

RUSCEN
VIDINLIEV

18% GREY

DOLYA
GAVANSKI

A FILM BY VIKTOR CHOCHKOV JR.

CHOCHKOV BROTHERS

IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH: OSTLICHT FILMPRODUKTION, THE BULGARIAN NATIONAL TELEVISION, SEKTOR FILM, RAISED BY WOLVES, CINNAMON FILMS STARRING: RUSCEN VIDINLIEV, DOLYA GAVANSKI, RON COOK, JOKE EMMERS, BORIS VAN SEVEREN, NORMAN BOWMAN, SUSANNE WUEST, ORLANDO SEALE, MADELEINE CANNON AND SAMUEL FINZI DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: NENAD BORDEVICH EDITING: ELENA SEIMENOVA, VESSELA MARTSCHEWSKI, NINA ALTAPARMAKOVA MUSIC: VIKTOR CHOCHKOV PRODUCTION DESIGNER: JUDIT VARGA COSTUME DESIGNER: NADINE KREMEIER SOUND MIXING: KAI TEBBEL SOUND DESIGN: SEBASTIAN SCHMIDT MAKE-UP ARTIST: JASMINA MINA LILIC LINE PRODUCERS: GEORGI ABRASHEV, KATYA TRICHKOVA BNT STUDIOS EKRAN: BORIANA PUNCHEVA CO-PRODUCERS: VLADIMIR ANASTASOV, ANGELA NESTOROVSKA, VEERLE ZEELMAEKERS, JULES DEBROCK, PETER BERNAERS, NEVENA SAVIC, IVICA VIDANOVIC, MIROSLAV MOGOROVIC, GERRY MAGUIRE PRODUCERS: BORISLAV CHOCHKOV, GEORGI ABRASHEV, MARCEL LENZ, GUIDO SCHWAB, DOLYA GAVANSKI, VIKTOR CHOCHKOV JR. SCRIPT: HILARY NORRISH, DOLYA GAVANSKI, ZACHARY KARABASHLIEV DIRECTOR: VIKTOR CHOCHKOV JR.



RON COOK



SUSANNE WUEST



SAMUEL FINZI

SYNOPSIS

Following their dream, Zachary and Stella, a Bulgarian couple very much in love, move from Varna, Bulgaria to London. However, surviving in a new country is not so easy, and when his wife leaves him, Zachary heads on a crazy journey from London to Berlin, during which he meets a string of incredible people. This is a journey which uncovers the truth about his lost love, and ultimately brings him to uncomfortable discoveries about himself.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

18% Grey – intimate, crazy, funny, sad, it is a film about the contemporary human fighting for his place under the sun. This is a film about love, dreams, loss, survival, hopes, and once again about love. Where are we from and what is it that is not enough for us here? What makes us change places and what are we looking for? It is Everyman's story. While offering a current perspective towards a conflicted Europe, the film questions how do we build our relationships as men and women within new conditions that surround us, and within a contemporary world. These topics affect not only more than two million Bulgarian families who have friends and relatives abroad, but are relevant to anyone who is looking for 'grounding' in a world of disequilibrium.

THE PRODUCTION

Following the success of Viktor Chouchkov's TILT (2011), producer Borislav Chouchkov and Viktor decide to adapt the best-selling novel by Zachary Karabashliev, 18% Grey, for film. The result is a spectacular co-production between five countries – Bulgaria, Germany, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Belgium.

The film was shot in Varna, London, Brighton, Dover, Tiel-Wing, Weimar, Leipzig, and Berlin, because after all the story is a journey on many levels. Starring in the lead roles are Ruscen Vidinliev and Dolya Gavanski. The cast also includes accomplished European actors, impressive visual works by the DOP Nenad Boroevich, and an international creative team and crew.



CAST



RUSCEN VIDINLIEV

begins his acting career with theater productions in Fettes College in Edinburgh. For his role as Gregor from Kafka's "The Metamorphosis" he receives an award from the Edinburgh Theater Festival. He graduates with Drama from the University of Bristol. Stars in the leading roles in the films 'The Colour of the Chameleon' by Emil Hristov, which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival, and was nominated for their Discovery Award, as well as 'A Picture with Yuki' by Lachezar Avramov, which premiered at the Sofia International Film Festival in 2019.



DOLYA GAVANSKI

is a British actress born in Bulgaria. She begins studying acting in Moscow and then graduates from Academy Performing Arts in London. She goes on to star in a variety of English theater plays, films, and series which leads her to work with actors such as Ewan Bremner, Rob Brydon, the popular comedic actor and producer Steve Coogan, the theatrical director Max Stafford Clark, and the artistic director of Royal Shakespeare Company, sir Trevor Nun. She has many roles in West End plays, such as Rock'N'Roll by Tom Stoppard with Dominic West, as well as in many BBC TV and radio dramas.



RON COOK

is a veteran of the British theater. His ninety-four roles in film productions such as 'Chocolate' (Lasse Hallström), 'Chernobyl' (Johan Renk), as well as Mike Leigh's 'Secrets and Lies' and 'Topsy Turvey' are just a part of his accomplishments. Varied, flexible, and layered, he claims that with every next role he manages to surprise himself even.



SAMUEL FINZI

is born in Bulgaria but built his whole spectacular career in Germany. He was chosen to be the Best Theater Actor in Germany in 2015. His list of credits includes titles such as Til Schweiger's 'Die Hochzeit' and 'Klassentreffen', Robert Schwentke's 'Snake Eyes' and 'The Captain', Andrey Paunov's 'January', and 'Worse Case Scenario' (Franz Müller).



ORLANDO SEALE

begins his acting career at the Royal Shakespeare Company which takes him from theater to cinema and TV. His list of roles is impressively rich including titles such as 'Hamlet' (Kenneth Branagh), 'Pride and Prejudice' (Andrew Black), 'Sleepy Hollow' (Tim Burton), as well as HBO series 'The IT Crowd', 'West Wing', and many others. Orlando is also a musician and singer, front man of Harpo Smith.



JOKE EMMERS

is a young and emerging actress of Belgian origin but already has a surprising amount of titles and roles under her belt. Recently graduated Drama from the University of Antwerp, she is one of the fastest developing talents on the Belgian theater scene and screen.



BORIS VAN SEVEREN

is a Belgian actor best known for his role of rock star Tim Coppens in Felix Van Groeningen's 'Belgica', a film which collected the prix for Best Director at the 2016 edition of Sundance.



NORMAN BOWMAN

is a Scottish actor popular for his role in 'Macbeth' where he acts across from Kenneth Branagh. His career takes him to West End where he stars in a multitude of plays and musicals, such as 'Les Miserables', 'King Lear', 'Cats', 'Grease', and more. the multitude of his transformations lead him into partnering on stage and in front of camera with names such as Jude Law, Patrick Swayze, Ewan McGregor, Dereck Jacobi, and others.



MADELEINE CANNON

hasn't made an appearance in a film in years, this is the first one since long ago. She was born in London and graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, a true master of diction and eloquence. The variety of her roles in theater, radio, and television led her to establishing Professional Voice UK, where she coaches actors.



SUSANNE WUEST

is often compared to Tilda Swinton, many say she could easily be her younger sister. Just like Tilda, Susanne always manages to find new challenges which to undertake, and the results of which are always impressive. She began her career at the prestigious Volkstheater in Wien. She has more than 56 roles in various films, amongst which the part of the Princess in 'Sunset' by László Nemes, which was nominated for a Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival in 2018.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

VIKTOR CHOCHKOV JR.

Recipient of the special Jury Award at the Moscow International Festival for his lead role in Yo-ho-ho by Zako Heskiya at the age of 9, Viktor combined acting with his studies at the National School for Fine Arts for many years. He then went on to graduate Film Directing at the Bulgarian National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts (NATFA), and directed numerous music videos, short films, and TV commercials. In 2003, together with his brother Borislav, they founded the production company Chouchkov Brothers. Since then, the company has released more than 15 films as producers and coproducers, such as *Western* directed by Valeska Griesebach, *Son of Sofia* by Elina Psykou, *Why Me* by Tudor Giurgiu, etc.

Viktor's debut feature film *TILT* was selected at over 35 festivals around the globe, including Seattle IFF, Sofia Film Fest, Santa Barbara IFF, Palm Springs IFF, Cottbus IFF, Goteborg IFF, Jerusalem IFF, Glasgow IFF, Montreal WFF and Transylvania IFF. The film won 14 awards, including the Debut Award at the 2011 edition of Raindance IFF and California Independent Film Festival Directing Award. *TILT* took the first place in the Bulgarian box office for four consecutive weekends and was also the Bulgarian Oscar Entry in 2011. *18% Grey* is Viktor Chouchkov's second feature. Viktor is also an exhibited photographer.



ABOUT THE PRODUCER

BORISLAV CHOCHKOV

A graduate from the Music School in Sofia, he went on to study Acting at NATFA, followed by MEDIA Business School in Ronda, Spain, accomplishing a Masters degree in European Audio-Visual Management.

His first film music recording company, SIF309, was established in 1994. He co-founded The Chouchkov Brothers alongside his brother Viktor in 2003, and later Elemag Pictures in Leipzig, Germany, alongside Tanja Georgieva and Jan Kruger (*The Green Wave* – Sundance 2011, *JACK* –Berlinale Competition).

Borislav is a member of ACE (Ateliers du Cinema European) as well as the European Producers' Club.

FILMOGRAPHY AS PRODUCER: **18% Grey** directed by Viktor Chouchkov Jr. (Bulgaria, Germany, North Macedonia, Serbia, Belgium/, **A Picture with Yuki** directed by Lachezar Avramov /Bulgaria, Japan/, **Son of Sofia** directed by Elina Psykou /Greece, Bulgaria, France/, **TILT** directed by Viktor Chouchkov Jr. / Bulgaria, Germany/, Grand Prix for debut at Raindance, London

FILMOGRAPHY AS COPRODUCER: **PARI** directed by Siamak Etemadi /Greece, France, Netherlands, Bulgaria, Czech Republic/, World premiere at Berlinale Panorama 2020, **The Announcement** directed by Mahmut Coskun /Greece, Bulgaria/ Special Jury Award at the Venice Film Festival, **Brothers** directed by Omür Atay /Turkey, Bulgaria/, **Western** directed by Valeska Griesebach / Germany, Bulgaria, Austria/ World premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, **Dark Side of the Moon** directed by Steffen Rik, **Why Me?** directed by Tudor Giurgiu / Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary/ Premiered at the Berlin Film Festival.

18% GREY

Bulgaria, Germany, North Macedonia, Serbia, Belgium
Road Movie / Drama 110'

DIRECTOR: VIKTOR CHOCHKOV JR.
SCRIPT: HILARY NORRISH, DOLYA GAVANSKI, ZACHARY KARABASHLIEV
DOP: NENAD BOROEVICH
MUSIC: VICTOR CHOCHKOV
PRODUCERS: BORISLAV CHOCHKOV, GEORGI ABRASHEV, MARCEL LENZ,
GUIDO SCHWAB, DOLYA GAVANSKI, VIKTOR CHOCHKOV JR.
CO-PRODUCERS: VLADIMIR ANASTASOV, ANGELA NESTOROVSKA, VEERLE
ZEELMAEKERS, JULES DEBROCK, PETER BERNAERS,
NEVENA SAVIC, IVICA VIDANOVIC, MIROSLAV MOGOROVIC,
GERRY MAGUIRE

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