



# THE FANS

Film by Seva Galkin

**Genre:** Drama

**Running Time:** 25 min.

**Year of production:** 2020

**Language:** Russian

**Subtitles:** English

**Production Company:**

Individual entrepreneur Galkin V. G.

## SYNOPSIS

In Moscow, two skinheads kill homosexual men while being in a sexual relationship with one another. Based on a true story, the film inquires about masculinity, identity, and a sense of belonging in contemporary Russia. The film's brutal aesthetic conveys anger, fear, and frustration of those confused by crony capitalism and government-sponsored propaganda.

## FULL SYNOPSIS

Nikolay and Ruslan roam the streets of Moscow, fraternize with skinheads and hang out in Nikolay's apartment decorated with Spartak FC insignia. Ruslan adores luxury cars and despises their owners. Though yearning for intimacy with Ivan, Nikolay has sex with other lads. Angered and confused, guys come united in their desire to inflict a penalty on homosexuals. In the context of crony capitalism, social divisions, propaganda-infused media, and Russian Section 28, banning positive representations of LGBT, the film inquires about masculinity, identity, and a sense of belonging. Based on a true story, the film's brutal aesthetic is informed by research in court proceedings, social media, and street culture.

## STARRING

Philipp Grabovetchi, Igor German

## CAST

Sofya Reznik, Sergey Pomerantsev, Ivan Shteyngud, Ivan Lenko, Egor Kuvshinov, Sergey Kuznetsov

## MAIN CREDITS

**Director:** Seva Galkin

**Director of Photography:** Irina Gorovaya

**Producer:** Ilya Sherstobitov

**Production Design:** Olga Maslova

**Sound:** Vasily Lebedev

**Music Composers:** G. F. Handel, J. S. Bach

## AWARDS

Nominated for Best Short Film in Dublin Independent Film Festival (2020)

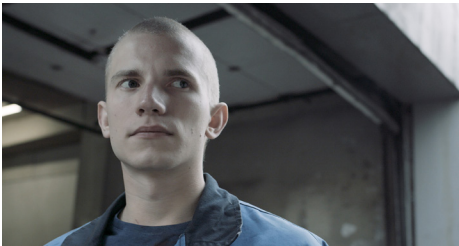
Nominated for Best Cinematographer in Oslo Film Festival (2020)

## FESTIVAL SELECTIONS

South Western International Film Festival 2020 (Ontario, Canada)

POFF Shorts 2020 (Tallinn, Estonia)

Ljubljana LGBT Film Festival 2020 (Slovenia)



## BIOGRAPHY OF THE DIRECTOR

Seva Galkin (1972, USSR) is a Moscow-based filmmaker, producer and photographer. He has directed two short films 'Three Times About It' (2011) and 'Heart Disease' (2014), which have been shown internationally. 'The Fans' (2020) is his new movie, exploring the crisis of masculinity caused by 'Russian Section 28', banning positive representations of LGBTQ+ people among minors. He was previously an artistic director of KVIR, the first Russian magazine for LGBTQ+ communities. His photographic works have been exhibited in China, Germany, Russia, Sweden, and the USA, including individual shows in Moscow (2011) and New York (2014).

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Seva Galkin works at the intersection of film, art, and photography. He is interested in the issues of identity, sexuality and masculinity in post-independence Russia. In his first two movies, Seva explored social concerns, and in his new project he looks at the way in which Russian society has reacted to global challenges such as societal divisions, conservative ideologies, political disinformation, and so on. Seva critiques the ideology of neoliberal capitalism which has polarized Russia in recent year, effecting young people in particular. As a visual artist, Seva is one of few people responsible for the visual style of Russian LGBTQ+ community thanks to his decade-long work as artistic director for KVIR magazine. Seva is engaged in community building, working as an art curator and editor. As an LGBT activist, Seva promotes tolerance and diversity through his online portal tguy.ru. With no support from public funds, Seva has used crowd-funding to make production of The Fans possible. When working on the movie, Seva engaged a camera woman (Irina Gorovaia), actors and other members of the crew who had not gone through Russian state-funded education.