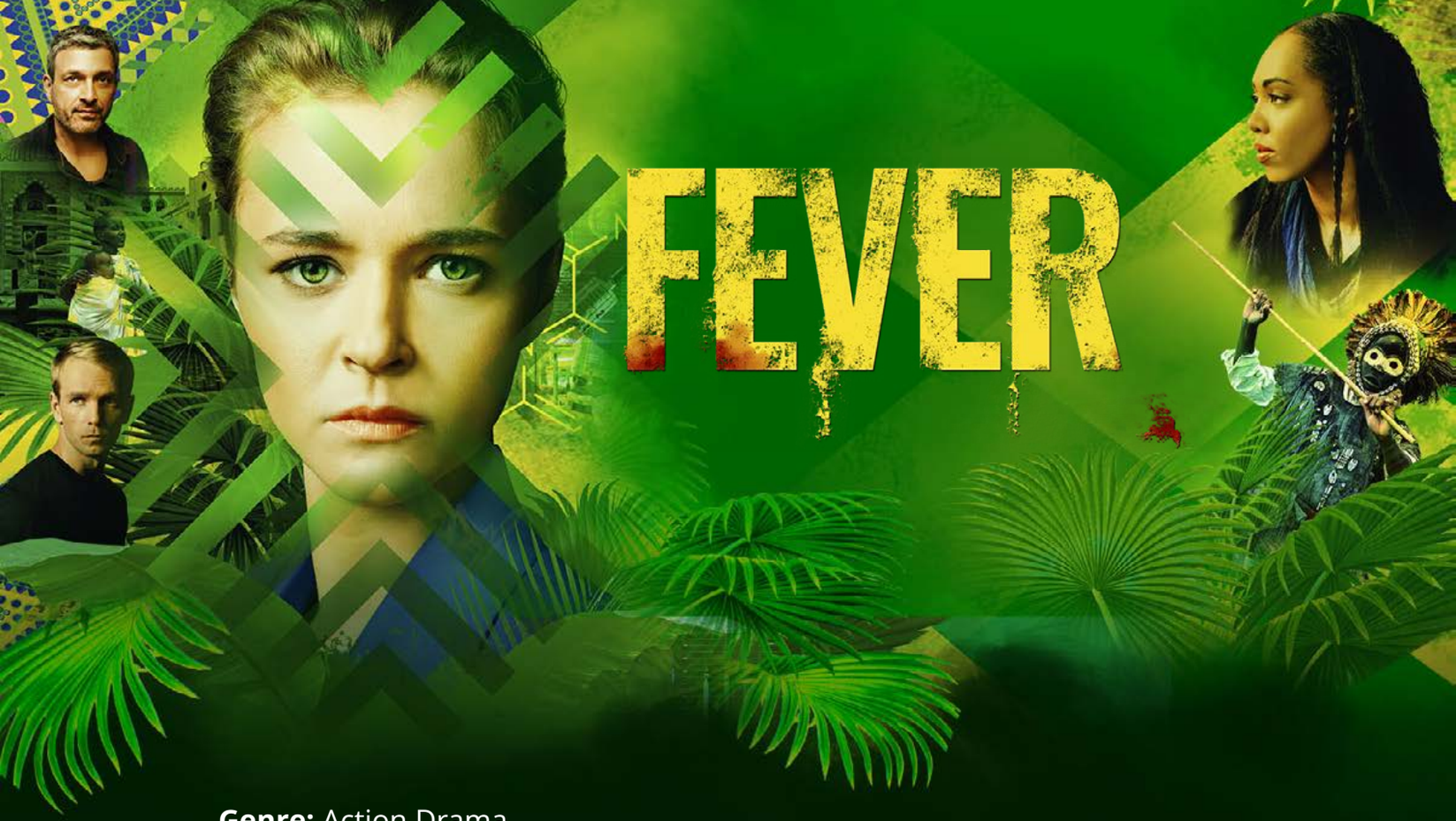


Genre: Action Drama

Length: 16x52’

Produced by: Gravity Films

Director: Alexander Kasatkin

Cameraman: Ruslan Gerasimenkov

Cast: Lyubov Konstantinova, Evgeny Volovenko-Masai, Teresa Diuro, Pavel Kharlanchuk, Ilya Malakov, Anna Glaubé, Nikita Kologrivyi, Konstantin Snegov, Natalia Tishchenko, Alina Astrovskaya, Evgeny Sidikhin, Arthur Vaha, Vadim Andreev.

Synopsis

A deadly epidemic erupts in the heart of Africa. Led by a fearless infectious disease specialist and a genius Russian virologist, the scientists race against time to create a life-saving vaccine. When an international medical team flees a center of the epidemic, a squad of experienced volunteer doctors storms in. With the vaccine in development, they engage in the battle against the virus, overcoming bias and resistance from the local population, faithful to their religious traditions and rituals.

The battleground extends beyond the virus. A powerful pharmaceutical corporation launches a covert espionage operation, turning the fight against the epidemic into a thrilling spy game. The scientists must not only combat the lethal disease but also unmask the traitor hidden among them.

Trailer

Real Events

> *«The «Fever» TV series is certainly a fictional story, but it is based on true events - the major Ebola fever epidemic in Liberia and several other countries in West Africa in 2014-2015.»*
>
> **Director Alexander Kasatkin**

The recent COVID-19 pandemic shook the whole world, however, humanity had experienced even more terrifying diseases. Among all epidemics in the world, Ebola fever is the deadliest for humans. The outbreak of the disease, recorded in West Africa in 2014, became the largest since the discovery of this virus. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) report, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone registered 28,604 cases of the disease, with 11,300 deaths.

Linda Bartlett (Pl

Several countries, including Russia, joined the race to develop a vaccine capable of stopping the epidemic. And in 2015, several drugs were developed, including two registered in Russia - 'GamEvac' and 'GamEvac-Combi'.

United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases

Thanks to the efforts of the international community - medical, food, and educational aid - the epidemic was successfully stopped.

The Plot

A shaman from the ancient African Maasai tribe calls the new deadly virus the «Evil with Blood on its Hands». N-bola has caused an outbreak of a dangerous disease in Africa, forcing even doctors from the international commission to leave the country. Russian volunteers come to fight the epidemic, led by the renowned virologist Dr. Ivan Matetskiy.

Local infectious disease doctor Sophie Diogu joins the group. She has been in love with Matetskiy since she studied in Russia.

Sophie becomes their guide in this completely new and unfamiliar world; on a different continent, scientists will have to deal not only with an unknown strain of Ebola fever but also with deeply rooted traditions and rituals, and sometimes with total resistance from the locals.

Meanwhile in Moscow, at the Institute of Virology, a secret vaccine development project is in full swing. Scientists are doing everything they can to accelerate the process. This initiative was supposed to be led by Matetsky's daughter, Polina, a talented virologist who had created the unique «Vaccine Constructor» with the help of neural networks.

Polina is just like her father. Bold, uncompromising, and extremely hard-working, she always speaks her mind and has no intention of pleasing everybody. Therefore, when young careerist Viktor Zhdanov is unexpectedly appointed to replace Matetskiy while the latter is in Africa, they don't really get along. Although they were childhood friends once. Meanwhile, the international pharmaceutical corporation New Bio Technology wants to get their hands on Polina's project. The company has already repeatedly profited in Africa from epidemics they caused themselves. Presidential elections are approaching, and all candidates will undoubtedly use the N-bola epidemic card to their advantage. Earning for power and business reorganization in the extraction of natural resources, the NBT corporation puts a spy in the research institute. Military counterintelligence detects his traces. A real war begins between the opposing sides. In Russia, the vaccine development is in progress with the unfolding hunt for the spy on the background. In Lemuria, doctors are fighting to save thousands of lives against those who benefit from the epidemic and exploit the tragedy for profit.

The epidemic reveals the characters' true colors. Some are willing to risk themselves for the common good, while others, hiding behind their concern for humanity, pursue their own selfish goals. After experiencing her husband's betrayal, Polina bonds with Viktor, who reveals a new side of himself, selflessly devoting his time and energy to the vaccine production.

Together they are fighting an international pharmaceutical corporation that is discrediting the Russian mission in Africa. Meanwhile, a love story unfolds between Ivan Matetsky and Sophie, whose past feelings reignited with new intensity. However, they are not destined to be together for long.

> *«An epidemic is always an extreme situation, where hundreds of people are on the brink of life and death every day. Doctors are trying to save them from a dangerous virus, risking their own lives... But, despite everything, human relationships, relationships between a man and a woman, between friends, and between colleagues always have a place to be.»*
>
> **Director Alexander Kasatkin**

«In 'Fever', high moral standards meet human weaknesses, espionage intrigue intertwines with great love, and, of course, there is a desperate battle against mysterious evil.

This evil is ultimately defeated in the series finale; the spy in the Virology Research Institute is found and neutralized, the epidemic is localized and is slowly declining. The orchestrator of the epidemic, the NBT corporation and its subsidiary company in Lemuria, DEHA, are going through tough times, losing influence and markets. Yet, as Bob Cooper declares to Matetsky: only the round is lost, not the whole game.

Actors and their Roles

Ivan Matetskiy

Evgeniy Volovenko-Masai

Matetskiy is a workaholic truly devoted to his work. He cares more about the number of lives he's saved than money and fame. Finding himself in the center of an epidemiological catastrophe in Africa, the virologist not only battles a dangerous disease but also participates in the political life of the state on the brink of crisis.

«I read the script and it impressed me with its originality, interesting plot, a chain of events and relationships between the characters. After meeting with the director and partners on set, I was sure we were going to make a good movie. And I was looking forward to genuinely enjoying the filming process. And so I did.»

Evgeniy admitted that he felt at home in Africa, learned to engage in a dialogue, interacted a lot with locals, and made new friends. The tribal members considered him one of their own and often referred to the actor as «Masai». And after all the adventures, emotional experiences, and impressions he had in Africa, as a sign of respect, the actor decided to add «Masai» to his last name in the credits of this project.

Polina Matetskaya
Ivan Matetskiy's daughter
Lyubov Konstantinova

«My character Polina is a scientist-virologist. She is selfless, highly intellectual, genuinely devoted to her work. At first, she thinks her only enemy is the epidemic, but life turns out to be way more complex... This is the story about people fighting for their truth, for the lives of others, and, of course, for love.»

«The series makes you think about many important things: trust issues, communication with your loved ones, problems of the dialogue between people of different mentalities, selflessness, constant overcoming of obstacles, and, of course, about compassion and kindness.»

Sophie Diogu

Teresa Diuru

«I admire Sophie's capacity for self-sacrifice, her courage, and sometimes even audacity. Since she studied in Russia, she loves Russian culture, Russian medicine deeply, and she stands with those who seek the truth.»

«Of course, there is a love line in the series, some romantic twists and turns. That's really cool. But the main focus is on the doctors' heroism. I realized how much epidemiologists, doctors who worked in the 'red zone', not only with Ebola but also during the COVID pandemic, sacrificed themselves. It was incredibly difficult to work in full protective suits: hard to breathe, hard to do anything, hard to even think. And when we worked in Africa, it was also very hot. I admire deeply all the doctors for what they do!»

Victor Zhdanov

Ilya Malakov

He is Polina's new colleague, but they've met before. They are childhood friends. They shared some adventures together and first love. Once, as schoolchildren, they wanted to volunteer together in Africa to help people, and years later, this dream becomes a reality.

«My character is transforming completely when it comes to his involvement in the vaccine development.»

For Victor, this hot situation becomes a huge career stepping stone. The actor faces a challenging task: to truthfully portray a man in power who values protocol way more than emotions and to try to explain why such people are still needed.

Konstantin Snegov

Bob Cooper

Bob Cooper is an American scientist-ethnographer, who came to Africa 30 years ago, fell in love with it, and didn't want to go back home. At first glance, he is the sweetest person with many acquaintances from various spheres and countries. But in reality, he is a resident of the pharmaceutical corporation NBT, a key figure in the movement that opposes the existing power in Africa. Bob is an ally of the virus, who uses the epidemic in a political game with bloody stakes, and a hidden enemy of the Russian mission. He is a cruel and immoral person ready to do anything to achieve his goal, even if it comes to bringing down wrath of African gods and sacrificing the woman he loves.

Vyacheslav Shatalov

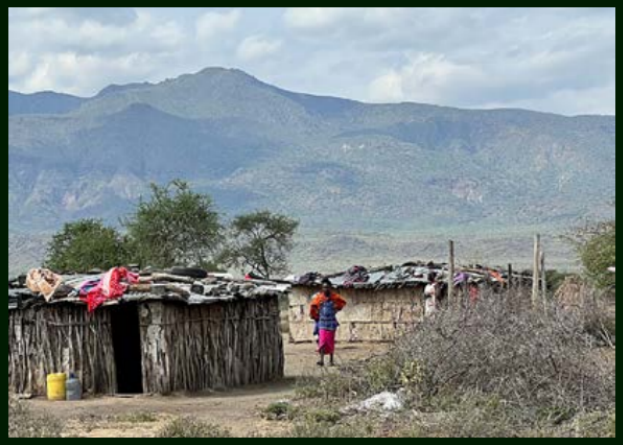
Pavel Kharlanchuk

Vyacheslav Shatalov is the husband of brilliant Polina Matetskaya. He is a handsome fashionable director, a creative soul. He can easily discuss literature and theater, passionately talks about Sophocles. He affectionately calls his wife «little mouse» and cannot believe that she will leave him and go to Africa.

Trying to get popular, Vyacheslav gives interview about his new work to blogger Zhanna. Loyalty is not his strongest trait so he gets carried away and fails to notice that Zhanna is pursuing her own interests, involving him in a dangerous game.

Shooting and Set Design

The series was filmed in Moscow, Crimea and Kenya. The interior of the African hospital DEHA was shot at the regional perinatal center in Tula, while the most impressive and vibrant scenes reflecting the local flavor were captured in the African savannah and on the streets of Nairobi.



Specially for this stage of filming, a consultant-translator trained Russian actors to speak Swahili.

> *«While I was preparing myself for this role, I tried to immerse myself even more in the ethnic culture. I took African dance lessons, and my playlist was filled with African music»*
>
> **Teresa Diuro**

Around 120 members of the Maasai tribe participated in the filming as extras and even performed their traditional songs.

The film crew highly appreciated the acting abilities of the Kenyan participants in the series' episodes – they behaved very artistically and naturally on camera.

Costumes and Makeup

All the African costumes were created by the remarkable costume designer Nina Dobrina. Each character was meticulously conceptualized and sketched – down to the smallest details. Unique vibrant fabrics for the costumes were sourced from Tashkent and tailored there by hand, before being shipped to Kenya. Nina personally crafted the accessories, truly making it a work of jewelry. The costumes of the shamans featured up to twenty different types of fabrics, beads, metallic threads, leather weaving, shells, and bird feathers.

African actors noticed the authenticity of the ritual African attire, saying that the costumes greatly helped in shaping their characters.

However, the fate of the African collection is covered in mystery – it did not return from Kenya. The bags might have been simply stolen, or perhaps they decided to remain in the fictional country of Lemuria along with their characters.

Success of the Series

«Fever» premiered on September 7, 2023, on the media platform «Smotrim,» and from October 9, viewers were able to see the series on the «Russia 1» TV channel

НАЦИОНАЛЬНАЯ АКАДЕМИЯ КИНЕМАТОГРАФИЧЕСКИХ ИСКУССТВ и НАУК РОССИИ

The «Golden Eagle», 2023

Nominated for:

Best Female Role on Television

(Lyubov Konstantinova)

Viewers about the Series

«A vibrant, dynamic film about virologist scientists. Finally, the movie industry has touched this incredibly relevant topic. Firstly, the series is educational. You understand the great effort required to create a vaccine. Secondly, it reminds us of patriotism. Watching people being truly dedicated to their profession, their work is captivating and inspiring. Detective, intrigue, betrayal, mystique – I was worried for the characters until the very end.

Touching love stories, light humor, the beauty of nature. Outstanding performances by the actors! Enchanting music. The series has everything that keeps you glued to the screen. I highly recommend watching it.»

«The most interesting and colorful aspect for me is the vibrant African rituals. It's clear that the filming involved not just actors in makeup, but real members of tribes.»

«Nobility of the soul, dedication to the profession, love, trust, mutual assistance - that's the foundation of the 'Fever' series.»

«In my opinion, this series is a true full workplace drama about the virologists' lives. Moreover, the plot unfolds in a complex international situation. It's very relevant and modern.»

««...every story, every character, is thoroughly examined, including not only their professional and scientific activities but also their personal lives, down to their love affairs. And if you watch the series closely, these details are very interesting. Moreover, they are revealing and quite instructive.

Also the unique African shots cannot be ignored. Although, in many ways, they are incomprehensible for us. Another continent, another people, and a completely different life, and a different worldview.»

Even before the first episodes finished airing, it was announced that the series would have a second season. The creators remained the same: Alexander Kasatkin will once again be in a director's chair, while the screenplay will be prepared by Natalya Shumak, Tatiana Chernetskaya, and Stanislav Gimadeev.

Filming is scheduled for 2024, with the premiere planned for 2025.

FEVER

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