



ТЫКЫМАН

director Natalia Ryss

composer Dmitriy Milovanov

studio Animos

Russia

2015

Synopsis

"In the beginning, there was only day. And night lay hidden in the depths of the waters—within the heart of the tucuman nut. All was one and indistinguishable. And everything spoke... "*

Thus begins the Brazilian legend of the origin of night.

Director's Statement & Visual Concept

A 6-minute animated short based on the Tupi-Guarani (Brazilian) legend, designed for a wide audience. It offers a rather unexpected interpretation of the myths surrounding the origin of night and the separation of light from darkness. The film presents a whimsical intertwining of the Biblical Genesis with animism: a myth of the Fall, a serpent guarding the secret, and the pivotal role of a woman—for in this myth, it is she who separates light from darkness.

To see the familiar from a different perspective, to shift the angle of vision, and to play with systems of perception—this is where we found the relevance of the chosen theme.

It is a story of how two lovers (a Brazilian Adam and Eve) cannot find intimacy because the night does not yet exist. But the moment the night appears, they lose each other in a chaos of self-generating forms... And only the woman... (but we cannot reveal everything just yet!).

Line art for the day, black-and-white shapes for the night, a dance of color for the separation of light from darkness—this visual concept prioritizes music and the rhythm of lines, forms, and color. Foreground and background melt into an inseparable whole. Essentially, any object is a character. The background is merely an empty space that, by chance—or by directorial choice—is not acting as one.

The film's artistic solution blends the aesthetics of stylized minimalist drawing (mimicking linocuts)—at times verging on abstraction—with expressive digital cutout animation, indigenous patterns (painted on glass), and Brazilian musical rhythms (featuring a stylized original score).

Production Technology: A combination of black-and-white hand-drawn glass animation using printing ink (creating a raw, woodcut/lubok look with keyframe layouts) and digital cutout animation, enhanced with colored backgrounds at the end to create a stained-glass effect. Special attention is paid to rhythmic editing and intra-frame movement, marrying digital technology with a significant amount of manual craftsmanship.

* tucumã nut — would be more correct, but I used the translation in Russian based on publication in a book of legends

film page: <https://www.behance.net/gallery/32159873/Tucuman-2015>

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/132248593>

article (in Russian): <http://old.kinoart.ru/archive/2016/04/rozhdenie-mira-iz-dukha-grafiki-suzdal-2016>

The provided essay examines the profound relationship between animation and mythological consciousness, framing Natalia Ryss's film "Tucuman" as a rare example of true cultural authenticity that speaks the primal language of myth. Rather than relying on metaphors, the work revives an archaic reality and challenges conventional interpretations of the foundational narrative. You can read the full text and analysis in the original source.

Project Title (Original Language): Tucuman (Тукуман)

Project Type: Animation

Runtime: 6 minutes 20 seconds

Completion Date: July 13, 2015

Production Budget: 10,000 USD

Country of Origin: Russian Federation

Country of Filming: Russian Federation

Language: Russian

Shooting Format: HD

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Film Color: Color

participation

Art Web Gallery, Italy, 2026
Cardiff International Film Festival, Wales, UK, 2017
Geo Film Festival and Expo Cinema, Padova, Italy, 2017
BlackBox Shortfilm Festival, Switzerland, 2017
The Palace International Film Festival, Poland, 2017
AM Egypt Film Festival, Cairo, 2017
Women Make Waves Film Festival, Taiwan, 2017
6ta Edición del Festival Internacional de Cine de Pehuajó, Argentina, 2017
Festival de Cortometrajes "Jose Francisco Rosado" PACAS, Spain, 2016
Near Nazareth Festival, Afula, Israel - 2017
International Animated Short Film Festival AJAYU - Peru, Puno 2016
International Festival of Animated Films TOFUZI, Georgia 2016
GRAND OFF - WORLD INDEPENDENT FILM AWARDS, Warsaw, Poland 2016
International Animation Film Festival "Nikozi" - 2016, Georgia
INDIEWISE VIRTUAL FILM FESTIVA - 2016, US
Insomnia 2016, Russia
International Festival of Film for Children and for Teenagers "AniFestROZAFA2016"
Open Russian Festival of Animated Cinema 2016, Suzdal, Russia
International Animated Film Festival KROK 2015
Premio Cinematografico Palena, Palena, Italy, 2016
18° festival internazionale di Lenola, Italy, 2016
SPLIT FILM FESTIVAL / INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF NEW FILM, 2016, Croatia
International Animation Film Festival - Gdansk 2015, Gdansk, Poland
To Tylko Montaż Film Fest, 2016, Łódź, Poland
Goldensun Short Film Festival, Malta, 2016
Frames Film Festival, Mumbai 2016, India
BigCartoonFestival, Moscow, 2015, Russia
TIF Video Challenge, Photography Contest and Story Challenge, Nicosia, Cyprus, 2016
42nd Elche International Independent Film Festival, 2018, Italy
IndustryBOOST Competition 2017 San Mauro Film Festival 2018, Italy
Animation Day in Cannes - 2017 MIFF (in Programme "New Russian Aimation"), 2016, Moscow, Russia
Golden Kuker , 2016, Sofia, Bulgaria (information programa)
screening program in night bar , Leipzig, Germany, 2017

