

Poland: 'The Star and the extras'

The Polish sequence was shot in Katowice, in a steel-mill built in the 19th Century by a Scottish Lord – John Baidon. The mill is still there, and so is the 'proletariat.' The extras from Utopia – generations of workers, now unemployed, are also still there. I plan to shoot an engagement party in a worker's family, as in the happy ending of THE FIRST YEARS. What would the hopes and plans of the young people be? There was an amateur film club at the steel mill, and their films make a visual document of the time. This was the first time I saw real working class people – like the ones Karl Marx wrote about, and the people of Borinage filmed by Ivens. I even thought to myself, 'something has to be done for these people!' That's how Utopias are being born - by mere compassion and pity.

US 4 REVISITED, *Documentary film. Written and directed by Valentin Valchev. Directors of Photography: Georgi Bogdanov and Boris Missirkov. Produced by Martichka Bozhilova, AGITPROP, Bulgaria*



Valentin Valchev, 1960



A family of Radilovo peasants, children to father Todor and mother Slavka



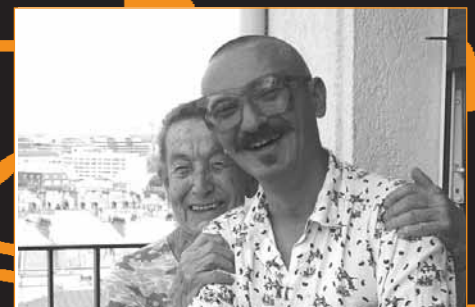
Marion Michelle in her garden © Agitprop



Marion Michelle and Jean Gyard © Agitprop



Marion Michelle and Valentin Valchev © Agitprop



Catherine Duncan and Valentin Valchev © Agitprop



Valentin Valchev and Marion Michelle watching THE FIRST YEARS © Agitprop



Valentin Valchev (1962), studied Bulgarian and English philology at the Veliko Turnovo University and Film and TV directing at the National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts, Sofia. During his study he made REEL MIX, a short feature, and afterwards documentaries for television like REELS OF THE PAST and EYE WITNESSES (on the history of Bulgarian documentary film). US 4 REVISITED produced by AGITPROP was in 2004 selected for the ExOriente Workshop, the IDF Forum (Prague) and the IDFA Forum (Amsterdam).