

SOFIA  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL



МЕЖДУНАРОДЕН  
СОФИЯ ФИЛМ  
ФЕСТ



**SOFIA  
MEETINGS**

WORKS  
IN PROGRESS

27-31  
MAY  
2020

[sofiameetings.siff.bg](http://sofiameetings.siff.bg)

**DIRECTOR**

Petrinel Gochev

**SCREENPLAY**

Gergana Zmiiharova,

Petrinel Gochev

**CAST**

Mihail Mutafov,

Alen Angelov,

Hristyan Manolov

**PRODUCERS**

Galina Toneva, Kiril Kirilov

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Gala Film

**A BULGARIAN SHIP IS SINKING...**

Bulgaria, 2021, 100 min

**DIRECTOR**

George Ovashvili

**SCREENPLAY**

George Ovashvili,

Roelof Jan Minneboo

**CAST**

Natia Chikviladze,

Dimitri Khvtisiashvili,

Darejan Kharshiladze,

Lia kapanadze,

Ana Makharadze

**PRODUCER**

George Ovashvili

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Wagonnet Films

**BEAUTIFUL HELEN**

Georgia, 2020, 100 min

**DIRECTOR**

Valery Iordanov

**SCREENPLAY**

Valery Iordanov

**CAST**

Zahari Baharov,

Vladislav Stoimenov,

Vasil Iliev,

Eleonora Ivanova,

Serafim Todorov,

Meglena Karalambova,

Doroteya Toleva

**PRODUCER**

Borislav Chouchkov

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

The Chouchkov Brothers

**NO CHANCE FOR STRAY DOG (CALL ME SHAKESPEARE)**

Bulgaria, 2020, 110 min

**DIRECTOR**

Ivaylo Hristov

**SCREENPLAY**

Ivaylo Hristov

**CAST**

Svetlana Yancheva,

Michael Fleming,

Ivan Savov, Stoyan Bochev,

Krasimir Dokov,

Miroslava Gogovska

**PRODUCER**

Assen Vladimirov

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Profilim

**FEAR**

Bulgaria-France, 2020, 102 min

7-year-old Petyo is looking forward to growing 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 for a "vacation by force". There, Petyo discovers friendship in the person of 6-year-old Philip and the two of them face the Gang and the truth.

After finishing university, Helen comes back to her homeland from New York. The life was following its own route in her absence. Helen tries not only to find her place - but also to find herself and find the keys that fit the locks of the main existential questions of life. Her encounter with film director Gabo is the start of an adventure that takes us into the minds and souls of a man and a woman.

When you are seventeen, you think you know everything; only later you realize, you didn't and you didn't want to know. What happens to a boy of seventeen who has two great talents – writing and fist-fighting – and has to make his choice as to which of them should prevail in his life and help him save the life of his closest friend?

Svetla is a widow who has recently lost her job as a teacher because of school closure.

The village in which she lives is close to the border of Bulgaria with Turkey and refugees often appear nearby, trying to reach Germany. One day, while hunting in a forest, Svetla comes across a migrant from Africa. This brings about a dramatic turn in her life. She is forced to rebel against the people she has lived with as they urge the black refugee to leave the village immediately.



**DIRECTOR**

Kamen Kalev

**SCREENPLAY**

Kamen Kalev

**CAST**

Ivan Nalbantov

**PRODUCER**

Filip Todorov,

Kamen Kalev,

Celine Chapdaniel,

Diane Jassem

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Waterfront Film, Koro Films

**FEBRUARY**

Bulgaria-France, 2020, 125 min

The film traces the life of a man - when he is eight, eighteen, and eighty-two years old. In his home village and outside of it, out in the heat and in the snow. Life seems predetermined and monotonous, but in spite of its apparent meaninglessness, an invisible force always seems to be there, inhabiting us and mysteriously pulling us forward, towards the death.

**DIRECTOR**

Dragomir Sholev

**SCREENPLAY**

Dragomir Sholev,

Emanuela Dimitrova,

Georgi Merdzhanov

**CAST**

Deyan Donkov,

Suzy Radichkova

**PRODUCERS**

Rossitsa Valkanova,

Ada Solomon

**PRODUCTION COMPANIES**

KLAS Film, Hi Film

Productions

**FISHBONE**

Bulgaria/Romania, 2020, 111 min

Camping by the sea. Ivo, the concessioner of the beach, refuses to bury the corpse of yet another dead dolphin that the sea has brought, because it has holes, as if from bullets. All inhabitants of the camping get involved, in one way or another, in the war that breaks out with the institutions, which can't or don't want to handle the case. Ivo has to bury the dolphin in the end.

**DIRECTOR**

Pavel G. Vesnakov

**SCREENPLAY**

Pavel G. Vesnakov

**CAST**

Julian Vergov, Vasil Banov,

Elena Telbis, Gerasim

Georgiev-Gero, Stefka

Yanorova

**PRODUCERS**

Monica Balcheva,

Orlin Ruevski,

Sebastian Weyland

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Movimiento, Heimathafen

Film &amp; Media

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Movimiento

**GERMAN LESSONS**

Bulgaria-Germany, 2020, 100 min

Nicola, a former sinner is leaving his homeland, but the separation with his family forces him to ask questions about his lost identity. Can he cut off his roots or the connection is unbreakable.

**DIRECTOR**

Konstantin Burov

**SCREENPLAY**

Marin Damianov

**CAST**

Deyan Georgiev,

Georgi Kermenski,

Hristiana Stoimenova,

Todor Tanchev,

Petia Silianova

**PRODUCER**

Dobromir Chochov

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Doli Media Studio with

the support of Bulgarian

National Film Center

**GOOD-BYE, JOHNNY**

Bulgaria, 2020, 115 min

Johnny helps Cranky escape from prison but after that he haunts him forever. Cranky falls in love with Niya but Johnny hates love. To get rid of Johnny, you have to either die or kill him.

**DIRECTOR**

Svetoslav Draganov

**SCREENPLAY**Svetoslav Draganov,  
Bogomil Dimitrov  
and Nevena Borisova**CAST**Hristo Petkov, Atanas  
Bachorski,  
Detelin Benchev, Miroslava  
Gogovska, Yana Draganova**PRODUCER**Svetoslav Draganov and  
Katya Trichkova (Bulgaria),  
Calin Peter Netzer**PRODUCTION COMPANIES**Cineaste Maudit Production  
(Bulgaria), Parada film  
(Romania)**HUMBLE**

Bulgaria, Romania, 2020, 112 min

**DIRECTOR**

Alexander Hant

**SCREENPLAY**Vladislav Malakhov,  
Alexander Hant**CAST**Evgenia Vinogradova,  
Igor Ivanov**PRODUCER**

Maxim Dobromyslov

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

IP Maxim Dobromyslov

**IN LIMBO**

Russia, 2020, 110 min

**DIRECTOR**

Darko Sinko

**WRITER**

Darko Sinko

**CAST**Radoš Bolčina,  
Dejan Spasić,  
Mirel Knez**PRODUCERS**Vlado Bulajić,  
Lija Pogačnik**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

December

**INVENTORY**

Slovenia, 2020, 95 min

**DIRECTOR**

Andrey M. Paounov

**SCREENPLAY**Alex Barrett  
and Andrey M. Paounov**CAST**Samuel Finzi,  
Iosif Sarchadzhiev,  
Zachary Baharov,  
Leonid Yovchev**PRODUCER**

Vanya Rainova

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Portokal

**JANUARY**

Bulgaria-Portugal-Luxembourg, 2020, 107 min

Vassil (41) is a documentary film director, who has not achieved the success he dreams of. He puts all his energy filming the broken relationship between a monk and his mother. Meanwhile Vassil's wife and their 14-year-old daughter take second place in his life. The director learns that the monk is in psychiatry, while his mother has to undergo a cancer surgery. To bring them together to forgive each other is Vassil's long awaited finale for his film. He faces a dilemma - to shot "life as it is" or to show human compassion and empathy.

This is a story of two sixteen-year-old Romeo and Juliet Alexander Makarova and Danila Krasnov who are fighting for their love and their right to be themselves.

In order to be together, they must escape from their homes, go into hiding and lead a double life. Trying to protect their freedom of choice and their individuality, they cross the line and turn into Bonnie and Clyde on the run trying to avenge the world that has no room for them.

Boris Robič is, as we say, an ordinary man. But one night, he is brutally attacked and it is not quite clear by whom. The investigation shows he has no enemies – Boris seems to be a highly unlikely murder target. When the police suspend the investigation, Boris begins investigating himself. In his search for the potential culprits unfolds a tragicomedy of a man that discovers he cannot trust anyone, not even the people closest to him.

*Waiting for Godot* meets *The Shining* in this story of two men and a bird, trapped in a snowstorm in the middle of nowhere, who try to solve a mystery, while is slowly devours them.

Inspired by the eponymous play by Yordan Radichkov, and reinterpreted for world audiences by Andrey Paounov, it is a bold fiction debut of a director who has made a name by exploring the existential absurdities of the post-socialist state in the language of cinema.



**DIRECTOR**

Dimitar Kutmanov

**SCREENPLAY**

Dimitar Kutmanov

**CAST**Mihail Iliykov,  
Rumen Traykov,  
Mariana Krumova,  
Martina Apostolova,  
Simeon Aleksiev**PRODUCER**

Poli Angelova

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Screening Emotions

**LAMENT FOR THE SILENT FOOL**

Bulgaria, 2020, 73 min

**DIRECTOR**

Ivaylo Penchev

**SCREENPLAY**Bozhan Petrov,  
Ivaylo Penchev,  
Vesel Tsankov**CAST**Vasil Banov, Maria Bakalova,  
Filip Avramov, Malin Krastev,  
Anton Radichev,  
Yana Marinova,  
Stefan Denolubov,  
Gerasim Georgiev-Gero**PRODUCER**

Stoyan Stoyanov

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Urban Media

**DIRECTOR**

Valentin Hotea

**SCREENPLAY**Ileana Muntean,  
Valentin Hotea**CAST**Mimi Branescu,  
Ioana Flora,  
Ana Covalciuc**PRODUCER**Ada Solomon,  
Diana Paroiu**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Hi Film Productions

**LAST CALL**

Bulgaria, 2020, 115 min

**LEBENSDFORF**

Romania, 2020, 97 min

**DIRECTOR**

Andrei Kureichik

**SCREENPLAY**Andrei Kureichik, Dmitry  
Marinin**CAST**Svetlana Anikei,  
Jean Marc Birkholz**PRODUCER**

Valeria Lediaeva

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Bezbuslou Arts

**LIBERTE**

Belarus, 2020, 100 min

**M**

North Macedonia, 2020, 100 min

**DIRECTOR**

Vardan Tozija

**SCREENPLAY**Vardan Tozija,  
Darijan Pejovski**CAST**Matej Sivakov,  
Aleksandar Ničovski,  
Sasko Koccev,  
Toni Mihajlovski,  
Kamka Tocinovska,  
Bojana Gregorić Vejzović**PRODUCER**

Darko Popov

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Focus Pocus Films

A decrepit old man living in an abandoned village in the mountain is forced to abandon his solitary life. The world that he enters opens up to him in a vision of human cruelty, pain and compassion. Brought to the limits of physical and moral resistance, the old man is about to lose the last thing that he is left with – his human dignity.

A girl is to be saved from suicide by the power of love but the whole process will be accompanied by a series of comical events. When the tabloids fabricate a false sensational news that a 70-year old writer is about to marry a 23-year old girl. There's no way that a priest appear with his "re-educated" Sunday-school mates from prison, a former naval captain in the company of crazy elders and hostile sisters keen for inheritance.

Ducu is a 45-year-old Romanian writer facing a midlife crisis. He leaves Bucharest to be part of a creative residence in Berlin and to rebuild his life. He swings between two countries and two women: Andra, his hot-tempered wife, who wants a divorce, and Giulia, Ducu's love from his youth, who lives in an eco-village in Germany – Lebensdorf. Looking for an answer, he goes through a series of strange, funny and even eye-opening events.

Anna spends more time in the basement of her country house than in the living-rooms. Who does she keep locked up? The investigator Leon is ready to risk his life to unravel this mystery.

Once left without his broken and paranoid father, eight years old Marko leaves the Magical Forest for the first time and embarks on a quest for answers in a dangerous dystopian world of our near future.

**DIRECTOR**

Aleksandra Terpińska

**SCREENPLAY**

Aleksandra Terpińska

**CAST**Jacek Beler, Sonia  
Bohosiewicz,  
Sebastian Fabijarski**PRODUCER**Klaudia Śmieja-  
Rostworowska,  
Beata Rzeźniczek**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Madants

**OTHER PEOPLE**

Poland, 2020, 110 min

Kamil lives with his mom and teenage sister. Having no perspectives, does casual jobs. He is overwhelmed by the grey reality of the anonymous housing estate, the repeating rhythm of everyday life. Iwona, in her early 40ies, cannot cope with her marriage in which she feels invisible. Her world seems perfect, but it hides a dark truth about loneliness and dullness. The two start a romance desperately seeking for any sense in their existence.

**DIRECTOR**

Dominik Mencej

**SCREENPLAY**Boris Grgurović, Dominik  
Mencej**CAST**Timon Šturbej, Petja  
Labović, Anja Novak, Nikola  
Kojo**PRODUCER**

Miha Černec

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Staragara

**RIDERS**

Slovenia, 2020, 105 min

Two friends from a small village decide to transform their mopeds into choppers and embark on a journey. Looking for freedom and love, they travel through dreams of the past and visions of the future. But with the sudden death of a companion friendship is at stake and pain is unbearable without someone to blame. Their road trip is not what they expected and to break free they must endure a quest for identity which irrevocably changes their lives.

**DIRECTOR**

Nicolae Gaburici

**SCREENPLAY**

Nicolae Gaburici

**CAST**

Villagers of Loganesti

**PRODUCER**Nicolae Gaburici and Alex  
Burlac**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Wonder Film Production

**SCENE LOGANESTENE**

Republic of Moldova-Romania, 2020, 75 min

The story is about a six-year-old girl who lives with her ill mother. When her mother dies, the villagers feel responsible for the little girl and wonder who is going to adopt her. This film explores the way a child perceives loneliness and death (of a parent).

**DIRECTOR**

Dina Duma

**SCREENPLAY**

Dina Duma, Martin Ivanov

**CAST**Antonija Belazelkoska,  
Mia Giraud**PRODUCER**

Marija Dimitrova

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

List Production

**SISTER**

North Macedonia, 2020, 90 min

Jana and Maya are inseparable friends. Jana, the stronger one, takes the lead while Maya always follows. One night Maya witnesses her best friend pushing another girl over a cliff by accident. Maya wants to call the police but Jana doesn't let her. Their friendship becomes strained and turns into the most toxic experience for Maya who now must find a way to escape this destructive relationship and work out what to do about the secret.

**DIRECTOR**

Natalija Avramovic

**SCREENPLAY**Natalija Avramovic,  
Ljubinka Stojanovic**CAST**Mihaela Stamenkovic,  
Ivan Djordjevic Dzudi, Danica  
Maksimovic,  
Svetozar Cvetkovic,  
Radovan Vujovic,Ana Mandic, Milan Kolak,  
Djordje Djokovic, Rada Djuricin**PRODUCER**Natalija Avramovic,  
Nada Savic**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

Nacija, Besne slike

**SPRING SONG**

Serbia, 2020, 76 min

A young single mother of an 8-year-old boy, director working in Filmske Novosti, is trying to get her life back on track and provide a happy childhood for her son, following her divorce and death of her father. At the same time, she is renovating her apartment and working on a documentary film.

SONG OF SPRING is a based on real-life events portrait of a woman, trying to break free and live her life despite everyone, in search for true love.



**DIRECTOR**  
Tonislav Hristov  
**SCREENPLAY**  
Tonislav Hristov &  
Kaarle Aho  
**PRODUCER**  
Kaarle Aho  
**PRODUCTION COMPANY**  
Making Movies



## THE LAST OF THE SEAGULLS

Finland-Bulgaria, 2021, 85min

**DIRECTOR**  
Peter Marchev  
**SCREENPLAY**  
Peter Marchev  
**PRODUCER**  
Peter Marchev  
**PRODUCTION COMPANY**  
Santa Maria Media



## UNFORGETTABLE

Bulgaria, 2016, 50 min

**DIRECTOR**  
Slava Doytcheva  
**SCREENPLAY**  
Slava Doytcheva  
**CAST**  
Stela Stoyanova,  
Ivan Doytchev  
**PRODUCER**  
Rossitsa Valkanova  
**PRODUCTION COMPANY**  
Klas Film



## EGGSHELLS

Bulgaria, 2020, 15 min

**DIRECTOR**  
Mihai Gavril Dragolea  
**SCREENPLAY**  
Mihai Gavril Dragolea  
**CAST**  
Kalo, Amalia, Riana  
**PRODUCER**  
Mihai Gavril Dragolea,  
Ioana Lascăr  
**PRODUCTION COMPANY**  
Vagabond Film, Defilm



## EVERYTHING FOR RIANA

Romania, 2019, 27 min

**DIRECTOR**  
Stephan Ganoff  
**SCREENPLAY**  
Stephan Ganoff  
**PRODUCER**  
Ekaterina Voinova  
**CREATIVE PRODUCER**  
Enno Endlicher  
**PRODUCTION COMPANY**  
Prodeka Food



## GENERATION LOST

Bulgaria-Germany, 2020, 29 min

Bulgarian 'seagull' Ivan, 58, used to chase wealthy foreign ladies at Sunny Beach resort. He has seen Soviets coming and leaving, Westerners flooding in and leaving again. Now, with his EU-passport, the hunter has become the bait.

The film is a documentary recounting the stories of the last surviving Bulgarians who witnessed Stalin's Holodomors, the deliberately engineered famines between 1932-1934, and 1946-1947, in which over 7 million people perished. 100,000 of these were Bulgarians living in Ukraine and Moldova. To date, Bulgaria has not accused the genocide and brutal atrocities of Stalin's Communist dictatorship. The fear of the Big Brother is still alive.

On Easter day, when her girlfriend picks family over her, Nevena sets on a journey to meet her own estranged father.

Caught between tradition, modernity and mounting money problems, a young Roma family embarks on an epic survival journey that will take them through Europe and test their unity, strength and way of life.

The generations today in the distant villages of Bulgaria - can they be cut together? The film does this through parallel edits and split screens. The film creates an actuality between memory, reality and self-expression; it is an intensive documentary narrative that combines modern media formats with cinematic style.