

BEFORE WE MOVE

A FILM BY
ALEKSANDR M VINOGRADOV



GENRE CREATIVE DOCUMENTARY; **LENGTH** '97 (CINEMA) '52 (TV); **FORMAT** FULL-HD 16:9 COLOUR;
SOUND 5.1; **STATUS** IN POST-PRODUCTION.

Key creative team

Written /directed by:
Aleksandr M. Vinogradov

Cinematography:
Tatiana Haurylchyk

Production:
Vam Films

Editors:
Aleksandr M. Vinogradov
Phil Jandaly / additional editing
Anna Savchenko / additional editing

Sound design and mix:
Lancelot Herve-Mignucci

Color grading:
Matteo Robert Morales

Music:
Sergey Suokas

Cast:
Otar Bagaturia
Mikhail Kapitskiy
Lidia Gribakina

Link for the teaser: <https://vimeo.com/662637996/c55945182d>



Logline: A story of queer tango dancers in St. Petersburg dancing their way to a better life in Israel due to the harsh LGBTQ+ political situation in the country. If you're queer enough for the farewell tango, life will reward you with a new embrace.

Synopsis: The film documents two years of a gay couple Misha and Otar before their immigration to Israel. The images of the documentary preserved their lives and emotions in the decision making process. While organizing queer tango events and giving tango classes, they are feeling lost about the upcoming departure.

Tango is a pair dance that originated in the poor port areas of Argentina at the end of the 19th century. It was danced by men, emigrants from Southern Europe, Africa, South America. The dance expressed their suffering about the abandoned homeland, family and loved ones. As society changes, how we dance changes too. In the modern time the international queer community reinvented it as Queer Tango. It's a different way to dance, where nobody takes your gender, sexual orientation or choice of role for granted. Like any other popular dance, it is a mirror of the society in which it was developed and from which it emerges. It reflects life and helps people express their complex feelings through dance.

People have always moved in search of better living conditions and escaping dramatic political environment in their homeland. The rising level of homophobia in Russia forces many gays and lesbians to leave their country and seek refuge abroad. When narrow-minded traditionalism and xenophobia are rife in the country, tango leads you forward move by move, no matter what gender, sexual orientation or nationality you have.

Summary of Director's Vision / Film's Style & Tone

I discovered the unique world of queer tango in 2015 when I visited the International Queer Tango Festival in Berlin. I was blown away by the charismatic ambiance of the room and the passion evident in every dancer's move. I learned that the community of queer tango dancers meets around the world in cities like Buenos Aires, Paris, Berlin... and St. Petersburg.

As a Russian citizen living in Europe, I am fully aware of the rigid policies the country imposes on its LGBTQ population. In 2013, president Putin signed the infamous anti-gay law criminalizing any distribution of so-called "gay propaganda". A bill oppressing the country's own citizens engaging in "non-traditional sexual relationships". This legislation has resulted in the arrests of numerous Russians publicly opposing the law, and there has reportedly been a nationwide surge of homophobic propaganda, violence, and hate crimes. The situation forced many gays and lesbians to leave their country and seek refuge outside the home-country, including myself. As an emigrant from Russia, I found my new home in Belgium. The experience hit me hard, and my film is a way of processing personal feelings as well as contributing to the discourse on the matter. Immigration is one of the most important, multifaceted and sometimes controversial issues of our time, and films are a great way to delve deeper into this topic and engage people in an open dialogue.

The imagery of the film is transmitting a sense of closeness with the queer tango dancers and everyday situations of their life. The shooting was made by a small team which allowed us to capture their intimate moments. Through images, we aim to express feelings such as the uncertainty of protagonists' future, or the graceful pride transcending them while dancing. The structure is based on main moves of queer tango that guide viewers to the moment of the departure. "Mirada & Cabeceo", "Abrazo", "Intercambio", "Caminata" and "Salida". Life is tango and movement is the essence of it. If you stop, the dance stops; if you stop, life stops.



Relevant background Information on the subject or topic

Queer Tango: Tango as a dance is not only music and movement. Tango has to do with communication between two persons. It is a language established between two bodies in which sensuality flows. For the few minutes which a song lasts strong emotions are conveyed between the dancers. That is why tango is related to feelings, senses and the way we express what we feel.

Tango is a popular dance and, like any other, it works as a mirror for the society from which it emerges and in which it is developed. It is this possibility of change that opens the doors to Queer Tango.

Tango Queer is a tango environment open to everyone. It is a meeting point to socialize, exchange, learn and practice, where the aim is to explore several kinds of communication between dancers of Tango as a different way of dialog. In Queer Tango nobody takes your sexual orientation for granted, nor your choice of role.

I used to work a lot with the dance topic in my films, most of the time that was contemporary dance. But I always wanted to work with a mainstream or popular dance, such as tango. As soon as I discovered Queer Tango, it was clear for me that I have to work with it. The tango embrace is an exquisite way of being open and is wonderfully revealing of the people who engage in it.

Queer is usually associated with action and cultural and political activism. Queer theorists argue that identity is always composed of an infinite number of elements, such as: sexual orientation, class, gender, nationality, age, race, etc. All identities are unstable, arbitrary and exclusionary constructions. By means of exclusion, identities are formed as the result of power relations, with a centre and a periphery. The main aim of queer theory is to accomplish a multidisciplinary approach to social submission and control methods.

LGBTQ+ migration: In too many countries, it is illegal to be gay, punishable by imprisonment and even death. In some societies, the simple assertion of human rights and fundamental freedoms by members of the LGBTQ+ community - rights enshrined in international law - is met with oppression, abuse and ostracism. LGBTQ+ people become targets simply because of who they are. Their treatment in these countries and societies is grotesque and unacceptable.

Many LGBTQ+ emigrants feel compelled to flee their homes, seeking safety in another country. Although displacement may provide an opportunity for them to express a profoundly felt personal aspect of their identity that has not been possible or allowed in their country of origin, safety and protection are often elusive in these other countries too, and life in a new country becomes a challenge for LGBTQ+ forced emigrants.





Aleksandr M. Vinogradov - Producer/Director/Editor

Aleksandr is a Karelian film director based in Belgium. In 2013 started a master program - Doc Nomads. His graduation film "CALL ME CHAOS" was premiered at Visions Du Reel in 2016. The same year he started another master program in LUCA School of Arts. In 2019 his graduation film "UNDER THE DRESS" had a premiere at Visions Du Reel and Mezipatra Queer Film Festival. At the same time he was working on two projects: a character-driven story "BEFORE WE MOVE" and an observational film "BARE" about a dance performance of Belgian choreographer Thierry Smits with 11 nude male dancers. "BARE" had its World Premiere at HotDocs 2020, Asia Pacific premiere at DocEdge 2020 and US Premiere at DOCNYC 2020.

Tanya Haurylchyk - Cinematographer

Tanya is a Belarusian cinematographer and filmmaker. She was born and lives in Minsk, Belarus. She graduated from the Belarusian State Academy of Arts with a BA in camerawork in 2009 and a Doc Nomads joint master with MA in documentary filmmaking in 2015. Having gained great experience as a video journalist, she slowly shifted her professional focus to reflective and thoughtful human stories. This interest transformed into a passion for documentary filmmaking. In 2019 Tanya went to IDFA to present "Aswang", a film where she was responsible for the cinematography. In 2021 Tanya premiered at Berlinale a documentary film "Courage" where she was the main cinematographer. It's an inspiring and encouraging documentary about the peaceful uprising of the nation against injustice and brutal oppression of their democracy movements in Belarus.

Director's Filmography

2020 "BARE" / feature documentary / English, French, Dutch/

- HotDocs 2020 (World Premiere)
- Doc Edge 2020 (Asia Pacific Premiere)
- DOC NYC 2020 (US Premiere)
- Cinema Diverse 2020
- Tampa Gay & Lesbian 2020
- Revelation Perth 2020
- Tallgrass Film Festival 2021
- Cheris Cheries 2021
- Oslo Fusion 2021
- Fiver International Screendance Movement 2021
- Mezipatra QFF 2021
- OFF CINEMA 2021
- TLV Fest 2021
- BAFF 2021
- Bari International Gender FF 2021
- International Migrant Queer Festival 2022
- TRC Danza festival 2022

2019 "UNDER THE DRESS" / short film / Russian, English /

- Visions Du Reel, International Short Film competition 2019
- Pink Screens 2019
- 26th OpenEyes Film Festival 2019
- Szczecin Film Festival 2019
- Mezipatra Queer Film Festival 2019
- Košice International Monthly Film Festival /Best short film/
- Kreives Vilnis Queer Festival 2020
- Moving Pictures Festival 2021 /Best short film/
- Aegean Film Festival 2021

2016 "CALL ME CHAOS" / documentary / French, English /

- Visions Du Reel, Medium Length Film competition 2016
- Listapad 2016 (Minsk, Belarus) / Student films competition
- Message to men 2017 (St.Petersburg, Russia) / National competition

2015 "THE DREAMERS' CLUB" / documentary / 17' / Hungarian, English

- DocLisboa 2015 (Portugal)

2015 "SOUNDS OF KAZINCBARSIKA" / documentary musical / 14' / Hungarian, English

- 4th Dublin Doc Fest, short film competition 2016 (Dublin, Ireland)
- Selection of DocFeed Film Festival 2016 (Eindhoven, Netherlands)
- Beginning Film Festival 2015 (Russia)/Best short film/

2013 "ROBBIE WILLIAMS: FANS JOURNEY TO TALLINN" / doc BBC / second unit director

2012 "FIVE STEPS OF BUTOH" / creative documentary / 17' /

- Grand Prix of Telemania 2012
- Best documentary and Best Cinematography of Telemaniya 2012
- Best Art Documentary, Int. Festival „MENSCHEN UND LÄNDER“ (Germany)



Vam Films Production / Belgium /

Vam Films is a production company based in Brussels, founded by Aleksandr M. Vinogradov. Aleksandr was working as a creative director in an advertisement agency for several years before founding the production. The main challenge for Vam Films is to develop and to explore new visual artistic media. The company produces creative documentaries, visual art and animation. Documentary films that company had produced have been presented at several international film festivals winning several awards.

**VAM
FIL-
MS.**

VAM FILMS CONTACTS :

Aleksandr M. Vinogradov

Website: <http://vamfilms.com/>

E-mail: vamfilmsproduction@gmail.com