



66
VENEZIA 2009
Orizzonti

CRUSH

KOROTKOE ZAMYKANIE



- **“CRUSH”** consists of five short love stories. Film almanacs often resemble gala performances, where a dozen of stars flock together to bring more viewers to the cinemas. Of course, such almanacs are driven by a noble goal: to attract viewers’ attention to something beautiful, as is the case in “Paris, I Love You”, or “Tokyo”.

- For this project, we didn’t invite any celebrities. The makers of “CRUSH” are friends we love, and together we got a chance to be a little naughty. The rules were simple: each director was tied to the common theme and the format of a short film, as well as a very moderate budget. Shooting took place simultaneously, each director working with his own film crew; none of them knew what the films of the other four directors were about. The footage was assembled at the editing stage. The result of this game is a group portrait of a new generation of Russian filmmakers.

- **“CRUSH”** consists of 5 shorts directed by young Russian filmmakers. They tell 5 stories of strange infatuations, or crushes, exploring the different shades of meaning of the word love in Russian. These weird, surreal, dramatic and funny stories tell us about a country of feelings and passions, where, be it on the Red square, by deep rivers or in the lonely outskirts of the capital, there is always place for a strange and sudden love. Of course it is no longer the romantic and idealistic love of the Great Mother Russia but rather the schizophrenic and post-modern love of Putin’s Russia. The film acquaints us with the new generation of Russian filmmakers and reveals some of the most intricate and intimate aspects of the Russian soul. It shows that Moscow can be as romantic a city as Paris. And it teaches us how to say LOVE in Russian.



RUNTIME: 95'
FORMAT: 35 MM, 1:2,35
SOUND: DOLBY DTS
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WITH SUPPORT FROM THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION



CRUSH

KOROTKOE ZAMYKANIE

BORIS KHLEBNIKOV



● **Boris Khlebnikov**
Filmmaker, born 28 August 1972 (Moscow)

● Khlebnikov studied at the Biology Department of the Moscow Pedagogical Institute before graduating from the Department of Scriptwriting and Film History of the Russian Film Institute VGIK, workshop of *Marat Vlasov*.

● His first film, "**Koktebel**" (with *Alexei Popogrebsky*), screened in competition at the Moscow IFF, at Karlovy Vary IFF ("Eastern European panorama"), and at the International Critics' Week in Cannes. His second film, "**Free Floating**", was selected for the main competition of the Open Russian Film Festival "Kinotavr" and for the "Horizons" sidebar of the Venice IFF. Khlebnikov's third film, "**Help Gone Mad**", participated in the Berlin IFF ("Forum"), and was in competition both at the "goEast" Wiesbaden IFF and at the Open Russian Film Festival "Kinotavr".

FILMOGRAPHY

- 2003 **KOKTEBEL** (co-directed with Alexei Popogrebsky)
Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (Philip Morris Award)
Moscow International Film Festival (Special Jury Award "Silver George")
"Stalker" International Human Rights Film Festival, Moscow (V. Frid Award for the Best Screenplay)
Cinemanila International Film Festival, Philippines (Grand Jury Prize)
goEast International Film Festival, Wiesbaden (Grand Prix "Golden Lily")
Brussels International Film Festival (Special Prize)
- 2006 **FREE FLOATING**
Open Russian Film Festival "Kinotavr" ("Best Director" Award)
Warsaw International Film Festival ("Best Film" in the section from Eastern and Central Europe)
"White Elephant" Award of the Russian Film Critics' Guild ("Best Film" and "Best Director")
"Stalker" International Human Rights Film Festival, Moscow ("Stalker" Debut Award)
- 2009 **HELP GONE MAD**
goEast International Film Festival, Wiesbaden ("Best Director" Award)
- 2009 **CRUSH**



“SHAME”

- Directed by **Boris Khlebnikov**
- Written by **Maxim Kurochkin,
Ivan Ugarov,
Boris Khlebnikov
Shandor Berkeshi**
- Director of Photography: **Olga Khlebnikova**
- Production Design: **Svetlana Mikhailova**
- Costume Design: **Raisa Moltchanova**
- Make-up: **Maxim Belovolov**
- Sound: **Ivan Lebedev**
- Editing:

CAST

- Sasha **Alexander Yatsenko**
- Street guy **Ilya Shcherbinin**
- Olya **Irina Butanaeva**
- Husband **Evgeni Sytyi**
- Wife **Olga Onishchenko**
- Activist lady **Ekaterina Kuzminskaya**
- Old lady **Evgenia Agenorova**
- Older woman **Albina Tikhonova**
- Bull **Alexander Kashcheev**

- A reporter, a hapless beginner, is assigned a high-profile task: to write a crushing report about a heating pipeline being laid in the yard of an apartment building. On site he finds no traces of any repair in progress. But on the wall of the transformer shed he spots evidence of a great and incredible love. The young man is astonished to find the expression of a feeling of such intensity between pipes and garages. And he tries to inform the woman who triggered this extraordinary feeling.

The two full-length films by Boris Khlebnikov – “Free Floating” and “Help Gone Mad” – are quite different from each other; although his style remains unmistakable: Khlebnikov is interested first and foremost in social topics, in the disturbed communication between characters, and in a deliberately documentary approach to his plots. “Shame” plunges into the familiar world of sandlots and children’s playgrounds. This world has enough absurdity to turn the cruel into the touching, and to smelt a misanthrope’s power of observation into love of humankind. The report from the uneventful yard opens the almanac as if to say – what you are going to see are not sketches, but full-fledged films; moreover, they show each filmmaker’s style in a condensed form.

IVAN VYRYPAEV



● **Ivan Vyrypaev**
Filmmaker, born 3 August 1974 (Irkutsk)

● Vyrypaev graduated from the Irkutsk Theatre College (Department of Acting) and the Shchukin Theatre School (Directors' Department, correspondence course).

● Since 2001 Vyrypaev has been working as a stage director at the centre of New Drama, "Teatr.doc".

In 2005 Vyrypaev launched an agency for creative projects, "Oxygen Movement".

The text of Kislod (Oxygen) was translated into many languages and staged by many directors. In Italy the Teatrino Cladestino production (staged by Pietro Babina) was a great success both with the public and the critics, while Firenza Menni was awarded the Ubu prize as Best Actress for this performance.

In 2006 he made his first film Ejforija (Euphoria), which was shown in the competition program of the Venice Film Festival. In 2009 he revisited the text of Kislod and gave this play a new multimedia dimension, merging theatrical aesthetics with elements of pop music and video clips. It was presented at the festival in Karlovy Vary and at the Kinotavr festival, where Vyrypaev was awarded the Best Director prize.

At the moment he is working on a new film in which the action takes place in India, with Karolina Gruzka as leading actress (the Polish actress who played in David Lynch's INLAND EMPIRE).

FILMOGRAPHY

- 2006 **EUPHORIA**
Open Russian Film Festival "Kinotavr", Sochi (Special Jury Award)
Venice International Film Festival (Independent Youth Jury Award "Young Golden Lion")
Warsaw International Film Festival (Grand Prix)
Russian National Cinema Award "Nika" ("Discovery of the Year")
goEast International Film Festival (Grand Prix "Golden Lily")
- 2009 **OXYGEN**
Open Russian Film Festival "Kinotavr", Sochi ("Best Director")
Karlovy Vary International Film Festival
- 2009 **CRUSH**



TO FEEL

- Directed and written by
- Director of Photography:
- Production and
Costume Design:
- Make-up:
- Sound:
- Editing:

Ivan Vyrypaev
Fedor Lyass

Margarita Ablueva
Olga Miroshnichenko
Roman Khokhlov
Sergei Ivanov and
Pavel Khaniutin

CAST

- Girl
- Guy

Karolina Gruszka
Alexei Filimonov

- She arrives from Warsaw for her first visit to Moscow. She likes everything: the 9th May Victory Parade, Tverskaya Street, the jet fighters in the sky over the Kremlin, and the cozy yards. In one of these yards she meets Him. She doesn't understand a word of Russian, but He believes that this doesn't matter. What is there to understand? Just FEEL it. And She is feeling the whole of this night in Moscow. Maybe alone, or maybe with Him.

Vyrypaev made "To Feel" immediately after "Oxygen", with the same spontaneity that veils the hard work lying underneath, not unlike the method of impressionist painters. The actors and characters – a girl and a ruffian – also migrated from "Oxygen" to continue the promulgation of unpredictability, carelessness and irresponsibility. Vyrypaev's films always tell about new feelings that all of a sudden sweep a person off his/her feet when s/he least expects it. Fortunately, in this film the strategy of improvising life does not have any fatal consequences.

PETR BUSLOV



- **Petr Buslov**
Filmmaker, born 1 June 1976 (Khabarovsk)

- Buslov graduated from the Directors' Department of the Russian Film Institute VGIK, workshop of Karen Shakhnazarov and Vadim Abdrashitov. Buslov shot his first full-length film "Bimmer" while still a student (special screening at Moscow International Film Festival, main competition of "Window to Europe" Film Festival in Vyborg, Russia). His next film "Bimmer 2: Heaven on Earth" yielded a box office of over \$15 million in Russia. Buslov also collaborated with the TV channel TNT (he directed two seasons of the "Nasha Russia" sitcom).

FILMOGRAPHY

- 2003 **BIMMER**
"Moscow Pegasus" Film Festival ("Silver Pegasus" Award)
"Window to Europe" Film Festival in Vyborg, Russia (Special Jury Award for Best Debut)
"Blockbuster" Award ("Russian Film of the Year" by annual box office)
"Spirit of Fire," International Debut Film Festival in Khanty-Mansiisk, Russia (Grand Prix "Golden Taiga")
- 2006 **BIMMER 2: HEAVEN ON EARTH**
- 2009 **CRUSH**



URGENT REPAIR

- Directed by
- Written by
- Director of Photography:
- Music :
- Production Design:
- Costume Design:
- Make-up:
- Editing:

Petr Buslov
Andrei Migachev,
Petr Buslov
Igor Grinyakin
Darin Sysoev
Ulyana Ryabova
Evgenia Evgienko
Irina Lyashko
Ivan Lebedev

CAST

- Shoemaker
- Girl
- Old Lady

Ivan Dobronravov
Evgenia Sviridova
Tatyana Zhukova

- He is a deaf-and-dumb shoemaker living in a basement repair shop. In the evenings, the old lady who takes the orders goes home, and he stays alone with all the shoes and boots. The shoemaker can tell a lot about a person by his shoes. He is sure that the owner of these white high-heels is the most beautiful girl in the universe. But the girl turns out to be most ordinary. And it hurts.

"Urgent Repair" shows Buslov in a new light. Both parts of "Bimmer", despite their genre specificity and artistic quality, were considered as popular mainstream films. This film is without doubt a work of film art. On the one hand, it is almost a mute love story; on the other hand, it falls little short of a parable. Yet all the marks of Buslov's style are present, and in this unusual short format they are even more conspicuous: the masculine hero possesses a delicate soul; there is an exaggerated cruelty and an equally strong sentimentality; and a growing foreboding of the disaster. "Urgent Repair" is a real "cruel romance".

KIRILL SEREBRENNIKOV



● **Kirill Serebrennikov**
Filmmaker, born 7 September 1967 (Rostov-on-Don)

● Kirill Serebrennikov graduated with honours from the Department of Physics of Rostov State University. In his undergraduate years he became enthusiastic about directing – first at the amateur studio “69”, and since 1990 on the professional stage. He has collaborated with television for the serials “Rostov Papa” (2000) and “Diaries of a Murderer” (2002). His theatre productions (“Plasticine”, “The Demon”, “The Forest”, “The Naked Pioneer Girl”) became sensations in Moscow’s theatre world. Serebrennikov has been awarded several prestigious theatre awards (“Triumph”, “Seagull”, “Crystal Turandot”).

FILMOGRAPHY

- 2006 **PLAYING THE VICTIM**
Open Russian Film Festival “Kinotavr” in Sochi (Grand Prix and “White Elephant” Award of Russian Film Critics’ Guild)
Rome International Film Festival (Grand Prix)
Tel Aviv International Film Festival (Grand Prix)
“Festival of Festivals” International Film Festival (Audience Award)
- 2008 **“YURY’S DAY”**
Open Russian Film Festival “Kinotavr” in Sochi (“Best Actress” Award)
Locarno International Film Festival (First Prize of the Youth Jury)
Warsaw International Film Festival (Grand Prix)
International Federation of Film Societies FICC/IFFS (“Don Quixote” Award)
- 2009 **CRUSH**



THE PRAWN'S KISS

- Directed by **Kirill Serebrennikov**
- Written by **Andrei Khaas**
Kirill Serebrennikov
- Director of Photography: **Oleg Lukichev**
- Production Design: **Nikolai Simonov**
- Make-up: **Galina Ustimenko**
- Costume Design: **Nadezhda Bogdanova**
- Sound: **Andrei Korinsky**
- Editing: **Sergei Ivanov**

CAST

- Prawn **Yuri Chursin**
- Ira **Yulia Peresild**
- Woman **Alena Doletskaya**
- Athlete **Andrei Saveliyev**
- Girls on a bike **Anastasia Golub,**
Svetlana Brilliantova
- Miser **Andrei Fomin**
- Policemen **Alexander Vinogradov,**
Vladimir Dubosarsky
- Screaming Guy **Vitali Khaev**
- Boatman **Psoi Korolenko**

- A “sandwich-man” or, to be more precise, a shrimp-man is molesting passers-by on the embankment. The promo-man wants to share his passion for seafood with them, but people are hard-hearted and frightened, they don't like strangers dressed in pink who kiss them on the mouth. After the fourth knock-out, the distressed Prawn meets a beautiful and half-naked young lady and follows her without hesitation – from the bridge into the river. Fortunately, Prawn has enough money to pay the boatman who ferries them on to the other bank – certainly not that of the Yauza river.

- With his “nowbrow” approach to narrating stories, Kirill Serebrennikov cherishes tricks and disguised cultural allusions, latent irony and candid gags. The short film format is ideal for such performances, and a concise anecdote often turns out to be more meaningful than a thick novel. In this anecdote, the director eclectically combines high society gossip (celebrities appear in the roles of passers-by – from the editor of the Russian “Vogue”, Alena Doletskaya, to the esoteric ballad singer Psoi Korolenko), with fancy costume extravaganza (the aniline pink costume of the Prawn was designed by Olga Tobreluts, a key figure of St. Petersburg's neo-academism). But the funniest part in this film is the refined manoeuvre which allows the director to step beyond the boundaries of love lyrics imposed by the conditions of the project: he begins the story of this miraculous acquaintance with the words “And they died on the same day”, thus turning an elegy into an optimistic epitaph.

ALEXEY GERMAN JR.



● **Alexey German Jr.**
Filmmaker, born 4 September 1976 (Moscow)

- German studied at the Directors' Department of the Russian Film Institute VGIK (workshop of *Sergei Soloviev* and *Valeri Rubinchik*).
- German's full-length debut film, "**The Last Train**," participated in the debut competition at Venice IFF and in the competition of Rotterdam IFF; it received the Russian National Cinema Award "Nika" in the nomination "Discovery of the Year". His second film "**Garpastum**" was a success at film festivals (competition at Venice IFF, "Spirit of Fire" International Debut Film Festival in Khanty-Mansiisk, "Nika" Best Director Award). His third film, "**The Paper Soldier**," was also in the competition at Venice, winning a Silver Lion; it screened in the "Spectrum" section at Rotterdam IFF, and it received the Russian National Cinema Award "Nika" in the category "Best Director".

FILMOGRAPHY

- 2003 **THE LAST TRAIN**
Venice International Film Festival (Special Jury Mention in the Debut Competition)
Thessaloniki International Film Festival (FIPRESCI Award and "Golden Alexander")
"Stalker" International Human Rights Film Festival in Moscow, Russia (Grand Prix)
"Kinoshock" Film Festival in Anapa, Russia ("Best Director")
Rotterdam International Film Festival (Jury Award
Amnesty International)
goEast International Film Festival in Wiesbaden (Special Jury mention)
Russian National Cinema Award "Nika" ("Discovery of the Year")
- 2005 **GARPASTUM**
"Golden Aries" Award ("Best Director")
Russian National Cinema Award "Nika" ("Best Director")
"Spirit of Fire" International Debut Film Festival in Khanty-Mansiisk ("Bronze Taiga" Award)
Sofia International Film Festival (Grand Prix)
- 2008 **THE PAPER SOLDIER**
Venice International Film Festival ("Silver Lion" for the Best Director and Award for Best Photography)
Russian National Cinema Award "Nika" ("Best Director")
"White Elephant" Award of the Russian Film Critics' Guild ("Best Director")
- 2009 **CRUSH**



KIM

- Directed by
- Written by
- Director of Photography:
- Production Design:
- Costume Design:
- Make-up:
- Sound:
- Editing:

Alexey German Jr.
Konstantin Fedorov
Evgeniy Privin
Sergei Tyrin
Anastasia Belova
Natalia Vostryakova
Andrei Korinsky
Sergei Ivanov

CAST

- Kim
- Tatyana
- Male Nurse
- Zheka
- Pasha
- Anatoli Petrovich
- Social Worker

Karim Pakachakov
Anna Ekaterininskaya
Pavel Sergienko
Alexander Bezrukov
Dmitri Voronets
Aron Melnikov
Nikolai Andreev

○ The wistful beauty of a late northern autumn. An island in the middle of the foggy sea. On the island there is a mental hospital in a state of picturesque neglect. Kim, a former circus performer, is a new patient. For a while he brings brightness into the life of the inmates, all dressed in grey uniform hospital gowns – he literally switches on the lights by his touch. Kim is eager to do something good for the strict but kind-hearted nurse. But the doctors consider love and magnetism as diseases, and life itself as a disorder. An insulin shock eliminates all feelings.

A patient's love for his doctor is an ordinary affair. But in Alexey German's film the ordinary case of a weak person's attachment to a strong person is turned inside out. The director doesn't deprive his "little man" of human dignity, but rather the "loony" Kim seems more natural and healthy, with more integrity than the hospital staff, who are supposed to take care of him. His love – as long as it exists – is the only manifestation of humanity on the island. It is his love that softens the leaden clouds, the doctors' waxen faces, the patients' brooding foreheads and other reminiscences of Breughel and Diana Arbus. Above all, this is a film about a good man; only in the second instance is it about the harsh environment.

SABINA EREMEEVA



● **Sabina Eremeeva**
Producer, born 5 June 1976 (Baku)

● Sabina Eremeeva graduated from the Department of Economics at the Russian Film Institute VGIK in 1998. From 1999-2000 she was general manager of "St. Anna" Festival of Student and Debut Films. In 2000 she became executive producer of the project "Short Films" (the release of VHS tapes with the best Russian shorts) and head of the "Youth Forum" of the Moscow International Film Festival. In 2001 she directed the "Independent Wave" Festival of Russian Cinema in New-York, Washington and Philadelphia (USA). Since 2001 she is CEO of "SLON" Film Studio.

FILMOGRAPHY

- 2001 **"JUST THE TWO OF US"** (directed by *Alexander Veledinsky*, short) Program "Un Certain Regard" at Cannes International Film Festival. New York International Film Festival ("Best Debut" Award)
- 2003 **"THE FRENCH GUY"** (directed by *Vera Storozheva*, TV film) Nominated for the National Television Award "TEFI" and the National Award "Golden Eagle" as the best film
- 2004 **"MARS"** (directed by *Anna Melikyan*, in collaboration with Ruben Dishdshyan). Berlin International Film Festival, "Panorama" goEast International Film Festival, Wiesbaden (Special Award)
- 2005 **"MANGA"** (directed by *Petr Khazizov*) New York International Film Festival ("Best Debut" Award). Brussels International Film Festival of Fantasy Films ("Best Film")
- 2006 **"NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT SEX"** (directed by *Alexei Gordeev*, in the collaboration with Ruben Dishdshyan)
- 2007 **"TRAVELING WITH PETS"** (directed by *Vera Storozheva*, in collaboration with Igor Tolstunov). Moscow International Film Festival (Grand Prix "Golden St. George"). Cottbus International Film Festival (FIPRESCI Award). Cleveland International Film Festival (Grand Prix)
- 2008 **"I WILL BE BACK"** (directed by *Elena Nemykh*, in collaboration with Igor Tolstunov)
- 2009 **CRUSH** (directed by *Petr Buslov, Ivan Vyrypayev, Alexei German Jr., Kirill Serebrennikov, Boris Khlebnikov*).

CRUSH
KOROTKOE ZAMYKANIE

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ALLA 66. MOSTRA

Press screening: Thursday 10 September 9 a.m. Sala Volpi

Official screening: Thursday 10 September 4:30 p.m. Sala Darzena

Other screenings:

Friday 11 September 6:15 p.m. Palabiennale

Saturday 12 September 9:30 p.m. Giorgione

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