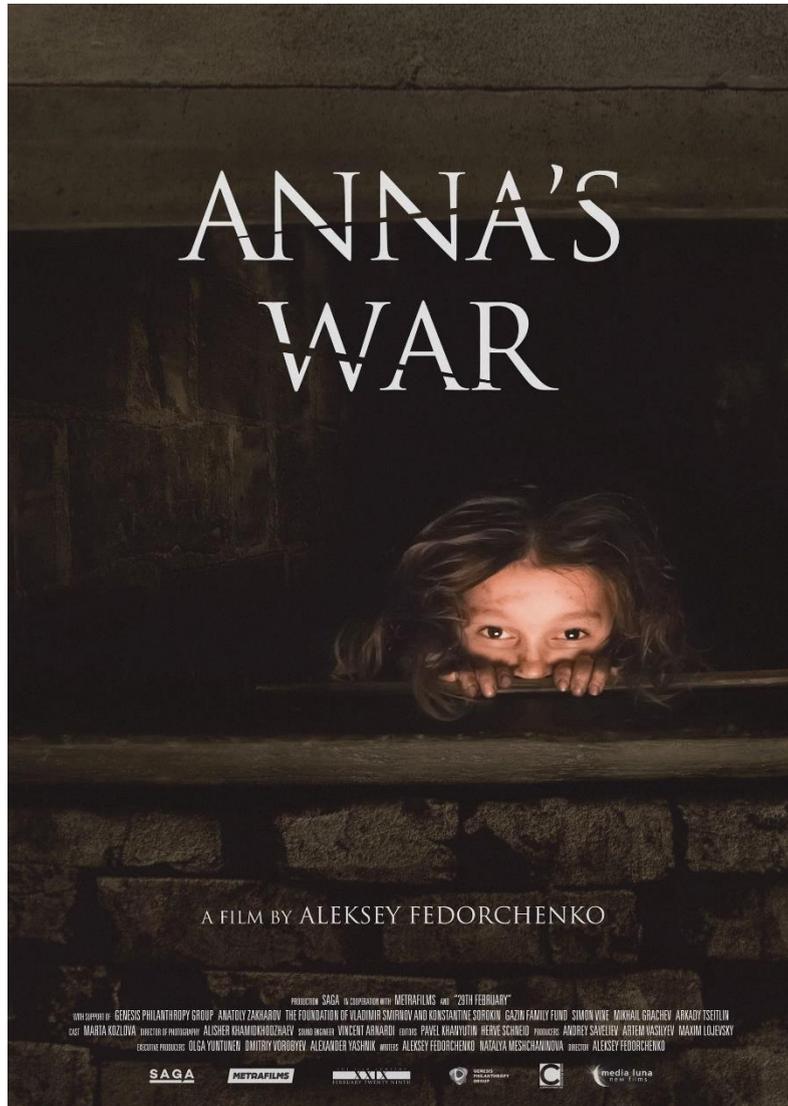


ANNA'S WAR

by Aleksey Fedorchenko



SYNOPSIS

Soviet Union, 1941: a Jewish girl regains consciousness under a layer of black earth. Close-ups of milky-white body parts reveal she is in a mass grave. The images are of great beauty despite all their horror. Anna is six years old and hides herself in a disused fireplace of the Nazi commandant's office. From there she views the war and life passing by. The guard dog outside imprisons her. The threat of discovery is constant.

Her ingenuity, the items left behind by the slowly alternating visitors and the treasures she discovers in the adjacent rooms help her survive, simultaneously creating some absurdist, theatrical moments.

This ode to children's resilience and ingenuity hinges on the phenomenal child actress Marta Kozlova.

Anna's War has been financed through private funding only.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

A little Jewish girl and the Second World War.
One and only hero.

Cinematic space is limited to the insides of a fireplace, and the geography of events is limited to the classroom of a village school that had been turned into a Nazi commandant's office. Inside the fireplace the girl finds a safe place where she makes a nest for herself. A home. Outside is an insane world of adults. We see it's reflection in a bubbly amalgam on the old mirror.

This is the story of survival and victory.

Robinson Crusoe had it easier: he was an adult, he wasn't alone, and he had a whole island for himself. Anna is six years old, no one is there to help her, and there is only a small chance of finding food at the commandant's office. Thirst and hunger are a constant in Anna's life. There are no flashbacks in the film because the past is dead. There is no future. There is only the present. Only what happens now is significant.

The film isn't black and white. Anna is a child and so there are many bright colours around her. The walls of the old school are blue and green. In the classroom there is a lot of red. On set there are many authentic Soviet school objects from the 30s and 40s.

The soundscape of the film is diverse, there are dialogues from the Commandant's office workers: Germans, Ukrainians, Russians. Also present are voices of soldiers: Germans, Frenchmen, Hungarians, Romanians. The German radio plays the propaganda programs and music. Neither the viewer nor Anna can understand it all but it makes no difference. What matters is located inside the fireplace, in the world of Anna. Her beautiful world is reaching further and further and soon it will encompass the entire planet Earth – and Anna will win the World War.

Aleksey Fedorchenko

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Biography

Film director, scriptwriter and producer Aleksey Fedorchenko is one of the central figures in the Russian independent new auteur films wave. His previous work includes art house hits such as *Silent Souls* (2010) and *Angels of Revolution* (2014). His work has played at international festivals such as Venice, Cannes, Moscow and Tallinn and has received numerous awards for his achievements both as director and scriptwriter.

Aleksey Fedorchenko was born in 1966 in Sol-Iletsk, Orenburg region of Siberia.

He has degrees in Engineering and Economics (Ural Polytechnic Institute) and in Film Studies & Scriptwriting from VGIK (Russian State University of Cinematography), the most prestigious film institute in Russia and Eastern Europe, which is the world's oldest film school.



Originally getting involved in the Film industry from financial background in 1990 (when he had become the deputy director of Sverdlovsk Film Studio) Aleksey Fedorchenko moved into the studio's production department. Since 2000 he has managed and participated in the production of over 80 films. Since 2004 Aleksey Fedorchenko is a co-owner, chief film director and the general producer of 29th February Film Company.

Filmography

2017.

Where has time gone?

Part: Breathing

Куда ушло время?

часть: Дышать

Feature film in 5 parts by different BRICS film directors

Awards

Golden Panda Award, Film Festival BRICS

2014.

Angels of Revolution

Ангелы Революции

Feature film, 113 min

Awards & nominations

Marcus Aurelius Award, Rome Film Festival

Cineuropa Prize, Lisbon & Estoril Film Festival

Special Award, Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival

White Elephant Award for Best Director, Russian Guild of Historians of Cinema and Film Critics

Award for Best Russian film, Moscow International Film Festival Nominated for

Best Screenplay, Asia Pacific Screen Awards

2012.

Celestial Wives of the Meadow Mari

Небесные жены луговых мари

Feature film, 106 min

Awards

FIPRESCI Prize, International Film Critic's Awards, 13th goEast Festival of Central and Eastern European Films

White Elephant Award for Best Screenplay, Russian Guild of Historians of Cinema and Film Critics

White Elephant Award for Best Cinematography, Russian Guild of Historians of Cinema and Film Critics

Audience Award, "Zerkalo" Andrey Tarkovsky VII International Film Festival

Award for Best Cinematography, "Zerkalo" Andrey Tarkovsky VII International Film Festival

Grand Prix, 13th T-mobile New Horizons International Film Festival Student Critics Jury

Award, 67th Edinburgh International Film Festival

2012.

The Fourth Dimension (Chronoeye)

Четвертое измерение (Хроноглаз)

Collection of 3 short films: Chronoeye part - 35 min

The Fourth Dimension is a collection of three standalone short films including Chronoeye by A. Fedorchenko.

Awards

Special Jury Prize for Chronoeye, Russian Film Festival Vivat Kino Rossii, 2012

2010.

Silent Souls

Овсянки

Feature film, 75 min

Awards & nominations

Nominated for Golden Lion, Venice Film Festival, 2010

Ecumenical Jury Prize, Venice Film Festival, 2010

FIPRESCI Prize, Venice Film Festival, 2010 Golden Osella Award for Cinematography,

Venice Film Festival, 2010 SIGNIS Award - Honorable Mention, Venice Film Festival,

2010 Nazareno Taddei Award, Venice Film Festival, 2010

White Elephant Award for Best Director, Russian Guild of Historians of Cinema and Film Critics, 2010

White Elephant Award for Best Film, Russian Guild of Historians of Cinema and Film Critics, 2010

Russian Film Directors Guild Prize, "Stalker" International Human Rights Film Festival, 2010

Award for Best director, Kinoshock Open Film Festival, 2010 Award for Best

Director, Mar del Plata Film Festival, 2010 Grand Prix, Warsaw International

Film Festival, 2010

First Prize, Polar Lights International Arctic Film Festival, 2011

Jury Award for Best director, Pacific Meridians International Film Festival, 2010 First prize, Middle East International Film Festival, 2010

2005.

First on the Moon

Первые на Луне

Feature film, 75 min

Awards

Special Prize, Kinoblick Festival, 2006

White Elephant Award for Best First Film, Russian Guild of Film Critics, 2005

Special Jury Prize, Warsaw Film Festival, 2005

Award for Best First Film, Russian Guild of Historians of Cinema and Film Critics, 2005

Best Documentary Award, Venice Film Festival (however, the film is not considered to be a documentary by the director)

2002.

David

Давид

Documentary, 32 min.

2002.

Kids of the White Graves

Дети белой могилы

Documentary, 42 min.

ABOUT THE PRODUCERS

Producer – Andrey Saveliev

Head Producer/SAGa

A. Saveliev is the head producer of A. German Jr. *5000 Days Ahead* and *Under Electric Clouds* presented at Venice and Berlin film festivals and *Anna's War* by A. Fedorchenko (premiere IFFR 2018). A. Saveliev produced TV series of 5 to 10 seasons with an audience of 4,5 - 5 million viewers. He is the founder of the production company SAGa which due to its own technical equipment base produces many films and TV projects

Selected filmography and awards

2018 – *Dovlatov*– dir. Aleksey German Jr.

2015 – *Under Electric Clouds*– dir. Aleksey German Jr.

- Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution, Berlin International Film Festival, 2015

- “Best directing”, Asia Pacific Screen Awards

2015.

2013 – *5000 Days Ahead* –dir. Aleksey German Jr.

- The opening short film of the 70th International Film Festival

2012 - *Outdoor Surveillance*– TV series (director)

2010 – *Tulsky Tokarev*– TV series (screenwriter).

Producer – Artem Vasilyev

Head producer / METRAFILMS

Born 17 Dec. 1970 in Moscow. Graduated from Moscow State University with a degree in History. Artem has been producing feature films, animated series, animation films, documentary series and commercials for over 20 years. He is one of the most experienced and internationally acclaimed producers of independent cinema in Russia, member of Guild of Academy of cinematic Arts «Nika».

Selected filmography and awards

2018 – *Dovlatov* – dir. Aleksey German Jr.

2015 – *Under Electric Clouds*– dir. Aleksey German Jr.

- Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution, Berlin International Film Festival, 2015

- “Best directing”, Asia Pacific Screen Awards

2015.

2014 - *Lost in Karastan*– dir. Ben Hopkins.

2013 – *Aftremath*– dir. Wladyslaw Pasilowski.

2008 – *Paper Soldier*– dir. Aleksey German Jr.

- Silver Lion for Best Directing, Venice International Film Festival.

- Ozella prize for Best Camerawork Venice International Film Festival 2008.

- 2008 - *A Room and a Half***– dir. Andrey Khrzhanovskiy
- Best film, best director, best screenplay at Nika Awards 2010
 - East of West Award, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2009
 - Special Mention, Mar del Plata Film Festival 2009

CREDITS

Title	Anna's War
Director	Aleksey Fedorchenko
Screenplay	Natalya Meshchaninova, Aleksey Fedorchenko
Starring	Marta Kozlova
Country	Russia
Length	75 min.
Language	Russian, Ukrainian, German
Subtitles	English
Director of Photography	Alisher Khamidkhodzhaev
Sound Engineer	Vincent Arnardi
Editors	Pavel Khanyutin, Herve Schneid
Producers	Andrey Saveliev, Artem Vasilyev, Maxim Lojevsky
Executive producers	Olga Yuntunen, Dmitriy Vorobyev, Alexander Yashnik
Production companies	SAGa, Metrafilms, February 29th (production services)
Cast	Marta Kozlova
Anna	

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