

September 11, 2019

I Am Moscow: Film Premiere

Video portrait of the city made by its residents

On October 17, 2019, the Austrian Cultural Forum Moscow and 'Moscow Cinema' will hold a premiere screening of the documentary which has become the result of the citywide film project 'I Am Moscow'. The film is a portrait of the city composed of private amateur videos, which were collected from March 14 to September 30, 2019 on the website iamthecity.moscow

The project 'I Am Moscow' was launched at the initiative of the Austrian Cultural Forum Moscow and its director Simon Mraz as the Moscow version of the Vienna film experiment 'Am Rand: Die Stadt' of the Austrian Film Museum. The goal of the project is to see and show a non-chic, homely Moscow through the life of its residents.

In March 2019, 'Moscow Cinema' announced an open-call for amateur videos shot in different parts of the city from the late 1980s to this day. Within six months, the project received more than 400 fragments of footage, including scenes from the family archives, sports and music videos filmed on the streets of Moscow, observations of modern urban landscapes and random comedy incidents, as well as unique historical shots. From the materials sent, the project curator Ksenia Gapchenko and documentary film director Margarita Zakharova created a live cinema portrait of the city and the person living in it.

The premiere of the film will take place on October 17, 2019 at 7pm at the 'Zvezda' movie theater. The screening will be followed by a discussion; the participating guests are the curator of the project Ksenia Gapchenko, the film director Margarita Zakharova, director of the Austrian Museum of Cinema Michael Loebenstein, curators of 'Am Rand: Die Stadt' Gustav Deutsch and Hanna Schimek, director of the Austrian Cultural Forum and cultural attaché of the Austrian Embassy in Moscow Simon Mraz.

Moscow Cinema is an organization within the Moscow Department of Culture, which oversees the development of city cinemas, filming in Moscow and various city-wide film projects, such as 'Cinema Night'. It manages a network of 13 cinemas, including 'Cosmos', 'Zvezda', 'Yunost', 'Fakel' and others.

Austrian Cultural Forum in Moscow represents the Republic of Austria in the Russian Federation on culture. Forum's major task is work with Russian and Austrian artists within the framework of most acute and topical issues.

Margarita Zakharova is a documentary filmmaker, a graduate of the Laboratory for Film Editing of the Moscow School of New Cinema, worked at the projects of Alexander Rastorguev. In 2016 and 2019, she won the national competition of the Beat Film Festival with the films “Internal Rap” and “Moscow Like a Dream”.

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