

Some Bulgarians (Nedko Solakov) - Biographies

Georgi Gospodinov (b. 1968) is a poet, writer and playwright based in Sofia, Bulgaria. He is one of the most-translated Bulgarian authors since 1989. Gospodinov became internationally known for his *Natural Novel* (1999), published in 21 languages, including English, German, French, Italian, and others. His next novel, *The Physics of Sorrow* (2012), won the international Jan Michalski Prize 2016, three national awards for best fiction and was a finalist for Premio Strega Europeo, the American PEN Translation Prize, Brücke Berlin Literaturpreis and others. The novel was praised by the *New Yorker*, *FAZ*, *Die Zeit*, *NZZ*, *Liberation...* *Blind Vaysha*, a short animation based on one of his short stories (dir. Theodore Ushev), was an Academy Awards Nominee in 2017.

Ivo Dimchev (b. 1976) is a choreographer, musician and visual artist from Bulgaria. Dimchev has created more than 30 performances and has received numerous international awards for dance and theater, and has presented his work all over Europe, as well as South and North America. Lately he has been touring the world, performing the songs from his album *Sculptures* (2017).

Ruth Koleva (b. 1990) is a soul/jazz/alternative singer-songwriter from Bulgaria. From an early age, she has performed in the Bulgarian electronic underground scene and has since released five solo albums, which have earned her several awards in Bulgaria and abroad, including Grazia Woman of the Year and Best Jazz Vocalist in Japan. She has been praised by the media and by producer Mark Ronson for her work. Her latest album, *Confidence. Truth* (2017), first premiered in Japan just months ago, and is set for a world tour in 2018.

Theodore Ushev (b. 1968) is a Bulgarian animator, graphic designer, illustrator and multimedia artist based in Montreal, Canada. His digital animation films have been selected by many festivals, including Annecy, Ottawa, Sundance, Toronto, Montreal, Valladolid, Rio de Janeiro, Dresden, Tampere and Leipzig. His Oscar-nominated film *Blind Vaysha* (2016) premiered at the 2016 Berlinale and went on to receive multiple awards.

Javor Gardev (b. 1972) is a Bulgarian stage and film director. He has staged over forty performances in his home country and abroad, including in Sofia, Varna, Berlin, Paris, Lille, Bern, Gdansk, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Lisbon, Rotterdam, Utrecht, and elsewhere. His feature film debut *Zift* (2008) won nineteen domestic and international awards and special mentions.

Iara Boubnova (b. 1961) is a curator of contemporary art, born and educated in Moscow, who has been in Sofia since 1984. She is Founding Director of the ICA-Sofia and Deputy Director of the National Gallery. She has curated more than 50 international and local individual and group shows, biennials, festivals and public art projects in St. Peterburg, Berlin, Sao Paulo, Tirana, Frankfurt, Cetinje, Moscow, Ljubljana, Istanbul, London, Thessaloniki, Yekaterinburg and Sofia, including the Bulgarian National Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia 1999, Manifesta 4 (2002) and the Moscow Biennial (2005, 2007). She has been awarded the Golden Pen for Critical Writing in Bulgaria, and the Innovation Russian State Award for contemporary art.