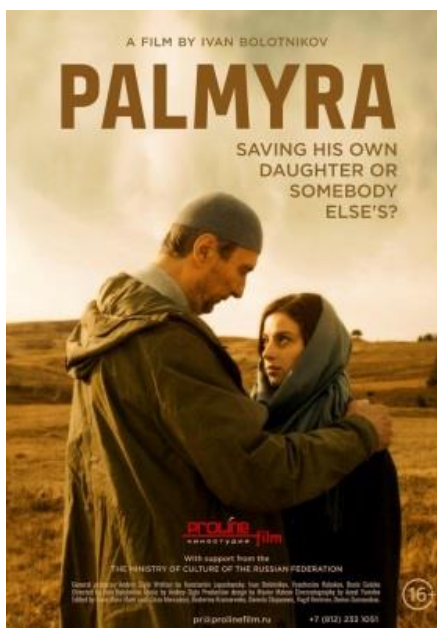


Producer Andrei Sigle

presents:

PALMYRA

a film by
Ivan Bolotnikov



The film is based on a true story. Arthur, a former military doctor, leads the quiet life of a widower in a mountain village in Dagestan. Arthur learns that his only daughter Maryam has been recruited by a terrorist organization and ran away to Syria. Desperate, Arthur goes after her. The father is willing to do anything it takes to save his daughter. When do your loved ones become strangers? Can a loving father be faced with a choice: saving his own daughter or somebody else's?

Most of the movie was shot in Dagestan. In Derbent, one of the oldest cities in the world, the production designer and set decorators created the atmosphere of a city overtaken by terrorists. They modified the look of some historical buildings and city streets. In particular, the Syrian hospital Arthur works in was built in Derbent, as were Turkish streets. The creators wanted all the details connected with regional and ethnic specific to be depicted as precisely and realistically as possible. We follow the main character on his dangerous journey across the Syrian border, and then observe the life in a half-ruined city covered with war wounds. Here, death awaits you at every turn, and religious fanatics sentence one person after another.

At the same time, the film crew was able to create a universal story – the drama of a father and daughter’s relationship, something that every person can understand and relate to. The authors ask the audiences: do we really know what’s happening in the souls of even our closest friends and family?

“This is a modern, relevant story, but at the same time it exists as a parable, or, you might say, as an ancient tragedy”, - Ivan Bolotnikov notes.

Palmyra is **Ivan Bolotnikov**’s second feature live action film. He had risen to prominence as a documentary filmmaker. His debut live action feature, *Kharms*, also made at Proline Film Studio, had a very successful festival run both in Russia and abroad.

The founder and head of Proline Film, **Andrey Sigle**, produced the film and composed the score. Some of his past projects where he also served in both roles include Alexander Sokurov’s internationally acclaimed films *Faust*, *Alexandra*, *Father and Son*, as well as films by Konstantin Lopushansky, Sergey Ovcharov, Irina Evteeva, and other masters of Russian independent filmmaking.

“Our film talks about the values of human life. Our main character goes to Syria to save his daughter. It is not any sort of military operation; it is just the fate of one family in the given horrible circumstances. The name of the movie, Palmyra, is a collective symbol that has no direct connection to the ancient city. Palmyra as the great artistic symbol of human heritage that is being attacked by terrorists”, **Andrey Sigle** emphasizes.

The main character, the surgeon Arthur, was played by Hungarian playwright and publisher, Professor **Géza Morcsányi**, who has worked as a literary translator with Galina Volchek, Oleg Tabakov, and Anatoly Vasiliev. Morcsányi debuted as an actor only recently, in 2017. His debut was the main character in a film that won the first prize at the Berlin Film Festival. Morcsányi played Endre, the CFO of an abattoir, in director Ildikó Enyedi’s drama *On Body and Soul*. *Palmyra* is Géza Morcsányi’s second movie.

Géza Morcsányi: *“When I was reading the screenplay, it was immediately clear to me that this is such a fundamental human tragedy, a drama, that participating in such a story about our world, about our life, is a special task, and a special honor”*.

Arthur's daughter Maryam was portrayed by **Ekaterina Kramarenko**, a graduate of the St. Petersburg Academy of Performing Arts and company member of the New Imperial Theater. This is her first role in a significant feature film. Ekaterina's character spends much less time on screen than the main character, but she is part of the most dramatic scenes. The actress demonstrates a great emotional range, from reserved, tense silence to frightening fury, from vulnerability to cruel determination.

The third important character is a nurse named Sabria, whom Arthur meets on his journey to the way to the Islamic State. Later, he will have to work with her in the hospital. Sabira embodies the combination of closedness and fear of a woman living according to the rules of radical Islam and not used to revealing her face and soul to strangers with compassion and sincere love for fellow humans. She is the only person in the terrorist den whom Arthur can trust. This role is played by Serbian actress **Danijela Stojanovic**.

The character of the chief of medicine of the Syrian hospital, the doctor who is going through the death of his wife, is played by Lithuanian actor **Darius Gumauskas**. He graduated from the acting department of the Lithuanian Music Academy and worked in different theaters in Lithuania. He had won the highest theater award of his country, the Golden Stage Cross, for his work in the production of *The Lower Depths* (Theater of Oskaras Koršunovas). In recent years, he has participated in a few Russian film projects. In particular, he acted in Konstantin Khabensky's *Sobibor*; he also worked with Ivan Bolotnikov on the movie *Kharms*.

The film was produced with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.

Full-length feature film

PALMYRA

Year: **2020**
Genre: **Drama**
Length: **85 min**
Color: **color**
Language: **Russian, Arabic**
Subtitles: **English**
Production: **[Proline Film](#)**
With support from: **The Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation**
General producer: **[Andrei Sigle](#)**
Directed by: **Ivan Bolotnikov**
Written by: **Konstantin Lopushanskiy, Ivan Bolotnikov, Vyacheslav Rybakov, Denis Gutsko**
Music by: **Andrei Sigle**
Production design by: **Maxim Maleyev**
Cinematography by: **Ayrat Yamilov**
Edited by: **Anna Mass**
Costumer: **Olga Bakhareva**
Make-up design by: **Maria Dolinina**
Main cast: **Géza Morcsányi (Hungary) as Arthur**
Yekaterina Kramarenko (Russia) as Maryam
Daniela Stojanovic (Serbia) as Sabria
Darius Gumauskas (Lithuania) as Dr. Khalid
Vagif Kerimov (Azerbaijan) as Abu Dudjan

Synopsis

The film is based on a true story. Arthur, a former military doctor, leads the quiet life of a widower in a mountain village in Dagestan. Arthur learns that his only daughter Maryam has been recruited by a terrorist organization and ran away to Syria. Desperate, Arthur goes after her. The father is willing to do anything it takes to save his daughter. When do your loved ones become strangers? Can a loving father be faced with a choice: saving his own daughter or somebody else's?

Film webpage: <http://prolinefilm.ru/en/films/palmyra>

Photos: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1pJM_tB6nfOrbXXS7akuGGDz6SGi3iZDD

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

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

IVAN BOLOTNIKOV

Director



Documentary and feature film director. Born on February 20, 1969 in Moscow. Graduated with a degree in art history from the History Department of Moscow State University, as well as from the Advanced Course for Screenwriters and Film directors, workshop of Alexey German Sr. and Svetlana Karmalita. From 2000 to 2004, Ivan worked as trainee director on *Hard to Be a God* with A. German in Russia and the Czech Republic.

Awards

- 2017 Winner of the Golden Cup of the 20th Shanghai International Film Festival for Best Screenplay for the movie *Kharms*
- 2014 Winner of the Citizenship Award of the Cinema without Barriers Film Festival in Sochi and award at the II International Sports Film Festival “Overcoming” for his documentary *Touch-Line*
- 2008 Award winner at the XI Eurasian Teleforum and participant of RFF in the UK
- 2005 Participant of competitions at international film festivals in Rotterdam, Edinburgh, United Arab Emirates, Rome (RIFF), Hungary (Mediawave Film Festival, BuSho), Tehran (TISSF), Romania (ALTER-NATIV), and Czech Republic (Crossroads Olomouc).

Filmography

- 2020 [PALMYRA](#), feature film, director, co-writer
- 2016 [KHARMS](#), feature film, director, writer
- 2014 JOHN THE BAPTIST, documentary, director, writer, co-producer
- 2014 TOUCH – LINE, documentary, director, writer
- 2008 A MELODY FOR GERMAN, documentary, director, writer, producer
- 2005 THE MIRACLE OF DANIEL KHARMS, documentary, director, writer
- 2005 THE DAY I APPROACH MYSELF, short documentary, director, writer, producer

ANDREY SIGLE

Head producer



Producer, composer.

Born on May 15, 1964. Graduated from the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory and the Royal Academy of Music in Gothenburg. He has composed music for more than 40 films. In 2004, he founded the company Proline Film. The company's main goal is supporting Russia's independent filmmakers and carrying out international co-production projects. In 2002, he co-founded the ASDS Film Studio together with Dmitry Svetozarov. ASDS produces movies, television shows and musical content for Russia's leading television networks. Andrey Sigle's work has won many awards at film festivals in Russia and abroad. He has participated in international film forums (Cannes, Berlin, Venice). Mr. Sigle is an Honored Art Worker of the Russian Federation (2006), as well as a member of the European Film Academy (EFA) and the European Producers Club (EPC).

Awards

2013 Winner of a Nika award

2012 Winner of a White Elephant award

2011 Winner of the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival for Alexander Sokurov's *Faust*

2008 Winner of a St. Petersburg Governmental Award

2008 Award winner at Time for Peace Film and Music Awards

2007 Winner of a St. Petersburg Governmental Award

2006 Award winner at Kinotavr Film Festival

2005 Winner of a White Elephant award

2005 Award winner at Kinotavr Film Festival

Selected Filmography

2020 [PALMYRA](#)

2020 [THE MELODY OF STRING TREE](#)

2018 [THROUGH THE BLACK GLASS](#)

2016 [KHARMS](#)

2015 [ARVENTUR](#)

2013 [THE ROLE](#)

2011 [FAUST](#)

2010 [MISSING MAN](#)

2007 [CRIME AND PUNISHMENT](#)

2007 [ALEXANDRA](#)

2006 [THE UGLY SWANS](#)

2006 [SERKO](#)

2004 [THE SUN](#)

GÉZA MORCSÁNYI

Acting as ARTHUR



Hungarian playwright, literary translator, university professor, and actor.

Born on August 28, 1952, in Budapest. After graduating from the economics faculty of the Corvinus University of Budapest in 1977, Mr. Morcsányi went on to work as a playwright for ten years in various Budapest theaters, including Miklós Radnóti Theater, and in rural theaters (national theaters of Pec and Gyor, chamber theater in Szolnok).

For twenty years, until 2015, he was the director of the Magveto publishing company.

Mr. Morcsányi is currently the CEO of the Lira Könyv Zrt publishing group.

In 2017, Géza debuted on the big screen in the leading role of director Ildikó Enyedi's drama *On Body and Soul*. He played Endre, the director of a Budapest abattoir who leads a secluded life, alongside Alexandra Borbély, Réka Tenki, Tamás Jordán, Pál Mácsai, Júlia Nyakó, and others. The film won four awards at the Berlin Film Festival, including the Golden Bear and the FIPRESCI Prize.

Géza Morcsányi has translated numerous works by A. Chekhov, N. Gogol, M. Gorky, M. Bulgakov, I. Babel, L. Ulitskaya, I. Vryypaev, and other Russian writers.

He has worked with Galina Volchek and Anatoly Vasiliev on numerous projects.

Awards

2017 First prize winner at the Berlin Film Festival for the movie *On Body and Soul*

2010 Winner of the Pro Cultura Hungaro-Russica award from the Foundation for the Promotion of Russian Language and Culture and the Budapest Center for Russian Studies

Filmography

2020 [PALMYRA](#)

2017 ON BODY AND SOUL

EKATERINA KRAMARENKO

Acting as MARYAM



Born on June 27, 1989, in Slavyansk-on-Kuban, in the Krasnodar Region of Russia.

In 2015, Ekaterina graduated from the St. Petersburg Academy of Performing Arts, class of Arvid Zeland.

She is currently a company member at the New Imperial Theater, headed by Oleg Eryomin; she also stars in the immersive show *Faceless* ("Bezlikie").

Filmography

2020 [PALMYRA](#)

DANIJELA STOJANOVIC

Acting as Sabira



Born on April 27, 1970, in the Serbian city of Niš.

Danijela graduated from the Belgrade State University of the Arts (Institute of Stage Arts, Department of Acting). She has worked in the People's Theater in the city of Subotica and the Belgrade Drama Theater.

She has been living in St. Petersburg since 2000.

She has worked with Liteyny Theater and Andrey Moguchy's Formal Theater. The actress can currently be seen on the stages of Comedian's Shelter and Mansion theaters, as well as in multiple TV series and motion pictures.

Selected Filmography

2020 [PALMYRA](#)

2012 MOSGAZ

2011 CELESTIAL COURT

2010 MISSING MAN

2010 POPYTKA VERY ('VERA'S TRY')

2010 TARGET

2010 VOICES

2009 I LOVE ONLY YOU

2008 THE CRIMSON COLOR OF SNOWFALL



[Proline Film](#) was founded by composer and producer [Andrey Sigle](#) in 2004.

The studio specializes in independent film projects.

Proline Film works with Russia's best directors: [Alexander Sokurov](#), [Konstantin Lopushansky](#), Sergey Ovcharov, [Irina Evteeva](#), [Alina Rudnitskaya](#), and [Ivan Bolotnikov](#). The studio's films have competed and won at international film festivals, including the festivals in Cannes, Berlin, Shanghai, Venice, and Moscow.

Proline Film works in association with many independent European producers, as well as the leading foundations, film studios, and television networks, including Eurimages, LeCanal+ (France), Downtown Pictures (Italy), Mact Productions (France), Rezo Films (France), Barrandov (Czech Republic), Sagafilm (Iceland), Generator Post, and Illume (Finland).

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