



USTALA

Directed by Ine Lamers
2005-2009

Film based on improvisation with a group of amateur and professional actors, performed and documented in Tolyatti, Russia. Scenes and tableaux are inspired by historic archive material and observations of daily life in contemporary Tolyatti.

Logline: A group of young people convicted to each other appears stranded in no-man's yesterday's paradise. Every time they disband; a big red bus drives them back together again

Synopsis

An accidental group of young Russians hang out by the remains of what has once been a paradise. The dystopic resort they find themselves in is situated on the periphery of Tolyatti, a communist model town, built in the 1950s. While walking in a nightly procession rehearsing poems or standing in line and speaking in alienating prose, the group seems to be performing a ritual; awaiting and hoping for something. Stone, grass and hollow monuments of culture surround them. The scenery is muddy, windy, and the sky is of a brown-grey hue; it is unclear whether it's night or day. Some characters emerge into our visual foreground by way of their repetitive actions: Olya who jumps mechanically in the water, Marcia who runs, and Slava who, almost in a stage of trance, touches the historic mosaic wall. No-one listens, but this does not prevent Tanya from talking about hope and expectations and how "everything will change". "Maybe it's better to keep silent again" replies Sergei in return.

Interrupted by fragments of archival film material of the city in earlier, more 'hopeful' times, *Ustala* unrolls a dark scenario of loss and innate despair. We lose track of following sense and meaning as absurdity increases. Some of the girls simply "want coffee" and call for "Diana". Marcia gets tired and finally openly gives up. "You're not one step closer?" "I want something hot to drink", she begs.

USTALA

Ine Lamers

running time:
year of completion:
format:
screen ratio:
sound:

20'21"
2009
DVD-5 PAL
16:9 (letterboxed to full 4:3)
Stereo

Main Credits

Production

Concept: **Ine Lamers**
Director: **Ine Lamers**
Production company: **agmstudios**
Producer: **Rob de Vree**

Crew

Camera: **Rob de Vree / Ine Lamers**
Sound recording: **Arthur Bueno**
Directors' assistant: **Bregje van den Berg**
Production assistant: **Anna Garmash**
Location manager: **Kirill Zdorov**
Translators: **Olya Zhmievskaya / Katya Soboleva**

Post production

Editor: **Ine Lamers with Saskia de Jong**
Sound design: **Ine Lamers with Saskia de Jong**
Sound mixing: **Roderick Hietbrink**
Graphics advice: **Jonathan Puckey**

Cast

(Alphabetical order)

Tanya Alivanova
Arina Balabina
Macha Baronina
Micha Bolotniy
Sergey Buldygin
Julia Chainikova
Margarita Chernova
Micha Durnenkov
Slava Durnenkov
Anna Garmash
Elena Gluhova
Katya Holyapina
Elena Ledkova
Vadim Levanov
Dimitri Lyukichev
Olga Mesheriakova
Anna Pinchuk
Masha Polushko
Anna Pzotassenko
Vladimir Shenorin (and daughter)
Gulya Separgalieva
Nikolai Tedoseev
Natacha Terebinova
Alexandra Utsariashrili

Support

The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture, Amsterdam
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