

## Letter of Interest

### Pavlina Jeleva

As a long-time international journalist, a reporter from the most important film festivals in the world, the Bulgarian correspondent for Film New Europe <http://www.filmneweurope.com/> but also the producer of a number of Bulgarian films and European co-productions, supported by Eurimages, I declare my serious interest to join the team of evaluators of new Albanian film projects by the Albanian National Center of Cinematography.

My desire is motivated by my professional interest in Balkan cinema, which is a priority for me, both at major film festivals (Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Karlovy Vary) and regional festivals (Sarajevo, Sofia, Istanbul). My impressions of the Albanian films I have seen are positive, as in most of them I have found serious themes, infectious stories, and sincere attitude to the characters, inextricably linked to the historical past and social present of the Albanian nation.

Starting with *Kolonel Bunker* by Kujtim Çashku (1998), passing through *Amnesty* by Bujar Alimani (2011), *Daybreak* by Gentian Koçi 2017 and lately by *The Delegation* by Bujar Alimani (2019) I have always kept a wish to meet Albanian movies whenever and wherever possible.

An interesting coincidence is that the call of the Albanian National Center of Cinematography is happening at the moment I received an official invitation from Mrs. Vjosa Berisha to be a member of the official international jury of the 13th edition of the Prishtina International Film Festival to be held from August 24-29, 2021, where most screen time will be given to Albanian films.

I believe that such events are not only coincidences, but do result from the accumulations and the efforts of individuals and that, at some point, capacities and needs could meet.

Below, I am offering my personal view of my strong points, which will enable me to contribute to a fair assessment of the qualities of the newest Albanian projects.

Here they are:

- as Bulgaria's representative on the Eurimages Board I have read and analyzed a number of European projects;
- I have the experience of an over ten years expert at the Mannheim Meeting Place industry event, the Varma Meeting Place in 2019, and most recently at the Pula Meeting Place industry event <https://pulafilmfestival.hr/elementor-17274/?lang=en>
- I also have the experience of a member of numerous international juries in countries like France, Turkey, Egypt, and, of course, Bulgaria.

In short, I combine the awareness of a film critic and the practice of a producer, mainly in an international context.

I sincerely hope that my professional expertise will be of benefit to the needs of the Albanian National Center of Cinematography

Sincerely yours,

Pavlina Jeleva

P.S. I am kindly asking you to note that some of the films I completed do not yet have links yet. Such will be available in the fall of 2021.

Thanks in advance for your understanding!