

OCCUPATION 1968

A FILM BY

EVDOKIA MOSKVINA, LINDA DOMBROVSZKY,
MAGDALENA SZYMKOW, MARIE ELISA SCHEIDT, STEPHAN KOMANDAREV

Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary | 130' | 2018

OCCUPATION AS OCCUPANTS SEE IT

5 countries of Warsaw Pact occupied Czechoslovakia in 1968.

50 years later 5 directors from these countries are going to shoot a short film about invasion from the point of view of the people who took part in it.

SYNOPSIS

The documentary project about August 1968 is a collective subjective look on the soldiers of "friendly" armies and their thoughts and impressions about Czechoslovak occupation in August 1968 and their tasks within it.

The main question is, how "a small person in Europe" behaves in front of so known "big history". What role plays the personal responsibility, preservation of personal point of view or moral, and what happens to it in the moment, when they have to choose between saving their life or obeying the rules? What feelings had the soldiers, who were sent to foreign country to "make the order" there? In this film we would be interested in soldiers of different nationalities and different ranks - from privates to generals.

In order to get the most diverse views on this topic, we decided to choose five directors from five countries of the former Warsaw Pact, which participated in the occupation of Czechoslovakia. Evdokia Moskvina from Russia, Linda Dombrowszky from Hungary, Magdalena Szymkow from Poland, Elisa Marie Scheidt from Germany and Stephan Komandarev from Bulgaria. The result will be five 26-minute documentaries - five different views from five countries.



LENGTH: Feature Length Documentary Film 130 min.+ 5 x 26 min.

LANGUAGES: Slovak, Czech, Russian, Polish, Bulgarian, Hungarian, German, English

FORMAT: HD Cam - 4K – DCP

PRODUCER: Peter Kerekes

PRODUCTION: Peter Kerekes Ltd.

CO-PRODUCTION: Hypermarket Film - Vít Klusák - Czech Republic, ELF Pictures - Agnes Horváth-Szabó – Hungary, Agitprop - Martichka Bozhilova – Bulgaria
Silver Frame - Stanislaw Zaborowski - Poland

FESTIVALS & SCREENINGS

Sofia International Film Festival

Titanic International Film Festival

GoEast Festival Of Central And Eastern European Film

LET'S CEE Film Festival

Millennium Docs Against Gravity Film Festival

International Film Festival Innsbruck

Flickr Rhode Island International Film Festival

Sarajevo Film Festival

Eastern Neighbours Film Festival – The Hauge

Verzio International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival

Free Zone Film Festival Belgrade



RUSSIA

THE LAST MISSION OF GENERAL ERMAKOV

Lev Gorelov is a 93 year-old man who lives in Odessa and in august 1968 he commanded his unit to occupy the airport in Prague.

He has a dream. He wants to collect all ex-comrades who were with him in 1968 in Czechoslovakia. It might be his last mission. How do they remember their past together? The main protagonist will search for the rest of the team to complete their last "military" mission.

A road movie from Odessa through Kiev, Minsk and Moscow to Prague.



DIRECTOR | EVDOKIA MOSKVINA

From 2013 to 2015 Evdokia Moskvina studied film production at the Sorbonne University in Paris. In 2011 she directed the film *Our dreams come true*, which was successfully presented on the Cannes festival. Currently Evdokia is post-producing a documentary filmed in Syria in 2016, a story about civil people living in the war.

MEGSZÁLLÁS 1968

HUNGARY

RED ROSE (FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE IN THE TIME OF OCCUPATION)

The main character is a Hungarian soldier taking part in the operation. They were expecting war, but they found peaceful people.

The biggest enemy was the boredom. Soldiers had love stories with local girls, and friendships with local man. Somewhere between a documentary and a fiction movie, the short reenactment scenes show exciting, funny, and at times painful episodes from the lives of the Hungarian occupants in Czechoslovakia.



DIRECTOR | LINDA DOMBROVSKY

Linda Dombrovsky studied and graduated at Media and Film Faculty at Pázmány Peter Catholic University and as a director at Faculty of Film and TV at Academy of Drama and Film in Hungary. Linda's latest documentary Once Upon a Time There Were Two Ballerinas has just started its festival career at Brussels International Short Film Festival, Sao Paulo International Short Film Festival, Budapest International Short Film Festival. Her short documentary Duty (2011) took part in the panorama selection: Cannes Critic's week.

POLAND

I'M WRITING TO YOU, MY LOVE

The sunny seaside, girls in bikini, the pop-music festival, the self-immolation protest, and tanks on the street of occupied Prague. Based on the communist secret services archives and informant reports, this found-footage documentary on the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Soviet allies tells the story of a woman getting married to a man who went to war instead of their honeymoon. It is a patch-work reconstruction of the absurdity of the totalitarian country whose citizens at once invade their neighbour, print leaflets to sabotage the invasion, and dance the twist all night long.



DIRECTOR | MAGDALENA SZYMKOW

Magdalena Szymkow is a documentary filmmaker, screenwriter and film archives researcher with a journalistic background, graduated from Wajda School in Warsaw. Her previous film *My House Without Me* (2012), a cinematic essay about displacement was nationally broadcasted, awarded and screened across the festivals all over the world.

OKKUPATION 1968

GERMANY

VOICES IN THE FOREST

In the summer of 1968, more than 16.000 East-German soldiers stayed in the Saxonian forests and barracks close to the Czechoslovakian border: youngsters on the verge between boyhood and adult life, anticipating a mission that would never happen.

A lieutenant solves a crossword puzzle by filling out random letters. Hoard of men wear gas masks and stumble through the forest. Others get drunk and shoot at each other. In middle of this time of absurdity and stasis, a secret little radio keeps a man from losing his mind. Voices in the Forest is a light-hearted and playful semi-fictional documentary and explores the young soldiers' inner struggles and their survival in a world of lies and make-believe.



DIRECTOR | MARIE ELISA SCHEIDT

Marie Elisa Scheidt is a documentary filmmaker based in Munich, Germany. Elisa studied documentary film at the University of Television and Film Munich as well as at the School of Image Arts Toronto (Ryerson University). Her films Loly H (2013), Sobota (2014), Through the Lens of Inkedkenny (2013), and Our Wildest Dreams (2017) have been screened and awarded at numerous major film festivals around the world.

BULGARIA

AN UNECESSARY HERO

Sergeant Nikolov Tsekov was one of Bulgarian soldiers who was in Czechoslovakia to lead a counter-revolution. Most of these were in charge of guarding the airport Ruzyne. September 9, around 9 pm Nikolov acted like he needs to go to the bathroom. He left and never returned.



DIRECTOR | STEPHAN KOMANDAREV

Stephan Komandarev studied directing at the New Bulgarian University in Sofia, took part in the number of workshops and trainings either at home or abroad. His films The Balloon (1997), Dog's Home (2000), Bread over the Fence (2002), Alphabet of hope (2003), The World is Big and Salvation Lurks Around the Corner (2008), The Judgement (2014) and Directions (2017) were awarded by numerous prestigious festivals.

CONTACTS



PRODUCTION

Peter Kerekes Ltd.

Peter Kerekes
kerekes@nextra.sk
www.kerekesfilm.com

INTERNATIONAL SALES

SLINGSHOT FILMS

Slingshot Films

Manuela Buono
+39 347 6273 390
info@slingshotfilms.it
www.slingshotfilms.it