

ANNA'S WAR

by Aleksey Fedorchenko



OFFICIAL SELECTION
**INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
ROTTERDAM**
2018

World premiere
International Film Festival Rotterdam

Section: Voices

Screenings IFFR:

Sun 28 Jan, 14:30, Doelen Jurriaanse Zaal - P&I screening

Sun 28 Jan, 20:00, Pathé 1 - world premiere

Mon 29 Jan, 10:00, Pathé 5

Tue 30 Jan, 10:30, LantarenVenster 1

Fri 2 Feb, 13:30, Doelen Jurriaanse Zaal

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SYNOPSIS

It is the year 1941. Amidst the mass coordinated execution of Jews the entire family of a 6-year-old Anna dies. Her mother covers Anna up with her own body, and the girl miraculously survives. She hides in the disused chimney in the Nazi commander's office - without food or water, in solitude and fear. So begins a story of the struggle for life that lasts for over two years. So begins this story of the struggle for life, of fighting against the huge and terrifying world of adults. The story of a war in which a little Jewish girl prevails.

Anna's War has been financed through private funding only.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

A little Jewish girl and the Second World War.
One and only hero.

Cinematic space is limited to the insides of a fireplace, and the geography of events is limited to the classroom of a village school that had been turned into a Nazi commandant's office. Inside the fireplace the girl finds a safe place where she makes a nest for herself. A home. Outside is an insane world of adults. We see it's reflection in a bubbly amalgam on the old mirror.

This is the story of survival and victory.

Robinson Crusoe had it easier: he was an adult, he wasn't alone, and he had a whole island for himself. Anna is six years old, no one is there to help her, and there is only a small chance of finding food at the commandant's office. Thirst and hunger are a constant in Anna's life. There are no flashbacks in the film because the past is dead. There is no future. There is only the present. Only what happens now is significant.

The film isn't black and white. Anna is a child and so there are many bright colours around her. The walls of the old school are blue and green. In the classroom there is a lot of red. On set there are many authentic Soviet school objects from the 30s and 40s.

The soundscape of the film is diverse, there are dialogues from the Commandant's office workers: Germans, Ukrainians, Russians. Also present are voices of soldiers: Germans, Frenchmen, Hungarians, Romanians. The German radio plays the propaganda programs and music. Neither the viewer nor Anna can understand it all but it makes no difference. What matters is located inside the fireplace, in the world of Anna. Her beautiful world is reaching further and further and soon it will encompass the entire planet Earth – and Anna will win the World War.

Aleksey Fedorchenko

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Biography

Film director, scriptwriter and producer Aleksey Fedorchenko is one of the central figures in the Russian independent new auteur films wave. His previous work includes art house hits such as *Silent Souls* (2010) and *Angels of Revolution* (2014). His work has played at international festivals such as Venice, Cannes, Moscow and Tallinn and has received numerous awards for his achievements both as a the director and scriptwriter.

Aleksey Fedorchenko was born in 1966 in Sol-Iletsk, Orenburg region of Siberia.

He has degrees in Engineering and Economics (Ural Polytechnic Institute) and in Film Studies & Scriptwriting from VGIK (Russian State University of Cinematography), the most prestigious film institute in Russia and Eastern Europe, which is the world's oldest film school.



Originally getting involved in the Film industry from financial background in 1990 (when he had become the deputy director of Sverdlovsk Film Studio) Aleksey Fedorchenko moved into the studio's production department. Since 2000 he has managed and participated in the production of over 80 films. Since 2004 Aleksey Fedorchenko is a co-owner, chief film director and the general producer of 29th February Film Company.

Filmography

2017	Where has time gone? Part: Breathing К у д а у ш л о в р е м я ? ч а с т ь : Д ы ш а т ь Feature film in 5 parts by different BRICS film directors	Director
	Awards Golden Panda Award, Film Festival BRICS	
2014	Angels of Revolution А н г е л ы Р е в о л ю ц и и Feature film, 113 min	Director
	Awards & nominations Marcus Aurelius Award, Rome Film Festival Cineuropa Prize, Lisbon & Estoril Film Festival Special Award, Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival White Elephant Award for Best Director, Russian Guild of Historians of Cinema and Film Critics Award for Best Russian film, Moscow International Film Festival Nominated for Best Screenplay, Asia Pacific Screen Awards	

- 2012 **Celestial Wives of the Meadow Mari** Director
 Небесные жены луговых мари
 Feature film, 106 min
- Awards**
FIPRESCI Prize, International Film Critic's Awards, 13th goEast Festival of Central and Eastern European Films
White Elephant Award for Best Screenplay, Russian Guild of Historians of Cinema and Film Critics
White Elephant Award for Best Cinematography, Russian Guild of Historians of Cinema and Film Critics
Audience Award, "Zerkalo" Andrey Tarkovsky VII International Film Festival
Award for Best Cinematography, "Zerkalo" Andrey Tarkovsky VII International Film Festival
Grand Prix, 13th T-mobile New Horizons International Film Festival
Student Critics Jury Award, 67th Edinburgh International Film Festival
- 2012 **The Fourth Dimension (Chronoeye)** Writer & director
 Четвертое измерение (Хроноглаз)
 Collection of 3 short films: Chronoeye part - 35 min
- The Fourth Dimension is a collection of three standalone short films including Chronoeye by A. Fedorchenko.
- Awards**
 Special Jury Prize for Chronoeye, Russian Film Festival Vivat Kino Rossii, 2012
- 2010 **Silent Souls** Director
 Овсянки
 Feature film, 75 min
- Awards & nominations**
Nominated for Golden Lion, Venice Film Festival, 2010
Ecumenical Jury Prize, Venice Film Festival, 2010
FIPRESCI Prize, Venice Film Festival, 2010
Golden Osella Award for Cinematography, Venice Film Festival, 2010
SIGNIS Award - Honorable Mention, Venice Film Festival, 2010
Nazareno Taddei Award, Venice Film Festival, 2010
White Elephant Award for Best Director, Russian Guild of Historians of Cinema and Film Critics, 2010
White Elephant Award for Best Film, Russian Guild of Historians of Cinema and Film Critics, 2010
Russian Film Directors Guild Prize, "Stalker" International Human Rights Film Festival, 2010
Award for Best director, Kinoshock Open Film Festival, 2010
Award for Best Director, Mar del Plata Film Festival, 2010
Grand Prix, Warsaw International Film Festival, 2010
First Prize, Polar Lights International Arctic Film Festival, 2011
Jury Award for Best director, Pacific Meridians International Film Festival, 2010
First prize, Middle East International Film Festival, 2010

- 2005 **First on the Moon** Director
Первые на Луне
Feature film, 75 min
- Awards**
Special Prize, Kinoblick Festival, 2006
White Elephant Award for Best First Film, Russian Guild of Film Critics, 2005
Special Jury Prize, Warsaw Film Festival, 2005
Award for Best First Film, Russian Guild of Historians of Cinema and Film Critics, 2005
Best Documentary Award, Venice Film Festival (however, the film is not considered to be a documentary by the director)
- 2002 **David** Writer & director
Давид
Documentary, 32 min.
- 2002 **Kids of the White Graves** Writer & director
Дети белой могилы
Documentary, 42 min.

ABOUT THE PRODUCERS

Producer – Andrey Saveliev

Andrey Saveliev is a Film and TV producer. He started producing in 1991. Since 2012 his focus has been on auteur and festival films.

Andrey is a general producer of the films made in collaboration with SAGa company:

2018 *Inner Wolf* («**Мысленный Волк**»), director Valeriya Gai Germanika (in production).

2018 *Keys to Happiness* («**Ключи счастья**»), director Aleksey Fedorchenko (in production).

2018 *Anna's War* («**Война Анны**»), director Aleksey Fedorchenko
- Voices section, International Film Festival Rotterdam

2018 *Dovlatov* («**Довлатов**»), director Aleksey German Jr.
- main competition, Berlin International Film Festival 2018).

2015 *Under Electric Clouds* («**Под электрическими облаками**»),
director Aleksey German Jr.

- Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution, Berlin International Film Festival, 2015

2013 *5000 Days Ahead* («**5000 дней вперед**»), director Aleksey German Jr.

- opening short of the anniversary project Future Reloaded at the 70th Venice International Film Festival.

SAGa Film Company

SAGa is a production company founded by Andrey Saveliev, producer and director, with branches in Moscow and St.Petersburg. We work with the leading Russian film directors of auteur cinema - Aleksey German Jr., Aleksey Fedorchenko, Valeriya Gai Germanika. SAGa is a film production company that provides full services: from the content conception to postproduction. We trust the creation of films to the most experienced international team of professionals whose works have awards from the leading international film festivals. SAGa is part of a holding company that specialises in production of full-length films, TV series and shows, advertising and film equipment. Our own film equipment base allows us to manage several film projects of different complexity simultaneously.

Producer – Artem Vasilyev

Head producer / METRAFILMS

Born 17 Dec. 1970 in Moscow. Graduated from Moscow State University with a degree in History. Artem has been producing feature films, animated series, animation films, documentary series and commercials for over 20 years.

Featured filmography

- 2018 ***The Humorist***, dir. Michael Idov (in production)
- 2018 ***Keys of happiness***, dir. Aleksey Fedorchenko (in production)
- 2018 ***Dovlatov***, dir. Aleksey German Jr.
Main competition Berlinale 2018
- 2018 ***Anna's War***, dir. Aleksey Fedorchenko
"Voices" selection Rotterdam IFF 2018
- 2016 ***Sleepwalkers***, dir. Sergey Osipyan, short.
Selected for Kinotavr (category: Short films)
- 2015 ***Under Electric Clouds***, dir. Aleksey German Jr.
Co-production Russia (METRAFILMS) – Poland (APPLE FILM) – Ukraine (LINKED FILMS)
Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution at Berlin International Film Festival 2015. Asia Pacific Screen Award 2015 (For Achievement in Directing) and other awards.
- 2014 ***Verpaskungen***, dir. Grigory Dobrygin, short
Special Mention Diploma at Kinotavr Film Festival for Outstanding Directing. Award of the Guild of Film Critics "SLON" at Kinotavr Film Festival.
- 2014 ***Lost in Karastan***, dir. Ben Hopkins
Co-producer
- 2013 ***An Affair***, dir. Grigory Dobrygin, short.
Diploma from the jury of Kinotavr (category: Short films)
- 2013 ***Aftermath***, dir. Władysław Pasikowski
Co-producer
- 2013 ***Rich. Always new, regardless.***, dir. Michail Segal, Natalia Demidova, Alisa Khmel'nitskaya, Nikolay Khomeriki, Ivan Vyrypaev / 4 short films together with "Multon" company
- 2012 ***Megafon + Cinema***. Directors Nikolay Khomeriki, Vitaly Shepelev / 2 short films together with "Megafon"
- 2012 ***There is no hurry***, dir. Fyodor Bondarchuk, Pyotr Buslov, Vladimir Kott, Alexandr Lungin, Boris Khlebnikov / 5 short films together with the Russian Association of Motor Insurers
- 2011 ***From Tokyo***, dir. Aleksey German Jr, short.
69th Venice International Film Festival, selection "Horizons" and other awards
- 2011 ***Experiment Five***, dir. Andrey Zvyaginets, Igor Voloshin, Aleksey Popogrebsky, Pyotr Buslov, Alexander Velebinsky, short.
- 2010 ***Act of Nature***, dir. Alexandr Lungin, Sergey Osipyan.
Open Russian Film Festival Kinotavr: Best Cinematography
- 2009 ***Room and a Half***, dir. Andrey Khrzhanovsky
East of West award at International Karlovy Vary Film Festival 2009
- 2008 ***Paper Soldier***, dir. Aleksey German Jr.
Silver Lion at Venice International Film Festival 2008 (Best Director)
Ozella prize at Venice International Film Festival (Best Camerawork) 
National Award of the Russian Academy of cinematic arts "Nika" (Best Director, Best Cinematography) 
National Award of film critics and journalists "White Elephant" ("White Taurus" Award) and other awards.

CREDITS

Title	Anna's War
Director	Aleksey Fedorchenko
Screenplay	Natalya Meschaninova, Aleksey Fedorchenko
Starring	Marta Kozlova
Country	Russia
Length	75 min.
Language	Russian, Ukrainian, German
Subtitles	English
Director of Photography	Alisher Khamidkhodzhaev
Sound Engineer	Vincent Arnardi
Editors	Pavel Khanyutin, Herve Schneid
Producers	Andrey Saveliyev, Artem Vasilyev, Maxim Lojevsky
Co-producers	Anatoly Zakharov, Simon Vine, Mikhail Grachev, Arkady Tseitlin, Boris Kobod
Executive producers	Olga Yuntunen, Dmitriy Vorobyev, Alexander Yashnik
Production companies	SAGa, Metrafilms, February 29th (production services)
Cast	
Anna	Marta Kozlova

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