



The 1960s are one of the most important decades in the world cinematography. Completely new authors have appeared in cinema, and new characters have presented themselves in films. Italian, French, British, Czech, Swedish or American cinema offers completely different and authentic directors and films in this decade. In 1960 several films were released: "Psycho" by British director Alfred Hitchcock, who lived in the USA, "The Adventure" by Italian director Michelangelo Antonioni, "The Sweet Life" by his compatriots Federico Fellini and "Acatone" by Pier Paolo Pasolini. One of the representatives of the French "New Wave" - Jean-Luc Godard - makes the film "Breathless", and Tony Richardson, a member of the British group "Angry Young Men" - takes the film - "The Entertainer".

These authors and their films significantly determined the fate of the world cinema in the 1960s. With the style, visuals, themes, or characters, they have shattered the frameworks and stereotypes that characterized the cinema of the 1950s. In films, a new hero is born, an individual who openly protests, reveals the emotional process of self-discovery, and openly confronts old traditions, stereotypes or system vices. The new characters in the European and American films were radically different from the characters created in the past decades of cinema. For example, if, in the classic Hollywood of the 50s, the strength of a man was expressed in his emotional restraint, the western cinema of the 60s focuses on sensitive and emotional characters.

The 1960s are the golden age of Georgian cinema. The term "director from the 60s" refers to directors working in the Georgian cinema in the second half of the last century. This was the time when the directors of completely different style came to the cinema: Otar Ioseliani, Giorgi Shengelaia, Eldar Shengelaia, Mikheil Kobakhidze, Rezo Esadze, Sasha Rekhviashvili, Merab Kokochashvili, Lana Ghoghoberidze... This is the generation of directors who received their professional education at the Directing Faculty of All-Union State Institute of Cinematography in Moscow, (VGIK) and created the Georgian cinema of the 1960s.

The films created by them were diverse and thematically interesting, so for example Merab Kokochashvili made the film "Big Green Valley", in which the director raised an important issue of personal choice. Mikheil Kobakhidze offered a covert critique of the Soviet system in his silent short films: "Wedding" (1964), "Umbrella" (1967) and "Musicians" (1969).

Giorgi Shengelaia is a true representative of the 60's generation, his parents were Georgian film star - Nato Vachnadze and Georgian director - Nikoloz Shengelaia. Also, a member of this cinematic family is the director's older brother - Eldar Shengelaia.

The main character in Giorgi Shengelaia's debut film "Alaverdoba", starring Geidar Palavandishvili, has become kind of a symbol of the Georgian film hero of the 1960s. In the film based on the story of Guram Rcheulishvili, a young man confronts the outdated, reverted traditions with no function at all, the religious holiday has lost its original meaning and has turned into the

carouse - during the celebration of Alaverdi, the main character kidnaps a horse and runs into a crowd. In this form of protest, he tries to awaken the people, but it appears to be ineffective.

In the late 60's, in 1969, Giorgi Shengelaia created one of the outstanding films of his works "Pirosmani". The role of a Georgian painter Niko Pirosmani is played by Avto Varazi, also a famous painter from the 1960s. It should be noted, that his works and his persona in general were radically different from the paintings of the Soviet period. Pirosmani, who was expelled from twentieth-century saloon-style artists, seems to be re-born as Avto Varazi, who had escaped Soviet censorship.

It can be said, that the director, Giorgi Shengelaia, transfers the story of a Georgian painter, working in the late 19th and in early 20th centuries, to 60s Georgia. So, with this format, he represents the eternal confrontation between the individual and society in his film. The story of "Pirosmani" thoroughly repeats the real facts of Niko Pirosmanashvili's life and work, which organically blends with the stories or legends invented by the people.

Young, self-taught artist Niko Pirosmanashvili - "Pirosmani" arrives in Tbilisi from the village of Mirzaani, Kakheti. At first, he works as a train attendant, then opens a shop (barrelhouse). After a failed trade, he starts painting the shops and falls in one-sided love with the Cafe-Chantan dancer-Margarita. Desperate love is compounded by failure in the professional field, Pirosmani's contemporary artists do not recognise his work and publish a caricature of Nikala in the newspaper. Pirosmani, rejected by everyone, dies in loneliness. If we use biographical information, Niko Pirosmanashvili (Pirosmani) was born on April 5, 1862 in the village of Mirzaani, and died in 1918 in Tbilisi. The information about him combines reality and legend. His paintings revive the life of Tbilisi at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. His work is the identity of Georgian fine arts.

The visual side of the film and its stylistic construction deserves a special mention. The author creates the composition of the shot entirely with the inspiration of Pirosmani's paintings. It brings Pirosmani's world to life through innovative artistic means. In this process reconstruction of the epoch and the clothes of the characters play a crucial role. The visual side of the film was significantly defined by Sasha Rekhviashvili, the Georgian director was also the cameraman of this film. Pirosmani was a huge success at the international film festivals: it won the British Film Institute Award in 1973, the Golden Hugo Grand Prix at the Chicago International Film Festival in 1974, and the Asolo International Film Festival Prize in 1974.

Shengelaia's film world is diverse and eclectic, both thematically and genre-wise. He enriched Georgian cinema with popular genres based on national material, such as: "Matsi Khvitia" created in the Western style, Musical movie "Veris Ubnis Melodiebi" ("Melodies of Vera District"), Adventure Movie "Khareba and Gogia". In 1984, the director created one of the most important works of his career - "The Journey of a Young Composer", which won the "Silver Bear" at the Berlin International Film Festival.