A man with a white beard and hair, wearing a dark jacket, is shown in profile, looking out of a window. The background shows a rural building with a corrugated metal roof and a window with green shutters. The scene is set in a rural, possibly mountainous, area with some vegetation and a stone wall in the foreground.

# TANGERINES

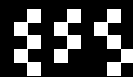
A FILM BY Zaza Urushadze



# TANGERINES

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CINEMA 24



Eesti Filmi Shtasutus  
Estonian Film Foundation



MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
AND MONUMENT PROTECTION  
OF GEORGIA



KULTUURIMINISTERIUM  
ESTONIAN MINISTRY OF CULTURE



## TANGERINES

*An Estonian-Georgian co-production feature film*

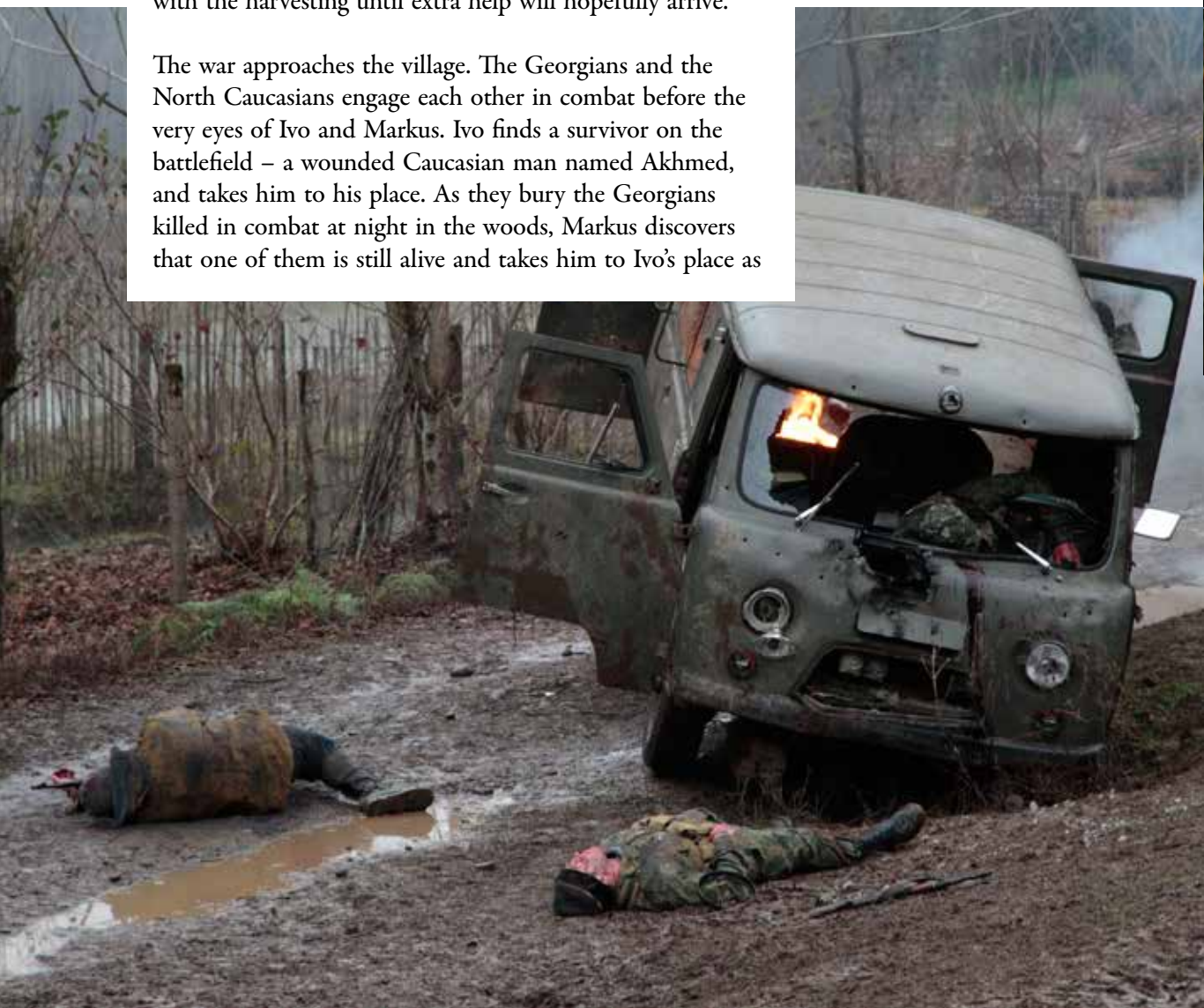
SCREENWRITER AND DIRECTOR: Zaza Urushadze  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Rein Kotov  
LEADING ACTORS: Lembit Ulfsak, Elmo Nüganen,  
Giorgi Nakhashidze, Mikhail Meskhi  
PRODUCERS: Ivo Felt and Zaza Urushadze

### Synopsis

Autumn in the 1990's. An Estonian village in Abkhazia – imagine forest-covered hills, the sea, and tangerine orchards. The Abkhazians are fighting to separate from Georgia. They get help and support from the North Caucasian people and the Russians. Georgian volunteers also fight against the Abkhazians alongside the Georgian army.

The only inhabitants of the village are an old man named Ivo and his neighbour Markus, the owner of a tangerine orchard. Everyone else has fled the war. Markus wants to leave as well but only a dozen crates for the fruit and helps with the harvesting until extra help will hopefully arrive.

The war approaches the village. The Georgians and the North Caucasians engage each other in combat before the very eyes of Ivo and Markus. Ivo finds a survivor on the battlefield – a wounded Caucasian man named Akhmed, and takes him to his place. As they bury the Georgians killed in combat at night in the woods, Markus discovers that one of them is still alive and takes him to Ivo's place as



well. Thus two enemies representing the opposing sides end up under one roof.

Ivo is the one who has to settle the conflicts between the two enemies. The Georgian, Nika, is unconscious. The Caucasian, Akhmed, wants to kill him but still gives Ivo his word not to do it when staying in Ivo's house. The situation becomes very tense – each word or move could trigger serious consequences. But when the remains of a burnt-out Georgian vehicle lead the Abkhazian fighters to Ivo's house, Akhmed asks Nika to pretend he is a wounded Caucasian fighter whose wounds have robbed him of the ability to speak. Relations between the two men change.

The front line reaches the village. A battle takes place at night. Markus's house and his tangerine orchard are burnt down in heavy bombardment. The only thing that keeps Markus in the village now is his decision not to leave Ivo alone there.

One fine morning, Russian soldiers arrive at Ivo's house. After a tense disagreement, a Russian officer wants to shoot Akhmed, but Nika stands up and kills the officer. Markus dies during the shooting incident when he tries to stop the Russians. Nika is also killed.

We find out that the grave Ivo's son is what binds him to this place and keeps him from leaving. He buries Nika beside his son.

Akhmed does not go back to fight in the war. He goes home instead. Ivo stays put.





### Director's Comment

People without borders – this is probably the leitmotif of my film. Different nationalities and religious beliefs who oppose each other – enemies become friends. They gradually realise that there is no need to be enemies. This movie should show the audience that people around the world are similar, they share common human values. In wars unleashed by irresponsible politicians, ordinary people who love life die. The death of one person is the death of a unique world, but for politicians it is just statistics. Borders divide people artificially. This film should be an attempt to destroy artificial boundaries. Heroes who just recently, for some reason, were enemies will tear down these artificial borders. They will be able to forgive, help and protect each other, even from their own people and at the cost of their own lives.

Zaza Urushadze  
DIRECTOR



ORIGINAL TITLE: Mandariinid  
TITLE IN ENGLISH: Tangerines

DIRECTOR: Zaza Urushadze  
SCRIPTWRITER: Zaza Urushadze  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Rein Kotov  
ART DIRECTOR: Thea Telia  
SOUND: Harmo Kallaste, Ivo Felt  
MUSIC: Niaz Diasamidze  
COSTUMES: Simon Machabeli  
EDITOR: Alexander Kuranov  
PRINCIPAL CAST: Lembit Ulfsak,  
Elmo Nüganen, Giorgi Nakhashidze,  
Mikhail Meskhi  
PRODUCER: Ivo Felt  
CO-PRODUCER: Zaza Urushadze  
PRODUCED BY: Allfilm, Cinema24

LENGTH: 89 min  
SCREENING FORMAT: DCP  
ASPECT RATIO: 1: 2,35  
SOUND: 5.1  
NATIONAL PREMIERE: October 2013

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