

ZHENIA KAZANKINA

Film director, screenwriter, editor

Zhenia Kazankina (she/her) is a screenwriter and director, born in Moscow, Russia, in 1996. She graduated from the Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography (VGIK) and is currently based in Rome, Italy. Her work explores themes of adaptation, attachment, and the search for belonging, often through the lens of feminine characters and perspectives. Unfolding in a collective dimension, her stories are rooted in metaphorical concepts and personal experience, and touched with elements of mystery and fable. Her short films have screened at international festivals including Locarno Film Festival, Palm Springs ShortFest, ZINEBI, True/False, and many others. She is an alumna of Locarno Filmmakers Academy, Spring Academy, and Reykjavík Talent Lab.

EDUCATION

2014 — 2019
GERASIMOV INSTITUTE OF CINEMATOGRAPHY (VGIK)
Fiction film directing department, MA

2013 — 2014
MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Philology, 1st year of study

WORKSHOPS AND LABS

2024
LOCARNO FILMMAKERS ACADEMY
Locarno Film Festival

2023
‘FOCUS WIP’
CANNES FILM FESTIVAL
"NEW" short film, post-production lab

2023
‘SPRING ACADEMY’
LOCARNO FILM FESTIVAL
Workshop ‘Find a film!’ held by Radu Jude

2022
'TALENT LAB'
Reykjavík International Film Festival

PERSONAL INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Born in 1996 in Moscow, Russia.
Currently based in Rome, Italy.
Represented by [C41](#) (Milan, Paris, Amsterdam).

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[IMDb](#) [Vimeo](#) [Instagram](#) [Website](#)

FILMOGRAPHY

2024 "NEW", fiction, 20 min

AWARDS

- ‘Voices of Vologda’ Film Festival (Russia)
— Best Short Film
- Aigio International Short Film Festival (Greece)
— Best Script Award & Theo Angelopoulos Award

FESTIVALS

GoShort Nijmegen Film Festival; International Short Film Festival of Cyprus; Mammoth Lakes Film Festival; TiSFF Thessaloniki International Short Film Festival; Moscow International Film Festival and others.

2023 "Three Secret Clues of Longing", experimental, archival, 4 min

AWARDS

- PORTO FEMME International Film Festival (Portugal)
— Best Student Experimental Film
- Message to Man Film Festival (Russia) — Honorable Mention

FESTIVALS

Locarno Film Festival; 20minmax Film Festival; Beijing International Short Film Festival; Un Festival C'est Trop Court!; Kassel Documentary Film and Video Festival; Vidéoformes; Beat Film Festival.

2023 "Empty rooms", experimental, documentary, 5 min

AWARDS

- Ischia Film Festival (Italy)
— Best Short Film "Location Negata" Section
- Vertigo Film Festival (Italy) — Best Short Documentary
- Laurel Branch Award (Russia) — Special Jury Mention

FESTIVALS

True/False Film Festival; GoShort Nijmegen Film Festival; Aesthetica Short Film Festival; Encounters Film Festival; Kassel Documentary Film and Video Festival; BOGOSHORTS; Entrevues Belfort Film Festival; London Short Film Festival; IDFF Artdocfest/Riga; ShorTS Film Festival; Films de Femmes de Créteil Film Festival; Beldocs Doc Film Festival; Lille International Short Film Festival; Caminhos Film Festival; Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente de La Plata and others.

2022 "Continuity of Parks", experimental, 11 min

FESTIVALS

Tirana Film Festival; Reykjavík International Film Festival; Nashville Film Festival; Lago Film Festival; Orvieto Cinema Fest; Bosphorus Film Festival; FEST – New Directors | New Films; Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival.

2019 "RIO", fiction, 22 min

AWARDS

- ZINEBI Film Festival (Spain)
— Mikeldi Award for Best Fiction Short Film
- Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival (Israel)
— Best International Film
- Sehsüchte Film Festival (Germany) — Best Youth Film
- Nashville Film Festival (USA) — Best NextGen Film
- Orvieto Cinema Fest (Italy) — Best International Short Film
- Shnit.Russia (Russia) — Special Jury Mention
- cellu l'art Short Film Festival Jena (Germany) — Best Short Film
- Short Focus Film Festival (UK) — Gold Frame & Audience Award

FESTIVALS

Palm Springs International ShortFest; Curtas Vila do Conde; Poitiers Film Festival; London Short Film Festival; Mecal Barcelona; FILMFEST DRESDEN; Zlin Film Festival; Denver Film Festival; Visioni Corte Film Festival; FILMSCHOOLFEST MUNICH; Scanorama; Etiuda&Anima International Film Festival; Euroshorts International Film Festival; Kustendorf; International Kansk Video Festival; Spirit of Fire Film Festival and others.