



Technical Information

Working title: Lady's Mantle
Director: Bohdana Smyrnova
Screenplay by: Bohdana Smyrnova
Nationality: Ukraine / USA
Genre: Drama
Length: 90 min.

Director's Filmography and Awards

Her Seat Is Vacant, 2010, 17 min.
(Ron Tibbet Award for Excellence in Film at Magnolia Independent Film Festival, Best Direction at "Start" Film Festival, Best Direction at "Vidkryta Nich" Film Festival).

Ramona's New Dresser, 2008, 11 min.
(Sarah Driver Award nomination, Excellence in Filmmaking at First Run Film Festival, Sao Paulo ISFF, Toronto Insideout Film Festival, Frameline Film Festival, Outfest L.A.)

The Haircut, 2006, 6.30 min.
(Slamdance International Film Festival, Molodist International Film Festival)

Les démarches des papiers, 2001, 10 min.
(Jury Award at 92Y Tribeca Short Slam, Best Direction at International Film Festival Azerbaijan, Best Direction at Capalbio SFF, Prize from the General Sponsor "Vidkryta Nich" Film Festival, diploma For A Fresh and Charming Tale at "Message to Man" IFF, Clermont- Ferrand International Film Festival, IFF Rotterdam, Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival, French Theatrical Release for R.A.D.I.).

A Film by Bohdana Smyrnova
LADY'S MANTLE



FESTIVAL DE CANNES



Bohdana Smyrnova

E-mail: ladysmantle2012@gmail.com
Tel: + 1347-581-5347

Résidence du Festival Festival de Cannes

3, rue Amélie, F-75007 Paris
 Tel. 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 20
 Fax 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 24
 E-mail:
 residence@festival-cannes.fr
 www.festival-cannes.org

Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or even first

feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.

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SYNOPSIS

Marta is a forty-five year old flower gardener for the City of Chernivtsi, in the West of Ukraine. Her son Roman, a seminary student, pretends to be an ordained priest and gets paid to consecrate a car. In order to keep him in the seminary, Marta needs to bribe the Dean. She desperately looks for money and accepts an offer to go to New York with fake documents. In America, Marta has to work as a home attendant for an old hippie called River. A new life, in completely unfamiliar settings,

reveals the absurdity Marta's notions and habits. Left without his mother's care, Roman tries hard to become a man – in his own weird way...

NOTE OF INTENT

The most dramatic moments are usually surrounded by a lot of casual details. When Marta seems to have left behind her co-dependency on her son, an old hippie called River re-triggers her bizarre way of loving. This film takes place in two cities, Chernivtsi and New York, both of which were my homes.

How did I feel there? How was my relationship with the town conditioned by my previous personal experiences? How did the environment condition my future convictions? Exploring Marta's journey by letting the actors improvise within a certain set of circumstances, I will examine this complexity and share the experience with the audience.

SYNOPSIS

Marta une femme de quarante cinq ans, entretient les jardins pour la ville de Chernivtsi, à l'Ouest de l'Ukraine. Son fils, Roman, un étudiant en séminaire, prétend être un prêtre ordonné et reçoit de l'argent pour bénir une voiture. Afin qu'il puisse continuer à participer au séminaire, Marta doit soudoyer le doyen. Elle recherche désespérément de l'argent et accepte de partir à New York avec de faux documents. En Amérique, Marta doit travailler comme domestique pour River, une vieille hippie américaine.

Une nouvelle vie au sein d'un environnement entièrement nouveau révèle à Marta l'absurdité de ses croyances et habitudes. Loin de sa mère, Roman fait de son mieux pour devenir un homme – à sa façon, quelque peu bizarre...

NOTE D'INTENTION

Les moments les plus dramatiques sont généralement truffés de détails ordinaires. Lorsque la co-dépendance de Marta vis-à-vis de son fils Roman semble devenir futile, une vieille hippie du nom de River, révèle son

étrange façon d'aimer. Ce film se déroule dans deux villes, Chernivtsi et New York ; villes dans lesquelles j'ai habité. Comment me suis-je senti là-bas ? Mon rapport avec la ville était-il influencé par mes expériences personnelles précédentes ? Quel impact l'environnement avait-il sur mes croyances futures ? Explorer le voyage de Marta en laissant les acteurs improviser dans des circonstances précisément définies m'a permis d'observer la complexité de la situation et de partager cette expérience avec le public.