

სიშინლის კუნძული

a film by George Ovashvili



Karlovy Vary
International Film Festival
Official Selection – Competition

CORN ISLAND



CORN ISLAND SYNOPSIS

The Enguri River forms the border between Georgia and the break-away Republic of Abkhazia. Tensions between the two nations have not abated since the war of 1992-93. Every spring the river brings fertile soil from the Caucasus down to the plains of Abkhazia and north-western Georgia, creating tiny island: small clusters of no man's land. The islands are havens for wildlife but occasionally also for man.

Our story begins when an old Abkhaz farmer sets foot on one of the islands. The old man builds a hut for him and his teenage granddaughter, he ploughs the earth and together they sow corn. As his granddaughter blossoms into womanhood and the corn ripens, the old man is confronted by the inescapable cycle of life.

INTERVIEW with George Ovashvili

What is your personal relation to Abkhazia? I have a lot of fond memories of Abkhazia. I spent my summers with friends on the Abkhazian Black Sea coast. It was pure happiness but then one day in August 1992 this Abkhazian guy with a pistol in his hand said: 'you have to leave our land, you are Georgians. The war has started.' 250.000 ethnic Georgians living in Abkhazia had to leave their land and their homes. A lot Georgians stayed behind, forever. Because of our big neighbour.

Why did you shoot on 35 mm? That's how I learned about cinema. Nowadays it's mainly seen as problematic but working with 35mm gives me more faith in myself.

People from thirteen different countries were involved in creating Corn Island. What was it like to work with such a diverse crew? There were thirteen different flags flying over our camp. Thirteen languages were spoken. The result is in a unique and universal language: cinema. I think the diversity of the crew has strengthened the universal theme of the film.

How did you find the island? I had been searching for the island all over Georgia for two years but I couldn't find a suitable island. We decided that we would have to create the island and we built our corn island in the middle of a big artificial lake.



GEORGE OVASHVILI

graduated from the film department of the Georgian State Institute of Cinema and Theatre in 1996 and studied at The New York Film Academy at Universal Studios in Hollywood in 2006.

His feature debut **Gagma Napiri/ The Other Bank** (2009) was screened at eighty international film festivals in more than fifty countries and won more than fifty international awards.

Corn Island (2014) is his second feature film.

CAST

Ilyas Salman (Old Man)
Mariam Buturishvili (Girl)
Irakli Samushia (Soldier)
Tamer Levent (Officer)

CREDIT LINE

director **George Ovashvili** ·
scriptwriters **Nugzar Shataidze**,
George Ovashvili, **Roelof Jan Minneboo** · director of
photography **Elemér Ragályi** ·
music **Josef Bardanashvili** ·
editor **Sun-Min Kim** · production
designer **Ariunsaichan Dawaachu** · costume designer
Ivana Axmanová · original
sound **Johannes Doberenz** ·
sound design **Frédéric Théry** ·
co-producer **Gabor Ferenczy** ·
producers **Nino Devdariani**, **Eike Goreczka**, **Guillaume de Seille**,
Karla Stojáková, **Sain Gabdullin**

An Alamdary Film, 42film, Arizona
Productions, Axman Production,
Kazakhfilm co-production in
association with Focusfox

Co-production between:

Georgia, Germany, France, Czech
Republic, Kazakhstan & Hungary

Technical details: 100 min, 1:2,35,
color, filmed in 35mm

Language:

Abkhazian-Georgian-Russian with
English subtitles

Festivals:

Pascale Ramonda
pascale@pascaleramonda.com