

ZEITGEIST FILMS PRESENTS

ARCHANGEL

A Tragedy of The Great War

"Destined to become a monumental cult classic"
- Variety



A film by Guy Maddin
Director of 'Tales from the Gimli Hospital'

ZEITGEIST FILMS LTD.

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ARCHANGEL

Directed by Guy Maddin

Produced by Greg Klymkiw

CREW

Producer - Greg Klymkiw

Director - Guy Maddin

Screenwriters - Guy Maddin, George Toles

Line Producer - Tracy Traeger

Director of Photography - Guy Maddin

Art Directors - Jeff Solylo, Guy Maddin

Production Designers - Dennis Smith, Guy Maddin

Editor - Guy Maddin

Executive Producer - Andre Bennett

Assistant Director - Deanne Rohde

Casting Director - Greg Klymkiw

Unit Publicist - Greg Klymkiw

Camera - Gerry Turchyn

Lighting - Terry Reimer

Head Carpenter - Dennis Smith

Props - Deanne Rohde

Production Assistant - Hans Ter Horst

Set Dressers - Michael Powell, Shirley Macklin, Murray Toews

Special Effects - Professor Steve Snyder

Assistant Editor - Therese Brabant

Production Secretary - Angela Heck

Sound Design - Guy Maddin

Sound Editor - Guy Maddin

Sound Mixer - Clive Perry

Negative Cutter - Dawna Dobbs

Animation - Patrick Lowe

Financing - Telefilm Canada, Canada Council, Winnipeg Film Group, Manitoba Arts Council, Canada-Manitoba Cultural Industries Development Office

CAST

Lt. John Boles - Kyle McCulloch

Veronkha - Kathy Marykuca

Philbin - Ari Cohen

Danchuk - Sarah Neville

Jannings - Michael Gottli

Geza - David Falkenberg

Doctor - Michael O'Sullivan

Baba - Margaret Anne Macleod

Captain - Victor Cowie

Monk - Ihor Procak

Kaiser Wilhelm - Professor Steve Snyder

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BIOGRAPHY OF GUY MADDIN

Winnipeg filmmaker Guy Maddin was born thirty three years ago in the West End of Winnipeg. As a child he lived in a suite above his Aunt Lil's beauty salon on Ellice Avenue. It was here where his destiny as a filmmaker began. Named after the famous 1950's B-movie actor Guy Madison, Maddin quickly developed a love for the cinema. On a family vacation to Hollywood when he was a mere five years old, Guy was treated to a horsey-back ride by the famous movie star and crooner, Bing Crosby.

Maddin stands six feet tall. His hair is colored mousy blonde. His eyes are a delightful grey-blue. His weight is a lean, trim 175 pounds. There is a long scar running the length of his right leg which he sustained from a faulty zipper in the fly of a new pair of pants.

On a whim, Guy decided to direct films. In 1985, Guy Maddin directed the short experimental drama **THE DEAD FATHER**. **TALES FROM THE GIMLI HOSPITAL**, his first feature film, was made in 1988. His latest feature film is **ARCHANGEL**, a war tragedy. Someday soon, Maddin hopes to direct a musical in the style of East Indian operettas. This, of course, would be his first color film.

FILMOGRAPHY OF GUY MADDIN

THE DEAD FATHER (1985)

TALES FROM THE GIMLI HOSPITAL (1988)

ARCHANGEL (1990)

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BIOGRAPHY OF KYLE MCCULLOCH (LT. JOHN BOLES)

Award-winning actor, filmmaker, former rock star and ladies man, Kyle McCulloch can usually be found haunting the hottest bistros and nightclubs the world over and keeping company with internationally-revered and worshipped beauties. McCulloch has been romantically and professionally linked with such luminaries as Mitsou (the sultry "Quebecois" songstress), Mandy Brooks (the vivacious granddaughter of silent screen siren Louise Brooks) Michelle Pfeiffer (Academy Award-nominated actress) and Viva (star of numerous Andy Warhol films). This, of course, has made McCulloch natural star material for numerous films which have been produced in the filmmaking hotbed that is Winnipeg -- The New Wave Hollywood of the Great White North.

McCulloch began his acting career playing the leading role of "Tom" in Greg Klymkiw's theatrical production THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE. From there, McCulloch secured leading roles with The Black Hole Theatre Company, The Manitoba Theatre Centre and the Prairie Theatre Exchange. On screen, McCulloch was featured in John Paizs' OAK, IVY AND OTHER DEAD ELMS, Bruce Duggan's MIKE and Lorne Bailey's THE GREY MATTER. It wasn't until his leading role as Einar in Guy Maddin's cult classic TALES FROM THE GIMLI HOSPITAL that McCulloch was truly considered a star.

McCulloch was also the lead singer in a number of successful Canadian rock bands. His powerful voice, baby-faced looks and Satanic stage hijinx all blended together to garner him the greatest glory of them all--McCulloch was dubbed by Rolling Stone magazine "The Sid Vicious of Winnipeg". After that, he had many luncheons with Bianca Jagger, Jodie Foster, Brooke Shields and Pia Zadora at the Covent Gardens' Hard Rock Cafe in London.

Kyle has directed several rock videos and is currently editing his latest film comedy, HIGH HOPES. Members of both Guns N' Roses and Aerosmith are big fans of McCulloch's work and are in the process of negotiated several projects in collaboration with him.

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BIOGRAPHY OF GREG KLYMKIW

Greg Klymkiw was conceived thirty years ago in Detroit. He was, unfortunately, born in Winnipeg. Klymkiw's love for film began when he was eight years old and sat in Winnipeg's Metropolitan Theatre (a now-abandoned motion picture palace), where he laid eyes on the opening night performance of PLANET OF THE APES and realized there and then that he had no other choice than to be a film producer. This, sadly enough, did not happen overnight. Klymkiw began his career as a journalist and broadcaster. His film and theatre reviews appeared in a variety of publications, including The Winnipeg Sun, The Winnipeg Free Press and CBC Radio. Klymkiw also served as a repertory cinema programmer in Winnipeg and a film booking agent for rural cinemas in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and north-western Ontario.

Klymkiw first met Guy Maddin in 1979 when they collaborated on a theatrical comedy revue entitled AFTER ALL IS DONE AND SAID. Soon after, they became roommates and shared a suite in Winnipeg's bohemian hotbed, Fort Rouge. They spent many long hours, days, weeks, months and years going for haircuts and retiring to their apartment to listen to scratchy 78 recordings of such legendary fruity tenors as Richard Crooks, Bing Crosby and Rudy Vallee. Klymkiw also directed numerous theatrical productions for The Black Hole Theatre Company in Winnipeg. One of these shows starred Guy Maddin as Dr. Cukrowicz in Tennessee Williams' SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER. Other plays which Klymkiw directed include William Saroyan's THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE, Murray Schisgal's LUV, Eugene O'Neill's HUGHIE and Paul Zinden's THE EFFECT OF GAMMA RAYS ON MAN IN THE MOON MARIGOLDS. KLYMKIW went on to produce several low-budget films and television series. He is now producing Guy Maddin's new film CAREFUL, and writes an industry trade column for "Cinema Canada."

FILMS PRODUCED BY GREG KLYMKIW

SPRINGTIME IN GREENLAND (1982)
OAK, IVY AND OTHER DEAD ELMS (1983)
THE INTERNATIONAL STYLE (1984)
TALES FROM THE GIMLI HOSPITAL (1988)
ARCHANGEL (1990)
SMOKED LIZARD LIPS (1990)

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SYNOPSIS

Nestled beneath a fluffy white blanket of forgetfulness is Archangel: a crystalline city of spires and onion-domes. A Canadian soldier, a Belgian aviator and a Russian nurse - so clouded over by mustard gas and the horrors of war - are afflicted with severe memory disorders, forgetting at any given moment with whom they are in love.

Lt. John Boles (Kyle McCulloch) is a one-legged Canadian soldier who finds himself in the Russian Arctic at the cusp of the Revolution and World War One: his mission to assist the White Russians in their fight against Lenin's Bolsheviks and Kaiser Wilhelm's Huns.

Boles is in love with Iris. Iris, however, is dead. In Archangel, Boles meets Veronkha (Kathy Marykuca), a beautiful Russian nurse. Assuming she is his beloved Iris, Boles falls madly in love with her. Veronkha, however, is already married to Philbin (Ari Cohen), a Belgian aviator whose memory has been seriously damaged by mustard gas. Philbin keeps forgetting he is married to Veronkha. Veronkha, thinking Boles is really Philbin, falls in love with Boles.

Danchuk (Sarah Neville), a White Russian soldier (and landlady to Boles) is married to the cowardly (and disgustingly obese) Jannings (Michael Gottli). She falls in love with Boles. Boles thinks he might love Danchuk, but loves Veronkha more. He is, however, truly in love with Iris. Iris is, unfortunately, dead.

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Biography - Kathy Marykuca (Veronkha)

Kathy Marykuca, the twenty-three year old female lead of ARCHANGEL, was born in Winnipeg and raised in Yellowknife. Kathy is a Criminology student at the University of Manitoba. She has acted in several theatrical productions at The Black Hole Theatre including SWINGING, A MOUTHFUL OF BIRDS and BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS. ARCHANGEL represents her motion picture debut.

Biography - Ari Cohen (Philbin)

Ari Cohen is a twenty-three year old theatre student at the University of Manitoba. Born and raised in Winnipeg, Ari has appeared in numerous theatrical productions at Winnipeg's Black Hole Theatre Company and the Manitoba Theatre Centre, including roles in WHA!, FALSTAFF, MARY BARNES and TARTUFFE. ARCHANGEL is his first motion picture.

Biography - Sarah Neville (Danchuk)

Sarah Neville is a twenty year old theatre student at the University of Manitoba. Born and raised in Winnipeg, Sarah has appeared in numerous theatrical productions at Winnipeg's Black Hole Theatre Company, including roles in A MOUTHFUL OF BIRDS and TRANSLATIONS. ARCHANGEL is her first motion picture.

Biography - Michael Gottli (Jannings)

Michael Gottli is one of Canada's most accomplished actors and comedians. Gottli appears regularly across the country on the Yuk Yuks standup comedy circuit. He has been seen in numerous theatrical productions at Winnipeg's Black Hole Theatre Company and the Manitoba Theatre Centre. Gottli has appeared in such films as MIKE, RAPE FANTASIES and MOB STORY. He was last seen as "Gunnar" in Guy Maddin's TALES FROM THE GIMLI HOSPITAL.

Biography - David Falkenberg (Geza)

Twelve year old David has been seen in many commercial and films. He has also acted with the Manitoba Theatre Centre.

Biography - Margaret-Anne Macleod (Baba)

Margaret Anne is a veteran of numerous Winnipeg films and stage productions. She was last seen as "Anna the Storyteller" in TALES FROM THE GIMLI HOSPITAL.

Biography - Michael O'Sullivan (Doctor)

Michael is a real doctor. When he isn't treating people, he acts for The Black Hole Theatre Company plays such as MARY BARNES and TRANSLATIONS.

Biography - Victor Cowie (Captain)

Victor is a professor of English and Theatre at the University of Manitoba. He has been acting, writing and directing for thirty years.

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Crew Biographies

Tracy Traeger - Line Producer

Traeger is an accomplished filmmaker and producer. Her directing credits include RAPE FANTASIES (a half-hour drama based on Margaret Atwood's short story) and WE'RE TALKING VULVA (a very different sort of rock video). She had produced several films including THE MONSTER IN THE COAL BIN. When she is not working on films, Tracy can be found in her Sandy Hook cottage resort, sipping tequila or visiting Guy Maddin and Greg Klymkiw at their cottages in nearby Gimli.

George Toles - Co-Screenwriter

George is a professor of film and theatre at the University of Manitoba. He has served as a story editor on many Winnipeg Film Group productions including John Paizs' CRIMEWAVE and Guy Maddin's TALES FROM THE GIMLI HOSPITAL. Toles has directed many plays for the Black Hole Theatre Company, including HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES, TRANSLATIONS, MARY BARNES, CRIMES OF THE HEART and THE CHERRY ORCHARD. Toles has also written film and literary criticism for many prestigious journals. He is a tall, thin fellow who can eat anything and everything without ever putting on an extra pound. For this, he is a hated man.

Jeff Solylo - Co-Art Director

Jeff is a photographer, artist, filmmaker and the leading baseball statistician in Winnipeg. He is currently directing his own film. His previous art direction credit was for Guy Maddin's TALES FROM THE GIMLI HOSPITAL. Jeff can often be found reading box scores and munching on double-decker sandwiches at Winnipeg's famous Harman's Drugs Lunch Counter.

Dennis Smith - Co-Production Designer

Dennis is one of the best and most prolific theatrical production designers in Winnipeg. He has designed sets and lighting for numerous plays. ARCHANGEL is his first film. He has served as the technical director for THE BLACK HOLE THEATRE COMPANY and PRARIE THEATRE EXCHANGE. He is currently living in Africa, setting up a new theatre program at the University of Zimbabwe.

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PRODUCTION NOTES 1:

Opulent ARCHANGEL Set Largest In Canadian Film History

In this magnificent new photoplay by Guy Maddin, produced Greg Klymkiw spared no expense in presenting movie-goers the world over a magical trip back into the romantic, exotic, dangerous and mysterious period of the Russian Revolution and World War One.

20,000 square feet of abandoned warehouse space was transformed into a mythical soundstage, creating the grandest, most opulent set in the history of Canadian film.

Director Guy Maddin and his team of artisans--Art Director Jeff Solylo, Props Designer Deanne Rohde, Set Dressers Michael Powell and Shirley Macklin and Production Designer Dennis Smith--created several outstanding setpieces for use in this period war tragedy. From the grand onion domes of Mother Russia to a mighty British steamship; no order was too tall for the skilled and dedicated ARCHANGEL team.

Several thousand craftsmen and carpenters were employed on the ARCHANGEL art department chain gang. Pre-production was ruled with an iron fist. Artistry of the highest order was the prime goal. Any work that was less than excellent was dealt with harshly. All layabouts were subject to daily floggings. Some were pilloried in the ARCHANGEL stocks.

But, ultimately, the workers were happy. The supreme law was excellence and their deference to this mandate made for a well-oiled production team. On a normal work day, as the production drones slaved to create the most magnificent sets in Canadian film history, Producer Greg Klymkiw (adorned in the garb of his ancestors, a colorful and ornately decorated cossack uniform) and Director Guy Maddin (attired in black leather riding boots, jodphurs and sporting an eyepatch) bellowed words of encouragement into the ultra-supreme ARCHANGEL megaphones. The workers, with their sweaty, rippling muscles, would slave under the sensitive eyes of their leaders. Slaves, yes. But slaves to excellence!!!

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PRODUCTION NOTES 2:

Guy Maddin Invents New Method of Directing Actors; Auteur Filmmaker Guarantees Oscar-Calibre Performances.

In Greg Klymkiw's production of ARCHANGEL, A Tragedy of the Great War, Director Guy Maddin invented a brand new method of directing actors for the silver screen. "Some directors waste their time with such things as character development, motivation and sense memory," said Maddin. "I have invented my own method of eliciting Oscar-calibre performances."

Maddin, convinced that ALL human emotion could be characterized by ten basic facial expressions, began rehearsals by coaching the actors with his ALL NEW, GUARANTEED method. In fact, actors were not allowed to read the script until they were COMPLETELY familiar with Maddin's meticulously numbered expression-codes.

According to Maddin, the ten BASIC expressions of ALL human emotion are:

1. FEAR
2. JEALOUSY
3. HATRED
4. REGRET
5. SORROW
6. FORGETFULNESS
7. LONGING
8. SHAME
9. RETRIBUTION
10. LOVE

Rather than wasting precious time explaining things to his actors, Maddin would bark out orders such as "Number Six!!! Number Six!!! Good. Good. Now give me a number two."

Leading played Kyle McCulloch (who plays Lt. John Boles) was particularly enthusiastic about Maddin's ALL-NEW, GUARANTEED method. "It was perfect," said McCulloch. "By the end of the film I realized that Guy had let me do all ten numbers. Boy, was I ever amazed. I have never had such an understanding of human behavior. For the first time in my life, I felt what it truly meant to be alive."

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PRODUCTION NOTES 3:

Klymkiw Employs Famed Psychiatrist for Cast & Crew.

Daily Pressures Include Hysteria and Labour Fatigue

Faced with a cast and crew plagued by hysteria and labour fatigue, Producer Greg Klymkiw had only one alternative - to secure the services of famed psychiatrist, the Comte deLautremont, author of Director Guy Maddin's favorite book, MALDOROR.

Says Klymkiw: "There was one day on the set when a number of grips, production assistants and actors could do little more than insanely rant about their childhood. It would be time to set up a shot and several groups of people would be sitting around in circles, complaining about a variety of parental indiscretions they suffered as children. I noted that the most common complaints from male members of cast and crew were those of daily stool inspections by their mothers. Some of them were having their excrement inspected up to sixteen or seventeen years of age. Upon reporting my findings to Guy Maddin, he believed there was no other solution than to bring the Comte deLautremont onto the set."

Klymkiw continues: "This, of course, helped immeasurably. The genteel Comte deLautremont would recite passages of sensual grace and beauty from his magnificent work, MALDOROR. Soon everyone on set began chanting the soothing words of the Comte: 'O! Celibate Ocean! Cleanse me with your murky waters. O! Octopus! Magnificent, tentacled creature! Ease my pain with your gentle eyes.' It was quite transcendent and it worked wonders. By the end of the shoot, every member of the cast and crew were bestowed with personally signed copies of deLautremont's great work."

Klymkiw highly recommends The Comte deLautremont to all producers who are encountering insurmountable labor difficulties during a film shoot.

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PRODUCTION NOTES 4:

Actor Seriously Injured During Disemboweling Sequence.

Michael Gottli's Actual Intestines Visible in Release Print.

Actor Michael Gottli, who portrays Jannings the Coward in Greg Klymkiw's production of Guy Maddin's ARCHANGEL, was seriously injured during a disemboweling sequence.

In the scene, Jannings is accosted by three drooling, psychotic Bolsheviks who slice his stomach open. Director Guy Maddin, seeking realism at every turn, insisted upon using a real bayonet. During the actual shoot, the blade pierced through the fake stomach pouch and tore into actor Michael Gottli's flesh. With Gottli doubled over in pain, various crew members offered to rush him to the hospital. This was not to be since Director Guy Maddin insisted that shooting would proceed as planned.

Gottli is currently in the hospital. In a recent interview he said, "I couldn't let the ARCHANGEL team down. But I especially couldn't let Guy Maddin down. To me, Maestro Maddin is a God. No, let me rephrase that. Guy Maddin is God. I would do anything for him." Gottli was particularly grateful to Maddin for two reasons. "First of all," continues Gottli, "Maddin gave me the opportunity to deliver the performance of a lifetime. Since my real intestines and real blood were mixed with the strings of Ukrainian Sausage and Hershey's Chocolate Syrup, I was able to express the pain and rage of my character with an unparalleled intensity. Secondly, the accident has kept me here in the hospital for several months and I have been able to lose sixty pounds."

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PRODUCTION NOTES 5:

Guy Maddin Lives in Winnipeg Film Group Editing Suite For Six Months; Cleanliness Is Key To Post-Production Success

Refusing to leave the fifth floor of the Winnipeg Film Group Studios, Guy Maddin spent the entire post-production period within the confines of the editing suite. Editing on a Steenbeck, Maddin only left the room for an occasional meal and to wash himself in the Film Group's public washrooms.

"This is my prison cell," said Maddin. "I like prison."

Cleanliness, however, was all important. Said Maddin: "Being clean takes precedence over everything in life. If one is filthy, then one's work is filthy. Filth is a disease more foul and rotten than the maggots which feast upon the putrid corpses of my dead relatives."

Every morning, and then, thrice daily, Maddin retired to the fifth floor public washrooms to ablate himself with paper towels and green liquid pumice. He would pay particular attention to the areas left sweat-drenched by lengthy sessions on his favorite vinyl swivel-chair. Feeling refreshed and exhilarated, Maddin was then able to plunge back into post-production with considerable relish.

"A clean body," said Maddin, "makes for a clean mind. A clean mind makes for a better film."

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PRODUCTION NOTES 6:

Ping-Pong, The Game of Choice For ARCHANGEL Team;
Crew Lets Guy Maddin Win Every Time

To ease tensions on the set of ARCHANGEL, produced Greg Klymkiw ordered several ping-pong tables. When crew members became uncooperative, surly and/or violent, a break was called and all would stop to compete in a few healthy rounds of this highly competitive sport.

"It was a great way of dealing with people's massive egos," said Klymkiw. "Ping-Pong is a sport that just naturally brings you down to Earth."

One day, however, Director Guy Maddin observed a couple of grips indulging in the addictive game. Maddin was amused and delighted with the way in which the little white ball would bounce back and forth on the green table.

"What manner of sport is this?" Maddin inquired. He then grabbed a paddle and indulged in a game with a lowly production assistant. Maddin lost his first game. The score was 21 for the production assistant and 0 for Maddin. In a fit of rage, Maddin threatened to ram his paddle down the production assistant's throat. The terrified crew member agreed to play one more game. Miraculously, Maddin won.

From that point on, Maddin never lost a game to anyone (especially lowly crew members) and was bestowed with the official ARCHANGEL Ping-Pong Crown of Glory.