

THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA PROJECT

Documentary

(AT, BG, GR, IL, IS, IT, RU, TR, UK 2018)

Their stories, our history

A film by Alenka Maly



THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA *Their stories, our history* PROJECT



THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA PROJECT A FILM BY ALENKA MALY

WITH PENA CHEHLAROVA · ROSA GSTOTTENMAIR · HJÓRDIS KRISTJÁNSDÓTTIR · RUCHAMA NEUMAN · LUBOV PETROVA · MARIA PADLA SCALFI · MONICA TRIGG

MARIA TZIKA · MUZZAFFER COSARICAN ÜNVER · ALENKA MALY · ROLAND FREINSCHLAG · NORA CUMPFENBERGER · VERONIKA PETERSCHIL · BARBARA STEINER

MARGIT WENDELIN · ALENKA MALY · HADAS NEUMAN · FLEUR NIEDDU · ANNA SÆUNN ÓLAFSDÓTTIR · GIORGIA POLIZZI · BERKE SOYUER

DESI SLAVA RUMENOVA · TSONEVA · MARIA TZIKA · EKATERINA VOLKOVA

Produktion



Linz

NYARK
MEDIA

ANSNUJANS

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THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA PROJECT

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1. Contact

WEB <http://www.european-grandma-project.eu/>

FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/europeangrandmaproject/>

YOUTUBE <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxPo6mPKQwKOVQYq5CgDHKA>

MAIL european.grandma.project@gmail.com

Producer, Contact Festivals: Barbara Steiner (TEL 0043 677 61625803)

2. Screener link

Screener link (Downloadable):

<https://fil.email/lxY8XPy3>

Screener link online (Password protected)

<https://filmfreeway.com/TheEuropeanGrandmaProject>

Password : RocknRoll

3. Logline (100 words):

Their stories, our history.

THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA PROJECT Retells history from the perspective of women who were witnesses to contemporary history and who shaped the course of events.

Grandmothers from all over Europe tell their life stories to their granddaughters.

We show a female interpretation of events that took place during the past 100 years up to and including the modern day.

Politics has an impact everywhere: even in our personal lives.

We want to find out what kind of impact our grandmothers had to face.

Might history have turned out differently if our grandmothers had had a greater say?

4. Synopsis

4.1. Short Synopsis (192 words)

Austrian film director Alenka Maly started the European Oral History film project THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA PROJECT. In 2015 she launched a European-wide call and found eight like-minded

filmmakers, who created portraits of their grandmothers in parallel to one another in Israel, Greece, Italy, Iceland, Bulgaria, Russia, England, Turkey and Austria. These women, born in the 20s and early 30s of the last century, tell their filmmaking granddaughters about war, political upheavals, love, and everyday life in their time in Europe.

Relying on a large dose of humour and closeness that is impossible to feign without genuine intimacy, THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA PROJECT is not a mere compilation of nine encounters between granddaughters and their grandmothers, but also a poetic 20th-century history book of a different kind, compressed into 85 minutes.

All these women and their stories couldn't differ more and at the same time their lives and messages are very much alike. THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA PROJECT achieves the sense of togetherness that comes with the realization that, despite all our cultural differences, we are all in many ways actually quite similar. A film that Europe and the world needs in times like these.

4.2. Long Synopsis (370 words)

Austrian film director Alenka Maly started the European Oral History film project THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA PROJECT. In 2015 she launched a European-wide call and found eight like-minded filmmakers, who created portraits of their grandmothers in parallel to one another in Israel, Greece, Italy, Iceland, Bulgaria, Russia, England, Turkey and Austria. These women, born in the 20s and early 30s of the last century, tell their filmmaking granddaughters about war, political upheavals, love, and everyday life in their time in Europe.

The nine directors have succeeded in capturing an authentic panorama of European history on film and creating a small cinematic memorial for a group of women, which offers an insight into the dark chapters of European history of the 20th century for the generations born later.

Relying on a large dose of humour and closeness that is impossible to feign without genuine intimacy, THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA PROJECT is not a mere compilation of nine encounters between granddaughters and their grandmothers, but also a poetic 20th-century history book of a different kind, compressed into 80 minutes.

We admire grandma Ruchama, born in Stuttgart who went with the Jewish youth movement to Palestine when she was 16, without knowing she wouldn't ever see her family again; grandma Rosa who worked in the kitchen of an Austrian concentration camp; grandma Lubov whose mother died of hunger during the siege of Leningrad; grandma Maria who fought the Nazis as a young woman in the mountains with the partisans; grandma Monica who became a dancer at a young age and still is active; grandma Pena who established and led the town's reading center and got awarded the people's enlightener badge; grandma Disa who wrote in her diary every day since 50 years, grandma Paola still driving in her car; grandma Muzaffer who tells about the peaceful living together of Turks and Kurds.

All these women and their stories couldn't differ more and at the same time their lives and messages are very much alike. THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA PROJECT achieves the sense of togetherness that comes with the realization that, despite all our cultural differences, we are all in many ways actually quite similar. A film that Europe and the world needs in times like these.

5. Directors

Alenka Maly (AT), Hadas Neuman (IS), Fleur Nieddu (UK), Anna Ólafsdóttir (IL), Giorgia Polizzi (IT), Berke Soyuer (TR), Desislava Tsoneva (BG), Maria Tzika (GR), Ekaterina Volkova (RU)

5.1. Alenka Maly (AT)



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Alenka Maly is an actress and director based in Linz, Upper Austria. She completed her studies at the Bruckner Universität Linz and has been working as a theater and film actress in various German-speaking countries for the past ten years. She also holds a degree in Visual Media Design from the Kunstuniversität Linz (University of Art and Design Linz). She has been working as a film maker and stage director since 2002, her main focus being the aspect of social reality. As a video editor, she has completed many projects with fellow independent film makers, as well as projects for ORF (the Austrian national broadcaster).

Films (selection):

Kain Denkmal (premiered at Crossing Europe Film Festival Linz, 2004)

Noch gibt er nicht Milch (premiered at Crossing Europe, 2006)

Irmis Zeit (premiered at Heimatfilmfestival Freistadt, 2007 / Movimiento Linz)

Zwaso (premiered at Jerusalem Jewish Film Festival, 2009, Crossing Europe, 2009)

Haiti episode in Micha Schagrir's 'Hoppa, Hoppa Reiter'

Hammerweg* (premiered at Crossing Europe, 2010)

Director's Statement

Director's Statement Alenka Maly, January 2018

When I asked my grandmother about her youth, like in the cinema the light dimmed, the curtain went up, and we spent hours immersed in the war and in unimaginable abysses, but also in stories of solidarity and courage. She connected me with the people of her time; some things I finally understood and drew conclusions about the circumstances today. I wanted to share my enthusiasm about this gift with someone else, who also knows what it is like when they go back and turn on their light and leave their information for posterity with such passion. "All over the world there are probably two people sitting together just like us," that was the fleeting thought that led to this project. I think I wanted to lend my grandma to the world, and I wished that other filmmakers would lend me theirs. In 2015 we started looking for them, and now, how lucky we are to have cinema time with all of nine grandmas.

Other directors

5.2. Hadas Neuman (IS)

Born and raised in Israel, Hadas served as a cinematographer in the Israeli army. Upon her release, she studied film at Sapir College in the city of Sderot near the Gaza border and graduated with an Honours scholarship majoring in Script-writing and Directing (BFA). Having lived in close proximity to a conflicted border during wartime inspired her to create films with whimsical fantasy-like humour and beauty, yet with a deep, raw emotional core. Today, she is based in Tel-Aviv, writing and directing short films whilst working on her debut feature film.

5.3. Fleur Nieddu (UK)

Fleur is a UK based feature documentary Impact Producer ('ISLAND' (2017) by Steven Eastwood and 'Even When I Fall' (2017) by Kate McLarnon and Sky Neal) and Project Manager working across all films at Hakawati. Fleur's legal background informs her interest in documentary, understanding that storytelling has the power to create positive change and give new energy to social issues. She previously worked as an impact assistant on the BAFTA / Academy Award nominated film 'Virunga' (2014). More recently she managed outreach for 'Almost Heaven' (2017) - winner of Best Documentary at the British Independent Film Awards 2017.

5.4. Anna Ólafsdóttir (IL)

Anna Sæunn Ólafsdóttir was born in Northern Iceland in 1987. Since graduating from the Icelandic Film School in 2012, she has actively been working in the Icelandic film scene. In 2016, she established her own production company, NyArk Media. Anna worked in the production department of the winner of the Un Certain Regard section at Cannes Film Festival 2015, Rams, and produced the award-winning and Edda-nominated films 'Rainbow Party' and 'Salvation'. Anna directed her first short documentary 'Jump' in 2016 and is currently co-directing a full-length documentary about Syrian refugees in Iceland, finishing post-production of two short films as producer and developing her second short film as a director.

5.5. Giorgia Polizzi (IT)

Giorgia Polizzi is a filmmaker and editor with Italian origins. She has been living and working in London for about 10 years.

5.6. Berke Soyuer (TR)

Berke Soyuer was born in 1985 in Turkey, Kayseri. She holds an M.A. in Visual Arts, and is currently working on her PhD thesis about ontology of the new visual culture. She is also a contemporary artist and a lecturer. She is currently living and working in Istanbul.

5.7. Desislava Tsoneva (BG)

Born in 1980 in Gabrovo, Bulgaria, Desislava graduated in Film and TV Directing at South-West University 'Neofit Rilski', Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, in 2005. In 2004, she started working in the field of contemporary art together with the Art in Action Association based in Sofia, as the assistant of Prof. Orlin Dvoryanov. Since 2010, Desislava has been working as a video and performance artist, as a freelance cultural manager and workshop leader. Most of her artistic appearances feature the cooperation with Art in Action Association and its members.

5.8. Maria Tzika (GR)

Maria Tzika has a background in Visual Anthropology and documentary film production. She lives as a freelancer in London.

5.9. Ekaterina Volkova (RU)

Ekaterina Volkova is a professional award-winning film director and filmmaker born in Leningrad, currently based in Rome, where she graduated from the National School of Cinema ('Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia'). During her studies she was involved in various academic and extra-curricular projects. For example her work 'Ships in the Night' was shown at Auditorium (the main music venue in Rome), and her graduate short movie 'Selfies' was already shown at different film festivals and won numerous nominations. She used to work in Russian TV productions and continues to do similar work on a freelance basis, since she currently lives in Italy. She has also participated as a director in various shoots (documentaries, advertising), working with Alexander Sokurov, Armani brand and RAI. She gained experience of cinematographic direction through her work as a director's assistant on the set of 'Ben Hur' (Paramount & Goldwin Mayer). She also had a chance to improve her cinematographic knowledge and get an inside perspective on film festival organisation thanks to taking part as a judge at Medfilm festival, Rome.

6. Technical data

6.1. Countries of production

Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Israel, Iceland, Italy, Russia, Turkey, United Kingdom
(AT, BG, GR, IL, IS, IT, RU, TR, UK)

6.2. Commentary & Dialogue Language:

Bulgarian, English, German, Greek, Hebrew, Icelandic, Italian, Russian, Turkish

BG, EN, GER, GR, HEB, ICE, IT, RU, TK

6.3. Subtitles

English, German

6.4. Screening Format

HD Videofile (ProRes 422 HQ 1080p)

6.5. Festival Copy Format

DCP

6.6. Frame rate

25 Fps

6.7. Sound

Stereo

6.8. Running time

85 min

6.9. Aspect Ratio

16:9

1920 x 1080

7. Credits

7.1. Cast

Pena Chehlarova, Rosa Gstöttenmair, Hjördís Kristjánsdóttir, Ruchama Neuman, Lubov Petrova, Maria Paola Scalfi, Monica Trigg, Maria Tzika, Muzaffer Coşarcan Ünver

7.2. Directed by

Alenka Maly (AT), Hadas Neuman (IS), Fleur Nieddu (UK), Anna Ólafsdóttir (IL), Giorgia Polizzi (IT), Berke Soyuer (TR), Desislava Tsoneva (BG), Maria Tzika (GR), Ekaterina Volkova (RU)

7.3. Produced by

Nora Gumpenberger, Veronika Peterseil, Barbara Steiner, Margit Wendelin

7.4. Edited by

Alenka Maly, Roland Freinschlag

7.5. Translation and subtitles

Veronika Peterseil

7.6. Music

Chava Alberstein, Extremschrammeln, Plamen Genchev, Gust Maly, Fanney Kristjáns Snjólaugardóttir

7.7. Special thanks

Anselm Dürschmid
Ina Fischer
Markus Fischer
Gabriele Kepplinger
Philippa Johnstone
Jonas Söderqvist
Alina Secară
Otto Tremetzberger
Dorf TV
Marionettfilm

“Maria“

Directed and edited by
Maria Tzikas

Special thanks
Dimitrios Tzikas
Ioannis Tzikas
Karla Tzika
Haris Tzikas
Thanasis Tzikas

“Nonna Paola”

Directed by
Giorgia Polizzi
Edited by
Valeria Coizza

“My Grandma and Me”

Directed by
Desislava Rumenova Tsoneva
Edited by
Sayed Noor Pacha Sayedy
Music by
Plamen Genchev

Special Thanks

Municipality of Kmetovzi Village
Rumen Tsonevi
Tsanka Tsonevi

“Nana Monica”

Dedicated to the life and memory of Justin Trigg

Directed and edited by
Fleur Nieddu

With very special thanks to
Monica Trigg
Edward Lovelace

Special thanks to
Michelle Nieddu
Alberto Nieddu
Nick Trigg
Justin Trigg
Derek Trigg
The Trigg Family
The Nieddu Family
Carol Salter

Thanks to
Grain Media
Pulse Films
Lonelyleap
Audley Retirement Village
All Saints’ Church - Chalfont St Peter Parish
Dancers Boutique - Amersham

“Amma Dagbok Disu”

Directed by and DOP
Anna Sæunn Ólafsdóttir

Edited by
Dagný Hulda Valbergadóttir

Music by
Fanney Kristjáns Snjólaugardóttir

Co Producer
Árni Gunnarsson and Skotta Film

Production Company
NyArk Media

Special thanks

Friðrika Sigurgeirsdóttir
Ólafur Ólafsson
Hjördís Kristjánsdóttir
Fanney Kristjáns Snjólaugardóttir
Árni Gunnarsson
Hlíð Nursing Home Akureyri
Marína Sigurgeirsdóttir
Áslaug Kristjánsdóttir
Dagný Hulda Valbergisdóttir
Akureyri Museum
Hörður Geirsson
Daníel Ívar Einarsson
Edda Borg Stefánsdóttir
Rannveig Júlía Sigurpálsdóttir
Björk Ásgeirsdóttir
Jóhann Hauksson
Jóhann Ari Jóhannsson
Hjördís Ólafsdóttir
The Band Herðubreið

"Ruchama"

Directed and edited by
Hadas Neumann
Co-editor
Rakefet Burshtein
Thanks to
Lina Chaplin
Anna Somershaf
Maya Yudilevitch

"Muzaffer / Victorious"

Dedicated to Ümit Ukşal and Muzaffer Ünver
Directed and edited by
Berke Soyuer
Thanks to
Banu Bıçakçı
İlker Bıçakçı
Ufuk Eral
Aslı Güngör Eral
Onursal Bayraktar
Seda Yaş

"From Russia with LUBOV"

Directed by
Ekaterina Volkova
Camera

Marco Bombetti
Ekaterina Volkova
Edited by
Giulia Floria Andorka
Ekaterina Volkova
Post production
Marco Bombetti
Thanks to
Kino Arenda rental
Ksenia Vinogradova
Aleksy Rumiancev
Anton Stepanov

7.8. Supported by:

Ansnuians
Nyark Media
Frauenbüro / Linz