

DEVID
STRIESOW

VAKHO
CHACHANIDZE

CAMILLA
BORGHESANI

IVAN
SHVEDOFF

SANDRO
KEKELIDZE

THORSTEN
MERTEN



HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO



A DITO TSINTSADZE FILM

ATLAS INTERNATIONAL FILM PRESENTS A EAST END FILM PRODUCTION IN COLLABORATION WITH PYGMALION FILM AND UMEDIA IN COLLABORATION WITH UFFUND AND BEWEGTE BILDER MEDIEN • DITO TSINTSADZE FILM RODY WITH THE SUPPORT OF MEDIEN- UND FILMGESELLSCHAFT BADEN WÜRTTEMBERG DEUTSCHER FILMFÖRDERFONDS
WITH DEVID STRIESOW VAKHO CHACHANIDZE CAMILLA BORGHESANI IVAN SHVEDOFF SANDRO KEKELIDZE RAPHAEL ZHAMBAKYEV AND THORSTEN MERTEN CASTING MANOLYA MUTLU DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY NOTKER MAHR EDITOR MATTHIEU JAMET MUSIC ARNAUD BLANPAIN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MONA CATHLEEN OTTERBACH COSTUME DESIGNER LEAH LICHTWITZ
WRITTEN BY HEIDI WICK BARBARA BROUCKE BASED UPON THE PLAY BY CHRISTOPH SCHILLING THOMAS BOURIC DIRECTED BY THIBAUD RIE AND TILO EHMANN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TILLO EHMANN PRODUCED BY FABIANA CARDALDA SUPERVISOR JESSEL JELMVEN PALSTERMAN PRODUCTION DESIGNER CAMILLE SCHUMACHER CARSTEN SCHUFFERT PRODUCTION OFFICE SEBASTIAN EBERT VALENTINE KERVAGORET
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS KATERINA TARBO-IGNATENKO CAMILLA BORGHESANI CO-PRODUCERS NADYA GORSHKOVA BASTIEN SIRODOT LAURENT JOCCOBS CEDRIC ILAND BEATA SABDOVA PRODUCED BY MICHEL J. VANDEWALLE WITH KAMRAN SARDAR KHAN PRODUCED BY ELAINE NIESSNER TOMMY NIESSNER AND DIRECTED BY DITO TSINTSADZE



FESTIVALS

Tallinn 2022 - Opening Film - Critic's Picks Competition (World Premiere)

Tbilisi 2022 - Official Selection - International Film Festival

Bari BIFEST 2023 - Official Selection - International Film Festival

Sofia 2023 - Masters Selection - International Film Festival



QUOTES

„Hidden Gem“

Hollywood Reporter

„An utterly enthralling, stunner of a thriller which deserves to be a massive, worldwide hit. Don't miss.“

dmovies.org

„Can't take your eyes off the screen“

Blickpunkt: Film

„One of the most cleverly plotted and executed thrillers in years“

dmovies.org

„Shakes up conventional thinking“

cineuropa

„It's a movie that's great to discuss afterwards over a wine“

IMDb



East End Film GmbH | **ROXY** by Dito Tsintsadze

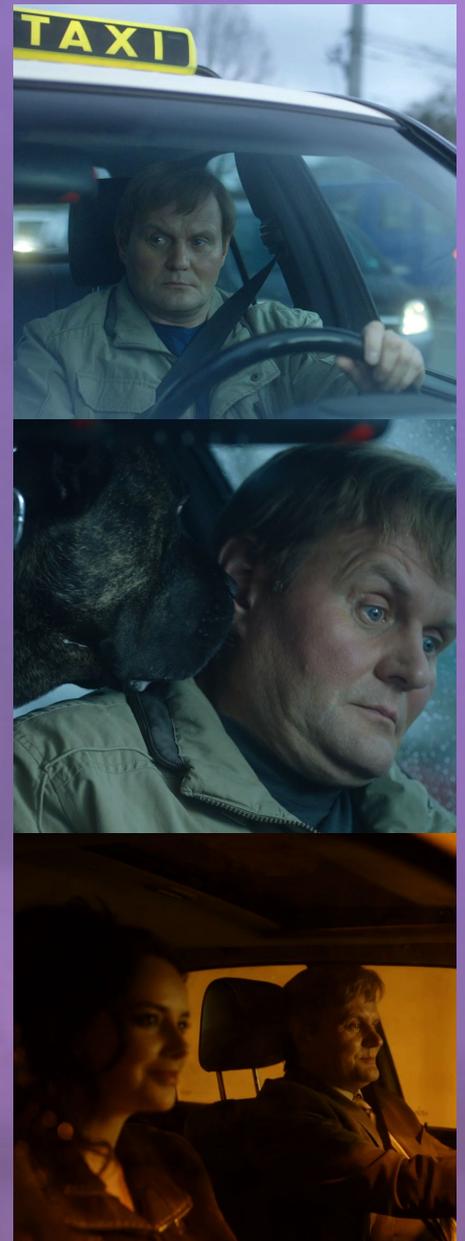
SYNOPSIS SHORT

Thomas Brenner is a taxi driver, experiencing few surprises in his mundane day-to-day life. Ideally, he would like to be invisible to the world around him. However, one day, his customers, including their huge dog Roxy turn out to be Russians on the run from... people who don't like to be messed with. Levan, the boss, takes a liking in Thomas and asks him for some more rides and favors in the days to come. Initially, Thomas joins for the money, but when he meets Liza, Levan's attractive wife and their young son Vova, his motives change. Thomas is sucked into a deep pit of lies, friendship, love and loyalty and develops skills he didn't think he was capable of.

SYNOPSIS LONG

Thomas Brenner is in his forties and a cab driver. His life doesn't hold many surprises and if it were up to him, he would rather be invisible to the world. So it's fitting that his unexciting life doesn't hold too many surprises.

Then, one day, a group of Russian men and their fighting dog "Roxy" enter his taxi. Levan, the chief, is on the run because he has messed with the wrong people. Thomas quickly proves to be a great and reliable help to him. Over the next few days, the men assign him to many smaller and larger tasks, some of which are in the legal gray area, and some of which go far beyond.



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When Thomas, who at first is only concerned with money, picks up Levan's attractive wife Liza and their young son Vova from the train station, everything changes for him. Soon, money is no longer Thomas' only motivation. For little Vova, he becomes an important confidant, and he fulfills all of Liza's wishes. Levan begins to trust Thomas more and more. With his life and his business. Thomas becomes part of Levan's family and his most important employee, without ever having applied for the job. But the rope around Levan's neck, and therefore Thomas', is relentlessly getting tighter and tighter.

Agents are on their trail, and Thomas is supposed to help the men bag Levan. Levan's affiliate gets shot and his employees disappear one by one. The once powerful oligarch becomes increasingly isolated and his taxi driver becomes his closest and eventually only confidant.

Deeper and deeper Thomas gets sucked into a swirl of betrayal, friendship, love and loyalty. And with time, he develops abilities that he didn't think he'd ever have. But Levan's suspicion grows, the closer Thomas gets to Liza and finally Thomas must go all in to save himself and start a new life.



DIRECTOR

DITO TSINTSADZE

Born in 1957 in soviet Georgia, award winning director Dito Tsintsadze has been living and working in Germany for the last 15 years. His works have been awarded several prizes such as the Golden Shell by the San Sebastian Film- festival and the Silver Leopard by the Locarno Filmfest.

His film INHALE-EXHALE won the Grand Prix of the Filmfestival Shanghai in 2019. His most recent Georgian film SHINDISI was in the Oscar Race for the 2020 Academy Awards for Best Foreign Picture.

His film MEDIATOR, which was also produced in his home country, had also been chosen as the Georgian bid for the 2008 Academy Award for Best Foreign Picture.

East End Film has co-produced both his latest German films GOD OF HAPPINESS and DER FREUND. Other German films of his include LOST KILLERS and SCHUSSANGST.



ROXY - TRAILER

available via:

<https://vimeo.com/eastendfilm/roxy-the-movie-trailer>

SCAN ME



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I see ROXY as a great opportunity to make a very special, funny and at same time suspenseful movie about love and faith... About how certain circumstances and almost random events could turn into the inevitable process of slow but still clearly visible metamorphosis of a quiet and ordinary man. This change happens in every level, ranging from deep psychological moments to the very practical act of changing identity!

Because the thriller elements in the story are growing scene by scene and the pressure on our protagonists is getting more and more heavy, as a director I am getting a great and challenging opportunity to built up very interesting and intensive relations between the characters and how these relations develop throughout the film...

When people are under permanent threat, they start to behave in a quite strange way and this also gives me possibilities to keep tension while making characters able to reveal themselves as much as possible and also create funny situations for them to stumble into.

The main character discovers an absolutely new world, which was always around him, but he never knew about it... Actually he wakes up from a sort of lethargy and right away jumps into something which is very dark and dangerous, but at same time attractive and even emotional, he falls in love! And this love becoming his „passive“, almost invisible and silent, but very much motivated and deliberated, almost unstoppable force to get finally, his piece of happiness! Family, money and possibility to start a totally new life... Actually everything he was missing...

And what is also very important to me is that during the whole film he is acting in a very correct and easy way, step by step finding in himself qualities he could not imagine he had... So called self revelation could work perfectly with an actor like Devid Striesow.

As for the general mood, I would use Coen brother's films, like - FARGO, THE MAN WHO WAS NOT THERE as examples.

I feel closeness to these films because of a very specific way of storytelling, using dark humor as a tool and at the same time telling a really dramatic and emotional and even hard story with the great, distinctive and even touchy characters (Even if they are criminals)...

It should be entertaining, funny, sometimes brutal, but a thoughtful and deep film, with the ironic, maybe a bit open, but still quite clear and happy end. And of course it should be visually stunning and dynamic.

CAST

Devid Striesow
as *Thomas*



Aron
as *Roxy*



Camilla Borghesani
as *Liza*



Vakho Chachanidze
as *Levan*



Ivan Shvedoff
as *Andrei*



ADDITIONAL CAST

Thorsten Merten



Sandro Kekelidze



Raphael Zhambakiyev



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INTERVIEW DITO

Tell us about your new film **ROXY**.

This film is very important for me because it's about a metamorphose. The metamorphose of a person who is faceless in the beginning and becoming the most important guy in the story at the end. And for me, it's always interesting in life how people are changing. I find it fascinating, how people are changing in a short period. And I have seen people who start to change in front of my eyes. I mean, in front of me. It was unbelievable with this procedure how slow – or sometimes fast – a human being or person can change. Because of their circumstances and because of many things which are happening around them. And this procedure of changing, that's exactly the story of Roxy. And I want to share this story with the audience.

What was it like to work with Devid Striesow for the character of Thomas?

Why I loved to work with Devid Striesow on this film is because he is a great actor and at the same time he has this kind of ambivalence, you know, he could be everybody. He could be a victim, but he easily could be an aggressive, violent guy. You can find every element that I needed for the main character, for Thomas. So when I asked him to play this role, I was hoping for David and me to work together to break some stereotypes and to go to another sort of level of his acting, his character. And I think it worked out very well.

His character is invisible in the beginning. It's kind of a gray guy whom you never will notice, as he mentions himself in the film. And this invisible man becomes not only visible, but at the end, he's a game changer.

He is like a spider, who decides every moment around him and who is active and precise in his reactions. And that's very interesting. Exactly this procedure from a faceless man to an active person who





is winning everything - money, success and so on. And what is most important for me is that this is surprising, especially for himself, because he's finding some absolutely new qualities, which he never even thought he had.

And this transformation of an ordinary guy is triggered after he meets some passengers who are obviously on the run from a certain group or system.

You know, I was born in the Soviet Union, and I guess that is something that has shaped me. I have seen people's lives get affected by institutions like the KGB or Stasi, which were very similar in how they were acting against people. I know it very well. I've seen people under interrogation or put under pressure. And for me, it's very important to contain this and to remind people what hell this is and how this system may it be Stasi, KGB, FSB or other systems can ruin human beings live, ruin humanity, and ruin all human qualities, which we have because it's based on ruining it, based on the humiliation of normal human beings.

Is this why you gave Thomas his backstory of his father and grandfather, who were both victims of their respective systems?

Exactly. I've always felt a certain closeness to people from Eastern Germany, because they have gone through the same transition as I have and so many other people in Eastern Europe. This is why I have always wanted to create a character, a German character, who has gone through this system change, just like I did.

And then if you go further back in German history, obviously most of the people, for instance who were working for the Stasi, their fathers were probably fighting in the Wehrmacht, so politically on the exact opposite side, but in the end there's not so much difference between the systems for the individual. And I find it really fascinating, how in Eastern Germany,

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you had two system changes, all within half a century, so you have people who lived through both of them or where one generation was raised in one system and the next in the other.

You have been making films in Germany for over 20 years now, but you still also make films in your native country of Georgia. Do you feel like a German director or a Georgian director?

I see myself as a European director. When I made my first movie in Germany, "Lost Killers", the movie travelled Cannes in the Certain Regard section, other movies have travelled to and won in Locarno and San Sebastian. So, these films somehow established me in the European film scene. I also made my movies in Georgia, just recently I finished one of the movies in Georgia. And if you ask me where I feel better, it's quite difficult. It doesn't matter. Germany is very interesting to my movies but also in Georgia when you are making movies it's a special condition, which I enjoy.

EAST END FILM

Combining good entertainment with topics of social relevance to satisfy the audience both on an emotional and intellectual level is East End Film's proclaimed goal.

East End Film is an ambitious production company specializing on international co-productions and always looking to extend its network of international partners. The company was founded by the siblings Tommy and Elaine Niessner in 2011.

Their first theatrical feature film was a co-production with 27 Films Production, „God of Happiness“, also by director Dito Tsintsadze,

In recent years, East End Film has also produced a number of successful feature films but also short formats for several outlets. In 2017/18 they produced the first fictional format for ZDF (public broadcaster) for the joint online youth channel of the German public broadcasters, „Offscreen“.

Latest projects involve the prototype for a VR documentary, „People2People“, which will later be used as a peacebuilding tool in the conflict in the Middle East. The feature film „Borga“ was released in October 2021 and has won a fair amount of awards, including 8 Ghana Movie Awards, 4 Max-Ophüls Awards, Bayrischer Filmpreis and more. It is currently nominated for 14 African Movie Academy Awards and lead actor Eugene Boateng won the German equivalent of the SAG award, the German Acting Award, for his performance in Borga. For the purpose of the release, East End Film has partnered up with Chromosom Film to found the distribution company Across Nations Filmverleih.



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PYGMALION FILM PRODUCTION

PYGMALION FILM PRODUCTIONS is a Cyprus-based film production company, developed especially for the purpose of International movie co-productions. It was founded by producer Nadezhda Gorshkova.



UMEDIA

Umedia is a vertically integrated, international film group based in Brussels and Paris. The company is one of Europe's leading production groups, combining the activities of production, financing and visual effects. Since its inception in 2004, Umedia has invested more than \$670 million via its tax shelter funds, and has been involved in more than, 500 films including WHAT HAPPENED TO MONDAY, GRACE OF MONACO, YVES SAINT LAURENT and multi-Academy Award-winning THE ARTIST.

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