

A FILM BY BORIS GUTS

MINSK

YOU MUST KNOW THIS STORY

STORYLINE

**Single-take film was created
without any editing cuts**

**First narrative film
about 2020 Belarusian protests**

Minsk, August 2020. Pasha and Yulia, a young married couple, go for a stroll at night and find themselves in the midst of civilian protests. An ordinary walk turns into a hell as innocent people become victims of police brutality...



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

RUSSIAN

original language

82 MIN

timing

DIGITAL

shooting format

5.1

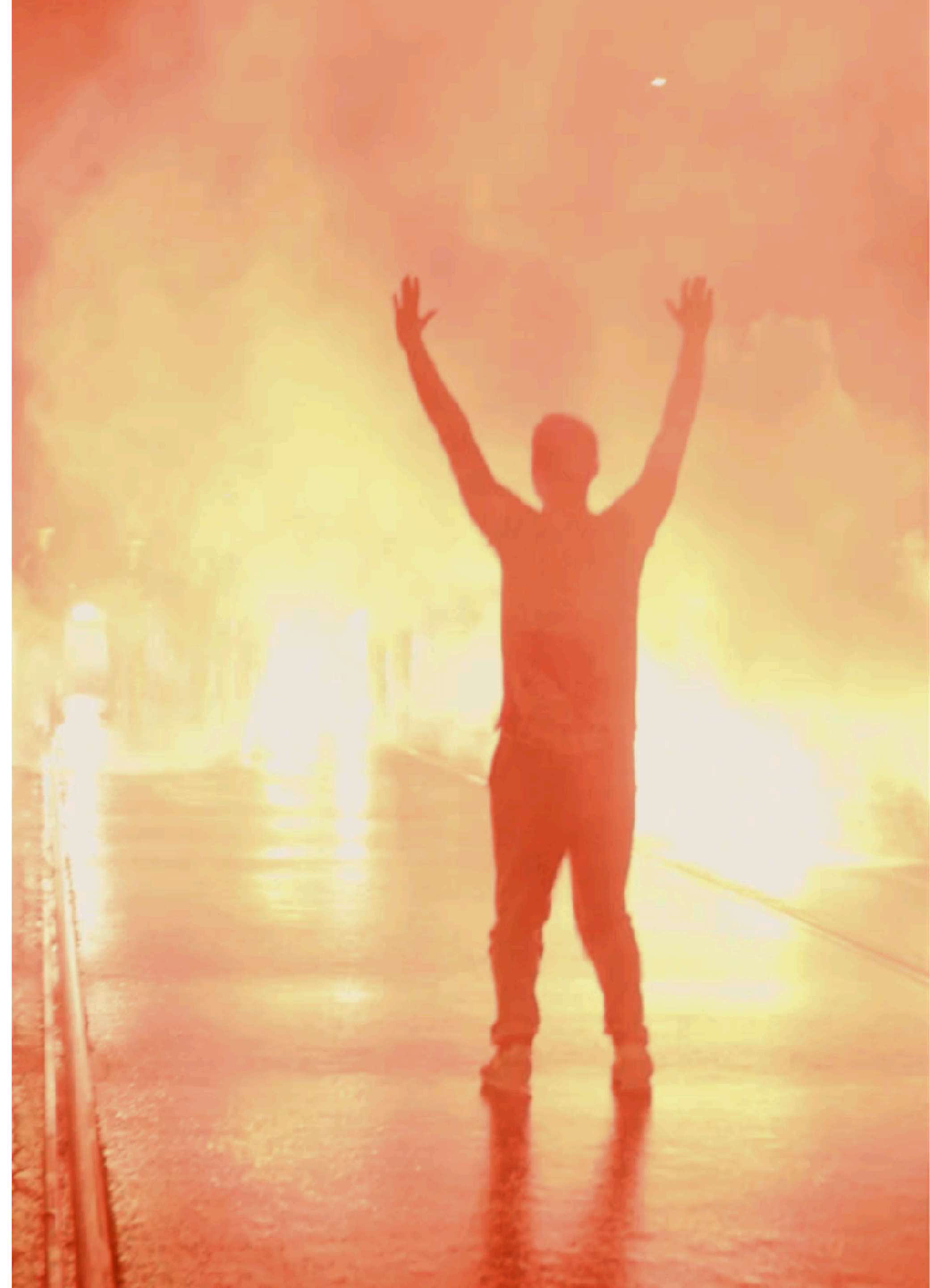
sound format

2.39:1

aspect ratio

25

FPS



AUTHORS



BORIS GUTS

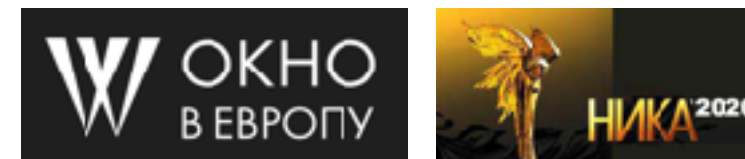
Director, screenwriter

Experimental filmmaker
exploring poignant social
themes in his works

Selected filmography

We Look Good in Death (2019)
Fagot (2018)
Watermelon Rinds (2016)

Selected festivals



DARIA LIKHACHEVA

Director of photography

Master of the realistic genre.
She has been included in the
lists of the best young DoPs
in Russia numerous times

Selected filmography

Life syndrome (2022)
We Look Good in Death (2019)
This Is Not a Movie (2021)
In Search of a Man (2021)
Fedor Konyukhov (2021)
Fagot (2018)
Lenin's Tears (2017)
Staccato. Con moto (2016)

Selected festivals



PRODUCERS



BORIS GUTS

Experimental filmmaker exploring poignant social themes in his works



VITALI SHKLIAROV

Belarusian and American political strategist



**KATERINA
MONASTYRSKAYA**

Estonian producer with an extensive experience in European projects



**ANASTASIA
GUSENTOVA**

Expert in marketing, strategic community management and social media



**ANDRES
PUUSTUSMAA**

Estonian acclaimed director and producer

CAST



ALEXEY MASLODUDOV



ANASTASIA SHEMYAKINA



ANASTASIA PRONINA



DANIL STEKLOV

SOUNDTRACK



FACE



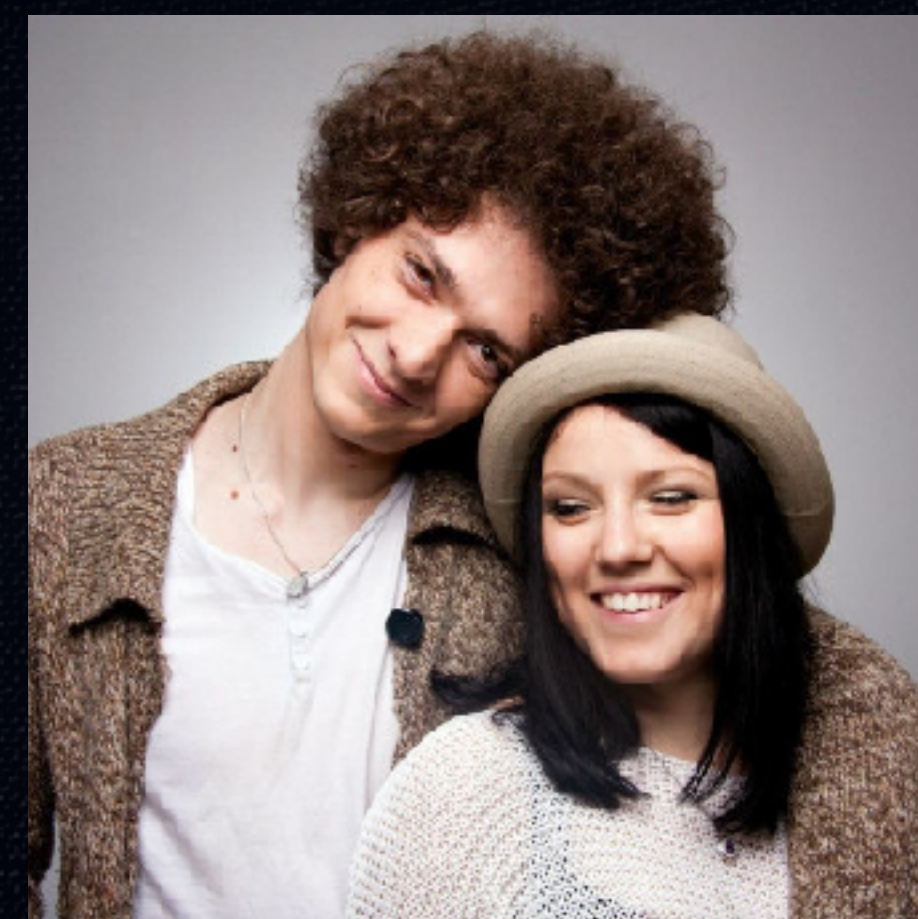
GRECHKA



INTELLIGENCE



SHURA



NAVIBAND

MEDIA

euronews.



ДО//ДЬ



КИНО ТВ

LARISA MALYUKOVA, FILM CRITIC :

«A political thriller. Uneven, but getting across the feeling of times paralyzed just before falling off a cliff. Single-taken, so it creates a strong sense of being there, being included. A story of a young couple dreaming of a baby that accidentally got themselves into the slaughter of the after-election protests of 9th August. Young and in love, they drown in their happiness, jealousy, youth, each other. Had they stayed in their cozy suburbs, had they not given in to the urge to see what's happening, to become history witnesses, - the 'astronauts' with the bats wouldn't have burst into their life. 'Fucking Romeo!' 'Too many of them here, get 'em to Odoyevskogo! Hands behind your head! Head on the floor, camera on the floor! Smile, maggots!' That's practically verbatim theatre. An image of a country stuck in a sinister hallucination»

PRESS RELEASE

The first narrative film about Belarusian protests in August 2020 — MINSK — was shot in Tallinn at the end of May. The single-take film tells a story of a young married couple, Yulia and Pasha, living in the Minsk suburbs. They had just got married, bought an apartment on credit and were planning to have a baby, but they accidentally got in the middle of the peaceful protests. An ordinary walk turns into a hell as innocent people become victims of police brutality... This film was created without any editing cuts.

MINSK is the fourth full-length film created by Boris Guts. The author has already proven himself as an experimental filmmaker and a public figure exploring poignant social themes: poverty, racism, homophobia.

Boris Guts, the film's writer:

This film was the most challenging one for me. It's a slice of life made with no editing cuts, single-taken. I never wanted to show some sugar-coated fantasy flick, I want to show the reality, show that a totalitarian police state can destroy a life before your very eyes in an hour and a half, while you're still watching the movie.



One of MINSK's producers was a political consultant Vitali Shkliarov, who had lived through the depicted events himself. Vitaly was arrested in Belarus in 2020, spent a few months in jail and, like many other political prisoners in Belarus, was tortured during that time.

Vitali Shkliarov, film's producer:

The Belarusian found themselves an occupied nation. They are constantly under the threat of physical and psychological violence and nobody can be sure this terror wouldn't come to their door. The Belarusian society is violated with fear: every minute, whatever you're doing, they can grab you. And you don't know what they would do to you. This country follow

PRESS RELEASE

MINSK has a vital mission to tell the truth about what happened in the capital of Belarus in August 2020 despite all prohibitions and attempts to cover it up on state level. The shooting was banned in Russia in the autumn 2020. Co-production with Estonia was the solution; everything was run by Tallinn production LEO Film.

Katerina Monastyrskaya, producer, Estonia:

MINSK doesn't depict the problems of Minsk and Belarus alone. Police harassment happens everywhere. That's why our film will be understood all over the world. We don't accept violence.

The leading actors are Anastasia Shemyakina and Alexei Maslodudov. Oleg Gaas, Yulia Aug, Ivan Mulin and others participated.

The Belarusian events in 2020 were the presidential campaign with the most bloodshed in the entire history of the post-USSR republic. According to official data, "the enforcers' reaction was justified by the provocation and disorderly conduct from the demonstrators". However if one researches various sources, these numbers come up:

Arrested: more than 33 thousand people

Wounded: 200-300 people

Tortured: more than 450 people

Went AWOL: from 6 to 76 people

Dead: at least 8 people



MINSKFILM.COM