

"...breathtaking..."

—Shelia Benson, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"...audacious..."

—Judy Stone, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

"...intriguing..."

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

REPENTANCE



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
CANNES CLASSICS
2021 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Winner
Cannes 1987
Special Jury
Prize



THE CANNON GROUP, INC. PRESENTS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH SOVEXPORTFILM A GRUZIAFILM PRODUCTION

A FILM BY **TENGIZ ABULADZE** **REPENTANCE** **AVTANDIL MAKHARADZE · IA NINIDZE**
MERAB NINIDZE · ZEINAB BOTSVADZE · KETEVAN ABULADZE · EDISHER GIORGOBIANI
MUSICAL SELECTIONS **NANA DJANELIDZE** PRODUCTION DESIGNER **GEORGY MIKELADZE** DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **MIKHAIL AGRANOVICH**
WRITTEN BY **NANA DJANELIDZE, TENGIZ ABULADZE AND REZO KVESELAVA** PRODUCED BY **GRUZIAFILM STUDIO**
DIRECTED BY **TENGIZ ABULADZE**

 **CANNON**
RELEASING CORPORATION

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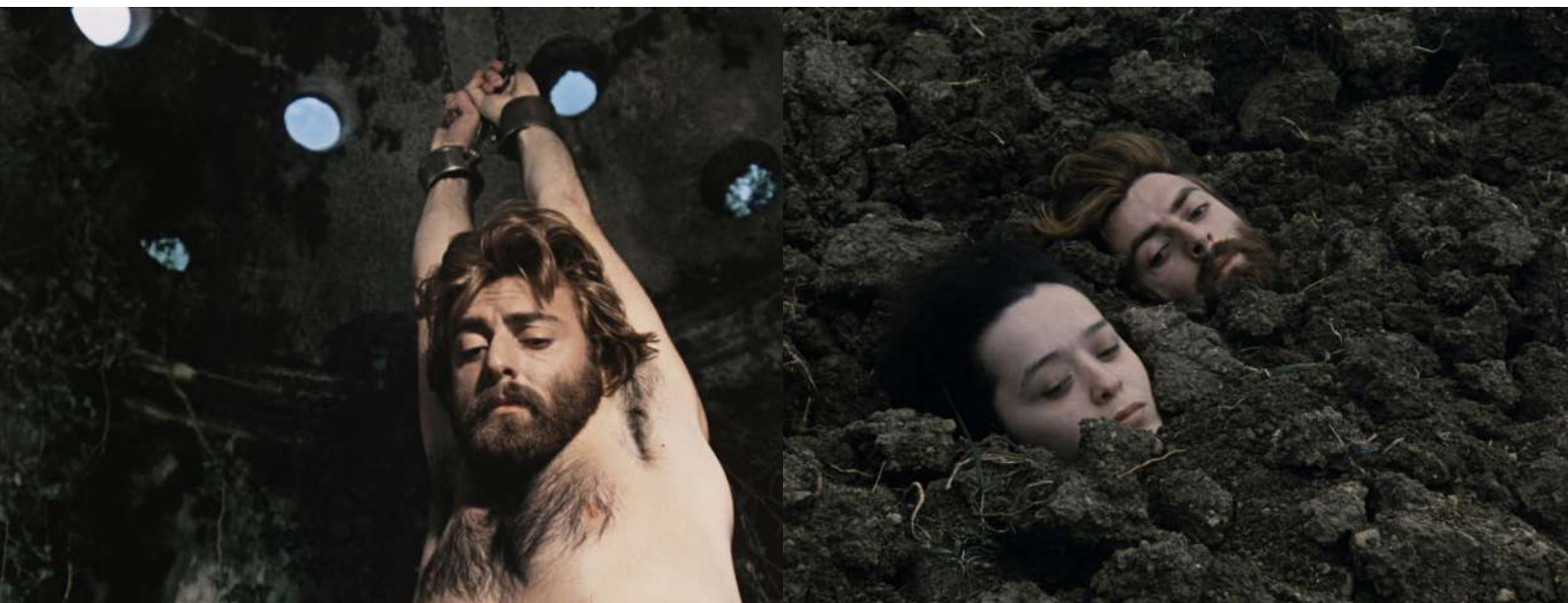
REPENTANCE



SYNOPSIS

Varlam Aravidze, a high-ranking Soviet official, uses his powers to condemn innocent people to repression and death. Years later, Ketevan Barateli, the daughter of a family ruined by Aravidze, decides to take her revenge and digs up his corpse. When she is later put on trial, Barateli reveals Aravidze's policy of paranoid repression. Full of remorse for his grandfather's actions and seeking to confront his father, Varlam's grandson Tornike resorts to an extreme form of protest and commits suicide.

When the film was finished in 1984 it was screened once and then shelved for three years. In 1987, with the new political climate initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev, the film was released again all over the Soviet Union and at film festivals in Western countries. In 1988, Soviet authorities again, unofficially, banned the movie for its outstanding controversy.



REPENTANCE



GEORGIA (SOVIET UNION) - PRODUCTION YEAR 1984 - RELEASE DATE 1987

COLOR - 153 MIN. - DCP - GEORGIAN with ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Cast: Avtandil Makharadze, Ia Ninidze, Merab Ninidze, Zeinab Botsvadze, Ketevan Abuladze, David Giorgobiani, Kakhi Kavsadze, Nino Zakariadze, Nato Ochigava, Davit Kemkhadze, Veriko Anjaparidze, Boris Tsipuria, Akaki Khidasheli, Leo Antadze, Rezo Esadze, Amiran Amiranashvili, Amiran Buadze, Davit Papuashvili, Shota Skhirtladze, Besarion Khidasheli, Mzia Makhviladze, Tamar Tsitsishvili, Marina Kakhiani, Rusudan Kiknadze, Khatuna Khobua, Lia Kapanadze, Kote Makharadze, Zura Kavtaradze.

Director: Tengiz Abuladze

Screenplay: Tengiz Abuladze, Nana Janelidze, Rezo Kveselava

Producer: Georgian Film Studio

Production Company: Georgian Film Studio

Director of Photography: Mikhail Agranovich

Editing: Gulnara Omiadze

Sound: Yuri Rishkov

Music: Nana Janelidze

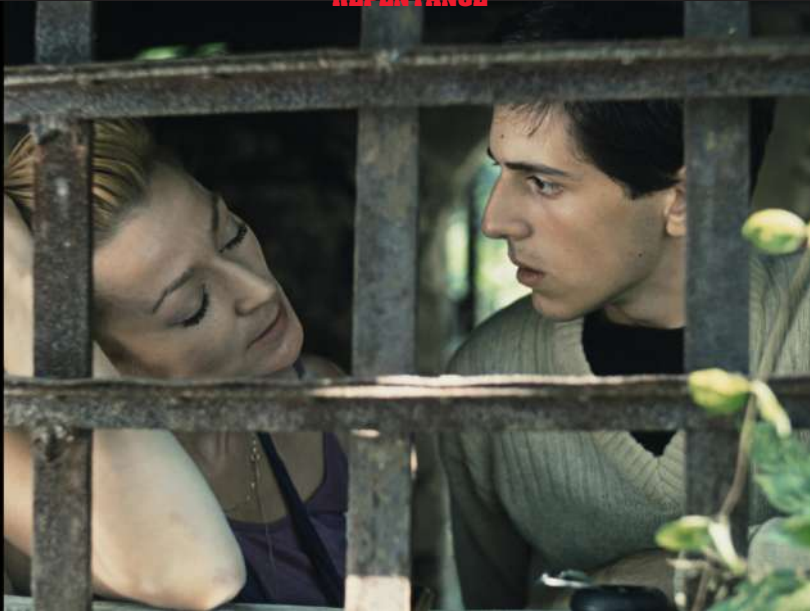
4k scanning and color grading: UPP Prague.

Digital restoration, sound works and DCP mastering: Studio Phonograph, Tbilisi

The restauration of Repentance has been made possible with the support from the GNFC



REPENTANCE



AWARDS

Cannes Film Festival - 1987

Winner

FIPRESCI Prize - Director Tengiz Abuladze

Grand Prize of Jury - Director Tengiz Abuladze

Prize of the Ecumencial Jury - Director Tengiz Abuladze

Nominee

Palme d'Or - Director Tengiz Abuladze

Chicago International Film Festival - 1987

Winner

Silver Hugo - Best Actor - Avtandil Makharadze

Special Jury Award - Director Tengiz Abuladze

Golden Globes, USA - 1988

Nominee - Best Foreign Language Film

Nika Awards - 1988

Winner

Best Film

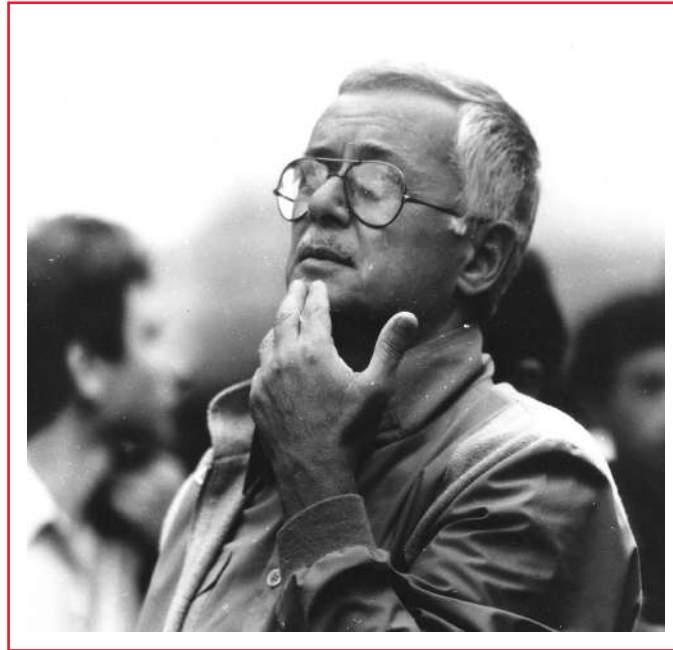
Best Director

Best Actor

Best Screenplay

Best Cinematographer

Best Production Designer



BIOGRAPHY

Tengiz Abuladze studied theatre direction (1943–1946) at the Shota Rustaveli Theatre Institute, Tbilisi, Georgia, and filmmaking at the VGIK (All-Union State Institute of Cinematography) in Moscow. He graduated from VGIK in 1952 and in 1953 he joined Georgia Film Studios as a director. Returning to Tbilisi with his fellow Georgian Revaz Chkheidze, Abuladze joined the Georgia Film Studios and together they began their career making documentary films about their country's folklore.

In 1955 they made their first non-documentary film, *Magdana's Donkey*, which won the Best Short Film award at Cannes in 1956. Abuladze's next work was the feature-length *Other People's Children* (1958), a psychological portrait of life in Tbilisi. This was followed by *Me, Grandma, Iliko and Ilarion* (1962), a tragicomedy of morals in a mountain village, and the lyrical comedy *A Necklace for My Beloved* (1973).

He is most famous for his film trilogy: The first of these, *The Plea* (1968), was inspired by the poems of Vazha-Pshavela and shot in black-and-white against the severe Georgian landscape familiar from other films of the time. The second film in the trilogy, *The Wishing Tree* (1971), was an epic tale set in the same landscape and focusing on the hopes and reveries of a young woman and a man's search for the mythical tree that will make dreams come true. *The Wishing Tree* won festival prizes in Moscow, Czechoslovakia and Italy, and was awarded the State Prize of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic.

From 1974 Abuladze taught at the Rustaveli Institute from which he had graduated three decades earlier. In 1980 he was awarded the title People's Artist of the USSR. By now he was one of the leading Soviet Georgian filmmakers. On the surface, he was the perfect example of the Soviet cultural nomenklatura.

Abuladze started working on *Repentance* in 1983. Rather than send the script to Goskino, where it was likely to be axed, Abuladze gave it to Georgian television. On a budget of \$1.4 million the film was finished in 1984. But then "some comrades" found reasons not to show it, and it remained on the shelf until late in 1986.

***"To say only the truth, to say yes if your heart says yes,
to say no if your heart is not in agreement."***

– Tengiz Abuladze