

the Whaler boy

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY PHILIPP YURIEV



ROCK FILMS AND ORKA FILM AND MAN'S FILMS PRODUCTIONS WITH THE SUPPORT OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT MODERN CINEMATOGRAPHY KINOPRIME
IN CO-FINANCED PRODUCTION BY POLISH FILM INSTITUTE WITH THE SUPPORT OF CENTRE DU CINÉMA ET DE L'AUDIOVISUEL DE LA FÉDÉRATION WALLONIE-BRUXELLES AND TAXSHELTER.BE AND ING AND
TAXSHELTER DU GOUVERNEMENT FÉDÉRAL DE BELGIQUE PRESENT A FILM WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY PHILIPP YURIEV STARRING VLADIMIR ONORHOV KRISTINA ASRUS VLADIMIR LYUBIMTSEV NIKOLAY TETATO ARIEN WORTHALTER
DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY MIKHAIL KHURSEVICH YAKOV MIRONCHEV PRODUCTION DESIGNERS GEORGY KOLOTOGIN ARTEM KUZMIN COSTUME DESIGNER BORIS KUKOLKIN MAKE-UP ARTIST LANA KAUN
EDITORS KAROLINA MACIEJEWSKA ALEXANDER KRYLOV PHILIPP YURIEV SOUND DIRECTOR DAVID VRANCKEN COMPOSER KRZYSZTOF A JANCZAK PRODUCER ALEXEY UCHITEL
CO-PRODUCERS KIRA SAKSOGANSKAYA MARION HÄNSEL JACEK KULCZYCKI MAGDALENA ZIMECKA RADOŚLAWA BARDES





SYNOPSIS

15-year-old Leshka lives in an isolated village on the Bering Strait. Like most men where he lives, he is a whale hunter. When internet arrives in the village, Leshka becomes infatuated with a webcam model from America – so far away and yet almost close enough to see across the waters of the Strait. Coming of age in the male-dominated whaling community, Leshka's encounter with this mysterious woman awakens in him a desire to find love outside of the confines of his tiny world. He becomes determined to meet her in real life, setting forth on a dangerous adventure across the raging waters of the sea.

Featuring stunning photography of the dramatic landscape, and punctuated by off-kilter humor, "there's an almost fable-like simplicity to this atmospheric coming of age story" (*Screen Daily*) about the division between two worlds.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The idea for this film came to me during a trip to the Far North of Russia. We visited one small fishing village whose young women had all recently left to spend the summer studying in the big city. The girls' departure was a real tragedy for the local guys, who were left to spend three long months alone. Surrounded by the endless tundra, the young men were completely isolated from women—it wasn't like the girls from the next village could just come visit, and the internet connection was poor. The only place the boys could look at girls was in an erotic webcam chat that kept freezing.

It was then that I drafted the first version of this story. I decided to move the setting to Chukotka, to a small village populated by whale hunters. The protagonist, Leshka, experiences the typical teenage problems of loneliness, longing to find love, and feeling misunderstood by his friends. It is precisely these experiences that make the story universal and relatable to audiences beyond the remote location where the story unfolds and the little-known cultures and customs of the Russian Far North.



PHILIPP YURYEV

Philipp Yuryev was born on January 15, 1990 in Moscow. Even with no prior film experience he was accepted to the Russian State University of Cinematography. His thesis film, *The Song of the Mechanical Fish*, was selected for the short film competition program at Sundance (2013) and in Clermont-Ferrand (2012).

FILMOGRAPHY

2013 **THE SONG OF THE MECHANICAL FISH** (32 min / fiction / 35 mm)

Sundance Film Festival 2013 – OFFICIAL SELECTION

Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival 2012 – OFFICIAL SELECTION

CURTA-CINEMA International Short Film Festival 2012 – JURY AWARD

Message-to-man International Film Festival 2012 – SPECIAL PRIZE

Rio de Janeiro International Short Film Festival 2012 – MAIN PRIZE,

2010 **THE MODIFIED LANDSCAPE** (14 min / fiction / 35 mm)

- CineGlobe Film Festival 2010 BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

- St. ANNA short student film festival SPECIAL JURY AWARD

2008 **THE MORNING WITH DIFFERENT EYES** (7 min / fiction / 35 mm)

- Middle East International FF SPECIAL PRIZE

- International Short Film Festival InterFilm Berlin SPECIAL AWARD

- São Paulo International Short Film Festival 2009. Grand Jury prize



Main Cast

Leshka - Vladimir Onokhov

Girl from America - Kristina Asmus

Kolyan - Vladimir Lyubimtsev

Grandfather - Nikolay Tatato

Border Patrol Guard - ArieH Worthalter

Blond Girl - Maria Chuprinskaya

MAIN CREW:

written and directed by: Philipp Yuryev
cinematographer: Mikhail Kursevich,
Yakov Mironchev
editor: Karolina Maciejewska,
Alexander Krylov, Philipp Yuryev
sound director: David Vrancken
Composer: Krzysztof A. Janczac
costumes: Boris Kukolkin
make-up artist: Lana Kaun
Artistic director and Producer: Aleksey Uchitel
Co-Producers: Kira Saksaganskaya,
Marion Hänsel, Jacek Kulczycki, Magdalena
Zimecka, Radoslaw Bardes

INFO

Duration: 93 min.
Ratio: 1.85
Sound: 5.1
Screening format: DCP
Languages: Russian, English

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Man's Film Production 2020

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