



# DOVLATOV

A film by Alexey German Jr.

Russia | Poland | Serbia - 2018 - HD - 1:2.39 - 5.1 - 126 min - Russian



*Dovlatov* is the new film by Alexey German Jr. (Silver Bear for *Under Electric Clouds*, Silver Lion for *Paper Soldier*) who for the first time turns his camera on his hometown, '70s Leningrad (St. Petersburg) to portray the lives of young Soviet writers Sergei Dovlatov, Joseph Brodsky and other repressed artists in the '70s.



### ***Logline***

*Dovlatov* charts six days in the life of the brilliant, ironic writer Sergei Dovlatov who saw far beyond the rigid limits of 70s Soviet Russia. Together with his friend and poet Joseph, he fought preserve his own talent and integrity while seeing their artist friends getting crushed by the iron-willed state machinery, which they would later escape by emigrating to New York, losing all they had back home.



## ***Director Alexey German Jr***

“I got to read Dovlatov very late in life – when I was 26 or 27 – but all in one sitting. Back then I already thought that it would be great to make a film about him, but for almost 15 years I could not figure out how. Dovlatov is one of the unconditional symbols of the last quarter of the 20th century. He is a superstar of Russian literature. He was larger than life, yet subtle and incredibly talented; it’s a shame that we do not produce such men anymore.

The film shows about an incredibly interesting, lively and rich era in Leningrad, in the early ‘70s. Brodsky has not yet left for America and neither has Dovlatov left for Estonia. There are lingering echoes of freedom from the preceding period called ‘the Thaw’. Our characters are still young, in their ‘30s, full of energy. Even though we first see them exhausted, unshaven, they are still full of hope. It was crucial for us to combine history and private lives; to show talented artists who, because of the political climate, could not do what they wanted, and yet they believed and tried to remain themselves.

We did not want to idealize, or to dig up any personal dirt. We were keen on showing Dovlatov as a living person, not as a dummy. Our film is infused with Dovlatov’s prose and words. We tried to tell a concise episode in Dovlatov’s life story, during which events related to his marriage, family members, his attempts to get published, took place. We met with his daughters Elena and Ekaterina Dovlatov, who came to St. Petersburg on several occasions. From



the very beginning, they were aware of our project, as I consider it rude for the filmmakers to invade someone's private life and at the same time not to consult anyone. We talked with some of Dovlatov's friends. All of this helped us recreate the essence of his character, the way that era looked. Nowadays that world has completely changed: colours, light, clothes, asphalt, faces ... Today Rubinstein Street, where he lived in the 23rd house is packed with bars. There are almost none of these enormous communal flats left in Leningrad, where everyone gathered around a big table and argued until the morning. This era is gone, but we did our best to create a sense of that time. We met actors from all over the country, even abroad. We went through thousands and thousands of faces. During this time, someone discovered previously unknown poems and short stories by Brodsky which had never been published!

For our casting, the biggest challenge was that Dovlatov was as handsome as a movie star, but he was also harboured an incredibly complex inner world. Our team came to the decision that the physical resemblance should be extremely important for our story, as Dovlatov with his Jewish and Armenian roots had a very distinctive appearance. Finding an actor that would meet all of our criteria turned out to be very difficult, and the search was not an easy task, so we were delighted to discover Milan Marić.





## ***Cast and Crew***

### ***Cast***

Milan Marić  
Danila Kozlovsky  
Helena Sujecka  
Artur Beschastny  
Anton Shagin  
Svetlana Khodchenkova  
Elena Lyadova  
Piotr Gąsowski  
Eva Gerr  
Hanna Sleszynska

### ***Executive Producers***

Andrey Savelyev  
Artem Vasilyev  
Konstantin Ernst

### ***Co-Producers***

Maxim Lojevsky  
Rushan Nasibulin  
Eduard Pichugin  
Sergey Titinkov

### ***Producers (Poland)***

Dariusz Jabłoński  
Isabella Wojcik  
Wioleta Kaminska

### ***Producer (Serbia)***

Miroslav Mogorovich

### ***Associate Producers***

Vasily Kirpichev  
Shota Boterashvili

### ***Screenplay***

Alexey German Jr.  
Yulia Tupikina

### ***Make-Up Artist***

Natalya Ratkevich

### ***Director Of Photography***

Łukasz Żal

### ***Production Designer, Costume Designer:***

Elena Okopnaya

### ***Director***

Alexey German Jr.

### ***Editors***

Sergey Ivanov  
Darya Gladysheva

### ***Sound Designer***

Ivan Gusakov

### ***Executive Producers***

Olga Yuntunen  
Alexey Lvovich

### ***Assistant Directors***

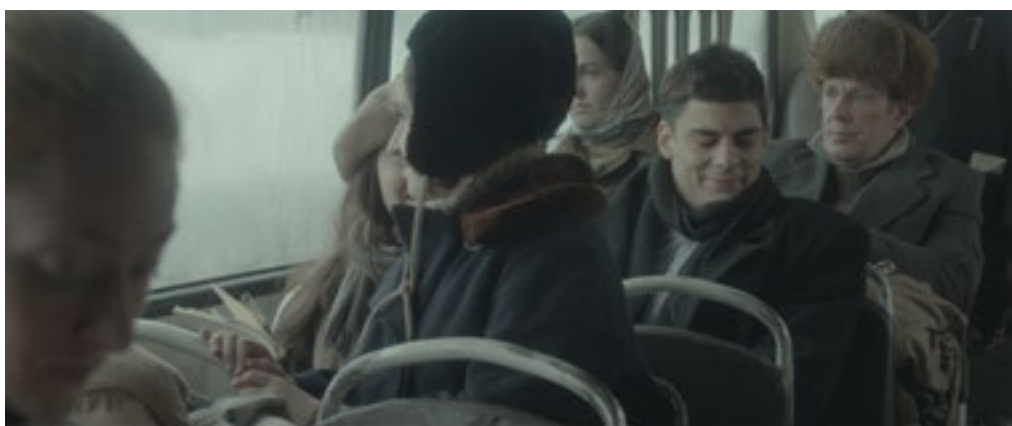
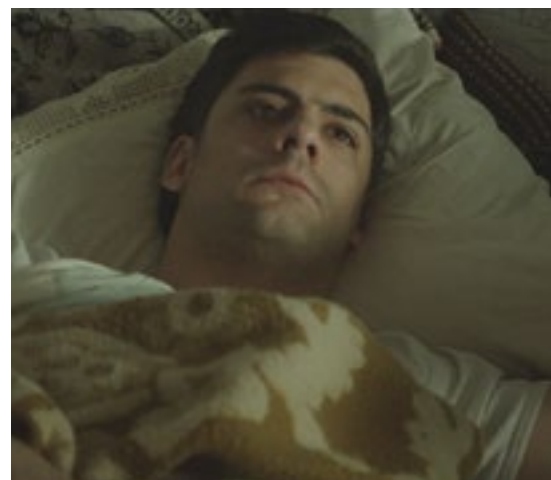
Maksim Elagin  
Natalya Kalashnikova

### ***Casting Directors***

Vladimir Golov  
Anna Sagalovich  
With The Participation Of  
Violetta Bul

### ***Assistant Property Masters***

Jana Goncharova  
Oleg Yudin  
With The Participation Of  
Igor Babanov



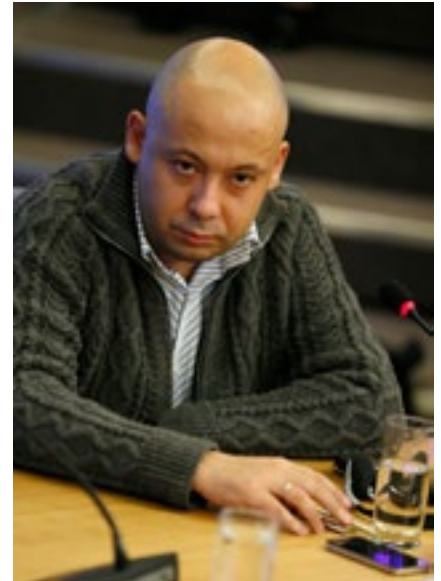
## ***Alexey German Jr.***

Alexey German Jr. (1976) is one of the most acclaimed and internationally recognized Russian directors of the younger generation.

German Jr. quickly established himself as a filmmaker to watch. His first film *The Last Train* won a Luigi De Laurentiis special mention at the Venice film festival 2003, followed by awards in Rotterdam and Thessaloniki (Golden Alexander, FIPRESCI). His second feature *Garpastum* had its world premiere in Venice's competition in 2005.

German Jr's next feature *Paper Soldier* (2008) was also selected to compete in Venice, where it won the Silver Lion and the Osella award for best cinematography. A favorite of many international festivals, it was one of Russia's most successful productions in 2008.

*Under Electric Clouds* competed in Berlin in 2015, leading to the Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution, followed by the Asia Pacific Screen Award for Achievement in Directing and others.



## ***Filmography***

**2003** – *The Last Train*

**2005** – *Garpastum*

**2008** – *Paper Soldier*

**2009** – *Crush* (five shorts), segment *Kim*

- Premiered at the Venice International Film Festival, in the Orizzonti program

- Film of the opening night gala at Kinotavr.

**2011** – *From Tokyo* (short)

- Venice International Film Festival in the Orizzonti program

**2015** – *Under Electric Clouds*

- Berlin International Film Festival (Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution)

- Asia Pacific Screen Award 2015

(For Achievement in Directing) and other awards.

**2018** – *Dovlatov*

- Berlin International Film Festival, world premiere in competition.

## ***Milan Marić***

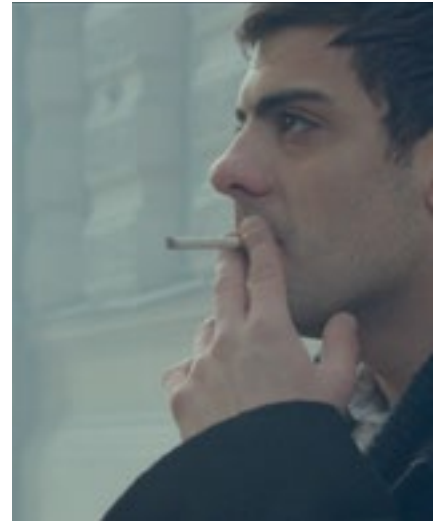
Born in Belgrade in 1990, Milan grew up in a country surrounded by mass killings and poverty. While Yugoslavia was dissolving in war, Serbia was isolated and crime driven. Milan found his niche - he was an avid swimmer and at one point even considered becoming a professional football player.

In his early teens, after a democratic revolution in Serbia and the fall of Milošević, he found his true passion in acting when joining a long-lasting youth theatre “Dadov”. During most of his adolescence he spent his time performing on a stage almost every night.

In 2009, he enrolled in the acting department at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade, where he graduated in 2013. Even before finishing his formal acting education he started acting in several professional theatres in Serbia and he joined the Yugoslav Drama Theatre in Belgrade. He was mostly working with formally innovative directors and starring in politically charged performances, most famous and successful being “Zoran Đinđić” by Oliver Frljić, about pro-European Serbian PM who was assassinated in 2003 by right-wing military members.

Milan starred in several successful short films and had supporting roles in couple of Serbian features films.

Recently he wrote and starred in a short film *Supply And Demand* which he co-directed with Nikola Ljuca. *Dovlatov* is his first international film and first leading role.



## ***Filmography***

**2014** – *The Man Who Defended Gavrilo Princip*

**2016** – *A Good Wife*

**2016** – *Santa Maria Della Salute*

**2016** – *Humidity*

**2018** – *Dovlatov*

## **Actors**

**Danila Kozlovsky** (Dovlatov's friend) was born in 1985 in Moscow. In 2002 he graduated from the Kronstadt Sea Cadet Corps. In 2007 he graduated from the Russian State Institute of Performing Arts (class L.A. Dodin). As a student, he appeared in the production of "King Lear" by the Maly Drama Theatre in St. Petesburg. Today he is the leading actor of the Maly Drama Theater. He began to act in cinema in 1998. He first played a hooligan in the TV-series *Simple Truths*. In 2006, Danila Kozlovsky took the "White Elephant" award from Russian film critics and film press for his role in Alexei German-Jr.'s *Garpastum*. In 2012 he became a laureate of the National Golden Eagle Award for his role in *Dukhless*. Four years later he received the prize of the National Film Award (Nika) for his role in *Dukhless-2*. In 2014, Danila Kozlovsky made his Hollywood debut in Mark Waters' *Vampire Academy*. In 2015, Danila made a solo concert program "The Big Dream of an Ordinary Man", where he performed American pop-jazz vocal hits from the '40s - '50s. He starred in a Chanel commercial with actress Keira Knightley. In 2016 he made his first film as a producer (*Status: Free*) together with director Pavel Ruminov. He has recently started working on the film *Coach* as a director.

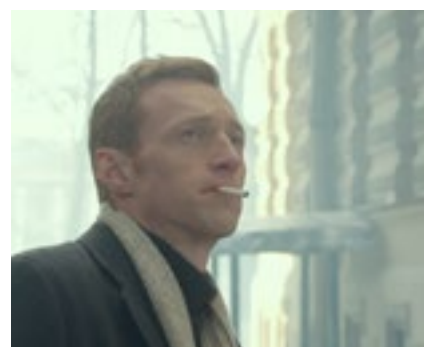


**Anton Shagin** (Kuznetsov, a worker-poet) was born in 1984 in the city of Kimry (Tver region). In 2006 he graduated from the Moscow Art Theater School. Since 2009, he works in the Moscow Lenkom Theatre. In 2011 he was awarded the Russian Government's Culture Prize for the performance of "Peer Gynt". In the same year he received a prize for his role in Alexander Mindadze's *Innocent Saturday* at the International Festival of Art-House Cinema in Batumi (Georgia). One of his most brilliant film works are the character of Mels in Valery Todorovsky's *Stilyagi* and of Verkhovensky Jr. in Vladimir Khotinenko's adaptation of Dostoevsky's *The Possessed*.



**Svetlana Khodchenkova** (an actress, Dovlatov's acquaintance) enjoyed a shining debut in 2003 in Stanislav Govorukhin's *Blagoslovite Zchenschiny* (*Bless The Woman*). For this film she was nominated for the Nika Film Award. Two years later she graduated from the Boris Shchukin Theater Institute. In 2011, the Hollywood debut of the actress took place, in Thomas Alfredson *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*. In 2015, the actress played in Stephen Schneider's thriller *Lady Of Csejte*. In Russian cinema she is one of the most sought-after actresses, who played the main characters in such films as *Ne Chlebom Edinym* (*Not By Bread Alone*), *Slushebniy Roman. Nasche Vremya* (*Office Romance. Our Time*), *Champions*, *Metro*, *Method Lavrovoy*, *Kratkiy Kurs Schastlivoy Zhizny* (*Short Course Of A Happy Life*), *Love In A Big City*, *Five Brides*. One of the most anticipated projects of 2016 was Andrei Kravchuk's historical blockbuster *The Viking*, in which Svetlana Khodchenkova played one of the main roles.

**Arthur Beschastny** (Brodsky), graduated from the Moscow Art Theatre School, the course of Kirill Serebrennikov. He works in such Moscow theatres as the Gogol Center and Platform. He made his debut in *Kiss Through The Wall* in 2010. He played Brodsky in the TV-series *The Mysterious Passion* based on the novel by Vasily Aksenov.



**Elena Lyadova** (editor of a literary magazine) was born in the city of Marshansk. In 2002 she graduated from Mikhail Shchepkin Higher Theatre School and was accepted into the troupe of the Moscow Young Generation Theater. However, in 2012, Lyadova left the theatre stage and devoted herself to the cinema. Elena Lyadova is the laureate of ten Russian awards. The actress has repeatedly collected the main prizes of the Golden Eagle Award: for the Best Supporting Actress in Andrei Zvyagintsev's *Elena* in 2012, for the Best Actress in Alexander Veledinsky's *Geograf Globus Propil*, and for the performance in Andrei Zvyagintsev's *leviathan*. For the same role, the actress also received the Nika Award. The film *orleans* by Andrey Proshkin brought the actress in 2015 the first Silver George award at the Moscow International Film Festival, and the TV series *Izmeny* brought the TEFI Award in 2016.

## ***Andrey Saveliev***

*Andrey Saveliev* is a film and TV producer. He started producing in 1991. Since 2012 his focus has been on auteur and festival films.

Andrey is the producer for the following selected films made in collaboration with SAGa company

### ***SAGa / Selected Filmography***

**2018** – *Inner Wolf* director Valeriya Gai Germanika (in production).

**2018** – *Keys To Happiness* director Alexey Fedorchenko (in production).

**2018** – *Anna's War* director Alexey Fedorchenko (Premiere at IFFR 2018).

**2018** – *Dovlatov* director Alexey German Jr. (premiere at Berlin International Film Festival 2018).

**2015** – *Under Electric Clouds* director Alexey German Jr. (Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution, Berlin International Film Festival, 2015; Best directing, Asia Pacific Screen Awards 2015).

**2013** – *5000 Days Ahead* director Alexey German Jr. Opening of the anniversary project Future Reloaded at the 70th Venice International Film Festival.



## ***Artem Vasilyev***

Producer / METRAFILMS

Born 1970, graduated from Moscow State University with a degree in history. Artem has been producing feature films, animated series, animation films, documentary series and commercials for over twenty years.

### ***Select filmography***

**2018** – *The Humorist*, dir. Michael Idov

**2018** – *Key Of Happiness*, dir. Aleksey Fedorchenko

**2018** – *Dovlatov*, dir. Alexey German Jr., In competition, Berlin International Film Festival.

**2018** – *Anna's War*, dir. Aleksey Fedorchenko “Voices” selection Rotterdam IFF 2018

**2015** – *Under Electric Clouds*, dir. Alexey German Jr., In competition, Berlin International Film Festival.

Winner of the Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution.

Co-production Russia (METRAFILMS) – Poland (APPLE FILM)

– Ukraine (LINKED FILMS) Asia Pacific Screen Award 2015

(For Achievement in Directing) and other awards.

**2012** – *There Is No Hurry*. Directors – Fyodor Bondarchuk, Pyotr Buslov, Vladimir Kott, Alexandr Lungin, Boris Khlebnikov / five short films together with the Russian Association of Motor Insurers

**2011** – *From Tokyo*, dir. Alexey German Jr, short. 69th Venice International Film Festival, selection Orizzonti program, followed by other awards

**2011** – *Experiment Five*, directors Andrey Zvyaginsev, Igor Voloshin, Aleksey Popogrebsky, Pyotr Buslov, Alexander Veledinsky, short.

**2010** – *Act Of Nature*, directors Alexandr Lungin, Sergey Osipyan. Open Russian Film Festival Kinotavr: Best Cinematography

**2009** – *Room And A Half*, dir. Andrey Khrzhanovsky East of West award at International Karlovy Vary Film Festival 2009

**2008** – *Paper Soldier*, dir. Alexey German Jr.

Silver Lion at Venice International Film Festival 2008 (Best Director), Osella prize at Venice International Film Festival

(Best Camerawork), National Award of the Russian Academy of cinematic arts “Nika” (Best Director, Best Cinematography),

National Award of film critics and journalists

“White Elephant” (“White Taurus” Award) and other awards.

## ***Łukasz Żal***

Oscar® and BAFTA-nominated DoP (Poland)

Łukasz graduated from the Polish National Film School in Łódź in 2008.

For his feature debut *IDA* (2013), Lukasz won multiple cinematography awards including the ASC Spotlight Award, EFA Award, the San Francisco Film Critics Circle Awards, Golden Frog at Camerimage, 28th Gdynia Film Festival, 29th Warsaw Film Festival, 20th Minsk International Film Festival Listapad, 20th Warsaw Jewish Film Festival Medias Central European Film Festival Award, the PSC Award.

His second feature *The Here After*, directed by Magnus von Horn, was selected for the world's leading international festivals, including Cannes IFF 2015 (Directors' Fortnight), Toronto IFF 2015 (Discoveries), San Sebastian IFF 2015 (Zabaltegi) and many others.

His latest feature film *Loving Vincent*, directed by Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman, was selected for various international festivals and received nominations for such awards as the Golden Globes, BAFTA Awards, European Film Awards and many others.



## ***Editors***

### ***Sergey Ivanov***

Sergey Ivanov's filmography includes almost fifty titles among which *Silent Souls* by Alexey Fedorchenko (FIPRESCI award at the Venice International Film Festival 2010), *RUSSIAN ARK* by Aleksandr Sokurov (Palme d'Or nomination at Cannes Film Festival 2002, Visions Award at TIFF 2002). Sergey worked as the editor on two films directed by Alexey German Jr – *Paper Soldier* (Venice Silver Lion, 2008) and *Under Electric Clouds* (Berlin Silver Bear, 2015).

### ***Darya Gladysheva***

Darya graduated from Russian State University of Humanities, All-Russian State University of Cinematography. Berlinale Talents graduate, editing section.

**2010** – *Na Kruchke*, director Natalya Uglickikh

**2011** – *Hunter*, Official selection Cannes International Film Festival (2011), director Bakur Bakuradze

**2014** – *Shla Sasha Po Shosse*, short film, director Aleksandra Dashina

**2014** – *Second Life*, short film, director Oksana Miheeva

**2015** – *Screw Quentin*, short film, director Aleksey Markov, Michael Domingez

**2017** – *Blockbuster*, director Roman Volobuev

**2018** – *Dovlatov*, director Alexey German Jr.





## ***Production***

SAGa film company and Metrafilms in association with Channel One Russia with participation of Lenfilm film studio, in co-production with Message Film (Poland) and Art & Popcorn (Serbia), co-financed by Ministry of Culture of Russian Federation, Russian Cinema Fund, Government of Saint Petersburg, Polish Film Institute, Film Center Serbia and Cultural support fund of the Council of Europe EURIMAGES.

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