



Andrey Sigle

presents:

Touch

A debut film by **Maria Afanasyeva**

Drama

98 min.

Release – 2021

The film is based on the director's personal story and everything happening on screen, first if all, is an author's insights, a confession, as one may call it. «Touch» is an attempt to create a new level of honesty between the author and the spectators. An authoress' conversation with the audience as with herself.

Logline:

A director's personal story. A single mother falls in love with a married man. He is ready to respond to her feelings, but on his own conditions.

Synopsis:

Maria lives a modest life of a teacher and raises a small daughter as a single mother. One day Maria has a new student who impresses her with his talent. He also feels sympathy for her, and they start to get closer. But when their feelings start to grow into love, the man appears to be married.

Despite his marriage is unhappy, the man is not ready to leave his family, because he loves his son. And Maria is not ready to date a married man because of her principles. Their relationship gets more and more difficult and sooner or later the characters must make their choices.

About the film:

Many of us have faced difficult choices, on which depended our entire lives. The main character faces such situation. On the one side of the scale lies her principles and religion, on the other – a possibility to get at least a small piece of happiness in this huge and hostile world.

«This is a biographical picture. It seemed to me that it is very important to share not only men's story about victories, great actions, wars or, quite the opposite, peace building, but also quiet women's story told by a quiet female voice

Maria Afanasyeva, director

About the Film:

«In the script of "Touch" I saw a personal, a very believable story, which is very real, very well-structured, very believable. It's clear that the authoress is very well familiar with the topic. Working with newcomers can be exceedingly difficult and unpredictable, however, I think that every film company should support the film debuts and discover new names»

Andrey Sigle, the Chief producer

The film's main part is its honesty. So, we used only real, "living" objects during our filming, that allowed us to achieve a feeling of a real environment. For example, the film school scenes were shot in Lenfilm studio where the real film courses take place. And the protagonist's apartments were shot in a typical apartment building in a residential area. The design of the apartment represents the protagonist's personality.

Unlike most contemporary Russian films that try to embellish the lives of the characters or to make them very

In the protagonist's house there are some embroideries. These are works of a famous artist from St. Petersburg Marina Spivak who portray her family in her works. She sews pictures about her children, parents, home and pets.

repulsive as the opposite, in «Touch» the life of a common single Russian woman is depicted with maximum realism. Thousands of people in our country live like this.

The film tells its story without hiding anything from its spectators. There is a high level of trust between the director and her audience.

The protagonist's costumes bring a unique charm to her character. They were created by a famous artist Larisa Konnikova. After reading a script Konnikova told the director: our protagonist is a "poor artist" who embroideries pictures may sew her clothing by her own as well.

The music is also especially important to the story. So the film creators decided to ask Murat Kabardokov, a young but successful composer who worked with Alexander Sokurov ("Francofonia"). There are very few dialogs in "Touch",

so Murat created a very intimate musical accompaniment which the composer performed with his string quartet “Klever”. As a result, music successfully tells what words can never describe.

Cast and Creators:

It is a debut feature film for a director Maria Afanasyeva. Before “Touch” Maria shot two short films that prepared her for telling a story, based on her personal experience to a wide audience.

Gleb Klimov, a director of photography created unique visual series, on purpose making camera moves look like accidental which seem like they do not depend on the film’s story. So, the spectators feel like a part of action.

Like everything in the film, the cast decisions were made depending on the proximity of the actors to their characters. It was clear that the famous actors would not fit in – they are followed by a line of their previous works, but we needed something fresh, something trustful. So we were looking for young and not famous actors only.

For example, the actress who played the main part, is a teacher, like her character. She teaches acting for kids.

«When I read the Maria’ script, I was shocked – a very similar story happened in my life. It was very painful to recall it. I was not sure if I want to live through all this again. But eventually I brought myself back together – that is our job. Everything was real, no “tricks” were used«

Marianna Luchinina (Maria)

Speaking of the male lead, he, just like his character, is still a student. However, the main criteria was how the internal state of the actor corresponded to the one of the character

«In the script it is stated: “Dedicated to everyone who loved”. This phrase totally describes the film’s story. Have our characters touched love? Yes. Once we asked our professor: “What does love mean?” He answered: “Love is when you want to make other person’s life better”.

David Ochkhidze (Ziya)

There are more famous actors in the film as well. Anna Geller, who is known for her roles in TV series, in “Touch” plays the main supportive role of a film school principle. Anna’s natural charm and a great comedic talent add a lot of variety to the film. .

Yekaterina Untilova, Anastasia Kvitko and Aleksei Shtukin are familiar to the audience for their works in theaters of St. Petersburg.

Feature film

Touch

Year: 2020

Country: Russia

Running time: 98 min.

Genre: Drama

Age limit: 12+

Production: Proline Film

Producer: Andrey Sigle

Supported by the Ministry for Culture of the Russian Federation.

Written and directed by Maria Afansyeva

Cinematography: Gleb Klimov

Music by Murat Kabardokov

Edited by Aleksei Maklakov

Production designer: Maria Petrova

Costume designer: Larisa Konnikova

Main Cast: Marianna Luchinina, David Ochkhikidze, Anna Geller, Sergei Shokolov, Yekaterina Untilova, Alexei Torkover, Maria Odegova, Aleksei Shtukin.

Synopsis:

Maria lives a modest life of a teacher and raises a small daughter as a single mother. One day Maria has a new student who impresses her with his talent. He also feels sympathy for her, and they start to get closer. But when their feelings start to grow into love, the man appears to be married.

Despite his marriage is unhappy, the man is not ready to leave his family, because he loves his son. And Maria is not ready to date a married man because of her principles. Their relationship gets more and more difficult and sooner or later the characters must make their choices.

Photomaterial: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1riTKWn35LC1A5WgIHg-ARp4YN9mGsOIY>

Andrey Sigle

Producer



Producer, composer. Andrey Sigle was born on 15th of May 1964. Graduated from the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory and the Royal Academy of Music in Gothenburg (Sweden). Composed music for more than 40 films.

In 2004 founded a film company Proline Film the main goals of which are to support Russian arthouse films and realize international collaborations in cinema. In 2002 together with Dmitry Svetozarov founded a ASDS studio which realize films and series for Russian top TV channels.

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)

Filmography

2021 Touch (directed by Maria Afanasyeva)

2020 Palmyra (directed by Ivan Bolotnikov)

2019 Melody of a String Tree (directed by Irina Evteeva)

2019 Through the Black Glass (directed by Konstantin Lopushansky)

2016 Kharms (directed by Ivan Bolotnikov)

2015 Arventur (directed by Irina Evteeva)

2013 Role (directed by Konstantin Lopushansky)

2011 Faust (directed by Alexander Sokurov)

2010 Missing Man (directed by Anna Fenchenko)

2007 Crime and Punishment (directed by Dmitry Svetozarov)

2007 Alexandra (directed by Alexander Sokurov)

2006 The Ugly Swans (directed by Konstantin Lopushansky)

2004 The Sun (directed by Alexander Sokurov)

Maria Afanasyeva

Scriptwriter and Director



Maria Afanasyeva was born on 19th July 1973. In B 1999 she graduated from Moscow State University where she studied Journalism.

In 1999–2005 Maria Afanasyeva worked as a copywriter in international companies and was shooting commercials for для L'Oreal, LG, Renault, Heineken, Maggi, Nestle and other companies.

In 2007 she graduated from high Courses of Scriptwriters and Directors.

From 2010 Maria is teaching scriptwriting in Moscow film schools.

Filmography:

2021 - TOUCH

2017- A GIRL AND THINGS (SHORT FILM)

2010 – TURN (SHORT FILM)



MARIANNA LUCHININA

Role of Maria

Marianna Luchinina was born on 10th of July 1985

In 2007 she graduated from Russian State Institute of Performing Arts.



David Ochkhikidze

Role of Ziya

David was born on the 17th of September 1990 in Sokhumi. Now he is a student at the Baltic Institute for Foreign Languages and Inter-culture communications.



PROLINE FILM

was founded in 2004 by a movie composer and producer Andrey Sigle. The Studio cooperates with independent European producers, major funds, film studios and TV channels.

We work with the best Russian film directors: Alexander Sokurov, Konstantin Lopushansky, Irina Evteeva.

Movies of the Studio are the participants and the winners of different film festivals, including the Cannes, the Berlinale, SIFF, Venice International Film Festival and MIFF.

Our mission is to promote Auteur Cinema worldwide.

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