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Izpiti Po Nikoe Vreme

("Exams at Any Old Time")

Bulgaria : 1974 : dir. Ivanka Grubcheva

: ? min

prod: : scr: Mormarev brothers : dir.ph.: Yatsek Todorov

[Dimitar Ganev](#)

Georgi Roussev; Annie Bakalova; Voytek Todorov; Nikolai Techarov; Ognyan Zhelyazkov

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ ∅ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3735d	2½	4	3	680	- - - - -	No	unseen



Dimitar Ganev needs last-minute coaching for his public performance by the boy who has stood in for him at his music lessons. Oops!
Source: International Film Guide 1976

18th London Film Festival (1974) programme review:

"Winner of the Grand Prize at the Gijon Children's Film Festival in Spain, **"EXAMS AT ANY OLD TIME"** is the latest film from the scriptwriting Mormarev Brothers whose earlier **"HEDGEHOGS ARE BORN WITHOUT BRISTLES"** was shown at the NFT Children's Film Festival two years ago. **"EXAMS"** consists of two stories: the first, titled "Temptation", concerns a group of young children who find a wallet with money.

Unable, and a little unwilling as well, to find the owner, they gradually "borrow" sums from it for sweets and treats. Eventually they discover that the owner is a rather horrid lady who has continually caused them distress. Courageously, tears notwithstanding, they return the somewhat depleted wallet to her and accept their verbal whipping.

The second story, the better of the two, is called "Violin Concerto" and is based on the delightful premise of a boy without musical ability having his violin lessons taken by a more talented friend. Unfortunately his proud parents are so pleased with his apparent

progress that he is forced into giving a public demonstration at his school. His friend offers to stand backstage and play while he mimes but complications ensue disastrously. Both stories have charm and humour and are especially suitable for younger children."

- Ken Wlaschin

International Film Guide 1975 comment:

"The mistakes of grown-ups are reflected in the pure spiritual life of children [sic]: **"EXAMINATIONS AT AN INAPPROPRIATE TIME"** directed by Ivanka Grubcheva."

International Film Guide 1976 incidental notes:

"Bulgarian films have been particularly successful with prizes abroad... Ivanka Grubcheva's **"EXAMS AT ANY OLD TIME"** brought four prizes back from Gijon (Spain)..."

"The Marmorev brothers (**"EXAMS AT ANY OLD TIME"**, **"WITH CHILDREN AT THE SEASIDE"** and **"HEDGEHOGS ARE BORN WITHOUT BRISTLES"**) are turning to comedy this year: their script, **"TWO DIOPTRIS OF FAR-SIGHTEDNESS"**, is being directed by Peter Vasilev..."

[no listing in "Speelfilm Encyclopedie"]

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Ganev:

"This whimsical mouse, a lawyer's son, rapidly became a Bulgarian favourite in his early films. Two of them - **"CHILDREN PLAYING"** and **"EXAMS"** - were directed by Ivanka Grubcheva: delightful episodic affairs in which Dimiter's droll expressions and attitudes were prominent. In **"HOUSES WITHOUT FENCES"** he is an orphan cared for, with varying success, by a succession of friends and neighbours before being entrusted to a children's home. His innocent frankness [sic] at once disconcerts and disarms. He also had a lead in **"The Hedgehogs' War"**, a TV serial of the mid-1970s which was released several years later in condensed cinema form."



Temptation...

Source: 18th London Film Festival programme



A “whimsical mouse” – official!

Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

No further information currently available. And why is it films like this are **never** acquired for broadcast on British children’s television, afloat as it is with mass-produced US product of dubious merit? Are these films ever **seen** by British or American children? Perhaps their lives are not so “pure “ and “spiritual” as their Bulgarian counterparts.

The mouse Ganev was 7. Holmstrom doesn’t identify any of the other boys featured. The archive files entries by their native titles, so for “Children Playing Outdoors” (73) see “**DECA IGRAYET VEN**”; for “Houses Without Fences” (73) see “**KASHTI BEZ OGRADI**”, and for the TV serial “The Hedgehogs’ War” see “**Usadeni Dushi**”.

For other examples of Bulgarian cinema, see “**A HOT NOON**” (58) and “**KRAYAT NA EDNA VAKANTSIYA**” (64), and see subject index under **EASTERN EUROPE / SOVIET BLOC, MUSIC / YOUNG MUSICIANS, PORTMANTEAU FILMS** and **SCHOOL**.