
ABRAXAS film & GRAAL films
present:
BLACK MONEY for WHITE NIGHTS
a film by
Petar Valchanov &
Kristina Grozeva



LOGLINE

A couple in their sixties secretly saves bribe money to fulfill their lifelong dream, but when a travel scam wipes out their savings, buried family conflicts and moral compromises rise to the surface.

A sharply observed tragicomedy about ordinary people trapped between corruption, family loyalty and the collapse of moral certainty.



SYNOPSIS

Marina (60), a maternity nurse, and her husband Gosha, a railway dispatcher, have spent years collecting small bribes to afford their dream trip to St. Petersburg and witness the White Nights.

When Russia invades Ukraine and the travel agency vanishes with their savings, their dream — and the illusion of control — collapses.

Gosha ends up in the hospital, beaten while trying to recover the money and long-buried betrayals surface, forcing the couple to confront the lies their life was built on and to search, among the ruins, for a trace of dignity and grace.





DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Black Money for White Nights was born out of a moment when words lost their meaning and moral gravity seemed to collapse — when cynicism passed for patriotism, and lies were called faith. In Bulgaria, a generation that once carried the promise of change became an echo of propaganda, renaming corruption "survival" and submission "tradition."

The film is not a protest, but an attempt to understand how this distortion feels from the inside. Marina and Gosha are not villains or heroes. They pray, love, and dream, yet live in a world where deceit has become a way of breathing. Caught between survival and complicity, their quiet downfall mirrors a broader moral erosion shaping private lives and entire societies.

Shot on real locations with luminous light and stylized compositions, the film blends comedy and drama in the classical sense of tragicomedy—where tenderness and decay, absurdity and fate, coexist in the same frame.







Kristina Grozeva and Petar Valchanov are Bulgarian writer-directors working together since film school. Their films The Lesson, Glory, The Father and Triumph have screened at major festivals such as Toronto, San Sebastián, Locarno, Karlovy Vary and many others. They focus on intimate stories told with realism, subtle humor and empathy.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

The Lesson, feature film, 2014

San Sebastián IFF – Kutxabank–New Directors Award

Tokyo IFF – Special Jury Prize

Finalist for the LUX Prize

Glory, feature film, 2016

Locarno IFF – International Competition (World Premiere)

Les Arcs IFF – Best Film

Nominated for the LUX Prize

The Father, feature film, 2019

Karlovy Vary IFF – Crystal Globe Award - Best Film

Toronto IFF – Contemporary World Cinema (Selection)

Trieste IFF – Best Film

Triumph, feature film, 2024

Toronto IFF - Platform (World Premiere)

BFI London Film Festival – Official Selection

SPECS

Duration: 94 min
Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1
Format: DCP
Countries: Bulgaria, Greece
Original language: Bulgarian
Year: 2026

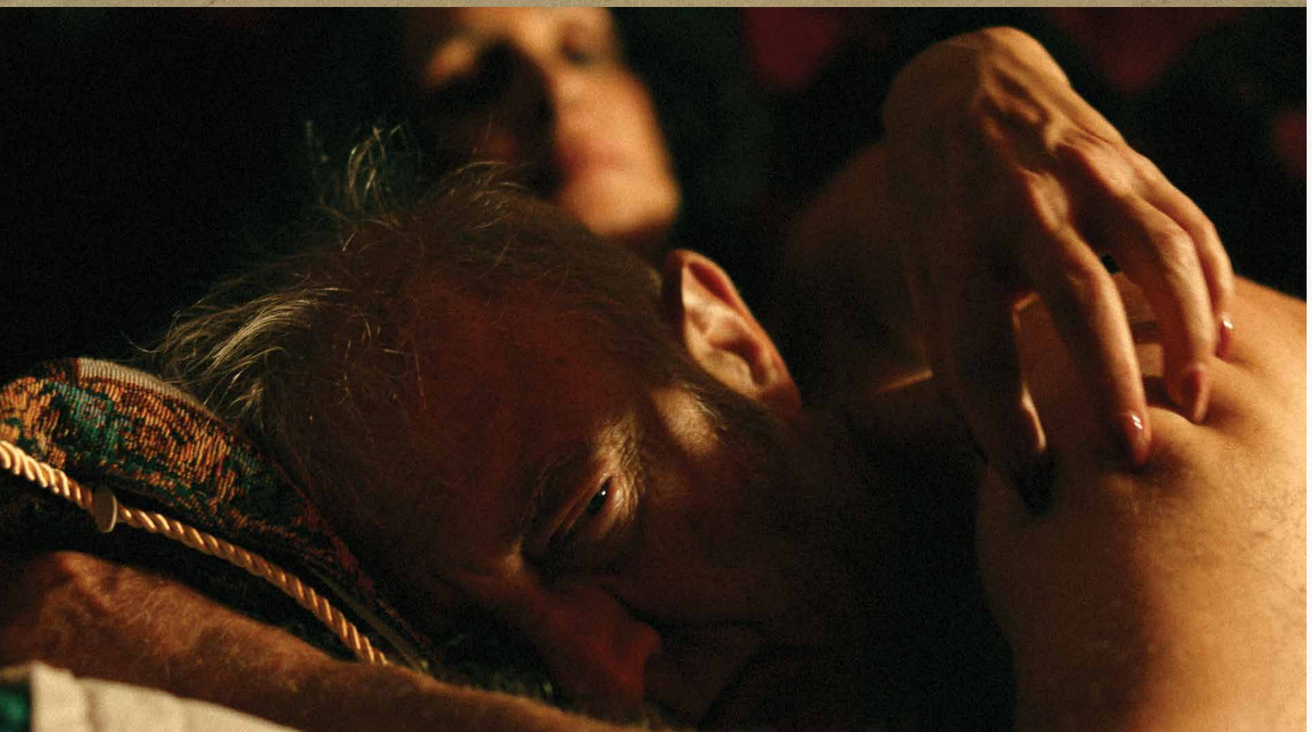
Genre: Tragicomedy
Sound: 5.1, stereo
Color: Color
Format: DCP
Subtitles: English subtitles available
World premiere: Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, Crystal Globe Competition
Production companies: Abraxas Film, Graal Films
International sales: Cercamon











World Sales:

CERCAMON

Dorian Magagnin:

dorian@cercamon.biz

Sebastien Chesneau:

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CREDITS

Directed by: KRISTINA GROZEVA & PETAR VALCHANOV

Written by: KRISTINA GROZEVA, PETAR VALCHANOV, DECHO TARALEZHKOV

Producers: KONSTANTINA STAVRIANOU, IRINI VOUGIOUKALOU,
KRISTINA GROZEVA, PETAR VALCHANOV

Director of Photography: ALEXANDER STANISHEV

Editig: YORGOS MAVROPSARIDIS A.C.E.

Production Design & Costumes: IVELINA MINEVA

Music by: THEODORIS OIKONOMOU

Sound Designer: IVAN ANDREEV, KOSTAS VARYMPOPIOTIS

Graphic Designer: EMANUELA BELOVARSKI

Principal cast: IVAN SAVOV, TANYA SHAHOVA,
MARGITA GOSHEVA, IVAN BARNEV, SIBILA PETROVA





Black Money for White Nights | # SCREENINGS

06.07.2026	17:00	Grand Hall	Official *(Introduction)*
06.07.2026	8:30	Congress Hall	Press & Industry
07.07.2026	10:00	Pupp	Official *(Introduction + Q&A)*
08.07.2026	16:00	Lazne III	Official
09.07.2026	13:00	Congress Hall	Official

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