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TOM PRIOR

FIREBIRD

A FILM BY PEETER REBANE

FIGHT FOR LOVE



THE FACTORY FILM ESTONIA and FIREBIRD PRODUCTION present a PEETER REBANE film "FIREBIRD" TOM PRIOR OLEG ZAGORODNI DIANA POLYKASCALIA BEATRICE KRUGER (aka KATE WILK) HILKE FLOSS -HILKE MAIT MÄEKON (aka KRYSZTOF A. JANIKAK) TAMBEI TASIJAA -BIBI MAARJATTA NISSINEN MARE RÄHÖNEN
www.artifilm.nl THE FACTORY BRITTI BISSAR ANARCO IAFRATE PEETER REBANE TOM PRIOR JESSE MICHAEL EDELSTEIN PHILIP REBANE MAURO DURANT BRIGITA ROZENBERKA PEETER REBANE

Filmdistributie Benelux: Arti Film

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Regisseur | Peeter Rebane

Script | Peeter Rebane, Tom Prior

Cast | Tom Prior, Oleg Zagorodnij, en Diana Pozharskaya

Estland 1980 en waargebeurd. Als Sergey, een jonge Russische soldaat, de nieuwe piloot Roman moet begeleiden op de luchtmachtbasis waar ze beiden zijn gelegerd, groeit er al snel meer tussen die twee. Maar ook zijn vrouwelijke collega en vriendin Luisa heeft een oogje op Sergey. Er ontstaat een gevaarlijke, maar ook opwindende relatie die de mannen buiten het waakzame oog van de KGB moeten houden. Gebaseerd op de memoires van Sergej Fetisovs, is de film een lust voor het oog. Sensueel en weelderig gefilmd, vol erotische spanning en oog voor drama.

Korte synopsis

Estland 1980 naar een waargebeurd verhaal. Als de jonge Russische soldaat Sergey als taak krijgt om piloot Roman te begeleiden op hun luchtmachtbasis groeit er al snel meer tussen die twee. Maar ook zijn vrouwelijke collega en vriendin Luisa heeft een oogje op Sergey. Er ontstaat een gevaarlijke relatie die de mannen buiten het waakzame oog van de KGB moeten houden.

Oneliner

Waargebeurd verhaal tijdens de Koude Oorlog over een geheime affaire tussen een jonge Russische soldaat en een charismatische piloot op een luchtmachtbasis in bezet Estland.

Achtergrond

“Firebird” is gebaseerd op de memoires uit 1996 van de Russische acteur Sergey Fetisov, die in 2017 overleedt op 64-jarige leeftijd. In de film wordt hij gespeeld door de Britse acteur Tom Prior. Het verhaal uit de 80 jaren schetst een benauwende periode voor homo mannen en die heden ten dage weer geconfronteerd worden met ernstige repressie. De première vorig jaar op het Moscow International Film Festival ging gepaard met rellen en wilde protesten. De titel van de film refereert naar de uitvoering van het ballet van Igor Stravinsky wat de twee mannen tijdens hun bezoek aan Tallinn zien. De film is opgenomen in Oost-Estland, Moskou en op Malta.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE PRINCIPAL CAST AND CREW MEMBERS

PEETER REBANE | Director and Co-Writer

Born in Estonia, Peeter has studied, worked and lived around the world, including the USA and the UK. His directing portfolio includes feature films *Firebird* (2021), *Sailing to Freedom* (in development), and documentaries *Tashi Delek!* (2015) and *Robbie Williams: Fans Journey to Tallinn* (BBC Worldwide, 2014) as well as numerous music videos including Moby's "Wait for Me" and Pet Shop Boys' "Together."

Peeter produced and directed the 22-camera concert film *Robbie Williams: Live in Tallinn* (2013). He has also produced the 2010 European Film Awards, the 2002 Eurovision Song Contest, and hundreds of shows in the Baltic region for various artists including Elton John, Bob Dylan, Madonna, Sting, Lady Gaga, Metallica, Queen, and others. In 2013, Peeter was named Entrepreneur of the Year in Estonia.

Peeter has been a jury member at various film festivals including Black Nights Film Festival and Cape Town International Film Festival. He studied as an exchange student at Oxford and graduated from Harvard *cum laude* in economics, psychology and visual arts. After a career as a producer, he went on to study directing at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts and trained in acting for directors at Judith Weston's studio. Peeter has travelled the world, sailing around Cape Horn, crossing the Atlantic & Pacific four times, and hiking the mountains of Tibet. He has a global perspective and a passion for telling local human stories with a universal resonance.

TOM PRIOR | Sergey and Co-Writer

Actor, writer and producer Tom Prior, is known for his work on both the stage and screen.

Tom trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) graduating in 2012. His acting work includes; *The Theory of Everything* (2014 / Working Title) playing Eddie Redmayne's son Robert Hawking; *Kingsman: The Secret Service* (2014 / Twentieth Century Fox, Marv Films) and *Endeavour* (2012/13) series for ITV. Tom's other acting titles include *Dusty and Me* (2016) and *Blood On The Crown* (2021) alongside Harvey Keitel and Malcolm McDowell.

Tom previously starred in London's West End productions of *Tory Boyz* (by James Graham), *Prince of Denmark*, and *Romeo & Juliet*. Tom was selected to train with the National Youth Theatre REP Company, he was one of 15 actors selected from around the UK; working in collaboration with the National Theatre, BBC and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Tom began his writing career shortly after graduating acting school in 2012. He wrote his first short film *Breaking the Circle* in 2014. He then rewrote a feature film script adapted from a true story, before becoming the co-writer of *Firebird*.

Tom co-wrote, produced, and starred in *Firebird* (2021). He was nominated for a BIFA (British Independent Film Award) in 2021 for his Breakthrough Performance.

Tom considers himself a versatile filmmaker - and enjoys his time in front of and behind the camera. He is now continuing with his acting career as well as developing a number of new scripts, with a clear mission to make films which create hope, inspiration, resilience and empathy.



OLEG ZAGORODNII | Roman

Oleg Zagorodnii is a Ukrainian actor at Kirill Serebrennikov's Gogol Centre in Moscow. His theatre performances include *Ozero* by M. Durnenkov, and *Brothers*, based on Luchino Visconti's *Rokko and his Brothers*. He is known for *The Choice* (2016) and *Dzhamayka* (2012) TV series. His latest roles include Katya Tcaryk's *Hold Me* (2020) and the Ukrainian TV series *Pregnancy Test* (2022).

DIANA POZHARSKAYA | Luisa

Diana Pozharskaya is a Russian actress, originally from Volgograd. She is a graduate of Moscow's prestigious VGIK university and is also a professionally trained dancer.

Her most notable performance to date has been the role of "Vera" in the critically acclaimed war epic *The Unknown Soldier* (2017). Directed by Aku Louhimies, it has gone on to become the biggest box office hit in the history of Finnish cinema, with Diana consistently receiving praise for her performance.

Diana is known throughout Russia for her role as 'Darya' in the hugely popular TV series *Hotel Eleon* and is a regular on the Russian TV series, *Senior Mafia*. She played the role of 'Tanya' in the feature film *Eclipse* (2016), directed by Artyom Aksenenko. Her other notable credits include 'Elena' in *On The Edge*, a new drama filmed in Egypt, and *Our Children* in which she plays the leading character of 'Maria,' and the female lead of 'Nadya' in *Heat in Baku*. Diana's latest roles are 'Dasha' in the romantic comedy *Hotel Belgrade* (2020) and 'Veronika Karpova', chess player Anatoly Karpov's wife in the Russian sports drama *Champion of the World* (2021).

Her latest international acting role is playing Sofia on Apple TV+ series *Trying*.

Diana recently completed a Chanel campaign in Paris and is Chanel's global brand ambassador.

JAKE THOMAS HENDERSON | Volodja

Jake attended East 15 Acting School in East London and graduated in 2018. Whilst training he played the roles of 'Platonov' in *Wild Honey*, 'Gravedigger' in *Hamlet*, 'Myron' in *All New People*, 'Sonnerie' in *Red Noses* and 'MP' in the UK premiere of *The Family that Could Talk About Anything*.

MARGUS PRANGEL | Major Zverev

Margus Prangel is an Estonian actor and director. He graduated from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre in 2000. He worked 2000-2010 at the Estonian Drama Theatre as an actor and from 2012 at Von Glehni Teater as a producer and director.

Margus has featured in 36 films and TV roles and over 40 theatre roles. He won the Best Leading Actor award in the "TV drama" category for *Klass: Elu pärast* (Estonia, 2009) in the Roma Fiction Fest.

NICHOLAS WOODESON | Colonel Kuznetsov

Nicholas Woodeson is an English film, television and theatre actor. Woodeson's first film work was a role in *Heaven's Gate* (1980). Since then he has appeared in close to a hundred films including *The Russia House* (1990), *The Pelican Brief* (1993), *Shooting Fish* (1997), *The Man Who Knew Too Little* (1997), *Titanic Town* (1998), *The Avengers* (1998), *Mad Cows* (1999), *Amazing Grace* (2006), *Skyfall* (2012), *Mr. Turner* (2014), *The Danish Girl* (2015) and *The Death of Stalin* (2017).

BRIGITA ROZENBRIKA | Producer

Brigita's portfolio includes the highest grossing Latvian feature film *Defenders of Riga* (2007), the BBC drama *Archangel* (2005) starring Daniel Craig, the Norwegian-Latvian co-production *Virgins of Riga* (1996), as well as more than a dozen films in the roles of producer, executive producer, art director, production designer, and location manager. She is also a member of the European Film Academy.

Brigita graduated with a Master of Arts degree from the Latvian Academy of Arts. Over the years, she has been the international jury member of the 2005 Emmy Awards, associate producer of the 2014 European Film Awards, executive producer of the 2003 Eurovision Song Contest and other large-scale events. She has also been the general manager of the Baltic Production Co., producer of International Mikhail Chekhov Actors Workshop, general manager of Riga Culture Agency, manager of International Film Festival Arsenals and a promoter of shows for artists including Depeche Mode, Elton John and more than 50 others.

Brigita is lecturer of the Management of Cultural Events and Risk Management course at Turība University. Her passion is managing the creative process of taking an idea and developing it into the final emotional experience for the audience.

DANKURO SHINMA | Co-Producer

Dankuro grew up in a creative environment as his father was a photographer taking pictures of musicians and Formula one drivers in the 70's, 80's and 90's globally. From early on Dankuro assisted his father's friends who were photographers, where he grew his curiosity in images and decided to dive into the world of fashion photography. Moving forward Dankuro has since studied cinematography under BSC Paul Wheeler and BSC Robin Vidgeon to gain experience in telling a story through the uses of image.

After completing the study, Dankuro and William Randall-Coath (his peer at the film school) formed a production company NO RESERVATIONS ENTERTAINMENT in 2015, and since then the company has made a theatrical feature film, ICELAND IS BEST (Dir Max Newsom, featuring Judd Nelson, Helena Mattison), and co-produced FIREBIRD (Dir Peeter Rebane, Starring Tom Prior, Oleg Zagorodnii, Diana Pozharskaya).

Current No Res's slate of projects includes WRONG PLACE WRONG TIME (Dir Simon West) and PORTRAITS of DANGEROUS WOMEN (Dir Pascal Bergamin, Starring Tara Fitzgerald, Yasmin Monet Prince) which are scheduled to be filmed in Spring/Summer 2022.

Dankuro has filmed number of award-winning shorts and 6 features as a cinematographer which includes, ICELAND IS BEST and THE FURTHEST END AWAITS (Dir Hsiu-Chiung Chiang, starring Hiromi Nagasaku, Masatoshi Nagase). He has also worked as a second-unit Director of Photography on FIREBIRD and Beyond the Beach: The Hell and the Hope.



CHRISTOPHER RACSTER | Co-Producer

Christopher has made an impact as a filmmaker, non-profit executive, and LGBTQ activist for over 25 years, leveraging storytelling to fight for the authentic representation and inclusion of LGBTQ communities in film, television, and the media.

Currently, Christopher runs a consultancy based in Los Angeles focused on independent filmmakers and media arts organizations that support underrepresented and marginalized voices.

Prior to this, Christopher served as Executive Director of Outfest, home of Outfest Los Angeles LGBTQ Film Festival. Under his leadership, Outfest secured recognition as the world's preeminent LGBTQ media arts organization, growing the Outfest UCLA Legacy Project LGBTQ film archive to an inventory of over 40,000 works, creating industry-leading programs for trans creatives, and securing status as the only Academy Award qualifying LGBTQ film festival. He counts his work to grow Outfest's role in dismantling the systemic issues faced by LGBTQ people of color in the entertainment industry as his most important accomplishment during his tenure.

Prior to joining Outfest, Christopher spent more than a decade as an independent film producer, running a production company focused on content reflecting the authentic experience of the LGBTQ community, with films premiering at prestigious festivals including Sundance, Tribeca, and BFI London and distributed globally.

ORLAN BOSTON | Co-Producer

Orlan is a senior business leader and catalyst, connector and convener deeply committed to bringing people and organizations together for fundamental change and global impact. He has spent the past three decades serving in senior leadership and board roles in business, media, politics, public service, nonprofits, and philanthropy as a senior executive, entrepreneur, venture capital investor, award-winning film producer, author, public servant, philanthropist, and member of several boards.

He has a long history in ESG and Sustainability efforts across the public and private sectors and has launched various award-winning social change and impact ventures in publishing, documentary and feature filmmaking, civil rights, and philanthropy. In 2013 together with Timothy Greenfield-Sanders he produced HBO's critically acclaimed *The Out List* documentary film.

In 2014, he was appointed by President Barack Obama as a White House Presidential Appointee to the Global Board of Governors of the United Service Organizations, Inc. (USO). He serves on the Board of Directors of The Trevor Project, the world's leading suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ+ youth and was a member of the NYC LGBTQ Center's Board of Directors. He was named to the OUTstanding and Financial Times list of the 2016 Top 100 LGBT Leaders.

MICHAEL EDELSTEIN | Executive Producer

Michael Edelstein is an entertainment leader, technology advisor/investor and an accomplished producer who has developed and produced hit television series in addition to building an award-winning multi-national television studio. From 2010-2017, Edelstein served in London as President of NBCUniversal International Studios, which he built from inception into one of the most respected content players in the international marketplace. Under his leadership, NBCUniversal International Studios became a top destination for writers, producers, directors and format creators, producing high-quality scripted and non-scripted programming across all genres, including the UK's biggest scripted television export of all time, *Downton Abbey*. During his tenure, the division produced more than 1100 hours of original content. This included over 150 series which combined generated numerous awards including 3 Golden Globes, 6 BAFTA Awards, 14 Logies, 12 Leos and 18 Emmy Awards.



Edelstein is also one of the two original Executive Producers of the global phenomenon *Desperate Housewives* for which he received two Golden Globes. Prior to that he was instrumental in the launch of the CSI Franchise while at CBS Entertainment. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Edelstein graduated from The University of California, Los Angeles magna cum laude and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

MAURO DURANT | Executive Producer

Mauro Durant is a creative director, stylist and brand strategist with over 20 years' experience working internationally with private clients, celebrities and luxury brands spanning fashion, beauty, jewellery, art and design. In the early 90s, after acquiring a college degree in graphic design and photography, Mauro launched the fashion brand Durant & Diego in Caracas, Venezuela, which also supported projects in theatre, music and the film industry, for which Mauro has a great interest. The brand established international partnerships with retailers in Paris, New York, L.A. and Japan. Since 2006 he has been a business partner in La Movida Films, a production company in Venezuela. He has created a dynamic partnership with pioneer luxury, fashion and technology entrepreneur Carmen Busquets and in 2006, they co-founded CoutureLab - a laboratory of ideas and online platforms to support global creative talent. In 2015, Mauro became a partner in Trust Luxe, a specialized site for luxury brands that caters to Chinese luxury clients with a platform and team based in Shanghai. Mauro dedicates time to mentoring new generations of creative talents and has been supportive of many charities and initiatives focused on human rights, aids, arts and education, throughout his life.

BEATRICE KRUGER (CSA, ICDN, UICD) | Casting Director

Growing up in Germany, Hong Kong, Italy and the USA she speaks 5 languages, studied acting, anthropological theatre and travelled throughout Eastern and Western Europe with the theatre in the 70s and 80s. In 1992 she founded FBI CASTING in Rome and has cast Italian and international films ever since. Amongst many others: *The Book of Vision* (2006), *Grain* (2017), *To Rome with Love* (2012), *The Wholly Family* (2011), *The American* (2010), *Letters To Juliet* (2010), *My Mother's Smile* (2002), *Not of This World* (1999), *Under The Tuscan Sun* (2003), *Excellent Cadavers* (1999) and *Elvis & Meriljn*; the Italian or European casting on *The Divine Order* (2017), *Inferno* (2016), *Spectre* (2015), *Dreamland* (2016), *Nine, Angels & Demons* (2009), *The International* (2009), *Casino Royale* (2006), *Ocean's Twelve* (2004) and for TV on *Gladbeck* (2018), *Mozart in The Jungle* (2014), *Borgia* (2011), *Rome* (2005), *Titanic* (1997), *Ferrari* (2017), *The Good Pope* (2003).

MAIT MAEKIVI (ESC) | Director of Photography

Mait studied at the State Institute of Cinematography under the guidance of Vadim Jusov (Andrei Tarkovski's DOP) from 1982-1988.

Mait started working as an operator's assistant. Since 1991 he has been the DOP for 16 feature films, many short films and a number of documentaries and TV series. His portfolio includes *The Awakening* (1989), *Shop of Dreams* (2004), *I Was Here* (2008), *The Wish Tree* (2008) *Oleg* (2010), *Tashi Delek!* (2015) and others.

Mait has vast experiences with international co-productions. He was the DOP for BBC's documentary *Robbie Williams: Fans Journey to Tallinn* and the Tallinn live concert film of Robbie Williams's Take the Crown tour.

Since 2003, Mait has been leading the cinematography course at Baltic Film and Media School. He has been awarded for his



cinematography and for developing the visual language of Estonian movies, which can be described as having a strong influence from art and paintings.

MARE RAIDMA | Costume Designer

Mare has a Master's degree in the field of costume design. She has worked as costume designer for nearly 40 feature and short films.

Her portfolio includes such films as *1944* (2015), Sergey Lozhnitsa's award-winning *My Joy* (2010), *The Wish Tree* (2008), *Georg* (2007), *Ruudi* (2005) *Set Point* (2004), *Somnambulance* (2003) and 18 TV series. Mare's versatile portfolio also includes theatre productions in Estonian National Opera, The Estonian Drama Theatre, Vanemuine and Russian Theatre.

She has held personal exhibitions as well as published a diary about Estonian film designers (*Eesti filmikunstnikud*, 1996).

MARJATTA NISSINEN | Costume Designer

Mare studied Art and Design in Helsinki (Aalto University) in the Fashion department and graduated in 1986.

Marjatta worked as a designer in Marimekko 1986–1990 and after that again turned to movies and opera. She had the opportunity to work for great costume designers in Finland like Airi Turunen TV 1 head designer, Barbara Baum from Germany in *Maschenka* (1987), Richard Bruno in *Gorky Park* (1983) and Gabriella Pescucci in *La citta delle donne* (1980) in Italy.

Her first big period feature was the *The Gold Fever in Lapland* (1997-1999) and big war movies like *Beyond Enemy Lines* (2003) and *Tali-Ihantala 1944* (2007). Her life is full of research, collecting, various craftsmanship connections and lovely hard-working wardrobe crews.

KRZYSZTOF A. JANCZAK | Composer

Krzysztof A. Janczak is one of the most remarkable composers of young generation in Poland. The laureate of over a dozen international concert and film music competitions among others; *Eyes & Ears of Europe* in Munich, *Red Dot* in Berlin, *New York Festivals* in NY, *European Talent* and *Universal Music Award* in Cologne, and *Transatlantyk Young Composer Award* in Poznan. In 2012, he received a nomination to a special RMF Classic Award for young film music composer of a year. In 2017 supported by the letters from Max Richter and Monika Willi (editor of Michael Haneke) he has become a member of **European Film Academy**.

Since his debut in 2003, when *The Winter* won The Golden Tadpole at Camerimage festival, he created the music for over 40 movies, dozens of orchestral, chamber and piano pieces, that have been performed all over the world, and the music for TV channels such as; **Disney Channel**, **NBC Universal**, *13th Street*, *Kabel Deutschland* and many others.

After graduating in Musicology at Warsaw University, as a bursar of French Government and Nadia and Lili Boulanger Foundation, headed by Daniel Barenboim and Martha Argerich, he moved to Paris, where after five years of studies he received the diplomas of composition and orchestration in the most prestigious French school École Normale de Musique de Paris and Maurice Ravel Conservatory, in classes of remarkable Michel Merlet, a student of Olivier Messiaen and Igor Stravinsky. In 2007, after composing the Warsaw Uprising Symphony, an homage of young generation to those who fought for Warsaw in Second World War, he was honored **The Silver Cross of Merit** by **President of Poland**.



He perfected his skills and craft attending numerous master classes led by such composers as: Howard Shore, Alberto Iglesias, Max Richter, Michael Nyman, Jan A.P. Kaczmarek, Patrick Doyle, Don Davis, Trevor Morris, Rolfe Kent, Christopher Young, Marc Isham and Marco Beltrami. In 2013, he was selected from over 4400 applicants from 137 countries to attend the **Berlinale Talents** program.

Currently he collaborates with the directors and musicians all over the world, composing the music for many feature, documentary and animation films. He is regularly a guest at **Abbey Road Studios**, leading and supervising the recordings with the best soloists and orchestras, among others **London Symphony Orchestra**.