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ON THE ISSUE OF THE REPRESSION OF BULGARIAN FEATURE FILMS (1956–1989)

(Summary)

Governors in Bulgaria exerted enormous pressure on the Bulgarian filmmakers to impose as mandatory the political canons of the regime in the art. Firstly, they did this by not admitting audience to films, as was the case with *Zhivotat si teche tiho* (Partizani) (Life goes on quietly (Partisans) (1957); *Stramnata pateka* (The Steep Path) and *Smart nyama* (There Is No Death) (both filmed in the beginning of 1960s); *Ponedelnik sutrin* (Monday Morning) (1965); *Prokurorat* (The Public Prosecutor) (1966); *Edin Snimachen Den* (A Filming Day) (1968); *Podvodnicharite* (The Submariners) (1970); the TV series *Seltseto* (The Little Village) (1982). Short time after their release some films were banned: *Kamionat* (The Truck); *Masovo chudo* (Mass Wonder) and *Dom za nezhni dushi* (Home for gentle souls) (the three of them filmed in 1980); *Smartta na zaeka* (The Rabbit's Death) (1982); *Az, grafinyata* (I, the countess); *Ti, koyto si na nebeto* (Thou who art in heaven) and *Margarit and Margarita* (the three filmed in 1988). After devastating articles in the semi-official newspaper *Rabotnichesko Delo* the films *Vula* (1965) and *Edna Zhena na 33* (A woman of 33) (1981) were suspended. Cutting off significant portions of a finished film was common practice, as was the case with for example the film *Ravnovesie* (Equilibrium) (1983). Dozens and dozens of screenplays were not admitted to production and others were suspended when their filming had already begun.