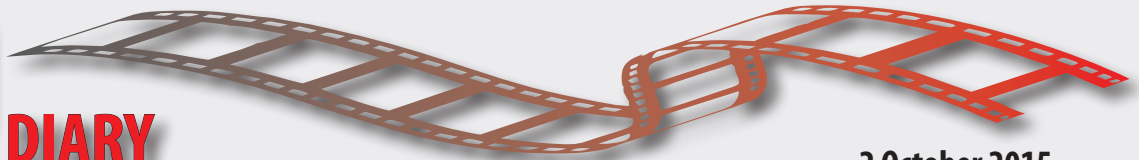




DIARY



2 October 2015

DISCUSSION

Young Bulgarian Movie Makers in search for realization



On October, 2, 2015 within the program of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films in the press room, „Raduga“ - „Kamchia“, was held a discussion called „The new generation loves Bulgaria.“

The discussion panel was organized by „Nu Boyana Film“ and was moderated by Alexandra Tsvetkova, PR Manager at the company. Speeches were given by prof. Bozhidar Manov, Artistic director of the Festival, Ilia Raev, Festival Director and Member of the National Council of the Bulgarian Red Cross, Prof. Dr. Radoslav Radev, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University - Varna, Stefan Kitanov, Director of „Sofia Film Fest“ and Sia Papazova, Drama specialist and Director.

During the discussion, Bulgarian and foreign artists, guests and participants in Festival, shared opinion about the migration of young talents in search of realization abroad, challenges and opportunities in the country.

At the end of the event, on behalf of the leadership of the Red Cross, Ilia Raev handed to Stefan Kitanov honorary plaque of the Red Cross in gratitude to the „Sofia Film Fest“ for exceptional support to the Festival.

MEET...

Would you introduce yourself to the guests and the participants of the XVI International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, 2015?

My name is Bojidar Manov. Probably many people know that for 40 years I am a professional movie critic, for 30 years lecturer and professor at the National Academy. I would like to note that many years ago, probably it was 1979, and during the first major International Film Festival that I attended was precisely the Red Cross Festival in Varna. And after the restoration of the Festival last year, now I have the opportunity as a coach and Artistic Director to return back to the Festival with what I had learned from him over the past decades. The simplest way is to look at the topics of the day related to refugees, military conflicts all that harass millions of people around the planet which proves that it is focuses in the centre of the Red Cross idea. I think that this year the selection in all three categories - Red Cross/Red Crescent, documentaries and feature films, offers a very good selection. The Red Cross category with 59 titles is very strong. There are films from around the world and they prove for that unity of the largest humanitarian idea. Documentaries with their energy are extremely relevant. Gaming category, though less quantifiable, there are several films that surprise with their quality. I do not want to anticipate with the decision of the Jury, but I would like to note that for example the Albanian film „Bota“ is very interesting. In short fictions there are also several Bulgarian titles, but I do not want to unduly favor.





This year though the competition and the information programs are subject to milestones like 100 years Bulgarian cinema and 70 years since the end of World War II which is also very useful for viewers. The assessment of the media, the interest of journalists and the assessment that gave the Vice President of Bulgaria Mrs. Margarita Popova to the Festival means that is event that works for the common humanitarian idea of the whole society. Going to the end of the second edition of the Festival I already start to think for the future selection because the public is well informed, the interest of the audience is becoming greater, therefore we must meet the expectations with better selection of topics and movie titles in both qualitative and quantitative terms. Visitors in Varna deserve this attention and I hope that through the media the idea of the Red Cross Festival will gain national popularity, and of course, through the International Red Cross/ Red Crescent Movement. In that sense even the logo of the Festival - the Red Cross with an attached cinema camera is enough to show that here in Varna within six days there is an event that looks to the world. And therefore with my qualification of professional film critic I am doing my best to be useful to the Festival because behind all is my human and personal commitment. I am quite well aware that each of the films is somehow part of universal pain, hope, effort for a better future and perspective. So without unnecessary loud declarations and phrases we can work together every day for the big idea of International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films.

Do you think that the slogan of the festival „Through Humanism Towards peace and Friendship „sounds relevant today? Is there a need for change?

I think that the slogan of the Festival, attached to its logo works very active because is universal and eternal human idea. Is there something more useful to human life on all continents, of all races, nationalities and religions, except the humanism and the peace that are the first conditions for normal human development? Friendship is at stake of communication. It is not possible to meet two people, communities, two states, two ideas, if there is enmity between them, not friendship. Due to that the logo of the Festival, with its slogan are timeless and universal. There are ideas which are eternal. That idea will continue to be relevant and universal.

From our conversation so far it seems that you will continue to support the Festival?

I would even say that this question is superfluous. I am a normal person with family, children, friends and I know the price of responsiveness, well-intentioned help and all of these are fundamental principles of the Red Cross Movement.

Do you have favourite movie, director even here in the Festival?

I prefer healthy, well-motivated, psychological films, with a strong humanitarian idea, with clear and legible human relationships, because not can replace the sincerity of human behavior.

Based on your vast experience, do you think that from our Festival can be expected more? What can be improved?

In terms of selection - it is possible to attract more movies, more current, more modern, and still unknown to the audience, as the world's Festivals offer. A very quick look at the selection of Berlin, Cannes, San Sebastian immediately weeds out 10- 20 -30 extremely strong films, but here is standing unfortunately the financial problem. Any good films can be easily delivered through its worldwide distributor, but these are serious charges. Currently it is enough with small steps to work hard and to achieve our aim. After 1-2 editions of the Festival, with more publicity and authority I believe that will be found financial levers for opening repertoire. Then we will see world premieres in Varna. That sounds maximalist and should not blind us, but walking on the road, I think it will happen because the Festival stands behind wonderful idea.

HIGHLIGHTS

TANGERINES / MANDARIINID



Estonia-Georgia, 2013, 87 min., color

Director - Zaza Urushadze; Script - Zaza Urushadze

Cinematographer - Rein Kotov; Music - Niaz Diasamidze

Cast - Lembit Ulfsak, Elmo Nuganen, Giorgi Nakashidze, Misha Meskhi, Raivo Trass

Producer - Ivo Felt; Production - Allfilm, Georgian Film

World Sales - Cinemavault; Bulgarian Distributor - Bulgaria Film Vision

The story is set in a town in Abkhazia (Georgia) during the war of 1992-1993, for which many Estonians flee their homes. Two men, however - Ivo and Margus remain in town to rob ripe tangerines. While picking fruits come under crossfire between two rival armed groups. Two soldiers survived. Ahmed, who is Chechen mercenary to Abkhazian side, and Nico, who is Georgian ...