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Paris

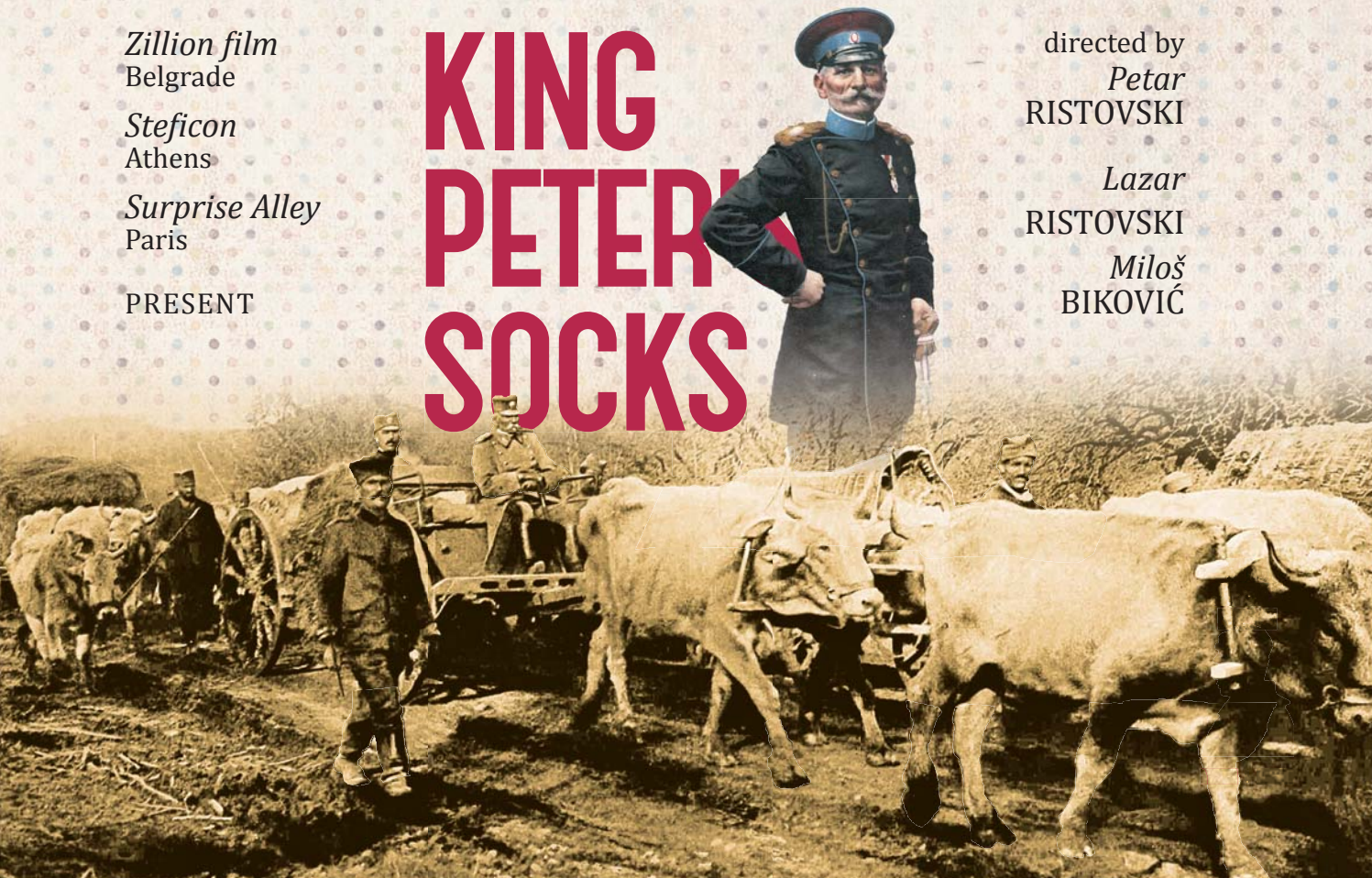
PRESENT

# KING PETER SOCKS

directed by  
*Petar*  
RISTOVSKI

*Lazar*  
RISTOVSKI

*Miloš*  
BIKOVIĆ







## AN IDEA HALF A CENTURY IN DEVELOPMENT **KING PETER'S SOCKS**

In the seventh decade of the last century, far away from Serbia and the Balkan peninsula, there occurred a meeting where, for the first time, an idea about a film about King Peter was mentioned.

"You are Serbian?" – was the question that the legendary bard of world cinema, John Ford asked the then young film critic and journalist who would later become the future American director and Oscar-winner, Peter Bogdanovich. „The Serbs have this one photo, which is a finished film in itself. It is a photograph of the old King Peter in the First World War, 1915, pulled by an ox cart, retreating through Kosovo with his army. If that frame could unfreeze and launch, we would have a real film before us about the great drama of the Serbian people and their king", was the conclusion of one of the world's greatest film directors..

The year 2018 marks the centenary of the Allied victory in the Great War, the photo of the King retreating towards Corfu will come alive and merge into a motion picture called "King Peter's Socks". Having waited long enough, the story about the victory of one small Balkan nation over a grand European force will unfreeze out of this photograph – and be told.



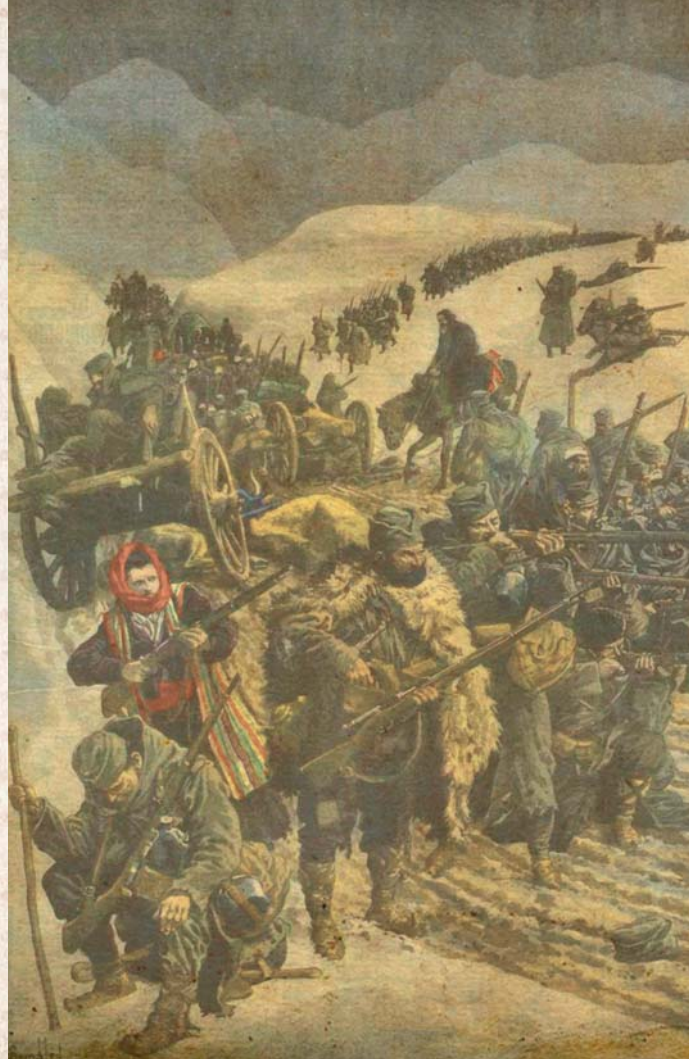
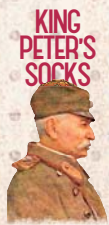


## FIRST CENTURY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR ONE FILM AGAINST OBLIVION

A century has passed since the First War has ended. The most important countries of that time, having their interests opposed, have decided to achieve their aims by military means. The conflict escalated with the quickness of a wildfire, and split the whole world on two warring sides: Central powers and the Allies. Seventy million of mobilized soldiers rushed into a bloodshed of a scale not experienced before, and unfortunately not for the last time. The First World War.

During the four years of the First World War 15 million people were killed, 20 million wounded, Europe was left in ruins with its economies destroyed. In four years the world had sunk into misfortune, poverty and death.

Every great epoch becomes fortunate or tragic because of Man. Sometimes, heroism is exposed by the circumstances surrounding a regular everyman. "King Peter Sock's" preserves from oblivion a historical truth about the people who, by their origin, place of birth, and their personal decisions, embraced the role of cross bearers that their fates imposed on them.





WARRIOR, LIBERAL, KING

## THE FIRST FILM ABOUT PETER THE FIRST

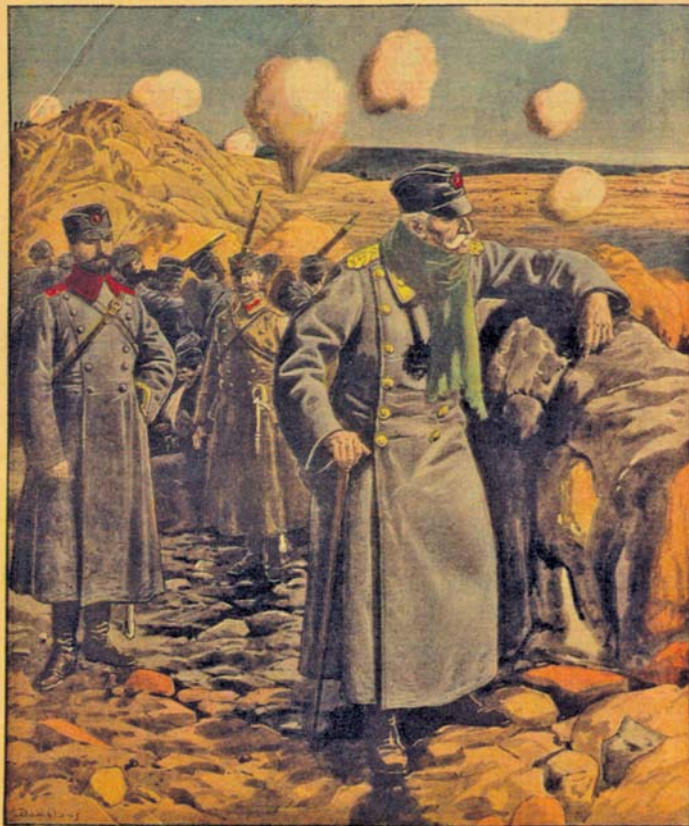


At the centre of this film story is a man, not an icon.

King Peter Karadjordjevic, a French student, experienced soldier and warrior, gained military experience in French Foreign Legion during the

Franco-Prussian war. This spirit of a warrior was instilled inside the personality of his grandfather, one of Serbia's greatest warriors, Serbian vožd Karadjordje. After 45 years spent in exile, he returns to Serbia. From then on, he's on a mission to create a forward thinking parliamentary monarchy out of Serbia. The constant wars he is forced to lead his people through are interfering with this mission. Everything he does, he does for freedom. The number of casualties in the Balkan wars is making him question his fundamental wish for freedom. Is the price that the Serbia is paying for its freedom too high and worth paying, is the main question of his character.

At the moment when the story of the film opens, King Peter is a strict seventy year old, locked inside himself, shy on words, but when he speaks it carries a profound meaning. He is burdened by all the past war casualties,



Le roi Pierre de Serbie dans la tranchée



and because of that he, essentially, lost the will to live. Still, he answers what is possibly the last call of his people and joins the army at the frontline at the hardest moment. For this he is nicknamed the Serbian Mother. He was always there, by his people and for his people. When the definitive retreat of the complete population is certain, the King completely loses the meaning for his existence... but quickly finds it back in a pair of woolen socks that the mother of one of the soldiers gives him, vowing the King to find her son and give the

socks to him so he wouldn't freeze in the frosty cliffs of Albania. The King feels this promise is a straw of salvation that he can grab on for himself, a chance to regain his purpose. If he finds this soldier and saves him, he would make peace with himself, and lift the burden of all the people he lost in the wars. But... will he find him? We will find out. In the first film about Peter the First. The ruler who earned a right to have a film about him a long time ago.

*Petar Ristovski, Director*







## THE MAIN CAST OF THE STORY ABOUT THE GREAT WAR

**King Peter**, a man in the whirlwind of history, who at the same time will alter history by his decisions.

**Marinko**, a young talented country man, with a strong emotional attachment to his mother, especially after losing his father in the Balkan wars.

**Makrena**, a women who feels things other people don't see. Lives for her son. Despises the enemy.

**Momchilo**, an eight year old, filled of sorrow and anger.

**Zivota**, a war veteran, devoted cynic who thinks the Serbs are bad, and himself the worst amongs them.

**Crownprince Aleksandar**, the rational son, a diplomat and a politician. A King made for peace, not war.

**Djordje Karadjordjevic**, a warrior and a hero, who feels unloved by his father.

**Nikola Pasic**, a wartime prime minister, a diplomat of supreme intelligence and a sense of humor, a cunning manipulator and a politician in the worst sense of the word.

**Stepa Stepanovic**, composed and experienced military commander. King Peter's friend.

**Zivojin Misic**, a genius military strategist and an old general, twice sent into and twice withdrawn out of pension. He is still prepared to wage war.

**Dragutin Dimitrijevic Apis**, head of the intelligence service, with a cold composure of a psychopat.

**Milunka Savic**, a female hero.

*Milos Bikovic as Crownprince Aleksandar*





**Henri Barbusse**, a journalist and professional witness of history in the making..

**Eleftherios Venizelos**, the Greek prime minister who, despite the objection of the Greek King, sends ammunition to the Serbian army before their big battle with Austro-Hungary.



**Nikolai the Second**, the Russian Tsar, unconditionally on the side of the Serbian people, he joins with the Allies urging immediate help for the Serbian army.

**Dukes and Generals**, Radomir Putnik, Petar Bojovic, Pavle Jurisic Strum, Milos Bozanovic.

**Serbian, Austro-Hungarian, German, Bulgarian army, Albanese troops and the population of Serbia**

## LAZAR RISTOVSKI ABOUT THE ROLE OF KING PETER

I generally feel much more than I could or should say about the role of the King. You don't just play these kinds of roles. You need to immerse yourself into life, thoughts, wisdom, decisiveness, dilemma and courage of a man who marked an important epoch of Serbia's history. How hard it was for a prince, Karadjordje's grandson, an exiled man, warrior, King, The Father of a nation, the most beloved ruler of all to, at the twilight years of his life, face the last of all the sacrifices life has in store for him? In the days of the retreat, a Golgotha of a kind, he didn't view the decision to share the fate of his people as a punishment, but as an honor, so he could bring some hope to his comrades... By all means, this role is the crown achievement of my career.





## THE SOCKS OF PETER THE FIRST: A GRAND FILM ALLIANCE

Cultural institutions, film artisans and public figures of Greece, Russia, France and Serbia are indirectly involved into realization of “King Peter’s Socks”. The European public will, from the film itself but also during the accompanying events, learn anew about unwavering support of the Russian Tsar Nikolai the Second towards Serbia, about love and brotherly hospitality of Greeks on Corfu, the military honor and the respect of the French general Franchet d’Espèrey who, with full military honors, welcomed barefoot Serbian soldiers... In the year of centenary of the Great War’s ending and in cinema’s own special way, “King Peter’s Socks” will bring to mind the fact that during the years of the First War the seed of European unity was planted, with the sacrifice and tribulation of Serbian people at its core.

The important part of this film is the “Corfu epopee”. At the place of the greatest suffering, next to the isle of death Vido and the Blue Tomb, the people of Corfu have offered to the decimated Serbian forces much more than hospitality: understanding, comfort and brotherly love. Healed wounds, grief for the deceased and care for the families in Serbia have made immortal in the songs “Far away”,



“The French boat is sailing”... The island of death had turned into the island of resurrection. Greece which was already the cradle of European thought and culture became a cradle of Serbian victory. From Corfu, wounded and then recovered, Serbia starts the road toward Thessaloniki, Kajmakalan, from battle to battle towards homeland – to freedom and final victory!







## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### WHEN THE FILM WILL BE MADE?

- film will be made from March to July 2018.

### WHERE WILL THE FILM BE SHOT?

- the film will be shot in Serbia, Greece, Russia...
- the scenes of Albania will be shot on Stara Planina and Kopaonik mountain, Serbia

### HOW MANY ACTORS WILL BE CAST IN THE FILM?

- over 100 actors from Serbia, Greece, France and Russia will be cast in the film...

### WHAT IS THE AMBITION OF THE PRODUCERS?

- the ambition of the producers is to make the battle scenes the best ever in Serbian cinematography

### WHEN IS THE FILM PREMIERE PLANNED?

- the premiere is planned for 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 100 years to the day the armistice was signed







KING  
PETER'S  
SOCKS







## FROM THE PRODUCERS, AT THE START OF THE PRODUCTION



**Lazar Ristovski**, producer, Zillion film, Belgrade

A whole century after the great suffering and even greater victory, we have the opportunity to tell a Great story about the Great war. The obligation of our generation is to preserve from oblivion the times and heroism of our ancestors and pass it on to the youth. A feature film has that power to communicate the spirit of the times and important events, to bring it right out from the museum archives into the lives of a great number of people. I am certain that this film will raise the sense of national pride and take it to a higher level in the youth who, in the times of overall globalization, lost the sense of national affiliation and pride. Like 100 years ago, when alliance and solidarity paved the way of European unity, a film alliance was necessary. With Greek, French and Russian friends and co-producers, we are on the path to create a film that will be worthy to mark the great historical anniversary.



**Dr. Mihalīs Sarantinos**, co-producer, Steficon, Athens

I look forward to a new opportunity to collaborate with my Serbian colleagues, especially because it is the about an important film project dedicated to a big anniversary of all Europeans. For us Greeks, this is an opportunity to better acquaint ourselves with a lovely example of closeness and warmth that the population of Corfu have shown when the decimated Serbian army arrived in 1916. This kind of example aren't many in history.



**Alice Ormieres**, co-producer, Surprise Alley, Paris

This kind of story deserves to unite film professionals from many countries. Even if the French military commanders haven't done so much for Serbian army in those faithful moments a century ago, the story about King Peter is a film structure that points to a dramatic and interesting film. King Peter was a French student, a part of his youth was spent in French schools, and later as a Monarch he wanted to instill change in his homeland. The involvement of one French production company in this project sends a message that King Peter has France forever by his side.



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