

Alina Turdumamatova Nurbek Esengazy Uulu Madina Talipbekova

PRESSKIT ENG

# ALA KACHUU

Take and Run

A film by Maria Brendle



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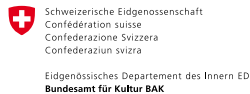
# ABOUT THE FILM

LENGTH (ADDITIONALLY AVAILABLE IS A DIRECTOR'S CUT WITH A LENGTH OF 48 MINUTES).....	38 minutes
COMPLETION .....	August 2020
PRODUCTION COUNTRY .....	Switzerland
SHOOTING .....	Kyrgyzstan
PRODUCTION .....	Filmgerberei GmbH
LANGUAGE .....	Kyrgyz
SUBTITLES (SRT AVAILABLE) .....	German, English, French, Italian
GENRE .....	Drama, Women and Human Rights
FILM CATEGORY .....	Short, Fiction, Live Action
SHOOTING DAYS .....	13 days
CAMERA .....	RED EPIC
SHOOTING FORMAT.....	Digital 4K
SCREENING FORMAT.....	DCP 4K / 2K / Scope / ProRes / MP4
WEBSITE & TRAILER .....	alakachuu.com/en





## WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF



Crowdfunding on [wemakeit.ch](https://wemakeit.ch), Swiss Embassy in Bishkek, Soroptimist International - Union Switzerland, Soroptimist International Clubs Brugg, Baden, Lavaux, Vevey, Fribourg and Lausanne

# LOGLINE

A young Kyrgyz woman is kidnapped and forced to marry. A drama about the desire for freedom in the clutches of a tradition.

# SYNOPSIS

Sezim (19) wants to fulfill her dream of studying in the Kyrgyz capital when she gets kidnapped by a group of young men and taken to the hinterland. There, she’s forced to marry a stranger. If she refuses the marriage, she is threatened with social stigmatization and exclusion. Torn between her desire for freedom and the constraints of Kyrgyz culture, Sezim desperately seeks a way out.

# CAST & CREW

SEZIM .....	Alina Turdumamatova
DAYRBEK .....	Nurbek Esengazy Uulu
AKSANA .....	Madina Talipbekova
GRANDMOTHER .....	Jandat Djamanbaeva
SEZIM’S MOTHER.....	Taalaykan Abazova
AYGUL .....	Aybike Erkinbekova

AUTHOR & DIRECTOR.....	Maria Brendle
PRODUCERS .....	Nadine Lüchinger & Flavio Gerber
CAMERA.....	Gabriel Sandru
PRODUCTION DESIGN.....	Elchibek Shamenov
LIGHT.....	Silvia «Fafa» Fierz
SOUND.....	Ivo Schläpfer
COSTUME.....	Fatima Kacyvova
MAKE UP.....	Cholpon Saitova
EDITOR .....	Luca Zuberbühler
SOUND DESIGN.....	Michael Duss, Triplet Studios
MUSIC.....	Martin Skalsky, Triplet Studios
COLOR GRADING .....	Jürgen Kupka & Billy Bains, Unsere Farben



# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

ALA KACHUU - Take and Run tells the story of a young Kyrgyz woman who becomes the victim of a bride kidnapping. Although this custom is prohibited by law in Kyrgyzstan it is still widespread in other regions of the world under the guise of tradition. Only a few girls are able to escape marriage after the kidnapping. Many accept their fate, for fear of being rejected and ostracized.

The film is based on the true fates of young women who have confided their experiences to me during my many years of research. I am convinced that the stories of these women deserve attention. As a filmmaker, I would like to contribute to the sensitization of society for women's rights and give a voice to those who are rarely heard.



The Kyrgyz name for the bride kidnapping is «Ala Kachuu». My aim was to depict its usual course of events, but with a strong character who has the courage to stand up for herself.

Producing the film in a foreign country was a great adventure. Apart from the language barrier, it was also necessary to bring together two completely different cultures. The respectful interaction with each other, the intercultural team spirit and the openness of the Kyrgyz people impressed me deeply and led to one of the most valuable experiences in my life.



# PRODUCER'S NOTE

We are happy that we had the chance to accompany Maria Brendle as producers in the adventure ALA KACHUU - Take and Run.

From her serious and intensive research work, which lasted over 2 years, a dramaturgically clever and touching story has emerged.

The impressive imagery and breathtaking scenery of Kyrgyzstan coupled with the exoticism of a relatively unknown film setting make this film a valuable experience.

But also thematically, this film gets under one's skin.

Women and girls are strong when they have rights and experience education. Unfortunately, this is not yet the case everywhere in the world. Being robbed and forcibly married usually means the end of development opportunities such as schooling or education for young women. This lack of education, in turn, strengthens tradition and perpetuates the vicious cycle of forced marriage.

We see this film as an opportunity to contribute to the education and gender debate in the form of an artistic work. The film should not only carry the voice of Kyrgyz women into the world, but also be an inspiration for young women all over the world to stand up for their rights.

A great strength of the film ALA KACHUU - Take and Run is that it does not finger-point or take a moral high ground on Kyrgyz culture. Rather, it realistically portrays the process of a bride robbery. The film exemplifies that the problem is embedded in a social system. Thus, the perpetrators themselves become victims of outdated structures and traditions.

We are extremely pleased about the wonderful response that we have already achieved with this film at home and abroad. Maria Brendle and this film have more than deserved it.





# BIOGRAPHY

## MARIA BRENDLE

Maria Brendle is an award-winning director and scriptwriter based in Zurich, Switzerland. She received her bachelor's degree in film from the Zurich University of the Arts and her master's degree in cognitive neuroscience (aon) from the Academy of Neurosciences Cologne. Maria graduated from the renowned Drehbuchwerkstatt Munich. She works with a focus on women issues.

[www.maria-brendle.de](http://www.maria-brendle.de)



# FILMOGRAPHY

## MARIA BRENDLE

- 2020 ALA KACHUU - TAKE AND RUN**  
Drama / 38 min / Filmgerberei GmbH / Author & Director
- 2020 SCHAUMBILDUNG**  
Tragic Comedy (in Postproduction) / Neon Ray Film / Director
- 2016 MR. BOMBASTIC**  
Comedy / Improvisation / 7min / Director
- 2013 BLINDER PASSAGIER**  
Childrens Film / 20min / ZHdK / Author & Director

- 2013 SPECIAL GUEST**  
Comedy / 5min / Co-Author, Co-Director with Cosima Frei
- 2012 SCHWARZE TRAUER, ROTE LIPPEN**  
Comedy / 7min / ZHdK / Author & Director
- 2011 MEERESFRÜCHTCHEN**  
Comedy / 12min / ZHdK / Author & Director
- 2009 TIMESHIFT**  
Comedy / 4min / Co-Author, Co-Director with Cosima Frei



# AWARDS

## ALA KACHUU - TAKE AND RUN (2020)

### SELECTION:

- SHORTLIST LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM, 94th Academy Awards
- AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD BEST SHORT FILM, 45th Cleveland International Film Festival
- THE MARLYN MASON AWARD, 38th Flickers Rhode Island Film Festival
- BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM, 4th Pittsburgh Short Film Festival
- BEST SHORT FILM, 42nd Durban International Film Festival
- HONORARY MENTION, 16th Cyprus International Film Festival
- HONORARY MENTION, 9th Mumbai Shorts International Film Festival
- BEST FEMALE DIRECTOR, 11th Bridges International Film Festival
- BEST MEDIUM-LENGH FILM, DIRECTION, SCREENPLAY, CINEMATOGRAPHY, ACTRESS & ACTOR IN SUPPORTING ROLE, 3rd Amazing Shorts
- BEST WOMAN FILMMAKER, 4th Moscow Indie Film Festival
- BEST FILM, 3rd Toronto Feedback Female Film Festival

## BLINDER PASSAGIER (2013)

- BEST SCRIPT WRITER, Mobile SIFF, Shanghai International Film Festival, China (A listed)
- BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT, Adult Jury, Chicago International Children's Film Festival, USA (Oscar qualifying)
- BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT, Children's Jury, Chicago International Children's Film Festival, USA
- BEST ORIGINAL STORY, NW Short Film Festival & Awards, USA
- BEST SCRIPT, 3rd Mumbai Shorts International Film Festival, Indien
- REMI AWARD IN GOLD, Best Dramatic - Original, 48th Worldfest Houston, USA
- WINNER STUDENT FILM AWARD, FAM Fest 2015, USA
- ROYAL REEL 2014, Canada International Film Festival, Kanada
- WINNER "I'm different from whom?", Kalat Nissa Film Festival, Italien
- WINNER OF THE 3rd PRIZE, Ascona Film Festival, Schweiz
- WINNER BEST CHILDREN FILM, 8th Jaipur International Film Festival, Indien
- HONORABLE MENTION, Hyart Film Festival, USA

## SPECIAL GUEST (2013)

- WINNER Swiss Hotel Film Award

## TIMESHIFT (2009)

- WINNER (CH) Hamilton Short Film Contest





# FILMOGRAPHY

## FILMGERBEREI

Filmgerberei GmbH is a film production company in Switzerland, founded by the brothers Flavio and Silvio Gerber in 2008. We produce documentaries for cinema and TV, feature films, short films as well as commercials and corporate films. Nadine Lüchinger joined the team in 2014 as a producer.

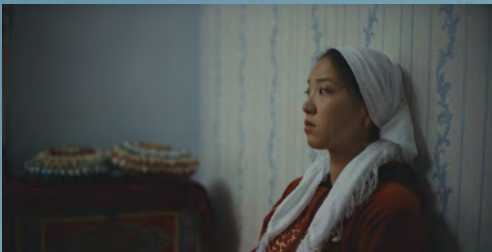
### RELEASED (SELECTION)



2021

#### ROGER FEDERER - THE REUNION

TV-Documentary  
Written & directed by Flavio Gerber, Alun Meyerhans  
52 Min, OV eng  
World Rights: Rise and Shine



2020

#### ALA KACHUU

Medium Lenght Film, Drama  
Author & director: Maria Brendle  
Director's Cut: 48 Min, Festival Cut: 38 Min, Digital 4K, DCP  
OV kirg, ST de/en/fr/it  
AWARDS (SELECTION): OSCAR SHORTLIST 2022, AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD BEST SHORT FILM AT CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, MARLYN MASON AWARD AT FLICKERS RHODE ISLAND IFF, BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM AT PITTSBURGH SHORTS, BEST SHORT AT DURBAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, HONORARY MENTION AT CYPRUS IFF, HONORARY MENTION AT MUMBAI SHORTS IFF, BEST FEMALE DIRECTOR AT BRIDGES IFF, BEST MEDIUM-LENGTH FILM, DIRECTION, SCREENPLAY, CINEMATOGRAPHY, ACTRESS & ACTOR IN SUPPORTING ROLE AT 3RD AMAZING SHORTS, BEST WOMAN FILMMAKER AT MOSCOW INDIE FF, BEST FILM AT 3RD TORONTO FEEDBACK FEMALE FF

Since then, we have been continuously expanding our department for independent film production. We cultivate a culture of inspiration and shared growth and encourage directors to develop their own creative style.



2020

#### METTA DA FEIN

Webseries, Black Comedy  
On behalf of RTR  
Author & director: Carlo Beer & Urs Berlinger  
Co-Author: Alexander Seibt  
4 x 22 Min, OV Rhaeto-Romanic, ST de/fr/it



2019

#### EXISTE!

Short Fantasy  
Author & director: Luca Zuberbühler  
9 Min, Digital 2K, DCP  
OV fr, ST de/en  
In Coproduction with LUCA School of Arts  
AWARD: BEST FILM AT 5. BUCHAREST SHORTCUT CINEFEST



2018

#### RUDERN AM LIMIT

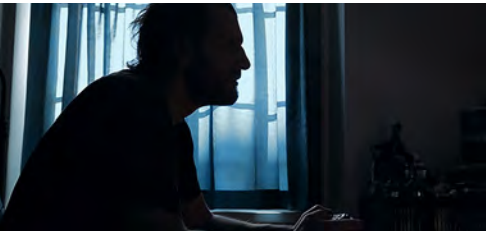
Documentary and Series  
On behalf of: Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen (SRF)  
Director: Chris Grüner  
90 Min and 100 Min. (4x 25 Min TV Series), Digital 4K



2018

#### REGIMES

Short Doc  
Author & director: Maja Tschumi  
20 Min, Digital 4K, OV rus, UT de/en  
In Coproduction with KHM  
AWARD: KHM AWARD FOR STUDENT TALENTS 2018

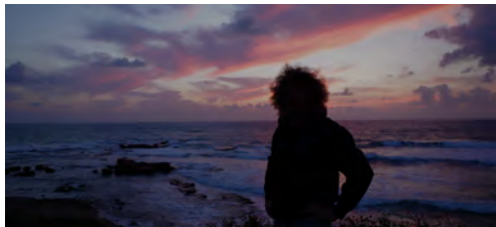


2016

#### DER HEXER

Short Doc  
Author & director: Maja Tschumi  
22 Min, Digital 2K, DCP  
OV ch-de, ST de/en/fr  
AWARD: BEST DOCUMENTARY AT 47TH WOMEN MEDIA ARTS AND FILM FESTIVAL 2017





2016

## DOUG & WALTER

Short Roadmovie  
Author & director: Samuel Morris  
25 Min, Digital 2K, DCP  
OV ch-de/en, ST de/en

AWARDS: SHORT RUN PREIS (BEST SCRIPT) AT KURZFILMTAGE WINTERTHUR 2014, TOP 10, REGARD 20TH EDITION, 1. PRIZE CATEGORIE D, SCHWEIZER JUGENDFILMTAGE 2016, INTERNATIONAL SCRIPT AWARD BY FESANCOR 2016

2015

## PUPPENSPIEL

Short Fantasy  
Author & director: Ares Ceylan  
18 Min, Digital 2K, DCP OV ch-de, ST de/en/fr,  
On behalf of: SRF

AWARDS: OPENING FILM AT KURZFILMNACHT ZÜRICH 2016, BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN AT WARSCHAUER GRAND OFF 2016, CLUJSHORTS TROPHY 2017, BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY AWARD AM NICKEL FESTIVAL 2017

2013

## SCHULANFANG, ACHTUNG KINDER!

Short horror comedy  
Author & director: Ares Ceylan  
15 Min, Digital 2K, DCP  
OV ch-de, ST de/en/fr

AWARDS: BASLER FILMPREIS ZOOM BESTER KURZFILM 2013, PUBLIKUMSPREIS & 2. JURY PREIS JUGENDFILMTAGE 2013, 2. JURY PREIS A BERTOIR WALES INT. HORROR FESTIVAL 2013

2013

## MAKING OF JESUS CHRIST

Cinema documentary  
Author & director: Luke Gasser  
92 Min, HD  
OV de/en, ST de

In Coproduction with Silvertrain, SRF

AWARDS: BEST DOCUMENTARY AT NEVADA FILM FESTIVAL





# CONTACT

Filmgerberei GmbH  
Gasometerstrasse 29a / b  
8005 Zurich  
Switzerland  
Nadine Lüchinger  
nl@filmgerberei.ch  
+41 44 542 21 03

FILM WEBSITE

[alakachuu.com/en](http://alakachuu.com/en)

FACEBOOK

[facebook.com/alakachuuthefilm](https://facebook.com/alakachuuthefilm)

INSTAGRAM

[instagram.com/alakachuu\\_thefilm](https://instagram.com/alakachuu_thefilm)

TWITTER

[twitter.com/AlaKachuu\\_film](https://twitter.com/AlaKachuu_film)

IMDB

[imdb.com/title/tt7914938](https://imdb.com/title/tt7914938)