

IN MEMORIAM

BALKAN CINEMA WITHOUT A LIGHT: BORIS NONEVSKI (1948–2021)

Political scientist and historian, Boris Nonevski, the former director of the Cinematheque of North Macedonia, died after a long sufferance at the age of 73. He was buried in his little hometown of Pretor, on the shores of Lake Prespa, whose waves symbolically wash the shores of three countries, Northern Macedonia, Greece, and Albania.



He founded the cinematheque, he even knew how to transform it from an institution of a small country into a hotspot of initiatives meant to gather energies from several countries in an attempt to untangle the threads and understand the beginnings of filmmaking in the Balkans, identifying what is common and what is national. He was among the initiators of the International Film Camera Festival “Manakia Brothers” in Bitola. But first of all, he had the audacity and vision to organize in Skopje the conferences “Refugees and Film” (1993) and “Cinematographies of Small Nations” (1996) while wars were waged in the Balkans and new borders were being drawn. When politicians and soldiers sowed death and hatred, he was one of the first to understand that academics could collaborate and overcome nationalist prejudices.

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He was one of the best friends I have ever had. He spoke to me for the first time about the pioneers of Balkan cinema, the Manakia brothers and their connections with Romania, urging me to study and helping me to publish for the first time abroad. Thanks to him, I learned the Macedonian language and began to love Macedonia. I think he made a decisive contribution in choosing my future. Probably because of him, I became a researcher and a specialist in Balkan cinema.

MARIAN ȚUȚUI