

MEETING GORBACHEV

1h 30min // UK | Germany | USA // English | Russian | German | Polish



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SYNOPSIS

Meeting Gorbachev is a 2018 biographical documentary film directed by Werner Herzog and André Singer about the life of Mikhail Gorbachev, the eighth and last leader of the Soviet Union. The film features three interviews between Herzog and Gorbachev, conducted over the span of six months, and had its world premiere at the Telluride Film Festival on September 1, 2018.

MORE ABOUT THE FILM...

Jessica Kiang, [Variety.com](#)

Herzog meets Gorbachev, or should that be the other way round, in an encounter that on paper should be one for the ages: Werner Herzog, the incisive documentarian (here in tandem with frequent co-director André Singer), engaged in a meeting of minds with as robust a subject as Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, architect of Perestroika and Glasnost and the eighth and last leader of the Soviet Union. But the interview, which happened over three shorter sessions and is interspersed with standard archive footage and a few other talking heads, finds Herzog on unusually obsequious, almost fanboyish form, his (very natural) admiration for Gorbachev dulling the edge of his more eccentric instincts.

To be fair, the great German filmmaker tries to bend the encounter to his will, but he's almost immediately shut down by Gorbachev who is having none of his Herzogian shenanigans and proves consistently resistant (though genially so) to Herzog's efforts to inject poetry and tragic irony and pathetic fallacy into the narrative of his life. Even his opening gambit is to politely but flatly refute Herzog's mournful assertion that *"the first German you ever saw wanted to kill you"* with a story about the delightful biscuit-making Germans whom he encountered before the war.

His admiration for this towering figure of late-20th-century history is understandable, and he conducts the interview a little the way you think you might, if you had a few hours' face time with Gorbachev, mostly content to sit at his knee and listen to him speak without too much direct challenge. But that is itself disappointing: Herzog miscasting himself in the role of the everyman interlocutor.

David Ehrlich of IndieWire *"ultimately because of Gorbachev's seeming unwillingness to fit the director's usual mold that Meeting Gorbachev is able to become such a different and engaging bio-doc."*

CAST

CHARACTER	ACTOR
Mikhail Gorbachev	Himself
Vladimir Putin	Himself
Ronald Reagan	Himself
Werner Herzog	Himself

CREW

Directors	Werner Herzog, André Singer
Writer	Werner Herzog
Cinematography	Yuri Burak

BOOKING

Distributor:
Altitude Film Entertainment

Non-theatrical bookings:
Troy Film Agency
troyfilmagency@btinternet

Available: TBC

