



# ROUMENA

film Zornitse Sophie











MQ PICTURES | BULGARSKO NACIONALNO FILMSKO CENTRUM | KODIX MEDIA | HRVATSKI AUDIOVIZUALNI CENTAR | NU BOYANA FILM | DREAM TEAM FILMS | NOVA TELEVISION |

VALERI JORDANOV | GORAN DJAKOV | SIMITRA SELENDKI | LEART DOKLE | VLADIMIR ZIMBORI | PETAR GEANOV | JORDAN BLAGOV | ALEKSANDAR ALEKSIEV | VALENTIN TINEV | NIKAI AMIRTA NIKOLAJ | ZORNITSA SOPHIA

REŽISERKA: ZORNITSA SOPHIA | IZVEDENICA: IRENA MARKOVIC | GLAVNA ULOGA: YAROSLAV LERNER, EVTIM MILOSHEV, GABRIEL GEORGIJEV, IVAN SPASOV, LUBOMIR NIKOV | GLAVNA ULOGA: MILA KIROVA | PETAR MANDJEV | GOSTI:

OPERATER: KRUM RODRIGUEZ | MONTAŽA: VICTORIA RADOSLAVOVA | GLAVNA GLAVNA: MARTA MIRONKA | IZVEDENICA: IRENA MARIANOVA | GLAVNA GLAVNA: DUBRAVKA PREMAR

DIZAJNERI: PETAR KRALJEV | GLAVNA GLAVNA: IVAN ANDREEV | GLAVNA GLAVNA: DANKO MARKOVIC | GLAVNA GLAVNA: IVANO TESHNO SLIJEDE | GLAVNA GLAVNA: ZORNITSA SOPHIA

## ROUMENA. PRESS KIT.

### LOGLINE

A mother is forced to abandon her child and home and leads a band of rebels inflicting her own justice, while struggling to make it up to the men's world of 19th cent.



### SYNOPSIS

Roumena is a mother forced to abandon her child and home, who leads a band of rebels and inflicts her own justice while struggling to make it up to the men's world of 19th century.

Based on witness accounts and a short story by Nikolay Haytov.



### LONG SYNOPSIS

"Roumena" tells the true story of Roumena - a mother, forced to abandon her child and home, who leads a band of rebels and inflicts her own justice while struggling to make it up to the men's world of 19th century. Based on witness accounts and a short story by

Nikolay Haytov. The film features many nonprofessional actors, the writer/director/producer playing the lead role and her daughter playing the younger Roumena. Through rough and raw cinematic narrative the film strives for authenticity imposing the question how cruel humans are to the ones who are different.

### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The film features many nonprofessional actors, the writer/director/producer playing the lead role and her daughter playing the younger Roumena. Through rough and raw cinematic narrative the film strives for authenticity imposing the question how cruel people could be the ones who are different. A period feminist hero pushes relationships beyond the obvious religious, cultural and gender limits.

## DIRECTOR'S CV SHORT

Zornitsa Sophia graduated as Master of Fine Arts, major in painting, later in Film Directing. Her first film is MILA FROM MARS, 16 awards, 60 festivals and a box office hit in Bulgaria. She wrote, directed and produced 3 feature films and 2 documentaries, directed 6 TV series and 1 awarded theater play. ROUMENA is her

third feature film as writer, director and producer and first as actress, currently a national box office hit.



## DIRECTOR'S CV LONG

Zornitsa Sophia is Master of Fine Arts, major in painting, specialized in School of Visual Arts, NYC and AU, DC. She exhibited in 65 visual arts events internationally and restored the church in Sofia Male Prison, together with the convicts. Her debut no budget feature "Mila From Mars" (2004) won 16 awards, including Best Film and Special Jury Award at Sarajevo IFF, Best Film, Best Actress and 3 more awards at "Golden Rose", two awards at Mannheim-Heidelberg IFF, screened at 60 festivals including Mar del Plata, Pusan, Goa, New Directors/New, it was Bulgarian submission for Academy Awards and a box office hit nationally. Followed by "Death and All The Way Back" (docu, 2005), "Modus Vivendi" (docu, 2006), "Forecast" (feature, 2009). She directed 18 episodes in 6 TV series in all genres and one awarded theater play. "Roumena" is Zornitsa Sophia's third feature film as writer, director and producer and first as actress. It's currently a national box office hit with World Premiere in Shanghai IFF and European Premiere in Moscow IFF.

## FILMOGRAPHY

Mila From Mars, feature film, 2004

Death and All The Way Back, documentary, 2005

Modus Vivendi, documentary, 2006

Forecast, feature film, 2009

Roumena (Voevoda), feature film, 2017

## THOUGHTS AND NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

When I started the script of Voevoda 5 years ago I didn't realize how popular the "female themes" would become. But our heroine is not a sci-fi hero, neither exactly a feminist, Roumena is a real, rough and raw true character, more of a man than most of the men around her, as the critics said. What inspires me greatly is the fact that in the harsh times of the Ottoman Empire 16-19cent. **most of the women who became rebels actually became voevodas** - commanders of the rebellious bands. There are over 40 known of the type... To me this is a phenomenon that clearly shows how the small person who's pushed to the wall either brakes or... strikes back harder and grows out of proportion. Out of the margins of the time and the society, which usually kills it, because they can't understand it.

Looking for non-professional actors whenever possible aiming at **authenticity** and failing to cast the lead actress, I had to face a hard choice to either play Roumena myself or postpone the shooting with one year. The usual 3 in 1 for me became 4 in 1: writer, director, producer and actress, with my daughter playing my younger self. This resulted in a total **merge** with the character who I wrote and played, and my profession of director melting with my on-screen "job" as rebel-leader. It all became ONE suddenly, very often putting me miraculously in the shoes of my heroine, making me face some similar issues she has once faced - trust, proving abilities, stamina and most importantly: how can one achieve all that and be a descent mother.

The authenticity and the realism of the film, the period and **modus vivendi** of that time was achieved through a **training camp** for the actors, where we had to live with the costumes, on the rural locations, exercising in martial practices of the period, sleeping and eating in the forests with no shelter. Together with my Bulgarian-Colombian DOP Krum Luis-Alirio Rodriguez and my editor Radoslavova we decided on **subjectivity and minimalism** as our **cinematic language** trying to "breath with the characters". In sound design the subjective approach were pushed even further- not realistic, neither objective, some scenes get to a complete silence and mono sound design - to focus on the inner worlds of our characters. We intend the watching of the film to be almost **physical** and the audience to be with the characters - seeing and hearing what the characters see and hear. These ways of subjective and minimalistic storytelling the three of us we intend to pursue further in our next films.

Zornitsa Sophia

## THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

When I started the script of Voevoda 5 years ago I didn't realize how popular the "female heroes" would become, in the archetype sense of the word. Roumena is not a sci-fi hero, neither exactly a feminist, she is a **rough and raw** true character, more of a man than most of the men around her, as critics describe it. What inspires me greatly is the fact that in the harsh times of the Ottoman Empire 16-19cent. most of the women who became rebels actually became voevodas - commanders of the rebellious bands. There are over 40 known of the type... To me this is a **phenomenon** that clearly manifests how a small person pushed to the wall either brakes or strikes back harder and grows beyond the "square boxes" of the society or the times. That's what actually kills them - the fact they can't be understood and therefore accepted. Even by their closest allies, even by the beloved one.

Looking for non-professional actors whenever possible aiming at **authenticity** and failing to cast the lead role, I had to face a hard choice to either play Roumena myself or postpone the shooting with one year or give up the project. The usual 3 in 1 for me became 4 in 1: writer, director, producer and actress, with my daughter playing my younger self. This resulted in an unexpected **merge with the character** who I wrote and played, and my profession of director melting with my on-screen "job" as rebel-leader. It all became one, very often putting me miraculously in the shoes of my heroine, making me face similar issues she has once faced - trust, proving abilities, stamina and most importantly: **how can one achieve all that and still be a descent mother**. The question every second working mother faces nowadays, but for the period Roumena was a pioneer.

The authenticity of the film and "modus vivendi" of that period was achieved through a **rough training camp** for the actors, where we had to live with the costumes, on the rural locations, exercising martial practices of the time, sleeping and eating in the forests with no shelter. Visually, in terms of cinematic narrative together with Cinematographer Krum Luis-Alirio Rodriguez and editor Victoria Radoslavova we decided on **subjectivity** and **minimalism** as our cinematic language as to "breathe with the characters". In sound design the subjective approach were pushed even further, some scenes get to a complete silence or mono sound design, to focus on the inner worlds of our characters. We intend to achieve **physicality** of watching the film and the audience to be (with) the characters - seeing and hearing what they see and hear. These ways of subjective and **minimalistic storytelling** the three of us intend to pursue further in our next films.

Zornitsa Sophia

## CREDITS

**MQ Pictures** with the support of  
**Bulgarian National Film Center** in  
co-production with **Focus Media**

with the support **Croatian Audiovisual Centre**, in coproduction with **Nu Boyana Film, Dream Team Films** and with the support of **NOVA TV**.



**Main Cast:** Zornitsa Sophia, Valeri Yordanov, Goran Gunchev, Vladimir Zombori, Leart Dokle, Petar Genkov, Dimitar Selenski and introducing Niki Amrita Nikolay.

**Director of Photography:** Krum Luis-Alirio Rodriguez

**Edit:** Victoria Radoslavova

**Costume Designer:** Marta Mironska

**Production Designer:** Irena Muratova

**Music:** Kayno Yesno Slonce

**Composer:** Darko Markovic

**Sound:** Dubravka Premar, Petar Kralev, Ivo Natzev, Ivan Andreev

**Producer:** Zornitsa Sophia Poggantcheva

**Co-producers:** Irena Markovic, Yariv Lerner, Evtim Miloshev, Gabriel Georgiev, Ivan Spassov, Lubomir Neikov

**Executive Producers:** Mila Kirova and Petar Minchev - Gushtera

**Writer and Director:** Zornitsa Sophia

**Web site:** [www.voevodathefilm.com](http://www.voevodathefilm.com)

**Official facebook page:** [www.facebook.com/voevodathefilm](https://www.facebook.com/voevodathefilm)

**You Tube Channel:** Voevoda The Film:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoyv\\_B337XN5ZcqaoFwCbYq/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoyv_B337XN5ZcqaoFwCbYq/videos)

## RELEASE:

Theatrical box office hit in Bulgaria (national release from Jan 2017), Distributor LENTA,;

**World Premiere:** 20<sup>th</sup> Shanghai International Film Festival, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017;

**European Premiere:** 39<sup>th</sup> Moskow International Film Festival, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

**Croatian Premiere:** 64<sup>th</sup> Pula Film Festival, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017