

A FILM BY NATALIJA YEFIMKINA

# ГАРАЖАНЕ GARAGE PEOPLE



 **70<sup>e</sup>** Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin  
Perspektive Deutsches Kino

IN COMPETITION  
**CPH:DOX**  
NEXT-WAVE AWARD  
2020

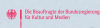
A **TAMTAM FILM** PRODUCTION IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH **MDR** IN COOPERATION WITH **ARTE**  
WORLD SALES BY **RISE AND SHINE** SUPPORTED BY **CREATIVE EUROPE MEDIA, BKM, FFA AND FFHS**

WRITER AND DIRECTOR **NATALIJA YEFIMKINA** — DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **AXEL SCHNEPPAT** — ADDITIONAL CAMERA **KONRAD WALDMANN** — ORIGINAL SOUND **ALEXEY ANTONOV** AND **IVAN ARAPOV**  
EDITORS **NICOLE FISCHER** **LUCIA GERHARDT** **MARKUS SCHMIDT** AND **BARBARA TOENNIESHEN** — GRADING **CLAUDIA GITTEL** — SOUNDDSIGN AND MIXING **PAUL WILKE** AND **SEBASTIAN REUTER**  
PRODUCTION MANAGER **JAN PHILIP LANGE** — COMMISSIONING EDITORS **SILKE HEINZ** MDR AND **VALÉRIE THEOBALD** ARTE — CREATIVE PRODUCER **MATHIEU DOLENC** — PRODUCERS **ANDREA SCHÜTTE** AND **DIRK DECKER**



mdr

arte



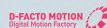
FFA



DDK  
forum



german  
films



RISE AND SHINE  
WORLD SALES



# GARAGE PEOPLE

GARAGENVOLK

A FILM BY  
NATALIJA YEFIMKINA

- PRESS KIT -

(10 February 2020)

A TAMTAM FILM PRODUCTION

IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH MITTELDEUTSCHER RUNDFUNK

IN COOPERATION WITH ARTE

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

CREATIVE EUROPE MEDIA

DIE BEAUFTRAGTE DER BUNDESREGIERUNG FÜR KULTUR UND MEDIEN

FILMFÖRDERUNG HAMBURG SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN

FILMFÖRDERUNGSANSTALT

[www.riseandshine-berlin.de](http://www.riseandshine-berlin.de) | [www.tamtamfilm.com](http://www.tamtamfilm.com) | [www.missingfilms.de](http://www.missingfilms.de)

## GARAGE PEOPLE

### SCREENINGS

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#### **Public Screenings**

Wednesday, 26 February, 19h30, Kino International (World Premiere)

Thursday, 27 February, 12h00, Colosseum

Thursday, 27 February, 20h30, CinemaxX 1

Friday, 28 February, 16h30, Cubix Filmpalast 5

#### **Market & Press Screenings**

Monday, 24 February, 12h50, Gropius Cinema (Market Screening)

Wednesday, 26 February, 14h00, Cubix Filmpalast 5 (Press Screening)

Thursday, 27 February, 12h00, CinemaxX 12 (Market Screening)

# GARAGE PEOPLE

## LOGLINE

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In Russia's unwelcoming north, garages stretch out into endlessness. Behind rusty doors everything can be found, except cars. They are the refuge of the Russian man, the vanishing point out of bleak daily life and a signal of hope for big dreams.

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

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In post-Soviet Russia there is a phenomenon beyond ice fishing, matryoshkas and vodka: the garage settlement. Tin huts, inhospitable from the outside, provide a refuge for a large number of Russians - mainly men. According to their own taste and away from all rules, with ingenuity and tenacity, alternative habitats are created on just a few square meters. Scrap collector Ilya uses the garage as a production facility, Roman uses it for his quail breeding, Pavel carves skillful saint figures, and Viktor has added four underground floors to his space over the decades. Everything is here, and everything seems possible.

The garages are an expression of a retreat into the private sphere, an escape from everyday life. Behind the Arctic Circle, in a rough area where a mining company is the only employer, the garage remains the last chance for self-realization - and comes across as diverse as the dreams of its owners.

# GARAGE PEOPLE

## BEHIND THE CAMERA

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### TEAM

<b>Writer and Director</b>	Natalija Yefimkina
<b>Producers</b>	Andrea Schütte Dirk Decker
<b>Creative Producer</b>	Mathieu Dolenc
<b>Line Producer</b>	Jan Philip Lange
<b>Production Management</b>	Natalya Zakharova
<b>Commissioning Editors</b>	Silke Heinz (MDR) Valérie Theobaldt (ARTE)
<b>Director of Photography</b>	Axel Schnepapat
<b>Still Photography</b>	Konrad Waldmann
<b>Editors</b>	Nicole Fischer Lucia Gerhardt Markus Schmidt Barbara Toennieshen
<b>Original Sound</b>	Alexey Antonov Ivan Arapov
<b>Sound Design</b>	Sebastian Reuter Paul Wilke
<b>Sound Editing</b>	Sebastian Reuter
<b>Grading</b>	Claudia Gittel
<b>Title Design</b>	Henning Weskamp Felix Paul

## GARAGE PEOPLE

### LONG SYNOPSIS

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In post-Soviet Russia there is a phenomenon beyond ice fishing, matryoshkas and vodka: the garage settlement. In small informal colonies, Russian men embellish their garages at their own discretion, far from the regulatory or corrupt reach of the government. They work painstakingly to create a parallel world; for some it serves as a means of existence, for others it is pure recreation.

The garages are an expression of the Russian man's retreat into the private sphere, an escape from the rules and Mafia-like structures of everyday life in Russia and a secret devotion to individualism and consumption. This is where possessions are stored, and independence is celebrated. It is the place where illegal fish shops are operated, where booze is distilled, or where you retire with your loved one. The garage is a place that harbours diverse escapist tendencies: Here, people can do what they want to and find temporary refuge from a government that offers its people little perspective.

With its humorous, unpredictable and bizarre scenes, the film tells of the lives of a group of men: Scrap collectors Ilja K. and Vitalik, Roman, who uses his garage for quail breeding, Pavel, who skilfully carves saint figures, Sergej, whose Parkinson's disease does not stop him from continuing his handiwork, struggling musician Ilya and Viktor, who has added four underground floors to his space in decades of work. We hear their tales, both tragic and light-hearted, that allow us to gaze deep inside the Russian soul. The men speak for themselves – and with each other, sharing their concerns, their fears and their joys. In this way we gain insight into an everyday reality that takes place in secret.

GARAGE PEOPLE is an episodic film of encounters and with its mosaic-like structure, recurring topics, motifs and problems, the film paints an unusual picture of contemporary Russia. Accompanied by barren panoramic views of the snow-covered Kola Peninsula in northern Russia, the individual stories relate the present state of Russian society and generate a visual sociology.

# GARAGE PEOPLE

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

by Natalija Yefimkina

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„GARAGE PEOPLE is my exploration of the human stories beneath the surface. The garage doors are like theatre stages before the curtain rises – and each time the audience is presented with a new play, a different world.

That curtain first rose for me a few years ago, when I came to this Russia north of the Arctic Circle, 2000 km from Moscow, as part of the crew of a feature film shoot. I looked for extras – and found garages: surprising and unconventional places of deep longing. In the extensive garage settlements on the outskirts of the cities, which seem like their own enclaves, the Russian man turns into an adventurer, discoverer, bon vivant, hermit. Here he is the ruler of his world; here he can shape his environment according to his ideas: The garage is thus one of the few places where individuality is tolerated in Russia – perhaps because the fulfilment of small dreams keeps him from striving for greater things.

The beauty and vastness of the northern landscape cannot hide the often bleak impression left by this area, which is as much characterised by the local mining industry as by the largest settlement of military personnel to be found in Russia. During the winter (which can last from October to June) people here often live at minus 35 degrees, the fresh snow lying between the Soviet prefabricated housing estates of the 1950s is covered with the black soot of the industry. The life in the shadow of the mines and nuclear power plants is determined by the favour of an oligarch. And although no one seems to remember the Stalin-era labour camps, where prisoners were subjected to the most brutal conditions, they too have left their mark on the region.

And then there are the garages: places of escape where you can dream away and which, despite their narrowness, mean freedom – freedom that hardly lasts in the vastness of the outside world. Freedom also for a moment from the women of the family who rule in the apartments and who rarely find a space in the garages. It is a male world that has made me doubly curious as a woman – sanctuaries that are often illegally developed, where businesses are run without licenses and where belongings are rather hidden than shown to the public.

It was important to me to capture the longings, worries and passions of these people. Over the course of a year, we gathered the material for a film that gets by without judgement or commentary, that doesn't gloss over or iron out anything, and that gives the protagonists the appreciation they deserve. Appreciation for living their lives with dignity and pride and for facing adversity with humour. I hope I have succeeded.

This is a film about how far man can adapt, about making reality bearable and finding a way out to express the urge for self-realization.”

# GARAGE PEOPLE

## CREW

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### NATALIJA YEFIMINA – Writer & Director

Natalija Yefimkina (\*1983) was born in Kiev to Russian-Ukrainian parents and moved to Germany with her family in 1995. After studying history and literature in Berlin, she worked as an assistant director and production assistant for feature film productions. After several short documentary works GARAGE PEOPLE (GARAGENVOLK) is her first feature-length documentary and her debut as a director.

### FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTION):

2020	GARAGE PEOPLE, Documentary Feature, Debut, Writer and Director
2015	VON AMSTERDAM NACH ODESSA (MDR/ARTE), Documentary Series, Stringer & Translator
2015	SCHAU IN MEINE WELT (KIKI), TV reportage, Director
2014	MÄDCHEN IM EIS (Director: Stefan Krohmer), Fiction Feature, 2 <sup>nd</sup> AD
2014	ZEIT DER REIFE (ARD), TV Feature, 2 <sup>nd</sup> AD
2009	ZOOM EUROPA (ZDF/ARTE), Producer

### AXEL SCHNEPPAT – Director of Cinematography

Axel Schneppat (\*1971) was born in Rostock and studied camera at the Academy for Film and Television in Potsdam. Since completing his studies, he has worked primarily in documentary film, but occasionally also in feature film. For the documentary "Havana, mi amor" he was awarded the German Camera Award in 2000. He is a member of the German Film Academy.

### FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTION):

2020	GARAGE PEOPLE, Documentary Feature, Writer & Director: Natalija Yefimkina
2019	SUNSET OVER HOLLYWOOD, Documentary Feature, Writer & Director: Uli Gaulke
2018	THE CLEANERS, Documentary Feature, Writer & Director: Hans Block, Moritz Riesenwick
2016	THREE PEAKS, Fiction Documentary Feature, Writer & Director: Jan Zabel
2015	PETER HANDKE – BIN IM WALD..., Documentary Feature, Writer & Director: Corinna Belz
2014	MALI BLUES, Documentary Feature, Writer & Director: Lutz Gregor
2009	HOME FROM HOME, Documentary Feature, Director: Cho Sung-hyung
2006	COMRADES IN DREAMS, Documentary Feature, Director: Uli Gaulke
2003	SCHULZE GETS THE BLUES, Fiction Feature, Director: Michael Schorr
2000	HAVANNA, MI AMOR, Documentary Feature, Writer & Director: Uli Gaulke



## GARAGE PEOPLE

### ANDREA SCHÜTTE – Producer

Andrea Schütte grew up in Wuppertal, the rainiest city in Germany (1.185 litres per m<sup>2</sup>) – a fact which has impacted her entire life: Her habit of moving from one rainy city to the next (including London, Bonn and finally Hamburg – some of Europe’s precipitation capitals) is countered by her weather-resistant nerves, her dry sense of humour and her distinctly sunny disposition. After receiving her M.A. in English, German, Political Science and Media Studies, she enrolled in a postgraduate program at the Hamburg Media School. From 2008 to 2015, she worked as a producer for X Filme Creative Pool in Berlin and was part of the producers’ teams of Achim von Borries’ *FOUR DAYS IN MAY*, Tom Tykwer’s *THREE*, Oskar Roehler’s *THE SOURCES OF LIFE*, Stefan Krohmer’s *GIRL ON ICE* and of the debut features *LITTLE THIRTEEN* by Christian Klandt, Claudia Lehmann’s *SCHILF* and *WE ARE FINE* by Henri Steinmetz. In 2012 she founded Tamtam Film together with Dirk Decker in Hamburg. The company’s portfolio includes Oscar® nominee Max Zähle’s *SCRAPPIN!*, the Grimme Award nominated series *COME ON!- THERAPY FOR THE UNDECIDED* and the documentary feature *SOME HAD CROCODILES*. Since 2008, she can account for 25 credited productions. She is a founding member of the Berlinale Reception for Film Academies and the initiative ‘Hamburg lebt Kino’ and a regular member of juries and committees.

### DIRK DECKER – Producer

Born and raised in Kassel, Dirk Decker studied Business Administration in Hamburg. After graduating, he worked as a project manager for three years before he turned his back on the sober field of engineering to tell stories. He went to Paris to write – and returned to Hamburg a year later to make films. From 2005 to 2012 he works as a producer for Riva Film, working on numerous international co-productions and German feature films, including *EYES WIDE OPEN* by Haim Tabakman, *BABAMIN SESI* by Orhan Eskiköy and Zeynel Dogan, *LIFE’S NO PIECE OF CAKE* by André Erkau, Jan Georg Schütte’s *LEG IHN UM!* and *GANZ NAH BEI DIR* by Almut Getto. During this time, he also participates in the European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs (EAVE) programme, one of the leading project development and training programmes for European producers. In 2012 he founded Tamtam Film in Hamburg together with Andrea Schütte. He is a member of the European Film Academy and a co-founder of the initiative ‘Hamburg lebt Kino’.

# GARAGE PEOPLE

## TAMTAM FILM – Production Company

Tamtam Film was founded by producers Andrea Schütte and Dirk Decker in 2012. Whether established film professional or emerging filmmaker, it is the breeding ground for exceptional films about unconventional characters, with both artistic and commercial appeal for national and international markets alike. Until now, the company can account for seventeen completed projects: six feature films, two TV features, three documentaries, one series and five shorts. Our projects have been awarded with a FIPRESCI prize and Gothenburg's Dragon Award, the Audience Award at Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis, nominated for a Grimme Prize and shortlisted for a German Film Award. No matter platform or format, our award-winning portfolio is entertaining, demanding and as diversified and versatile as the stories we want to tell. Tamtam Film is a member of the German Film Producers Association, the AG DOK and the initiative 'Hamburg lebt Kino'.

## FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTION)

2020	GARAGE PEOPLE, Documentary Feature, Writer & Director: Natalija Yefimkina
2020	EQUINOX, Fiction Feature, Writer & Director: Lena Knauss
2019	CHRONOLOGY, Fiction Feature, Writer & Director: Ali Aydin
2018	THE SYMPHONY OF UNCERTAINTY, Documentary Feature: Claudia Lehmann & Konrad Hempel
2018	A WAR WITHIN, Fiction Feature, Director: Kaspar Torsting
2017	LETTERS FOR AMINA, Fiction Feature, Director: Jacob Bitsch
2016	SCRAPPIN', Fiction Feature, Director: Max Zähle
2016	SOME HAD CROCODILES, Documentary Feature, Writer & Director: Christian Hornung
2016	TWO PEOPLE MEETING, TV Feature, Director: Ulrike von Ribbeck
2015	COME ON! THERAPY FOR THE UNDECIDED, Series, Directors: Esther Bialas & Nathan Nill
2015	THE ROMEO-PRINCIPLE, TV Feature, Director: Eicke Bettinga
2014	IN YOUR ARMS, Fiction Feature, Writer & Director: Samanou A. Sahlstrøm

## CONTACT DETAILS & INFOS

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### TECHNICAL DATA

Germany 2020  
Length: 95 minutes  
Ratio: 1:1,85  
Sound: 5.1

### PRODUCTION COMPANY

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