

# THE FIRST CIGARETTE IS FOR GOD

A FILM BY DIANA MASHANOVA

## Technical Information

**Title:** The First Cigarette is for God  
**Writer/ Director:** Diana Mashanova  
**Nationality:** Russian Federation  
**Genre:** drama, experimental  
**Duration:** 90 min  
**Shooting location:** Buryatia, Russian Federation  
**Production Company:** Local Cinema

## Director's Information

Diana Mashanova was born in Ulan-Ude, Buryatia. She graduated from City, University of London, majoring in Cultural and Creative Industries. She completed several filmmaking courses in Paris (Eicar) and New York (NYFA), then graduated with a diploma from London Film Academy. After five years of living and working in London, she returned to Russia to study directing at Moscow School of New Cinema.

In 2021, she completed her first short film *Toli*, which was screened at festivals worldwide. Diana developed her debut feature film at Feature Film Lab (MSNC), which has been shot in 2022 and is now in post-production stage. Both films were shot in Buryatia with her independent production company "Local Cinema". She is currently working on her new feature film project *The First Cigarette is For God* at La Résidence du Festival de Cannes.

## THE FIRST CIGARETTE IS FOR GOD

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### Diana Mashanova

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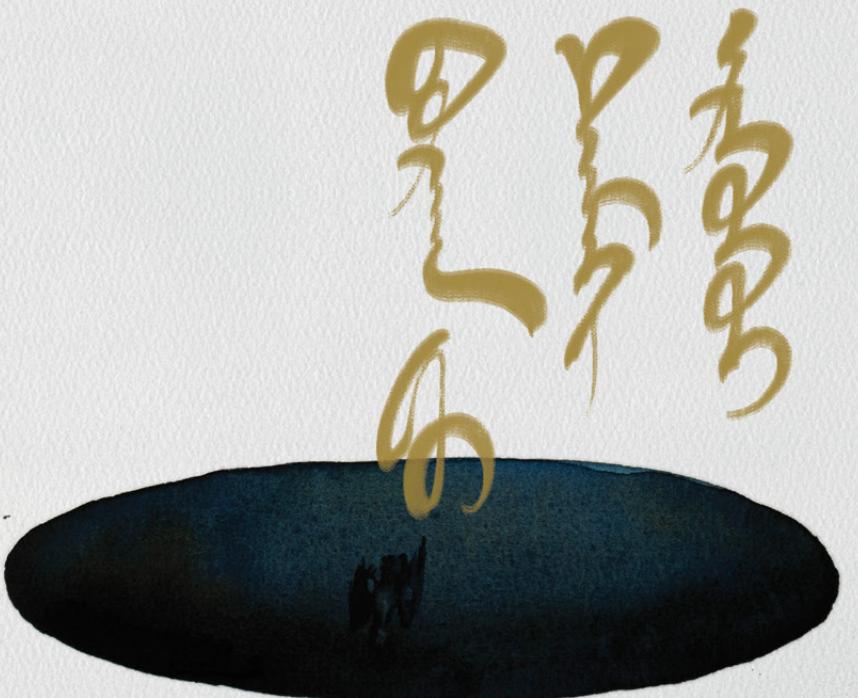
### Festival de Cannes, La Résidence

Since 2000, La Résidence du Festival de Cannes has provided each year accommodation and support to 12 selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. These young filmmakers are selected on the basis of their short films, or even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project.

During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Festival de Cannes, to bring their project to co-production status.

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FESTIVAL DE CANNES

## SYNOPSIS

Chloe, a 16 years old French exchange student, arrives to Buryatia, an Asian region of Russia. She stays with a family with twin girls who do sex cams to earn pocket money. Part of the house they live in is occupied by a funeral home; the girls and their mother work there. The twins' father is a chiropractor. During the day he sees his patients at home, and at night Chloe sleeps on the sofa for visitors. Their mother desperately wants to take care of someone as her daughters have grown up and Chloe becomes a new victim of her care. At school things are not easy as well, Chloe's tutor is a scruffy man who is constantly staring at her body. For classmates and teachers, the girl becomes an exotic object, making her feel alienated. Chloe tries her best to fit in but her innocence brings out the worst in people.

## NOTE OF INTENT

My thoughts are ugly when I think about society  
Any society  
A society of people whose freedom has long been taken away  
A white girl who becomes exotic  
Trying to become part of a tribe where the ritual of initiation is silence  
Sex in which there is more absence than presence  
Fragments of genres and bursts of reality  
My story is just a mirror and I simply propose that society looks in it

## SYNOPSIS

Chloé, 16 ans, étudiante française d'un programme d'échange, arrive en Bouriatie, une région asiatique de Russie. Elle est accueillie dans une famille dont les sœurs jumelles pratiquent du sexe en ligne pour se faire de l'argent de poche. Une partie de la maison est occupée par des pompes funèbres où les sœurs et leur mère travaillent. Le père des jumelles est chiropraticien. La journée, il reçoit ses patients à la maison et la nuit, Chloé dort dans le canapé de la salle d'attente. La mère cherche désespérément à s'occuper de quelqu'un depuis que ses filles sont devenues grandes, et Chloé devient alors la nouvelle victime de son attention. À l'école, les choses ne sont pas simples non plus. Le tuteur de Chloé, un homme négligé, épise son corps constamment. Pour ses camarades de classe et les professeurs, elle devient un objet de curiosité et se sent exclue. Chloé fait de son mieux pour s'intégrer mais son innocence fait ressortir le pire chez les autres.

## NOTE D'INTENTION

Mes pensées sont moches quand je pense à la société  
Toutes les sociétés  
Une société qui a depuis longtemps privé son peuple de liberté  
Une fille blanche qui devient une curiosité  
Essayant de faire partie d'une tribu dont le rituel d'initiation est le silence  
Le sexe dans lequel il y a plus d'absence que de présence  
Des fragments de genres cinématographiques et des jaillissements de réalité  
Mon histoire n'est qu'un miroir tendu à la société

