

BULGARIA

THE WORLD IS BIG AND SALVATION LURKS AROUND THE CORNER

(SVETAT E GOLJAM I SPASENIE DEBNE OTVSJAKADE)

Director:
Stephan Komandarev

Based on the novel by Ilija Trojanov



European Film Promotion

ASSOCIATED WITH:



GENRE: **Drama**
 LANGUAGE: **Bulgarian, German, Italian, English**
 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN: **Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia**
 YEAR: **2008**
 LENGTH: **105 minutes**
 FORMAT: **35mm, Colour 1:1.85**

DIRECTED BY: **Stephan Komandarev**

WRITTEN BY: **Stephan Komandarev, Dusan Milic, Yuri Datchev, Ilija Trojanov (Based on his novel)**

PERFORMANCES BY: **Miki Manojlovic, Carlo Ljubek, Hristo Mutafchiev**

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SYNOPSIS

This is the story of a Bulgarian boy who grows up to be a German man. After a car accident Alex can't remember even what his name is. In an attempt to cure him from amnesia, his grandfather Bai Dan comes to Germany and organizes a spiritual journey for his grandson back into his past, to the country where he came from. While traveling across time and place and crossing half of Europe, they play backgammon, the simplest, and yet the most complex of all games. This game leads Alex to a realization of who he is, and that backgammon is a key to his story. Destiny is the dice we hold in our own hands and life is a game somewhere between chance and skill.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The story running through *The World is Big...* fascinates me by its treatment of some of the most important yet simple questions of humanity: who am I, what are my roots, how should I live my life? Finding personal and concrete answers to these questions presumes a difficult spiritual journey within one's own character. One can set off on this journey alone, or one can use a method tried and tested in the East – serve as an apprentice to a master (pupil to a guru), who has already found the answers...

Many of my friends and relatives went off to the West with high hopes. Their hopes were mixed with nostalgia and confusion, in the same way that the foreign language wove itself into their native speech. Leave or stay? Should we go home or adapt to the foreign country? Which world do you belong to: the one you were born into or the one where you'll die?

The World is Big... deals with backgammon, its philosophy and its view of the world. It is the oldest game that exists. It is all around the world but is particularly typical for the Balkans. In its own way it is a part of the story of each of the heroes in our film: it guides their destinies across the boundaries of time and space.

FESTIVALS & AWARDS (selection)



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