

Tangerines

Cert 15 Estonia/Georgia 2013 88 mins

Crew

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|----------------|-------------------|
| Director/ | Zaza Urushadze |
| Screenplay | |
| Cinematography | Rein Kotov |
| Film Editing | Alexander Kuranov |
| Original music | Niaz Diasamidze |

Cast

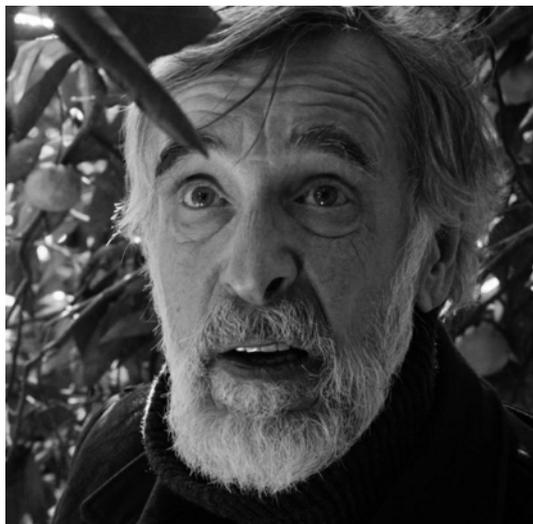
| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Lembit Ulfsak | Ivo |
| Elmo Nüganen | Margus |
| Giorgi Nakashidze | Ahmed |
| Misha Meskhi | Niko |

Synopsis

Georgia, 1992. As separatist conflicts develop in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, two Estonian immigrants - the older Ivo, a carpenter, and his younger worried friend Margus, a farmer - decide to stay on to harvest the tangerine crop.

Soon the war comes to their doorsteps, and Ivo gives shelter to two wounded soldiers - to Ahmed, a Chechen and Nika, a Georgian - bitter enemies who swear to kill each other as soon as they have recovered.

Ivo sets some ground rules - there is to be no killing in his home. But can he trust them? Can he leave the door unlocked? And might some humanity creep in?



Booking Information

Distributor: Axiom Films Ltd.

DVD/Blu-ray bookings:

CINEMA for ALL Booking Scheme

see page 8 for more information

0114 221 0314 info@cinemaforall.org.uk

www.cinemaforall.org.uk

Available: January 2016 (tbc)



Reviews

.... Although events unfold amid a gorgeous pastoral setting with rolling green hills and leafy trees, there is a silent starkness about this countryside that suggests Ingmar Bergman's use of natural surroundings.

Then there is Ulfsak: long and lean, with white hair and beard, and blessed with a visage that bespeaks of stoic nobility, a wry perspective on the world, and innate compassion. This Estonian screen veteran cuts a striking figure of world-weariness that is akin to that of Bergman regular, Max von Sydow. Clearly, it will take much more than an encroaching civil war to shake him to his core.

.... By the end, Georgian director-writer Zaza Urushadze has performed a small miracle by presenting the insanity of war in such a compact form. The film's insights might not be of the grandiose sort found in Hollywood's massive battle epics. Nor are they unique. But they are perhaps even more affecting because of the film's intimate scale. In a way, the movie itself alludes to this fact when Ivo, Margus and the doctor push the van into a ravine in order to prevent any bloody reprisals from passers-by. As they watch it tumble, the doctor observes, "I thought it will explode." Says Margus, "They explode in cinema." Adds Ivo, rightfully getting the last word: "Cinema is a fraud."

Susan Wloszczyna, rogerebert.com, April 2015

.... There is something of the tragicomic humour of Samuel Beckett about the men's predicament, particularly in the way that Margus and Ivo are waiting for their own sort of Godot - soldiers promised by a local major to help them pick the fruit. Equally, the absurdity of two injured men desperate to kill one another is quickly established, although Urushadze also finds plenty of pathos and poignancy in the situation, as his film shows that the shifting opinion of one or two individuals is not enough to turn the tide of a war.

Accompanied by a melancholy but atmospheric refrain from Niaz Diasamidz, which gives an excellent sense of place as well as adding to the elegiac mood, the film is a great example of how powerful and universal small but well-crafted stories can be.

Amber Wilkinson, Eye for Film, February 2015

FILM FACTS...

- ☆ The film was nominated for both Golden Globe and Oscar 'Best Foreign Language' Awards in 2014 - the first film from Estonia to be nominated.
- ☆ Levan Abashidze, to whom the film is dedicated, was a well known Georgian actor who was killed in the Abkhazian war.