

## ***The Lesson (Urok)***

Directed by Kristina Grozeva and Petar Valchanov

Bulgaria / Greece 2014, 105 min.

In Bulgarian with English subtitles



Toronto International Film Festival

Kutxa-New Directors Award, San Sebastian Film Festival

International Film Festival Rotterdam

Winner, Ingmar Bergman International Debut Section, Göteborg Film Festival

Special Jury Prize & Best Screenplay, Thessaloniki International Film Festival

Special Jury Prize, Tokyo International Film Festival

Special Award & Critics Guild Award, Golden Rose Bulgarian Film Festival

Best Actress (Margita Gosheva), Festival Premiers Plans, Angers

Nadezhda is a high school English teacher near Sofia who also works as a translator to earn extra cash. Stunned by a theft report by one of her students she is determined to find the culprit and punish him. As this episode unravels at work, her personal life changes drastically. A bailiff notifies her that the bank is about to seize her house and put it on auction because of unpaid mortgage payments. Determined to keep her house, she will do everything she can to get the money before it is too late. Her personal and professional life will converge as she wonders, while exhausting all possible options, whether to question the principles she teaches her students. 'Employing a cool, clean, and precise storytelling style, Grozeva and Valchanov maintain a seemingly dispassionate air in the face of their heroine's escalating desperation, a distance that only increases their story's emotional impact.' A gripping film, '*The Lesson* offers a tough, unsentimental education in the limits of honesty when confronted with brutal economic reality.' (Dimitri Epides, *Toronto Film Festival*)

**‘As gripping as a thriller and as squirm-inducing as a horror film... The real achievement of the movie, an especially impressive one coming from filmmakers of relatively little experience, is that as a viewer you may flinch, quail and end up practically hiding behind your hands, but those visceral reactions are in response to the emotional and psychological damage being inflicted onscreen.’**

Jessica Kiang, *The Playlist*

#### **CREDITS**

**Written and directed by** Kristina Grozeva  
and Petar Valchanov

**Cinematography** Krum Rodriguez

**Editor** Petar Valchanov

**Sound** Dobromir Hristoskov, Ivan Andreev,  
Veselin Zografov

**Production Design** Vanina Geleva

**Producer** Magdalena Ilieva (Abraxas Films  
Ltd.)

Produced by Abraxas Films, Graal Film, Little  
Wing

#### **CAST**

Margita Gosheva

Ivan Burnev

Ivanka Bratoeva

Ivan Savov

Deya Todorova

Stefan Denolyubov