

Document Citation

Title	Alexandra
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Rotterdam Film Festival</i>
Date	1/26/2008
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Alexandra, Sokurov, Aleksandr, 2007



Alexandra - KA (IFFR 2008)



Through the wise and very personal gaze of a Russian grandmother who goes to see her grandson on the Chechen front, Alexandr Sokurov offers a last chance for humanity in the bare and hopeless brutality of not only the Chechen conflict but all of today's inhuman wars.

In 2006, Sokurov portrayed the opera diva Galina Vishnevskaya with her husband, the late cellist and conductor Mstislav Rostropovich, in his documentary **Elegy of Life: Rostropovich Vishnevskaya**. Now she is playing the stunning leading role in his latest feature. The aged Alexandra travels to Chechnya to visit her grandson Denis, who is stationed in the heart of an apparently insoluble hotbed of war. Sokurov has them meet each other in a ruined Grozny, where the grandmother apparently had less trouble making contact with the local population - even though they mistrust her at first - than with her own flesh and blood. Grandmother and grandson have not seen each other for seven years and the aggressive, martial world in which he has been stuck has severely diminished his social skills. Without showing a single drop of blood spilt, Sokurov sketches the pale and traumatised universe that is responsible for this.

While **Alexandra** is unmistakably political - in a direct way that is unusual for Sokurov - the film transcends the local conflict. Alexandra is not only Mother Russia and Denis is not just the dulled Russian soldier. It looks as if the director wants to build in a last humanitarian break, an alarming last moment of choice in an uncontrollable conflict that does not differ very much from so many other wars. So fictional, yet so real.

Screenings

Pathé 1	Sat 26 Jan	*19:00
Cinerama 1	Mon 28 Jan	*12:00
Cinerama 6	Thu 31 Jan	*16:45

My Festival

- > [Opinions on this film](#)
- > [Add this film to your favoriteslist](#)

Theme

- > [Kings & Aces](#)