



UNCLE VANYA

ONKEL WANJA

a film by Anna Martinetz
based on the play by Anton Chekhov

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FEATURE / In Cinemas 2017

Genre: Ecology, Drama, Literature, Theater

Director: Anna Martinetz

Screenplay: Anna Martinetz

With: Martin Butzke, Korinna Krauss, Manuel Rubey, Julia Dietze, Wolfgang Hübisch, Katalin Zsigmondy, Doris Buchrucker, Marion Krawitz

Producers: Ina Mikkat, Ben Brummer

Production Company: NoMa Filmproduktion UG (haftungsbeschränkt) / Toni Nottebohm, Anna Martinetz

In co-production with: ZDF/Das kleine Fernsehspiel / Burkhard Althoff

Funding: FFF Bayern / Prof. Dr. Klaus Schäfer, Adina Mungenast

Distribution: One Filmverleih

Original Version German

Contact: NoMa Filmproduktion/Anna Martinetz, anna.martinetz@web.de



“...when I hear the rustling in the young trees that I have planted with my own hands then I say that the climate of my homeland is also a little bit in my power and that I can contribute to the happiness of future generations if people are going to feel happy in a thousand years...” (Astrow in Uncle Vanya by Anton Chekhov)

SYNOPSIS:

A revolution breaks out, caused by a financial crisis, business intrigues and corresponding natural disasters. Alexander flees from the uprising in the capital to Uncle Vanya's farm on the countryside. There Alexander and his beautiful wife Elena cause further chaos with Alexander's business ideas. Will Vanya and Sonja manage to protect their farm from the outrage of capitalism?

Following her award-winning adaptation of Schnitzler's *Fräulein Else*, writer-director Anna Martinetz has returned to literature for her contemporary interpretation of Anton Chekhov's play *Uncle Vanya*. By combining documentary elements with Chekhov's original dialogues, Martinetz shows that the clash of generations and ideologies is as topical today as it was more than 100 years ago in pre-revolutionary Russia. Reasons for economic and financial crises become apparent through the inclusion of real-life telephone and email correspondence from the 2008 financial crisis, while the challenges faced by a landowner like Uncle Vanya are underscored through interviews with today's sustainable farming community. (Martin Blaney)

Film Duration: 220 minutes

First Feature Film (first feature film after film school, second feature film over all)

Cast: MARTIN BUTZKE (Uncle Vanya), KORINNA KRAUSS (Sonja), MANUEL RUBEY (Astrow), WOLFGANG HÜBSCH (Professor Alexander), JULIA DIETZE (Elena), KATALIN ZSIGMONDY (Vanya's Mother), DÖRIS BUCHRUCKER (Old Nurse), MARION KRAWITZ (Artist)

Team: **Cinematographer:** Jakob Wiessner, **Sound:** Martial Kuchelmeister, **Production:** Toni Nottebohm, Anna Martinetz, **Producer:** Ina Mikkat, Ben Brummer, **Costumes:** Anna Sophie Howoldt, **Light:** Heiner Heinke, **1st AD:** Johanna Pauline Maier

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT: The dialogue in the film is a blend of real existing conversations between bankers during the financial crisis 2008 and real bank emergency plans on the one hand as well as the literary text of Anton Chekhov's play on the other. The structure of the film follows the cyclical and open structure of Chekhov's play. The film is a blend of mainly fictional material in combination with documentary material. As Uncle Vanya is a farmer it reflects agricultural practice today. Anna Martinetz was struck by the similarities between Anton Chekhov's work from the last century highlighting environmental problems and social change as it is encountered today. The revolutionary potential within Chekhov's society can be felt today again. In Chekhov's time as well as today debts put people in danger of being subjected to severe disadvantages nationally and individually. There is a beauty in the way the characters work for a better world in Chekhov's play - and their ideas seem still very modern and accurate to fight climate change today. There is a gap between generations. The younger generation searches for ways to unfold itself. Uncle Vanya is the second part of a trilogy about money. The first part is the film *Fräulein Else* (India / D / A 2013) based on the novel by Arthur Schnitzler, the third part will be *The Merchant of Venice* based on the play by William Shakespeare.



BIOGRAPHY & FILMOGRAPHY: Anna Martinetz, born in Vienna, Austria, studied Archaeology and Anthropology at Cambridge University and documentary film directing at the University of Television and Film in Munich. She writes her PhD in Trauma and Film. "Fräulein Else" was her first fiction film and her graduation film at the University of Television and Film in Munich. "Fräulein Else" is based on the novel by Arthur Schnitzler, in 2013 it premiered in Montreal at the One World Film Festival, was reviewed in Variety and at the Berlinale 2015 it won the Award for the Best Feature Film Debut of the German Film Critics Association after being released in cinemas in Germany and Austria in 2014 (http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2800308/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1, <http://variety.com/2013/film/global/else-review-montreal-1200600282/>, Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AigfJX6qF8k>). She currently works on her second feature film, "Uncle Vanya" based on the play by Anton Chekhov. Annas films are being collected by the Austrian Film Archive and therefore part of the Austrian audiovisual cultural heritage.

AWARDS: Berlinale 2015 Award of the German Film Critics Association for "Fräulein Else", Nomination for the Max-Ophüls prize 2014, Bavarian Young Award for the feature film "Fräulein Else". Nomination for the German Human-Rights-Film-Award 2012 for the documentary "Edna - a Nanny in Hong-kong". Best Newcomer Film in 2005 / 2006 at the Diagonale, Festival of Austrian Film, for the documentary "Urban Utopias or the Legend of Synia". Anna started with documentary film making. Her first film "Chukka" was shot in St. Moritz in Switzerland, premiered at the FID Marseille and was shown at several international festivals. "Urban Utopias or the Legend of Synia" was her first feature length documentary shot in China, followed by the documentaries "Doris Dörrie stages Mozart" filmed at the Salzburger Festspiele and the feature length documentary "Marriages are Made in Heaven" shot in India and "Edna - A Nanny in Hongkong" shot in Honkong.