

THE OWNERS

A FILM BY ADILKHAN YERZHANOV



SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE
FESTIVAL DE CANNES





SYNOPSIS

25 year-old John, his teenage brother Erbol, and their sickly 12 year-old sister Aliya, are forced to leave their house in the Kazakh city of Almaty. By luck their mother left them a house in a remote village, where they plan to prepare their comeback.

But the house appears to be on the wish list of the District Officer's alcoholic brother, who has lived there illegally for 10 years. The police will do everything in their power to make the brothers' lives in the village impossible.

Through the alembic of the absurd THE OWNERS depicts routine injustice growing to unexpected cruelty, against a background of general indifference.

A person with dark hair is seen from the side, driving a car. The car's interior is visible, including the steering wheel and a rearview mirror. On the rearview mirror, there is a small, square, yellow-framed portrait of a man wearing a blue cap, which is a reproduction of Vincent van Gogh's 'Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear'. The car is moving towards a sunset or sunrise, with a bright, low sun on the horizon creating a pink and orange glow. The sky is a deep blue.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The film I shot is an expression of everyday reality through the alembic of absurd, inspired by the pictorial art of Van Gogh.

The combination of a brutal reality and childish happiness – this is the film language that doesn't simply decorate the film but also comprises its philosophy: I strived to convey the idea not only through the plot of the film but also its aesthetics, and the form of the cinematography.

The festivity of death, the indifference of society, the despotism of the corrupt authorities – all of these revolve around the ordinary litigation

procedures between two families fighting over a house in a remote village.

Together, me and my crew set the goal of establishing a new trend in the cinema of the region – searching for the proper language that could interpret the ferocity of a 'grunge' attitude towards the abuse of rights and the harassment of people. We tried to avoid the clichés that are often present in social films. In every shot we had to invent the grotesque actuality.

We began with folklore as a basis and then used this archetypical knowledge to emotionally convey these ideas by means of a visual sequence.



I have carried a love for all the characters through the film, for each one of them makes up a part of the people, despite the fact that their primary essence may be unethical.

The humor in this film comes not from any obscenity but as a way to shut our eyes to the evil, to avoid it - maybe something of the philosophy of escapism, which is incarnated in everything that constructs the work.

This film is my civil and artistic attempt to give one more chance to society, so that it can see the honest reflection of what routine and ordinary social problems do to ordinary people, before they become indifferent to everything....

- Adilkhan Yerzhanov, Writer & Director

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (continued)

A woman stands in the rain, wrapped in a bright yellow robe. She holds a large, open umbrella with a vibrant, tropical pattern of palm trees and suns in yellow, blue, and orange. The rain is depicted as numerous white streaks falling diagonally across the dark, moody background. The woman is looking off to the side with a contemplative expression. The scene is set on a dark, wet surface, possibly a street or a path, with some greenery visible in the foreground.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Adilkhan Yerzhanov was born in Djezkazgan city, Kazakhstan on August 7, 1982. He graduated from Kazakhstan's National Academy of Arts in 2009 after studying directing at the Damir Manabay workshop.

In 1999, Yerzhanov won a competition held by Kazakhstan's national TV channel - JSC "Khabar" - for writing the Best Screenplay for the first Kazakh animated series "Kozy-Korpesh and Bayan-Sulu". The show was broadcast nationwide in 2002. **THE OWNERS** is Yerzhanov's third feature film, following **CONSTRUCTORS** [2013] and **RIELTOR** [2011], both of which received attention from major international film festivals including Edinburgh, Busan, and Dubai.



SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE
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SPECIAL SCREENING

SCREENINGS IN CANNES

FRIDAY	16th	10:00
SATURDAY	17th	13:00
SUNDAY	18th	12:00
SUNDAY	18th	19:45

RIVIERA 3
SALLE BAZIN
RIVIERA 1
SALLE DU 6o

MARKET - Private
PRESS
MARKET - Private
OFFICIAL



CAST

Yerbolat Yerzhan
Aidyn Sakhaman
Aliya Zainalova
Bauyrzhan Kaptagai
Nurbek Mukushev
Murat Makhan
Arslan Akubayev
Ashim Akhmetov
Konstanin Kozlov
Kulzhamiya Belzhanova
Kuanish Turdalin
Kuanish Yeskeldi
Serik Beisenov
Askar Aibasov
Andrey Cherkassov
Akerke Kaltai
Anatoly Kozlov
Yernur Bayandinov

Yerbol
John
Aliya
Zhuba
Police inspector
Assistant to police inspector
Guy in a red T-shirt
Big guy in a red T-shirt
Athletic guy
Zhuba's wife
Alcoholic in a suit
Guy with spade
An old man in sunglasses
Doctor
Car's owner
A girl in yellow
Underground man, doctor
A boy in a red cap

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CREW

Directed and Written by
Produced by

Production Designer
Script Consultant
Director of Photography
Sound Designer
1st Assistant Director
Original Music by

Casting
Costume Designer
Assistant Director
Text Editor
Editing by
Cameraman
Key Gaffer
Assistants to DOP

Adilkhan Yerzhanov
SHORT BROTHERS LLC
Adilkhan Yerzhanov
Olga Khasheva
Serik Abishev
Yermek Utegenov
Roelof Jan Minneboo
Yerkinbek Pyraliyev
Alexander Sukharev
Mukhit Duisenbin
Andrei Dubodelov
Mikhail Sokolov
Alexander Sukharev
Murat Makhan
Gaziza Nakypova
Aiyerke Maratkyzy
Inna Smailova
Adilkhan Yerzhanov
Aidar Ospanov
Aivar Kydyrbayev
Bolatbek Malikov
Bauyrzhan Sabitov
Bakdaulet Yelbayev

Kazakhstan – 2014 - 93 min - 1.85 - 5.1 - 24fps - Kazakh & Russian

WORLD SALES



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