

CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

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Thursday 7th December: Pamfir 2023

Ukraine/France/Poland/Chile 102 mins

Director: Dmytro Sukholytkyy-Sobchuk

Writer: Dmytro Sukholytkyy-Sobchuk

Cast:

Oleksandr Yatsentyuk (*Leonid*); Stanislav Potyak (*Nazar*); Solomiia Kyrylova (*Olena*); Olena Khokhlatkina (*The Mother*); Myroslav Makoviychuk (*The Father*); Oleksandr Yarema (*Morda*)

Set in the run-up to a traditional carnival in rural Western Ukraine, writer-director Dmytro Sukholytkyy-Sobchuk's feature debut follows an eponymous ex-smuggler whose plans to go straight are thwarted by small-town corruption.

When Leonid (Oleksandr Yatsentyuk) returns to his home on the Ukrainian border after months abroad, he's determined to earn an honest living, but his plans are quickly derailed by his teenage son Nazar's (Stanislav Potyak) misguided actions. To set things right, Leonid has no choice but to take on a new and uniquely risky smuggling job, for a crime syndicate operating in a place where all the rules have changed.

Part drama, part thriller, part noir-inflected fairytale, **Pamfir** is violent, raw and bloody, but also a tender portrait of a family man trying to raise his son well despite his own checkered past. Shot in long takes and set amid forests swirling with mist in the run-up to the traditional 'Malanka' carnival – a wild pagan festival featuring straw costumes, wooden masks and centuries-old rites and traditions – it's a propulsive, genre-defying debut that paints an elemental, unvarnished portrait of Ukraine.

Footnote: The film was in post-production when the Russian invasion of Ukraine began in February 2022. Sound designer **Oleksandr Verhovynets** managed to transfer all material abroad, so that the editing of the film could be completed.

Annual General Meeting:

Before screening this film, we will be holding a brief AGM.

Our next presentation:

[War Pony](#) will be shown on Wednesday, 17 January, starting at 8:00pm.