

Glory; the two faces of Bulgaria.

An engrossing image of a fractured Bulgaria, Glory centers on Tsanko Petrov (Stefan Denolyubov), a poor middle-aged man who has been a linesman for the national railway company for 25 years. He spends his days hitting the railway bolts with his wrench and twisting them when they don't sound right. But one day, Petrov finds piles of banknotes on the rails, and although he's poor and hasn't received his small salary for two months, he decides to hand all the money in to the police. The Transport Minister, whose ministry has recently been accused of corruption in the media, takes advantage of Petrov's good deed and turns him, for PR purposes, into a hero, organising a media event especially for the occasion.

Faithful to the spirit of *The Lesson*, Valchanov and Grozeva impress with a very interesting choice of actors in *Glory*: whilst in their debut feature, Denolyubov was the moneylender, a cruel representative of the system determined to crush hardworking teacher Nadezhda, played by Margita Gosheva, *Glory* sees an interesting switch of sides: Gosheva plays the oppressor, Julia Staikova, PR manager at the Ministry of Transport,

determined to protect the institution's image at any cost. When she takes Petrov's Slava watch, a family heirloom, so that the Minister can give him a new watch in front of the cameras, Staikova unknowingly sets in motion a series of events that show how different her world is from Petrov's.

Glory conveys the distance between the corrupt authorities and the hardworking employees of the state superbly. Petrov's wrench has fended off accidents for 25 years, while in a very different world, the Ministry only worries about accusations of corruption levelled at it by investigative journalist Kiril Kolev (actor-director Milko Lazarov). When Petrov insists that he knows why the national company is suffering huge financial losses, the Minister ignores the information: the two men come from two worlds that aren't meant to communicate. The protagonist's major speech impediment is obviously a way of emphasising that those without power shouldn't have a voice. Or at least according to the powerful...

Stefan Dobroiu, Cineuropa

WRITERS: Kristina Grozeva, Decho Taralezhkov & Petar Valchanov **CINEMATOGRAPHY**: Krum Rodriguez **MUSIC**: Hristo Namliev **CAST**: *Tzanko Petrov* Stefan Denolyubov | *Julia Staykova* Margita Gosheva | *Kiril Kolev* Milko Lavarov

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