

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

THE EMPTY HOUSE

A FILM BY RATI TSITELADZE



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Technical Information

Working Title: The Empty House

Director: Rati Tsiteladze

Screenplay: Rati Tsiteladze, Nino Varsimashvili

Nationality: Georgian

Genre: Drama

Format: 4K

Length: 90 min

Original Language: Georgian

Shooting location: Georgia

Production Company: ArtWay Film

Address: M. Tamarashvili Street, 5

0162, Tbilisi, Georgia

Producers: Rati Tsiteladze, Nino Varsimashvili

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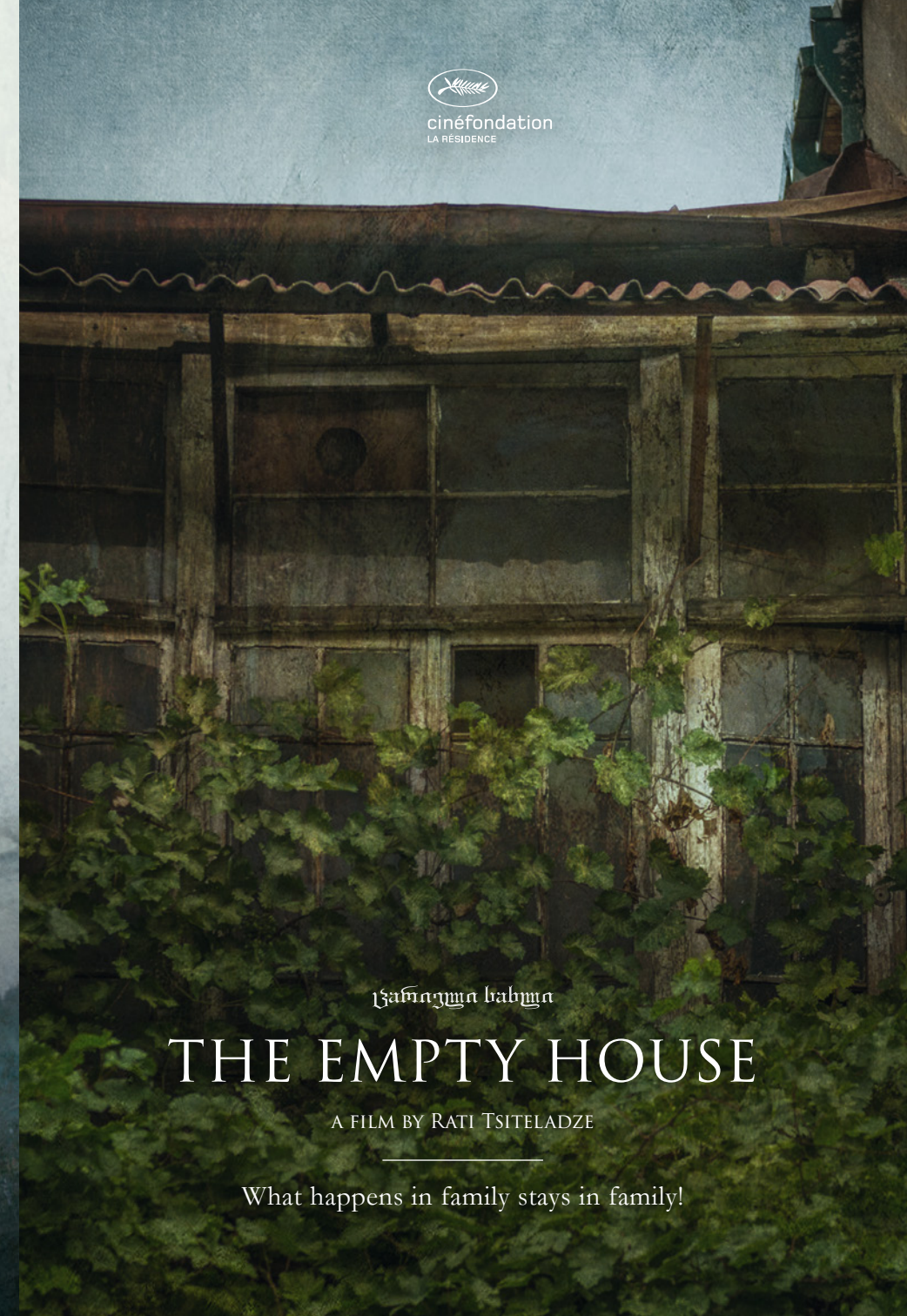
Director's Biography

Rati Tsiteladze was born in post-Soviet Georgia. He studied film-making at the Hybrid Conservatory, Los Angeles. At age 21, he won the title of World Champion in martial arts, but in 2010, when film-making became the overpowering passion in his life, he left his fighting career and founded ArtWay Film production.

His award-winning work **Deda** was selected at around 200 film festivals.

His feature documentary project **May 17** won the pitch award at DMZ docs, was part of IDFA and has been selected among six projects at Doc Corner – Marché du Film, 70th Festival de Cannes.

His first feature project, **The Empty House** was short-listed for Sundance Screenwriters Lab and selected at the 64th IFF Mannheim-Heidelberg and Cannes Cinéfondation Residence 2017.



ჩანთილი ბაბუნა

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What happens in family stays in family!

Synopsis

11-year-old Nino is growing up in post-Soviet Georgia during the civil war of the early 90s. She still plays with her doll, wants to become a writer and has an over-romantic view of the family. For her, reality and dreams are merged into a world full of expectations. After 7 years of absence, her father returns from prison and her family, the members of which represent three generations, is complete. But soon things turn out to be different from what she had expected – the house slowly turns into a battlefield and begins to crumble around her. Confronted with a reality bitter beyond her imagination, Nino leaves her childhood behind and prematurely becomes a woman.

Statement of Intent

The Empty House for me is first and foremost a film about love and expectations; how love can integrate the two abstract notions of good and evil into one undivided whole and sometimes cause people to act in a dangerous way.

The film speaks about the attitude of society towards violence and humanity's tendency to blindly follow tradition. I was always concerned about what happens to children when adults place family honor above all else. What is it like to grow up as a girl in a patriarchal society?

With this film I aim to take an insightful and uncompromising look at human nature

through the study of characters and their relationship between each other, while their unity is tested to its limits.

For me, the war in the background – the war with bigger and overwhelming opponent is a symbolic mirror of Nino's inner world. Inspired by Nino's passion for poetry, I intend to convey the complex feelings of childhood and sexual awakening through the poetic long takes that convey allegorical messages about the beauty and horrors of life.

Note d'intention

Pour moi, *The Empty House* porte sur l'amour et les attentes; comment l'amour peut intégrer les deux notions abstraites du bien et du mal dans un tout indivis et peut parfois amener les gens à agir de manière dangereuse.

Le film parle de l'attitude de la société face à la violence et de la tendance à suivre aveuglément la tradition. J'ai toujours été préoccupé par ce qui arrive aux enfants lorsque les adultes placent l'honneur familial avant tout. Comment cela se passe-t-il pour une fille de grandir dans une société patriarcale?

Avec ce film, j'ai l'intention de porter un regard perspicace et intransigeant sur la

nature humaine en étudiant les personnages et leur relation, lorsque leur harmonie est mise à l'épreuve.

Pour moi, la guerre en arrière-plan – la guerre avec un adversaire plus grand et écrasant – est le miroir symbolique du monde intérieur de Nino. Inspiré par la passion de Nino pour la poésie, j'ai l'intention de traduire les sentiments complexes de l'enfance et de l'éveil sexuel par de longues prises de vues poétiques exprimant des messages allégoriques sur la beauté et les horreurs de la vie.

Synopsis

Nino, âgé de 11 ans, grandit en Géorgie post-soviétique pendant la guerre civile au début des années 90. Elle joue encore avec sa poupée, veut devenir écrivain et a une vision trop romantique de la famille. Pour elle, la réalité et les rêves se fondent dans un monde plein d'attentes. Après 7 ans d'absence, son père sort de prison et sa famille, dont les membres représentent trois générations, est au complet. Mais bientôt les choses se révèlent différentes de ce qu'elle attendait, la maison devient lentement un champ de bataille et commence à s'effriter autour d'elle. Confrontée à une réalité amère au-delà de son imagination, Nino laisse son enfance derrière elle et devient prématurément une femme.

