

# LUXEMBOURG, LUXEMBOURG



 79  
MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE  
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA  
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA  
Official Selection  
1932 90° 2022

A FILM BY  
**ANTONIO LUKICH**





06 Sept 2022 Time : 19.30 SALA CASINO'  
Access : Press, Industry

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06 Sept 2022 Time : 22.00 SALA VOLPI  
Access : Press, Industry

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**Official Screening**  
**07 Sept 2022 Time : 17.00 SALA DARSENA**  
**Access : Pubblico, Tutti gli Accrediti**

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08 Sept 2022 Time : 15.15 PALABIENNALE  
Access : Pubblico, Tutti gli Accrediti

09 Sept 2022 Time : 12.30 TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 7  
Access: Private

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**Official Screening**  
**09 Sept 2022 Time : 21.15 SCOTIABANK 10**  
**Access: Public**

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12 Sept 2022 Time : 08.35 SCOTIABANK 11  
Access: Press & Industry

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13 Sept 2022 Time : 14.30 Scotiabank 14  
Access: Public

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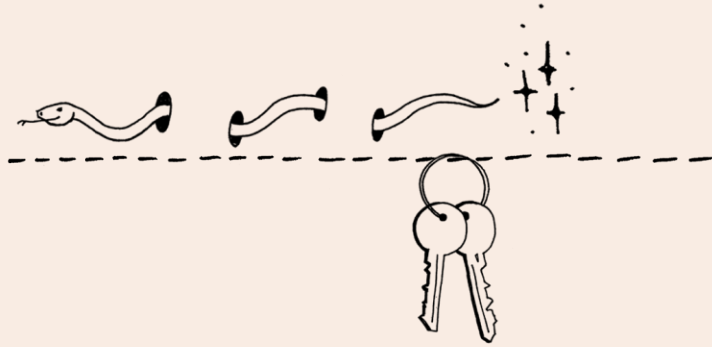
16 Sept 2022 Time : 10.00 digital TIFF Bell Lightbox  
Access: Public

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16 Sept 2022 Time : 21.15 SCOTIABANK 10  
Access: Public



## SYNOPSIS



There are many beautiful places to die. Luxembourg is not one of them. But beautiful or not, Luxembourg makes dying very expensive.

When twin brothers hear that their long-absent father is sick in Luxembourg, they set out on a journey to see him one last time. Will the man they find be the bad-ass dad they remember?





# INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR

## **What was your inspiration for this story about fathers and sons?**

It might sound a bit pathetic, but the inspiration for this story was my own life and my own feelings about my father. The day after he was gone, I went to say goodbye, not so much to his body, but to his spirit. I wanted to create a portrait of him from the details of his life and to try and grasp something that would tell me more about who he was and who I am.

## **When a father is present in your life, things might be clearer. But if he is absent, there are obviously more unanswered and unanswerable questions.**

As with any film d'auteur, "Luxembourg, Luxembourg" is an attempt to explore and deal with aspects of my own life. Most people only want to know good things about their parents; we tend to make them our heroes and understand them as the people they are not or might not be. This story is an attempt to demythologize and understand the figure of the father. At the same time, it is a personal exploration of my own life. In his 1966 film, writer-director, István Szabó did something similar in "Father". In the aftermath of the Second World War, a child has to come to terms with the loss of his father. That was the 1940s generation of absent parents, mine is the 1990s generation of absent parents. And, tragically, another generation of absent parents is being created again now.







**A new generation of absent parents is in the making. Although your story is set in peacetime, it echoes a very current drama. Do you think cinema can help process the kind of trauma being experienced today?**

For me, having personally experienced tragic loss, the last thing I want to do is to watch a film that relates this kind of tragedy playfully. It is hard to imagine a person who has just been bereaved wanting to go straight to Netflix to look for a movie about their loss. However, over time, it may become important for someone to look at their own life from the outside and understand that they are not the only person in the world who has had to cope with this kind of challenge or loss. Only if movies are told from the heart can they help people overcome loneliness.

I do not really like movies that speculate about someone else's tragedy just to tell an "interesting" story with a particular angle. I am not trying to heal anyone with this film, rather I tried to convey what hurt me. And the fact that this resonates with the current drama of absent fathers gives me confidence that stories told sincerely from the heart will not lose their relevance. Who knows whether that is a good or a bad thing?



**How did you decide to tell this story as a comedy?  
Was that obvious from the start for you?**

Despite the fact that there are funny moments in it, this film is not a comedy; at a stretch, you might call it a tragicomedy. This is a story about small people who are looking for their big father. In a small country like Luxembourg, there is, of course, a place for conflict and comedy. The tragicomedy genre most closely reflects what real life is like. To quote Alla Samoylenko, our casting director, "life is full of pain and miracles".

**Your film is called "Luxembourg, Luxembourg". What does this represent for you?**

It is a small country. And my heroes are small people, just like me. More importantly, however, we really know a lot about some countries: Italy is known for its food and fashion and furniture; Germany for its economy, luxury cars and sauerkraut; England for its language, football and bad weather. But what do we know about Luxembourg, apart from the name? Just as little as the twins know about their father. They will have to find themselves in a country that seems almost imaginary to discover a reflection of their inner selves.





## How did you cast your twin actors?

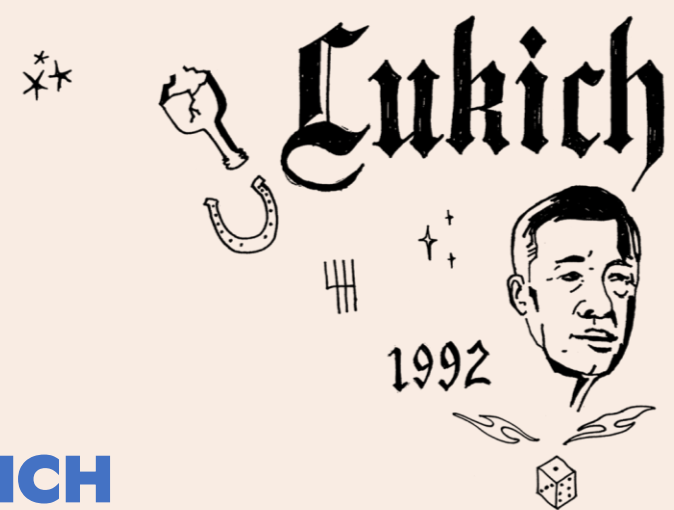
In my opinion, cinema should not be fixated on life as it is. Otherwise, I would have made a very sad, boring movie about my own quest to find my father. Cinema, after all, is a metaphor for life, so you can use the feature genre to make a film about those things that you cannot portray in a documentary. Similarly, the twins are a metaphor for me: they reflect the polarised attitudes each of us can have towards our parents whom we might adore and hate at the same time. For that reason, it was important to find very identical twins. In real life, they are known as rappers. And in the cinema, as actors, they seem to have forgotten about that, bringing truly emotional roles to life.

**You are only thirty years old, yet you have already had two films selected at major international film festivals and received the “Merited Artist of Ukraine” award. Does this give you a kind of responsibility?**

Yes, it is a huge responsibility and a big question for myself as to whether I can live up to it or not? I am part of a generation of Ukrainian artists who do not need to be attention-seeking. However, what is more important today is that vanity is really no longer relevant or desirable as it was in peacetime. Today, our heroes are all those who take risks and make sacrifices. They are the Ukrainian military, the doctors and nurses, the volunteers.







## ANTONIO LUKICH

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Antonio Lukich is a Ukrainian director who was born in 1992 in Uzhhorod, Ukraine. In 2015, he graduated from the Karpenko-Kary Kyiv National University with a Bachelor's degree in film direction.

With his first feature film, *Мої думки тихі* (My Thoughts Are Silent - 2019), he participated in and received multiple awards at international film festivals such as Karlovy Vary IFF, Raindance IFF, Santa Monica IFF, Odesa IFF.

Lukich is an award recipient of the Ukrainian Film Academy. Among other honours, he received the Merited Artist of Ukraine Award in March 2021, an official honorary mention granted to those who make significant contributions and achieve notable success in film and art for the country of Ukraine.



# AMIL & RAMIL NASIROV



Amil Nasirov and Ramil Nasirov are twin brothers, members of the musical band "Kurgan & Agregat", who were, oddly, born in the village of Blyzniuky (literally "Twins" in English) in the East of Ukraine. In 2018, the brothers graduated from the Kharkiv National Technical University of Agriculture, majoring in Logistics and Transport Systems. Amil is currently continuing his graduate studies and will receive a Ph.D. soon.

The brothers' band is very popular in Ukraine and have already released two full studio albums. Until the beginning of the full-scale war, which was started by Russia on Ukrainian territory, "Kurgan & Agregat" steadily toured Ukrainian cities with solo concerts, helping the Ukrainian Army. Currently, they are engaged in volunteering and buying drones for the Armed Forces.

Their songs can be found on the [Apple](#) music platform and on [Spotify](#).

In 2015, together with friends, the brothers started making entertaining content for the YouTube channel, which made them popular among young people. This is how Antonio Lukich, already a well-known young Ukrainian film director at the time, learned about the twin brothers. It was their first invitation to a big movie in their lives, and moreover, they were offered the main roles. Therefore, Amil and Ramil agreed without thinking for a long time, and as soon as they read the script of the film, they were completely convinced that they had made the right decision.

"Acting in a film was an opportunity to try ourselves in a new field, one which we have dreamed of since childhood. It is very interesting to see people's reaction to our film, because of the director, and also because we worked for a long time on these characters, which my brother Ramil Nasirov and I were lucky enough to play" - Amil Nasirov.





# TECHNICAL INFORMATION

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Original Title: **Люксембург, Люксембург**

International Title: **Luxembourg, Luxembourg**

Country of origin: **Ukraine**

Year of competition: **2022**

Running time: **105'**

Format: **HD**

**Color**

Languages: **Ukrainian, German**







Kolya  
**Amil Nasirov**

Vasya  
**Ramil Nasirov**

Mother  
**Natalia Gnitii**

Larysa Petrivna  
**Lyudmyla Sachenko**

Uncle Lyosha  
**Victor Drapikovsky**

Doris Maidanyuk  
**Doris Maidanyuk**

Masha  
**Karina Cherchevych**

Masha's sister  
**Ksenia Mishina**



Sashko  
**Olexandr Avvakumov**

Father-in-law  
**Volodymyr Golosnyak**

Mother-in-law  
**Oksana Bandura**

Vasya's boss  
**Serhiy Bulka**

Kolya's date  
**Katerina Onipko**

Vasya's colleague  
**Oleg Nevolnik**

Little Kolya  
**Adrian Suleiman**

Little Vasya  
**Damian Suleiman**







Written and directed by  
**Antonio Lukich**

Director of photography  
**Misha Lubarsky**

Production designer  
**Vlad Odudenko**

Producers  
**Vladimir Yatsenko**  
**Anna Yatsenko**

Executive producer  
**Alexandra Bratyshchenko**

Costume designer and Make-up artist  
**Asia Sutiahina**

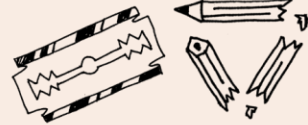
Sound designers  
**Sergiy Stepansky**  
**Oleksandr Verkhovynets**

Casting director  
**Alla Samoilenko**

Art director  
**Andriy Lidagovskiy**

Editors  
**Oleksandr Chorny**  
**Ivan Bannikov**  
**Olexander Legostaev**

**Crew**







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