

ECHO

Written and directed by **Davide Arduca**
with **Ilenia Barbera** and **Grillea Santa**

distributed by **Mediterranea productions**



CAST

Ilenia Barbera	Nataša
Santa Grillea	Grandmother Irina
Elia Longo	Patriarch
Sieva Vsevolod	Shaman
Natalia Tatievskaya	Nataša's voice



SYNOPSIS

Natasha is a young university student who moved from St. Petersburg to Rome three years ago to pursue her studies. It is there that she meets the love of her life. But soon, due to an unexpected event, she finds herself forced to return to her roots in eastern Russia, to the icy cold of Yakutsk, a place of memories and farewells.



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

An echo, a phenomenon capable of being generated and perceived only by the presence of an obstacle.

Something perceptible, originating only when it encounters a difficulty in its path; otherwise, it would not exist at all, just like the story this film tells, that of Natasha.

A desolate and silent land that makes you dizzy, boundless and daunting fields, thick forests, landscapes embraced by mountains, crossed by the mighty Lena, a river that divides and at the same time nourishes the people of Yakutsk, a region of eastern Siberia, this is the land of Natasha's childhood, the coldest in the world.

From these places, while her gaze and her mind wander, searching for the words that mingle with her thoughts, her memories, she writes to her beloved, Daniel, for whom she feels a deep longing.

What shape do memories take? For Natasha, as for everyone else, something undefined, something faded by the passage of time, fragments of memory that slowly fade, begins to be forgotten.

Past and present chase each other and intertwine at the same time, until the point where a chain of more or less predictable events occurs, which will change the course of history, of her life. Suddenly, alerted by her mother, she discovers that her grandmother, Irina, is bedridden due to her illness and age; and that her brother Andrei, moreover, has unexpectedly been summoned to the Russian military district, where he receives an invitation to enlist in a special unit.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Natasha rushes to Siberia to take care of her, in her hometown from which she hasn't returned for years. Nothing seems to have changed in those places, everything seems seemingly the same, in that frigid air still linger the memories she no longer thought she possessed. As if to fix them in time and in her mind, so that they don't vanish forever, she shares them with Daniel.

Time is complex, as are memories. We can't control them, we're immersed in them, surrounded by them, we perceive them suddenly at times, and this is what happens to Natasha too. Yes, she writes to her boyfriend, but all she does is talk to herself, a long soliloquy, which turns into a monologue once she meets her grandmother. She is the only one who speaks and wanders among the memories, which as the story progresses, resurface and at the same time create themselves, moving from that internal world, to then somehow come back to life in her mind.

Echo is a film about memory, which slowly, in one way or another, even if sometimes we don't want it to, fades; it is a film about memories, capable of warming our hearts, but also of hurting us, it is a film about farewells, about the nostalgia for moments now gone, which we would like to relive, but can never return.

Natasha ends up wanting to forget everything, for fear of suffering she would like to wash them away, like memories still hanging on the sheets. But only time will help her do this.

Davide Arduca



FILM INFORMATION

English Title	ECHO
Original Title	ECO
Genre	Drama
Language	Italian
Country of Production	Italy
Director	Davide Arduca
Screenplay	Davide Arduca
Presented by	Mediterranea Productions
Production Year	2025
Running Time	25 min
Aspect Ratio	16:9



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Director | Davide Arduca

Born in Cinquefrondi, Italy, April 21, 1999

Davide Arduca was born in Cinquefrondi, a small town in southern Italy, and developed his interest in cinema while attending secondary school.

In 2022, he wrote and directed his first short film, *Mosca Bianca*, in which he addresses, through Janine, the protagonist suffering from mental alienation, the social discomfort in which she is forced to live.

In 2023, he co-wrote and directed the independent short film

Il gioco delle parti, which tells the story of a young employee who finds himself coming to terms with an unknown part of himself. In 2024, he wrote and directed the short film *Claude*, collaborating with the Fine Arts Academy in Rome and professor Giancarlo Torri. The film was selected for the Kuala Lumpur International Film Academy Awards 2024 and the First-Time Filmmaker Session 2025.

The story is about a young university professor with a limp who gets his first temporary job in Rome. He soon finds himself facing yet another difficulty: the desperate search for accommodation. In the same year, in the academic field, he wrote and directed, in collaboration with four other authors, the mini web series *Speedy Food*, which tells the story of a delivery boy who finds himself in a strange chain of unusual coincidences and is forced to commit several murders in order to save himself. In November of the same year, he took part in the filming of the movie "*À rebours, controcorrente*"

In 2025, he collaborated with producer and director Donatella Baglivo on the biopic "Fellini, il fabbricante di sogni," which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival and was selected for the 2025 Rome Film Fest. He also collaborated on the films "Il futuro in una poesia" "Monica Vitti, l'attrice che nacque due volte," and "Helmut Berger - Angelo e Demone" He then worked on a new edit of the film "A Poet in Cinema: Andrei Tarkovsky." That same year, he directed "Echo," his third short film, which he also wrote. The film tells the story of Natasha, a Russian girl who wanders through her memories and the desolate fields of the coldest land in the world, amid love, echoes of war, and farewells. This short film won the Lift Off Global Network 2025 Award, was then selected for the First Time Film Maker 2025 Award, and was screened out of competition at the eighth edition of the Bulli ed eroi festival, where he served as a jury member.