

Titel: Urotsi Po Nemski / German Lessons / Lektionen auf Deutsch

Director: Pavel Vesnakov

Script: Pavel Vesnakov

Dop: Orlin Ruevski

Producer BLG: Orlin Ruevski, Monica Balcheva

Co-Producer: Sebastian Weyland, Knut Jäger, Manfred Giesecke

Production Designer: Severina Stoyanova

Editor: Victoria Radoslavova

Costume Designer: Marieta Spasova

Sound: Svetlozar Georgiev

Main Cast: Julian Vergov, Vasil Banov, Elena Telbis, Meglena Karalambova, Stefka Yanorova

Technical Specs:

Camera: Alexa Mini

Format: shot in RAW / 4:3 anamorphic 24fps.

Aspect ratio: 2.39.

Length: 100'

Year of shooting: 2019

Digital Master: 2020

Sceneing File:

<https://vimeo.com/395024484>

Sofia2019

Trailer (downloadable):

<https://vimeo.com/477049940>

GLTrailer20

Synopsis:

Nikola's probation period will end in one day, but he has already arranged his departure from Bulgaria. After living for 25 years in communism and 25 more under false democracy, he can't take it anymore. His elder parents had divorced in a late stage of their marriage and he can't handle taking care of them both. His children don't want to see him anymore, because their mother's new husband is a much steadier provider and a better father than Nikola has ever been, so they have found peace without their biological father.

Because all of this at 50 years of age Nikola feels useless and filled with anger. He has beaten up his wife's new husband and has served a year of probation for it. Now he has no choice but to leave everything behind and to start a new chapter in his life. Unfortunately, two days before the departure, the dog of Nikola's father goes missing. While searching for it, Nikola has to face difficult questions about his own life.

Very short:

Nikola's probation period will end in one day, but he has already arranged his departure from Bulgaria.

Unfortunately, two days before he leaves, the dog of Nikola's father goes missing.

Whilst searching for it, Nikola is confronted with difficult questions about his former decision in life.

Director Biography:

Pavel G. Vesnakov graduated from the New Bulgarian University in 2011 as a Bachelor of Visual Arts and Film Directing. He is one of the most successful young Bulgarian film directors, known for his provocative ideas and deeply realistic films that explore the degradation of modern Bulgarian society and the relationships between people. He is the screenwriter and director of the short film trilogy *Inches of Suburbia*. It consists of three films: **Trains** (2011), **The Paraffin Prince** (2012) and **Pride** (2013). The parts of the trilogy have been shown at a number of international film festivals such as the ISFF Clermont Ferrand, the IFF Locarno, Sarajevo IFF, ASIANA ISFF and many others. He has been awarded with more than 30 prestigious awards, including the Grand Prix for Best Film at the Clermont Ferrand Festival in France 2014 and Nomination for European Film Awards 2014. In 2015, with his latest short film project, **Zeus**, Pavel won the Robert Bosch Foundation's grand prize for co-production with Eastern Europe. Pavel has also participated in both Berlinale and Sarajevo Talents.

Filmography:

2019 Father's Day – Mini TV Series, Bulgarian National Television

2015 Zeus, short film, 30' / World Premiere – 68th International Locarno FF 2015, Switzerland

2013 Pride, short film, 30' / Sofia IFF 2014 – Special Jury Diploma; ISFF Clermont Ferrand 2014, France – Grand Prix for Best Short Film; Nomination for the European Film Awards; IFF Sarajevo 2013 – Special

Jury Diploma

2012 The Paraffin Prince, short film, 23' / Sofia IFF

2013 – Best Bulgarian Short Film; Bulgarian Film

Academy 2013 – Best Bulgarian Short Film Award;

IFF Sarajevo 2012 – Special Diploma

2011 Trains short film, 15' / Sofia IFF 2011 – Best

Bulgarian Short Film

Director Statement:

The main character – Nikola is a representative of a generation which has not had the chance of living normally in Bulgaria. Finished his education at the end of the 80's, Nikola embodies an obsolete set of morals. It consists of the unwavering pragmatism of Communism and the enormous and sometimes naïve positivity of Democracy. This is a set of morals which arose in a critical and divisive moment for Bulgaria – the transition between Communism and Democracy. At the beginning of this transition, Nikola's generation lived with the idea that everything will get better. Gradually, this hope faded away and his generation's representatives emigrated, leaving Bulgarian society with an impossible task – to tackle corruption, aggression and apathy of a people living in a failing and agonizing state. I believe my main character's story is important from a contemporary point of view, because deep inside him, there flickers the forgotten flame to rebel and to make self-sacrifice if need be.

Pavel Vesnakov

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