

CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

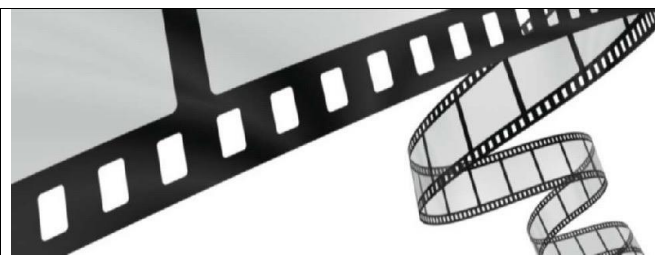
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TANGERINES

Dir: Zaza Urushadze - Georgia - 2016 - 90 mins.

Cast: Lembit Ulfak (Ivo); Elmo Nugunen (Margus); Giorgi Nakashidze (Ahmed); Miheil Meskhi (Niko); Raivo Trass (Juhan).

Music: Ninz Diasamidze.

"This movie from Georgian writer-director Zaza Urushadze had an Oscar nomination for best foreign film, losing out to Pawel Pawlikowski's *IDA*. [And who would begrudge the wonderful *IDA*?!] However, *TANGERINES* is more than deserving of an award: a tremendous, 'old-fashioned' anti-war film, by turns touching, moving and suspenseful.

Set in 1992 in post-Soviet Caucasus, Georgians are fighting a war with secessionist Abkhazians, who are backed by Russia. Ivo is an elderly ethnic Estonian who, with friend Margus, is a tangerine farmer; they fear the fighting will destroy their entire crop. Disaster strikes, and Ivo finds himself having to offer tense hospitality to one wounded fighter from each side: Georgian Niko and Chechen mercenary Ahmed, who has no great love for his Russian paymasters. Ivo's house becomes their demilitarised zone, and Niko and Ahmed must repress their hatred for each other, while Ivo suppresses panic about his unpicked tangerines going to waste.

It is tremendous storytelling, with some engaging, lovely touches. So, when Ivo and Margus push a soldier's van down a hill to hide it they are disappointed it doesn't burst into flames, "like in the movies." "Cinema is a great big fraud" says Ivo." (Guardian Film Review)

Interestingly (for some!), Urushadze's father was the famous Soviet football goalkeeper Ramaz Urushadze. Zaza trained at the Slota Rustaveli Theatre and Film Georgia State University. In 2002-04 he was director of the Georgian National Film Centre. His first full-length film was *HERE COMES THE DAWN* (1988), a successful international debut.

Urushadze ran into political difficulties in 2006 when the fourth series of his popular TV series - *CKHELI DZOGLI* - was banned by the Georgian government for its 'political themes'. He now embarked on his second feature film, *THREE HOUSES* (2008). Shown at the Montreal World Film Festival, in 2009 it opened the Georgian Film Week in Tallinn, Estonia, where Urushadze met Artur Veeber and Tatjana Muklbeier, and together an idea to write a script for *TANGERINES* was born. *TANGERINES*, an Estonia/Georgia co-production, was completed in 2013, becoming one of the most successful and worldwide acclaimed films in Georgian film history: during the next three years it went on to be nominated and win many awards.

A new Urushadze film is planned for release in 2017: *THE MONK*. It apparently tells the story of a film director-turned-priest whose life in a small mountain village begins to unravel when he meets a local music teacher who is hiding a dark secret. Urushadze said of it that "it would be different from *TANGERINES*... lighter and maybe even more sensitive. But... hopefully entertaining." We should watch out for it!

By the time of screening *TANGERINES*, we shall have just three films left in the 2016/17 Chelmsford Film Club season. Don't miss *TALE OF TALES* on 4 May, full of blissful and magical entertainment!

We also hope to have held our Planning/Selection committee meeting - on 11 April - to decide on the viability of what would be our 30th season as a Film club in Chelmsford, and its possible content. More about this before tonight's screening, and check the website