



venezia 63  
competition



# EUPHORIA

**BY  
IVAN  
VYRYPAEV**

**THE MATCH FACTORY**

# EUPHORIA



# CAST

Vera  
**POLINA AGUREYEVA**  
Valery  
**MIKHAIL OKUNEV**  
Pasha  
**MAXIM USHAKOV**

**TECHNICAL DATA**  
**FORMAT**  
35 mm / 1:1,85 / Colour /  
Dolby Digital  
**LENGTH**  
73 mins

## SYNOPSIS EUPHORIA BY IVAN VYRYPAEV

Pavel can't hold back anymore. He decides to confront Vera with the truth. He tells her that he can't live anymore without looking at her the way he first did at a recent wedding. She confesses that she looked at him, too, and she doesn't know why. Something unexpected happened, something they have never known before, something they cannot comprehend ... Vera lives with her husband, Valery, and their little daughter, Masha, in a remote dilapidated village in the wide open steppes near the banks of the River Don. But she seizes an opportunity to run off with Pavel when Valery turns violent. The jealous husband follows the new couple, intent on destroying their passion.

## POLINA AGUREYEVA AS VERA

Polina Agureyeva gave an award-winning performance in Sergei Ursulyak's 2004 film *LONG FAREWELL* (*Dolgoe proshchanie*). An accomplished stage actress of the Peter Fomenko Workshop, she has been awarded the State Prize of the Russian Federation.

## MAXIM USHAKOV AS PASHA

Maxim Ushakov makes his acting debut in *EUPHORIA*. By profession, he is a scenic designer for theater and production designer and animator for film.

## MIKHAIL OKUNEV AS VALERY

Mikhail Okunev has been an honored member of the Omsk Theater troupe since 1989, where he has played in everything from Chekhov to Stoppard to Shakespeare.





# IVAN VYRYPAEV

WRITER AND DIRECTOR

# CREW

DIRECTOR AND WRITER

**IVAN VYRYPAEV**

PRODUCERS

**ALEXANDER SHEIN JR.  
GIYA LORDKIPANIDZE**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

**ANDREY NAIDENOV**

ART DIRECTOR

**YURI KHARIKOV**

COMPOSER

**AYDAR GAINULLIN**

A PRODUCTION OF

**FIRST MOVIE  
PARTNERSHIP  
AND STUDIO 2PLAN2**

Euphoria is Ivan Vyrypaev's directorial debut.

As a playwright, Vyrypaev has won some of Russia's most prestigious theatre awards, as well as the Presidential Council Prize "For Contribution to Russian Literature". His plays, like *IJUL (JULY)*, *BYTIE N.2 (GENESIS NO.2)*, *KISLOROD (OXYGEN)*, *VALENTINOV DEN (VALENTINE'S DAY)*, *GOROD GDE JA (THE CITY, WHERE I AM, DREAMS)*, have been staged at many theatres worldwide. He is also the author of the 2005 book *13 TEKSTOV, NAPISANNYH OSENJU (THIRTEEN TEXTS WRITTEN IN THE AUTUMN)*, and the screenplay for Pyotr Buslov's 2006 film *BUMER 2 (HEAVEN ON EARTH)*.

Born in Siberia in 1974, Vyrypaev graduated from Irkutsk Theatre School in 1995 and moved to Moscow a few years later.



# DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

**EUPHORIA** /// Euphoria is “an indescribable feeling of excitement and increased perception” – that’s the definition I found in a psychology reference book ... In the film, two people who are not spiritually developed, are given the gift of feeling the spiritual power of holy love. But they are not ready for it.

**UNEXPECTED LOVE** /// **EUPHORIA** is the story of an unexpected love, genuine and merciless, almost brutal. Since they have never been taught to love and to be loved, they cannot cope with the euphoria that has seized them. It’s a story about people who act like children, people who live like recluses in the wild nature of the steppes. They are just tiny figures against the imposing steppe landscape, both beautiful and troubling. The majestic River Don is the silent witness of their passions.

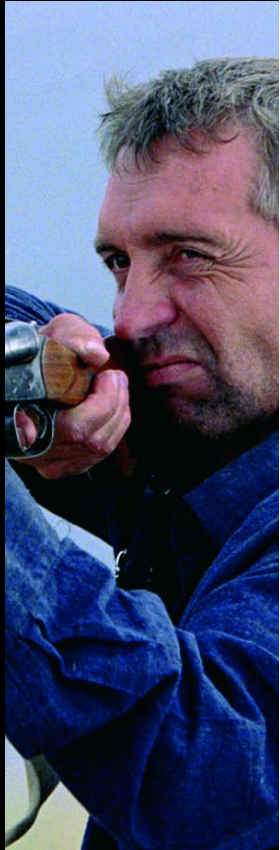
**LANDSCAPE IS A MAIN CHARACTER** /// Shooting took place in the Don steppes, 200 kilometers from Volgograd (previously Stalingrad). We shot in very rough conditions, with temperatures rising up to 46 degrees Celsius. But we knew what to expect, since the place is absolutely divine and it suited best the main concept of the film, in which one of the main characters is landscape.

**NOT ONLY ABOUT RUSSIANS** /// The characters were based on the local population. Their manner of speech and behavior is typical for these places. But this film is not only about Russians. It’s not necessary to know the customs of Russia to understand the themes explored in the film. The same as in Shakespeare’s Hamlet – the action takes place in Denmark, but it is not necessary to know Denmark with all its peculiarities and features to understand the play.

**ACCORDION PLAYER AIDAR GAINULLIN** /// The music for the movie was written by famous Russian accordion player Aidar Gainullin. He’s only 25 years old, but he has performed all over the world for the past 15 years. He continues to study under maestro Mstislav Rostropovitch. **EUPHORIA** was his debut as a film composer. In my opinion, it was a very professional debut.

**TRAGEDY** /// The term tragedy has lost its genuine meaning today. Tragedy in art is only possible in a society with a developed culture and a happy and successful mental situation. This situation doesn’t exist in Russia, and even less so in Europe and America.

**FILM AND THEATER** /// I have directed theater and now, having created this film, I can surely confirm that the principles of audience interaction are the same in films and in the theatre. A play and a movie – are both an organization of audience attention and the development of emotional impressions. The film doesn’t take place on screen, it takes place in the viewer. And the hardest part for me was that I had experience in the theatre. I didn’t know before, but in film, the director cannot know until the last moment if the images influence the viewer or not.





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