

EFM 2020

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FICTION





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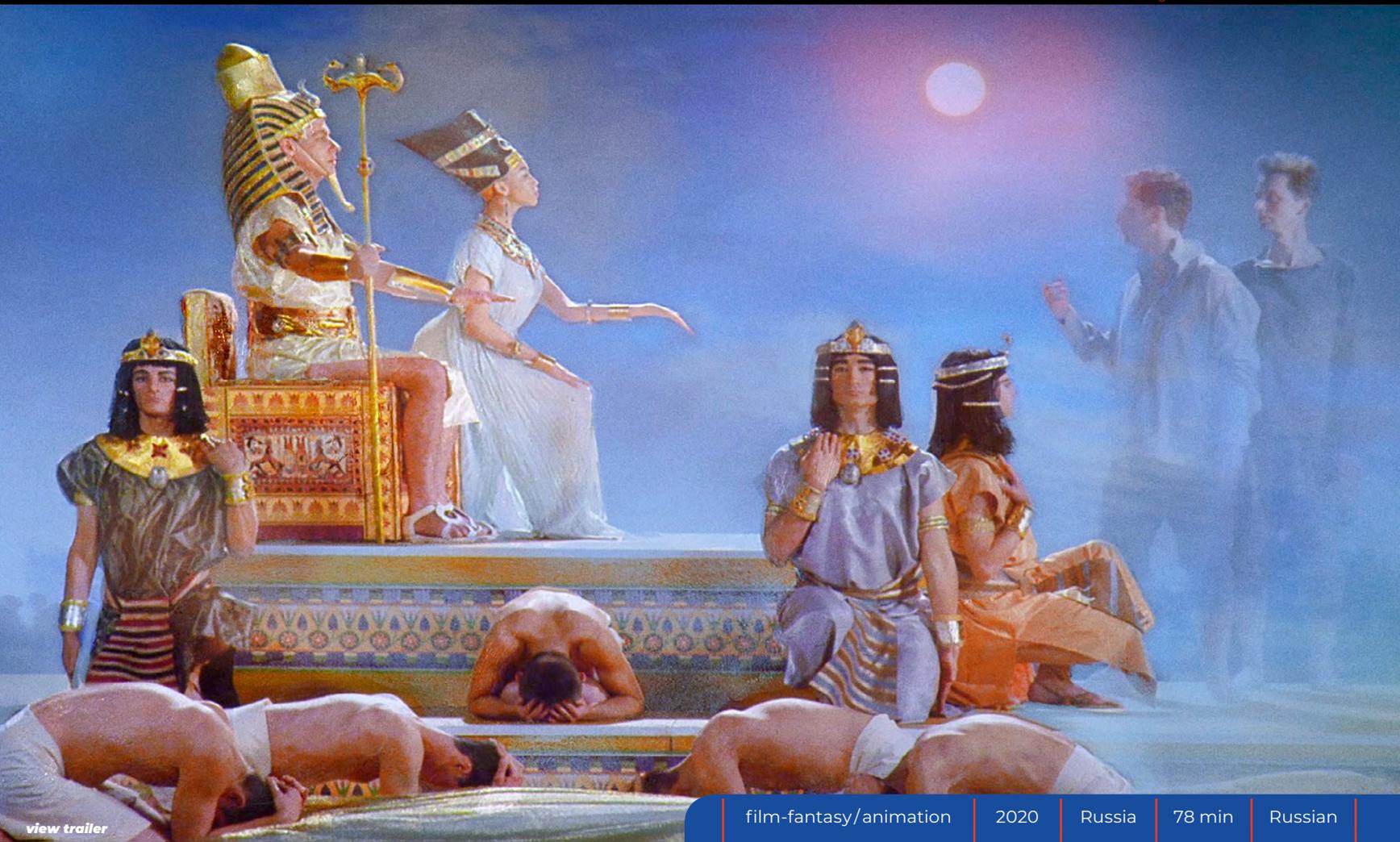
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**ANTIDOTE Sales** is a universal sales agent based in Russia, built on European professional principles and focused on curatorial work with the international art cinema and its commercial distribution worldwide.

# THE MELODY OF STRING TREE

МЕЛОДИЯ  
СТРУННОГО ДЕРЕВА

written and directed by **Irina Evteeva**



[view trailer](#)

film-fantasy/animation

2020

Russia

78 min

Russian



#### CAST

**Vladimir Koshevoy**  
**Vadim Gusev**

#### SYNOPSIS

*The Melody of String Tree* is a film-dilogy about the journey of the poet Velimir Khlebnikov and his 'ka' (double). In Ancient Egyptian mythology, ka is a vital essence in the shape of a person, which exists separately from its 'master'. It is an immortal double that accompanies the poet through his creations and through time.

On the one hand, this is the story of Pharaon Echnaton, who gives the protagonist, the Poet, his ka. On the other hand, this is the love story of Layla and Medlum, the heroes of Khlebnikov's eponymous poem. Like stars from the east and the west, they meet in the sky.

The action of the film takes place in Petrograd during the Great War. However, Khlebnikov's heroes freely move in different times and spaces. They appear in Ancient Egypt, they find themselves in the trenches of the war, they are attracted by Malevich's Black Square, where amazing karmic transformations happen to them.

So who is the protagonist of the film: the Poet from the superstory 'ka', or the writer himself, who was compared to a bird because of his habit to stand on one leg? Khlebnikov, sleeping on a pillow filled with his manuscripts? Probably even the master of literary transformations could not answer this question.

This animation-fiction film is made in a technique unique to the filmmaker: light-painting on glass.

#### TAGS

| The Great War | poetry | futurism | Khlebnikov | fairy tale |  
| legend Middle Ages | biography | Arab east | dance | love | text |

# THE CHILD OF PLOMO

EL NIÑO DEL PLOMO

written and directed by **Daniel Dávila**



[view trailer](#)

## CAST

**Daniela Pino, Mateo del Santé**

## SYNOPSIS

Santiago of Chile, a city that turned its back on the Andes Mountains. Moving away from the ski center, Mateo takes his babysitter on an enigmatic journey to Cerro El Plomo, an ancient Inca sacred summit. Scarlett, desperate to return to the shelter, tries to ignore the voice of nature, but the mountain demands his child back.

## TAGS

| mountains | clairvoyance | past | adventures | road movie | videoart |  
| mysticism | diary of memories | poetry | sacrifice |

concept drama

2020

Chile

80 min

Spanish



FICTION

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# A FARAWAY HOUSE

UNA CASA LEJOS

written and directed by **Mayra Bottero**



## CAST

**Stella Galazzi, Carlos Rivkin,  
Valeria Correa**

## SYNOPSIS

Graciela dreams of going away and with a new life in the countryside. This longing begins to get frustrated when she discovers that his father has a relationship with a homeless young woman. Graciela does everything in her power to separate them, she doesn't understand her father's obsession until she finds out that the girl is pregnant.

The illusion generated in Rodowith the arrival of the baby will make Graciela find by helping them another possible future.

## TAGS

| father-daughter | elderly | pregnancy | homeless | surrogate family |  
| humanism | inheritance |

drama

2020

Argentina

77 min

Spanish



FICTION

4



## CAST

**Michèle Rohrbach, Sarah Hostettler,  
Anne Haug**

## SYNOPSIS

When Leila discovers at her sister Amanda's wedding that the latter is pregnant, she promptly reveals the carefully guarded secret. While the guests are happy, Amanda worries about her career and Leila about her fertility. Panic-stricken, Leila sets herself a goal: get pregnant! So together with her friend Sophie she throws herself into the nightlife. Sophie is more concerned with the search for babysitters and probably won't snatch a man from her.

## FESTIVALS

- **World Premiere** — Locarno FF (*Piazza Grande*), Switzerland, 2019,
- Victoria FF (*Reveal. A Human Take*), Canada, 2020
- European FF, Puerto Rico, 2019
- Solothurner Filmtage (*Panorama Switzerland*), Switzerland, 2019

## TAGS

| matching & dating | middle age crisis | sisters | adventures | fertilization |  
| mother-child |

comedy

2019

Switzerland

90 min

Swiss German



# OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND

written and directed by **Brian Follmer**



INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
ROTTERDAM



[view trailer](#)

## CAST

**Blake Adams, Katie Booth, Brian Follmer, Geordie Kieffer, Adam Leotta**

## SYNOPSIS

On New Year's Day, Travis Porter leaves his comfortable life in Los Angeles to live in Yucatan, Mexico, in order to "find himself". When he finally settles into Mexico and befriends a group of young socialist activists, Travis hears that his childhood friend, O'Brien, is suffering from the early symptoms of schizophrenia. Travis is torn between two worlds and must return to the United States to help his friend, even if he's risking the chance of doing more harm than good.

## FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

- **Award of Excellence** — Accolade Global Film Competition, 2019
- Rotterdam IFF (*Official Selection*), 2019
- Orlando FF (*Official Selection*), 2019
- Marina Del Rey IFF (*Official Selection*), 2019

## TAGS

| community | suicide | cinema movie | irony | creativity | young people | love, parting |

drama

2019

USA/Mexico

120 min

English, Spanish



FICTION

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# THE 7<sup>TH</sup> RUN AROUND THE GLOBE

SEDMOY PROBEG PO  
KONTURU ZEMNOGO SHARA

written and directed by **Vitaly Suslin**



## CAST

**Alexander Karnaushkin, Galina Churilova  
Anna Makhlina, Alexander Zhdanov**

## SYNOPSIS

An occasion happening at the Motor Transport Enterprise during a Christian Shrove Sunday brings dramatic changes to the life of its security guard Mikhail...

## PRESS

"A humble story about ordeals of Jonah with drooping mustache, who paints sunny landscapes. The film doesn't contain direct quotes from "proletarian trilogy", but all from there — Kaurismäki's world"

*Dmitry Saveliev, VEDOMOSTI*

## FESTIVALS & AWARDS

- **Special Jury Prize; Prize to the actor For Creative Search; Prize given by The Russian Guild of Film Scholars and Film Critics** — Window to Europe Russian FF (*Autumn Premieres*), Russia, 2019

## TAGS

| pension | old man | painting | unemployment | poverty | despair vitality |  
| irony | horse | father-daughter |

drama

2019

Russia

97 min

Russian



FICTION

7

# TRINITY SUNDAY

TROITSA

directed by **Yang Ge**



[view trailer](#)

## CAST

**Yang Ge, Andrey Kurganov,  
Georgy Blikshteyn**

## SYNOPSIS

In a love triangle there are always three participants: the torturer, the saviour and the victim, who change roles depending on the situation. There is no room to condemn anyone, there is no right and no guilt. A betrayal can happen with everyone.

It is not a usual love story. It is a story with a deeper meaning about understanding of family and God though the values of the eastern world, where Margo grew up, and the western world, where she lives now.

## FESTIVALS

- East&West. Classics and Avant Garde IFF, (*Russian Competition*), Russia, 2019
- Kinotavr National FF, (*Main Competition*), Russia, 2019

## TAGS

| love triangle | divorce | betrayal | family | psychology |

love drama

2019

Russia

84 min

English



FICTION

8

written and directed by **Andres Puustusmaa**



## CAST

**Mait Malmsten, Mart Avandi, Jaan Rekkor**

## SYNOPSIS

The Judge is a man who represents strict rules and laws in the courtroom. However, his own personal life is an absolute mess. One day the Judge decides to give a long prison sentence to a female defendant. Her brother disagrees with his ruthless decision. He starts following the Judge to change his mind about the verdict. A conflict arises between the men, resulting in the Judge's life changing completely. He is forced to embark on a long journey during which he will meet a number of strange people in unusual, absurd situations. A road movie filled with dark humour. A story about crime and punishment.

## FESTIVALS & AWARDS

- **Jury diploma for Mait Malmsten** — Window to Europe Russian FF, Russia, 2019
- Rome Film Fest (*Official selection*), Italy, 2019

## TAGS

| crime and punishment | road movie | remorse | adventure | reincarnation |  
| court | pangs of conscience |

drama

2019

Estonia/Russia

95 min

Estonian, Finnish, Swedish



# IN THE HEART OF THE WORLD

NO CORAÇÃO DO MUNDO

written and directed by **Maurilio & Gabriel Martins**



INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
ROTTERDAM



[view trailer](#)

## CAST

**Kelly Crifer, Leo Pyrata, Grace Passô,  
Bárbara Colen, Robert Frank**

## SYNOPSIS

Dona Sônia borrowed a gun from her neighbor Alcides, to avenge her son, Joca, who was killed by Beto, who is Miro's brother, who is Rose's lover, who is Selma's friend, who works with Marcos, who is Ana's boyfriend, who wants to leave Contagem and have a better life in the heart of the world.

## FESTIVALS

- **World Premiere** — Rotterdam IFF (*Tiger Competition*), Netherlands, 2019
- IndieLisboa IFF, Portugal, 2019

## TAGS

| pension | old man | painting | unemployment | poverty | despair vitality |  
| irony | horse | father-daughter |



?????

2019

Brasil

120 min

Portuguese

FICTION

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# MAMONGA

written and directed by **Stefan Malešević**



## CAST

**Marta Bjelica, Dražen Pavlović,  
Nabi Tang, Vuk Janošević**

## SYNOPSIS

The child refuses to speak. The Asian cannot understand the language of the locals in the mountains. The trucker's son won't raise his voice. She speaks only when necessary. Years go by. Trucks go by. Words go by. Time goes forward, but they run in circles.

Young and confident, Jovana works behind the counter at a bakery in the small town where she lives with her father. Her somewhat shy peer Marko is supposed to follow in his own father's footsteps and become a truck driver. But the events of one night change both their lives...

## FESTIVALS

- Karlovy Vary IFF (*East of the West, Competition*), Czech Republic, 2019
- New Horizons IFF (*Discoveries*), Poland, 2019

## TAGS

| debut | three stories | truckers | family |

drama | 2019 | Serbia/Bosnia i Hercegovina/Montenegro | 92 min | Serbian, Bosnian



FICTION

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# POSTMAN

CARTERO

directed by **Emiliano Serra**



view trailer

## CAST

**Germán De Silva, Macarena Suarez, Jorge Sesán, Tomás Raimondi**

## SYNOPSIS

Hernán Sosa is a shy young man who comes from the province to the city. In his town he was in love with an unattainable girl, Yanina. Hernán gets a job in the Post Office. While making a delivery, Hernán discovers that Yanina is in the city nearby his delivery route. So, he begins to unfold his new knowledge of postman to reach her. But as he approaches, he discovers that some old mailmen are organizing a robbery in the same building where Yanina works. Encouraged by the strength of love, Hernán will face the dangers that surround Yanina to get to declare what he feels.

## FESTIVALS

- BAFICI (*Latin American official competition*), Argentina, 2019

## TAGS

| coming-of-age | first job | community | crime | corruption | juvenility |

drama

2019

Argentina

80 min

Spanish



FICTION

12

written and directed by **Andrei Cohn**[view trailer](#)

## CAST

**Alexandru Papadopol, Iulian Postelnicu, Adnas Hathazi, Sorin Cociș**

## SYNOPSIS

In August 1983, architect Dinu Neagu together with his wife and two children, a boy and a girl, are on a beach of nudists near an industrial area. Two security guards descend from a car and take him to Bucharest for a statement about which they do not give much details about. The film continues in the militia's arrest, where architect Neagu is locked in the same room as Vali, a common law convict, used as a torturer by security in exchange for favours. Things are getting more and more absurd from one day to the next.

## PRESS

"Arrest is aided greatly by the nuances in Postelnicu's performance, which incorporates pretty much everything we would imagine — from the comfortable distance of the three decades that have passed since this dark period in Romania's history — that a petty man with short-lived power can do to another whom he deeply despises."

Stefan Dobroiu, *CINEUROPA*

## FESTIVALS

- Karlovy Vary IFF (*East of the West, Competition*), Czech Republic, 2019

## TAGS

| totalitarianism | securitatea | violence | torture | informer | post-Soviet space |

drama

2019

Romania

126 min

Romanian

# INHALE-EXHALE

VDOH-VIDOH

directed by **Dito Tsintsadze**



## CAST

**Salome Demuria, Giorgi Nakashidze,  
Camilla Borghesani**

## SYNOPSIS

37-year-old Irina, a doctor who returns home after serving a long sentence in prison. In order to start a new life and return to the society, Irina has to earn the trust of the people close to her. But does she need a place in such a society?

## FESTIVALS & AWARDS

- **Golden Prometheus for the best feature film** — Tbilisi IFF, Georgia, 2019
- **Golden Goblet Awards, Jury Grand Prix, Best Actress** — Shanghai IFF, China, 2019

## TAGS

| family | feminine look | escape | LGBT | dead end | provinces | post-Soviet space |

drama

2019

Russia/Georgia/Sweden

90 min

English, Georgian



FICTION

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# 5 MINUTES TOO LATE

5 MINUTE

written and directed by **Dan Chișu**

35  
WARSAW  
FILM  
FESTIVAL



view trailer

## CAST

**Mihai Călin, Diana Cavallioti,  
Elvira Deatcu, Emanuel Pârnu**

## SYNOPSIS

A cinema in Bucharest screened a controversial film about two lesbians who form a couple. Minutes into the film, a few members of the audience stood up, vehemently opposing the gay community. The press accused the Gendarmerie for not intervening to end the conflict. The film focuses on the destiny of the man who led the gendarme team, Nicu Holban, in the action at the museum, through an investigation by Liliana Calomfir, a young journalist known for her unusually daring reporting.

## FESTIVALS

- Warsaw IFF (*International Competition*), Poland, 2019

## TAGS

| LGBT | media | investigation | TV | mystery | conservatism | incident |  
| activism | injury | family | father-son | father-daughter | journalist |

drama

2019

Romania

106 min

Romanian



FICTION

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# MY LITTLE SISTER

SESTRYONKA

directed by Aleksandr Galibin



## CAST

**Arslan Krymchurin, Marta Timofeeva,  
Usuf Rakhmetov**

## SYNOPSIS

As far back as Yamil can remember, the war was always. But Yamil is waiting for its end, because then his Father, known to the boy only through photos and letters, will be back home. One day his Mother goes to a distant city and brings a silent girl Oksana. Mother also brings his Father's order to take care of Oksana as if she were his sister...

The film adaptation of the novel *The Joy of Our Home* by the canonical Soviet writer Mustai Karim.

## TAGS

| The Second World War | adaptation | war | brother-sister | Bashkiria | family |

drama

2019

Russia

94 min

Russian, Bashkir



FICTION

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# THE CURSED HARP

KYLYK HOMUS

produced, written and directed by Petr Khiki



## CAST

**Aelina Kolesova, Eva Kuzmenko,  
Dmitry Khoyutanov, Dmitry Mikhailov**

## SYNOPSIS

A young teacher, Sardaana arrives at a village for work as a teacher. She meets a young photographer Nyurgun, and he invites her to look at the museum full of spooky items. When Nyurgun is absent for business, Sardaana falls under the influence of the call of an ancient khomus in a locked box.

## TAGS

| tradition | museum | musical instrument | monster | ghost | mystery |  
| girl | legend | fairy tale |

horror

2019

Russia

83 min

Yakut



FICTION

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# A RUSSIAN YOUTH

MALCHIK RUSSKIY

written and directed by **Alexander Zolotukhin**

 69<sup>e</sup> Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin  
Forum



[view trailer](#)

## FESTIVALS & AWARDS

- **World Premiere** — Berlinale IFF (*Forum*), Germany, 2019
- **Diploma given by The Russian Guild of Film Scholars and Film Critics** — Kinotavr National FF (Main Competition), Russia 2019
- **Most Attractive Film** — Beijing IFF (*Forward Future*), China 2019

## TAGS

| youth | coming of age | poem | fugue | visual score | Rachmaninoff |  
| volunteer | The Great War | aviation | blindness | captivity | gas attack |

drama

2018

Russia

72 min

Russian

## CAST

**Vladimir Korolev, Mikhail Buturlov,  
Artem Leshik, Danil Tyabin,  
Sergey Goncharenko, Filipp Dyachkov**

## SYNOPSIS

The First World War was a tragedy that triggered a series of severe tests for the Russian people: revolution, civil war, famine, political repression, the Second World War. And all this impacted on one generation. How did they find the courage and patience to survive all the upheavals of the 20th century? What was their character like? What were they thinking and feeling? The authors of the film *A Russian Youth* explored exactly these questions.

The film tells the story of a simple village boy who goes to the front of the First World War with a naive juvenile dream of acquiring fame and medals. In the first battle, he loses his sight. He is left to serve as a listener — he must listen carefully through huge metal funnels and raise an alarm when enemy airplanes are approaching.

# MAKE ME UP

written and directed by **Rachel Maclean**



INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
ROTTERDAM



## SYNOPSIS

*Make Me Up* is an exploration of both the achievements and the complications of contemporary feminism, and sets out a discussion of how women's bodies, voices and minds contend with a world that all too often prefers you to be slim, silent and subservient.

## FESTIVALS

- **World Premiere** — BFI London FF (*Special Presentations*), UK, 2018
- Rotterdam IFF (*Perspectives: Rabbit Hole*), Netherlands, 2019

## TAGS

| dystopia | feminism | robots | Big brother | Pin Up | plastic surgery |  
| burlesque | riot | Barbie | cannibalism | LGBT | transgender |

comedy/sci-fi/drama

2018

UK

84 min

English



FICTION

19

# AURORA

directed by **Bekzat Pirmatov**



[view trailer](#)

## FESTIVALS & AWARDS

- **NETPAC Award** —Jogja-NETPAC Asian FF (*Asian Feature*), Indonesia, 2019
- **Special Jury Award** — Asian World FF (*Official Selection*), USA, 2019
- **Prize for best directing** — Silver Akbuzat IFF, Russia, 2019
- Busan IFF (*New Currents, World Premiere*), South Korea, 2018

## TAGS

| absurd | almanac | crime | irony | post-Soviet space | murder |  
| lake | Asia | hotel | architecture |

black comedy

2018

Kyrgyzstan

100 min

Kyrgyz, Russian

## CAST

**Albina Imashova, Marat Amiraev,  
Bolot Tenyimishev**

## SYNOPSIS

Central Asia. A sanatorium called Aurora, is located at the shores of the high mountainous lake Issyk-Kul and the action of the film is taking place in this sanatorium. All happens in one day. The sanatorium serves as a mirror of the whole country, which is a kind of health resort for its population, with its beautiful nature. Sudden break of the balance between time and space leads to the start of the mechanism of fatal processes.



FICTION

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# WHATEVER WE WANT

КАК МЫ ЗАКХОТИМ

written and directed by **Vladimir Kozlov**



[view trailer](#)

## CAST

**Yekaterina Obraztsova, Alexei Kokorin**

## SYNOPSIS

Katya and Pasha are a Moscow student couple in their early twenties. They don't care about politics or authorities. They aren't really rebellious, they just want to be left alone and have fun.

One day they come to a punk concert at a small club, but two rogue policemen stop the show in the middle of it — there are no formal grounds to do that, but the policemen just enjoy their power. Katya tries to reason with one of the officers, but he reacts in a brutal way, and Pasha has to defend her. Katya and Pasha escape and they hope they're safe.

But in Russia, you shouldn't mess with the police, and next morning, the young people learn that they are in trouble. Their only way out is to pay the policemen off, and they embark on a mission of getting the cash — borrowing, begging, doing whatever they can. And they only have several hours to come up with the cash...

## FESTIVALS

- STALKER IFF on Human Rights (*Feature Film Competition*), Russia, 2019
- Window to Europe Russian FF (*Autumn Premieres, National Premiere*), Russia, 2019

## TAGS

| club | corruption | crime | cruelty | debt | love | minimalism |  
| police | punk | rap | students | violence |

drama

2018

Russia

83 min

Russian

# BOYZHETKEN

SHE'S ALL THAT

BOYZHETKEN.  
VSYO IZ-ZA NEYO

written and directed by **Abdel Fiftybayev**



## CAST

**Erbolat Erzhanov, Alexander Galayev**

## SYNOPSIS

Anelya lives and studies abroad. She only comes to her native town during the summer holidays. Everything she sees around seems to her dull and uninteresting. She does not really wish to come back here. However, her vision changes when she meets and, without realising it herself, falls in love with Dan, a simple guy, a street musician who creates a musical group to attract attention. He would have to overcome various challenges when moving towards his goal.

The young woman starts to see everything around with the eyes of this guy, changing her values and ideas about life. Dan dreams never to part with his loved one. But to reach this dream, they would have to overcome many doubts, both their own and other people's, and make a right choice. How will the life of these characters work out? Will the history of their life continue in Anelya's native town or will the fate throw them to the faraway corners of the planet?

## FESTIVALS

- SCHLINGEL IFF, (*Youth Film*), Germany 2018
- Durban IFF (*Feature Films*), South Africa, 2019
- JUNIORFEST IFF for Children and Youth (*Teens Movies*), Czech Republic, 2018

## TAGS

| First love | music | love triangle | rock band | father-daughter | city | competition |

comedy

2018

Kazakhstan

93 min

Russian

# HOUSE OF OTHERS

SKHVISI SAKHLI

directed by **Rusudan Glurjidz**



## CAST

**Zurab Magalashvili, Ia Sukhitashvili,  
Olga Dykhovichnaya, Salome Demuria**

## SYNOPSIS

A young family move into a large house in the village. Mountains, quiet and a big lemon orchard beyond the window. It seems everything necessary for a happy life, is combined in one place.

But this is Abkhazia in the early 90's, shortly after a terrible, bitter and bloody war that has made enemies of Georgians and Abkhazians — only yesterday good neighbours. Tens of thousands of Georgians have been forced out of this blessed land, giving leaving their lives behind them.

Nature abhors a vacuum and the empty house deserted after the exodus, is gradually colonized by inhabitants. Living in a strange house, where everything, even the tablecloths left by former residents are still there, begs the question — can it now give peace and happiness?

## FESTIVALS

- **Grand Prix at The East of the West competition** — Karlovy Vary IFF, 2016
- **Best Film of CIS and Baltic Countries** — Russian Film Academy Award "Nika", Russia, 2017
- **Award Best Director, Award Best D.O.P.** — Beijing IFF, China, 2017

## TAGS

| war | neighbors | memories | mountains | mystery | garden |

drama

2016

Georgia/Russia/Spain/Croatia

103 min

Georgian, Russian