

THE WHALER BOY

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY PHILIPP YURYEV



ROCK FILMS AND ONKA FILM AND MAN'S FILMS PRODUCTIONS WITH THE SUPPORT OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT MODERN CINEMATOGRA-
PHY KINOPRIME IN CO-FINANCED PRODUCTION BY POLISH FILM INSTITUTE WITH THE SUPPORT OF CENTRE DU CINÉMA, E DE L'AUDIOVISUEL DE LA FÉDÉRATION WALLONIE-BRUXELLES AND TAKSHELTER.BE
AND ING AND TAKSHELTER DU GOUVERNEMENT FÉDÉRAL DE BELGIQUE PRESENT A FILM WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY PHILIPP YURYEV STARRING VLADIMIR ONOKHOV KRISTINA ASMUS VLADIMIR LYUBIMTSEV
NIKOLAY TATATO ARISH WORTHALTER DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY MIKHAIL KHURSEVICH YAKOV MROVCHIEV PRODUCTION DESIGNERS GEORGY KOLOTYGIN ARTEM KUZMIN COSTUME DESIGNER BORIS KU
KOLIN MAKE-UP ARTIST LANA KALIN EDITORS KAROLINA NACIEJEWSKA ALEXANDER KRYLOV PHILIPP YURYEV SOUND DIRECTOR DAVID VRANCKEN COMPOSER KRZYSZTOF A JANCZAK PRODUCER ALEXEY
UCHITEL CO-PRODUCERS KIRA SAKSAGANSKAYA MARION HÄNSEL JACEK KUŁCZYCKI MAGDALENA ZIMECKA RADOŚLAWA BARDES



LOCO
FILMS



SYNOPSIS

Leshka lives in an isolated village on the Bering Strait, which is located between Chukotka and Alaska and divides Russia from America. He is a teenager, and like most men in his village, he is a whale hunter who leads a very uneventful life out at the far edge of the world. But the internet's recent arrival in Leshka's village means the predominantly male population now gathers in a shed every evening to watch gorgeous girls thousands of kilometers away dance on the screen of a constantly buffering erotic webcam chat site.

For most of the guys, it's just a bit of fun, but Leshka takes it seriously. He encounters a beautiful girl on the chat site and falls in love with her. Leshka's first love transforms him beyond recognition: he is now determined to find the camgirl in the real world, where a crazy journey awaits him.



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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Kryukov Canal

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