



## The Blood Widow

**Genre:** Historical Drama / Thriller

**Length:** 16x52'

**Format:** HD

**Director:** Egor Anashkin

**Cast:** Yulia Snigir, Marta Timofeeva, Severija Janušauskaitė, Kristina Babushkina, Petr Rykov, Fedor Lavrov

**Distributor:** Sovtelexport, the official sales branch of Russia Television and Radio

### Synopsis

Spine-chilling series about the most notorious female serial killer in Russian history. She widowed at a young age, got rejected by her lover, and turned into a monster. To have her revenge on men, she tortured and murdered over a hundred innocent peasants. The blood widow got caught, stripped of all her titles, and sentenced to life in a monastery prison.

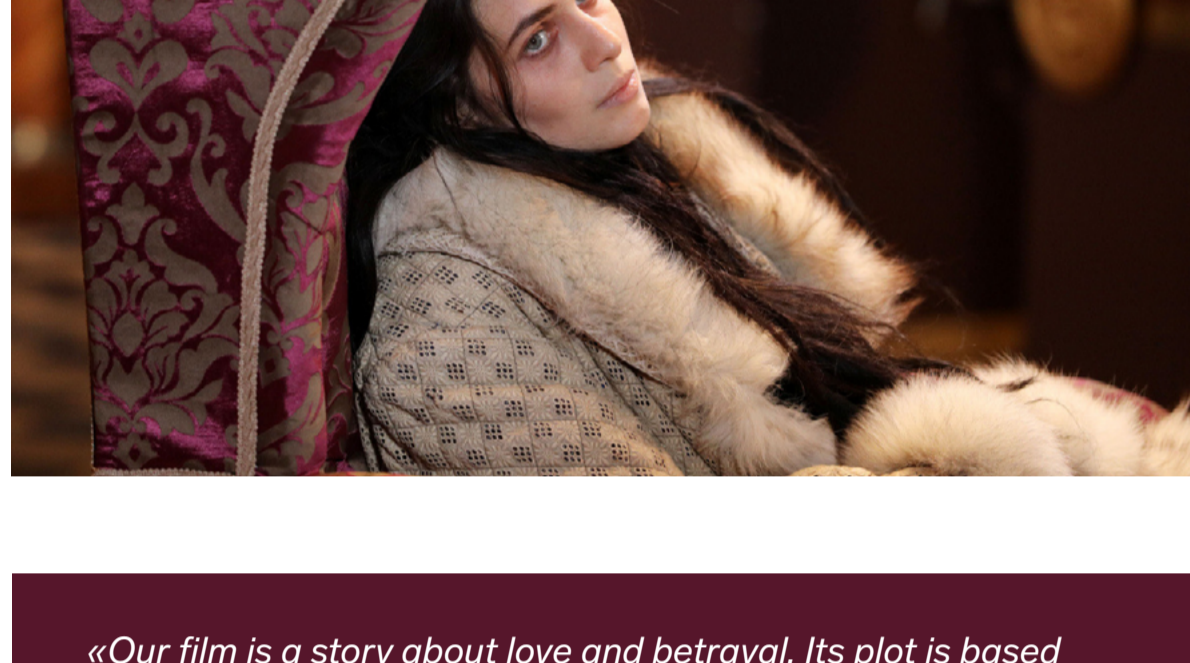
### Trailer



### From the creator's view

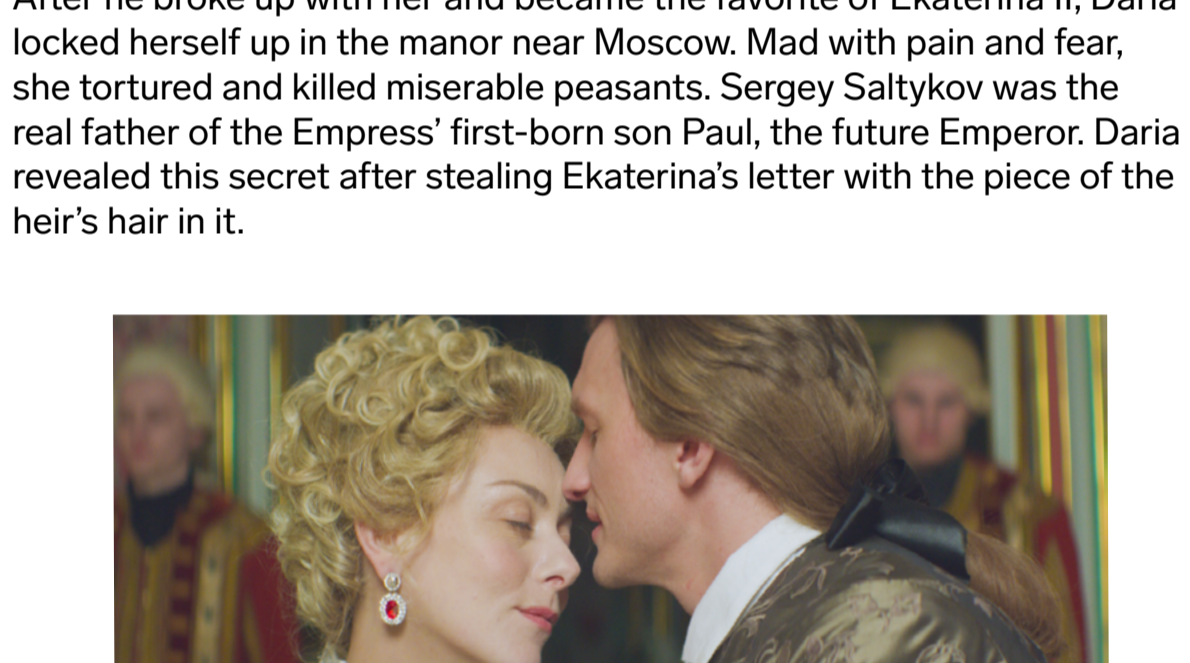
*«While working on the movie we followed the spirit rather than history. We defined our film's genre as scary fairy tale. Saltykova's real biography information is really scarce – there are no historical documents about her, almost all of them had been destroyed by order of Catherine the Great. We found out about her life mostly from the verdict. It gave us an opportunity to creatively redefine her story. Although, The Blood Widow is not a crime chronicle of so called Saltychikha, there are some grave scenes in it. We warned the actors in advance that it would get really horrifying at times».*

**Egor Anashkin**  
director



*«We do not want to defend the character, although sometimes we felt like sympathizing with her. First and foremost, for us it is a rebirth story. Because Saltychikha was a little girl once, a child. What happened to her soul? Why real people became toys to her and she thought she could break, maim and destroy them? It was important for us to show what happens to a person who forgets about God, gives in to the fear that devours from the inside, who becomes a slave of her own monstrous fervors».*

**Ilya Neretin**  
the main producer

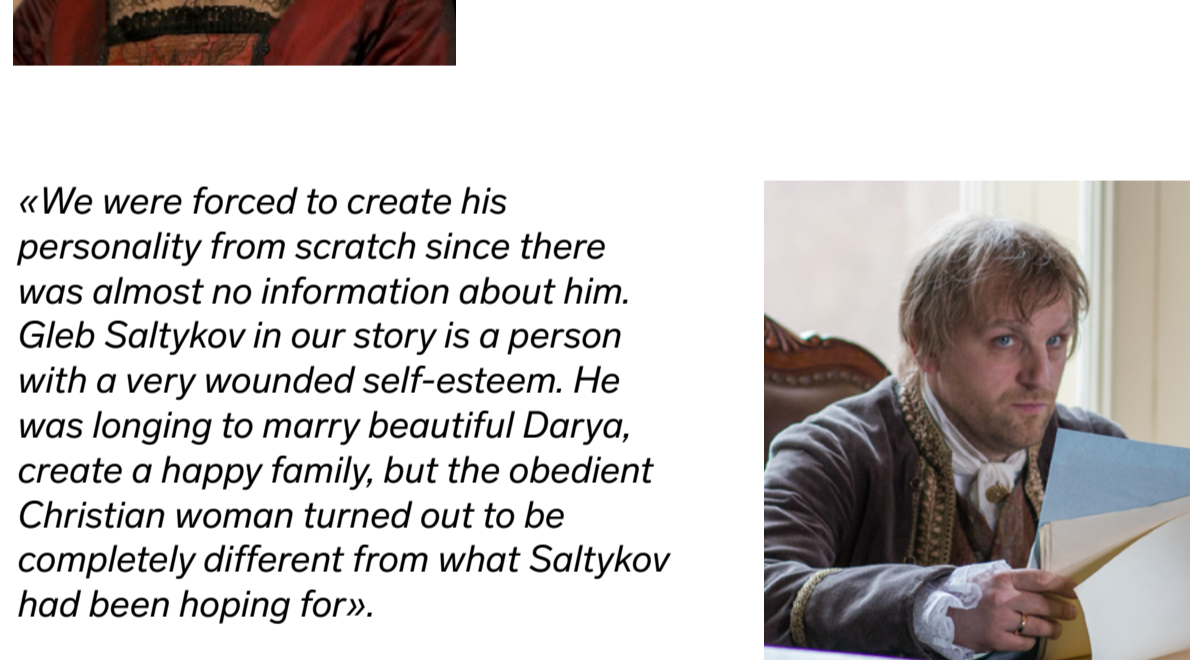


*«Our film is a story about love and betrayal. Its plot is based on a love triangle profoundly dramatic in its core, which included the most influential people of that period».*

**Sergey Keshishev**  
producer

### The plot's main intrigue

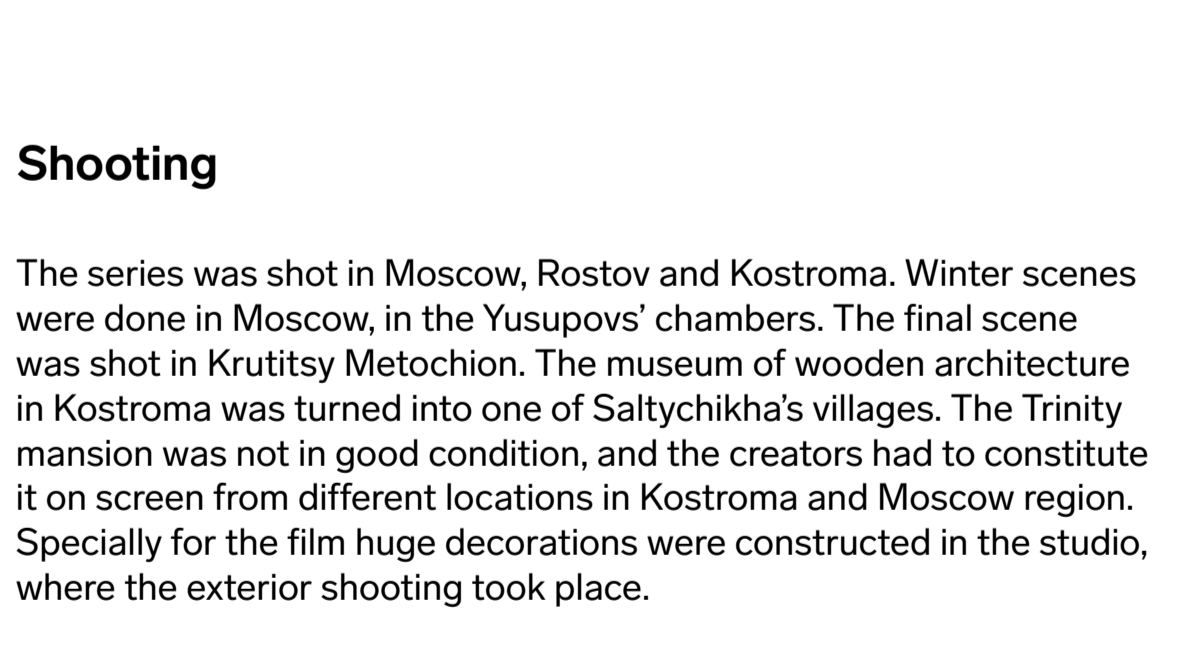
Daria Saltykova was to be executed not for her cruelty or provocative behavior but for her love to Sergey Saltykov. He was her lover, the father of her child, the man she killed her husband for.



After he broke up with her and became the favorite of Ekaterina II, Daria locked herself up in the manor near Moscow. Mad with pain and fear, she tortured and killed miserable peasants. Sergey Saltykov was the real father of the Empress' first-born son Paul, the future Emperor. Daria revealed this secret after stealing Ekaterina's letter with the piece of the heir's hair in it.



Ekaterina condemned Saltykova to death to stop Daria from trying to get her lover back, and to protect herself. At the very last moment, when Daria was about to be beheaded, Ekaterina demonstrated royal mercy and replaced the execution with life imprisonment.



### Actors and roles

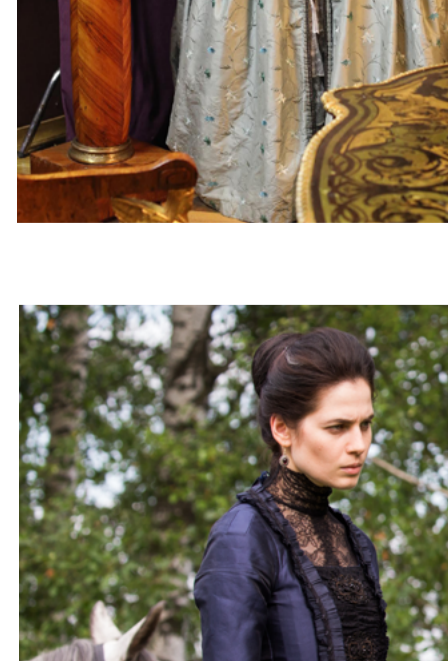


*«I did not want to play her! I rejected the role at first. This character is hard to justify. I was trying to achieve it throughout the entire shooting process. It was important for me to find causation. I have never played anyone more complicated».*

**Yulia Snigir**  
as Daria Saltykova

*«We were forced to create his personality from scratch since there was almost no information about him. Gleb Saltykov in our story is a person with a very wounded self-esteem. He was longing to marry beautiful Darya, create a happy family, but the obedient Christian woman turned out to be completely different from what Saltykov had been hoping for».*

**Fedor Lavrov**  
as Gleb Saltykov

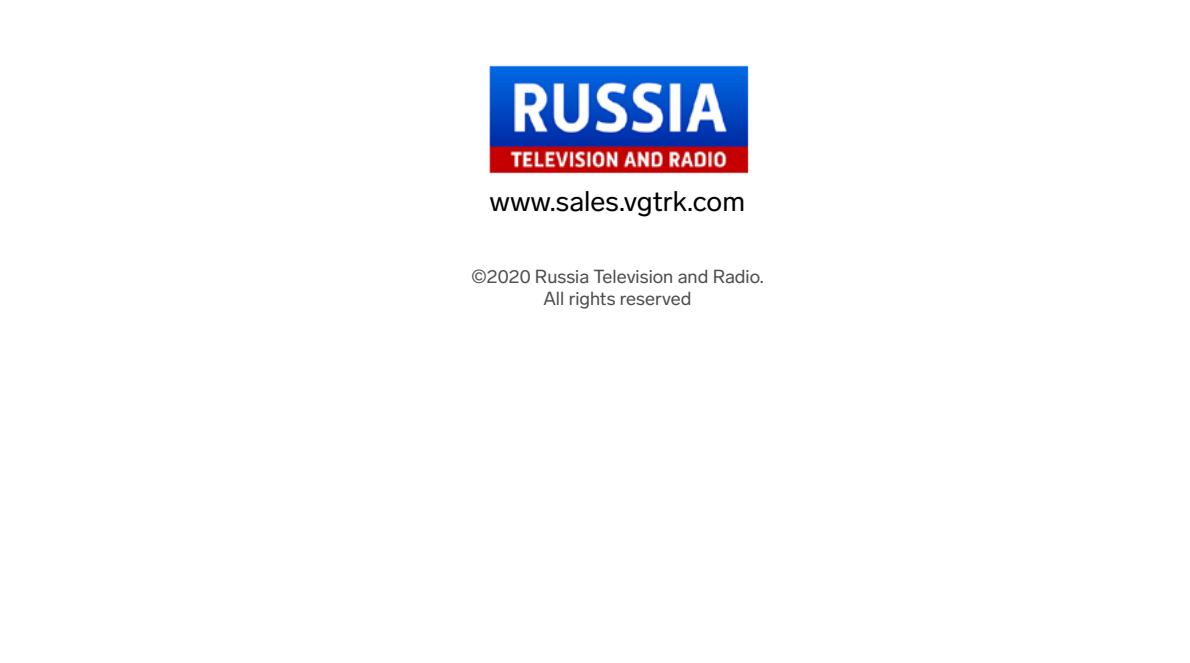


*«My character meets Darya for the first time at a ball and he can't take his eyes off her. Mysterious, magnetic, feminine – she is far too different from this high society: too natural, wild, passionate».*

**Petr Rykov**  
as Sergey Saltykov

*«Severija is a Lithuanian actress, she speaks with a slight accent in the series. For once we did not have to record a voiceover, because her accent was a character trait. As is known, Ekaterina II never managed to get rid of her German accent», says Ilya Neretin.*

**Severija Janušauskaitė**  
as Ekaterina II



**THE BLOOD WIDOW**  
BASED ON A REAL STORY