, Georgi Dimitrov

**Supported** by the Bulgarian National Film Center

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In early 19th-century Bulgaria, a wealthy *chorbadhzi* and his son return from a pilgrimage to find villagers starving and scared, due to an outbreak of the plague. The father shares his provisions, but when the son falls ill, all hell breaks loose. Written long before the Covid-19 pandemic, the script bears a striking resemblance to events and behaviour we have witnessed over the past few years.



# THE ART OF FALLING

*Izkustvoto da padash*

**Bulgaria, 2022, 108'**

COMP  
LETED

**Director:** Orlin Milchev

**Script:** Neda Filcheva, Marin Damianov

**Cinematography:** Emil Christov

**Music:** Polina, TDK – Mladost, Stick Insect

**Cast:** Elena Zamyarkova, Aleksandra Sarchadjieva, Ivaylo Hristov, Ivan Barnev, Valery Iordanov, Dimitar Nikolov, Polina Nedkova, Joreta Nikolova, Svetlana Yancheva, Dimitar Banenkin

**Production:** Geopoly; Producer: Pavlina Jeleva

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** Pavlina Jeleva, +359 888 605 350, [geopoly@gmail.com](mailto:geopoly@gmail.com)

Seventeen-year-old Bori refuses to be harassed by the boys. Her artistic, but unstable mother does not offer her the support she needs. Her caring grandfather enrolls her in a judo school. That is where she realises that, before winning against others, one must win the battles within oneself.

**Festivals & Awards:** The Sofia IFF 2023 Audience Award, The Golden Rose FF 2022 Best Fiction Debut Award, Selected at Cottbus IFF U18 Youth Film Competition.

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FEAT  
URES



# THE GOOD DRIVER

COMP  
LETED

*Dobriat shofyor*

**Finland/Sweden/Bulgaria, 2022, 100'**

**Director:** Tonislav Hristov

**Script:** Kaarle Aho, Tonislav Hristov, Konstantin Bojanov

**Cinematography:** Orlin Ruevoiski

**Music:** Lisa Nordström

**Cast:** Malin Krastev, Slava Doycheva, Gerasim Georgiev, Alma Pöysti

**Production:** Making Movies (Finland), CINENIC FILM & Film i Väst (Sweden), Soul Food (Bulgaria); **Producers:** Kaarle Aho, Kai Nordberg / Making Movies

**Co-producers:** Kristina Börjeson, Anthony Muir—Film i Väst; Rickard Olsson, Annika Hellström, Erika Malmgren – Cinenic Film; Andrea Stanoeva—Soul Food

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center, Euroimages

**Contacts:** kaarle.aho@mamo.fi, andrea.stanoeva@gmail.com, tonislavhristov@gmail.com

Bulgarian taxi driver Ivan saves to reconcile with his wife and son in Finland and to show them he is a changed man, but money is tight. He takes risks to earn more quickly, which leads to problems. Can he rectify his past mistakes?

**Festivals & Awards:** The Sofia IFF 2023 Award for Best Bulgarian Feature Film, Special Mention to the actor Malin Krastev; Official selections at Thessaloniki IFF, Göteborg IFF, Bergamo Film Meeting Main competition.

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FEAT  
URES



# THE TESLA CASE

*Sluchayat Tesla*

**Bulgaria, 2022, 90'**

**COMP  
LETED**

**Director:** Andrey Hadjivasilev

**Script:** Viktoria Penkova

**Cinematography:** Bojidar Simeonov

**Music:** George Strezov

**Cast:** Martin Paunov, Polly Ivanova, Neda Spasova, Martin Ghiaurov, Liuben Chatalov

**Production:** Incomes Project

**Producer:** Plamen Yordanov

**Co-production:** Revive Vision – Andrey Hadjivasilev

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center, Bulgarian National TV

**Contact:** Plamen Yordanov, +359 888 736 822, film@theteslacase.com

Inspired by Nikola Tesla, Tony, a promising young inventor, has discovered a scientific solution to the global energy crisis. Disappointed that he is forced to attend summer camp, he invites his friend Raya to join him. They face challenges from jealous scout leader Victor, who wants to sabotage Tony's inventions and win Raya's affection.

**Festivals & Awards:** Golden Rose FF Audience Award for Best Feature Film (Varna 2022).

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**FEAT  
URES**



# TO THE NORTH / *Na sever*

Romania/France/Greece/Czechia/Bulgaria, 2022, 122'

COMP  
LETED

**Director:** Mihai Mincan; **Script:** Mihai Mincan

**Cinematography:** George Chiper-Lillemark; **Music:** Marius Leftarache

**Cast:** Soliman Cruz, Niko Becker, Dimitar Vasilev, Bart Guingona, Noel Sto. Domingo, Olivier Ho Hio Hen

**Production:** DeFilm (Romania); **Producer:** Radu Stancu

**Co-production:** Remora Films (France), Studio Bauhaus (Greece), Background Films (Czechia), Screening Emotions (Bulgaria)

**Supported by** the Romanian Film Center, Czech Film Fund, Bulgarian National Film Center, Région Ile-de-France, Ekome—National Centre of Audiovisual Media and Communication, Wavemaker Romania, Greek Film Centre, ERT s.a., MEDIA programme, the Romanian TV, Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée, ANGOA, SEDICA, SACEM

**International sales:** Best Friend Forever, martin@bffsales.eu, charles@bffsales.eu, www.bestfriendforever.be; **Contact for Bulgaria:** Poli Angelova, +359 894 700 869, office@screeningemotions.com, www.screeningemotions.com

A religious Filipino sailor working aboard a transatlantic ship discovers an illegal Romanian passenger. Inspired by a Bible this emigrant has with him, the sailor embarks on a dangerous game involving the crew, his own faith in God and an innocent man's life.





# VASIL

Spain/Bulgaria, 2022, 92'

COMP  
LETED

**Director:** Avelina Pratt

**Script:** Avelina Pratt

**Cinematography:** Santiago Racah

**Music:** Emilian Gatsov

**Cast:** Ivan Burnev, Carra Ellehalde, Alejandra Jimenez, Suzy Sanchez, Sue Flack

**Production:** Distinto Films—Miriam Porte

**Co-production:** Activist 38—Mina Mileva, Vesela Kazakova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center, ICA Cine Instituto Creativo Audiovisual Ameicano, Cultural Institute of Valencia GVA Invat-tur, ICEC, MEDIA Programme, RTVE, TV3, Institut Ramon Llull, ICO, CREA SGR

**Contact:** Vesela Kazakova, +359 887 856 383, vesela@activist38.com

Smart, charming Vasil is a first-class bridge and chess player, but lives on the streets of Valencia. Alfredo shelters him for a while in his home. Vasil and Alfredo have nothing in common apart from their passion for chess. Alfredo gradually realises that Vasil has changed his life.

**Festivals & Awards:** SEMINCI de Valladolid—Best Actor Award ex aequo (Carra Elechalde and Ivan Burnev), Berlanga Awards for Best Film, Screenplay, Acting, Original Score, Supporting Actress, Sound; Gaudí Awards—Nomination for Best New Director; Gaudí Awards – Nomination for Best New Director; Competitions—Warsaw IFF, La Mostra de Valencia, Golden Rooster FF (China).

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FEAT  
URES



# SCENT OF LINDEN

*Aromat na lipa*

**USA, 2023, 112'**

**COMING  
SOON**

**Director:** Sissy Denkova

**Script:** Jordan Trippeer

**Cinematography:** Paola Trulin

**Music:** Jonathan Kirkscey

**Cast:** Ivan Barnev, Albena Koleva, Toncho Tokmakchiev, Albena Mihova, Yoana Bukovska-Davidova, Albena Mihova, Ivan Petrushinov, Georgi Zlatarev, Reni Vrangova

**Production:** Reflective Project Pictures, Gold Leaf Films Contacts

**Producers:** Sissy Denkova, Megan Kay Jordan

**Contact:** Reflective Project Pictures, +310 498 5918, [sissydenkova@gmail.com](mailto:sissydenkova@gmail.com)

Recent immigrant Stefan moves into the Bulgarian enclave in suburban Tennessee, where comical rivalries, suspicions, and hijinks conspire to come between him and his American Dream.

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**FEAT  
URES**



# AXIS OF LIFE

*Osta na zhivota*

**Bulgaria/Hungary, 100'**

IN POST-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Atanas Hristoskov

**Script:** Teodora Markova, Nevena Kertova, Georgi Ivanov

**Cinematography:** Martin Balkanski

**Cast:** Lars Simonsen, Clive Russell, Aleksander Aleksiev, Vladimir Mihailov, Strezo Stamatovski, Marina Suma

**Production:** Invictus

**Producer:** Victor Francess, Kalinov Brothers

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 897 818 203, kalin\_kaboal@abv.bg

A dystopian parable about three disciples on a spiritual journey across a mystical mountain with their master. They learn that one of them will be chosen to be the next guru. They need to accost and overcome their weaknesses and fears in order to grow as disciples but also as human beings.



# DAD

*Tatko*

**Bulgaria, 91'**

IN POST-  
PRODUCTION

**Directors:** Dimitris Georgiev, Mariy Rosen

**Script:** Mariy Rosen, Dimitris Georgiev

**Cinematography:** Rosen Savkov, Maria Tsvetkova

**Music:** Milen Apostolov

**Cast:** Deyan Donkov, Mario Vasilev, Silvia Dragieva, Ana Valchanova, Boryana Babanova, Boyan Petrov

**Production:** Four Elements, New European Wave Entertainment

**Producers:** Lyubo Yonchev, Rosen Savkov, Elena Doroshenko, Teodora Mladenova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Culture Fund

**Contact:** +359 886 564 538, [lyubo.yonchev@fourelements.com](mailto:lyubo.yonchev@fourelements.com)

A young boy falls in love with his stepfather.  
This provokes a family tragedy.

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FEAT  
URES



# DYAD

*Dyada*

**Bulgaria, 90'**

IN POST-  
PRODUCTION

**Directors:** Yana Titova, Vladimir Petev

**Script:** Vladimir Petev

**Cinematography:** Martin Balkansky

**Cast:** Margarita Stoykova, Petra Tsarnorechka, Tsvetan Aleksiev, Ivan Barnev, Jaklin Georgieva, Silvia Lulcheva, Anastasia Ingilizova

**Production:** Portokal

**Producer:** Vanya Rainova

**Supported by** the National Film Center and Creative Europe MEDIA programme

**Contact:** [vanya.portokal@gmail.com](mailto:vanya.portokal@gmail.com)

Smart, angry, self-reliant Dida (15) will stop at nothing to achieve her one tangible goal that justifies all moral compromises—to buy herself a plane ticket so that she can join her estranged mother in the USA. When she realises that her mother never intended the reunion, all hell breaks loose.



# FLESH

*Plat*

**Bulgaria, 90'**

IN POST-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Dimitar Stoyanovich

**Script:** Dimitar Stoyanovich

**Cinematography:** Rali Ralchev

**Cast:** Plamena Getova, Vesela Babinova, Julian Vergov, Dilyana Popova, Rashko Mladenov, Rushen Vidinliev, Nazim Karakurt, Stefan Mavrodiev, Nikolaos Tsitiridis

**Production:** PREMIERstudio Plus

**Producers:** Nikolay Mutaftchiev

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 877 600 028, info@premierstudio.eu

Is it the soul or the flesh that rules our lives? When a famous translator learns that she has been diagnosed with cancer, she and her entire family have to answer this question. Her illness changes the course of time, reveals the true characters of those involved; suffering collides with the chilling routine of medical therapy. In the battle for life and on the road to death, the flesh always turns out to be the ultimate victor.



# LAND

Zemya

Bulgaria

IN POST-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Nikolay Todorov

**Script:** Nikolay Todorov

**Cinematography:** Kiril Prodanov

**Music:** Hristo Namliiev

**Cast:** Tigran Torosyan, Mihail Stoyanov, Yara Hodkevitch-Enev, Monika Ivanova, Martina Peneva, Valeri Georgiev, Velin Konarev

**Production:** Screening Emotions

**Producer:** Poli Angelova

**Co-production:** Nu Boyana Film Studios

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 894 700 869, [office@screeningemotions.com](mailto:office@screeningemotions.com), [www.screeningemotions.com](http://www.screeningemotions.com)

Kamen wants to be successful, to demonstrate his qualities in front of others and to attain the status of an 'accomplished person' in life. But his overwhelming possessive desire makes him sacrifice his love for Tsveta. Nevertheless, he fiercely tries to prove that success and possessions will bring him happiness.



# THE HERD

*Stadoto*

**Bulgaria/Germany/Luxembourg, 2023**

IN POST-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Milko Lazarov

**Script:** Milko Lazarov, Simeon Ventsislavov, Ekaterina Churilova

**Cinematography:** Kaloyan Bozhilov

**Music:** Penka Kouneva

**Cast:** Vesela Valcheva, Zahari Baharov, Ivan Savov, Ivan Barnev, Christos Stergioglou

**Production:** Red Carpet

**Co-production:** 42film (Germany), Amour Fou Luxembourg

**Producer:** Veselka Kiryakova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center, MDM, ZDF/ARTE (Germany), Luxembourg Film Fund, Eurimages, Creative Europe MEDIA programme

**Contact:** redcarpetfilms.bg@gmail.com

In a remote mountain village where a new border fence is supposed to stop the increased flow of migrants, the domestic animals mysteriously start dying. Determined at all costs to find the culprit, the villagers blame a strange family that has long been far removed from the community—Tariqa, a young girl with a mysterious illness, and her father, Ali.





# WINDLESS

*Bezvetrie*

**Bulgaria/Italy, 2023**

IN POST-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Pavel G. Vesnakov

**Script:** Pavel G. Vesnakov, Simeon Ventsislavov, Teodora Markova, Nevena Kertova, Georgi Ivanov

**Cinematography:** Orlin Ruevski

**Music:** Ascari

**Cast:** Ognyan Pavlov, Veselin Petrov, Mihail Mutafov, Vasil Binev, Nadya Derderyan

**Production:** Red Carpet, disparte, Transformers

**Producer:** Veselka Kiryakova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center,  
Ministry of Culture of Italy, Eurimages

**Contact:** [redcarpetfilms.bg@gmail.com](mailto:redcarpetfilms.bg@gmail.com)

Kaloyan returns home with the intention of selling his late father's apartment but, in accomplishing this, he discovers that he no longer remembers his voice.

**Festivals & Awards:** 2022 Karlovy Vary IFF Works in Progress Award.

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FEAT  
URES



# CLASS '90

*Klas 90*

**Bulgaria, 90'**

IN  
PRODU  
CTION

**Director:** Boiko Boyanov

**Script:** Boiko Boyanov, Stanislav Todorov – Rogy

**Cinematography:** Martin Balkanski

**Cast:** Robert Yanakiev, Julian Vergov, Stefka Yanorova, Paraskeva Djukelova, Lyubomir Neikov, Lyudmila Miteva, Bilyana Petrinska, Stefan Denolyubov, Katrin Jaehne, Georgi Zlatarev, Nadya Konakchieva, Elena Atanasova

**Production:** Miramar Film

**Producers:** Matey Konstantinov, Ilian Djevelekov, Georgi Dimitrov, Mila Voinikova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 2 943 4904, [office@miramarfilm.com](mailto:office@miramarfilm.com), [www.miramarfilm.com](http://www.miramarfilm.com)

Schoolmates who graduated in 1989 in Bulgaria gather at a small hotel in the Rhodope Mountains to celebrate their 30th secondary school anniversary. What is supposed to be a festive event turns into a painful experience as old secrets and trauma still haunt them. The sum of their life experiences, their unfulfilled dreams and current goals reflect the upheavals of post-communist society during the 30 years after the fall of the Berlin wall.

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URES



# LUST

*Potomak*

**Bulgaria/Denmark/Sweden, 90'**

IN  
PRODU  
CTION

**Director:** Ralitza Petrova

**Script:** Ralitza Petrova

**Cinematography:** Zuzanna Zachara

**Production:** Aporia Filmworks

**Producers:** Ralitza Petrova, Poli Angelova, Nikolay Todorov

**Co-production:** Screening Emotions, Snowglobe, Silverx Films

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center, Danish Film Institute, Film i Väst, Eurimages

**Contacts:** Ralitza Petrova +359 893 385 791, [aporiafilmworks@gmail.com](mailto:aporiafilmworks@gmail.com)  
Poli Angelova +359 894 700 869, [screening.emotions@gmail.com](mailto:screening.emotions@gmail.com)

Finding herself the sole heir-at-law to her estranged father, Lilian (41) is strongly determined to refuse the inheritance, and get back to her life. But a near-death experience changes everything.

**Festivals & Awards:** Artekino International Prize, CineLink Co-Production Market Sarajevo IFF 2021.



# THE PLATFORM

*Platformata*

**Bulgaria, 90'**

IN  
PRODU  
CTION

**Director:** Nikolay Mutaftchiev

**Script:** Nikolay Mutaftchiev

**Cinematography:** Kaloyan Bojilov

**Cast:** Boyko Krastanov, Kitodar Todorov, Bashar Rahal,  
Mira Boyadzhieva, Eleonora Ivanova

**Production:** PREMIERstudio Plus

**Producer:** Silvestar Silvestrov

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 877 600 028, [info@premierstudio.eu](mailto:info@premierstudio.eu)

Stan, a refugee fleeing a totalitarian regime, has become stateless. He finds a way out by deciding to found a new democratic state with three other people on an abandoned platform in the sea. However, their incompatible habits and different understanding of democracy put them at odds with each other; so, in order to preserve his freedom, Stan becomes a dictator.

28

FEAT  
URES



# THE SWEET BITTERNESS OF RIPE POMEGRANATES

IN  
PRODUCTION

*Sladkata gorchivina na zrelite narove*

**North Macedonia/Bulgaria**

**Director:** Andrey Volkashin

**Script:** Andrey Volkashin

**Cinematography:** Kiril Prodanov

**Production:** Veda Film Productions

**Co-production:** Screening Emotions – Poli Angelova, Nikolay Todorov

**Producer:** Elena Stanisheva

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center, North Macedonia  
Film Agency, Eurimages

**Contacts:** +389 71 321 487, elena.staniseva@gmail.com;  
+359 894 700 869, poli.angelova@gmail.com

When a traditional, middle-aged Macedonian housewife welcomes a wounded, mysterious woman into her home, her long-suppressed desires are awakened. Unable to come to terms with herself, the love she feels turns into fear and agony, driving her to madness and extreme actions.

**Festivals & Awards:** the 2022 APostLab post-production award  
at the Torino Film Lab annual Meeting Event.



# 40, MARIA LOUISA BOULEVARD

*Bulevard Maria Louisa 40*  
**Bulgaria, 100'**

IN PRE-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Kristina Spassovska

**Script:** Kristina Spassovska

**Cinematography:** Teodor Fichev

**Cast:** Dayana Handziheva, Georgi Spassov

**Production:** Viktoria Films

**Producer:** Maya Vitkova-Kosev

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 884 905 220, mayvitkovitz@yahoo.com

Sofia (33) has been living abroad since the mysterious disappearance of her brother many years ago. Soon after her return to their old home, a series of inexplicable events starts to puzzle her—even her father's ghost appears at 40, Maria Louisa Boulevard. It seems that Sofia's late relatives cannot find peace... Dead or alive, a family is still a family, and it is there to help her.

**Festivals & Awards:** Transilvania Pitch Stop Development  
Award at the Transilvania IFF 2022, Selected for the Goethe  
Institute's First Film First Program 2022/2023.



# BECAUSE I LOVE BAD WEATHER

IN PRE-  
PRODUCTION

*Zashtoto obicham loshoto vreme*  
**Bulgaria, 90'**

**Director:** Yana Lekarska

**Script:** Yana Lekarska

**Cinematography:** Mladen Minev

**Cast:** Neda Spasova, Vladimir Mihailov and others

**Production:** Invictus

**Producer:** Kalinov Brothers

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 897 818 203, kalin\_kaboal@abv.bg

Irina, a married woman in her early 30s, enjoying a successful career at a bank, returns to her family's seaside cottage for the first time in years. There she meets an old friend, Boris, an artist who left Bulgaria to study in Paris. This makes Irina question her marriage and apparently perfect life. Old feelings are awakened, but she fears to shatter the image set by her parents' happy marriage. A secret from her father's past is also revealed, which changes everything.



# FACING THE SUN

*Sreshtu slantseto*

**Bulgaria, 90'**

IN PRE-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Lyubomir Mladenov

**Script:** Lyubomir Mladenov

**Cinematography:** Kiril Prodanov

**Production:** Screening Emotions

**Producers:** Poli Angelova, Nikolay Todorov

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 894 700 869, [office@screeningemotions.com](mailto:office@screeningemotions.com),  
[www.screeningemotions.com](http://www.screeningemotions.com)

Neda feels isolated in her small town. As fate has willed it, the great wide world comes to her as a guest. Instead of finding joy in this meeting, she encounters hatred and ruination.





# FAULT

*Razlom*

**Bulgaria, 120'**

IN PRE-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Georgi Dyulgerov

**Script:** Georgi Dyulgerov

**Cinematography:** Stefan Ivanov

**Music:** Mira Iskarova

**Production:** Screening Emotions

**Producers:** Poli Angelova, Nikolay Todorov

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 898 568 640, [screening.emotions@gmail.com](mailto:screening.emotions@gmail.com),  
[www.screeningemotions.com](http://www.screeningemotions.com)

For a full 50 years, her son is unable to forgive his mother. In 1951, when he was five, his mother became a collaborator with the Bulgarian Secret Service in order to forestall his unhappy future. Her son falls ill but, mentally devastated, she does nothing to save him. One of those whom she has betrayed cures her child. Half a century later, her son manages to forgive her.



# GOOD PARENTS

*Dobri roditeli*

**Bulgaria, 90'**

IN PRE-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Kutsy Vaptsarov

**Script:** Kutsy Vaptsarov

**Cinematography:** Kaloyan Bozhilov

**Cast:** Milena Ermenkova

**Production:** PREMIERstudio Plus

**Producers:** Nikolay Mutaftchiev

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 877 600 028, [info@premierstudio.eu](mailto:info@premierstudio.eu)

Sofia, a Bulgarian woman, is divorcing her husband, Rune, with whom she lives along with their two children in Norway. He accuses Sofia of obsessing over the children and turning them against him. Both parents are placed under observation, and their children are moved to different foster families. The mother struggles to repress her despair and keep her mind cold in order to prove she can adapt to a foreign culture and win back her children.



# ONE MONTH

*Edin mesetz*

**Bulgaria/Romania/Sweden**

IN PRE-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Maya Vitkova-Kosev

**Script:** Maya Vitkova-Kosev

**Cinematography:** Krum Rodriguez

**Production:** Viktoria Films (Bulgaria), Mandragora (Romania),  
Doppelganger (Sweden)

**Producers:** Maya Vitkova-Kosev, Anca Puiu, Jörgen Andersson

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 884 905 220, mayvitkovitz@yahoo.com

Just before her parents' retirement party, Sarah (40), an artist still living with them, is given the devastating news that she has one month to move out. Her otherwise loving parents are ready to take her back some day, but only if she gives birth to a baby to hand down their good genes... Now Sarah, single for a decade, has a month to find someone to father a child with her.

**Festivals & Awards:** CineLink Co-production Market Selection.

35

FEAT  
URES



# AFRIKA

Bulgaria/Romania/Sweden, 100'

IN DEVE  
LOP  
MENT

**Director:** Maya Vitkova-Kosev

**Script:** Maya Vitkova-Kosev

**Cinematography:** Krum Rodriguez

**Production:** Viktoria Films (Bulgaria), Mandragora (Romania), Doppelganger (Sweden)

**Producers:** Maya Vitkova-Kosev, Anca Puiu, Jörgen Andersson

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center, Creative Europe MEDIA Programme

**Contact:** +359 884 905 220, mayvitkovitz@yahoo.com

Raya, an artist in her 40s, who longs to have a baby, is abandoned by her partner. Her grief is right beside her, like a live African elephant in her apartment. Raya's way to begin anew is by giving her love-memories, along with her grief, back to her ex.

**Festivals & Awards:** Krzysztof Kieslowski ScripTeast Award for the Best Eastern European Script (Cannes, 2018); Canada Goose Fellowship Award TIFF Filmmaker Lab (Toronto 2019).

36

FEAT  
URES



# RESONANCE

*Rezonans*

**Bulgaria**

IN DEVELOPMENT

**Director:** Yordan Petkov

**Script:** Yordan Petkov

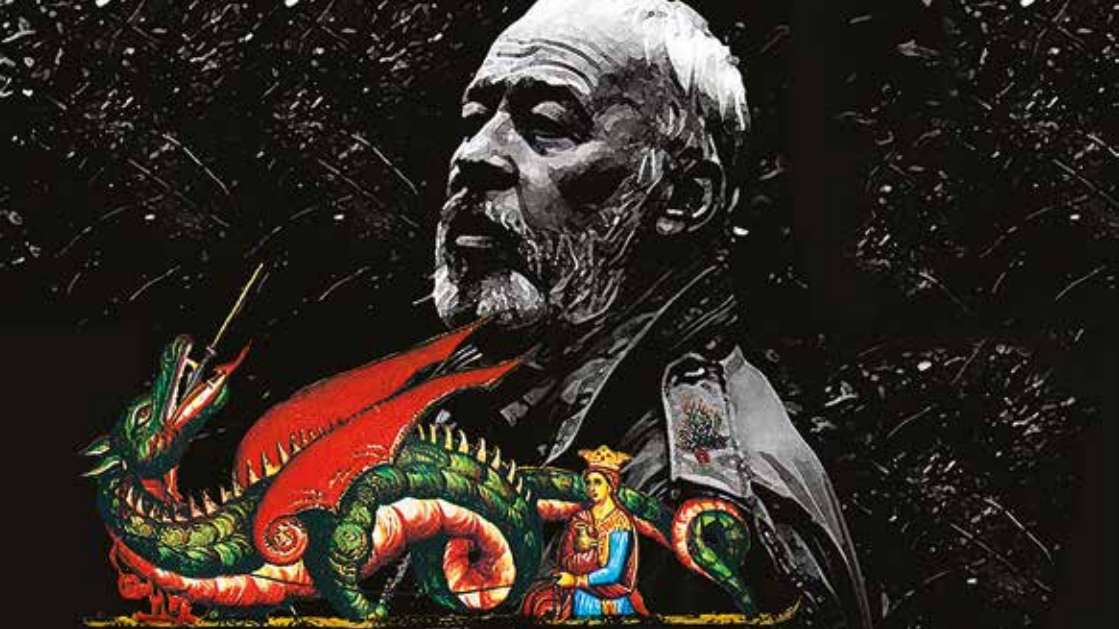
**Production:** Portokal, Garti Films, Klass Film

**Producers:** Vanya Rainova, Victoria Mitreva, Rossitsa Valkanova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center,  
Creative Europe MEDIA Programme

**Contact:** [vanya.portokal@gmail.com](mailto:vanya.portokal@gmail.com), [gartifilms@gmail.com](mailto:gartifilms@gmail.com)

In a provincial Bulgarian town, a new modern Public Warning System for disasters goes haywire, disturbing the peace. Milko, a hermit living in voluntary exile, reports poachers and their destruction of nature, but is ridiculed. He investigates on his own, uncovering secrets, turning the locals against him. A police officer is drawn to Milko's suspicions, but discovers the end of the world is a solitary occupation.



# THE ICON PAINTER AND THE DRAGON

*Ikonopisetsat i zmeyat*  
**Bulgaria**

IN DEVELOPMENT

**Director:** Orlin Milchev

**Script:** Orlin Milchev

**Production:** Geopoly

**Producer:** Pavlina Jeleva

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** Pavlina Jeleva, +359 888 605 350,  
geopoly@gmail.com

A respected icon painter guns down a young drug addict while trying to stop a robbery at his home. The ensuing investigation divides public opinion and tests the shooter's conscience.

38

FEAT  
URES



# THE LIFE WE NEVER HAD

*Zhivotat, koito niamahme*

**Bulgaria**

IN DEVELOPMENT

**Director:** Martin Markov

**Script:** Teodora Markova, Nevena Kertova, Tsonko Bumbalov

**Cinematography:** Orlin Ruevski

**Cast:** Aleksandar Aleksiev

**Production:** Portokal

**Co-production:** No Blink

**Producer:** Vanya Rainova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center,  
Creative Europe MEDIA programme

**Contact:** [vanya.portokal@gmail.com](mailto:vanya.portokal@gmail.com)

Boyan, an unfulfilled artist, witnesses the death of a renowned fellow artist, Andrey, and discovers that his own girlfriend Yana had an affair with him. Secretly obsessed with Andrey, Boyan breaks into his studio and finds an erotic painting of Yana. Boyan starts painting again, but neglects his job and everyone around him. Andrey's gallerists take over all Boyan's paintings and exhibit them under Andrey's name, gaining him huge recognition. Boyan is unable to prove his authorship, but overcomes his fear of painting.

39

FEATURES



# TWO TIMES ONE

*Dve po edno*

**Bulgaria**

IN DEVELOPMENT

**Director:** Vladimir Petev

**Script:** Vladimir Petev

**Production:** Portokal

**Producer:** Vanya Rainova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** [vanya.portokal@gmail.com](mailto:vanya.portokal@gmail.com)

Victor, a charismatic 40-year-old architect, aims to become Prime Minister. After his ex-wife dies suddenly, he begins taking care of his 10-year-old son Daniel, with whom he has only a superficial relationship. Daniel is caught up in Victor's political deals—a vortex of intrigue and mistrust. The boy's presence slowly causes Victor to lose focus and ambition, leading to the end of his political career. Victor tries to enjoy his relationship with his son, but is it too late?

40

FEAT  
URES



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# EVERYTHING TASTES STRANGE TODAY

COMPLETED

*Dnes vsichko ima stranen vkus*  
**Bulgaria, 2023, 12'**

**Director:** Kristina Spassovska

**Script:** Kristina Spassovska

**Cinematography:** Ivan Chertov

**Cast:** Petra Piskuliyska, Kalin Marinov, Vyara Milanova

**Production:** Bellevue Kino

**Producer:** Kristina Spassovska

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 888 700 516; kspasovska@gmail.com

On yet another hot summer day, all a twelve-year-old girl wants is to be her elder brother's darling.



# I'M HERE

*Tuk sam*

**Bulgaria, 2022, 4'**

COMPLETED

**Director:** Vilma Kartalska

**Script:** Vilma Kartalska

**Cinematography:** Rosen Savkov

**Music:** Anton Yanachkov

**Cast:** Vilma Kartalska, Anna Bankina, Nikolina Stoyanova

**Production:** Raiza Vilm Productions, Four Elements, Crystal Frame

**Producers:** Vilma Kartalska, Rosen Savkov, Lyubo Yonchev

**Contact:** Vilma Kartalska, +359 886 763 922, vilmu6ka@abv.bg

Returning to her grandmother's house after shopping, Zoya happens on one of the most natural and inevitable elements of life, which, however, always catches us off guard. How will she react? A tale about one of the many thousands of possible encounters with HER, the outcome of which is always unique.

**Festivals & Awards:** Selected for the Short Film Corner at Cannes 2023.



# LYUBIMA

*Lyubima*

**Bulgaria/Romania/Sweden, 2023, 27'**

COMP  
LETED

**Director:** Maya Vitkova-Kosev

**Script:** Maya Vitkova-Kosev

**Cinematography:** Krum Rodriguez

**Music:** Pasha Hristova

**Cast:** Zhaklin Daskalova, Ivan Nikolov, Kalina Vitkova

**Production:** Viktoria Films (Bulgaria), Mandragora (Romania),  
Doppelganger (Sweden)

**Producers:** Maya Vitkova-Kosev, Anca Puiu, Jörgen Andersson

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 884 905 220, mayvitkovitz@yahoo.com

Abandoned by her partner, thirty-year-old artist Lyubima wants to move on, but the sorrowful feeling is there, looming as large as an African elephant... In her dream, she calls on the Elephant for help... Her way to finally begin anew is by giving her love-memories, along with her grief, back to her ex.

44

**Festivals & Awards:** Drama Pitching Lab Selection.



# SNOWDROPS AT THE END OF THE DAY

COMPLETED

*Kokicheta v kraya na vlaka*

**Bulgaria, 2022, 30'**

**Director:** Galina D. Georgieva

**Script:** Galina D. Georgieva, Decho Taralezhkov

**Cinematography:** Georgy Chelebiev

**Music:** Mira Iskarova

**Cast:** Iliana Kodjabasheva, Velislav Pavlov, Ani Valchanova, Ivan Savov

**Production:** Geopoly Film

**Producer:** Pavlina Jeleva

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 888 605 350, [geopolyfilm@gmail.com](mailto:geopolyfilm@gmail.com)

In a dystopian world, a woman fighting for her right to state-assisted suicide finds a new purpose in life after her last three snowdrops are found capable of producing free energy for everyone.

**Festivals & Awards:** Sofia IFF 2022 – Best Bulgarian Short Film Award Nomination; Selected for Kraków FF 2022 International Competition.

45

SHORTS



# TO BURY A DRAGON

*Da zarovich drakon*

**Bulgaria, 2023, 30'**

COMPLETED

**Director:** Martin Markov

**Script:** Teodora Markova, Martin Markov

**Cinematography:** Orlin Ruevski

**Cast:** Hristo Shopov, Paraskeva Djukelova, Paul Wright, Yanina Kasheva, Jack Hannan, Evgenia Lecheva, Stanislav Peev, Georgi Dimitrov

**Production:** Movimiento

**Producers:** Orlin Ruevski, Martin Markov

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** orlin.ruevski@gmail.com

Marko, a 60-year-old woodcarver, learns that his estranged, gay son has died in London, and that his partner and their adopted child are due to arrive in Marko's town for the funeral, something that initially awakens the father's buried shame and anger.



# ACROSS THE NAKED HILLS

*Po golite halmove*

**Bulgaria, 2023**

IN POST-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Dimitar Kutmanov

**Script:** Dimitar Kutmanov

**Cinematography:** Kaloyan Bozhilov

**Cast:** Katalin Starejshinska, Nikolay Urumov, Kamen Kutmanov

**Production:** Red Carpet

**Producer:** Veselka Kiryakova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** [redcarpetfilms.bg@gmail.com](mailto:redcarpetfilms.bg@gmail.com)

Zhana lives in a poor provincial area with her despotic foster father, Danail. Her only joy is in spending time with an abandoned dog that she surreptitiously feeds. Until the day that Danail learns about her secret friend.



# THE POOL

*Baseinat*

**Bulgaria, 2023**

IN POST-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Pavlina Bojkova

**Script:** Pavlina Bojkova

**Cinematography:** Emiliyan Atanasov

**Cast:** Matey Barnev, Tsvetan Aleksiev, Mariana Zhikich, Maria Lazarova

**Production:** Red Carpet

**Producer:** Veselka Kiryakova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** [redcarpetfilms.bg@gmail.com](mailto:redcarpetfilms.bg@gmail.com)

In the small pool of family relationships, Alex, just another, normal teenage boy, is hemmed in between his father's high expectations for him, caring for a sick old dog, and his own attempts to row against the tide. Sometimes the hand that holds us firmly, saving us from sinking, is not the most skilled or the strongest, but the one that appears in the nick of time.





# TRIPTYCH

*Tryptih*

UK/Bulgaria, 2023, 15'

IN POST-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Sophia Ray

**Script:** Roland Walters, Atticus Hoffman

**Cinematography:** David Foulkes

**Music:** Finn Keane

**Cast:** Emma Suki, Emmanuel Imani, Stoyan Radev,  
Anjela Nedyalkova

**Production:** Script Compass, Partizan, Four Elements

**Producers:** Byron McNally, Mayling Wong, Lyubo Yonchev,  
Rosen Savkov

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 886 564 538, [lyubo.yonchev@fourelements.com](mailto:lyubo.yonchev@fourelements.com)

A high-end art dealer is haunted by a mysterious force from her past that threatens to destroy everything she has achieved.



# MIRROR TOUCH

*Ogledalno dokosvane*

**Bulgaria, 15'**

IN PRE-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Roman Pessarov

**Script:** Elena Toncheva

**Cinematography:** Damyan Dimitrov

**Music:** Angel Radev

**Cast:** Leonid Yovchev, Slavena Zaykova

**Production:** iFilm

**Producer:** Irina Gurova

**Contact:** [i.gurova@ifilmproduction.com](mailto:i.gurova@ifilmproduction.com)

Victor (32) suffers from a rare neurological disease that deprives him of his sense of touch. His life is thrown upside down when he meets Dia (26) and discovers that they are connected in an empathetic way, and that he can feel everything she feels. Victor is determined to experience all the sensations he has not yet encountered and is ready to go to extremes.

50

SHORTS



# SCHROEDINGER'S MAN

*Schroedingeroviat chovek*

**Bulgaria, 15'**

IN PRE-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Asparuh Frangov

**Script:** Asparuh Frangov

**Cinematography:** Fejmi Daut

**Music:** Lachezar Mihaylov

**Cast:** Borislav Chouchkov

**Production:** iFilm

**Producer:** Irina Gurova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** [i.gurova@ifilmproduction.com](mailto:i.gurova@ifilmproduction.com)

A middle-aged man has declared himself a Schrodinger's Man—one who is both dead and alive to the outside world. In the throes of an existential crisis, he isolates himself from society to live out the rest of his days in solitude in an underground bunker, with a system in place designed to euthanise him at any random time. He has found his freedom—a temporary oasis of peace—only for it to be shattered by the very nature that makes us human.



# THE REPTILES

*Vlechugite*

**Bulgaria/France**

IN PRE-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Kristina Spassovska

**Script:** Kristina Spassovska

**Cinematography:** Teodor Fichev

**Production:** Victoria Films (Bulgaria), Dublin Films (France)

**Producers:** Maya Vitkova-Kosev; Damien Cabut-Péré

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 884 905 220, mayvitkovitz@yahoo.com

In the winter of 1983, Borislava and her boyfriend Julian are detained when attempting to escape from communist Bulgaria. All she has to do to be released is agree to collaborate with State Security in informing against Julian... Shortly after her premature discharge, Borislava marries Julian, who is still in prison. What was supposed to be the happiest day of her life is overshadowed by the distrust that begins to gnaw at her family, and her future husband in particular.

**Festivals & Awards:** Best Script Award at the 18th Bulgarian Film Society Competition, European Short Pitch 2022 Selection, Filmer Forge Pitch 2022.



# WHEEE

*Faaar*

**Bulgaria, 10'**

IN PRE-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Kiril Todorov

**Script:** Miglena Dimova, Mariana Subeva

**Cinematography:** Fejmi Daut

**Production:** iFilm

**Producer:** Irina Gurova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** [i.gurova@ifilmproduction.com](mailto:i.gurova@ifilmproduction.com)

Little Annie dreams of being a grown-up. When her parents begin fighting, her wish comes true and she miraculously grows up fast, even aging prematurely.



# TEETH

*Zabi*

**Bulgaria, 20'**

IN DEVELOPMENT

**Director:** Lyubo Yonchev

**Script:** Lyubo Yonchev

**Cinematography:** Rosen Savkov

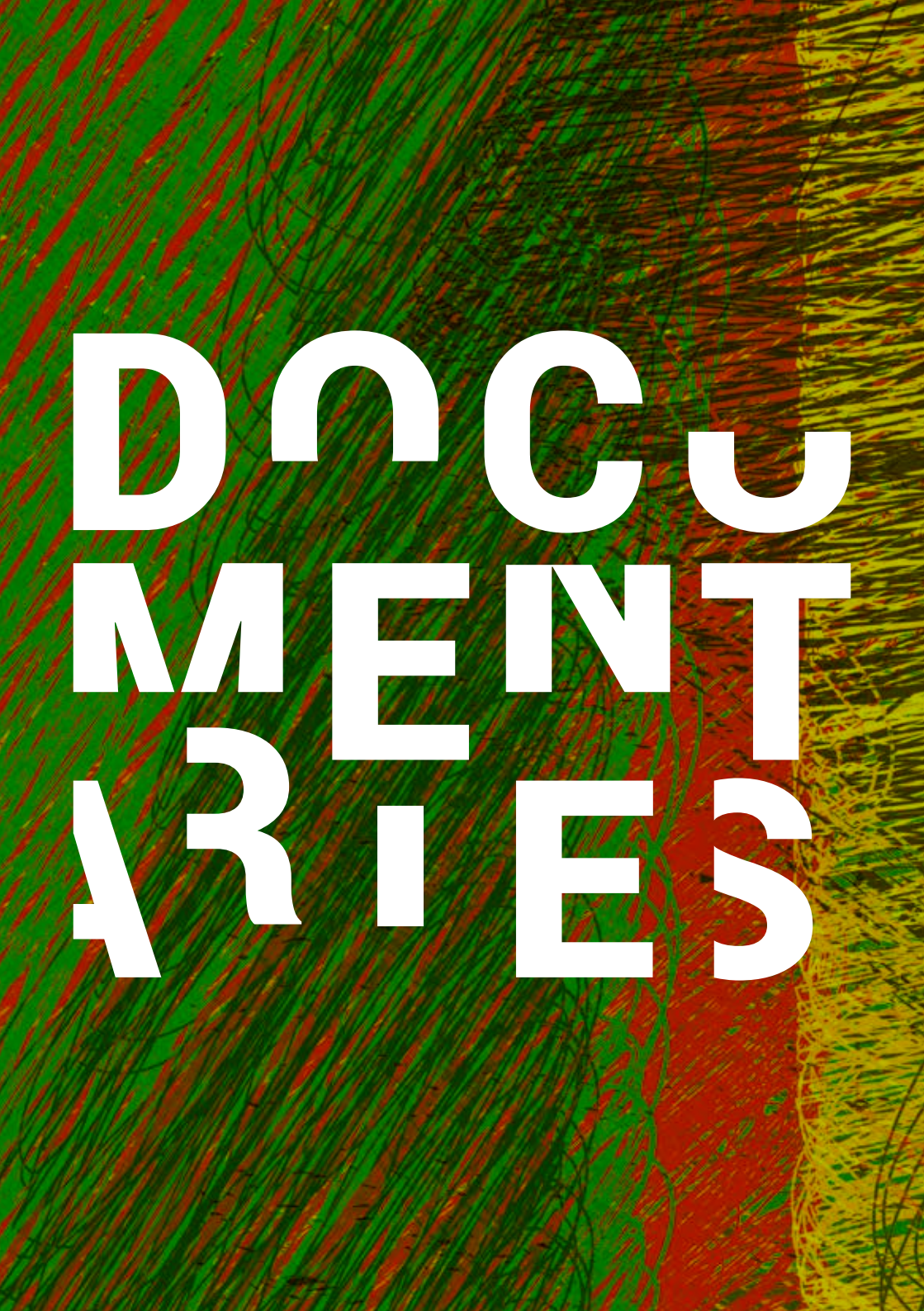
**Production:** Four Elements, Crystal Frame

**Producers:** Lyubo Yonchev, Rosen Savkov, Samuil Djoganov

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 886 564538, [lyubo.yonchev@fourelements.com](mailto:lyubo.yonchev@fourelements.com)

A family of mixed marriage survives thanks to the wife's parents. When their baby is born, responsibilities increase and their relationship deteriorates. Differences in their visions of the future appear, distancing the young parents. Dog-fighting seems to be the only 'salvation' for the man. One day, his dream of a better life suddenly leaves him.

The background of the image is a dense, abstract composition of fine, overlapping brushstrokes. The color palette is dominated by vibrant green, deep red, and bright yellow, with some black and dark brown tones interspersed. The strokes are oriented mostly vertically, creating a sense of movement and texture. The overall effect is reminiscent of a heavily layered painting or a digital collage.

# DOCUMENTARIES



# A PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL

COMPLETED

*Edna provintzialna bolnitza*

**Bulgaria/Germany, 2022, 110'**

**Director:** Ilian Metev, Ivan Chertov, Zlatina Teneva

**Script:** Ilian Metev, Ivan Chertov, Zlatina Teneva

**Cinematography:** Ivan Chertov

**Production:** AGITPROP, Chaconna Films (Bulgaria),  
Sutor Kolonko (Germany)

**Producers:** Martichka Bozhilova, Ilian Metev, Ingmar Trost

**Supported by** the Creative Europe MEDIA Programme of the EU

**International sales:** splitscreen.hr

**Contact for Bulgaria:** +359 2 983 1411, +359 2 983 1929;  
producer@agitprop.bg, www.agitprop.bg

The film follows the daily routine of patients and the medical staff at the Covid-19 Infectious Ward of a Kyustendil hospital over some 70 days. Through unique access and a delicate unfolding of personal stories, *A Provincial Hospital* provides an in-depth documentary observation of the pandemic. Owing to its nature, the film was almost entirely self-financed.

**Festivals & Awards:** World Premiere & The Ecumenical Jury Award at Karlovy Vary IFF 2022; Official Selections—DokuFest Prizren, Sarajevo, Antenna (Australia), Zurich, Magnificent 7 Belgrade, CinEast Luxemburg, Dok Leipzig, IDFA (Best of Fests) Amsterdam, Trieste, Sofia IFF.





# MY UNCLE LYUBEN

*Moyat chicho Lyuben*

**Bulgaria/Germany, 2023, 78'**

COMPLETED

**Director:** Georgi Stoev – Jacky, Nikola Boshnakov

**Script:** Ivaylo Manev

**Cinematography:** Antony Stoev

**Cast:** Ray van Zeschau, Georgi Stoev, Johnny Penkov

**Producers:** Galina Toneva, Kiril Kirilov

**Production:** Gala Film, Four Elements – Bulgaria,  
Ray van Zeschau – Germany

**Supported by** Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 888 452 632, galafilm95@gmail.com

Ray van Zeschau, the frontman of the Dresden-based rock band Freunde der italienischen Oper, arrives in Sofia to sell the apartment of his recently deceased uncle, artist Lyuben Stoev. The painter's home is full of memories, artworks, stories and videos. As in a detective movie, Ray solves the puzzle of his uncle's life. The nephew follows his uncle on a video trip to Africa, India, Cuba and goes down with him to the lowest layers of society, where Lyuben always found inspiration. On this journey, we meet Ray's real father, Lyuben's first Dresden Love, as well as Lyuben's Spirit itself.



# NO PLACE FOR YOU IN OUR TOWN

COMPLETED

*Niamash miasto v nashia grad*  
**Bulgaria, 2022, 81'**

**Director:** Nikolay Stefanov

**Script:** Mariana Sabeva, Nikolay Stefanov, Ralitsa Golemanova

**Cinematography:** Nikolay Stefanov

**Production:** Smarty Pants Shooter, HBO Max

**Producers:** Ralitsa Golemanova, HBO Max – Hanka Kastelicova,  
Tereza Keilova

**Contact:** +359 888 360 806, ralitsa@smartypantsshooter.com,  
hi@smartypantsshooter.com, smartypantsshooter.com

This documentary draws viewers in among the football gang in Pernik, the roughest city in Bulgaria. Thanks to exclusive access, the director's camera follows communal and personal crises to show life beyond the tough image and the clichéd jokes. The film explores the characters with openness and curiosity, showing that everyone, regardless of their environment, seeks a better life.

**Festivals & Awards:** World Premiere at CPH:DOX—Next:Wave Award Nominee; Perception Change Award Nominee at Nyon Visions du Réel; Kraków FF International Competition; Sheffield DocFest; Sarajevo FF International Documentary Competition.



# SCHOOL FOR HOPE

*Uchilishte za nadezhda*

**Bulgaria, 2023, 82'**

COMPLETED

**Director:** Yana Alexieva

**Script:** Yana Alexieva

**Cinematography:** Krasimir Andonov

**Composer:** Maya Harrigan

**Featuring:** Animari Dimitrova, Zlatko Zlatkov, the students and the team of Dimitar Ekimov School

**Production:** Mono Collective

**Producer:** Simeon Tsonchev

**Co-producers:** Krasimir Andonov, Svetlosar Georgiev, Krastyo Lambev

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** Simeon Tsonchev, +359 898 472 844, [info@monoco.eu](mailto:info@monoco.eu), <http://www.monoco.eu>

Animari and Zlatko's mission is to help children with disadvantaged backgrounds get the best possible care and education. Will they manage to find funding to welcome more children and to start a high school? These tasks become harder with the pandemic hitting, but their pupils are always beside them—a reminder of the struggle is so worthwhile.



# THE LAST SEAGULL

*Posledniat glarus*

**Finland/Norway/Bulgaria, 2023, 72'**

**COMP  
LETED**

**Director:** Tonislav Hristov

**Script:** Tonislav Hristov, Kaarle Aho

**Cinematography:** Orlin Ruevski

**Composer:** Petar Dundakov

**Production:** Making Movies (Finland), UpNorth Film (Norway), Soul Food (Bulgaria)

**Producers:** Kaarle Aho, Kai Nordberg – Making Movies

**Co-producers:** Christian Aune Falch – UpNorth Film, Andrea Stanoeva – Soul Food

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

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A bittersweet and darkly humorous film about the 58-year-old beach bum Ivan from Sunny Beach, who dreams of retiring from life as a romantic companion to rich women. But will Ivan find happiness before his time runs out?



# RESCUERS

*Spasiteli*

**Bulgaria, 2022, 70'**

IN POST-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Ilina Perianova

**Script:** Ilina Perianova

**Cinematography:** Georgi Marinov, Nevena Zlatanova, Veselin Hristov

**Music:** Emlina Gorcheva

**Production:** Uga Buga Art, Miramar film

**Producers:** Ilina Perianova, Mila Voinikova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Culture Fund

**Contact:** +359 2 943 4904, [office@miramarfilm.com](mailto:office@miramarfilm.com),

[www.miramarfilm.com](http://www.miramarfilm.com)

The film takes us through the vicissitudes of the lives of Bulgarian stray dogs. Their story is a reflection of our society; our attitude towards them is filmed as a narrative, both from the perspective of the individuals who care about saving them, and that of state and local enterprises. The documentary, shot between 2012 and 2022, explores socially significant topics, introducing us to the stories of several rescuers who give all their strength and abilities to heal and find a home for animals that are victims of human actions or inactions.



# SOULS BEYOND MEASURE

*Neravnodelnata dusha*

**Bulgaria, 109'**

IN POST-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Sofia Stoycheva

**Script:** Sofia Stoycheva

**Cinematography:** Ognyan Kalaydjiev, Kiril Tasev, Plamen Gelinov

**Production:** AGITPROP

**Producer:** Martichka Bozhilova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 2 983 1411, +359 2 983 1929;

producer@agitprop.bg, www.agitprop.bg

Although they are successful 'citizens of the world' coming from different countries, they have found what makes them really happy in Bulgaria—a living folklore tradition. The film relates to the invisible bridges created by the uniqueness of Bulgarian music.

Expected premiere: end of 2023.



# SWIMMING ACROSS

*Prepluvane*

**Bulgaria, 80'**

IN POST-  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Maria Averina

**Script:** Mariana Svetoslavova, Maria Averina

**Cinematography:** Boris Missirkov, Georgi Bogdanov

**Production:** AGITPROP

**Producer:** Martichka Bozhilova

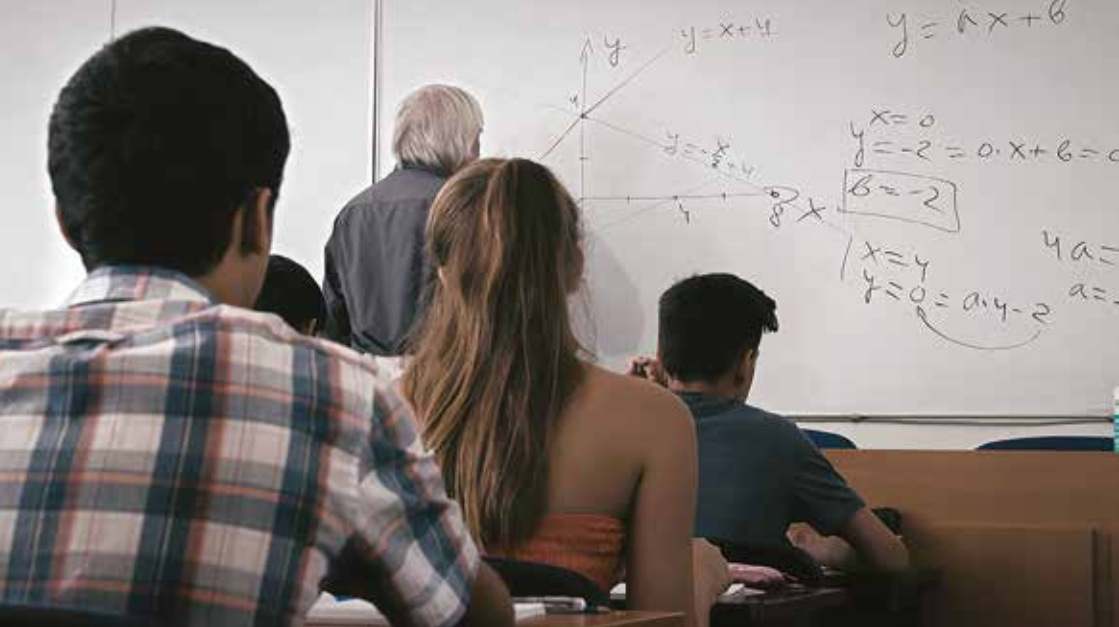
**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 2 983 1411, +359 2 983 1929;

producer@agitprop.bg, www.agitprop.bg

Paintings, performances, experiments, electronic music playing in two old houses in a small Italian town; heated conversations about contemporary art, touching meetings with the closest people and places in Bulgaria after fifty years of separation: a film about the constant search for meaning in art and life. Alzek Misheff, artist, rebel and experimenter, leads us along this philosophical and aesthetic journey through time, space and ideas.

Expected premiere: Spring 2024.



# THE SOCIALLY STRONG

*Sotzialno silnite*

**Bulgaria, 70'**

INPOST-  
PRODU  
CTION

**Director:** Nikolay Vasilev

**Script:** Nikolay Vasilev

**Cinematography:** Borislav Georgiev

**Production:** Screening Emotions

**Producers:** Poli Angelova, Nikolay Todorov

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center,  
Bulgarian National Television, Theo Foundation

**Contact:** +359 898 568 640, [screening.emotions@gmail.com](mailto:screening.emotions@gmail.com),  
[www.screeningemotions.com](http://www.screeningemotions.com)

They quietly and selflessly work for the wellbeing of humanity, investing their efforts and talents in the realm of science and technology. What binds them is an invisible net of bright minds, which emerged from the academy of Theodosiy Theodosiev, the renowned physics teacher. They are the 'socially strong' people of Bulgaria who are building the future of the world.

64

DOC  
UMENT  
ARIES





# MAKING FRIENDS WITH THE IDEA OF A FATHER

IN  
PRODUCTION

*Spriateliavane s ideyata za bashta*  
**Bulgaria, 90'**

**Director:** Nikolay Stefanov

**Script:** Nikolay Stefanov, Ralitsa Golemanova

**Cinematography:** Nikolay Stefanov

**Production:** Smarty Pants Shooter

**Producer:** Ralitsa Golemanova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center, Developed in the framework of the training program for documentary producers EURODOC 2022

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During the troubled post-totalitarian 1990s in Eastern Europe, an unsolved murder haunts a family, while the unhealed collective trauma of the political and social changes shapes the future of entire generations. Through the investigation of his father's unsolved murder that occurred during the 'dawn of democracy' in Bulgaria, director Nikolay Stefanov explores the dramatic transition of his country from a totalitarian regime dominated by the USSR to a Western-modelled society.

65  
DOCUMENTARIES



# THE DECEPTION QUEEN

## THE DECEPTION QUEEN

*Izmamnata kralitsa*

**Bulgaria, 50'**

IN  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Lachezar Avramov

**Script:** Dimitar Stoyanovich

**Cinematography:** Kaloyan Bozhilov

**Production:** PREMIERstudio

**Producer:** Nikolay Mutafchiev

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 879 583 968, +359 877 600 028, [info@premierstudio.eu](mailto:info@premierstudio.eu)

The story tells of Bulgarian-born Dr Ruja Ignatova, who scammed the world and then vanished. An Oxford-educated entrepreneur, who attracted vast audiences to her OneCoin lectures and had close relationships with politicians and celebrities alike. In 2016, Dr Ruja spoke at the Wembley Arena and persuaded everyone to invest in her project, promising to double everyone's OneCoins. Then she disappeared in October 2017, and hasn't been seen since. Her story is one of greed, deceit, fraud... and a global 5-billion-dollar scam with around 3.6 million victims worldwide.

The background is a dense, abstract composition of fine, overlapping brushstrokes. The color palette is dominated by vibrant green, fiery red, and warm yellow, creating a textured, energetic feel. The strokes are oriented mostly vertically but vary in direction, giving the overall image a sense of movement and depth.

**ANI  
MAT  
INN**



# A BOAT IN THE RAIN

*Lodka v dazhda*

**Bulgaria, 2023, 10'**

**COMPLETED**

**Director:** Ioana Atanasova

**Script:** Ioana Atanasova

**Artwork:** Ioana Atanasova

**Music:** Mira Iskarova

**Production:** Geopoly Film

**Producer:** Pavlina Jeleva

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** Pavlina Jeleva, +359 888 605 350,  
geopolyfilm@gmail.com

A man and a woman are going through a difficult breakup. Abandoned by her, he remembers their dance of love. A storm brews up and the pair find themselves in a small paper boat. Moreover, the rough sea is fraught with dangers.



# BUTTON FOR DREAMS

*Kopche za sun*

**Bulgaria, 2022, 28'**

COMPLETED

**Director:** Ivan Stoyanovich

**Script:** Dimitar Stoyanovich

**Production:** PREMIERstudio

**Producer:** Nikolay Mutafchiev

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 877 600 028, [info@premierstudio.eu](mailto:info@premierstudio.eu),

<http://www.premierstudio.eu>

Every night before little Oggy falls asleep, his bedroom is filled with his favourite toys, asking him to play with them at least for a short while. A feature-length, animated adaptation of Button for Dreams, a tale by the great Bulgarian poet and screenwriter Valeri Petrov, portraying a modern child who seems to be increasingly lonely and more in need of simple answers to make sense of a complex world.



# DEPERSONALISATION

*Obezlichavane*

**Bulgaria, 2023, 7'**

COMPLETED

**Director:** Spartak Yordanov

**Script:** Spartak Yordanov

**Animation:** Spartak Yordanov

**Music:** Lubomir Brashnenkov, Angel Dodov

**Production:** Screening Emotions

**Producers:** Poli Angelova, Nikolay Todorov

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 894 700 869, [office@screeningemotions.com](mailto:office@screeningemotions.com),  
[www.screeningemotions.com](http://www.screeningemotions.com)

As globalisation progresses, life accelerates and a loss of identity occurs unconsciously. The urge to absorb the rising tide of meanings and things drags us blindly to some incomprehensible primal state of living matter. We begin to perceive our depersonalisation as a natural process.

**Festivals & Awards:** Official Selection at Annecy IAFF, 2023; Sofia IFF, 2023; In the Palace ISFF, 2023.



## FINDING HOME / *Da namerish dom*

France/Bulgaria/USA, 2022, 6'40"

(short film, animated-documentary series pilot, 12 x 6')

COMPLETED

**Director:** Maria Stanisheva; **Script:** Maria Stanisheva

**Production design:** Rositsa Raleva; **Illustrator:** Antonia Mechkueva

**Music:** Pierre Oberkampff, **Animation:** Momchil Grozdanov

**Production:** Iliade et Films, AnimaDocs;

**Producers:** Manon Messiant, Maria Stanisheva

**Supported by** CNC, France; Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France;  
Bulgarian National Film Center

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manon@iliadefilms.fr; Miyu Distribution, Luce Grosjean, +33 448 679 009,  
luce.grosjean@miyu.fr

This short animated documentary tells the personal story of Antônia Jardênia da Silva from Brazil, a climate refugee who was forced to leave her native village for the city in order to take care of her child, who is suffering from microcephaly. The film follows the drought period in Northeast Brazil, the epidemic of Zika fever, and Jardênia's efforts to feel at home in her new location.

**Festivals & Awards:** Berlinale Talents, Short Film Workshop; Unifrance Short Film Prize nominee; Sunny Side of the Doc (La Rochelle, France)—Special Post-production Award from Alhambra Studios; NAFF (Rennes, France)—Women in Animation's Audio-visual Production Heartbeat Award; The Redford Centre Development Grant.



# THE ARTIST

*Artistat*

**Bulgaria, 2022, 17'**

**COMPLETED**

**Directors:** Dimitar Dimitrov, Milko Lazarov

**Script:** Ekaterina Churilova, Milko Lazarov

**Editor:** Dimitar Dimitrov

**Music:** Egor Zabelov

**Animation:** Dimitar Dimitrov

**Sound:** Dimitar Dimitrov

**Production:** Metamorfoza

**Producer:** Neli Gacharova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 885 691 710, [animiter@gmail.com](mailto:animiter@gmail.com)

A small boy endowed with exceptional gymnastic talents is taken away by an impresario who, after many years of effort, makes a famous artiste of him. Obsessed with a thirst for greatness, the artist becomes hubristic. Striving for an unattainable perfection, he rejects love and is reduced to ruination.





# WAR

*Voina*

**Bulgaria, 2022, 6'30"**

COMPLETED

**Director:** Dimitar Dimitrov

**Script:** Dilyan Elenkov

**Editor:** Dimitar Dimitrov

**Music:** Egor Zabelov

**Animation:** Dimitar Dimitrov

**Sound:** Dimitar Dimitrov

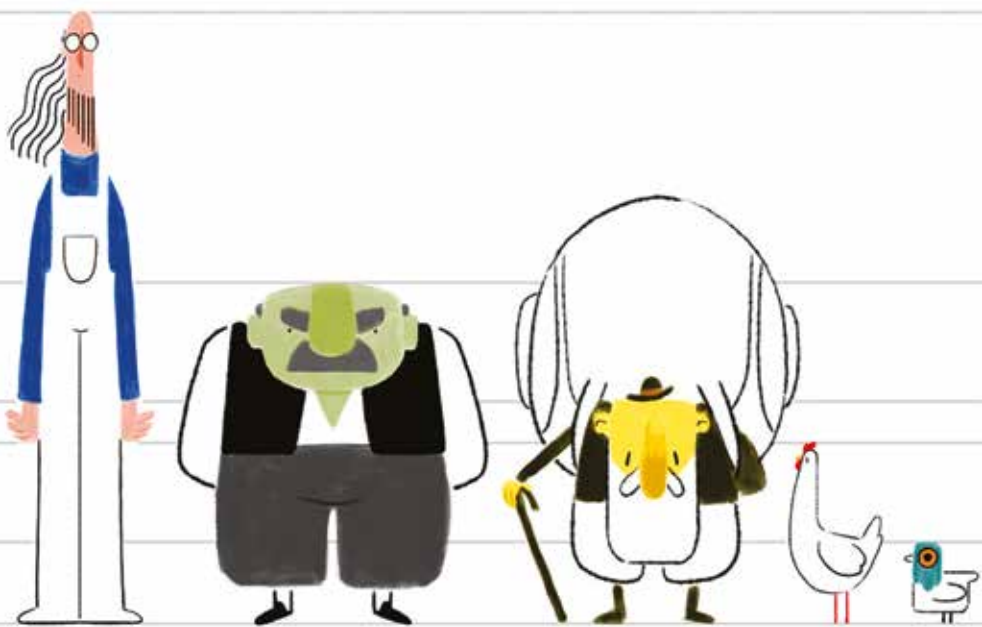
**Production:** Metamorfoza

**Producer:** Neli Gacharova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 885 691 710, [animiter@gmail.com](mailto:animiter@gmail.com)

A little girl named VOINA (WAR), who possesses unnatural powers, grows up isolated in a foster home. Flowers wither, trees dry up, objects are set on fire by her proximity or touch. One day, WAR escapes from the orphanage and, by exercising her gift to extremes, causes all sorts of disasters among humanity. When everything seems hopeless and the world is in flames and ashes, in a ray of light on the last unburnt island, WAR meets love in the face of a boy named PEACE.



# CLUB 127

Bulgaria, 2022, 7'

IN  
PRODU  
TION

**Director:** Svilen Dimitrov

**Script:** Svilen Dimitrov

**Music:** Petko Manchev

**Production:** Miramar Film

**Producers:** Georgi Dimitrov, Ilian Djevelevkov, Matey Konstantinov, Mila Voinikova

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 2 943 4904, [office@miramarfilm.com](mailto:office@miramarfilm.com), [www.miramarfilm.com](http://www.miramarfilm.com)

Three elderly men are stuck in the big city, each dreaming of a different life. It takes a BOMB to get them to act and move to a place where their lives would be better and possibly longer. Bulgaria used to be a rural country. Many of today's elderly people were forced to migrate to the city and now, in their old age, feel completely out of place. The film explores with compassion the longing for a lost past. It is a poetic account of the characters' dissatisfaction and the drive to return to their roots.



# ELI, BIMZAL AND THE WATER OF LIFE

*Eli, Bimzal i zhivata voda*

**Bulgaria, 2022, 7'25"**

IN  
PRODUCTION

**Director:** Angel Manov

**Script:** Teodora Manova

**Artwork:** Boyan Manov

**Production:** PREMIERstudio

**Producer:** Nikolay Mutafchiev

**Supported by** the Bulgarian National Film Center

**Contact:** +359 877 600 028, [info@premierstudio.eu](mailto:info@premierstudio.eu)

This is a 3D animation film about a small girl, Eli, the imaginary monster Bimzal, and the fabulous world they encounter while searching for a medicine to cure Eli's little brother, Nikola. Following the Magic Path, Eli succeeds in overcoming her fear of the truth about herself. This is the lesson that helps her discover the precious Life-giving Water and save her little brother.

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