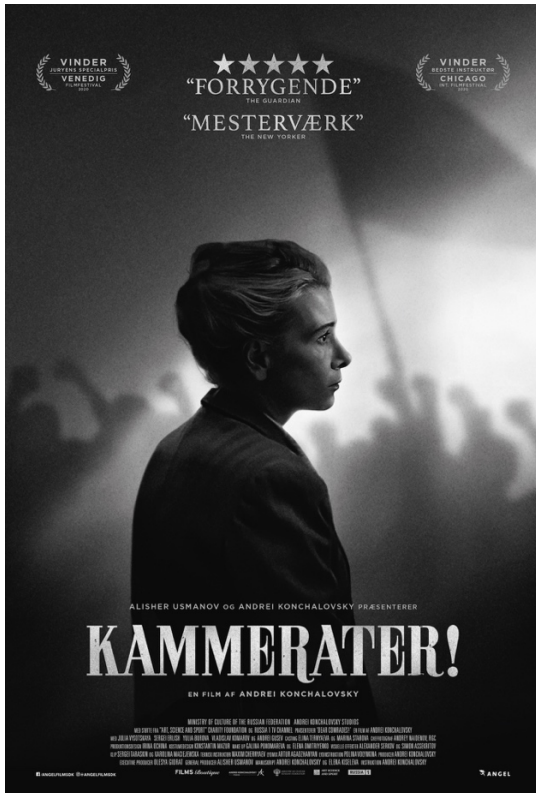


Angel Films præsenterer

KAMMERATER!



Premiere: 15. juli

Længde: 121 minutter

Censur: 15 år

Instruktør: Andrei Konchalovsky

Premierebiografer:

Grand Teatret, Nordisk Film Biografer
Dagmar, Gloria Biograf, Øst for Paradis,
Park Teatret Frederikssund, Biffen
Nordkraft, Valby Kino, Assens Bio, Café
Slotsbio, Biffen Odder, Helios-Teatret,
Byens Bio Jelling, m.fl.

Synopsis:

USSR, Novocherkassk, 1962. Ljuda er medlem af det lokale kommunistparti. Hun er en trofast forkæmper for det kommunistiske regime og dets idealer, og foragter oppositionen. Under en arbejdsstrejke på den lokale fabrik, er hun vidne til, at hæren skyder med skarpt på demonstranterne - situationen udvikler sig til en masseakre. Staten er dog hurtig til at dække over den forfærdelige episode. Der lægges nyt asfalt, så blodsporene forsvinder. Ligene køres ud af byen til et hemmeligt sted, og samtlige borgere bliver bedt om at holde mund. Ljudas syn på det kommunistiske projekt ændres totalt og, hvad værre er; hendes egen datter er også forsvundet under strejken. Hun påbegynder en farlig eftersøgning og opklaring.

KAMMERATER! er baseret på en sand historie og var Ruslands Oscar-kandidat i 2021.

Trailer og pressemateriale kan hentes på: <https://www.angelfilms.dk/dear-comrades>

Kontakt: Peter Sølvsten Thomsen, peter@angelfilms.dk

CAST

Lyuda	JULIA VYSOTSKAYA
Loginov	VLADISLAV KOMAROV
Victor	ANDREI GUSEV
Svetka	YULIA BUROVA
Old man	SERGEI ERLISH

CREW

Director	ANDREI KONCHALOVSKY
Screenwriters	ANDREI KONCHALOVSKY & ELENA KISELEVA
General producer	ALISHER USMANOV
Executive producer	OLESYA GIDRAT
Producer	ANDREI KONCHALOVSKY
DoP	ANDREY NAIDENOV, RGC
Editor	SERGEI TARASKIN & KAROLINA MACIEJEWSKA
Production design	IRINA OCHINA
Costumes	KONSTANTIN MAZUR
Sound	POLINA VOLYNKINA
Mix	ARTUR AGADZHANYAN
Make-up	GALINA PONOMAREVA & ELENA DMITRIYENKO
Casting	ELINA TERNYAEVA

Production companies ANDREI KONCHALOVSKY STUDIOS

Supported by ALISHER USMANOV
"Art, Science and Sport" Charity Foundation
Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation
Russia 1 TV Channel

Russia, 2020
TRT: 120 min

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

The process of making films about the 1960's is increasingly becoming the process of restoring the historical authenticity of the era, a fairly difficult task all in itself. Recently we've all been seeing plenty of films where the 60's-70's-80's of the XX century look fake and contrived, without any resemblance to the Soviet films made at the time, like "The Cranes Are Flying" or "Ballad of a Soldier". So, my goal was to scrupulously and in great detail reproduce the era of the USSR's 1960's. I think that the Soviet people of post-war time, the ones who fought in the WWII until victory, deserve to have a movie that pays tribute to their purity and the tragic dissonance that followed the realization of how different the communist ideals were from the reality around them.

ANDREI KONCHALOVSKY

Director, Screenwriter, Producer

ABOUT THE FILM

The movie 'Dear Comrades!' is based on a true story that happened on June 1st and 2nd, 1962 in Novocherkassk and was kept secret until the nineties. The first official investigation was only initiated 30 years later, in 1992.

In June 1992 Yuri Bagrayev, who was Assistant of the Chief Military Prosecutor at the time, was assigned as the head of the investigators' team to clarify the reasons and circumstances of the death of people in the Novocherkassk events and to locate the remains. By that time, he was one of the most experienced and respected investigators in the country. The purpose of the investigation was to figure out the reasons and circumstances of the events and make a legal assessment of the actions the officials had taken. The case was closed in September 1994. Since major culprits were dead at that time, they were never convicted.

60 years after the Novocherkassk massacre, Major General of Justice Yuri Bagrayev acted as the consultant in the process of writing the film's screenplay.

Even at the screenplay stage Andrei Konchalovsky was thinking about ways to achieve a special and particular perception of the film. The director was striving to get as close as possible to the image of the Soviet films of that era, so from the very beginning it was decided to shoot it in black and white, with 1:33 aspect ratio common for films of the time.

From the very beginning of the project Andrei Konchalovsky had a principal stance not to use well-known Russian actors in the film: this would go against the purpose of creating the authentic Soviet 1960's. The director thought this possible only if the faces of the cast weren't immediately associated with major modern productions. Despite the rest of the cast consisting largely of untrained talent, the film's lead role was performed by professional actress Julia Vysotskaya.

The search for talent was done by two casting teams with very different goals. The first team was taking the traditional route and auditioning Russian theater actors not widely known by the general public. The second team took the street casting approach and for a few months was looking for the right kind of faces of untrained talent among the workers of the Novocherkassk Electromotive Plant and local residents of the Novocherkassk, Rostov, and Adygea areas.

The screenplay of the film is based on the true events of the Novocherkassk massacre in 1962, so it establishes a lot of historical personalities as characters. Andrei Konchalovsky insisted that the actors portraying the Party's top brass should have perfect facial likeness to their historical prototypes. Another unusual thing about the project was the fact that background actors also had their own, full-scale casting. In the complex scenes of riot and massacre the director cared about every single face the camera could potentially capture.

Considering its historical specificity, the exterior parts of the film were originally supposed to be shot in Novochoerkassk and the surrounding area. The principal shooting began on June 25, 2019 on the territory of Luzhniki Olympic Complex in Moscow, where a large set of the Novochoerkassk main square was built. The shooting finished on September 19, 2019 at a “Mosfilm” studio soundstage, where some of the interiors had been built.

The most difficult task of the pre-production stage was finding a fitting location to shoot the Novochoerkassk massacre: the director’s plan was to meticulously recreate the true events that happened on that day at the city square. The central square of Novochoerkassk, as well as the Ataman palace that was the Communist Party HQ at the time, have very specific architecture. In the years that passed since the tragedy, the real square was largely rebuilt, making it unusable for the film. After a long search, it was decided to build a 1:1 scale set of the Ataman palace at one of the central alleys of the Luzhniki Olympic Complex in Moscow, an area large enough for a shoot and equipped with proper infrastructure to accommodate large numbers of extras.

The exterior scenes were primarily shot in Novochoerkassk and the Rostov area. In particular, Novochoerkassk hosted the episodes of the workers’ picketing and the mass strike at the Novochoerkassk Electromotive Plant, which set the stage for the tragic events that unfolded. The crew also managed to find some locations in the Moscow and Tula regions.

The interior of the main character’s apartment was built in a soundstage of the “Mosfilm” studio, since it was necessary to set up the space for multi-camera shooting while also preserving the proportionate feel of a typical 1960’s apartment.

The multi-camera shooting method, which Andrei Konchalovsky has been using on his last four projects was realized for this film by DoP Andrey Naidenov.



CAST BIOGRAPHIES

JULIA VYSOTSKAYA / “Lyuda”

Julia was born on August 16, 1973 in Novocherkassk. In 1995 she graduated from the acting department of Belarus Art Academy and three years later received a graduation diploma from London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. Besides her acting work on stage and screen, she is a well-known TV host. While she has worked with many different directors, Julia is a mainstay of Andrei Konchalovsky’s films. Among their joint projects are PARADISE (2016) which won her “Golden Eagle” and “Nika” awards for best female performance, a Bernhard Wicki “Die Brücke” award for best female performance in a foreign film at the 35th Munich Film Festival and the award for best female performance at the 54th Gijon International Film Festival. She was cast in Konchalovsky’s NUTCRACKER IN 3D (2010), GLOSS (2007), THE LION IN WINTER (2003) and HOUSE OF FOOLS (2003), winning the “Golden Eagle” award for Best Female Performance in Film and the best actress award at the “Vivat, Russian Cinema” festival.

In 2018, she was recognized as a “Russian Artist of Merit” by the Russian government.

VLADISLAV KOMAROV / “Loginov”

Born in 1968 in Tikhvin, a city in the Leningrad region. In 1985 Vladislav graduated from the Tikhvin high school #5 and then served in the Soviet army from 1986 to 1988. He studied at the Russian State Institute of Performing Arts (RSIPA, class of A. Andreyev),

graduating with honors in 1993, and joined the company of the Youth Theater named after A. Bryantsev. While working there, he finished a post-graduate course at the RSIPA scenic speech department.

Komarov teaches at RSIPA and participates in various theater and film projects.

ANDREI GUSEV / “Viktor”

Andrei Gusev was born on March 20, 1968 in Voronezh. While still at school, he received additional education at the conduction and choral department of a kids’ music school. After serving in the Soviet army, he tried his hand at various professions, but participation in a rock band, songwriting, and a passion for amateur filmmaking eventually led him to the theater faculty of Voronezh Art Institute.

Upon graduation, Andrei was assigned to the company of “Na Sobornoy” theater in Ryazan. Later he moved to St. Petersburg and joined the “Music-Hall” theater. In subsequent years Andrei actively worked in musical theater and took part in such projects as “Nord-Ost”, “Spirit Warriors”, “Annie”, the Russian adaptation of “We Will Rock You” musical based on songs of QUEEN, “Mamma Mia!”, etc. He also took part in various musical TV shows as a vocalist of the “Phonograph” band, did voicework for animation, and released a number of audiobooks. He has also appeared in numerous films.

Currently, Gusev works at the Moscow Musical Theater, where he is employed in such productions as “Miracles and Mischief”, based in L. Carroll’s “Alice in Wonderland” (Mad Hatter, dir. M. Shvydkaya), “All About Cinderella” (King, dir. O. Glushkov), “Crime and Punishment” (Hurdy-gurdies and Red Shirt, dir. A. Konchalovsky), “Life is Wonderful”.

YULIA BUROVA / “Svetka”

Yulia was born in Kamensk-Shakhtinsky, a city on the Severski Donets river. As a child, Yulia spent over 5 years training in gymnastics, but she had to give up the sports when the family moved to Moscow. At 13, Burova joined the “Kvadrat” theater studio and immediately realized that she wanted to be an actress.

While in the 9th grade, Yulia attempted to get into the Moscow Theater College curated by Oleg Tabakov’s Moscow theater, but didn’t get through the first audition. This didn’t affect her resolve, so in 2017 she got into Andrei Konchalovsky’s class in GITIS after her very first interview.

In 2018 Konchalovsky invited Yulia Burova, at that moment a second-year student, to take part in his “Cherry Orchard” production, based on Anton Chekhov’ play of the same name, at the Mossovet State Academic Theater.

Sergei ERLISH / “Old man”

Sergei Erlich was born in Abadzekhskaya settlement. His mother was a saleswoman at a local store. His father, an artist by education, became a political prisoner and spent about 7 years in labor camps. He was later rehabilitated and had all his awards reinstated.

In 1975, he attempted to get into the Krasnodar Agricultural Institute to study construction.



Having failed the exam, Sergei returned to his settlement and became a tractor driver at the local state-owned farm. Next year he managed to get into college, but dropped out after half a year and returned to Abadzekhskaya once again.

Sergei loved horses, so he got a job as a groom at the “Romantika” tourist camp. Now that place is a fully restored and functioning Svyato-Mikhailovsky monastery. Sergei took tourists on riding trips and cared for the horses. Still, it didn’t work out: two horses got stolen from the pasture, so Sergei had to quit the job.

He returned to Abadzekhskaya and continued to work as a tractor driver until 1985. He’d go to the local culture club on Saturdays and have dance parties with his musician friends. Sergei’s wife Valentina studied to become a graphic artist and worked at the state farm with the husband, drawing and painting Soviet propaganda posters.

Together with his family, Sergei Erlish tends to his lot of land, had a garden and some cattle. When his son got old enough, they bought some bees and started a honey farm. The homestead grew and eventually became a big property in the Adygea mountains, by the road that leads to the Lago-Naki plateau, where Sergei sells his honey to tourists and visitors to Adygea.

CREW BIOGRAPHIES

ANDREI KONCHALOVSKY /

Director, screenwriter, producer

Screenwriter, producer, and director of film and theater, Andrei Konchalovsky studied at the Moscow Conservatory and later graduated from the VGIK directing program under Mikhail Romm. Konchalovsky has been successfully working in film and television, as well as theater and opera. In 1962, the director's very first short film won a Bronze Lion at the Venice IFF. Since then, Konchalovsky's film, television productions, and theater shows have garnered awards at film festivals in Venice, Cannes, San Sebastian, received prize nods at "Emmy", "Oscar", "Lawrence Olivier" ceremonies and many other film and theater events.



In 2014, his film "The Postman's White Nights" won a Silver Lion for best directing at the 71st Venice International Film Festival. The film tells the true story of a real village postman Alexey Tryapitsin, who lives in a remote Russian village on a lakeshore.

In 2016, Andrei Konchalovsky's "Paradise" also received a Silver Lion for best directing at the 73rd Venice International Film Festival. "Paradise" is a story of three individuals, whose paths crossed in the chaos and destruction of WWII.

On October 27, 2019, the Rome International Film Festival held a screening of the director's new film, "Sin", which was presented as a special event at the festival's closing ceremony.

ALISHER USMANOV / General Producer

Alisher Burkhanovich Usmanov is the founder and the main shareholder of the diversified international company USM Holdings, which combines assets in the mining and metallurgy industries (Metalloinvest, Baikal Mining Company), telecommunications (MegaFon) and in the field of Internet technologies (Mail.Ru Group). Usmanov owns shares in media assets (Kommersant Publishing House and a number of television channels), as well as in development (Khimki Group).

Alisher Usmanov is one of the world's most recognized venture capital investors. He has invested in Internet projects such as Facebook, Alibaba, JD.com, Uber, Spotify, Zalando,

Flipkart, Zocdoc and Klarna. In the sphere of interests of Alisher Usmanov today are innovative industries: artificial intelligence, the Internet of things, sharing economy, big data, developments in the field of medicine and biotechnology.

Alisher Usmanov conducts active social activities. Since 2006, he has been a member of the board of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. Usmanov is a member of the Presidential Council for the Development of Physical Culture and Sports, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Fund for Supporting Olympians of Russia. Since 2008, Alisher Burkhanovich heads the International Fencing Federation.

Alisher Usmanov is one of the largest philanthropists in Russia. The geography of Usmanov's charity work extends to 64 countries of the world. For several years in a row, the businessman led the Bloomberg rating of Russia's most generous philanthropists and is one of the hundred largest philanthropists in The Sunday Times Giving List.

Alisher Usmanov was awarded the Order of Alexander Nevsky and the Order of Honour for the labour successes achieved and many years of conscientious work, the badge of the Russian Foreign Ministry "For Contribution to International Cooperation" and the Order of Friendship ("Dostyk") 1st grade of the Republic of Kazakhstan for its contribution to the development of the country and strengthening cooperation between peoples.

For his great contribution to charitable and social activities, Alisher Usmanov was awarded Distinction "For Grace" as well as the highest award of the Council of Muftis of Russia - the Order of Al-Fakhr 1st grade - for strengthening mutual understanding between representatives of different nationalities. Mr. Usmanov is a holder of the Order of Merit to the Italian Republic of the degree of commander for his contribution to Russian-Italian relations and as a sign of high appreciation for his participation in projects to preserve the architectural heritage of Italy. For fruitful cooperation with the Republic of Tatarstan, active public and charitable activities, Usmanov received the Duslyk Order of Friendship. He was also awarded the Order "El-yurt hurmati" (translated from Uzbek "Respected by People and Homeland") for his contribution to strengthening relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation, as well as the effective implementation of large investment, spiritual, educational and sports projects in Uzbekistan.

In 2018, A.B. Usmanov received the highest FICTS (International Federation of Sports Television) award - "Chain of Glory 2018" (Excellence Guirlande d'Honneur). Also in 2018, President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin awarded A.B. Usmanov the Order of Merit to the Fatherland of the III degree for his huge contribution to the development of the Russian economy, culture and sports.

ELENA KISELEVA / Screenwriter

Elena Kiseleva was born in Moscow. For a long time, she worked in journalism. Before her cooperation with Andrei Konchalovsky, Elena never worked in film industry.

“The Postman’s White Nights” film that won the Silver Lion at 71st Venice International Film Festival became her debut as a co-writer on a feature film. Kiseleva continued working with Konchalovsky and participated in screenwriting for “Paradise” (2016), “Sin” (2019), and “Dear Comrades!” (2020).

ANDREY NAIDENOV, RGC / Director of Photography

Andrey is a Russian Director of Photography. He was born in 1977 in the family of cinematographer Alexey Naidenov. From his youngest years Andrey spent a lot of time on the film sets of his father. Upon graduation from high school in 1994, he got into the cinematography department of VGIK and studied under Vadim Yusov until 1999, when he graduated with a feature debut titled “The News.”

In 2001 Andrey became a member of the Russian Guild of Cinematographers (R.G.C.) and the European “IMAGO” guild.

As a Director of Photography. Naidenov worked on more than forty film and video productions. In 2006, for Ivan Vyrypaev’s “Euphoria”, Andrey received a prize of the 63rd Venice International Film Festival “For courageous simplicity of expression in imagery and poetic power of landscapes captured through outstanding photography.”

IRINA OCHINA / Production Designer

Born in Veliky Novgorod in 1977. After graduating from the Moscow Architectural Institute, Irina worked as an architect for several years. She is a member of the Creative Union of Russian Artists.

In 2004 Irina started working as a Production Designer at the “Mosfilm” studio. She collaborated with such renowned Russian directors as Eldar Ryazanov, Karen Shakhnazarov, Svetlana Proskurina, Rustam Khamdamov, and Andrei Konchalovsky. Her work in Production Design received both Russian and International film awards.

POLINA VOLYNKINA / Sound Designer

Born in St. Petersburg. Since 2008, Polina is working as a sound mixer at a major Russian dubbing studio “Nevafilm.” With her help, over 30 feature films have been dubbed into Russian, including some major Hollywood blockbusters.

Volynkina met Andrei Konchalovsky on the “Nutcracker in 3D” project, where she was the dubbing director of the Russian-language version of the film. The project was a difficult one, requiring not just speech dubbing, but also that of the musical numbers, i.e. working with music and vocals. The final mix of the Russian version took place at Shepperton Studios in London, and Polina Volynkina delivered an outstanding result.

Volynkina continued to work with Konchalovsky as a Sound Designer of his films “The Postman’s White Nights” (2014), “Paradise” (2016), and “Sin” (2019).

SERGEI TARASKIN / Editor

Sergei Taraskin was born in Moscow and graduated from a Psychology faculty. At 20 years of age, he got very interested in amateur video production, which eventually led him to his profession.

His debut work in the industry was Andrei Konchalovsky's "The Postman's White Nights" (2014). As an editor, Sergei also took part in such projects as "Paradise" (2016), "Sin" (2019), and "Dear Comrades!" (2020) by Andrei Konchalovsky, as well as several feature-length documentary projects of the director.

KAROLINA MACIEJEWSKA / Editor

Karolina Maciejewska was born in Poland in 2006. She graduated from the editing faculty of Polish National Film School in Lodz. After an internship in Los Angeles, Karolina began work on her first feature film, "Generation P" in Moscow. Since then she's worked on the "Test" by Alexandr Kott, "Suleiman Mountain" by Elizaveta Stishkova, and was nominated for the "Golden Eagle" award for the "Queen of Spades" by Pavel Lungin.

Together with Sergei Taraskin she edited Andrei Konchalovsky's "Sin" (2019) and "Dear Comrades!" (2020).