

"THE BEST OF YOU ARE THOSE WHO ARE BEST TO THEIR WOMEN".

PROPHET MUHAMMED
SUNAN AL-TIRMIDHI 1162



FROM THE DIRECTORS OF THE FILM "THE LAKE"
ERKE DZHUMAKMATOVA & EMIL ATAGELDIEV

KURAK



PRODUCTION BY KYRGYZSTAN, SWITZERLAND, SERBIA, FRANCE



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LOGLINE

Based on true events, several stories about disempowerment of women, are closely intertwined, affecting to each other's, unfolding against the background of the traditional, patriarchal society of modern-day Kyrgyzstan ultimately result in a series of tragic outcomes.

The film project "KURAK" as of 2024, the first joint film project between **Kyrgyzstan** and **France** in almost 20 years, and the first joint project in the history of Kyrgyz cinema between **Kyrgyzstan, Switzerland** and **Serbia**.



"KURAK" film project participated in the program of [Asian Project Market 2021](#), Busan IFF.



Also, the project received the [Special Mention Jury Prize in the Meeting Point 2022](#) program of the Vilnius IFF.

CO-PRODUCERS

[Erke DZHUMAKMATOVA](#), "Oymo Studio", Kyrgyzstan.

[Kairat BIRIMKULOV](#), "KBP", Switzerland.

[Katerina TARBO-IGNATENKO](#), "Spirito Libero Belgrade", Serbia.

[Johann CHAPELAN](#) "Girelle Production", France

PARTNER/SUPPORT:

[Milos DJUKELIC](#) "RED production", Serbia.

BUDGET&CONFIRMED FUNDING

The total budget is **300K euro** +- (5%) including post-production and promotion. Hereby we confirm **182.5K euros** in place (61%) of the total budget.

Co-Producers Investment – **31,9K euro**.

Department of cinematography (Kyrgyzstan) – **51,5K euro**.

Project partners: Azem Group (catering), Cinema Tech Rental (lighting and related equipment, transport) (Kyrgyzstan) – 27,8K Euro;

[Central Swiss film group IFFG](#) (Switzerland) – **41,3K euro**.

RED production (Serbia) – the company is provides technical support (camera, lenses) as investment in kind, amount is about **30K euro**.

Hereby we can confirm **182,5K euro** in place. This is **61%** of the total budget of the project. Negotiations are also underway with various funds, as well European broadcasters and international non-governmental organizations represented in Kyrgyzstan and private investors. The realization of the post production will be approved jointly by co-producers later.

The missing part is **117.5K euros** for post-production and promotion, including the debts for the filming period is **30K euro**.

SYNOPSIS

A young girl, secretly working as a webcam model in a closed studio, becomes the victim of a blackmailer - a law enforcement officer, he does not need money and he has his own plans for her, the girl, fearing publicity, is forced to enter into an intimate relationship with him.

The mother, whose young daughter commits suicide after her is drugged and raped and later leaked her photo and video on the Internet. The rapist is the son of a powerful politician, and she is trying in vain to get a fair investigation in a state of passion, suddenly decides on a desperate act...

On the background of these sad stories the real chronicle and news runs through the entire history as a red line about violence and injustice against women in Kyrgyzstan. Including the news about exhibition "Feminalle" and following it a protest march dedicated to the problems of inequality and violence against women in Kyrgyzstan, both events was broken and attacked by national patriots, who blame the organizers and participants into LGBT propaganda, resulting is the participants was arrested by the police and organizers, is charged...

Through the image of presenter who unsuccessfully appeals about all this news, women in Kyrgyzstan symbolically remaining as always unanswered and no justice...

All these stories, lines and characters are not separate, they are closely intertwined and affecting to each other's. This is a complicated, tightly connected, single narrative.

AUTHORS STATEMENT

The realities of modern-day Kyrgyzstan, despite the status of a "secular state", are violence, hypocrisy, and widespread infringement of the rights of women who are stay a socially unprotected part of the population. Under the conditions of aggressive propaganda of both patriarchal and radical, religious ideology, the ideas of feminism in Kyrgyzstan are equated with the popularization of LGBTQ communities, are openly criticized and the justice system, in most cases, takes the side of murderers and rapists. According to official data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, 13,104 cases of domestic violence were registered in 2023, which is 3,000 or 32.6% more than in 2022, of which 86% or more cases are closed before going to court.

Until now, there has been no feature film in Kyrgyzstan dedicated to revealing the true position of women in our society.

The making of an uncensored film, in which the real, external side of the traditional patriarchal society of Kyrgyzstan is exposed as being intolerant, vindictive and hypocritical, and is dominated, not so much by religious dogmas, but male chauvinism, is the creation of a precedent that has important socio-cultural significance. We also see ourselves as advocacy filmmakers, one whose goals are to tell stories and distribute them in a way that are designed to initiate change and raise awareness. The stories that have the potential to evoke deep insights and ignite paradigm shifts.

We believe in the power of storytelling and its ability to initiate change in a positive way. We consider filmmaking an act of resistance, a form of peaceful protest.

ARTISTIC APPROACH

The style of "Kurak", noir, urban, gritty, realistic and tense, it's artistic mixed a documentary narration. We use and combine the different techniques of shooting, mixed real and pseudo TV footage. Dramaturgy is built on the structure of many storylines and relationships. The film shot in Bishkek, an urban environment, using locations where the real events took place.

PRESENTATION "KURAK" 2024

We see the music of the film as very minimalistic; it is a synthesis of modern sound using several national instruments with authentic sound.

All this will be work for reflections of our reality, we want to show the very eclectic and heterogeneous society of modern Kyrgyzstan. Films similar in style, genre and atmosphere include "Ayka" by Sergey Dvortsevov, "Gomorra" by Mateo Garrone. "21 grammes" by Alejandro Inarritu and "Import, Export" by Ulrich Seidl.

CO-DIRECTORS:

Erke DZHUMAKMATOVA [IMDb](#) - Chairman of the Board of the Association of Film Producers of Kyrgyzstan. Member of the Board of the Union of Cinematographers of the Kyrgyz Republic. Participant of international workshops for producers and screenwriters in France, Germany, Estonia and Russia. In 2021, he was awarded the title of Excellence in Culture of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Emil ATAGELDIEV [IMDb](#) - Professional musician and an Honored Artist of the Kyrgyz Republic since 2001. He has been the winner of a number of the most prestigious international competitions in France, Italy and Israel. In 2010 he graduated from the Higher Courses for Scriptwriters and Directors, VGIK, Moscow. Since 2014 a member of the Union of Cinematographers of Kyrgyzstan. Since 2018 - Professor, Lecturer at the American University of Central Asia. In 2020 title of Honored Worker of Cinematography of the Kyrgyz Republic.

PREVIOUS WORK of the director and producer:

Trailer 2020 "**The Lake**" (**Көл**) feature film, drama, « OYMO STUDIO », Kyrgyzstan. **IMDb** Producer, author the script - Erke DZHUMAKMATOVA. Director - Emil ATAGELDIEV. Festivals: IFF Shanghai (world premiere) official selection, nominated to Asian New Talent Awards, 2020, China. Official HFPA Screening to **Golden Globe** Awards, Best Motion Picture in Foreign Language, November 2020, USA, and others.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Written by Erke DZHUMAKMATOVA © 2021 erkeerkin@gmail.com

Directors: **Erke DZHUMAKMATOVA**, **Emil ATAGELDIEV**

Director of Photography: **Erzhan ARAKEEV** Production Designer: **Svetlana DUBINA**

Composer: **Rolan SEYITBEKOV**

Genre: drama / Language: Kyrgyz / Length: 110 -120 min.

The shooting period took place from February 23 to March 27, 2024. All filming took place in the city of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Release: Fall, Winter 2024.

Stage: post-production, fundraising,

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