

TARIKA

a production by
RED CARPET
in co-production with
42film, AMOUR FOU Luxembourg, ZDF/ARTE

Directed by
MILKO LAZAROV

Starring
VESELA VALCHEVA
ZACHARI BAHAROV
IVAN BARNEV
IVAN SAVOV

with the special appearance of
CHRISTOS STERGIOGLOU

Screenplay by
MILKO LAZAROV
EKATERINA CHURILOVA
SIMEON VENTSISLAVOV

Produced by
RED CARPET
42film
AMOUR FOU Luxembourg
ZDF/ARTE

Supported by
Bulgarian National Film Center
Eurimages
Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung
Film Fund Luxembourg
Creative Europe MEDIA

CAST

VESELA VALCHEVA
ZACHARI BAHAROV
MARKO NOKOV
IVAN SAVOV
IVAN BARNEV
MIMOZA BAZOVA
VALERIA VARBANOVA
CHRISTOS STERGIOGLOU
NINA GORANOVSKI
JULIAN VERGOV
CORNELIA STEFANOVA
VESKO PETKOV
MARIA DIMITROVA
PETAR SARDZHEV
INA KICHIKOVA
MARIA LAZAROVA
FOLK CLUB "LUKOVITSKI BISERI"
KONSTANTIN LAZAROV
SIRMA KUNCHEVA

CREW

Directed by **MILKO LAZAROV**

Screenplay by **MILKO LAZAROV, EKATERINA CHURILOVA, SIMEON VENSTISLAVOV**

Producer **VESELKA KIRYAKOVA**

Co-producers **EIKE GORECZKA, CHRISTOPH KUKULA, ALEXANDER DUMREICHER-IVANCEANU, BADY MINCK, SIMON OFENLOCH**

Director of photography **KALOYAN BOZHILOV**

Line producer **GEORGI SKERLEV (BULGARIA), CHRISTOPH KUKULA (GERMANY), LARA MACK (LUXEMBOURG)**

Production designer **IVAYLO PETROV**

Costume designer **KIRIL NAUMOV**

Make-up artists **EMILIE FRANCO, VENTSISLAVA KOYCHEVA**

Editor **VESELKA KIRYAKOVA**

Composer and Music supervision **PENKA KOUNEVA**

Production **RED CARPET**

Co-production **42film, AMOUR FOU Luxembourg, ZDF/ARTE**

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Shooting Locations: **Lukovit, Karlukovo, Lovech Province (Bulgaria)**

Shooting time: **September - October 2022**

Running time: **87'**

Shooting Format: **35 mm KODAK**

Delivery format: **DCP**

Audio: **Dolby Atmos**

LOGLINE:

Tarika, a girl with extraordinary abilities, lives in a border area where people of different ethnicities seem to be coexisting in harmony until one day their livestock mysteriously start dying. The superstitious villagers put the blame on Tarika and decide to kill her.

SYNOPSIS:

Tarika, her father Ali and her grandmother Hrisula live near a village not far from the border. A peculiar bone malformation known as "butterfly wings", is passed down through the mother from one generation to the next in their family. The disease has recently started to develop in Tarika as well. The strange family has been a source of legends in the surrounding villages for a long time, especially after the mysterious disappearance of Tarika's mother who jumped off a cliff and whose body was never recovered. As the construction of a new border fence begins, the livestock in the area mysteriously die and people blame Tarika and her family for the disaster. When a child from the village is found dead, the mob decides to deal with the strange girl on its own terms.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

I am deeply interested in exploring the relationship between society and the people rejected by it. I have been researching the processes that form the fear of the unknown, give rise to xenophobia and stigmatize what's different from the norm. In my opinion, these issues of modern people are related to their indifference to God. However, it is God that created humans in the first place.

In this film, I put Tarika, a human being touched by the divine, against the notion of living without God. The local community doesn't understand the girl, they explain her differences with superstition, and eventually kill her.

Tarika has strange bone deformity on her back and that makes her different. The locals choose to believe the tale they hear about the strange girl and her family of outcasts instead of getting to know her. Tarika doesn't stand a chance with this crowd because they are easily manipulated and led by fear and lack of faith in something bigger than themselves.

The irony is that people need Tarika to be their beacon of hope. She is the link between this world and the divine. How society treats her is a testament to whether they are ready to change their selfish ways. Killing Tarika is in fact rejecting the opportunity for spiritual growth and simply settling for life devoid of virtue and hope.

The death of the misfits destroys our humanity and affirms a world that has forgotten to celebrate the miracle of the Creation – the human being.

MEANING OF THE NAME TARIKA

It comes from the word "tarik" and means path, self-knowledge, change, spiritual development. The word "tarik" is widely used in the spiritual teaching of sophism.