

A man with short dark hair, wearing a dark shirt, is seated at a table in a dimly lit room. He is looking down at a chessboard with a focused expression. His right hand is resting on a glass of water on the table. The chessboard is set up with white and black pieces. The room is filled with various objects, including a large silhouette of a person on the wall behind him and a tall, narrow cabinet or shelving unit to his right. The lighting is dramatic, with strong blue and red tones.

Quarantine

A film by Diana Ringo

SHOULD A MAN BUILD HIS OWN
DUNGEON?

LOGLINE

The main character of the film, Felix, writes a diary. He did not leave the bunker for over 20 years. He tries to find an explanation for the fateful course of events in history that had destroyed the entire earth.





SYNOPSIS

The protagonist Felix lives alone in a bunker and writes a diary contemplating upon his life and the course of events which turned life on earth into a nightmare. The feeling of guilt does not leave him, as he believes that he could have prevented the apocalypse and the death of a loved one.

Felix has spent decades in his bunker and does not know what is happening in the world. He is haunted by the images of apocalyptic events which he witnessed twenty years ago. His only companions are the ghosts of his past; his friend Kirill and his girlfriend who accuses him in conformism. Kirill, on the other hand is convinced that there is no sense to struggle against evil forces which are taking over the whole world.

Images of the apocalyptic reality flash in his head followed by images of peaceful nature – beautiful life which was lost forever. The film is about the personal choice of one man and about the consequences of his choice. Non-linear narrative of the film has been compared to the works of Andrei Tarkovsy, Terence Malick and Aleksandr Sokurov.

The film touches upon important problems: the transition of society towards a totalitarian regime, corruption of power and threat of destruction of mankind. It poses questions regarding crimes of humanity, punishment for our sins, meaning of life, and the burden of being human.

ABOUT THE FILM

The film "Quarantine" is a joint production of Russia and Finland. The film was shot in Russian with Russian actors.

The main role in the film is played by the Honored Artist of the Russian Federation Anatoly Bely. Ukrainian born actor Anatoly Bely spoke out against Russia's invasion of Ukraine and since 2022 he lives in Israel.

The film's director, Finnish citizen Diana Ringo, has created a dystopian film about the near future. "Quarantine" is a psychological drama with bright and memorable images. The film is imbued with a sense of impending disaster. "Quarantine" is an eerie premonition of the events following the 24th of February 2022.

"Quarantine" is an example of a true auteur cinema as Diana Ringo is a producer, director, screenwriter, editor, composer and actor of one of the main roles.

The film was shot in 2020-2021 in Russia, Ukraine, Finland and Austria. Filming in Moscow took two weeks. Beautiful castle ruins and footage of abandoned buildings was shot in various parts of Ukraine. In Finland two months were needed in order to show the true beauty of the country at different times of the year.

The premiere of the film took place at the Amur Autumn 2021 festival. Moscow premiere was held at the Karo Oktyabr cinema on October 4, 2021.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"Now the whole world is on the crossroads, and it all depends on us which road we decide to take. Every day, people are deprived of their rights under various, often very ridiculous pretexts, and almost all cultural figures remain silent.

In this film, I wanted to show what can happen if events continue to develop in the same direction and show what we can come to if we are not aware of our responsibility to humanity and ourselves.

The title of the film "Quarantine" implies quarantine as punishment. The film features various characters, each with their own point of view. It was important for me to ask questions, not just give answers. My film can give an opportunity to think about whether a person should build and guard his dungeon?

After the events following 24 February 2022 I feel the film has gained new layers of meaning and has predicted many of the horrors which have occurred."



INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR
DIANA RINGO

2020 is the year that shook the world with lockdown and quarantine. There was a kind of worldwide revolution. But the situation was not reflected in art. Your film “Quarantine” is a pleasant exception.

I felt the need to tell an apocalyptic story, and what time would be better for this than now? The issues of quarantine, lockdown, vaccination have become too politicized, and a person is forced to choose a side, everything is painted black and white. There is no more room for deep thinking. I am interested in problems outside politics - humanism, freedom, faith, conscience. There are more serious problems in life than just viruses. We need to think about how to save not only lives, but also our souls.

Did you receive government funding for the film?

No, I have not applied for funding. As a debutant director, I did not count on state support. The film was shot independently, I was the producer and director. I had complete creative freedom.



How did you decide to take on the lead role of Anatoly Bely? What about Alexander Obmanov?

Anatoly Bely was recommended to me by a friend who worked with him on another project. When I saw Anatoly in films and on television, I immediately realized that I had found a suitable actor for the role of Felix. Also, I was impressed by his poetry recitation. On stage I really liked his performance in *The Master and Margarita* at the Moscow Art Theater. As for the role of Kirill, there were auditions, many different actors auditioned for this role. Among the candidates, I was impressed by Alexander Obmanov. I think Alexander is a very promising young actor.

What is the exact genre of the film? What is the main idea of the film?

My film is a dystopian drama. I wanted to make the viewer imagine what the lack of resistance to evil from the outside and from within oneself can lead to. To defeat evil, one must first defeat it from within.

How would you describe Felix, the main character of the film?

Felix is a complex person. He is deeply possessed by the memories and he struggles

with his bad conscience. Felix looks back to his past and tries to understand what his role was in the course of events that changed the whole world. He wonders if he could have done anything at all to prevent the apocalypse, or if it was all out of his hands.

Are the two male characters in the film alike?

They are close friends and have more in common than meets the eye.

Could you tell us about your directing style and film editing process?

I prefer not to shoot too many takes as I find that actors often put their best work during the first takes. I edit my own films and it takes a lot of time and effort. But I think it's worth it because it's my favorite part of filmmaking. It also helps me improve my skills as a film composer. It's nice to be the first to see the story come to life on screen.

Tell us about the music in the film.

I wrote all the music for the film myself, which was very important to me.

Music plays a big role in your movie. Can you tell us about this side of your work?

I have played classical piano since childhood. It

is difficult to define the exact genre of my music, but I call it neoclassical.

How did you write the script? What inspired you?

I wrote the script while in quarantine in Vienna, Austria. At that moment, the regime around the world began to move towards totalitarianism. Inspiration came when I imagined what unconditional obedience to the authorities could lead to, and this served as a starting point.



DIANA RINGO

Diana Ringo is a filmmaker, pianist and composer. She was born on March 8, 1992. Diana grew up in Finland and was interested in music from an early age.

She is the founder and director of the Prague Independent Film Festival.

Her original music is featured in the 2018 film "A Million Loves in Me", directed by Sampson Yuen (Hong Kong Golden Globe nominee). The "Million Loves in Me" soundtrack won the award for the best score at the 2020 Los Angeles Film Awards.

"Quarantine" is Diana Ringo's feature-length debut.



ANATOLY BELY

Anatoly Bely is a Russian theater and film actor, Honored Artist of the Russian Federation (2006). Born on August 1, 1972.

Known for his film roles in "Metro", "Chagall - Malevich", "What Else Men Talk About". On television, he played in the series "Clinic of Happiness", "Master", "Passengers", "Call Center", "Crow".

Since 2003 he has been an actor at the Moscow Art Theater. A.P. Chekhov. Plays in the performances "The Pillow Man" by M. McDonagh (directed by K. Serebrennikov, 2007) - Katurian, "The Master and Margarita" by M. A. Bulgakov (directed by Y. Sas, 2011) - Master.

Directed by Diana Ringo

Anatoly Bely

Aleksandr Obmanov

КАРАТИМ



Quarantine (КАРАНТИН)

ABOUT THE FILM

Film title - Quarantine
Film title (original) - КАРАНТИН (KARAntin)
Genre - drama, dystopia
Country - Russia, Finland
Russian language
Year - 2021
Timing - 74 minutes (Director's Cut)
Film - color
Format - DCP
Distribution certificate number (RU):
111019621

STARRING

Anatoly Bely - Felix
Alexander Obmanov - Kirill
Diana Ringo - her
Alexey Sharanin - radio host

TEAM

Director - Diana Ringo
Screenplay - Diana Ringo
Camera - Dmitry Strizhevsky
Editing - Diana Ringo
Composer - Diana Ringo

Production - AElita Productions

