



GORBACHEV. HEAVEN

a film by Vitaly Mansky
Latvia / Czech Republic 2020
52 / 100 min

Vertov in co-production with Hypermarket Film, Arte G.E.I.E., Czech Television and Current Time TV

Funded by National Film Centre of Latvia, Czech Film Fund

World Sales:

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Gorbachev. Heaven

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Country of production: Latvia, Czech Republic
Year of production: 2020
Length: 52 / 90 / 100 min
Shooting format: 4K
Screening format: DCP (16:9, Dolby 5.1, 25fps)
Language(s): Russian
Subtitles: English
Color or b/w: Color

Production: Vertov in co-production with Hypermarket Film, Arte G.E.I.E., Czech Television and Current Time TV

Credits

Director: Vitaly Mansky
Author: Alexander Gelman & Vitaly Mansky
DoP: Alexandra Ivanova
Second Camera: Mihail Gorobchuk
Sound: Anrijs Krenbergs
Editor: Yevgeny Rybalko
Music: Kārlis Auzāns
Commissioning editor: Peter Gottschalk (Arte G.E.I.E.), Alena Müllerová, Ivana Pauerová (Czech Television), Kenan Aliev, Natalia Arshavskaya (Current Time TV)
Co-producers: Vit Klusak (Hypermarket Film, Czech Republic), Filip Remunda (Hypermarket Film, Czech Republic)
Producer: Natalia Maskaia (Vertov, Latvia)
World Sales: Deckert Distribution

Short Synopsis: The 90-year old Gorbachev currently lives in a modest house outside Moscow, awaiting the moment when he will be called to join the list of the 20th century's most consequential figures. History will judge Gorbachev, but Gorbachev presents his own, final testimony.

Synopsis: GORBACHEV. HEAVEN is a documentary film about changes that reverberated throughout the world wrought by one man. A film summing-up the life of a man who changed the world in the 20th century. Gorbachev's short time in power was marked by the collapse of this empire. He was the architect of Glasnost and Perestroika,

policies that gave the citizens of the Soviet Union - what Ronald Reagan called “the Evil Empire” - a chance to be free. He tore down the Berlin Wall. But at the same time, under his rule, the Chernobyl nuclear facility exploded and its destruction was concealed. Citizens demanding independence in the Baltic states died. Soldiers wielding shovels brutally suppressed protesters in Tbilisi. And Soviet tanks menaced, and killed, peaceful demonstrators in Baku. The Soviet empire collapsed under him – and he is condemned by his own people. With this burden of the past, this lonely old man is living the last days of his life in an empty house in the suburbs near Moscow.

Director’s statement:

Mikhail Gorbachev will have monuments around the world. Somewhere very soon, somewhere – in Russia, for example – it will be many years before there is a sense of what this man has done for history.

But I wanted that behind the coolness of bronze or marble there would be visible a man who decided on his own to make the world a better place. It was with this motivation that we undertook the lengthy job of persuading this world-weary 90-year-old old man to let us into his world of loneliness, frustration, and the joy of freedom! (Vitaly Mansky)

Festivals and Awards:

IDFA 2020, The Netherlands (Award for Best Directing in the Feature-Length Competition)
PÖFF - Tallinn Black Nights 2020, Estonia
Budapest IDF 2021, Hungary
Sofia IFF 2021, Bulgaria
Hong Kong IFF 2021
It’s all true 2021, Brasil
GoEast Wiesbaden 2021, Germany
CPH:DOX 2021, Denmark
Visions du Réel 2021, Switzerland

Biography Vitaly Mansky

* 1963 in Lvov / Ukraine

In 1982 Vitaly Mansky began his studies at the All-Russian State Institute of Cinematography (VGIK). His first film was made in 1989, and since then he has shot more than 30 films.

Mansky's films were presented at more than 500 international film festivals, among which are Cannes, Locarno, San Sebastian, Rotterdam, Karlovy Vary, Berlin, Amsterdam, Moscow, Oberhausen, San-Francisco, Nyon, Munich, Toronto, Montreal, Turin, Krakow, Rio de Janeiro, Yamagata, Lisbon and many others. He has received more than 100 awards at festivals including two times the Silver Globe for Best Documentary at Karlovy Vary IFF, the Silver Dove at DOK Leipzig, the award for best director

and special jury prize at Tallinn IFF "Black Nights", the Grand Prix in Warsaw, Jihlava, Stockholm, Trieste, Huesca, and Budapest among others. His 2018 film PUTIN'S WITNESSES was nominated in the Best Documentary category by the European Film Academy. Mansky's films have been broadcast on the leading channels in almost all the European countries, as well as in Japan, Australia, China, Canada, South Korea and other countries.

Films produced by Mansky were also awarded at numerous festivals, including the IDFA Prize in 2006, Le Grand Prix at Cinéma du Réel, the Silver Dove at DOK Leipzig, and others.

Since 1996 Mansky has been working on a project that aims to create a comprehensive archive of amateur private video footage shot in the former USSR between the 1930's and the 1990's. This is a unique archive of amateur films providing unseen testimonies Soviet private life.

Vitaly Mansky is a member of the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Oscars), also Academician of the Russian Cinema Academy "NIKA", member of the Ukrainian Film Academy and of the Russian Film Academy "TEFI", general producer of National Film Award "Lavrovaya Vetv." He is the Founder and President of "Artdocfest," a creative documentary film festival that takes place in Riga, Latvia as well as in Moscow.

Since 2014 Mansky lives and works in Latvia.

Filmography Vitaly Mansky (selection)

2020	Gorbachev. Heaven
2018	Putin's Witnesses
2016	Rodnye (Close Relations)
2015	Under the Sun
2014	The Book
2013	Pipeline
2011	Motherland or Death
2009	Beginning / Nikolina Gora. Epilogue
2008	Virginity / Dawn / Sunset. Dalai Lama XIV
2006	Tender Heat: Wild, Wild Beach
2005	Gagarin's Pioneers
2003	Anatomy of t.a.T.u.
2002	Broadway. Black Sea
2001	Red Tsars. Presidents Of Russia / Episode: Gorbachev. After Empire
2001	Red Tsars. Presidents Of Russia / Episode: Yeltsin. Another Life
2001	Red Tsars. Presidents Of Russia / Episode: Putin. Leap Year
1999	Private Chronicles. Monologue
1995	Bliss
1993	Cuts of a Recurrent War
1991	Lenin's Body
1990-1995	Etudes about Love