

EASTERN PLAYS

WATERFRONT FILM REPUBLIKEN Film i Vast present
a film by Kamen Kalev

PRODUCERS Kamen Kalev Stefan Pirvov Anguel Christianov Fredric Zander
CAST Christo Christov Ovanes Torosian Saadet Isil Aksoy Nikolina Iancheva
Ivan Nalbantov Hatice Aslan Krasimira Demireva Kerem Atabeyoglu
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Julian Atanasov SOUND Momchil Bojkov
MAKE-UP Elena Gavrilova WRITER AND DIRECTOR Kamen Kalev



www.eastemplays.com www.waterfrontfilm.net

SYNOPSIS

“Eastern plays” is a drama that skips between multiple storylines and follows the lives of four young men in their struggle towards self-realization. Their destinies intertwine upon a brutal accident, which takes place in Sofia, Bulgaria.

George is 17 years old and in constant conflict with his parents. In his attempt to look more manly, he joins a skinhead gang. He hasn't seen his older brother Itzo for a while.

Itzo is 38, and a sculptor by trade. He is a drug addict who's undergoing methadone treatment. The heroin dependency has driven him to despair and he resorts to alcohol. Itzo's girl friend, Niki, is a student majoring in acting. Young and naive, she's fallen for Itzo, and cannot imagine her life without, in her eyes, “the ultimate artist”.

Izil is in her late 20's, a Turkish girl from Istanbul. Izil and her parents are on their way to Berlin to visit her brother. After a long drive through Bulgaria, the family decides to take a break and spend the night in Sofia. The night turns into a nightmare. The family becomes the victim of the skinheads attack in which George is also involved. Accidentally, Itzo witnesses the attack, and in an attempt to defend the Turkish family, he suffers a severe beating himself.

Izil's father sustains a few injuries and is hospitalized. The hospital becomes a meeting room of intimacy. While Izil and Itzo are spellbound by each other, George and Itzo grow closer for the first time. With the help of his brother, George realizes the insanity and delusion he had got himself into. Izil's parents soon discover the attraction between their daughter and Itzo. Izil's father refuses to accept their relationship. Ethnic intolerance is present in his decision and he takes the family back to Istanbul.

Everybody is alone again but they are not the same. In their close relations with one another they have found a part of their own truth.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

by Kamen Kalev

I am interested in exploring relationships between simple ordinary people. What intrigues me is, young people and the difficulties they encounter to establish themselves as spiritual and well-balanced individuals. Ethnic division and drug addiction set the context of the whole story but these remain secondary.

The central idea of the film evolves around the personal sufferings of the four main characters. I believe that by exposing human relations at a personal level, it allows us to see more easily the reasons why large-scale hatred and intolerance exist among people.

Multiple life stories come together to weave the texture of the film. We follow the relationship between a father and his son, a young man and his girlfriend, and the story between two brothers.

Different at first sight, the stories have a lot in common, and that is, the emotional struggles of the main characters to find their own place in today's world. They have shut themselves in, distant from the rest, and are scared to come out and reveal their true feelings. Various stimuli like drugs and gang fights are used by the main characters as a substitute to fill the void whilst desperately seeking to find that inner piece and satisfaction within themselves.

At some point, the stories intersect where the main characters emerge confronting one another. They go through a deep emotional and psychological transformation, seeing the world in a new, much clearer, and optimistic way.

Although the film has a serious overtone, my desire is to deliver rather a cheerful and stimulating story. The comic and absurd situations are the main tools of the narrative.



Kamen Kalev was born in Burgas, Bulgaria in 1975. He graduated from the Femis Film School, Paris in 2002. Kamen's short films ORPHEUS and MALTONIUS OLBREN were presented and received awards at many international films festival such as Berlin, Clermont-Ferrant, NY Film Festival, Locarno, Stockholm... His short GET THE RABBIT BACK was in competition in Cannes Film Festival in 2005. Two years later, his last short RABBIT TROUBLES was again selected at the Critic's Week in Cannes. He directed over 60 commercials and a number of music videos.



« There are lots of people
beginning to wake up and
realize that their souls are sick »

CAST



Hristo Hristov

Hristo Hristov was born in Burgas in 1969. He studied woodcarving in Triavna and at the National Academy of Fine Arts in Sofia. His works were exhibited in Burgas, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro. "Eastern Plays" was his first time ever in front of the camera. Just a few days after the last footage was shot, a tragic accident led to his death.

Saadet Isil Aksoy

FILMOGRAPHY: "Yumurta"(Egg) by Semih Kaplanoglu, premiered at Director's Fortnight - Cannes Film Festival 2007, Best Actress at Sarajevo Film Festival 2007, second film of the trilogy by Semih Kaplanoglu, "Sut" (Milk), premiered at Venice Film Festival in 2008, "A Beautiful Life" by Alejandro Chomski

TV SERIES: "Senden Baska", "Kalpsiz Adam"



Ovanes Torosian

Ovanes Torosian was born in Erevan, Armenia in 1986. Since 1993 he has lived in Sofia. He is currently a student in acting at NATFA. "Eastern Plays" was his debut.



Nikolina Iancheva

Nikolina Iancheva was born in Burgas in 1985. She graduated in acting in 2008 from the National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts (NATFA), as a student of Professor Stefan Danailov, and made her debut in the film "Eastern Plays".



Kerem Atabeyoglu

FILMOGRAPHY: Augenblick Freiheit, Ein (2008), The Adventures of Young Indiana Jones: Daredevils of the Desert(1992), "The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles" (1992),

TV SERIES: "R ya gibi" (2006), "K pek" (2005), "Sevin li haller" (2004), "Sultan Makami" (2003), "Kursun yarasi" (2003), "Sapkadan babam ikti" (2003), In This World (2002), "Yalanin batsin" (2002), "Par a pin ik" (2000), "Sehnoz tango" (2000)



Hatice Aslan

FILMOGRAPHY: Three Monkeys (2008) by Nuri Bilge Ceylan
Best Director Award of Cannes Film Festival 2008

TV SERIES: "D g n sarkicisi" (2008), "H rrem Sultan" (2003), "Hircin menekse" (2003), "A.G.A." (2003), "En son babalar duyar" (2002)



CAST

ITSO

Hristo Hristov

GEORGI

Ovanes Torosian

ISIL

Saadet Isil Aksoy

NIKI

Nikolina Iancheva

GEORGI AND ITSO'S FATHER

Ivan Nalbantov

GEORGI AND ITSO'S STEPMOTHER

Krasimira Demireva

ISIL'S MOTHER

Hatice Aslan

ISIL'S FATHER

Kerem Atabeyoglu

ISIL'S BROTHER

Rza Kocaoğlu

RIBA

Chavdar Sokolov

DREGA

Alexander (The Indian)

ANJELA

Anjela Nedialkova

TATOO ARTIST

Samuil Kisiov

KOINO

Velislav Pavlov

PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Dr. Ivan Vitkov

NURSE IN THE TURKISH HOSPITAL

Meral Tahsin

WAITOR

Ivailo Ignatov

WAITRESS

Bogomila Nikolova

GIRL IN THE STAIRS

Silvi Hristova

BODYGUARD

Kaloian Lenkov

BUSINESSMAN

Atanas Petrov

MAYER

Josif Shamly

OLD MAN

Ivan Penchev

WOMAN ON THE GAS STATION

Plamena Getova

NURSE IN THE METHADONE PROGRAM

Deni Dodeva

JURNALIST

Ivo the fan

WORKERS

Toni Djidrov

Neno Nenov

Martin Savov

ROOM MATES

Kaloian Nedelchev

Irmena Chichkova

Milena Milanova

BABE

Iavor Prodanov

CREW

WRITER AND DIRECTOR
Kamen Kalev

PRODUCERS
Kamen Kalev
Stefan Piriyov
Anguel Christianov
Fredric Zander

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
Julian Atanasov

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Maya Vitkova

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Khristiana Daneva

UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER
Marina Asenova

1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Ina Hadjieva

SCRIPT CONTINUITY
Mila Maslarova

CASTING DIRECTOR BULGARIA
Vania Bajdarova

CASTING DIRECTOR TURKEY
Harika Uygur

CASTING ASSISTANT
Nikolina Iancheva

FOCUS PULLER
Kiril Prodanov

KEY GRIP
Dani Vuchkov

STILL PHOTOGRAPHER
Jana Blajeva

SOUND MIXER
Momchil Bojkov
Boreto Traianov

BOOM OPERATOR
Alexander Traianov
Neno Nenov

SFX MAKE-UP
Dimitar Koklin

MAKE-UP
Elena Gavrilova

PROPS MAN
Martin Slavov

EDITOR
Vesela Marinova

STUNT COORDINATOR
Jordan Zahariev (Dancho Zmeja)



www.easternplays.com
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Design and art direction

 amitystudio
www.amitystudio.com