



A FILM BY  
**OLGA DELANE**  
GERMANY | 79' | 2016



# SIBERIAN LOVE

WITHOUT A HUSBAND  
YOU ARE NOT A  
WOMAN  
!

**-PRESSKIT-**

# SIBERIAN LOVE

WITHOUT A HUSBAND YOU ARE NOT A WOMAN!

A feature-length documentary by Olga Delane

IDFA  
SELECTION  
2016

## What does a woman need to be happy and fulfilled?

After 20 years of living in Berlin, the film director Olga goes back to her roots in a small Siberian village, where she is confronted with traditional views of relationships, life and love.



## Synopsis

### PUBLIC SCREENINGS

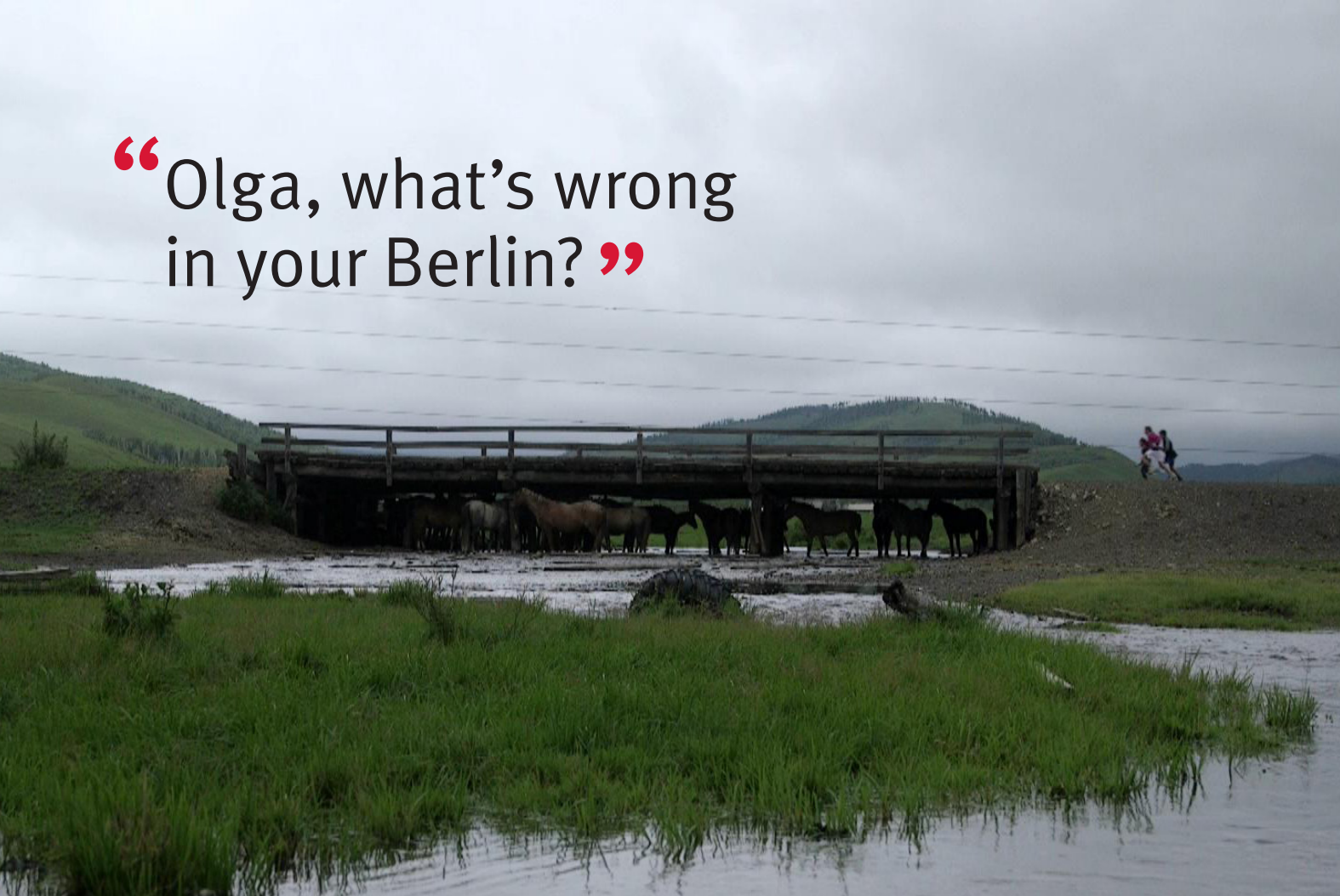
Saturday	19 NOV 2016	20:15	Munt 10	WORLD PREMIERE
Tuesday	22 NOV 2016	15:30	Tuschinski 4	
Wednesday	23 NOV 2016	15:00	Munt 13	
Friday	25 NOV 2016	11:00	Tuschinski 3	

All screenings will be followed by a Q&A with the director  
The film will be also available at the Docs for Sale

What does a woman need to be happy and fulfilled? After 20 years of living in Berlin, the director Olga Delane goes back to her roots in a small Siberian village, where she is confronted with traditional views of relationships, life and love. The man is the master in the home; the woman's task is to beget children and take care of the household (and everything else, too). Siberian Love provides unrivalled insights into the (love) life of a Siberian village and seeks the truth around the universal value of traditional relationships. A freezing quest for love in rural Siberia.



“Olga, what’s wrong in your Berlin?”



## Longer Synopsis

Siberian Love provides unrivalled insights into the (love) life of a Siberian village and seeks the truth around the universal value of traditional relationships.

“Olga, what’s wrong in your Berlin? You don’t even want to bear children?”

Siberian Love documents love and relationships in a Siberian village of 270 inhabitants. Although Olga Delane is not the protagonist, her presence is felt throughout the film. She is part of the action, stimulates the conversations with relatives and brings out their personal opinions in discussions. Olga is looking for answers to the question of the value of traditional relationships, love and fulfilment.

Siberian Love starts with Olga’s arrival at the village. With her western lifestyle, Olga provokes her relatives in the small Siberian village and is confronted with their critical comments concerning her relationship status and her lifestyle in Berlin.



“Feminism? What’s that?”

Over a period of four years, Olga Delane has been a fixture in the everyday lives of her relatives in the Siberian village – lives characterised by dependence, dominance and concentration, as well as by commitment, cohesion, security and tradition. The man is the master in the house, the task of the woman is to beget children and to take care of the household.

“Why is there no feminism here?” Olga asks her aunt. “Feminism? What’s that?”, she replies. Olga’s film shows how family roles have consolidated over many generations. But also the division of the generations between traditional values and the dream of self-realisation.

But the deeper Olga penetrates into Siberian village life, the more she finds cohesion and a humble love, which touches her and makes her feel that despite all the ugliness and heaviness, this life is also very beautiful. Is romantic love a Western luxury?





## Characters

### SASHA (45), IRA (45) AND THEIR DAUGHTER LJUBA (18)

Sasha is the patron of the village, owner of most land and most pigs. He is Olga's cousin. He embodies the ideal Russian husband, his purpose in life being to take care of his women (his wife, Ira, and his daughter, Ljuba). He believes he knows how to make them happy, and always struggles for their happiness. The division of roles seems clear and is widely accepted by the women in this household.

For his daughter, Ljuba, Sasha has already selected a groom – a practical, reliable young man. But Ljuba has her own plans. She wants to fall in love.

Parallel to his efforts to secure the happiness of his daughter, Sasha works hard for the happiness of his wife, Ira. Ira dreams to leave the village and go some place where she can wear freshly painted nails all day long and go out in the evening to see of the world.

Sasha cannot understand why his wife wants to swap the beautiful and free country life for the city. Nevertheless, he supports her dream and bought a small two-room flat for her in the nearest town. But how will their love develop when they live 500km apart?

### OLEG (39) AND LJUBA (36)

Oleg is Sasha's younger brother. He lives with his wife and daughter. It seems that they live a rather boring, down-to-earth life, whose only purpose seems to be to cope with the monotonous, harsh everyday living.

His wife is the first to get up and the last to go to bed. She never takes a rest, and is always at work. She does not complain about her fate, or her husband. But where does she find the power and peace that she radiates? She bakes marvellous bread in the fire oven, she cooks the best jam, keeps pigs happy with her food, and frees cows from their milk-filled udders. She finds fulfilment in everyday life and the happiness of her family.





#### WASKOW FAMILY: FOUR GENERATIONS IN A HOUSE

In this village house, four generations live under the same roof: The great-grandmother Masha, her daughter Galja with her husband Tolja, their son Zhenja with his wife Nastya, and the granddaughter, baby Anja. The great-grandmother and the grandmother share a common destiny: they were both beaten by their husbands.

The great-grandmother waves her hand: “I have survived him. But today I would give him one with the frying pan.” Nonetheless, family life is at the top of the list. Galja has been living with her husband Tolja for almost 30 years. In the past, he beat his wife when he was still able to do so. Now he likes to help around the house. And his wife is now the undisputed boss.

“When men get older, they lose their interest in violence,” she says.

The daughter-in-law, Nastya (20), has just had a baby.

The young mother knows that the baby is the only reason why her husband, Zhenja, is together with her. The young mother is nevertheless satisfied.



“When men get older, they lose their interest in violence”

Will the relationship of these two survive?

Galja shrugs: “Everything is possible. Of course, they argue. But what can happen? They’ll just stay together. They have a child. So they love each other.”

#### VALJA, HER SON NIKOLAI AND HIS CHILDREN, JULIA AND FEDJA

Nikolai was left by his wife after the birth of their son. Since then, he has lost all his bearings in life. He is an alcoholic and out of work.

His mother, Valja, who lives with him, looks after him and the children.





## Director's Note

---

I was born in Siberia. At the age of 16, I migrated to Berlin in Germany with my family. There, I became the person I never could have become in Siberia. For 20 years now, I live in this country, speak its language, feel its pulse – and I feel German.

In Siberia, I am a Russian-speaking “German”, who runs through the Siberian steppes and asks people about love.

Why I am doing this?

Throughout my life in Germany, I led a lifestyle that was similar to those of my peers. I studied and wanted to make a career. Family planning was secondary. Yet, since I travelled to Siberia, four years ago, I have been confronted with the lifestyle models of my relatives there, and I am asking myself if my way of life is correct.

A woman in Siberia introduced me to a radical choice: Either life in Germany, with all its comfort, modern privileges and well educated people, or a real life in Siberia, with a happy family, a care-taking husband and many children. And she said to me: Olga, come home...

I am fascinated by the way people build up their relationships there. How pragmatic, but also how humble and self-sacrificing they are. The relationships appear to me very emotional and passionate. It seems to me that, in the traditional archaic societies of Eastern Siberian villages, people experience feelings with intensity and without compromises. And this attracts and repulses me at the same time. On the one hand, I feel longing for traditional values but on the other hand I greatly enjoy being independent and doing my artwork without having a family. So I often feel torn between my longing for family and a traditional life, and my independent Western life.

For Siberian Love, I went to the village of my relatives, Onon-Borzja, with its 270 inhabitants, to decide whether a life in this boundless expanse, the breathtaking beauty of nature, together with these earthly, stubborn, passionate and open people can be something for me.





## Credits

---

Title:	Siberian love
Year:	2016
Country:	Germany
Genre:	Creative Documentary
Length:	79 min
Director:	Olga Delane
Producer:	Frank Müller, Doppelplusultra
Co-Producer:	Linda Matern, Bildschön Filmproduktion
DOP:	Olga Delane, Nikolai v. Graevenitz
Editor:	Philipp Gromov
Broadcaster:	rbb/Arte, ERR (Estonian TV), Aljazeera Documentary Chanel
Language:	Russian



## Release Details

---

“Siberian Love” is having its international world premiere in November 2016 at the International Documentary Filmfestival Amsterdam (IDFA).

The Franco-German TV channel ARTE is co-producer. “Siberian Love” will be running on the prestigious “Lucarne” slot, which is reserved for selected artistic documentary films. The German-French TV premiere is scheduled for June 2018. Another co-production partner is the TV station Aljazeera Documentary Channel. The film was produced in coproduction with Bildschön Filmproduktion and was sponsored by the nordmedia - Film- und Mediengesellschaft Niedersachsen/Bremen mbH.

The film was developed in the following MEDIA-supported European workshops and pitches: Eurodoc 2015, East Doc Platform 2015, Baltic Sea Forum 2015.





#### DIRECTOR

**Olga Delane**, born in 1977 in Krasnokamensk, is a photographer, editor and director. During the last five years she took several trips through Siberia for her photo, video and movie projects. Her first documentary feature-length film „Endstation Krasnokamensk – Ein Heimatbesuch“ (Final destination Krasnokamensk ) ran successfully in many German art-house cinemas.

#### PRODUCER, CO- AUTHOR DOPPELPLUSULTRA

Born 1969 in Mainz, Germany, **Frank Müller** is a film director and producer. After graduating from the Moscow Film School Vyshie kursy in 1995, he worked as director and producer for several commercials, music clips and documentaries in Moscow. In 2000, he founded the film production company Doppelplusultra in Hamburg, Germany. Since then he worked on several international film productions and joined several European documentary workshops and pitches. A EURODOC Graduate Producer (2015), fluent in English, German and Russian.

#### CO-PRODUCER BILDSCHÖN FILMPRODUKTION

**Linda Meier-Matern** is a producer, writer and filmmaker. Since 1992 she has worked for various film productions. In 1997 she founded her company Bildschön filmproduktion, with which she produces short films and documentaries for the national and international market with European and Eastern European partners. One of her last production work is the award-winning documentary “Dreams Rewired” with narrator Tilda Swinton, that she has made in co-production with Amour Fou Vienna and Ambient Information Systems London.

#### DoP

**Nikolai von Graevenitz**, born in 1972 in Berlin, has been working since 2002 as DoP for documentaries, feature films and commercials. His works were presented and awarded at international Film Festivals, such as: Cannes, Berlinale, Rotterdam, Sundance Film Festivals. His film «Der Wald für lauter Bäume» (The wood for the trees) was nominated for Best Film for the German Film Award Lola 2005.

#### EDITOR

**Philipp Gromov**, born in St. Petersburg, lives in Germany since 1997. After studying music in Detmold, he is working as an editor. As editor he is involved in many award-winning productions, among others the Grimme Prize productions “The Other Chelsea - A story from Donetsk” (2012) and “Farewell Comrades! (2013) and at the 4-part television series, “In Search of Putin’s Russia” (2015) by Andrei Nekrasov and “The Magnitsky Act - Behind the Scenes” (2016), also by Nekrasov. Two of the films he participated were in the past, in the selection of IDFA: “Zelim’s Confession” (Student competition 2013) and “Holy Cow” (First appearance 2015).

---

DOPPELPLUSULTRA FILM UND TV PRODUCTION PRESENTS “SIBERIAN LOVE” A FILM BY OLGA DELANE IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH BILDSCHÖN FILMPRODUKTION • ALJAZEERA DOCUMENTARY CHANNEL • RUNDFUNK BERLIN-BRANDENBURG IN COOPERATION WITH ARTE SUPPORTED BY NORDMEDIA - FILM UND MEDIENGESELLSCHAFT SCRIPT OLGA DELANE • FRANK MÜLLER DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY OLGA DELANE • NIKOLAI VON GRAEVNITZ • EDITOR PHILIPP GROMOV ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSED BY RUSSIAN FOLKBEAT SOUND DESIGN TIMO WITTHÖFT RE-RECORDING TORBEN SEEMANN COMMISSIONING EDITORS DAGMAR MIELKE • MOHAMED EL MONGHY PRODUCERS FRANK MÜLLER • LINDA MEIER-MATERN



## Trailer:

---

**V:** [vimeo.com/134849976](https://vimeo.com/134849976)

## Contacts:

---



### PRODUCTION COMPANY:

Doppelplusultra Filmproduktion GbR  
Frank Müller  
Mob.: +49 (0)1727788135  
[mail@doppelplusultra.de](mailto:mail@doppelplusultra.de)  
[www.doppelplusultra.de](http://www.doppelplusultra.de)

at IDFA 19-24/11



### AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT & PRESS:

Kouzi Productions  
Dimitra Kouzi  
[dimitra@kouziproductions.com](mailto:dimitra@kouziproductions.com)  
[www.kouziproductions.com](http://www.kouziproductions.com)  
Mob.: +30 694 6060862

at IDFA 19-24/11



**f : SiberianLoveFilm**

**[www.siberian-love-film.com](http://www.siberian-love-film.com)**



Bildschön  
Filmproduktion



nordmedia

rbb

arte



Filmförderung Hamburg  
Schleswig-Holstein  
FILM COMMISSION

Programme co-financed by  
**EURODOC**

institute of  
documentary  
film