

## PRESS KIT "LOVE ME"

Log line: "Loved by dreams, kissed by destiny, raped by fears."

**ORIGINAL TITLE: Lyuby mene (Ukraine) – Sev beni (Turkey)**

**ENGLISH TITLE: LOVE ME**

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION: Ukraine - Turkey

YEAR: 2013 (July)

GENRE: Drama with comedy elements

RUNNING TIME: 90'

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE OF THE FILM: Ukrainian -Turkish – Russian - English

SHOOTING FORMAT: Full HD

SCREENPLAY: Maryna Er Gorbach ( Ukraine)- Mehmet Bahadir Er (Turkey)

DIRECTORS: Maryna Er Gorbach - Mehmet Bahadir Er (Ukraine -Turkey)

PHOTOGRAPHY: Svyatoslav Bulakhovskiy (Ukraine)

ART DIRECTOR: Marketa Korinkova (Czech Republic)

SOUND RECORDER: Igor Pokorny (Czech Republic)

MUSIC COMPOSER: Baris Diri (Turkey)

PRODUCERS: Olena Yershova – M.Bahadir Er

### **CAST:**

Cemal - Ushan Cakir

Sasha - Viktoria Spesyvtseva

Mother Luba – Olena Stefanska

Grandmother – Margaryta Kosheleva

Uncle - Guven Kirac

Yildirim – Mehmet Bahadir Er

Alexandr – Sergei Puskepalis ("How I spent this summer")

Suleyman, Saler of doner – Yavuz Bingol " Three Monkey")

Tour guide – Murat Seker

### **FESTIVALS:**

World premiere: Montreal World Cinema Festival - August 2013

Cinemed IFF in Montpellier (France)

Cottbus IFF – competition

Fer Film Festival (Kosovo)– **Best Film Award**

Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival – competition

Mannheim – Heidelberg IFF,

Bratislava IFF – competition

Kalkutta IFF, Chennai IFF, Delhi IFF - competition

Tbilisi IFF – competition

Listopad IFF in Minsk

**24<sup>a</sup> Directors Week –Fantasporto 2014:** Directors Week Jury's Special Award, Directors

Week Best Screenplay Award, Critics Award

Nashville IFF - **Special Jury Prize for Cultural Significance**

6<sup>th</sup> IFF PriFest (Kosovo) - **The Golden Goddess Special Jury Prize went to "Love Me". A great romantic movie**

New York Turkish Film Festival, Hong Kong Turkish FF, Beirut Turkish FF, Love is Folly - Varna IFF - competition

### **Coming up festivals:**

Odessa IFF – National competition

Skip City D – Tokyo IFF - competition, Haifa IFF, Seattle Turkish FF, Lone Star IFF (USA), Wine Country IFF(USA), Frankfurt Turkish FF

## **1. FILM INFO**

### **SYNOPSIS**

The second feature of talented young director duo Maryna Er Gorbach and Mehmet Bahadır Er, “Love Me” is an unusual romance combining comedy and drama in an intricate and touching style.

Sasha is an attractive Ukrainian woman who decides to end a long-term relationship with a married lover from Moscow. Fighting the fear of loneliness, she brings home a foreigner in order to get pregnant and never see him again. Cemal is a young Turkish man, betrothed by his family to a girl he’s never seen. Despite his aspirations of true love, he has no choice but to oblige to tradition.

Dragged by his uncle and cousin in the middle of winter to Ukraine for his bachelor party, the young man suddenly finds himself in the night clubs of Kyiv. Things might just change for the young man, when he stumbles upon the beautiful Sascha - an independent and confident girl with an agenda of her own. Surprisingly, Cemal turns out to be the man who makes Sasha feel like a real woman for the first time in her life and not ‘an evening lady’ who is called to satisfy men’s sexual needs. Despite the language barrier the chemistry between them is undeniable.

Even after this deep emotional experience, Sasha still faces a dilemma: to learn to love or to keep running away from herself in the everlasting sex marathon...?

Is there any chance for true love?...

Sprinkled with hilarious notes of cultural clashes and an endearing display of the kindness of strangers, this idiosyncratic “comedy drama” will warm hearts in the most unexpected way.

### **FULL SYNOPSIS:**

Sasha is an attractive 33-year-old Ukrainian woman. For seven years, she has been dating a much older married and wealthy lover, who fully supports her life. Sasha has lived in a fool’s paradise for many years waiting for Alexandr to marry her and for them to start a real family with a beautiful house and children. But the miracle doesn’t happen. Their relationship, based on sex, doesn’t have any future. Sasha is getting older, her maternal drive stronger, and it becomes more and more difficult to realize her desire.

Cemal is a young Turkish guy. Since his early childhood he has been working at his father’s jewellery store and he finally becomes a jeweller. Cemal was brought up in a conservative family in Istanbul,

Turkey and, until now, he's managed to suppress a desire for intimacy with women. But now it is about time to get married and his parents have found him a decent girl. Cemal's uncle feels responsible to take him to a prostitute so that the family doesn't discredit itself with this 'indecent proceeding'. They go on a 'sex tour' for a weekend to Kyiv, Ukraine so he can fulfil all the fantasies with a prostitute and, therefore, will treat his future wife with dignity and respect.

On the day of Sasha's 33rd birthday she prepares a romantic dinner for Alexandr (who is from Moscow, Russia) and decides that this is the day for her to get pregnant, even if it happens by deceptive means. However, Alexandr stays with his family and doesn't come to Sasha's. This is the last nail in the coffin. Fighting the fear of ageing and loneliness, Sasha decides to get pregnant from a stranger.

She goes to one of the nightclubs and hooks up with Cemal, a foreigner, in order to avoid talking and seeing the guy afterwards.

Cemal is shocked, but such bold behaviour of a strange woman turns him on. He feels like the most successful 'tourist' in Kyiv. In his desire for this beautiful woman, Cemal follows her, unquestioningly. He starts having second thoughts when Sasha doesn't take him to a hotel as he was told by his uncle, but to her home. It reaches the point that Cemal suspects Sasha to be a mafia's bait to steal his organs for transplantation, but the whole situation shifts in a moment. Seconds before their intimacy Sasha finds out that her grandmother is missing.

For an old lady, fireworks sound like World War II bombs, and she is trying to hide from them. Sasha and Cemal go on an overnight search to find her. Instead of spending hours having sex, the foreigner Cemal enters the reality of Kyiv contemporary life, Sasha's family without men, frustration of Sasha's mother and ideals of her grandmother. He experiences different social levels and values of three female generations in this family that create even more extensive modern image of Ukraine. During these two days they become closer and Cemal falls in love with Sasha; but when things are about to take a step towards change, she chooses Alexandr. Cemal got sex he came for, but he lost the belief in love.

Sasha has a chance to love, but, instead, she is not ready to take it and chooses to continue being raped by her fears.

The ending leaves an open question: what is more painful - to suppress love in yourself or to live without love?

### **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT ... Maryna Gorbach (Ukraine)**

Ukraine is a country where a lot of beautiful women and catastrophically lack of men. Generation of Ukrainian Dreamers went through the collapse of the Soviet Union in childhood and has become the latest generation of Pioneers. First, they bind a red tie and took a solemn oath to live by the principles of the Communist Party and the next year to wear those red ties became embarrassing. The mind of the ten years old child, a concept of the ideals of life and their future were broken in a short time and not all parents were able to explain to children what to believe.

But without faith no man knows how to talk to himself.

These children did not have a chance to become Soviet citizens, but also there were no alternative effective Ukrainian ideas. There was the fierce reality. One day, the Soviet Union collapsed and all savings their parents have kept in a state Soviet Bank were canceled. One day, Ukrainians became independent, but very poor and scared for their future.

A fear is the surest friend of excuse.

Moms dreamed their daughters to unite their destiny with those who can adapt to new conditions, to live independently, not like their own unemployed husbands. Girls dreamed to become rich, outstanding and to fall into a fairy tale.

"Cinderella" is a favorite tale of the last Pioneer's generation.

It has been for 20 years. Many of those young and beautiful women after 30 still alone and they lost normal men in the search for the princes. One of the reasons that sex tourism widespread phenomenon in Ukraine: there are many young, beautiful and terribly lonely women who are ready to make sex after the first date, they are still looking for themselves and sex for them - a way to express own feeling and personality.

Raped by fears, they run this marathon of sexuality in order not to fall out of the fairy tale about Cinderella. Acrylic era ends with the requiem for love.

### **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT ... Mehmet Bahadir ER (Turkey)**

In the modern world, the media and marketing techniques are predicated on sex. People's sexuality is constantly stimulated in daily life. As a consequence of this constant sexual stimulation, the relation between women and men has changed. Turkey is a male dominant, traditional country where the values imposed by developing modernity and the influence of the traditions on sexuality reshape the social structure. While there is a negative view of women having sex before marriage, the same circumstance for men is accepted as the materiality of the present age and excused. The women are subconsciously labelled into two groups as "the ones to marry" and "the ones to have fun with", supposedly to "protect" the foundation of family.

Not being able to experience these indiscrete affairs in their surroundings with women who have to stay "clean" and start a family, men resort to being with women who are "professional" or who has "a lack of moral values". This causes a moral double standard. One of the methods to explore sex with beautiful women who are open to any kind of relations without taking any moral or conscientious responsibility, without being recognized or being blamed is sex tours. In these tours, single or married men who are unable to satisfy their sexual hunger travel abroad with similar others to quench their high testosterone needs.

However, men who don't live sexuality as a mechanical action, who are able to feel the spiritual dimension of sex, whose basic humane instincts are still alive cannot understand and experience these, just like our character Cemal. Just becoming a man mentally and physically, Cemal did not assign a meaning to woman or temporarily identify her yet. Sasha stands at where the modernity is consumed away in the relation between man and woman. Woman who seek for her man and man who seek for his woman find each other by means of their senses and provide each other with their needs. They have to, just like a sperm and an egg. Why do they find each other among thousands? Of course to make a baby!

In the movie we will follow what Cemal lives through: the modern testosterone psychology during the sex tour he participates being directed by his environment. His manly instincts are transforming him after he met with Sasha. Cemal's psychological state travelling between manhood and boyhood and his moral transformation would help us understand the paradox many men in Turkey are involved with and its reasons.

## **2. DIRECTORS**

### **Maryna Er Gorbach – Mehmet Bahadir Er (co-directors)**

Director bio:

Maryna Gorbach (born in 1981), graduated from the faculty of cinema and TV directing of Kyiv National University of Theatre, Cinema and TV, and from Andrzej Wajda Master School of Film Directing. She also attended the Feature Film Directing Course by Mark Travis at Hollywood School in Ukraine. Gorbach's filmography includes short features The Jar (Banka, 2004) – participation at the Berlinale Talent Campus 2006, and The Debt (Borg, 2006). She is the co-director (with Mehmet

Bahadır Er) of feature film *Black Dogs Barking* (Kara Korekler Havlarken, 2009). Her awards include Best Experimental Film, Best Director, and Best National Short.

Mehmet Bahadır Er graduated from Mimar Sinan Fine-Art University (Istanbul, Turkey), majoring in cinema and TV directing. In 2004, he founded Karakirmizi Film (Turkey) to produce short films that collected a total of 25 awards at film festivals. The first feature project, *Black Dogs Barking*, was supported by Turkish Ministry of Culture, premiered at Rotterdam IFF 2009, screened at more than 40 festivals, had theatrical and DVD distribution in Turkey, and was sold to TV.

#### FILMOGRAPHY:

Maryna Er Gorbach and Mehmet Bahadır Er as co-directors

**"BLACK DOGS BARKING"**, 2009, 90', feature film debut (Turkey)

[38.th](#) ROTTERDAM IFF - World Premiere

[46.th](#) ANTALYA IFF - Competition - Best Supporting actor

21.st ANKARA IFF – Critic's Award - Best Film

Jury Special Price

Best Supporting Co-actor

Best Promising Actor

31.st MOSCOW IFF - Asian Extreme

[35.th](#) SEATTLE IFF - Contemporary world cinema

[17.th](#) HAMBURG IFF - Vibrant Metropolities

[25.th](#) WARSAW IFF - Competition

[54.th](#) SEMINCI Valladolid - Competition

[45.th](#) PESARO IFF - Competition

31.st MONTPELLIER IFF - Panorama

[32.th](#) DENVER STARZ IFF (USA) - World Cinema

33.rd CAIRO IFF - Festivals of Festivals

[35.th](#) GHENT IFF - Official Selection

[20.th](#) STOCKHOLM IFF - Asian Images

[19.th](#) COTTBUS IFF - Focus

23.rd Wine Country IFF (USA) - Contemporary world cinema

[19.th](#) FUKUOKA IFF (Japan)- Focus on Asia

[6.th](#) YEREVAN IFF - Directors of Crossing Borders

[16.th](#) TALLIN BLACK NIGHTS IFF - Panorama

[11.th](#) NEW YORK TURKISH FF - without borders and Debut ?

[21.th](#) MUNICH Turkish FF - Selection

23.rd SINGAPOUR IFF – Cinema Today

[14.th](#) BERMUDA IFF - Selection

12.nd ESKISHEHIR IFF (Turkey) – Selection

3.rd SILKROAD IFF (Turkey) – Competition

[5.th](#) LOLA Screen Film Festival (Kenia) – World Panorama

3.rd KIEV Turkish Film Week

[13.th](#) GOKCEADA Film Festivali (Turkey)- Selection

[20.th](#) OSLO IFF "Films From SOUTH" - Competition

2.nd CINEPEC's Film Festival (Hungary) – Selection

1.st Clearwater Film Festival (Turkey) – Selection

1.st NEW YORK Eurasian Film Festival – Competition

[4.th](#) STEPS IFF (Ukraine)- Competition

#### **Maryna Er Gorbach ( born in 1981)**

Filmography shorts:

"The Jar", 2004, 35 mm, b/w, 7',

2005

Ukrainian Films Week in Stockholm (Sweden)  
"Prolog" Student Film festival (Kyiv, Ukraine) - Best director, Special jury prize  
"Beginning" St. Petersburg Student FF (Russia)- "Best experimental film"  
Audiovisual Baku Film Festival (Azerbaijan) - Best director  
Izmir short IFF (Turkey)  
Festival of Ukrainian films in Columbia University, New-York (USA)  
2006  
Participation of Berlinale Talent Campus (Germany)  
"Akbank" Short film competition (Turkey)  
40th Golden Boll IFF Adana (Turkey)  
18th Istanbul International Short Film Festival  
KAN Independent Film Festival, Wroclaw (Poland)  
2007-Tehran International Short Film Festival (Iran)  
Istanbul International Short Film Festival – 20 Best Films of last 20 years

"The Debt", 2006, 35 mm, colour,  
National Film Festival "Open Night" Ukraine - "BEST UKRAINAIN SHORT FILM 2007"  
18th Ankara IFF  
7th PASOFEST Film Festival (Turkey)  
Kenya IFF  
Krakow Film festival-Film Market (Poland)  
Akbank Film Festival (Istanbul, Turkey)  
Festival International du Court Metrage Clermont-Ferrand (France)- Film Market.  
19th Istanbul Short IFF  
Kratkofil IFF (Bosnia)  
SLEEPWALKERS FILM FESTIVAL (Tallin, Estonia)  
Huesco IFF (Spain)  
Detmold Film Festival (Germany)

Education and work experience

2006-2007- Graduated from Andrzej Wajda's Master School - Feature Film Directing (Warsaw, Poland)  
2006- "Hollywood School" (Kyiv, Ukraine)- Feature Film Director's Course by Mark Travis  
2005 – Graduated from Kyiv National University of Theatre, Cinema and TV (Cinema and TV director)  
2003-2005 TV channel ICTV. Director of weekly documentary project "about Ukraine".

Mehmet Bahadır ER (born in 1982)  
Filmography:

GOYGOY, video, 2004, 14'  
4. BİL'S Short Film Competition(Turkey) – Best Short Film  
16. Ankara IFF – Best 3rd Film  
12. Adana Golden Boll IFF  
12. European Film Festival on the Wheels

İNSANLIK ÖLDÜMÜ (Did Humanity Died?) (SCRIPT) 2005, 5' 16 mm, fiction-animation  
Ministry of Culture of Turkey and Turkish Short Film Organization  
4. Script Competition – Jury Mention

"ZİLZAL"(The Earthquake), 2005, video, 14'  
42.Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival - Jury mention  
2.Sony Entertainment Short Film Competition (Turkey)- Best Film  
5.İstanbul Independent Film Festival – Best Short Film  
5.Audiovisual Baku Film Festival – Best Student Work

3.Blessing Film Festival (Iran) – Best Film  
 2.Videologia Volga-Moscow Film Festival – Best Film  
 52.Locarno IFF – “Play the Forward” Selection  
 36.Rotterdam IFF- “Starting from Stratch Selection  
 12.Sarajevo IFF – Competition  
 8.Marmara University Competition - Jury Mention  
 5.Bil's Short film competition Istanbul– Best Film  
 11.Sofia IFF - Selection  
 2.Akbank Short film Festival (Turkey) – Best Film  
 27.IFSAK Short film competition (Turkey) – Jury Mention  
 5. Rodos IFF – competition  
 Aarhus Festival of Independent Art's (Denmark) - competition  
 22.Clermond-Ferrand Film festival - Market  
 8.Tinklai short IFF - Official selection  
 5.Court film de France - Official Selection  
 14.Madiz Alternative Film Festival (Spain)– Competition  
 VAD-Video Art of SPAIN – European Selection  
 8.Short Film Competition (Istanbul)– Best Film, Jury Mention  
 1.Hilal Tv Short Film Competition (Turkey)- Best 2.Film  
 13.Adana Golden Boll IFF – Final list  
 17.Ankara IFF- Final list  
 2.Kinodoc film festival (Russia)  
 13.English-Turkish film festival (London)  
 5.International Wood Green Film Festival (London)– Cineworld

“UMUT” (Hope),2006, 14', 35 mm

14.Adana Golden Boll IFF – BEST SHORT FİLM  
 6.Istanbul Independent Film Festival – Audience award / Best 3th film  
 4.STAR Short film competition (Istanbul) – BEST FICTION FİLM  
 1.Sinepark Film Festival (Istanbul) - BEST Drama Film Jury Mention + Canon Best Cinematographer  
 3.Ankara Intercultural Film Festival - Best Turkish Film  
 1.Kisacekuzunolsun Short IFF (Turkey) – Best Director  
 3.Apple Bilcom Film Competition (Istanbul) – Best Profesional Film Music  
 1.Krisral Klaket Short Film Contest (Istanbul)- Jury Mention Prize  
 20th İstanbul Short Film Festival – Final list  
 9.New York Turkish Film Festival  
 3th “My Europe” Film Contest -Finalist  
 36.Sehsüchte İnternational Student Film Festival (Germany)-Competition  
 5th Signes de Nuit IFF in Paris (France) - Competition  
[18.th](#) Emden IFF (Germany)-Competition  
 28.Durban IFF (South Africa) – Competition  
 1.Kratkofil IFF (Croatia)- Competition  
 60.Cannes IFF – Market  
 9.Motovun IFF (Croatia) - competition  
 7.PASOFEST International Art Films (Ankara)  
 18.Ankara IFF- competition  
 7.Short International Student's Film Festival(Istanbul)- Finalist

ARAF (The heights) video, 2007,(sh.)

2.Kisadevre Film Festival Istanbul – Best second Film  
 4.Akbank Short Film Festival (Turkey) – Finalist  
 8.İzmir Short IFF  
 19.İstanbul Short IFF – Competition  
 19.Ankara IFF  
 13. Festival on Wheels – Video Selection

7. AFM independent film festival (Istanbul)- Competition  
"WAY-OUT" Video Selection – Thessaloniki  
5. Berlin Turkish Film Festival  
Kara Köpekler Havlarken (Black Dog's Barking)-Script, Feature film, 2007

Education:  
Mimar Sinan Fine-Art University (Istanbul, Turkey)-  
Cinema TV Directing Department

### **3. PRODUCTION**

#### **PRODUCER: Olena Yershova, TATO FILM**

Participant of EAVE 2010

Member of Producers Network at Cannes IFF (2009 -2013), EAVE - PUENTOS Workshop at Buenos Aires IFF (2009)

Tatofilm was created by Olena Yershova, who previously worked for 8 years as executive director of Kyiv IFF Molodist and for 2 years as development manager of Eurasia Film Market (Turkey), continued for the SOTA Cinema Group (Ukraine) producing feature films, many of which were international co-productions, like: "On Saturday" by Alexandr Mindadze that participated on the Berlinale 2011 and "Melody for a street organ" by Kira Muratova that won a FIPRESCI jury award at Moscow IFF and was screened on more than 20 international festivals.

Olena Yershova executive produced "MY JOY" by Sergei Loznitsa (Germany – Ukraine – The Netherlands) that was presented in competition at Cannes IFF in 2010 and received numerous awards worldwide.

In 2013 she produced "BLIND DATES" by Levan Koguashvili that was premiered in Toronto 2013, compete in Tokyo IFF, in Palm Spring IFF, got a Special Jury award in Abu Dhabi, in Sofia IFF – Best Film, Best director awards, Best director at Vilnius IFF, Best director at Wiesbaden IFF, Best Film at Lecce IFF, screened at Sydney, Melbourne, Cleveland and San Francisco IFF. Screened in Karlovy Vary at Variety Critics choice program.

**TATOFILM**, which operates both in Turkey and Ukraine, was created to work with promising talents and bright directors. Currently in post-production are the documentary ODESSA by Florin Iepan (a Romanian-German-Ukrainian co-production) and MOTHERLAND by Senem Tuzen that has won a Best Project at Meetings on the Bridge (Istanbul IFF 2012), Best project award at "Crossroads" Thessaloniki co-production market and Best Pitch award at Cottbus coproduction market in 2012.

#### **PRODUCTION COMPANIES:**

TATOFILM (Ukraine) with the support of State Agency of Cinematography of Ukraine,  
PROTIM Video Production (Turkey) with the support of Turkish Ministry of culture.

Source URL: <http://Mfo1W.hollywoodreporter.com/review/love-me-lyuby-mene-cottbus-654609>

## Love Me (Lyuby Mene): Cottbus Review

12:34 PM PST 11/8/2013 by Bernard Besserglik



Cottbus Film Festival

### **The Bottom Line**

Turkish-Ukrainian ethnic romcom swerves into social drama.

### **Venue**

Cottbus Festival of East European Cinema

### **Directors**

Maryna Er Gorbach, Mehmet Bahadir Er

### **Cast**

Ushan Cakir, Viktoria Spesyvtseva

### **Turkish-Ukrainian man-and-wife team Maryna Er Gorbach and Mehmet Bahadir Er use the romcom formula to tackle cultural crossover as well as social issues.**

The set-up of **Maryna Er Gorbach** and **Mehmet Bahadir Er**'s sophomore feature *Love Me* promises a cross-cultural romantic comedy of the traditional and predictable kind, but ends up by delivering something rather more interesting. Starting out in the vein of an English social comedy, it appears to head for *Pretty Woman* territory before pitching itself squarely as a serious-minded piece of social drama. With popular audiences likely to be lured by the title and with the movie appealing to both Slavic and Islamic sensibilities, *Love Me* should do fair business in its home markets and at specialist venues

in the English-speaking territories as well as establishing itself on the festival circuit. Cottbus follows a Montreal festival screening, and other venues beckon.

When Cemal (**Ushan Cakir**), a young Turkish working-class man, is engaged by his family to a woman he has never seen, he feels he has to bow to tradition, which includes being dragged off by his uncle and cousin on a mid-winter visit to Ukraine for his stag night, or rather weekend. At a Kiev disco he is unceremoniously picked up – almost literally – by the glamorous Sacha (**Viktorija Spesyvtseva**) and taken to her luxury flat with every prospect of a stag night beyond his wildest dreams.

Naturally there's many a slip and the first of these comes when Sasha's mother Luba (**Olena Stefanska**) arrives to announce that her grandmother, who is in the early stages of dementia, has gone walkabout in the subway and that help is urgently needed to find her. Then, when Cemal nobly intervenes to protect a woman who is being beaten up by her husband in the street, he gets carted off to a police station and banged up in the slammer. So far, so comic: an odd couple formed by a bemused, rough-hewn, tongue-tied Turk and a fur-coated, statuesque beauty.

But Sasha has an agenda. Her motivation is that she has been given the brush-off once too often by her lover Alexander (**Sergei Puskepalis**), a wealthy, married Moscow businessman. Sasha, it gradually becomes apparent, is a kept woman – in effect, a high-class tart. And what she really wants above all is love, true love, the real McCoy, with a baby and all (the mirror tells her she's not getting any younger). Cemal seems set to become the answer to her prayer and the relationship develops. Ever the gentleman, Cemal fends off a virtual rape attempt by Sasha, and there is a moment of real tenderness between them. Then Alexander unexpectedly returns to Kiev, Cemal's uncle and cousin show up to remind him that their holiday break is almost over, and a new set of problems arise.

As the film's focus moves from Cemal to Sasha, the directors achieve what amounts to a genre-shift, and while disbelief is willingly suspended in the context of a standard romcom, audiences may be less inclined to follow as Sasha is confronted with an existential choice between love and money.

Directors Gorbach and Er, like their characters a Turkish-Ukrainian couple, were faced with a similar choice when deciding on the movie's ending. Gorbach told a Cottbus festival audience that a producer offered to massively increase their budget if they agreed to provide the usual love-conquers-all outcome. To their credit, they turned him down and the classic race-against-time to the airport ends with a challenge to the audience.

Despite this, the movie's polished surfaces testify to solid production values, and DP **Svyatoslav Bulakhovsky**'s camera draws memorable pictures of the snowbound cityscapes of the Ukrainian capital. There are serious social issues glinting beneath the surface of this thoughtful entertainment, but they should no handicap to its fortunes at the box-office.

*Production company: Tato Film*

*Cast: Ushan Cakir, Viktoria Spesyvtseva, Olena Stefanska, Margaryta Kosheleva, Sergei Puskepalis*

*Directors, screenwriters: Maryna Er Gorbach, Mehmet Bahadir Er*

*Producers: Olena Yershova, Mehmet Bahadir Er*

*Photography: Svyatoslav Bulakhovsky*

*Production design: Marketa Kornikova*

*Editor: Maryna Er Gorbach*

*Music: Baris Diri*

*International sales: Patra Spanou Film Marketing (Germany)*

*No rating, 90 minutes*

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**ПОДРОБНОСТИ** [ПРЯМОЙ ЭФИР](#)

## **Украинский фильм "Люби меня" вышел в прокат восьми стран**

Фильм украинского режиссера Марины Ер Горбач «Люби меня» вошел в программу Тбилисского 14-го Международного кинофестиваля. Грузия стала восьмой страной, где зрители смогли оценить совместную украинско-турецкую кинокартину. Фильм украинского режиссера Марины Ер Горбач «Люби меня» высоко оценили зрители в европейских странах.

18 декабря 2013 | 15:37