

FISHBONE by Dragomir Sholev

2021 - Bulgaria, Romania / 107min / Bulgarian



DIRECTOR	Dragomir Sholev
SCREENPLAY	Dragomir Sholev Emanuela Dimitrova Georgi Merdzhanov
CINEMATOGRAPHY	Nenad Borojevic
CAST	Deyan Donkov Suzy Radichkova Valentin Andreev
PRODUCERS	Rossitsa Valkanova Ada Solomon
PRODUCTION COMPANIES	KLAS Film, Hi Film Productions

Synopsis

There is nothing dramatic in the dying dolphin found accidentally on the seashore. Dramatic are though the 10 stories of the people who saw their reflections in the eye of the dolphin. 10 situations in which the people are pressed to react, but they are confused, scared, drowned in their personal problems and misfortunes. 10 points of view of an absurd world, where the people are like the dying dolphin, with no one knowing how to take care of it.

Director's statement

I've always imagined Fishbone as a borderline story, contrasting opposite notions. The body of the dolphin appears on the shore at the border between water and land, summer and autumn, wilderness and civilization. It fuels different and independent from each other stories about life and death, youth and old age, truth and illusion. The problem with the dolphin is, on one hand, not such a big deal, but at the same time it seems big enough to concern the purpose of humanity. The dolphin is a paradox that can't be explained, it has to be experienced. "I can't do this anymore!", says Ivo, when he refuses to bury yet another dead dolphin that the sea has brought to the shore. His decision puts him at war with the institutions, his deputy betrays him and at the end Ivo loses his job as concessionaire of the beach... But what he goes through changes him forever. By choosing to care – for the dead dolphin or for the lonesome Katya, Ivo chooses to be humane.

Bio & filmo

Dragomir Sholev graduated in 2007 from the Bulgarian National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts in both Animation and Film directing. His student shorts "Family" (2002), "Habanera" (2003), "Before Life, After Death" (2005), "The Go-Between" (2008) were critically acclaimed and awarded at many festivals at home and abroad. Sholev worked as assistant director in a number of feature films, before directing his feature debut, "SHELTER" (2010), co-written with prominent Romanian scriptwriter, Razvan Radulescu and Dutch writer Melissa de Raaf. The film had its WP in San Sebastian IFF (Zabaltegi New Directors), was selected to more than 70 film festivals around the world and received many awards. The film is still screened at home and abroad on various occasions, especially to younger audiences and is considered by critics and film fans as a Bulgarian "cult film".

His 2nd feature, "THE PIG", 2019, which he wrote & produced himself, premiered at Sofia IFF, where it was awarded the Special Jury Prize, the prize for Best Bulgarian film and the FIPPRESCI award. At the BG National Film festival, the film got also the Special Prize of the Jury and the Best director award.

Dragomir Sholev was invited to present his new feature film « FIVE TIMES MY FATHER FORGOT HIS BAG » at Torino Film Lab in October 2022.