

HAF 16 Revnost



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Russia, France

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Drama | Digital Format | Russian | 90 mins

DIRECTOR:

Nigina SAYFULLAEVA

PRODUCER:

Pavel ODYNIN

Guillaume DE SEILLE

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers, Sales agents, Pre-sales

BUDGET:

US\$ 1,300,000

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$ 802,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2014 *Name me*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

Lena suspects her husband is having an affair and exacts her revenge by sleeping with strangers. She eventually discovers her mistake, but cannot put an end to her double life.

SYNOPSIS

Lena is a respected obstetrician in a provincial town. Her husband, Sergey, is an actor at the local theatre. They appear to lead a quiet family life, although the romance between them seems to be over. At one point, however, she starts to suspect Sergey of having an affair and decides to exact her revenge by sleeping with several other men.

She eventually discovers that she was mistaken about her husband, but cannot put an end to her double life. Lena struggles with her insecurities, and explores her sexuality at the same time.

Her work routine – other women’s pregnancies and births – cannot distract her from her own emotional turbulence. Nonetheless, she is in for a nasty surprise at work. She recognizes the husband of her new client as one of her one-night-stands... Their “acquaintance” is revealed, and the man’s wife blames Lena in public for having affairs with husbands of her patients. Lena’s career is destroyed. Sergey, of course, finds out about the scandal and Lena’s other “adventures”, but the couple finds a special way to re-establish their relationship...

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Our protagonist is a successful, independent woman with a good career and rich social life. Her drama is not the adultery of her husband, but a mental taboo about talking (!) to her husband about their sex life. Working through this drama, our film speaks about the difficult and painful process of overcoming “Soviet” mental taboos, and of finding true freedom and happiness in life.

Our goal is to create an authentic world surrounding our protagonist, with a realistic environment and convincing motivations. We would like to offer the audience a chance to experience her anxiety through nuances, undertones and accurate details. Our approach is to work with subtexts instead of telling the plot explicitly. Instead of converting meanings into bits of information, we plan to use intuitively understandable imagery.

We also want to be as “close” as possible to our main character. The changes inside her bring out the external changes: as the protagonist feels more and more liberated, the camera also becomes more and more free. If initially the camera avoids showing naked bodies, towards the end of the film it is ready to show everything...

DIRECTOR

Nigina SAYFULLAEVA

Nigina Sayfullaeva was born in Tajikistan in 1985. After getting her degree in History of Art in the State University for Humanities, she graduated as director from the second biggest film school in Russia – HCSD. After a few very successful short films she directed her critically acclaimed debut *Name me* (2014). The film earned a Special Award in Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, and was also presented in the New Directors section in San Sebastian, 1&2 Competition in Warsaw, Cottbus, Stockholm and other festivals.

PRODUCER

Pavel ODYNIN

Before joining Droog Drooga as partner in 2017, Pavel co-produced/ executive produced numerous projects with leading Russian production companies. Recent titles include the Russian-Finnish-German *Arrithmiya* (2017), directed by Boris Khlebnikov (Best Film at Sochi and Best Actor at Karlovy Vary), and Kirill Pletnyev's debut *Zhgi!* (2017, Best Actress at Sochi). In 2015, *Screen International* named Pavel as one of the "future leaders" in production.

Guillaume DE SEILLE

EAVE graduate, member of EFA, Cesar Academy and SPI in France. Since 2000, he has produced/ co-produced more than forty feature films which were invited to many major film festivals and theatrically released in France.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Droog Drooga

Droog Drooga is a production boutique based in Moscow focusing on auteur films for the European market as well as director-driven commercial films for local market. The company's production debut was Nigina Sayfullaeva's *Name Me* (2014), which won a Special Award in Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, and drew critical acclaim in San Sebastian, Warsaw and other film festivals. Its third feature, *I Am Losing Weight* (2018), by Alexey Nuzhny, will be locally released by Universal in 2018.

Arizona Productions

Paris-based Arizona Productions is led by Guillaume de Seille and Bénédicte Thomas to produce and distribute art-house feature films directed by non-French emerging talents.