



PRESENTS ROUNDS



PRODUCED BY

ARGO FILM

SEE FILM PRO

IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH

DOLI MEDIA STUDIO

CONTRAST FILMS

IN COLLABORATION WITH

EZ FILMS

DEUXIEME LIGNE FILMS

ROUNDS

CAST

(In order of appearance)

Krasi	IVAN BARNEV	Rambo	VALERI LEKOV
Ivo	ASSEN BLATECHKI	Sylvester	VIKTOR KAPADZHIEV
Lazar	OVANES TOROSIAN	Rumen Gaytandjiev	PAVEL POPANDOV
Vasil	STOYAN DOYCHEV	Radio Journalist	DRAGOMIR SIMEONOV
Todor	VASSIL VASSILEV – Zouek	Guest in the radioshow	EMIL SPAHIYSKI
Petko	GERASIM GEORGIEV - Gero	Man in the field	MIHAJLO KOTSEV
Petko's wife	ANASTASIA INGILIZOVA	Nurse	ANI VASSILEVA
Neighbor	EMIL SPAHIYSKI	Van driver	ATANAS DIMITROV
Neighbor	VILMA STOYANOVA	Man who called 112	BORIMIR ILKOV- BONO
Elena	IRINI JAMBONAS	Politician	NIKOLAI URUMOV
Marin	STEFAN DENOLYUBOV	Girlfriend of politician	STANISLAVA NIKOLOVA
Gogo	KALOYAN NIKOLOV	Slav	PETAR KOMANDAREV
Dinko	DIMITAR PISHEV	TV journalists	VIKTOR NIKOLAEV
Koko	IVAN-ALEKSANDAR DOYCHEV		ADELINA RADEVA
Rocky	BISER MARINOV	Doctor Titov	ALEKSANDAR ALEKSIEV

ROUNDS

CREW

Directed by	STEPHAN KOMANDAREV	Editor	NINA ALTAPARMAKOVA
Screenplay by	SIMEON VENTSISLAVOV STEPHAN KOMANDAREV	Re-recording mixer	TSVETELINA TSVETKOVA
Producers	STEPHAN KOMANDAREV KATYA TRICHKOVA	Sound design	TSVETELINA TSVETKOVA
Co-producer – Bulgaria	DOBROMIR CHOCHOV	Production	ARGO FILM SEE FILM PRO
Co-producer – Serbia	NENAD DUKIĆ	Co-production	DOLI MEDIA STUDIO CONTRAST FILMS
Co-producers – France	ELIE MEIROVITZ MARIE DUBAS	In collaboration with	EZ FILMS DEUXIEME LIGNE FILMS
Executive producer	KATYA TRICHKOVA (Bulgaria) MIROSLAV MOGOROVIĆ (Serbia)	Supported by	Bulgarian National Film Center Film Center Serbia EURIMAGES Iliyan Rangelov
Director of photography	VESELIN HRISTOV		
Casting by	ALEKSANDER KOSSEV Talent Partners		
Line producer	KATYA TRICHKOVA		
Set designer	MARIYA KOYCHEVA		
Costume designer	MARIYA KOYCHEVA		
Make-up artists	JASMINA LILIĆ		

ROUNDS



TECHNICAL DETAILS

Shooting Locations	SOFIA, BULGARIA
Shooting time	18 days
Running time	106 min
Screen Ratio	1:2, 39
Format	24 fps/arri raw 2.8 k

LOGLINE

Three teams of police officers patrol the streets of a society losing all sense.

SYNOPSIS

Sofia, November 9th, 2019. Night. As the country prepares to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the regime change in Bulgaria, three police patrol cars roam the streets of the sleeping city.

The police officers on their rounds take us on a journey through a society that is still looking for its purpose and identity after three decades of transition. These are scenes of survival and failure, of lives saved while others are lost, of generosity dissolving into social cruelty and indifference. The elusive preservation of dignity seems to be the sole point of getting through the night.

ROUNDS

DIRECTORS NOTE

I live in Bulgaria with my two children. The main questions that I have been concerned with for a few years now are these: What is happening in Bulgaria (and in Europe)? Where are we heading? Why are we sinking deeper and deeper into a crisis – not only an economical one but also a crisis of values and the spirit? Where can we look for hope? How and where are our children going to live? These were the questions at the core of the film *Rounds*. Spiritual desolation, poverty, growing inequality and a sense of social failure – these things have become the status quo in Bulgaria. For large groups of people (the retired – our parents, the poor, the chronically sick, the unemployed youth and more) the dreams of a worthy life have long since given way to the battle for day-to-day primitive survival. The faithful representation and understanding of reality is the first step toward change, the necessary condition for fruitful action and this is the first goal of *Rounds* – to show life as it is. Its second goal is to keep hope alive.

Rounds follows the stories experienced by three couples of police officers (three patrol cars) in Sofia in the span of 24 hours. The film is focused mainly on these six human beings with their different personal stories and problems. The current state of affairs in Bulgaria reflect their life in many aspects. One of these aspects is that the story of the film happens in the night between the ninth and tenth of November 2019 – the 30 year celebration of the fall of the Berlin wall (9 November) and 30 years after the fall of communism in Bulgaria (10 November).

The police officers in those patrol cars are witnesses of reality, including its darker side. Some of them are aggressors and criminals, some are saviours and fighters for justice, yet others are victims. They are part of the real world, not the fabricated “reality” that the media present. The rest of our characters are the people the police officers come across during their shifts – the various faces of Bulgarian society.

The script is based on real events and real people, stories gathered during our numerous meetings with patrolling police officers from the police departments in Sofia. *Rounds* can be described as a realistic drama - comedy, consisting mainly of emotionally charged moments, interspersed with black humour. I believe this to be a more ambitious and challenging way of representing the different stories in the script – with the drama of the harsh situations in which the characters find themselves, but also with warmth and the occasional joke. Just the way life is.

- Stephan Komandarev

PRESS NOTE

ROUNDS is the second movie in Stephan Komandarev's trilogy in which he continues to search for a way to diagnose the crisis in Bulgaria and Europe today, focusing on themes such as social inequality, loss of values and lack of moral. As a former doctor, he firmly believes that the right diagnosis is the basis of a good treatment..

The first movie in the trilogy – DIRECTIONS – had its world premiere at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival in the Un Certain Regard section and afterwards it was screened at over 35 festivals including Toronto, Sarajevo, Busan, Haifa, Luxembourg and won over 10 prizes. ROUNDS can be defined as a realistic drama with an abundance of emotionally intense moments but also with the occasional joke and smile here and there. As reference, we would list movies such as DIRECTIONS, the Dardenne brothers' films, Ken Loach's I, DANIEL BLAKE and more.

ROUNDS

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Ivo

A patrol police officer in his mid-30s. Passionate Russophobe. Ivo is one of those police officers who use their position in the force to generate additional income along with their police salary. Along with the bribes, he accepts from time to time, Ivo is now at the center of a system providing illegal passage to migrants from Sofia to the border. With the money he makes from his illegal activities, Ivo can provide the desired lifestyle for his family – his wife and his son Slav, who Ivo loves very much and is constantly spoiling with expensive presents. Ivo has no principles when it comes to his job and often skirts the rules, especially when it benefits him or makes his job easier and saves him the unnecessary bureaucracy. He is a cynic at heart, always ready to turn even the biggest tragedy into a joke and to come up with some silly trick to mess with the criminals that he deals on a daily basis.

Krasi

Patrol police officer, early 40s. Ivo's partner. Passionate Russophile. Considering Ivo and Krasi's convictions, Bulgaria's political orientation – to the East or to the West – is often the main topic of their arguments. Krasi is also one of those police officers who will not pass up a bribe or the opportunity to make some money on the side through illegal means. When Ivo suggests they take on the “escorting” of illegal migrants and convinces him that the risk is non-existent, Krasi decides to join, seeing an opportunity to make some money. However, Krasi is the more cautious of the two. He is more likely to follow the rules and when he breaks them, he is more careful and anxious about it. He always considers every possible risk and, unlike Ivo, is not prone to extremes.

Marin

Patrol police officer, late 40s. He graduated from a sports high school and, unlike most of his schoolmates who gravitated towards organized crime, Marin became a police officer. To a large degree, Marin owes this life choice to his former class teacher – Gaytandziev. A teacher who had a huge impact on Marin's life, especially after Marin's father abandoned his family. Marin is one of those police officers who normally follow the rules but do not blindly bow down to their superiors. He has an independent spirit. He is ready to face any injustice and respond to it, often with methods that are not part of the police rulebook. Marin is fond of his partner Elena, who he has been intimate with before, but she does not seem to want anything more.

Elena

Patrol police officer, mid-40s. Marin's partner. Despite her parents' disagreement, Elena follows her grandfather's example and joins the Police Academy. From her very first day on the force, Elena has to deal with the cliché that she is “a woman with a man's job”. This does not bother her, quite the opposite – it motivates her even more. She knows how to handle being underestimated and how to respond to every joke about “a girl in a uniform”. Elena is tolerant and lenient when it comes to Marin and his character – ready to accept things she does not always completely agree with without unnecessary questions.

ROUNDS

Elena has one failed marriage, which has left her with a daughter she loves very much. Elena is dedicated to her work and has no wish to start a new relationship so she manages to turn down Marin's attempts to get closer to her. Elena has raised her child alone and her ex-husband only thinks of her when he is drunk and calling her non-stop in an attempt to get her back.

Todor

Patrol police officer, early 40s. A diabetic who continues to fulfill his duties, going against his doctor's advice and risking his life and well-being every day. Todor is one of those police officers who follow the rulebook and do not dare deviate from the norm. He has never sought praise or a reward for his actions because he views them as part of his job. His experience at this job has hardened him and he finds it easy to accept the strange things that happen on the streets.

Vasil

Patrol police officer, 30 years old. Vasil is a former member of football ultras, who joined the police force for the thrill of it. It may seem as if he does not take his job seriously and even neglects it but he is always ready to assist and jump into "battle" when he believes that he is in the right. Vasil is sarcastic and likes to joke about the police force and his job. This often annoys his colleagues and Todor is one of the few who tolerate him. Despite Vasil's slight arrogance, he respects Todor and Todor knows that he can count on him. Vasil is "a child of change", born on 10th November 1989 – the day of the fall of the communist regime in Bulgaria. Vasil's life and character are a mirror for the last 30 years of "transition" in Bulgaria.

CREW BIOGRAPHY

DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER

STEPHAN KOMANDAREV is a Bulgarian director, producer and scriptwriter, who made a number of award-winning fiction and documentary films such as: DIRECTIONS (POSOKI, 2017), THE WORLD IS BIG AND SALVATION LURKS AROUND THE CORNER (2008), THE JUDGMENT (2014), OCCUPATION 1968 (2018, doc), THE TOWN OF BADANTE WOMEN (2009, doc.), Alphabet of Hope (2003, doc.), BREAD OVER THE FENCE (2002, doc.), DOG'S HOME (1999, feature). He is a 2011 EAVE graduate and a member of the Bulgarian Film Directors' Association and the Bulgarian Film Producers' Association as well as a member of the European Film Academy.

PRODUCER

KATYA TRICHKOVA graduated in Law, Film, and TV directing. She is founder and manager of Contrast Films – a production company based in Sofia, aimed at supporting independent fiction and documentary productions. Since 2011, she is also working as producer for Argo Film. Her filmography includes DIRECTIONS (POSOKI, 2017), CAINI DOGS (2016, fiction), CLOTHES (2016, fiction), THE JUDGMENT (2014, fiction), CHAIN (2014, fiction).

ROUNDS

She gained additional professional knowledge in various international workshops and programmes, such as the Sarajevo Talent Campus, the Kyoto Filmmakers Lab, the EAVE and EURODOC and the ExOriente Program.

CO-PRODUCER

NENAD DUKIC is a film critic, festival programmer and producer. He is president of the Federation of European Film Critics (FEDEORA), member of the European Film Academy (EFA), artistic director of the European Film Festival in Palic and programmer of the Bratislava Intl. Film Festival. He has produced the Berlinale entry, EFA Awards selected and Oscar candidate film *REQUIEM FOR MRS. J.* (2017) and co-produced the Cannes 2015 Un Certain Regard winner *THE HIGH SUN*. Furthermore, Dukic is a film critic of Radio Belgrade and was correspondent of LA's "The Hollywood Reporter", BBC World Service and Berlin radio RBB. He published film critiques, comments and theoretical texts in various Yugoslav, Serbian and foreign film magazines. He was vice-president of the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) and artistic director of Belgrade's International Film Festival. He was giving film lectures at universities, such as the George Mason University (Washington D.C.) and William Paterson University (near New York City). For his production company SEE Film Pro, he has produced four feature fiction films. Nenad Dukic graduated and received an M.A. at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts, Belgrade.

DOP

Vesselin Hristov graduated in Cinematography at the National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts, Sofia, in 2010. Since 2009, he has worked as Director of Photography on 15 short films, 10 documentaries, music videos and TV films and as camera operator in full-length movies and TV series. His first full-length movie was *THIRST* (2015 director Svetla Tsotsorkova). For this film, he was awarded with the Best Cinematography Award at the 33rd Bulgarian National Film Festival "Golden Rose", Varna, Bulgaria 2015 and The Big Award Golden Eye on The Eighth National Cinematographers' Festival "Golden Eye" 2016 in Popovo, Bulgaria. In May 2011 he took the prize of the Association of the Bulgarian cinematographers for his work on the music video *DEFINITELY SONG* (Artist: Nasekomix), directed by Veselka Kuncheva, at the sixth National Cinematographers' Festival "Golden Eye", Popovo, Bulgaria. His last film *DIRECTIONS* premiered in Un Certain Regard in Cannes IFF (2017) and he won the Best Cinematographer award for his work at Tirana IFF.

CAST BIOGRAPHY

TODOR | Vasil Vasilev-Zueka graduated in Acting from the National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts in Sofia, Bulgaria. He had a number of roles in the theatre and the cinema. He is best known for Stephan Komandarev's *THE WORLD IS BIG AND SALVATION LURKS AROUND THE CORNER* (2014), and Stephan Komandarev's *THE JUDGMENT* (2014) AND *DIRECTIONS* (2017).

VASIL | STOYAN DOYCHEV graduated in Puppet Theater at the National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts in Sofia. He is the sole actor in the multiple award winning play "I, Sisyphus". His cinema debut was in the highly acclaimed Bulgarian film *HEIGHTS* (2017).

KRASI | Ivan Barnev graduated in Acting from the National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts in Sofia. He was nominated for Best Leading Role of the European Film Festival in Berlin for his role as the young Jan Dite in *I*

ROUNDS

SERVED THE KING OF ENGLAND (2006), his recent credits include THE FATHER - Crystal Globe winner at Karlovy Vary IFF 2019

IVO | Assen Blatecki graduated in Acting from the National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts in Sofia, Bulgaria. He is an acclaimed Bulgarian actor and played over 30 roles in theatre. He acted in more than 30 films, such as Stephan Komandarev's 2014 THE JUDGEMENT, for which he won Best Actor at the 2014 Golden Rose Film Festival in Varna, Bulgaria, and DIRECTIONS (2017).

ELENA | Irini Jambonas graduated in Acting from the National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts in Sofia, Bulgaria. She has an extensive filmography listing theater and film for which she has won numerous awards. She is best known for Nikolai Volev's, MARGARIT I MARGARITA (1989) and DIRECTIONS (2017).

MARIN | Stephan Denolyubov has been acting in numerous theatrical roles and lately – lead roles in some of the most internationally acclaimed Bulgarian films such as Kristina Grozeva and Petar Valchanov's GLORY (2016) and THE LESSON (2014), as well as DIRECTIONS (2017).

Company Description

ARGO FILM is a film production company based in Sofia. Stephan Komandarev founded it in 2001 to implement feature and documentary film projects aimed for the national and international market. The company produces films relying on strong characters and universal story lines, dealing with international themes that call upon common values and explore the bridges between cultures. The company has produced award-winning films such as:

DIRECTIONS (POSOKI) – 2017, fiction – premiered at “Un Certain Regard” Cannes Film Festival 2017, won 12 awards at international film festivals

CAINI (DOGS) – 2016, fiction – directed by Bogdan Mirica, co-production of France-Romania-Bulgaria- Qatar, FIPRESCI award “Un Certain Regard” – Cannes Film Festival 2016, The Trophy of Transylvania – Transylvania IFF, supported by EURIMAGES 2015

THE JUDGMENT - 2014, fiction – co-production between Bulgaria-Germany- Croatia- Macedonia, won 12 awards, including Best Bulgarian Feature Film, Golden Rose Film Festival 2014, Bulgarian entry for Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film – 2016, supported by EURIMAGES 2012

THE TOWN OF BADANTE WOMEN – 2009, doc.

ALPHABET OF HOPE – 2003, doc.

BREAD OVER THE FENCE – 2002, doc.

SEE FILM PRO (SERBIAN CO-PRODUCTION COMPANY) is a Belgrade based company, founded by a group of film professionals in 2001. Founder and director Nenad Dukić is active as film critic, festival programmer and producer

ROUNDS

and is specialized in cooperating with South Eastern European countries in various film projects. SEE FILM PRO recently produced or co-produced the following films:

REQUIEM FOR MRS. J., 2017, feature fiction film, directed by Bojan Vuletic, supported by Eurimages, world premiere at Berlinale (Panorama Special), screened at 35 festivals, got 9 awards, incl. two Grand Prix, has been select for European Film Awards, was Serbian candidate for Oscar

THE HIGH SUN, 2015, feature fiction film, directed by Dalibor Matanic, co-production with Croatia and Slovenia, supported by Eurimages, Cannes Jury award winner, shown at 57 international and regional festivals

EASTALGIA, 2011, feature fiction film, directed by Daria Onichenko, minor co-production with Ukraine and Germany, screening at seven international film festivals

CON FIDEL, PASE LO QUE PASE, 2010, feature documentary film, directed by Goran Radovanovic, co-production with NaMa Film, Belgrade, screening at 9 international documentary film festivals, won five awards

SOME OTHER STORIES, 2010, feature fiction omnibus film, co-production of Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Ireland, supported by Eurimages, screening at 35 film festivals.

Contact international press

Beta Film, Dorothee Stoewahse

Tel: + 49 89 67 34 69 15
Mobile: + 49 170 63 84 627,
Dorothee.Stoewahse@betafilm.com

Pictures and film clips available on ftp.betafilm.com
username: ftpress01
password: 8synopsis

Contact world sales

Beta Cinema, Dirk Schühoff / Thorsten
Ritter / Tassilo Hallbauer / Lilian McGehee

Tel: + 49 89 67 34 69 828
Fax: + 49 89 67 34 69 888,
beta@betacinema.com,
www.betacinema.com