

THUS SPOKE THE WIND

by Maria Rigel





ԱՅՍՊԵՍ ԱՍԱՑ ՔԱՄԻՆ

Armenia | criminal drama | 92 min | Armenian





Hayk, withdrawn and aloof child, lives on a farm with his aunt Narine. Local teenagers mock him, deeming him strange and weak. Narine cares for him as if he were her own son. After a lengthy stay in another country, Hayk's mother Anahit, a beautiful woman in her late twenties, returns to the farm. The locals openly condemn her behavior because she does not follow the rules of society. Narine, unable to forgive Anahit for the shame brought upon her with her behavior, decides to take revenge.





Director's comment

The idea for this film first came to me in 2022, after relocating to Armenia. I was deeply moved by this country — its culture, nature, and people. Contemporary Armenia holds within it layers of both the past and the present, coexisting in a constant, unresolved tension, and yet somehow complementing one another.

Through the story, I wanted to symbolically reflect the clash between the archaic mindset of a traditional society and the quiet rebellion of a younger generation seeking individuality and personal freedom, even in the face of social constraints. In order to preserve authenticity and create a sense of documentary realism, I chose to work primarily with non-professional actors or those with minimal film experience. My main goal was to find the right personalities — individuals who already embody the spirit of a certain era through their very presence.

The Armenian landscape itself is remarkably lyrical and musical; it holds a metaphysical quality that is conveyed in the film through the image of a freedom wind. The vivid, Parajanov-inspired color palette is organically complemented by the music of American independent composer Steve Brand. His sound carries the film into the realm of magical realism. I had been listening to his compositions while still writing the script, never imagining that, once he saw the footage, he would allow us to use his music in the film.



Maria Rigel director

Maria Rigel was born in 1993. In 2015 graduated from Moscow State University, Faculty of Philology, in 2017 - master's degree at VGIK, screenwriting workshop of Yu. N. Arabov. In 2022, she studied at the MSNC (workshop of D. Mamuliya). Candidate of Art History since 2022. Since 2022 moved to Armenia, works as a director and producer in the EMA production film company.

Her debut Dream was a part the Shanghai International Film Festival 2021, Lucania Film Festival 2022, Salón Internacional de la Luz 2022, Vittorio Veneto Film Festival 2022, Cottbus Film Festival 2023



Steve Brand composer

A lifelong artist and musician, based in Roeland Park, Kansas, USA, Steve Brand originally recorded and released in the experimental realm under the name "Augur," with more than 20 limited edition releases on various independent labels. In 2003, Steve began creating in the "ambient" genre under his own name. He describes this change in moniker and musical expression as "Part of the process of moving out of my head and more into my heart." Since then, Brand has issued a number of self-released disks, as well as a number of solo and collaborative releases on the esteemed U.S. labels, Hypnos and AtmoWorks, and the Italian label, Afe. Most recently on Relaxed Machinery and his own label, Pioneer Light Music.

Ayrat Yamilov cinematographer

In 2013, he graduated from the Faculty of Screen Arts of the St. Petersburg State Institute of Film and Television (SPbGUKiT/SPbGIKiT) with a degree in Cinematography. He worked with the students of Alexander Sokurov,was a cinematographer on such films as "A Russian Youth" (2019) directed by Alexander Zolotukhin, "Sofichka" (2016) by Kira Kovalenko as well as with the student of Alexei German Sr., Ivan Bolotnikov - Palmyra (2020).



STARRING ALBERT BABAJANYAN LUSINE AVANESYAN ANNIKA ABRAHAMYAN

DIRECTOR & SCRIPT MARIA RIGEL DOP AYRAT YAMILOV PRODUCERS ERNEST BAGDASARYAN, MARIA RIGEL, GALA MINASOVA SOUND DIRECTOR IVAN BARTUSENKO EDITING ALEKSEY SHEVCHENKO COMPOSER STEVE BRAND

> Production company EmoProduction World Sales Antipode Sales International <u>https://www.antipode-sales.biz</u>



