



Producer Andrey Sigle
presents

FATEI AND THE SEA

a documentary film by
Alina Rudnitskaya and Sergei Vinokurov

Synopsis

The action in the film takes place in the Far East, on an uninhabited island called Rikord in the Peter the Great Gulf of the Sea of Japan. The lead character, called Fatei after his father, and his family have their own marine farm where they harvest delicacies from the sea. In amazing images of the underwater world and landscapes of the Primorsky (Maritime) Territory of the Russian Far East, the film "Fatei and the Sea" tells the story of a little man whose life is inseparable from the big world around him.

Production and Funding

The documentary "Fatei and the Sea" was co-produced by the Russian film studio Proline Film with the Finnish company Illume Ltd. Oy and the Polish Arkana Film Studio. It was filmed with support from the Russian Federation Ministry of Culture and the National Cinema Institute of Poland, as well as from the Finnish Film Foundation AVEK and Yle. In March 2017 the picture was the first documentary project with majority Russian funding to receive support from the European Film Support Fund, Eurimages.

The Filmmakers

General Producer – Andrey Sigle, founder of Proline Film, producer of unconventional, award-winning Russian and international films. He works with the best and most celebrated Russian directors, such as Konstantin Lopushansky, Alexander Sokurov, and Irina Yevteyeva.

Author of the idea, creative producer – Mila Kudryashova, who worked previously on other Proline Film projects including director Alexander Sokurov's "Faust," "Alexandra," and "The Sun."

Directors — Alina Rudnitskaya, whose film "Blood" was awarded the top prize at Russian and international film festivals; and Sergei Vinokurov (screenwriter for "Blood," creative producer for the film "Catastrophe," director of several seasons of the television series "Gangster Petersburg," among other films).

Director of photography – Krystian Matysek (Poland) whose films about wild nature are shown on Discovery, Planet, Arte and Animal Planet.

Director of underwater photography was done by a group from Finland headed by one of the best specialists in Scandinavia, Teemu Laikka.

Background to the Film

In 2014 at the Meridians of the Pacific festival, producer Mila Kudryashova presented a film by Alina Rudnitskaya called "Blood." At the festival she talked with legendary hockey player Vyacheslav Fetisov, who told her about a real-life character by the name of Gennady Podkorytov (nicknamed Fatei). That

was when Kudryashova got the idea of making the full-length feature “Fatei and the Sea.” The project was supported by Proline Film. At the Moscow Business Square in 2015, the team was joined by Finnish co-producer Pertti Veijalainen from Illume. And at the Sputnik Russian film pitching festival, also held in 2015, the Polish co-producer Dorota Rozkowska of Arkana signed up. Filming began in August 2017.

Inspiration

One of inspirations for the filmmakers was the Ernest Hemingway short novel, “The Old Man and the Sea.” Like the old Cuban fisherman Santiago, the main hero of the film, the old diver Fatei, dreams of “catching his big fish” — expanding his marine farm. But like the character in Hemingway’s story who couldn’t pull in the marlin by himself, Fatei can’t solve his problems on his own. To do that he’d need to change his attitude to the world around him. In the end, Fatei metaphorically tries to change inside and hides in the bottomless ocean.

Filming

Mila Kudryashova, author of the idea, screenwriter, and creative producer:

“The filming took place on an uninhabited island, and the whole crew lived in tents, like we were war correspondents, with no contact with civilization. Rikord Island is a nature preserve. There is no public transportation there. You can only get there on cruisers, yachts and speedboats. It’s more than ten kilometers from the nearest island and 40 kilometers to Vladivostok. This is where Russia begins, and everything that happens there is a kind of metaphor since it takes place at the edge of Russia.”

The Lead Character

The lead character, Fatei, is like a seal: physically clumsy, with poor social skills, and capable to behaving badly. Against the background of the extravagant lifestyle of the yacht owners, Fatei looks like a loser: his marine farm isn’t very successful and he can’t stop the poachers. His wife yells at him — for good cause — because he isn’t tough enough. But sometimes Fatei can be crude, and he can take out his irritation on his workers. That said, inside him is a kind of simple and soulful truth. In his heart, Fatei seems to have figured out the reason for living: when he recites his youthful poetry, when he feels compassion for nature, when he stares up at the night sky... Then nature’s grandeur unexpectedly begin to resonate within the soul of this small and comical man.

Alina Rudnitskaya, director:

“The character of Fatei is a man who finds it difficult to change and accept something new. He is a man with a Soviet mentality. It’s easier for him to confront poachers straight on than to change his behavior. But at the very end, Fatei metaphorically takes a step toward his enemies.”

Sergei Vinokurov, director:

“Fatei and the Sea” is the poetic story of a family that lives on an otherwise uninhabited island in the Sea of Japan. They have a small marine farm and are simply trying to survive. The main characters’ most admirable quality is probably that they don’t give up. They try to deal with their problems as best as they can. Fatei is an old diver and a romantic who has not realized that there is an easier way to solve his problems: he can learn to speak with his enemies in the language of economics.”

Documentary film

FATEI AND THE SEA

Production Year: 2018
Genre: documentary film
Length: 73 min
Production Companies: Proline Film, Russia; ARKANA film studio, Poland; ILLUME OY, Finland
With financial support: MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, FOUNDATION EURIMAGE, Polish Film Institute, Finnish Film Foundation, AVEK, Yle
General producer: Andrey Sigle
Co-producers: Dorota Roszkowska, Pertti Veijalainen
Directors: Alina Rudnitskaya & Sergey Vinokurov
Idea: Mila Kudryashova
Director of photography: Krystian Matysek
Director of underwater photography: Teemu Liakka

Language: Russian
Subtitles: English
Film status: post production

Director
Alina Rudnitskaya



Documentary film director and screenwriter.

Graduate of the Academy of Aerospace Instrument Technology, the University of Culture and the Arts in St. Petersburg with a major in film direction.

Jury member of the documentary film program of the Moscow International Film Festival, 2014.

Jury member in the competition program of full-length films at the IDFA Amsterdam Festival of Documentary Film, 2014.

Teaches at the Saint Petersburg State University of Film and Television.

Director and screenwriter of documentary films, awards (selected):

2014 **Victory Day**. Doc Leipzig, One World Berlin Film Festival, Art Doc Fest, Trieste Film Festival, Doc Point Helsinki

2013 **Blood**. Grand Prize, dokumentArt, Neubrandenburg; Best Documentary Film, White Elephant Award, CineDoc Festival, Tbilisi, Georgia; Astra Film Festival, Romania; Grand Prize of the Window to Europe Festival of Russian Films; Grand Prize of the VIII Andrei Tarkovsky "Mirror" International Film Festival; main prize of the International Festival of Documentary Films in Gdansk, Poland

2012 **Epiphany**, feature film (fictional) with A. Melentiev

2011 **I Will Forget This Day**. MEDIAWAVE International Film Festival Prize for Best Documentary; Danzant Prize of the Huesca Film Festival; MDR Prize for Best Documentary Film at the Leipzig Film Festival; Jury Prize of the XI DocumentaMadrid International Film Festival; Pulse RTP Award and Amnesty International Award; Laurel Branch Award for Best Auteur Non-Fiction Film

2007 **Bitch Academy**. Main International Jury Award of the Oberhausen International Film Festival; Main Prize of the Vienna Independent Shorts International Film Festival

2006 **Kiss Me Harder**. First Jury Prize of the DocumentaMadrid International Film Festival and the Silver Boat Award of the Window to Europe International Film Festival; Laurel Film Prize, Russia

2005 **Marital Status**. Main Prize at the Oberhausen International Film Festival; Grand Prize of the Belgrade Documentary Short Film Festival, Serbia; Grand Prize of the Stuttgart Festival of Russian, CIS and Baltic Cinema; Grand Prize of the Zagreb Dox; First Jury Prize of the DocumentaMadrid International Film Festival

2004 **Rural Lessons**

2003 **Ryazanov in the Portraits of the Era project**

2003 **Vishnevskaya and Rostropovich in the Portraits of the Era project**

2003 **Equestriennes**

2002 **Marital Status**. Prize at the Amber Arch Festival, Lithuania

2001 **The Letter**. Grand Prize of the Start Festival, Russia

Director
Sergei Vinokurov



Film director, screenwriter
Member of Russian Filmmakers Union
Graduate of Alexander Sokurov Film School

Feature Films

1997 Vampire
1990 The Story of a Provocation

Television Series (fiction):

2018 Defense Prospekt

2014 **Preserve Her, Love**
2013 **Sea Devils. Vortex 2**
2012 **Cargo. State Courier**
2010 **The Death of Vasir-Mukhtar**
2009 **The August Ambassador**
2007 **Bandit Petersburg 10. Paying the Piper**
2006 **Bandit Petersburg 9. Dutch Passage**
2006 **Bandit Petersburg 8. Terminal**
2005 **Hoods**

Documentaries

2018 **Fatei and the Sea**
2015 **Kuryokhin. Next**
2013 **Blood**
2010 **I Will Forget This Day**
2002 **Dating Club**
2002 **t.A.T.u. in the Celestial Empire** (reality show)
2002 **Cohabitation. Petersburg-300** Documentary Series
2002 **Delusion. Petersburg-300** Documentary Series
2002 **Scent of the Night. Petersburg-300** Documentary Series
2002 **Library. Petersburg-300** Documentary Series
2002 **Theme of Last Summer. Petersburg-300** Documentary Series
2001 **Marry Me. Hello, Peter** Documentary Series
2001 **Beauty Hunters. Hello, Peter** Documentary Series
1994 **Parking Lot**
1993 **It Snowed This Morning**
1991 **The City and Her**
1989 **Local Time**

General producer

ANDREY SIGLE



Date of birth: May 15, 1964.

Education: the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory and the Royal Academy of Music in Gothenburg (Sweden).

He has composed music for more than 40 films.

Andrei Sigle's creative work has been awarded with prizes of Russian and foreign festivals many times. He's a participant of international film forums (Cannes, Berlin, Venice).

He's a Honoured Art Worker of Russian Federation (2006).

In 2011 – The Golden Lion for “Faust” at Venice Film Festival.

Andrei Sigle is also a member of the European Film Academy (EFA).

Laureate of “Time for peace film and music awards” (2008)

Laureate of Governmental awards of Saint Petersburg (2007, 2008)

Laureate of “White Elephant” awards (2005, 2012)

Laureate of “Kinotaur” (2005, 2006)

Laureate of “Nika” (2013)

Selected Filmography:

2016 **Kharms** (feature film) by Ivan Bolotnikov

2015 **Arventur** (animated feature film) by Irina Evteeva

2013 **The Role** (feature film) by Konstantin Lopushansky

2011 **Faust** (feature film) by Alexander Sokurov

2010 **Missing man** (feature film) by Anna Fenchenko

2007 **Alexandra** (feature film) by Alexander Sokurov

2006 **The ugly swans** (feature film) by Konstantin Lopushansky

Author of the idea

Mila Kudryashova



Screenwriter, director, producer, actor

2014 **Meet the Senator**, executive producer, author

2013 **Alexander Vampilov. Chulimsk Forever**, executive producer, screenwriter

2013 **Sochi. Hope & Suspense**, executive producer, screenwriter

2013 **Crime Reenactment**: episodes Mute Witnesses, Face to Face, screenwriter

2013 **Leonid Gaidai. The Great Mockingbird**, screenwriter

2012 **Leonardo da Vinci**, Student of God, the project Great Dreamers (Ukraine), screenwriter

2012 **Poet Olzhas Suleimenov – Man of the Universe**, co-screenwriter, executive producer

2011 **Battle for Ukraine**, foreign archive director

2011 **Sunshine 24 Hours**, co-screenwriter, associate producer

2010 **Law of the Pack**, screenwriter

2011 **Our Cosmos: A Day is Longer Than a Year**, screenwriter

2010 **A Dog's Friend**

2010 **Russian Atlantis. Double Time**, co-screenwriter

2007 **Crises. Breaking the Line of Fate**, author of idea, screenwriter

2006 **Filming 'The Ugly Swans,'** director, screenwriter

Director of photography

Krystian Matysek



Director, screenwriter and DOP for a number of documentaries, including nature films awarded at festivals and bought by broadcasters around the world. DOP for fiction Films. Tutor at Dragon Forum and Academy of Documentary Arts

In 2001 Krystian Matysek directed his famous film "With Beak and Claw". The realization of this film took more than 3 years. The sequences about the life of birds were assembled in a manner of a feature film. "With Beak and Claw" has no verbal commentary." With Beak and Claw" was presented and awarded at many festivals around the world.

His most recent films:

2013 **Sailing Over the Grass** / Statkiem po trawie - 50'

2012 **Secrets of Love** / Sekrety miłości - 90'

2012 **The Lord of the Carpathians** / Niedźwiedź Władca Gór - 52'

Director of underwater photography

Teemu Liakka



Teemu is a cinematographer, a professional diver and has extensive knowledge of working in harsh natural environments. During his 20 year career he has always followed his enthusiasm, taking on interesting projects rather than just assignments

After film school in 1997 he started his career with music videos and commercials. Gradually he moved more into documentaries and made aerials for features for a while. His passion for the underwater world took over in 2002 when in preparation for a documentary project he ended up in commercial diving school.

Today Teemu mainly shoots documentaries and underwater scenes for features. Although he is a very versatile cinematographer involved in visual art projects, equipment design and commercials, at the moment his interests lie in documentaries, nature and of course underwater work.

Teemu is based in Finland

<http://www.liakka.net/>

CEO, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - Illume OY (Finland) - www.illume.fi

Pertti Veijalainen



Pertti Veijalainen b.1955 producer, studied film theory and history, philosophy, communications, sociology and literature in Universities of Stockholm and Helsinki. 1975-76 member in Students Theatre. Graduate from Finnish Academy of Industrial Arts 1984 with a diploma in cinematography. 1986-1987 freelancer cameraman and assistant in different documentary films. 1987-92 special planner in state Administrative Development Agency producing educational video programs and organising courses in video production. Starting from 1992 working for Illume Ltd. as producer and cinematographer. Some 40 works in documentary films as a cameraman and over 40 produced documentary films. See http://www.illume.fi/site/?lan=3&page_id=16

Managing director of Illume Ltd. 92- Board member of The Central Organisation of the Finnish Film Producers. Member of the Board of the Finnish Film Archive 2005.

Native language Finnish, fluent in English and Swedish, speaks Russian and German and some French and Estonian.

97/98 Course in Leadership and Management Program organised by Business Department of the Employment and Economic Development Centre for Uusimaa, Television Business School course in Lübeck

Media EAVE program 99 - course for European producers

Vertical Strategies –course on marketing for independent producers 2001

Film Business School Sofia 2007, Idfa Summer School 2009, Luovimo 2012-2013 growth programme for creative industry companies by FinPro, EAVE+ 2016

CEO, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - ARKANA Film Studio (Poland) - www.arkanastudio.pl

Dorota Roszkowska



Documentary film producer, tutor and expert. Member of the European Film Academy. Founder of the ARKANA film studio. She is the producer of: "Poste Restante", 14', dir. Marcel Łoziński, "The Mill and the Cross", 77', dir. Lech Majewski, "Honey Hunters" 72', dir. Krystian Matysek, "Habit and Armour", 100', dir. Paweł Pitiera.

She spent many years in the Netherlands where she worked in the audiovisual industry. From 1997 to 2002 she worked as a commissioning editor at the culture office of TVP2. She was responsible for co-productions with the European cultural broadcaster ARTE. She was responsible for a number of documentaries, international debates and theme nights broadcast in Poland and in Europe.

Dorota Roszkowska is a member of social organisations:

The European Film Academy (EFA);

Polish Filmmakers Association (SFP), secretary of the board of the Documentary Section

Polish Audiovisual Producers Chamber of Commerce (KIPA);

New Horizons Association, founding member.

She is an expert for the European Commission and she works as an international tutor.

Since 2003 Dorota Roszkowska has been running Arkana film studio: www.arkanastudio.pl.

Dorota Roszkowska also ran the Academy of Documentary Arts which organised international workshops, including the Dragon Forum pitching forum at the Krakow Film Festival and a series of workshops in Kiev, Moscow and Perm.

SELECTED WORK:

2018 **Sing**, 52', dir. Olga Korotkaya

2017 **River of treasures**, 72', dir. Marcin Jamkowski & Konstanty Kulik

2017 **Habit and Armour**, 96', dir. Paweł Pitiera

2016 **Honey Hunters**, 77', dir. Krystian Matysek, winner of the so-called "green Oscars", the PANDA AWARDS, Wildscreen Festival, Bristol

2012 **Cut-paste** – 29' dir. Rafał Samusik; Silver Eye Award for documentary film – IDFF Jihlava 2012

2010 **The Mill and the Cross**, 80' dir. Lech Majewski, based on the painting by Pieter Bruegel "The Procession to Calvary"; 2010, co-production; the film received awards all around the world

2008 **Poste Restante**, 14', dir. Marcel Łoziński, prod. Arkana – film studio. European Film Award - 2009 for the best short.

CURRENTLY IN PRODUCTION:

Fatei and the Sea dir. Alina Rudnitskaya – creative documentary co-production

Last Pagans of Europe dir. Raitis & Lauris Abele – historical documentary co-production



Proline Film was founded in 2004 by a famous Russian movie composer and producer Andrey Sigle. The Studio cooperates with many independent European producers, major funds, film studios and TV channels. We are proud to work with the best Russian film directors: Aleksandr Sokurov, Konstantin Lopushansky, Irina Evteeva, Sergei Ovcharov. Films of the Studio are the participants and winners of many film festivals, including the Cannes International Film Festival, the Berlinale, the Shanghai International Film Festival, Venice International Film Festival and Moscow International Film Festival. Our mission is to promote Auteur Cinema worldwide.

<http://en.prolinefilm.ru/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ProlineFilm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhB0-4Vucwo>