# 7 The Last, eagust



DIRECTED BY TONISLAV HRISTOV WAITTEN BY TONISLAV HRISTOV. KAARLE AHD DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ORLIN RUEVSKI COMPOSER PETAR DUNDAKOV. EDITOR ANDERS TEIGEN. NFK. SOUND DESIGNER SANDER STEDENFELDT OLSEN CO-PRODUCERS TORSTEIN PARELIUS. INGRID GALADRIEL AUNE FALCH. CHRISTIAN AUNE FALCH. ANDREA STANDEVA. PRODUCERS KAARLE AHD. KAI NORDBERG FINNISH FILM FOUNDATION YLE NORDISK FILM & TV FOND. AVEK. NORWEGIAN FILM INSTITUTE. MIDTNORSK FILMSENTER. THE FRITT ORD FOUNDATION BULGARUAN NATIONAL FILM CENTER. BNT. V6TV. INTERNATIONAL SALES CAT&DOCS.





























# THE LAST SEAGULL

# A Documentary Film by TONISLAV HRISTOV

**DURATION** 79 min

LANGUAGES Bulgarian, Russian, English

SUBTITLES English

PRODUCTION COUNTRIES Finland, Norway, Bulgaria

YEAR OF PRODUCTION 2023 SCREENING FORMAT DCP

**DIRECTOR** Tonislav Hristov

WRITERS Tonislav Hristov & Kaarle Aho

CINEMATOGRAPHY Orlin Ruevski

EDITOR Anders Teigen NFK

MUSIC Petar Dundakov
SOUND DESIGN Sander Stedenfe

SOUND DESIGN Sander Stedenfeldt Olsen PRODUCERS Kaarle Aho & Kai Nordberg/

Making Movies (FIN)

CO-PRODUCERS Torstein Parelius &

Ingrid Galadriel Aune Falch &

Christian Aune Falch/ UpNorth Film (NOR) Andrea Stanoeva/ Soul Food (BUL)

### **INTERNATIONAL SALES & FESTIVALS**

CAT&Docs www.catndocs.com

### **FINANCIERS**

Finnish Film Foundation, AVEK, Yle, VGTV, Norwegian Film Institute, Mid-Norway Film Center, Freedom of Expression Foundation, Nordisk Film & Tv Fond, Bulgarian National Film Center, Bulgarian National Television





for 40 years. Now the time has come for him to reassess his life choices.

### SHORT SYNOPSIS:

Ivan, 58, is a seagull, a Bulgarian ladies' man hooking up with female tourists at the Sunny Beach resort. He has done this for 40 years, ever since the communist times.

Ivan wants to settle down, but that's not so easy for an old Seagull. He's got no savings and the pandemic makes things even more difficult; there's no tourists. Ivan supports himself by washing cars and windows. He tries to connect to Russian ladies in order to help them to get visas to EU and buy property in Bulgaria. He soon understands, that he's not really credible as a serious male companion.

Ivan's real wound is an adult son in Ukraine who refuses to talk to him. Maybe now, spring 2022, would be the right time to re-connect.

### DIRECTOR'S WORD by TONISLAV HRISTOV

I met Ivan 8 years ago when I was preparing to film my documentary "The Good Postman". At that time we did not talk much, but later we became good friends. Ivan took part in that documentary.

For the last few years I have been following him up. His relationship to Russia and Ukraine through the last 30 years fascinated me. During the communism Ivan worked as a night-time bartender at the Sunny Beach, Bulgaria. During the day he was at the beach with his friends trying to hook up with tourist women from Eastern Germany, Nordic countries or USSR. The place was very popular tourist destination then, as it is now. He had a child with a Ukrainian woman. Ivan has not seen him for 18 years, since she left him. This is when Ivan went back to the beach, doing what he knew the best, looking for women at day and working in bars at night.

When the Covid-19 pandemic started in the year 2020, the life of the "Seagulls" rapidly changed, since there were no more tourist at the beach. That was very hard for Ivan. He hoped that next summer things would have gone back to "normal". But no, it lasted, and when it went away there was the war.

On the surface the movie is about Ivan, The Last Seagull. But what the film is really about is the new Europe and the Balkans and how rapidly the life and politics have changed, just in one person's life time. And from the point of view of a very peculiar profession.





### DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Tonislav Hristov (b. 1978) is a filmmaker born in Bulgaria, based in Finland and Bulgaria. He has directed 8 documentary films and 1 feature film. His films have been screened in numerous festivals around the world, including Sundance, Berlinale, IDFA, HotDocs etc. His documentary The Good Postman (IDFA 2016, Sundance 2017) was nominated for the European Film Awards in 2017. Magic Life of V premiered in Sundance and Berlinale 2019.

## DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2023	Documentary film	The Last Seagull (79 min)	
2022	Feature film	The Good Driver (100 min)	
2019	Documentary film	The Magic Life of V (87 min)	
2016	Documentary film	The Good Postman (82min)	
2015	Documentary film	Once Upon a Dream -	
		A Journey to the Last Spaghetti Western (60min)	
2014	Documentary film	Love & Engineering (85min)	
2013	Documentary film	Soul Food Stories (70min)	
2011	Documentary film	Rules of Single life (78min)	
2008	Documentary film	Family fortune (52min)	

### **MAKING MOVIES**

Established in 1996, Making Movies is a production company based in Helsinki, and owned by producers Kai Nordberg and Kaarle Aho. It has produced 15 feature films and more than 50 documentaries, shorts and TV-dramas.

The feature films by Making Movies include My Sailor, My Love (Toronto IFF 2022) and The Fencer (nominated for the Golden Globes and shortlisted for Oscars 2016) by Klaus Härö, and Little Wing (Toronto IFF 2016, winner of the Nordic Film Award 2017) by Selma Vilhunen.

The documentaries produced by Making Movies include many award winning films like Happiness, (Sundance 2014) and A Decent Factory (IDFA 2004) by Thomas Balmés, In the Dark (2004) by Sergey Dvortsevoy, The Magic Life of V (Sundance 2019, Berlinale 2019) and The Good Postman (IDFA 2016, Sundance 2017, nominated for the European Film Award 2017) by Tonislav Hristov, and as a co-producer The Look of Silence (Oscar nominated for the best feature documentary 2016) by Joshua Oppenheimer and Innocence (Venice 2022) by Guy Davidi. The films by Making Movies have been screened in A-festivals such as Berlinale, Sundance, Toronto, Venice, IDFA and HotDocs.

PRODUCTION COMPANY MAKING MOVIES

Torkkelinkatu 3, 00500 Helsinki, FIN

www.mamo.fi kaarle.aho@mamo.fi INTERNATIONAL SALES AND FESTIVALS CAT&Docs

18 rue Quincampoix, 75004 Paris, FRA

www.catndocs.com info@catndocs.com

