


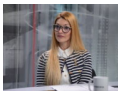

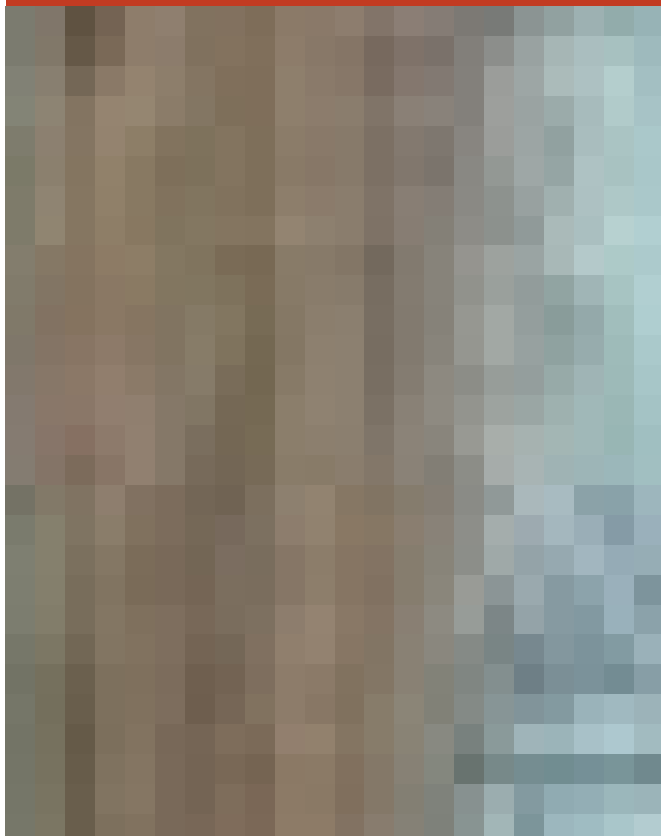


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30 years after the rain

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The former and current management of the Film Agency, guided by some interests known to them, followed by the ancient Macedonian tradition of self-destruction, the innate desire to "stumble" the one who is the best, and in combination with general incompetence and incompetence, chose a strange way. to repay Milco Manchevski for everything he did for Macedonia. By ignoring!

30 years have passed since the filming of the most famous Macedonian feature film of all time "Before the Rain", directed by the best Macedonian director of all time, Milco Manchevski. Mančevski's feature-length debut won the "Golden Lion", the highest award given at the prestigious Venice Film Festival, at its premiere. The very next year, 1995, "Before the Rain" became the first Macedonian film nominated for the "Oscar" award for the best film from a non-English speaking area, and the "New York Times" included it in the 1.000 best films of all time.

On the occasion of the anniversary, the golden premiere of the restored copy of the film was held on Monday in the great hall of the Macedonian



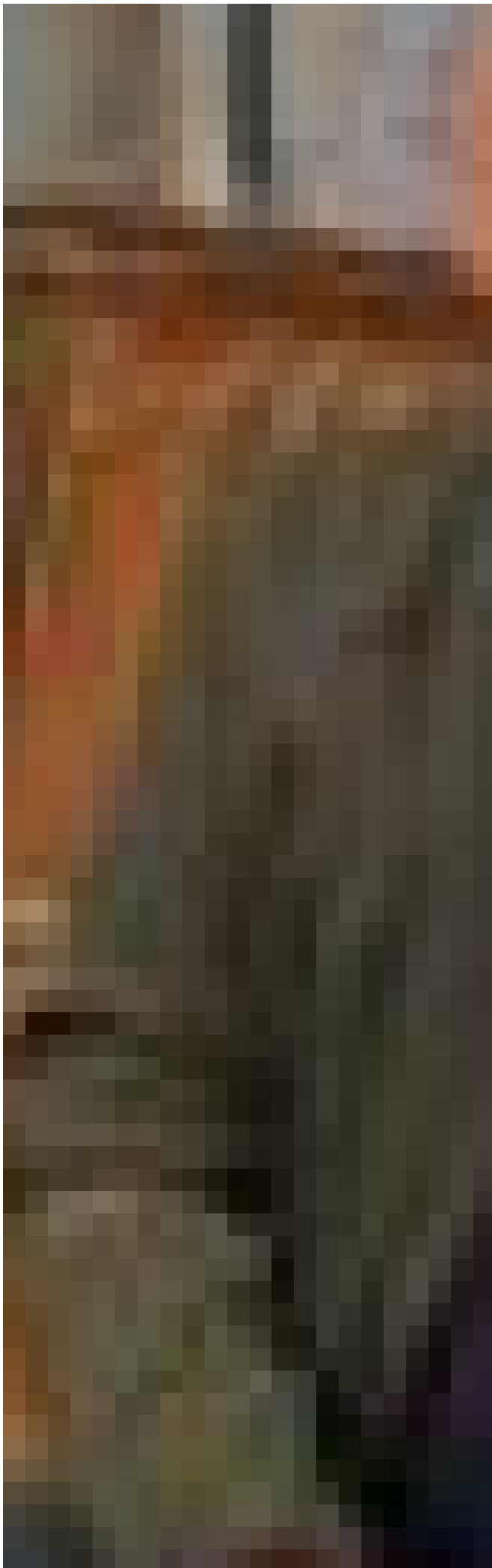
Philharmonic, in the presence of a large number of participants in its creation, including the director and screenwriter Mancevski, the production designer and Oscar winner David Manns, the director of photography Daniel Teran, actor Rade Sherbedzija and others.

Manchevski's magical story takes place in the past and in the present, in London and in Macedonia, between tradition and modernity, between love and death. The impressive cast (Rade Sherbedzija, Labina Mitevska, Catherine Cartlidge, Grégoire Collen, Meto Jovanovski, Milica Stojanova, Dzumerko, Dzemail Maksut, Katerina Kocevska, etc.) under the direction of Mancevski manages to discover another detail after each new viewing of the film. , another fragment/segment that we may not have been able to see when we saw the film before, or that we have seen the detail from a different light. The beautiful landscapes of Mariovo, abandoned villages and divine landscapes combined with the timeless music of "Anastasia" and the voice of Vanja Lazarova only add to the impression that "Before the Rain" is the best Macedonian film of all time.

From then until now, Milcho Mancevski has shot 6 more feature-length feature and feature-documentary films: "Dust" in 2001, "Shadows" in 2007, "Mothers" in 2010, "Bikini Moon" in 2017, "Vrba" in 2019 and "Kajmak" " in 2022, but none of them achieved fame and the success of Before the Rain. Whether Manczewski follows the "curse" of Orson Welles, who had his greatest success as a director with his first film, one of the best films of all time, "Citizen Kane", which he later failed to surpass, is still early to predict, because before Mančevski there are certainly many more films accomplishments that are still smoldering in his perfectionist-minded and extraordinarily talented creative potential. His new project under the working title "Bista" still cannot start its realization due to the inability of the first people in the Film Agency to perceive the greatness and potential of Mancevski.

The former and current management of the Film Agency, guided by some interests known to them, followed by the ancient Macedonian tradition of self-destruction, the innate desire to "stumble" the one who is the best, and in combination with general incompetence and incompetence, chose a strange way. to repay Milco Manchevski for everything he did for Macedonia. By ignoring!

Namely, in the year of the jubilee, they decided to stop all the projects they have with Mancevski, that is, to stop financing the already completed film "Kajmak", even though they have concluded an agreement in which they have undertaken obligations, but also to terminate the pre-contract that they had concluded



for the realization of the new project with the working title "Bista", which puts its realization into question. Using his reputation and portfolio, Mancevski managed to secure funds for his new project from producers and funds outside of Macedonia, but their participation in the film is conditional on the participation of the Macedonian state in its realization, which, unfortunately, with the cancellation of the competition for financing film projects, how to put a key to the realization not only of Mančevski's new film, but also of all other film projects from other producers and directors from Macedonia that participated and initially received the green light for the realization of their projects. In this way, the state, through the Film Agency, sends a very bad message to the filmmakers that it does not care about their work and talent, that their projects mean nothing and that they are irrelevant to the government. If it is known that Macedonian cinematography is one of the biggest promoters of Macedonia outside its borders (for example, last week, Labina Mitevska won the award for international co-production at Euroimage 2024), the question arises, whether with these strange and thoughtless decisions to the management of the Film Agency, is it actually working against the interests of Macedonia?

However, no one can confuse the success of "Before the Rain" which in the past 30 years managed to be broadcast in more than 50 countries, to collect more than 40 other international awards besides the mentioned "Golden Lion" and to be an example of how one affirms, promotes and loves one's country. Therefore, each of us should say one thing to Milcho Mančevski: "Thank you very much, Maestro"!

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(The author is a lawyer)

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