

KINO LORBER
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presents

KHODORKOVSKY

A Film by Cyril Tuschi



German / 2011 / 111 min. / Color / 1.85:1 / Dolby Digital 5.1 / German, English and Russian with English subtitles

A Kino Lorber Release
from Kino Lorber, Inc.
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FILM FESTIVAL PREMIERE:

Berlin International Film Festival – 2011

SYNOPSIS

This exhilarating documentary chronicles Mikhail Khodorkovsky's transformation from a self-proclaimed socialist to a fully realized capitalist – also recounting the stunning turn of events that made him one of world's most famous political prisoners.

Weaving together in-depth interviews (including the first on-camera exchange with Khodorkovsky since his arrest), archival material, and stylized computer-animated reenactments, Tuschii shows us a man who embodies the paradox that is modern Russia – condemning the very corruption that helped make his fortune and envisioning a new Russia with respect for the rule of law.

Also covering the fight between Russia's richest man (Khodorkovsky) and the country's most powerful leader (Putin), Cyril Tuschii effortlessly integrates investigative journalism with in-depth political analysis, always contextualizing his narrative against political and cultural changes that reshaped Russian life in the last 20 years.

The film also dares to explore some of the still-unanswered questions about this mysterious story (e.g. Why didn't Khodorkovsky leave Russia before being arrested? How was Vladimir Putin threatened by Khodorkovsky? And if so, how?)

Stolen twice from the filmmaker's office before its Berlin premiere, *Khodorkovsky* is investigative journalism as political thriller – and an unflinching look at the state of the still-infant capitalist Russia.

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PRODUCTION CREDITS

Filmed, directed and produced by
Cyril Tuschi

Co-producer
Simone Bauman

Creative producers
Yelena Durden-Smith & Thomas Schmidt

Editing
Claudia Simonesci, Salome Machaidze and Cyril Tuschi

Narrated by
Jean-Marc Barr & Harvey Friedman

Music by
Arvo Part

Executive Producer – Claudia Gatzke
Commissioning Editor (BR) – Claudia Simonescu

Interview with Gerhard Schröder
by kind permission of Phoenix

Exerpts of Russian TV
by kind permission of RTVI Moscow

Excerpt of the Imagefilm
“Autumn in the Family Khodorkovsky”
by kind permission of Andrei Nikishan
All Russian Film Production, 2004

Excerpts from German TV
by kind permission of BR/ARD

Excerpt from the film
“How the Steel Was Hardened”
by kind permission of Uguy, Kiev

Photos of Putin
by kind permission of www.kremlin.ru

Excerpts of Putin's TV Speech
by kind permission of Rossija, 2009

Symphony Nr. 4 by Arvo Part

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Featuring:

Mikhail Khodorkovsky
Pavel Khodorkovsky
Marina Khodorkovskaya
Lena Khodorkovskaya
Anton Drel
Joschka Fischer
Vladimir Putin
George W. Bush
Anatoliy Chubays
Grigoriy Yavlinskiy
Nina Kravets
Maksim Valetzky
Leonid Nevzlin
Mikhail Brudno
Christian Michel
Evgeny Saburov
Aleksey Kondaurov
Dmitry Gololobov
Andrei V. Vasilyev
Boris Nemtsov
Ben Aris
Igor Yurgens
Alexander Temerko
Boris Ponomariov
Milan Horacek
Ilya Yashin

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

A Word from Cyril Tusch:

"I usually make fiction films. But at a film festival in Siberia, I heard about the fate that befell Khodorkovsky, and I immediately thought of making a fictional drama about this story. Yet, during my second trip to Russia, I realized that it was too early for a scripted fantasy about Khodorkovsky, so I immediately (almost five years ago) began to work on this documentary.

"I spent a lot of time in the Russian courts, following this case, and was therefore able to film the first interview with Khodorkovsky since his arrest. I also have a personal interest in telling this story; my great grandfather, Robert San-Galli, an italo-german industrialist, lived in St. Petersburg and was forced to flee the country during the October revolution."

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Cyril Tusch was born in 1969 in Frankfurt. After studying Philosophy in the United States in the late 1980s, he opened a nightclub and worked at the state theatre in Stuttgart. In 1992, his first short film *Frankfurt at the Seaside* (Frankfurt am Meer) was invited to several festivals in Germany. He then enrolled at the Film Academy Baden-Wuerttemberg.

In 1995, Tusch directed the short film *Nightland* (*Nachtland*, 1995), a Kafka adaptation which won the New York Academy Camera Prize in 1996. After years spent working on music videos, Tusch directed his feature film debut *Slight Changes in Temperature and Mind* (*Sommer Hunde Soehne*, 2004), a road movie that won several audience awards in Europe. Now, Tusch focuses his time on developing scripts and international co-productions for his company Lala Films.

Filmography:

- 1992 – *Frankfurt am Meer* (Short)
- 1993 – *Close* (7 min.) & *Angelus Novus* (8 min.)
- 1994 – *Excuses* (Video Clip, 5 min.)
- 1995 – *Windrush* (9 min.)
- 1996 – *Nightland* (Short) & *A Country Doctor* (Short)
- 1997 – *TURN!* (30 min.)
- 2004 – *Slight Changes in Temperature and Mind* (96 min.)