



1986

a film by Lothar Herzog

Germany, Belarus, 77min

Produced by Rohfilm Productions, Westdeutscher Rundfunk, ARTE, DFFB

It is a film that haunts you and gets under you skin. It is a quiet masterpiece.

—Steve Kopian, unseenfilms.net

This way of moviemaking is the most useful and the most important for us all.

—Edgar Reitz, film director, Hof international Film Festival

This impressionistic drama fascinates, without a chronological structure, with dreamlike pictures.

—Heike Angermeier, Blickpunkt Film

Lothar Herzog has made a visually powerful first feature film with the kind of artistic singularity that makes the cinema d'auteur so attractive.

—Bernhard Sinkel, film director, Jury of Hof International Film Festival

1986 gives a deep insight in the mentality and psyche of Belarus. There are no false notes in this film.

—Mikolai Lawreniuk, co-director of Minsk International Film Festival, belta.by

Logline

Elena repeatedly has to drive into the 'forbidden zone' of Chernobyl in order to make deals for her father. Soon her life is more and more contaminated by a destructive force...

Synopsis

Elena is a student in Minsk, Belarus. She has a passionate but increasingly difficult relationship with her boyfriend Victor. When her father is arrested, she has to continue his illegal business. In order to make deals for him, she repeatedly has to drive into the 'forbidden zone' of Chernobyl. She finds herself attracted by the zone's deceptive beauty – but her life seems more and more contaminated by a destructive force...



Director's Statement

The film 1986 is about traces of the catastrophe of Chernobyl in people's minds many years after the actual event. Elena was born ten years after Chernobyl, but she lives in a country where large areas are still contaminated. Her father worked as a liquidator immediately after the accident, and then did illegal business in the forbidden zone until he was arrested. Her family history affects Elena's state of mind. As Elena is driving into the zone, she enters a surreal environment that confronts her with the past. Her surroundings reflect her feelings. The beauty, emptiness and contamination of the area corresponds with her inner world.

Instead of focusing on a linear story, the film follows Elena's emotional logic: her increasingly disruptive relationship with her boyfriend and her growing conflicts with her father. But the film is also about surfaces and textures: about facades and wallpapers, about skin, blood and contaminated berries - about the light breaking through the radioactive dust on the windshield. And it is about showing moments – so that the audience can almost smell the cleaning agent in the staircases, or feel the humidity in the air before a summer thunderstorm, when the first drops are falling on the asphalt.



I think the film is important because it is the first to explore a place and country that is basically unknown to outsiders. Also, it shows how the impact of the accident of Chernobyl remains over 30 years after the accident. The film shows what happens to a region that people have abandoned because it is uninhabitable. And how a destructive event like that in Chernobyl effects people's mentalities, even a generation later.

I hope the audience will be drawn into Elena's journey to the place that is called 'the zone'.

FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

**Won Gold Prize for Best Directing (Hof Int. Film Festival, Germany)*

** Nomination German First Steps Award for Best Feature Film*

** Won German First Steps Award for Best Production*

Shanghai Film Festival, (international panorama), 2020

Slamdance Film Festival, USA (competition), 2020

Edinburgh Film Festival, Great Britain (competition), 2020

Zurich Film Festival, Switzerland (competition), 2019

International Hof Film Festival, Germany (competition), 2019

Minsk International Film Festival, Belarus (national competition), 2019

Cottbus Film Festival, (U18 Competition), Germany, 2019

The Method Film Festival Los Angeles, USA, 2020

Achtung Berlin Film Festival (competition), Germany, 2020

Lighthouse Film Festival New Jersey, USA, 2020

MORE QUOTES

A film with an impressive presentation, creating rich textures through its vivid characters and their surroundings. It leaves audiences longing to touch and feel the characters as the unique story unfolds, and to accompany them on this unforgettable journey.

—Rob Lo, Programmer at Slamdance Film Festival

Daria Mureeva is absolutely arresting as Elena. She definitely withstands Herzog's intimate close-ups and says as much with facial expressions and body language as she does with the terse dialogue.

—Joe Bendel in *j.b.spins*

1986 is a strikingly beautiful and haunting film that had me thinking about it for days after I watched it.

—Kyler Bingham in *Salt Lake Dirt*

Evgeni Sangadzhiev's outstanding performance as Viktor is unconventionally soft-spoken, attentive, and modestly manipulative.

—Andrew Stover in *filmthreat.com*

PRESS LINKS

SLAMDANCE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=et4sYAE7Hac>

http://www.unseenfilms.net/2020/01/1986-2019-slamdance-2020.html?fbclid=IwAR32wVmXYBWCvHkHtbUs2V419sEIKs3R_UafFaYwcnvRrGQuYSfumrF988

<https://saltlakedirt.com/film/f/lothar-herzog-writer-director-of-1986>

<https://variety.com/2020/film/features/slamdance-film-festival-continues-to-elevate-emerging-talents-1203482148/>

<https://filmthreat.com/reviews/1986-movie/>

<http://jbspins.blogspot.com/2020/01/slamdance-20-1986.html>

<https://ianthomasalone.com/2020/01/slamdance-review-1986/>

COTTBUS

<http://kimpres.by/index.phtml?page=2&id=16674&fbclid=IwAR3wZo-3XNnOtfFADJYiysQOAW-Inlb5TlGLx3OsB0malivAIDr6Ng2m0N4>

LISTAPAD

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72lqtf5bCL8&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3PR39QrJqy4yhx5lpG_aa5anniYhxOQQ-VLcFAPKVxz3_9_s8zVRrQW_s

https://www.belta.by/comments/view/natsionalnyj-konkurs-listapada-bez-falshivyh-not-7074/?fbclid=IwAR04dVDA0caz_uFBcQeoY0IY33Y-8YvKiiVN-HsyIO8_6KwbXHVSRRNshIQ

https://minsknews.by/nemeczkiy-rezhisser-lotar-herczog-o-semkah-v-sineokoj-menya-porazila-rabotosposobnost-belorusov/?fbclid=IwAR3wEUGuSFKhLKeU_r2Xccl3l6cXO8g5LvuFPdVb9ggLCPaTzchSCDM290Q

<https://www.belta.by/comments/view/1986-belorusskaja-istorija-rasskazannaja-nebelorusom-7077/?fbclid=IwAR1r4fXmTy1hC0BOXh4UoW-pdcqxn4o3ij6Hz3ejr2lYUluylW69wnyqQvk>

HOF

<https://www.facebook.com/hoferfilmtage/videos/620115971725911/>

<https://www.filmportal.de/nachrichten/hofer-goldpreis-fuer-lothar-herzog-und-1986?fbclid=IwAR1d2Fv1GWu4PmIRHkZS12HyuXidhdXPD5aYRVqkX7dwYvJYUirq9p0oBgE>

http://beta.blickpunktfilm.de/details/445013?fbclid=IwAR1VpHie9Lb5y4aSsInc6U9a9Ki--Gr8k1nGmlgDDkvzPEHDD_Fp8dlzj4

ZURICH

<https://schwingen.net/2019/i-vsJakij-budet-bojatsja-film-1986-lotara-hercoga/?fbclid=IwAR3RycW9-9H0CzFv7C2j2PPjjJnzUZSAHAwTFourESDcCdkWI05sX-rDwYk>

BIOGRAFIES

Lothar Herzog (director)

Born in Freiburg, Germany, grew up in Paris. He studied Applied Cultural Studies in Hildesheim. He worked on theatre productions and produced video installations. Then he studied 'Film Studies' in San Francisco, and 'Film Directing' at the German Film & Television Academy (dfbb) in Berlin. His short films were shown at numerous international film festivals, among others in Cannes and at the Berlinale. '1986' is his first fiction feature film. It won the 'Gold Prize for Best Director' at the Hof International Film Festival (Germany), was nominated for 'German First Steps Price for Best Feature Film' and won the 'German First Steps Price for best Production'.

Daria Mureeva (actress)

Born in 1995. She graduated from GITIS Moscow acting school in 2017 and is since working at the Moscow Theatre Art Studio of Sergey Zhenovach, where she played many main characters. '1986' was her first main role in a feature fiction film.

Evgeni Sangadzhiev (actor)

Was born in 1987 year. He graduated Russian Institute of Theatre Arts in 2010 year. He worked in such theaters as the Theater of nations, Soundrama studios, Dialogues Dance company, Bolshoi in Moscow. In 2011 year he worked in the 7sh studio of Kirill Serebrennikov. Later he became an actor in the Gogol center of Kirill Serebrennikov. His actor's filmography includes Brest Fortress (2010), Provocateur (2011), Attraction (2017), Gull (2018), Brotherhood (2019), Trezviy vodite (2019). His debut short film Harmony got a jury's special mention at the Dvizhenie national film festival. Ulyana is his third film.

Aleksey Filimonov (actor)

Was born in 1981 in Irkutsk, Irkutskaya oblast, RSFSR, USSR. He is an important actor in the nowadays independent Russian Movie Scene known for Eshche odin god (2014), Bolshaya poeziya (2019) and Stilyagi (2008).

Aleksey Kravchenko (actor)

Was born in 1969 in Moskovskaya oblast, RSFSR, USSR as Aleksey Evgenevich Kravchenko. He is known for the Soviet Union classic War Film *Idi i smotri* (Come and See, 1985) by director Elem Klimov. Also known for 9 rota (2005) and Muzhskoy sezon. Barkhatnaya revolyutsiya (2005).

FULL CREDITS

Directed by

Lothar Herzog

Writing Credits

Lothar Herzog

Cast

Daria Mureeva
Evgeni Sangadzhiev
Vitali Kotovitski
Helga Filippova
Aleksei Filimonov
Aleksei Kravchenko

Produced by

Benny Drechsel ... producer

Music by

Fabian Saul
Rafael Triebel

Cinematography by

Philipp Baben der Erde

Film Editing by

Lothar Herzog
Stefanie Kosik

Art Direction by

Kirill Galitsky

Art Department

Nikita Lavretski ... props

Sound Department

Tarek Soltani sound designer
Niklas Kammertöns sound designer

Contact:

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