



OFFICIAL SELECTION
COMPETITION
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

SAMAL YESLYAMOVA

AYKA

A FILM BY SERGEY DVORTSEVOY

SYNOPSIS

Ayka just gave birth.

She can't afford to raise a child.

She has no job, debts to be paid, not even a room of her own.

But there is no way to suppress her natural instincts.



It began with a dry newspaper statistic: “In 2010 in maternity hospitals in Moscow, 248 babies were given up by mothers from Kyrgyzstan.” I was in shock for a long time after reading this: How could it be? What could be the reason behind Kyrgyz mothers voluntarily giving up their babies en masse, abandoning them in a foreign country? What could force them to commit such an act, unnatural for any woman, much less women from the intensely family-oriented cultures of Central Asia? I realized I had to make a film about this: a film about a Kyrgyz girl abandoning her newborn child in a Moscow maternity ward and the circumstances that led to this decision. The fact is, however, that this film is about all of us: about what happens when relations between a person and their environment reach such extremes that the he or she begins to deteriorate morally. Life itself, nature, must intervene and force the individual to re-evaluate and to change, sometimes even against his or her will.

Sergey Dvortsevov (writer-director of AYKA)



SERGEY DVORTSEVOY

WRITER AND DIRECTOR

Russian director Sergey Dvortsevov was born in 1962 in Chimkent, Kazakhstan. He graduated in 1982 from the aviation college in Krivoi Rog, Ukraine, then furthered his studies at the Radiotechnical Faculty of the Electrotechnical Institute in Novosibirsk. He then attended film school in Moscow, graduating in 1993. He worked for 9 years for the airline company Aeroflot as a radio engineer. After several documentaries, Dvortsevov made his first fiction feature in 2008: TULPAN. The much-acclaimed film made its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, where it won the Un Certain Regard Prize.

2008 TULPAN

2004 IN THE DARK (V Temnote) — documentary

1999 HIGHWAY (Trassa) — documentary

1998 BREAD DAY (Hlebny Den) — documentary

1995 PARADISE (Schastie) — documentary



SAMAL YESLYAMOVA

AS AYKA

Samal Yeslyamova made her screen debut in TULPAN, Sergey Dvortsevov's multi-award-winning film which premiered at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival. At the time of filming TULPAN, Samal was only 19 years old. She struggled to adjust to household chores and motherly duties required during her month living in a nomadic yurt for the shoot. On set she was the only actor with any previous professional experience.

Born in 1984 in Patropavlovsk, Kazakhstan, Samal studied at the Russian Institute of Theatre Arts from 2007 to 2011. She currently lives in Moscow.



AYKA

2018 | Russia, Germany, Poland, Kazakhstan, China
109 min. | 2K | 1:1,85 | Sound: 5.1
In Russian and Kyrgyz

MAIN CAST

Ayka	Samal Yeslyamova
Chinara	Zhipargul Abdilaeva
Flat Owner	David Alaverdyan
Veterinarian	Sergey Mazur
Car-Wash Owner	Slava Agashkin
Poultry Production Supervisor	Ashkat Kuchinchirekov

Producers Sergey Dvortsevov (Kinodvor, Russia), Thanassis Karathanos, Martin Hampel (Pallas Film, Germany), Anna Wydra (Otter Films, Poland)

Coproducers Gulnara Sarsenova (Eurasia, Kazakhstan), Li Zhu, Luna Wang (Juben Pictures, China), Michel Merkt (KNM, Monaco), ZDF/ARTE

with the support of Russian Ministry of Culture, Eurimages, Polish Film Institute, Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung

MAIN CREW

Director	Sergey Dvortsevov
Screenwriter	Sergey Dvortsevov Gennady Ostrovsky
Cinematographer	Jolanta Dylewska
Editor	Sergey Dvortsevov Petar Markovic
Production Designer	Olga Jurasova
Sound	Maksim Belovolov Martin Frühmorgen Joanna Napieralska Holger Lehmann
Costumes	Aleksandra Demidova

KINODVOR

PALLAS FILM

otter
films

eurasia
production

JUBEN
PICTURES
聚本影业

KNM

Das kleine
Fernsehspiel

arte

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