

VICTORIA
MYSSIK

LYUBA
ROSE

ALEXANDER
CHESWORTH

BRUNA
MATSIN

ADLET
VOLPI

PAPOCHKA

A FILM BY LADA EGOROVA

DENAN PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH WILD KIDS PRODUCTION

PRODUCED
BY DAVID YOL

DIRECTED &
WRITTEN BY LADA EGOROVA

VICTORIA MYSSIK LYUBA ROSE ALEXANDER CHESWORTH BRUNA MATSIN ADLET VOLPI

DIRECTOR OF
PHOTOGRAPHY ELLIN ALDANA

EDITED
BY VALENTIN DISANT

MUSIC
BY FRANCO PERRY

SOUND
ENGINEER TYLER DIETRICH

EXECUTIVE
PRODUCER CIARA RAY

ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR

ANNE KATRINA DUKA

GAFFER

DAVE
WILWAYCO

SCRIPT
SUPERVISOR

LAURA BAPTISTA

HAIR &
MAKE-UP ARTIST

LEIGH LEVI

KEY
GRIP

DAMIEN JOHNSON

ASSISTANT
CAMERA

MALLORY GROSSMAN

PRODUCTION
ASSISTANT

NICK BRAGA





PAPOCHKA

Running Time:

18 minutes

Directed By:

Lada Egorova

Written By:

Lada Egorova

Produced By:

David Yol

Ciara Ray

Production Company:

Denan Productions

Wild Kids Production

Edited by:

Valentin Disant

Cinematographer:

Ellin Aldana

Composer:

Franco Perry



LOGLINE

A young woman returns to Russia after a decade apart to say goodbye to her dying father, only to find him already gone. She stays for the funeral and discovers her half-brother. Through their shared grief, she begins to find a connection to the father she lost.

SYNOPSIS

Dounia, a 26-year-old woman, returns to Russia to see her dying father after a decade apart. Upon arrival, she learns from his wife, Elena, that he died the night before. While attending the funeral, Dounia meets her 7-year-old half-brother, Sasha, for the first time. Overwhelmed by memories and emotions, Dounia shares her lone memory of her father with Elena and feels a pang of jealousy toward Sasha, who grew up with him. At the funeral, Dounia is forced to confront her feelings when she is urged to kiss him goodbye. Overcome with emotion, she leaves the funeral home and finds solace in a playground, where Sasha joins her. This moment of shared silence begins to forge a new bond between them, offering Dounia a chance to connect with her father through her newfound relationship with Sasha.

OUR STORY

Papochka ("Papa" in Russian) is a film inspired by my personal experience. Growing up without my father, who stayed in Russia, I never felt the need for a paternal figure during my childhood. However, entering adulthood, I began to reflect more on him and regret the missed father-daughter moments. Although I spent my first four years with him, I have no memories of it. My mother and grandmother occasionally shared stories about him, mentioning his care and love for me. If he truly loved me, why didn't he reconnect after all these years?

In Papochka, Dounia's frustration is vividly portrayed. The film explores her emotional journey as she seeks to "make up for lost time" only to be thwarted by her father's death. The narrative follows Dounia as she loses her father but meets her half-brother, Sasha, creating a new bond and finding an indirect way to connect with her father.

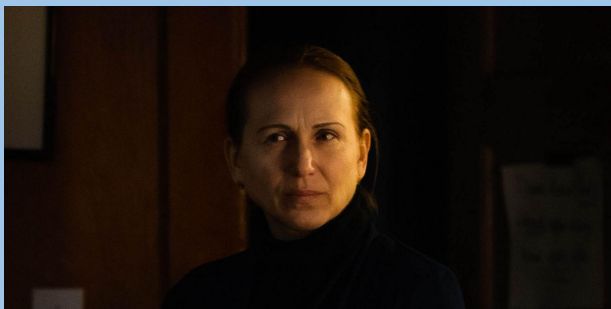
The film's melancholic atmosphere is conveyed through its slow pacing, long takes, and fixed frames. We were unable to shoot in Russia so we had to recreate the Russian world in the US, including Dounia's father's apartment, which is depicted as a relic of the past. This choice creates a sense of suspended time, focusing on memories and disillusionment. The film reflects the suffering present in Russian life, blending Soviet-era artifacts with modern living. Close-ups on Dounia highlight her isolation, intensified by her mother's death.





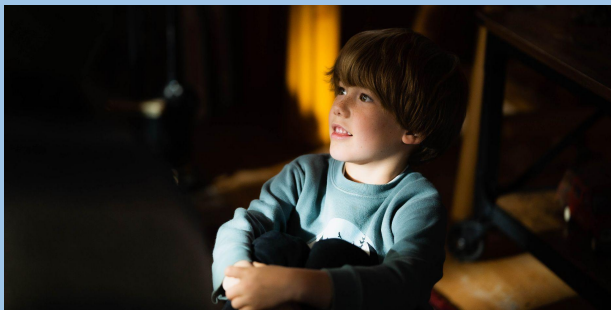
Victoria Myssik as *Dounia*

Born and raised in Almaty, Kazakhstan, she began her journey in professional theatre and local TV shows at 12. In 2019, she moved to New York City and auditioned for the University Resident Theatre Association (URTA), eventually choosing Louisiana State University for an MFA in Acting due to a full scholarship. After graduation, she became a leading instructor at the Actor's Studio of Orange County and relocated to Los Angeles. Now, she works as an instructor and pursues a professional acting career in Los Angeles.



Lyuba Rose as *Elena*

Lyuba was born and raised in a small Ukrainian village as the oldest of four children, with family always holding an important place in her life. Fluent in Ukrainian, Russian, and English, she moved to the USA with her two teenage daughters in 2014 and is currently based in Los Angeles, California. A former teacher and lawyer in Ukraine, she started her career in America from scratch as a babysitter and driver before pursuing her dream of acting, inspired by her daughters.



Alexander Chesworth as *Sasha*

Alex is a Russian - American actor who shares joy and amuse everyone around him. He loves acting, coming up with different images and depicting them and posing on camera. His dream is to travel around the world, meet and be friends with smart and interesting people from the entertainment industry (and not only) and make this world better with them.

DIRECTOR - WRITER,

Lada Egorova

Lada is a Russian - French director and screenwriter. She has directed, written, and produced over 10 short films. Some of her films were selected for film festivals and won awards, including her project "PAPOCHKA" which received a film grant, showcasing her ability to create impactful narratives with limited resources. Lada's passion for filmmaking took her to intern at various production companies in France and the US, while simultaneously honing her skills as a filmmaker. She also had the opportunity to study at a film university in Paris and as an exchange student at The California State University. After accumulating a diverse and extensive body of work, she chose to settle in Los Angeles, where she currently develops her own projects and helps other emerging filmmakers bring their visions to life.



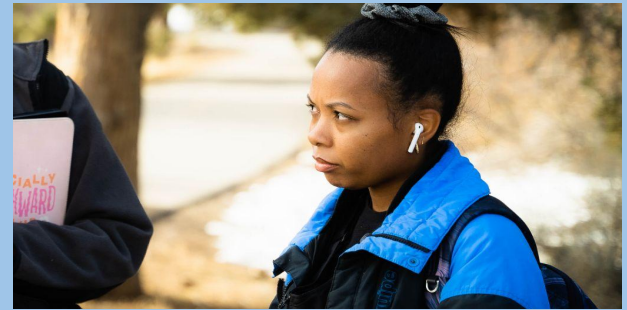
PRODUCER, David Yol

David, a Spanish-Swiss producer born in Geneva, studied, served in the military, and worked for the State for 13 years. In 2015, he wrote and directed his first play, "Le Tableau," which received positive feedback, and his second play, "Sans raison apparente," solidified his artistic path. Passionate about the arts, he explored various stage arts including improv, magic, stand-up, and burlesque, and organized a performing arts festival with two editions. After moving to Paris, he produced his play "Les salles d'attentes" and expanded into screenwriting, directing, and producing.



PRODUCER, Ciara Ray

Ciara is a producer and writer for film and TV, inspired by her unique and challenging upbringing to amplify the voices of underrepresented and marginalized communities. She recently graduated from Cal State LA with a Bachelor's degree in TV, Film, and Media Studies, and holds three Associate of Arts degrees. Currently, she works with the Criminal Minds Season 16 Production. Ciara is driven to make positive contributions to the world through her work in entertainment and is extremely grateful for everyone who has supported her journey.



DISTRIBUTOR, Lou Camille

Lou has worked as a director of photography in fiction for five years. She founded Sisteria Films, a production company dedicated to revolutionizing the filmmaking process. With a commitment to offering a fresh perspective and a strong editorial vision, she brings exceptional directorial talent to the industry. Beyond her professional achievements, she is known for her hypersensitivity and empathy, passion for extreme activities like hiking and diving, and a quirky sense of humor.





CREDITS

Directed by:

Lada Egorova

Written by:

Lada Egorova

Produced by:

**David Yol
Ciara Ray**

Director of Photography

Ellin Aldana

Editor

Valentin Disant

Hair & Make-up Designer

Leigh Levi

Music by

Franco Perry

Production Sound Recordist

Tyler Dietrich

Production Company

Denan Productions

Co-produced by

Wild Kids Production



CAST

Dounia

Elena

Sasha

Natalia

Taxi Driver

Victoria Myssik

Lyuba Rose

Alexander Chesworth

Bruna Matsin

Adlet Volpi



First Assistant Director:
Script Supervisor:
Sound Engineer:
1st Assistant Camera:
Grip:
Still Photographer:
Gaffer:
Make-up and Hair Artist:
Production Assistant:

Anne Katrina Duka
Laura Baptista
Tyler Dietrich
Mallory Grossman
Damien Johnson
Damien Johnson
Dave Wilwayco
Leigh Levi
Nick Braga

VFX:
Sound Editor
Camera & Grip Equipment:
Lighting Equipment:

Ellin Aldana
Aurelien Marini
Birns & Sawyer
Nanlux Americas

