



Official Selection  
WARSAW FILM FESTIVAL

# IRINA

MARTINA APOSTOLOVA HRISTO USHEV KASIEL NOAH ASHER IRINI JAMBONAS ALEXANDER KOSSEV KRASSIMIR DOKOV

SCRIPT SVETOSLAV OVCHAROV BOJAN VULETIC NADEJDA KOSEVA DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY KIRIL PRODANOV PRODUCTION DESIGN IVELINA MINEVA COSTUME DESIGN VIKTOR ANDREEV MAKE UP PETYA SIMEONOVA EDITOR NINA ALTAPARMAKOVA

MUSIC PETAR DUNDAKOV SOUND MOMCHIL BOZHKOV CO-PRODUCERS SVETLA TSOTSORKOVA DOBROMIR CHOCHOV TODOR G. TODOROV PRODUCER STEFAN KITANOV DIRECTOR NADEJDA KOSEVA

PRODUCED BY ART FEST IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH FRONT FILM DOLI MEDIA STUDIO RIGHT SOLUTIONS WITH THE SUPPORT OF BULGARIAN NATIONAL FILM CENTER MEDIA PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION SEE CINEMA NETWORK

SALES AGENT ALPHA VIOLET



# IRINA

A film by Nadejda Koseva

*World Premiere*  
WARSAW INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2018  
International Competition

Bulgaria – 2018 - 96 min - HD - 1:2.35 - Bulgarian

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## SYNOPSIS

Irina is a part-time waitress in a small Bulgarian town. On the very same day when she is fired, her husband gets into a serious accident. Irina's family is trapped in poverty. To make ends meet, she becomes a surrogate mother. Fights, despair and the seed of life growing in her belly bring on another wave to this rough and wrecked life. Slowly, Irina discovers what it means to love and to forgive.



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## CAST

Irina	Martina Apostolova
Sasho	Hristo Ushev
Eva	Irini Jambonas
Ludmila	Kasiel Noah Asher
Varlaam	Krassimir Dokov
Bozhidar	Alexander Kossev

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## CREW

Director	Nadejda Koseva
Producer	Stefan Kitanov
Co-producers	Svetla Tsotsorkova, Dobromir Chochov, Todor G. Todorov
Script writers	Svetoslav Ovcharov, Bojan Vuletic, Nadejda Koseva
Cinematography	Kiril Prodanov
Editor	Nina Altaparmakova
Art Director	Ivelina Mineva
Costume Designer	Viktor Andreev
Make up artist	Petya Simeonova
Sound Recordist/Mixer	Momchil Bojkov
Music	Petar Dundakov

Production: Art Fest

In co-production with: Front Film, Doli Media Studio, Right Solutions

Developed with the support of

MEDIA Programme of the EU, SEE Cinema Network and ScripTeast

Produced with the support of

Bulgarian National Film Center

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## DIRECTOR'S BIO & FILMO

Born in 1974 in Sofia, Bulgaria. After graduating from the Bulgarian National Film and Television Academy, Nadejda Koseva directed the short fiction novel THE RITUAL, part of the omnibus film LOST AND FOUND which premiered at FORUM Berlin IFF 2005. Nadejda Koseva's next short fiction film OMELETTE won a Special mention at Sundance Film Festival 2009 among other awards worldwide. Her latest short film TAKE TWO traveled around the world after winning a Special mention at its premier at Sarajevo 2011. Her 1st feature film IRINA was selected in Warsaw IFF 2018 in its International Competition for world premiere.

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## DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

Carrying a child and giving birth changes the life of every woman. Mine too. IRINA is a very personal and very feminine (but not feminist) story about rediscovering the world bringing new life in it.

A young woman, Irina, agrees to carry another couple's child for money. She needs the money to support her own family. Irina hates the world she lives in. It is a poor, gloomy, stinking, animalistic, scowling, hopeless world. Ironically, at the end of the film when she does have the financial possibility to make a choice, Irina decides to go back home – where her heart is.

IRINA is a film about forgiveness. A story that raises moral and ethical questions, but also leads us to a place where their answers become irrelevant. To a place where forgiving is the only way to overcome the despair, pain and anger. The only way to survive.

IRINA catches a glimpse of the poetic in a world that at first glance appears anything but poetic. The film tells the story using simple means of expression. It does not rely on stylized, intrusive and non-standard visual approaches. It is maximally authentic and instills in the viewer a sense of sincerity. It peers so closely at the real and the concrete that in drawing closer, under the guise of everyday life, another image, another presence starts to peek through.

Being raised without a father this film is my deep bow to every mother.

*Nadejda Koseva*



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## PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

'Irina' is the third film we made with Nadejda Koseva. The first one was the short film 'The Ritual' - part of the omnibus 'Lost and Found' which opened Berlinale's Forum in 2005. The other shorts were made by Cristian Mungiu, Jasmila Zbanic, Kornel Mundrucso and Stefan Arsenijevic linked with the creative animation of Mait Laas. We also produced the short 'Take Two' (2011). The film won Special Mention in Sarajevo. Nadja (Nadejda) also made 'Omelette' (2008) which won Special Mention in Sundance. After these remarkable works and accumulated experience there came the time for Nadja's first feature – 'Irina'.

The project went through several years of development process. The first drafts of the script were made by Serbian writer/director Bojan Vuletic with script consultancy by Srdjan Koljevic and Stefan Arsenijevic. Further drafts of the script were written by Bulgarian writer/director Svetoslav Ovcharov.

The project received development support from MEDIA Programme of the EU, South Eastern Europe Cinema Network and Bulgarian National Film Center and was part of the 7th edition of Script East training workshop. Later on 'Irina' received production support from BNFC.

The film was shot in Bulgaria. The main location was in a house in the suburbs of the minor town of Pernik, some 30 km from Sofia. The other locations were in Sofia. Nadja devoted a lot of time on a research process together with the production designer Ivelina Mineva – their main task was to visit different locations, to observe carefully the reality and to use the environment fully in order to assure authenticity of the film.

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The role of Irina is the first film experience for the young theatre actress Martina Apostolova. She was our first choice for the part and also first among the chosen actors. The rest of the puzzle was set according to her. It is curious to know that Martina was captain of the women's national football team of Bulgaria.

Some of the other members of the cast are established actors (Irina Jambonas, Kasiel Noah Asher, Krassimir Dokov, Alexander Kossev), others are newcomers (Hristo Ushev). The same situation was relevant for the team. 'Irina' was one of the first features for the DoP Kiril Prodanov, who became now one of the most desired cinematographers in Bulgaria.

The music was written by one of the most promising Bulgarian composers Petar Dundakov who have just published a spectacular album with his compositions based on Bulgarian folklore music recorded by the legends Lisa Gerrard (Dead Can Dance) and the choir Mystery of Bulgarian Voices.



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We have already worked with some other members of the team on several films prior to that one. It is our 5th film together with the editor Nina Altaparmakova, we have worked successfully with the sound recordist and mixer Momchil Bozhkov, the costume designer Viktor Andreev and the make-up artist Petya Simeonova. The sound post-production and music recording were made in partnership with Doli Media Studio; Todor G. Todorov made the color corrections, picture mastering and the DCP final copies. They both contributed as co-producers of the film.

We are happy to work with the Paris based sales agent Alpha Violet following the successful experience with Svetla Tsotsorkova's first film 'Thirst', coproduced by Nadejda Koseva. Svetla Tsotsorkova (Nadja's partner in the company Front Film) is also line producer and co-producer of 'Irina'.

*Stefan Kitanov*  
*Producer*



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World Sales: ALPHA VIOLET

Virginie Devesa + 33 6 20 41 11 37  
virginie@alphaviolet.com

Keiko Funato + 33 6 29 83 51 08  
keiko@alphaviolet.com

18 rue Soleillet, 75020 Paris France  
Tel: +33 1 47 97 39 84  
info@alphaviolet.com www.alphaviolet.com

