

BUTA FILMS



OFFICIAL SELECTION
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

SONUNCU

(THE LAST ONE)

IDRIS RUSTAMOV GEORGE KAFAROV

SCREENPLAY BY SERGEY PIKALOV ALEXANDER KRASAVIN

DIRECTED BY SERGEY PIKALOV PRODUCED BY NASIB PIRIYEV MARIA IVANOVA DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DENIS MADISHEV

ART DIRECTOR AZIZ MAMEDOV COSTUMES BY SVETLANA LITVINOVA MAKE-UP IRADA GULBABAYEVA

SOUND DIRECTOR KONSTANTIN STETKEVICH SECOND DIRECTOR KAMRAN AGABALAYEV FILM EDITING SERGEY PIKALOV

MUSIC BY ALEKSEY AYGI

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BUTA
ARTS CENTRE

 **AZERBAIJAN FILM**

RASKINO
RUSSIAN CINEMA WORLDWIDE



SONUNCU

Short feature film
THE LAST ONE

SONUNCU
(The Last One)
is a short feature film by Sergey
Pikalov about the last living
World War II veteran.

SYNOPSIS

The old man had outlived everyone. His friends, his wife, his children... But he wasn't lonely. A dilapidated old fridge buzzed in the corridor. The old man couldn't remember the last time he'd spoken to anyone. Every evening, he lay down to die.

Directed by **Sergey Pikalov**
Produced by **Nasib Piriye**
Maria Ivanova
Screenplay by **Sergey Pikalov**
Alexander Krasavin
Director of Photography **Denis Madishev**
Art Director **Aziz Mamedov**
Music by **Alexey Aygi**

CAST
Old man **Idris Rustamov**
Young man **George Kafarov**

Release **2014**
Running time **15 minutes**
Aspect ratio **16:9**
Sound **Stereo**
Produced by **Buta Films**
and **Azerbaijanfilm**



Every morning when he woke up, he would shuffle to the fridge. It wasn't that good a companion — it would wheeze and shudder, then suddenly fall silent in mid-sentence, which really annoyed the old man - but for him, it was family. That day started as usual. The old man woke up alive, and headed to the terrace. But this time, the fridge was dead...

Director

Sergey Pikalov

Born in Yaroslavl in 1976, graduated from the Yaroslavl State Theatre Institute. Since 2000, he has been working for Yaroslavl Youth Theatre and has staged a huge number of plays, both for children and adults. Sergey is well known for directing TV series and sitcoms, and SONUNCU (The Last One) marks his feature film debut. Sergey used his grandfather, a World War II veteran, as inspiration for the protagonist.



Theatre plays

Lorenzaccio, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The Prince and the Pauper, Tanya, The Wizard of Oz, Forever, Idiot, Lord of the Flies

Filmography

Director

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|--|
| 2015 | Super Dad (Artopolion/STV/Fond Kino) pre-production | 2007 | Atlantis (RUSSIAN WORLD STUDIOS) |
| 2014 | Forecast for Love (RUMEDIA/Channel One) pre-production | 2007 | Frump (CENTRALPARTNERSHIP) |
| 2013 | Second Breath (RUMEDIA/Channel One) | 2006 | All Mixed Up in the House... (AMEDIA) |
| 2010 | Wealthy Masha (Russkoe Film Company) | 2005 | Better Be Born Beautiful (AMEDIA) |
| 2009 | Captain Ryumin's Personnel File (DANIANFILM) | 2005 | Love's Lucky Charm (AMEDIA) |

Director of Photography

Denis Madishev

Denis Madishev worked with director Sergey Pikalov on the Second Breath TV series. With a background in documentary making, he directed his first short film GQ, produced by actor Andrey Merzlikin in 2012. Key productions include: Joseph Brodsky: Conversation with Celestial (2 TEFI nominations); Garik Sukachev: A Rhinoceros Without Skin (Strana TV prize); Everything Is Fair (Strana State Award).

Filmography

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2012 | Second Breath (Feature Film) |
| 2011 | Southern Nights (Feature Film) |
| 2011 | Dreamboat (Feature Film) |
| 2011 | Inside of a Rectangular Round (Documentary) |
| 2010 | Robinson Lady (Feature Film) |
| 2010 | Love and Other Nonsense (Feature Film) |
| 2010 | Vladimir Spivakov; Because I love...
(Documentary, Culture TV channel) |
| 2010 | Joseph Brodsky: Celestial Conversation
(Feature Film/Documentary, Culture TV channel) |
| 2009 | Make a Gainer (Feature Film) |
| 2010 | Autists (Scientific Documentary, Channel One) |



Composer

Alexey Aygi

Alexey Aygi is recognized as one of the most original composers of music for films and movies of his generation. He has won many Russian film awards: the NIKA (twice), The Golden Eagle, the Russian Film Reviewers Award, The White Elephant and the Kinotavr Festival Award. In recent years, Alexey has worked extensively in Europe. In addition to his film work, Alexey and his band 4'33" perform regularly in Russia and abroad, as well as alongside other musicians, including: Pierre Bastien, the founder of the unique mechanical orchestras; Mina Agoss, famous French jazz diva; German piano player and composer, Ditmar Bonnen; and famous Japanese violinist, Kesuke Ota.

France

- 2013 *Assistance Mortelle*, directed by Raoul Peck
- 2012 *Cherchez Hortense*, directed by Pascal Bonitzer
- 2012 *Rondo*, directed by Olivier van Malderghem
- 2011 *Le petit poucet/Hop-o'-My-Thumb*, directed by Marina de Van
- 2009 *Moloch Tropical*, directed by Raoul Peck
- 2009 *Je ne dis pas non (Can't Say No)*, directed by Iliana Lolic

Russia

- 2012 *The Horde*, directed by Andrei Proshkin
- 2011 *Dostoevsky*, directed by Vladimir Khotinenko
- 2011 *Sobiratel' Pul' (The Bullet Collector)*, directed by Alexander Vartanov
- 2008 *Dikoe pole (Wild Field)*, directed by Mikhail Kalatozishvili
- 2006 *Sunduk predkov (Wedding Chest)*, directed by Nurbek Egen
- 2005 *The Fall of the Empire*, directed by Vladimir Khotinenko
- 2004 *Mars*, directed by Anna Melikyan
- 2004 *Moy svodniy brat Frankenshteyn (My Stepbrother Frankenstein)*, directed by Valeriy Todorovsky
- 2004 *Lyubovnik (The Lover)*, directed by Valeriy Todorovsky
- 1998 *Strana Glukhikh/Les silencieuses (The Country of the Deaf)*, directed by Valeriy Todorovsky



Lead (Old Man)

Idris Rustamov

Idris Rustamov is a celebrated Azerbaijani actor known for his demanding attitude to screenplays. He only accepts roles that he likes and, as a result, doesn't appear in many films. Idris' involvement with SONUNCU came about by sheer chance: he was not on the cast shortlist, but happened to arrive during the SONUCU auditions

and was screen-tested by mistake. Pikalov subsequently felt that Idris was the only plausible candidate for the role, principally because he looked exactly the way the director felt an ageless man should look — someone who has already lived so long that he has forgotten why he's still alive.



Young neighbor

George Kafarov

Azerbaijani actor George Kafarov
Rising star George Kafarov is 15 years old and lives
in a children's home near Baku. Despite his young age,
he has already acted in dozens of films, including
working with the famous actress Asia Argento.

Producer

Maria Ivanova

Born in Moscow, producer Maria Ivanova (30) graduated from the Moscow State University's Faculty of Journalism, with a specialism in Advertising and PR. After graduating, she secured her first professional role at popular Russian newspaper Moskovsky Komsomolets as a reporter, and in 2003 began working with major television production company Avtorskoe Televidenie (ATV) as a TV correspondent for Vremenchko (Evening News and Entertainment).



In 2006, Maria launched independent production company **Studio Project TV**, through which she produced documentaries for Russia's Channel One and Channel Five (St. Petersburg), as well as for Russia's Culture Channel, making over 80 documentaries and television programs. As testament to her achievements in both TV and film, Maria's productions have received numerous nominations and awards.

Joseph Brodsky: Celestial Conversation was nominated for two awards at the TEFI Prize; and most notably, in 2012, Studio Project TV received state Strana TV Prize for the documentary **Garik Sukachev: A Rhinoceros Without Skin**.

In 2013, Maria produced the television production **Pravo na Schastie (Right to be Happy)**, which was about children with disabilities, and starred Gosha Koutsenko and Ksenia Alferova as presenters. The program has been awarded best TV program in Russian television for two sequential years. In 2013, Pravo na Schastie received the 'Grand Prix of Integration' at the third International Festival of TV and Radio Programs and Online Projects for people with limited abilities. And this year, the project received the prestigious 'Best Program' award at the 'Uniting Words with Kindness' ceremony (organized by the Life Line Foundation and the Russian TV Academy).

In 2012, Maria Ivanova began her collaboration with emerging producer Nasib Piriyeu, and Studio Project TV was renamed into **Buta Films**.

Producer

Nasib Piriyeu

Businessman and producer Nasib Piriyeu (32) graduated from the American International University in London with a degree in Business Management and Media Production (2001). After six months training at the BBC and the Discovery Channel, Nasib returned to the CIS and embarked on his career as a journalist for **CaspioNet**, a newly launched cable TV channel that aimed to promote Kazakhstan globally. Within a year, Nasib became its Chief Director and was extensively involved in producing documentaries and TV programs for the state-owned **Khabar Media Holding**, which comprises a publishing house, radio stations and seven large-scale TV channels, including CaspioNet, which has become the most successful media project in Kazakhstan.



In 2004, Nasib established the **Buta Arts Centre**, a not-for-profit organization, with the mission to support and promote Azerbaijani culture worldwide. Buta has always had a wide cultural remit, from festival and exhibition production, to artist management and publishing. Thanks to the Buta Centre's work, an increasing number of people around the world are aware of Azerbaijan's rich arts offering. In 2009, the Centre marked its fifth anniversary with the 100-day Festival of Azerbaijani Arts in London. The festival

attracted major international attention and has become Azerbaijan's cultural calling card. In his speech at Azerbaijan's University of Languages, David Lidington, the UK's Minister of State for Europe, said: "Last year's Buta Festival of Azerbaijani Culture in London had a tremendous impact, further raising knowledge of and interest in your country's culture". In 2012, together with producer Maria Ivanova, Nasib established **Buta Films**.

BUTA FILMS

film & TV production

Buta Films was founded in 2012 by young professionals Nasib Piriyeu and Maria Ivanova. The company has a portfolio of over 80 documentaries and TV programs, including projects for BBC Two, Channel One, Russia and the Fifth Channel,

St. Petersburg. Most well known for documentaries, the company also produces projects in other genres. And with the benefit of this experience, the founders of Buta Films have now completed their first feature film.

The short feature, **SONUNCU**, gave widespread international acclaim to Buta Films, providing the opportunity for successful cooperation between Azerbaijan and Russia at the 67th Cannes Festival.

For Channel One

Sergei Shakurov; Visit to Minotaurus (2006)
Ada Rogovtseva; I Died With Him (2007)
Olga Ostroumova; Extremely Private... (2007)
Natalia Koustinskaia; Payment for Love (2008)
Arkady Arkanov; Piano in the Bush (2008)
The Last Interview with Michael Tanich (2008)
Valentin Smirnitski; More Than Portos (2009)
Vladimir Spivakov; Without Tuxedo (2009)
Emmanil Vitorgan; Confession of Don Juan (2009)
Nadezhda Babkina; I Follow My Heart... (2010)
War and Peace of Peter Todorovski (2010)
Gaft Who Walks on His Own (2010)
Oleg Menshikov; In the Shadow of Own Glory (2010)
Nona Grishaeva; Hi, I Am From Odessa! (2010)

Always Yours, Comrade Soukhov (2010)
Elena Jakovleva; InterLenochka (2011)
Vladimir Gostiukhin; Territory of My Love (2011)
Alexei Bouldakov; What the Heck Are You Doing (2011)
Georgi Grechko; Fight with Fate (2011)
Michail Porechenkov; Tight Nut (2011)
Gosha Koutsenko; Games with Truth (2012)
Sergei Shakourov; Jeg Tamed My Inner Beast (2012)
About Moscow, Tears and Vera Alentova (2012)
Michael Touretsky; All Will Be Well! (2012)
Mouslim Magomaev; Heart on Snow (2012)
Sergei Svetlakov; That Very Chap! (2013)
Garik Soukachev; All Honest (2013)
Andrei Merzlikin; A Happy Loser (2014)

Documentaries in the Theory of Improbability series (39 min, Channel One)

Stains Of Fate (2008), The Magic in Numbers (2008), Autists (2008), The Phenomena of Beauty (2008)

For Channel Five Saint Petersburg (44 min)

Favourite Guest Stars (2007; featuring: Marylia Rodovich, Karel Gott, Biser Kirov)
Eternal Names (2008; featuring: Roza Rymbaeva, Polad Bulbul oglu, Nadezhda Chepraga)
From Paris with Love (2008; featuring: Salvatore Adamo, Mireille Mathieu, Joe Dassin)
Golden Voices From The Other Side Of The Ocean (2008; featuring: Iv Montan, Dean Reed, Pol Robson)

Programs for the Soviet Fetishes series

Jeans (2007), Summer Houses (2007), Cars (2007), Resorts (2007)

Documentaries for the People of the 90s series (2008)

Ad Makers, Radio DJs, Spin Doctors, Transborder Traders

For TVC channel

Agnia Barto; Reading Between Lines (2011)

Documentaries for Culture TV channel

Jouri Olesha aka Writer (2010)
Samouil Marshak; Usual Genius (2010)
Jozef Brodsky; Celestial Conversation (2010)
Vladimir Spivakov; Because I Love (2010)
Roman Kachanov; Cheburashka's Best Friend (2011)
Maris Liepa; I Want to Dance For a Hundred Years (2011)
The Golden Song by Anton Grigoriev (2012)
Andris Liepa; Difficult to Be a Prince (2012)

Commissions

The Planetarium of Moscow; the Second Birth of the Star Theatre (Film for the grand reopening of the planetarium in Moscow, 2011)
Ali and Nino; At Present (Documentary, 2013)
Navrouz; Eastern Beauties (Documentary, 2013)
Methanol; World Revolution (Documentary, 2013)
Buta Festival in London (Documentary for BBC Two, 2014)

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