RUSSIA
TELEVISION AND RADIO

THE TERRIBLE

Genre: Historical drama

Length: 8x60'

Format: HD

Director: Alexey Andrianov

Cast: Alexander Yatsenko, Sergey Makovetsky, Tatiana Lyalina, Artur Ivanov, Konstantin Kryukov, Igor Mirkurbanov, Vladimir Steklov, Victor Sukhorukov

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

SYNOPSIS

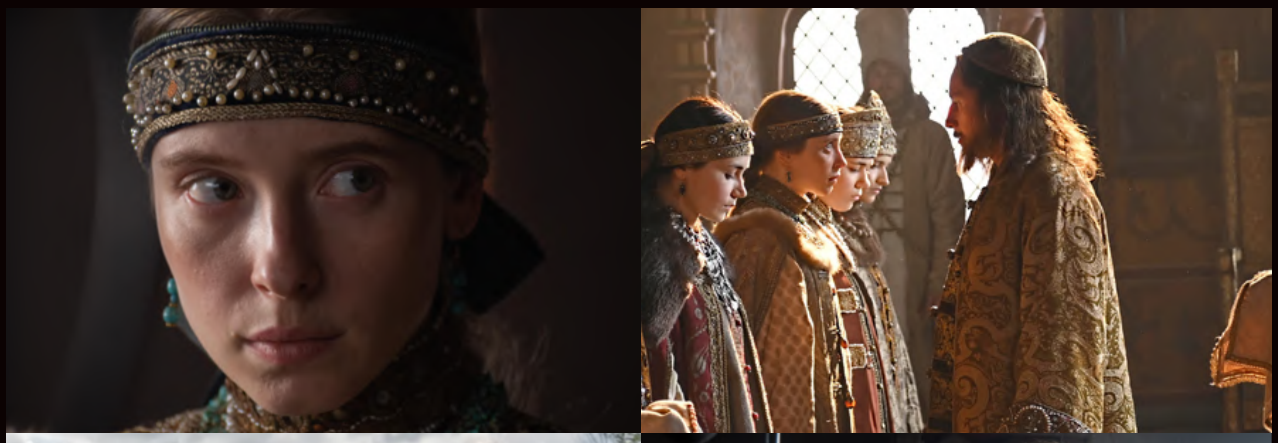
The life of the most controversial and mysterious Russian ruler, Ivan IV, is light and darkness. Torn between mercy and cruelty, the deeply religious tsar considered himself an awful sinner. Despite being an incredibly educated and literary gifted person, a reformer and a creator, he was a cruel tyrant. The greatest statesman went through glorious victories and bitter defeats. He was blessed with big love, which he eventually lost in the darkness of plots and intrigues. This tragedy changed him, and Ivan IV morphed into infamous Ivan the Terrible, brutal and ruthless.

TRAILER

THE PLOT. LIGHT AND DARKNESS

1571. Moscow is devastated after the brutal raid of the Crimean Khan Devlet-Girey. Sovereign Ivan the Terrible thinks that his kingdom came to an end and starts writing his life chronicle. He recalls his childhood in an orphanage, constant fear and humiliation from his guardians. He remembers when he was young and just began to rule. He thinks about his first wife, Anastasia. Living with her was the happiest period of his life. This great love illuminated the first years of his reign, when he was surrounded by loyal people and wise advisers. He conquered Kazan, created a new army, established a new law, his heir was born. He remembers how the bright reign ended: the heir died, his mother did too; and one by one his faithful companions turned into traitors. Ivan IV gradually transformed into Ivan the Terrible infamous as a brutal tyrant. Rumors of his ruthlessness and cruel nature became true, changes in him changed the history of the country. Darkness is approaching Russia — wars, riots, plots and executions are coming...

The film is loosely divided into two parts: "lightness" and "darkness". The first one tells about Ivan's life with Anastasia, his "light" reign. The second part shows how the tsar changed after his wife's death, it is "dark" and cruel time.

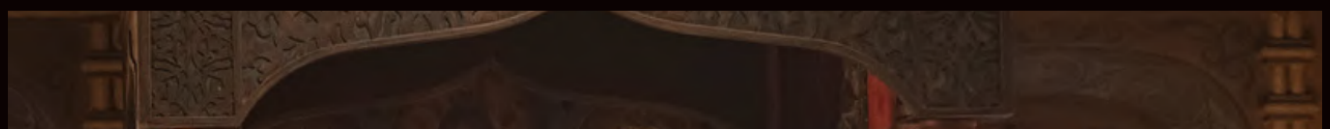


“Ivan noticed Anastasia when he was still a little boy. When it was time to choose his future wife, he chose her. Of course, it is a story of great love that was taken away from them. We don’t know how their fate and Russia’s history would proceed if Anastasia hadn’t died. It was a big tragedy for Ivan. And throughout the whole script, he always thinks of Nastya”

Tatyana Lyalina
as Anastasia

“Most historians say that after Ivan the Terrible lost his wife, he changed a lot. Even some of his close friends didn’t recognize the tsar. He changed psychologically, his values shifted”

Alexey Andrianov,
director



CREATORS ABOUT THE SERIES

Alexey Andrianov
director

2020 **Golden Eagle Award**
Best TV Film or Mini-Series
"Godunov"

2017 **Golden Eagle Nomination**
Best Mini-Series
"Sophia"

2013 **Nika Award**
Discovery of the Year
"The Spy"

"It is a drama of a man who inherited the throne by birth. Ivan IV was the first Russian Tsar — he went down the path no one had stepped on before. We take historical facts as a basis, then think everything through and try to find a middle ground. It's a difficult psychological drama of a person who experienced much pain in childhood, including his mother's death, humiliation, cruelty. We talk about his inner world, insecurities, relationships with his loved ones, his delusions, and his view of the world, that eventually changed"

Timur Ezugbaya
scriptwriter

> *For me, the whole film is about lost love, and how a man who was desperately reaching for the light fell into darkness. But even when your soul goes dark, true love can always illuminate it. I think this is the message of the series. Ivan and Anastasia's love is something God doesn't bless everyone with. Their spiritual unity is perhaps the most important thing in the series. Even when Anastasia dies, Ivan still lives in the memory of her. Therefore, Anastasia never leaves the script but stays in his memories*

Ekaterina Zhukova
producer

> *Ivan the Terrible is a very important figure in the Russian history. He was always surrounded by many fables and myths. Therefore, the film crew members had to place themselves right into that era in order to form their own opinion on everything and get emotionally involved in the time period*

Nikita Panfilov
actor

> *Ivan IV did good things, of course. But he also went over the top with revenge. The man was completely broken and turned into a monster. Everything was alright, but then he messed himself and everyone else up. But… without all this, we wouldn't be*

interested in watching or making this film ”

ACTORS AND CHARACTERS

Ivan IV (child) — Tsar Ivan IV

played by Alexander Yatsenko

The First Tsar of all Rus.

His family descends from Rurik and Roman emperor Octavian Augustus. He was the first Russian tsar to be coronated. He ascended the throne to consolidate Russia, get rid of its enemies and build a great country. Ivan was one of the most educated and literary gifted people of that time: his contemporaries called him "a man of brilliant thoughts", and historians compared him with Nero — "an artist on a throne".

“ *My Ivan is not scary… he is nice. He is also cheerful, kind, wise, young and he is in love. I think he was a great tsar with a long beard, who was sincerely striving to make Moscow into Third Rome and was absolutely obsessed with that idea. He has read many books and wants to educate his people.*

I think having any power is difficult. It is probably the hardest thing that can be… The power is a heavy burden ”

Tsar Ivan IV The Terrible

played by Sergey Makovetsky

Tsar of all Rus.

An autocratic ruler who made his enemies and even friends shake with fear. A great sovereign who was called "The Terrible". He considered himself an awful sinner. Ivan IV took control over the whole country, greatly expanded the Moscow territory and held power for 50 years. The tsar ruled Russia from the age 3 until his death, longer than anyone before him.

“ *We all have light and dark parts in us. Maybe, we do not reveal this darkness to the fullest, but we have it. Ivan the Terrible said the most important words: "There is a crazy animal living inside of me, which I cannot defeat. I only ask for one thing: let God spare my country and not punish it for my sins with slavery". He wasn’t thinking about himself when he said that. He knows he is sinful. And people knew about it. If you sinned, you have to make up for the sins to save your descendants from being punished for something you did* ”

Anastasia Zakharyina
played by Tatiana Lyalina

Russian tsarina, Ivan IV's first wife.

Ivan IV himself chose beautiful Anastasia Zakharyina-Yurieva among other girls presented to him. She became the only love of his life. Only a gentle, delicate and loving tsarina could influence her husband's short temper and tame his wild nature.

> *"The director and I, we tried to move as far away as possible from the image of an innocent lamb, a victim. Such characters bore viewers very fast! So, we created an absolutely logical storyline and built a strong woman with different moods"*

Maria Temryukovna
played by Milena Radulovich

Russian tsarina, Ivan IV's second wife.

Stubborn Maria was a Circassian prince's daughter. She wanted to be like Cleopatra. Wild and cruel Maria encouraged Ivan IV's evil actions, but she could not keep his love. Ivan liked Maria only for her beauty, and soon he lost interest in young tsarina and ignored her loose lifestyle, surrounding himself with mistresses. 8 years of this marriage resulted in infinite number of executions and repressions. The cruelty reigned over the country.

> *"Maria's temper and wild nature were completely opposite to Anastasia's personality. Maybe, that's why the tsar liked her in the first place"*

Vladimir Staritsky
played by Artyom Tkachenko

Prince, Ivan IV's cousin.

Notable and clever, he was one of the pretenders to the throne. His father, prince Andrew, Ivan III and Sophia Palaiologina's son, died in prison after attempting to incite rebellion against the Glinskie family (little Ivan IV's guardians). Vladimir is not intending to avenge his father. He acknowledges the authority of the tsar and does not want to get involved in seignorial plots. But Ivan IV always suspects him of betrayal and his brother love may turn into mortal hate at any moment.

> *"The level of respect for a tsar in XVI century is not comparable to the respect for a government ruler nowadays. But the level of fear was incredibly high too. Thank God, now it's different"*

Chelyadin
played by Nikita Panfilov

A prince, boyar, the army commander.

He is one of Ivan IV's most fierce political opponents. The fear of the tsar does not stop him from plotting against Ivan and looking for allies. The prince does not have a choice — he would rather die than obey Ivan IV's limitless power.

> *"I got so absorbed in the script that I finished it. Although, I could only read my scenes and leave it there. But I was so interested and engaged in the story that I simply couldn't stop reading it. I forgot that I was reading a script sometimes, and it doesn't happen to me often"*

Kurbsky
played by Konstantin Krukov

At the beginning of Ivan IV's reign, Kurbsky was one of his closest friends and allies. He was a brave military commander and a member of the newly formed "Chosen Council"; he encouraged government reforms and supported every decision of the young tsar. But over the years, prince Kurbsky went from Ivan IV's loyal supporter to his fiercest enemy and exposer.

Malyuta Skuratov
played by Victor Sukhorukov

The Oprichnina leader.

Gregory Skuratov-Belsky was tsar's loyal servant and cunning courtier; he commanded the Oprichnina, secret police created by Ivan the Terrible. He handed his life voluntarily to Ivan IV. "The ruler's dog" was the most honorary title for him. There is nothing he cannot do for his master, there is no truth that cannot be hidden.

Luca
played by Artur Ivanov

Luca, an archer and a member of the Oprichnina, has seen a lot in both his royal service and free life. He had to work as a potter and serve his time in a prison. No Russian man can be safe from poverty or prison and Luca knew it. But wherever he is, he is always ready to fight for his motherland, his tsar and his country if needed.

FILMING. PROPS AND COSTUMES

The large-scale production and historical accuracy take the viewers right to the XVI century, the time of important historical changes and people's emotional dramas.

Scenes in the Moscow Kremlin were filmed on a purpose-built set. The crew masterfully recreated the interiors and household of that era. Ivan IV and Anastasia's private chambers, a dining room and the Palace of the Facets, where feasts had been held, The Red Porch and the Spassky Gate. Moreover, the Prikaznaya Ministry Palace, a military camp, market, utility section, kennel and many other sets were built. The filming locations included the Kolomenskoye royal estate, Savvino-Storozhevsky Monastery in Zvenigorod and the Golden Chamber in the Moscow Kremlin.

Oleg Kaletkin
XVI century weaponry and equipment advisor

“Everything is similar, detailed and accurate. The cold weapon, cannon guns, equipment — all of it. Arrows, bows, bear spears and regular ones, guns. The creators of "The Terrible" made the visual part as similar to the XVI century reality as possible. They showed ancient Russian life in detail and with a lot of historical sense”

Natalya Saltykova
costume designer

“We created hundreds and hundreds of costumes for "The Terrible", I can’t even tell you the exact number. I don’t want to exaggerate but there is no point in belittling it, either. We had the Historical museum storage opened for us. We carefully examined the original pieces and got a chance not only to see but to touch those fabrics with our own hands”

Hundreds of extras and thousands of costumes were involved. The costume designers faced a very difficult problem, since there are very few clothes images from that era left.

Anastasia Esadze

make-up artist

> *There are over 140 characters in the series. Around 30% of them appear on the screen at different ages. And since every age requires different make-up, we created around 400 looks. The amount of work and complexity of make-up make this film so unique*

The film features the Battle of Molodi, one of the most important military victories of the Russian army. The battle scene was shot near Moscow over the course of 4 days. The filming was supervised by the famous stuntman Victor Ivanov, who had worked with Steven Spielberg and Paul Anderson. The legendary stunt coordinator won the Screen Actors Guild Award for the movie "The Bourne Ultimatum", and the US Taurus World Stunt Award for "The Bourne Supremacy".

Victor Ivanov
stuntman and stunt coordinator

commented that filming historical fire accidents and battles is more difficult than filming fire and fights among skyscrapers in "The Bourne Supremacy"

> *Car stunt scenes are more or less calculated. But working on this scene, we had to improvise a lot, to adapt to circumstances and work with real fire, which was very dangerous. Moreover, the actors have costumes and make-up on, so you can't just wave a cold weapon around — you have to hold it and use it in a certain historical style and it makes it harder. But everything turned out great*

Evgeny Kachanov
art director

> *There were so many people! It was a difficult task to coordinate horses, weapons, fire, explosions and scenes with actors. While shooting these scenes, I always feel like we deal with something supernatural*

For 7 months, over 80 digital artists were working on the large-scale battle panorama.

MUSIC

The series score was created by several people, including famous Russian composers, winners of many awards, Eduard Artemyev, Artyom Vasiliev and Dmitry Emelyanov. The soundtrack of "The Terrible" has, at its core, the mix of orchestral music, choir and vocal music, electric keyboards and ethnical motives. The piece performed by the State Republican A Cappela Choir includes elements of music created by Ivan the Terrible himself.

Eduard Artemyev
composer

2017, 2008, 2005 **Nika Award**
Best Movie Score
"Hero", "12", "Driver for Vera"

2015, 2014, 2012 **Golden Eagle Award**
Best Movie Score
"Sunstroke", "Legend №17", "House"

2017 **The Golden Mask Award nomination**
The composer work in the musical theatre
"Crime and Punishment"

"I wanted to write something beautiful according to my own impressions of the story and era. Of course, the musical composition cannot be compared to the tsar's majesty but it wasn't my goal. First of all, I wanted the music to show the human side of Ivan IV. He is a mighty Russian tsar, who set the foundation for our great country and created the most powerful kingdom on the continent. He is undoubtadly a very important historical figure"

Artyom Vasiliev
composer

2017 **TEFI Award**
Best Series Score
"Sophia"

2017 **Golden Eagle Award**
Best Movie Score
"Flight Crew"

His CDs are released both in Europe and the US. He composed music for the Olympic Games closing ceremony in Sochi. His ballets "The Canterville Ghost" and "The Secret Garden" are performed in London.

"There is a 20-minute suite with intonation of Ivan IV's stichera at the core of the most episodes. We shaped his music instead of copying it sompletely. Our goal was to save the atmosphere of that era and add modern sound to it"

Eduard Artemyev and Artyom Vasiliev composed the score for the whole "Story of Love. Story of Russia" series trilogy — **"Sophia", "Godunov" and "The Terrible"**.

WIKIPEDIA
about Ivan the Terrible

> *Ivan IV Vasilyevich (1530 –1584) commonly known as Ivan the Terrible — the Grand Prince of Moscow, Russia's first crowned tsar. He created the great Tsardom of Russia with its territory exceeding the size of the rest of Europe. Ivan IV reigned for 50 years and 105 days, longer than any Russian ruler before him. Historian Nikolay Karamzin described Ivan as a great and wise tsar in the first half of his reign, and a ruthless tyrant in the second half, which was marked by terror, unnecessary tortures and awful cruelty*

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