



Focus Competition
Zurich Film Festival

BEYOND THE WHITE

a film by **EVGENY KALACHIKHIN**

INTERNATIONAL SALES

Taskovski Films Ltd.
1st Floor, Healthaid House
Marlborough Hill
Harrow, HA1 1UD
United Kingdom
Irena Taskovski
irena@taskovskifilms.com
cell +44 7562 977 143
phone +387 65 920 857



SYNOPSIS

Three villages are combined in one timeless space — somewhere beyond the Arctic Circle. On the Kola peninsula in the Russian North, a few dozen people still live in their traditional timber houses surrounded by water, forests, and sand. Nature provides for them, mainly the White Sea, but fish population has dwindled over the years. Fewer and fewer people want to stay; many move to the city, leaving their homes behind. Over time, these houses have turned into specters from the past, ownerless and lonely ruins. Only young children, visiting their grandparents in summer, breathe new life into this place.

The hamlets Tetrino, Chavanga, and Kuzomen in the Tersky Coast of the White Sea seem to head toward the fate of so many other villages all over Russia: a slow but inevitable extinction. Almost forgotten by regional governance, these people have to keep together to cope with their everyday struggle.

LOGLINE

Cut off from civilization, Russian North villagers who live by the White Sea struggle to survive while still abiding by raw forces of nature.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Evgeny Kalachikhin

Some years ago I started coming to these villages. Every time I could see how these places grew smaller and more desolate, forgotten by the regional authorities and the surrounding cities. This is not just my personal assumption; statistics prove the rural exodus of Russian villages exists. If this process continues, all these places will cease to exist within approximately 20 years. This is why my intention was to take what I saw and give it a special poetic wrap.

BEYOND THE WHITE shows relationships between people living away from city life and civilization. Nature and humans, space and time, life and death — all merge and melt into one here, in the far North of Russia. Each scene of the film questions the meaning of life and shows human existence in a place ruled by the laws of nature — often silently, without uttering a word. In a way, this is a dialogue between humankind and God.

The main protagonist is nature itself. The supporting characters are the villagers living their everyday lives without questioning it, yet happy enough.

We are just onlookers; uninvolved spectators, who savor the epic landscapes, at the same time witnessing their decay, sensing the foreboding demise of

this almost magical world. Music is an integral part of the narration. It deliberately transgresses the conventional use of music in the cinema. On the contrary: the music acts as a full-fledged medium to represent notions essential to the story, but impossible to translate through the visual imagery.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

Nina Bärmann

BEYOND THE WHITE is a visually stunning, exotic journey to the Russian villages at the White Sea — like entering a slowly dissolving world. The film captures the vastness of nature and its smallest components: human beings, merely tiny meaningless particles within it. The film transports the viewers into the middle of this magical place, pulling them into nature, making them sense its immense forces — yet leaves them with a feeling of being a part of something truly grandiose after watching it.

The narrative is poetic and deliberately lacks a stringent structure. This film is an allusion to our time. While observing this somewhat antiquated, backward and above all quaint and nostalgic world, we become aware how endangered it is.

Gently but apprehensively, the film speaks of the depopulation of these Russian villages — a sad reality slowly settling in all over Europe.

Epic images, filled with exotic sounds and wrapped into intimate music, take the audience “Beyond the White” Sea and deeper into the Arctic. Combining stunning visuals of a motion picture with authentic documentary material expands and renews the traditional documentary genre with its opulent and elegant visual language.

This piece of work doesn't always aim at precision or coherence, but rather on impression, making contact with its audience, igniting and transmitting a spark in their eyes and hearts. The film leaves a yearning for vastness, serenity, and the essential. A fascinating journey into a nostalgic world, in which humanity is still part of nature.



CAST & CREW

Director **Evgeny Kalachikhin**

Screenplay by **Anastasia Gorokhova**

Director of Photography **Aleksandra Medianikova**

Edited by **Evgeny Kalachikhin, Nina Bärmann (BFS), Alexey Prokhorov**

Music by **Dilyara Gabitova**

Sound by **Dima Grishkov**

Sound & Music Editor **Carl Ludwig Wetzig**

Re-Recording Mixer **Justus Wirth**

Music Mix by **Peter Fuchs**

Sound Mix **Mathias Maydl**

Graphic Design by **Alexey Lachinov**

Produced by **Nina Bärmann**

BIOGRAPHIES

EVGENY KALACHIKHIN



(Director and Editor) studied Editing at the Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF, Germany, where he graduated with M.F.A with distinction. He was born and raised in Moscow, Russia, where he graduated from the Russian State University of Cinematography (VGIK), with the Dipl. in Direction and the Moscow State University with the Dipl. in Journalism. For over ten

years Evgeny worked on Russian TV as director, editor and newsreel editor. Since 2013, he lives and works in Berlin, Germany.

BEYOND THE WHITE is his first feature film. His other projects, where he at different times participated as editor, colorist and XR artist were awarded prestigious prizes, with a nomination in BAFTA Los Angeles among others, and were presented in world festivals, including Venice International Film Festival, Tribeca, Montréal Festival du Nouveau Cinéma and many others.

ANASTASIA GOROKHOVA



(Script) Born in Moscow in 1986, Anastasia Gorokhova moved with her parents to Karlsruhe, Germany in 1990, where she lived until 2003. Then Anastasia decided to learn more about Russia and went to Moscow to study political science and philosophy.

She also worked as a radio journalist and project manager for cultural projects at the Goethe Institute,

traveled all over the country and explored places and people. Russian society and the whole situation, especially human rights, are still the focus of her artistic work.

Anastasia has been living in Berlin since 2013, where she studied scriptwriting at the DFFB until 2019 and is now working as a freelance writer for public radio (Rbb, BR), writes her first novel and is also involved in several film projects in her favorite genres of black comedy and satire.

ALEKSANDRA MEDIANIKOVA



(Director of Photography) graduated from the St. Petersburg State University of Film and Television with a degree in Cinematography. Her graduation film "Chud" represented Russia at the 65th Festival de Cannes, "Global Russians". From 2011 to 2014 Aleksandra worked as a DOP in diverse and challenging environments across Russia including Siberia, Moscow,

St. Petersburg, and locations north of the Arctic circle.

Aleksandra graduated from the German Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF. Her Bachelor graduation film "Rå" was showcased at the 68th Berlinale Film Festival and won LOLA for the "Best short fiction film" and German Short Film prize 2018. It also received a nomination in cinematography category of Michael-Ballhaus-Prize at the First Step Award in 2018.

In 2019 Aleksandra graduated from the same high school with M.F.A. in Cinematography. While still at school, she continued to work as a DOP on German feature series, documentary films for BBC and short feature films. Using classic Russian film school and modern practice-oriented approach of German education allowed Aleksandra to develop a unique vision.

BEYOND THE WHITE is her 1st feature film.

NINA BÄRMANN



(Producer and Editor) was born and raised on the Crimean Peninsula. She graduated from the Kyiv National Taras-Shevchenko University in Ukraine with a bachelor degree in International Economics. She received her MiBA degree at the University of Hamburg in Germany. Then she worked in Hamburg in leading documentary production companies FILMTANK and

Vidicom Media Productions on several cinematic and TV documentaries, i.e. "The Woman with the 5 Elephants" and "Deutschlands Küsten".

Nina decided to delve deeper into the film creation process and studied thus in 2012 film editing at the BAF - Bayerische Akademie für Fernsehen in Munich. Having lived in big cities in different countries, Nina fell in love with the Black Forest and found her new home in a valley between the mountains in a cozy Freiburg. Now she is working as a film editor with a major focus on TV-documentaries for the main German TV channels such as ARD, SWR and ARTE. BEYOND THE WHITE is her 1st feature film.

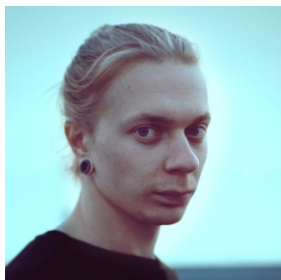
DILYARA GABITOVA



(Composer) was born and raised in the Republic of Bashkortostan. She studied music composition at the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Russia. She creates music for various instrumental performances, symphonies and writes music for children. She is a member of the Russian Union of Composers and has won numerous prizes and awards at

various international, national, and regional festivals. BEYOND THE WHITE is her debut as a movie composer.

DIMA GRISHKOV



(Sound) was born in Moscow into a family of musicians. Dima graduated from the GITR Film & Television School, followed by a postgraduate study in art history. He works in top cinema and TV projects in Russia and Europe. Films he contributed to have appeared at various festivals like Cannes, Venice, Flickerfest, Kinotavr and TEFI.

PETER FUCHS



(Music Mix) is one of Europe's top scoring mixers, music recording and mixing engineers. His credits range from film and video games scores to classical, jazz and pop. His own compositions of electronic music are frequently used in one of the largest music libraries. He has received two Latin Grammys. Peter started out in the business in 1988 after graduating from a two-year course at SAE college in Munich and Sydney, Australia. He underwent a thorough training as scoring assistant and assistant engineer directly after that at Bavaria Music Studios, Munich, Germany, with Keith Grant and John Timperley as his teachers. They are both legendary UK engineers, for whom Peter worked in the UK later on. On many occasions, he also assisted Eric Tomlinson, the engineer who recorded the first Star Wars score by John Williams back in 1977. Peter uses his 30+ years of experience to fulfill today's recording and mixing demands, be it in large scoring stages, recording studios or on location with a mobile rig.

CARL L. WETZIG



(Sound and Music Editor) was born in Merseburg. He studied Sound and Film Music at Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF. He works in Berlin as a film composer and sound designer. Together with Justus Wirth he owns laut&taktlos, a studio for film and music.

JUSTUS WIRTH



(Re-Recording Mixer) was born in Berlin. In 2017, he completed his bachelor's degree at Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF, Germany. Since 2015 he has been a freelance musician and sound engineer. He works as a sound recordist for commercials, series and feature films and as a re-recording mixer. His latest film "Cracks" won awards at several festivals, including Sehsüchte, Los Angeles Crime and Horror Film Festival and North Bend Film Fest. Together with Carl L. Wetzig he is the founder of laut&taktlos, a studio for film and music.

EUGENE SUBBOTIN

(Violine) is an exceptional violinist, multi-instrumentalist and top graduate from one of the world's best music academies — the Moscow State Conservatory. He is a winner of diverse Russian musician competitions, co-founder and art manager of FX Quartet with over 10 years of experience as concertmaster of 2nd violins in the National Philharmonic of Russia and extraordinary participant of diverse international music festivals.

DENIS ZHDANOV

(Cello) is an exceptional cellist and top graduate from one of the world's best music academies — the Moscow State Conservatory. Since 2002 he has been living in Germany. Denis has years of orchestra experience as a solo cellist, he is a winner of different international musician competitions, co-founder of the concert agency Zhdanov Konzerte in Germany and honorary professor at the University of Chengdu in China.

ULIANA ZHDANOV

(Violine) is an extraordinary violinist and top graduate from one of the world's best music academies — the Moscow State Conservatory. With her years of experience as a concertmaster at Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra she moved to Germany 10 years ago. Now she performs all over Europe and runs her own concert agency Zhdanov Konzerte in Germany.





Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Kultur und Medien

Kulturamt

Freiburg 
IM BREISGAU

ARRI Media



SAXONIA-FRANKE

