

CURRICULUM VITAE

DARINA MANAPOVA

Film Director | Writer

Based in Tallinn, Estonia

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Nationality: Kazakhstan



PROFILE

Film director with a strong academic and international background.

Experience across directing, teaching and mentoring, with participation in major international labs and festivals.

Darina's work is defined as intimate, character-centered storytelling, combining minimalism with symbolic visual language. Her films have been selected for prestigious international film festivals, including Busan International Film Festival, as well as numerous others across Europe and Asia.

EDUCATION

2024 – 2026

Kino Eyes – The European Movie Masters

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree

Portugal • Scotland • Estonia

Master of Arts in Film Directing

2020 – 2022

Turan Film Academy, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Master's Degree in Film Directing

2015 – 2020

Turan Film Academy, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Bachelor's Degree in Film Directing

2019

Erasmus+ Exchange Program

Šiauliai University, Lithuania

2011 – 2015

Karaganda Humanitarian College, Kazakhstan

Fine Arts Teaching + Interior Design

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Lecturer

Turan University, Almaty
September 2023 – Jun 2025

Directing Mentor

Media School Almaty
September 2024 – Jun 2025

Festival Staff & Speaker

Gässli Film Festival, Basel, Switzerland
2022 – 2023

- Ticketing & guest management
- Speaker at “Award Night”

FILM LABS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Busan Asian Film Academy x CHANEL

Busan International Film Festival

Mentors: Rithy Panh, Tan Chui Mui
Busan, South Korea, 2022

KAFA KINO LAB

Korean Academy of Film Arts
Almaty, Kazakhstan, 2022

Filmmaker Residency

Basel House of Film, Switzerland, 2022

Talent Campus

- Fajr International Film Festival, Tehran, Iran, 2019
- Swiss Youth Film Festival, Zurich, Switzerland 2022

Script LAB Central Asia

Post Space Film Camp
Mentor: Ruth Atkinson (Film Independent), Almaty, 2024

Directing Workshops

- João Canijo — Lisbon, 2024
- Scandar Skopti — “Directing Non-Actors”, 2026

Acting & Screenwriting Training

- Ivana Chubbuck Studio Workshop
- The Action Lab Screenwriting Intensive with Sarah Louise Wilson

RESEARCH & ACADEMIC ACTIVITY

Conference Presentations & Publications (Selected):

- The Image of Adolescence in the Films of Emir Baigazin
International Scientific Conference, 2021, Kazakhstan
- Author Cinema as a Reflection of Modernity
Zhas Turan International Conference, 2018, Kazakhstan
- Postmodernism in Kazakh Cinema: Analysis of “The Needle” (1988)
Zhas Turan Conference, 2017, Kazakhstan
- The Role of Family in Shaping Adolescent Representation in Kazakh Cinema
Republican Science Competition, 2021, Kazakhstan

LANGUAGES

- Russian — Native
- English — Advanced