

# LENINGRAD - THE MAN WHO SINGS

The Story of a Boy-Band 'Made in Russia'

First feature documentary on Russian underground superstars Leningrad is now out to be seen at Festivals across Europe.

## SYNOPSIS

Packed with rollicking live footage 'The Man who sings' is a feature film documentary on Russian Polkapunkband Leningrad. Playing a weird mix of Polka, Ska, Tango, Punk and traditional popular music these 15 conservatory educated 'punks' obtained cult status at the end of the nineties in Russia.

If you think Gogol Bordello is unique - Leningrad should be a surprise.

There is a lot of music in the film, great music, and exciting onstage performances. But the film is more than just songs. It gives you an insight into how people perceived the massive changes in Russia over the past years, the dynamics of a fast, colourful and difficult decade. You'll meet many people, in many different roles: Shnurov as a rock star and a diligent worker, Leningrad fans and opponents, music business representatives, artists... with all but unanimous opinions on music, friendship, money, politics, language, and business.

*When I started I didn't know anything, but after hanging around with these guys, being in Russia, talking to the people I understood it. (Peter Rippl)*

Leningrad was the antithesis to what happened in Russia. And it's synthesis.

## WHAT THEY SAID

*Congratulations Peter on a great film. I found myself tapping my feet and dancing in the seat at all times, drawn into Shnyrov's world totally. I loved the fact that you left many of the songs in their entirety. That was courageous of you - I would have been afraid if that was too much, but as it is, I was thankful that you had given us, the full on experience of Leningrad's onstage magic. I enjoyed the editing, reinforcing the ideas you find most prominent, effectively and with humour. There is a lot of humour, indeed - that's always a wonderful thing.*

(Pawla Fleischer – director on Gogol Bordellos ,The Pied Piper of Hutzinova')

*Even I'm not a fan of Leningrads music, I saw your documentary with increasing pleasure. I also learned a lot. Because this film is not only made for Leningrad addicts, it's interesting for everybody - you can get a lot of information about today's Russia, Russian music, Russian youth culture, language and art. Chapeau...!*

(Alexander Bohr – commissioning editor, arte ZDF)

***Exuberant portrait of notorious Russian punk band Leningrad and it's charismatic frontman, Sergey "Shnur" Shnurov*** (Int. Music Film Festival MOFFOM 2008 Prague – In Competition)

## DIRECTORS STATEMENT

Having grown up with free jazz and later punk and hip-hop, director Peter Rippl was fed up with that same commercial stuff the music industry has continued to produce for decades. In search of new inspiration he came across the vibrant new Russian music scene, most prominently represented by Leningrad.

*'And here it was. Fresh and without compromise. Rough and spectacular. And there is that certain something, that je ne sais quoi, in Shnur's Songs, something that hits your heart and makes good things great. You can hear the fun of the guys making it and the freedom of playing. It's this freedom he aims at. With all the imperfections and mistakes.*

*That inspired me to make a film in the same manner. To catch the live spirit of their concerts, with handheld cameras, no dollies... we just had to follow the actors, in an 'old school' Pennebaker style.*

*I wanted to keep the songs in their whole. Not to force the rhythm by editing, Shnurov's rhythm should be the rhythm of our movie.'* (Peter Rippl)

## **BIOGRAPHY** [www.imdb.com/name/nm0728103](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0728103)

Peter Rippl (born 1961) worked as a screenwriter. /

1999 Winterspruch (experimental Music-Documentary) 55 min

1999 Hessian Film award for 'Winterspruch'

2001 Screenplay award for 'My heart belongs to you'

## **'LENINGRAD - THE MAN WHO SINGS'**

Germany & Russia © 2008

Director: Peter Rippl

Camera: Roland Bertram, Sergey Jermolenko, Peter Rippl,  
Ingvar Arnswald, Volker Schellbach, Robert Metsch

Sound: Eick Hoemann

Producer: Marina Ejwadis

Music: Leningrad

Production:

best before filmproduction Frankfurt Germany

in collaboration with:

ShnurOK St. Petersburg Russia

contact:

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