

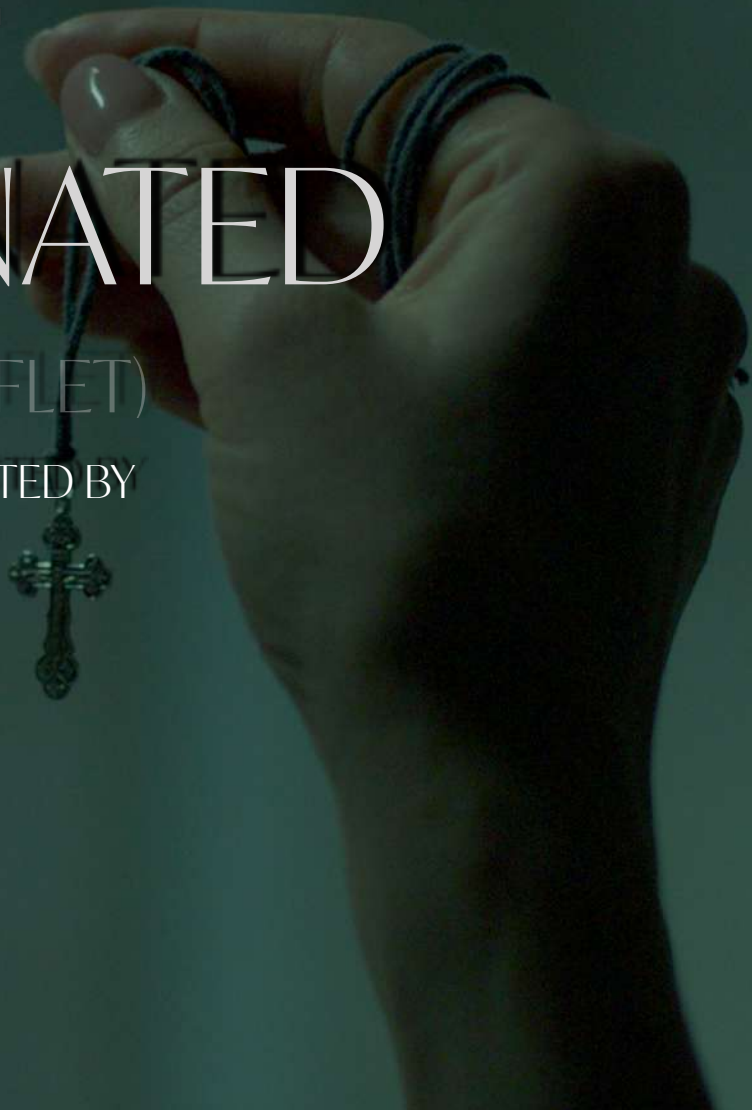


Karlovy Vary
International Film Festival
Proxima Competition

THE ALIENATED

(rom. FĂRĂ SUFLET)

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
ANJA KREIS



A hand holding a pair of glasses, with a blurred background of a person in a white coat.

SYNOPSIS

A professor of Philosophy introduces her students to the concept of the death of God and questions herself about the presence of irrational evil in human nature. Immediately after this, her sister visits her: she is a gynecologist who was sent to reduce the number of abortions in the city of X.. Shortly afterwards, she performs an illegal abortion - the woman claims to carry the Antichrist in her womb and takes the embryo home.

But what is happening in the city of X.? Maybe the professor has just found the answers to her question?



DANA CIOBANU

as a gynecologist

Born in Moldova in 1984, Dana Ciobanu is one of the most popular actresses in the country. She studied acting at the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts (AMTAP) in Chişinău. Dana combines journalism with acting: she works as both an actress and a presenter at TVR Moldova.

Dana has appeared in numerous short and feature-length films produced in Moldova in recent years. She received the award for Best Actress at the Moscow International Film Festival in 2018 for her role in "Resentment" directed by Natalia Schaufert.



MARIYA CHUPRINSKAYA

as a professor

Born in Russia in 1980, Maria Chuprinskaya is a producer and scriptwriter of documentary films. She is a member of the Russian Union of Journalists and the Guild of Non-Fiction Films and Television. Maria initially studied journalism at Lomonosov Moscow State University but transitioned into acting in 2016. She graduated from Mikhail Ugarov's Anti School for actors and began her acting career at Theatre.doc.

On February 24, 2022, Maria publicly declared her opposition to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and left Moscow with her family. She now resides and works in Paris.

Anja Kreis' FĂRĂ SUFLET (The Alienated) is Maria Chuprinskaya's acting debut (leading role).

MY OWN LITTLE WORLD



When I was a child, my mother often took me to her work. She was a gynecologist. So, I spent a lot of time in the gynecologist's office; it became my hiding place, my own little world. It was both magical and scary at the same time... A world where strange people lived and strange things happened.

The gynecologist's office, with its antiseptic scent and muted hues, held a peculiar allure for me. It was a place where time seemed to stand still, where the ordinary boundaries of reality blurred into the extraordinary. Amidst the hum of medical equipment and the whispered conversations of patients, I created my own miniature universe—a realm brimming with wonder and apprehension.

In this alternate reality, peculiar figures roamed the sterile corridors, their faces etched with untold tales. Their presence infused the surroundings with mystique, as if each person concealed secrets waiting to be revealed. And indeed, within those walls, the ordinary transformed into the extraordinary, and the mundane became miraculous.



COMMENTS

from Anja Kreis

„THE ALIENATED“ is a story about a dark and mysterious world inside us, a part of our personality we are ashamed of and try to hide from ourselves. It is a macabre tale; there are no dazzling miracles or fantastical powers, no flashy special effects to distract from the raw exploration of the human condition. It is a journey into the heart of darkness, where the true essence of our existence lies waiting to be discovered.



THE CONCEPT OF THE ALTER EGO, EMBODIED BY TWO SISTERS



The story revolves around the concept of the alter ego, embodied by two sisters: Angelina and Varvara. They represent different facets of the same personality. The primary character is Varvara, a philosophy professor who engages in deep discussions with her students about the death of God and the existence of irrational evil within human nature.

Varvara's sister, Angelina, emerges as a pivotal figure, providing answers to the questions Varvara raises. Through Angelina, we embark on a journey into the tumultuous depths of the psyche, exploring the convoluted underworld of human consciousness.



NIETZSCHE AND MEDICINE...



The integration of Nietzschean philosophy with medicine is a fascinating aspect explored in "The Alienated." Nietzsche, renowned for his groundbreaking philosophical ideas, demonstrated a profound interest in 19th-century physiological medicine. He adeptly appropriated medical terminology, transforming it into philosophical concepts.

In a striking self-reference, Nietzsche often referred to himself as "a physician," emphasizing his approach to philosophy as akin to a form of medical science. He delved into the distinctions between health and illness, utilizing these concepts to elucidate psycho-physiological states within humanity. Nietzsche's dichotomies of the strong and the weak, the instinct to overcome versus the survival instinct, and the contrasting figures of the superman and the last man all reflect his nuanced understanding of human nature through a medical lens.

This intricate fusion of medicine and philosophy serves as a rich foundation for the portrayal of Varvara, the philosophy professor, and her alter ego, the doctor. By intertwining Nietzsche's medical philosophy with the narrative, "The Alienated" offers a thought-provoking exploration of the complexities of the human condition.





REBELLION AGAINST GOD...



In "The Alienated," I've ventured into the realm of dark fables, embracing their complexities, mysteries, and the presence of villains. Drawing inspiration from the biblical tale of Cain and Abel, I've woven a narrative that echoes its themes.

Angelina's abortion of Varvara's child mirrors Cain's infamous act. Like Cain's act driven not only by jealousy, Angelina's action is first of all resentment against God, who shows favor to Abel and repels Cain.

Why did God do this? Perhaps He just wanted to test humanity, to see how far slavish submission could extend. In the case of Angelina and Varvara, as in the case of Cain and Abel, it led to rebellion against God.



IRRATIONAL EVIL AND INFERNAL FORCES



We aimed to craft a mesmerizing atmosphere in the film, drawing inspiration from Pre-Raphaelitism. I'm drawn to its melancholic and enigmatic iconography, filled with captivating beauties and imbued with poetic sensitivity, yet tinged with anxiety.

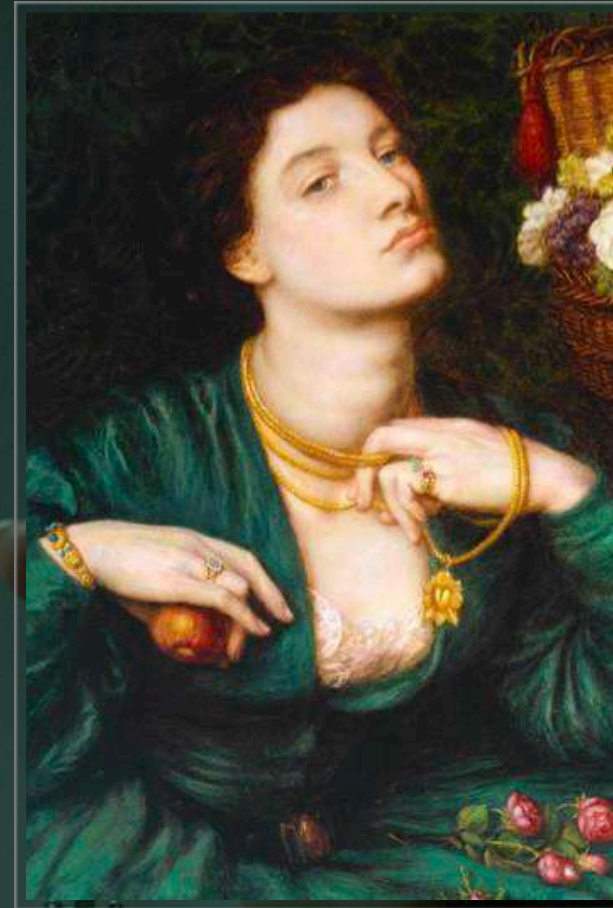
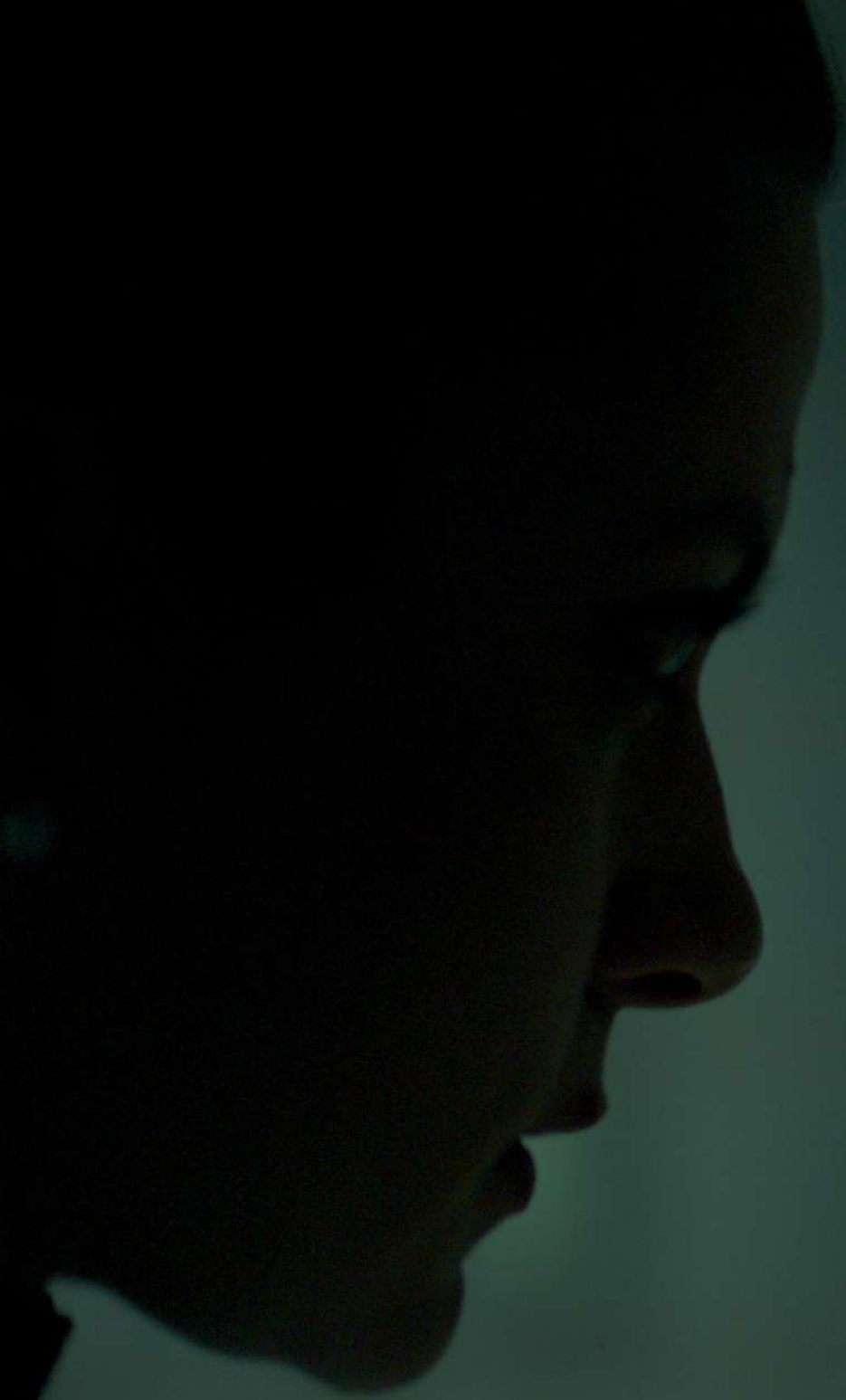
We delved into the main colors of Pre-Raphaelitism: dark green and black, symbolizing the unreal world. Black represents darkness and irrational evil, while green is associated with earthly, chaotic, and even infernal forces.

The interplay of shadow and light is crucial in our visual narrative. Through under-exposed lighting and stark contrasts between light and shadow, we sought to delve into the depths of the human soul's mystery and enhance the sense of ambiguity.

To evoke a sense of immersion within oneself, we extensively utilized steadicam shots, comprising over 90% of the film. This continuous spatio-temporal flow offers a unique relationship with time, rendering it palpable. By resisting fragmentation of events, our approach aligns with human perception, lending the film a heightened sense of reality.

Employing artistic blur, we infused the imagery with a mysterious quality and accentuated subjective or internal perspectives, adding depth to the visual experience.









ANJA KREIS

producer-director-writer-cutter

Director, screenwriter, producer. Anja studied film and fine arts at Academy of Media Art Cologne (KHM). Her graduation film "SCYTHE HITTING STONE" had his premiere in the competition of the Transilvania IFF 2018 and won Special Jury Award. The film has also distribution in France (ASC Distribution, 2019).

With Alisa Berger and Yana Ugrehelidze Anja founded 2019 production company FORTIS FEM FILM, which goal is to increase the presence of women in film business - in front of and behind the camera. They focus on short and long feature, documentary and animated films that deal explicitly with various women's issues.



2023 „THE ALIENATED“, 96 min.
(rom. Fără Suflet)

2017 „SCYTHE HITTING STONE“, 79 min.
(rus. Нашла коса на камень)

MAIN CAST



Dana CIOBANU Angelina
Maria CHUPRINSKAYA Varvara
Epchil AKCHALOV Inosemtsev
Maria STEPANOVA Girl
Olesea SVECLA Patient
Ghennadii BOIARCHIN Lawyer
Tatiana VLADIMIROVA Mother
Ion MOCANU Mayor
Michaela CRUCICHEVICI Mayor's daughter
Samson HATMAN Child
Zinaida TIMOFTI Woman with the child
Alexandra DRUMI Secretary



with: Vladimir ZAVALIONNYI (professor №1), Constantin HARET (professor №2/Dupovkin), Ghenadie MOROCHANU (professor №3/Stakovetski), Gheorghe DROBOT (professor №4), Yulianna MIKCHNEVICH (Zinaida), Robert Vaab (Father Mikhail), Irina CAZAC (Lenotchka), Nikolai Mulacov/Iurie Gologan (cleaner), Aliona Oleinic (Tcherviakova)

MAIN CREW



Director and Scriptwriter: Anja KREIS

Cinematographer : Eugeniu DEDCOV

Editor: Anja KREIS

Set Designer : Igor IURCO, Sergiu RADU

Sound : Alexandru TOFAN, Andrei BURAC

Costume Designer : Anja KREIS, Olga SOKOLOVA-GRATI, Tatiana PASCARU

MUA : Svetlana GOLOVCA

Produced by : Anja KREIS

co-produced by: Sergiu Pascaru, Tatiana Pascaru, Martine Vidalenc

A co-production of: FORTIS FEM FILM (Germany), PASCARU Production (Republic of Moldova), MIDRALGAR (France)

Supported by Beauftragte für Kultur und Medien, Film und MedienStiftung NRW, CNC Moldova







F O R T I S

F E M

F I L M

FORTIS FEM FILM is an international film production company based in Cologne, Germany, with the goal of increasing the visibility of women and their stories in film. We aim to find larger audiences for the films that interest us: courageous, bold, innovative films that use artistically advanced means to explore the themes that concern us as women in today's society - not only in Germany, but also internationally. We focus on short and long feature films, documentaries and animated films. The first production of FORTIS FEM FILM „Instructions for survival“ was selected for Berlin Film Festival 2021 (Panorama Deutsches Kino) and received two prizes Teddy Jury Award and Compass Award.



PASCARU PRODUCTION is a production company based in Chisinau, Moldova. Founded 2014 by Sergiu and Tatiana Pascaru. For the past 8 years, the company has produced cinematographic films, audiovisual programs, as well as institutional films. In 2022, PASCARU Production participated in the San Sebastian International Film Festival with CARBON, a film co-produced and directed by Ion Bors. The film is competing for the Oscars for the Republic of Moldova.



MARMITAFILMS SARL is an independent film and audiovisual production company founded in Bordeaux in 2010. It is renowned for its delegated production of documentary, animation and fiction films. In 2019, it will buy Les Fées Productions (created in 2003) and will take over its entire catalog. In 2020, on the threshold of a new decade of joyful artistic adventures, it metamorphoses and becomes MIDRALGAR.



CONTACT

FORTIS FEM FILM
Rolshoverstr.45 , 51105 Cologne - GERMANY

Anja Kreis/ General Producer

Tel. : +4915771407980

fortisfemfilm@gmail.com
www.fortisfemfilm.com

