

A FILM BY INARA KOLMANE

SOVIET MILK

BASED ON BESTSELLING BOOK BY NORA IKSTENA

MAIJA
DOVEIKA

RUTA
KRONBERGA

ELINA
VASKA

INGA
TROPA

INDRA
BRIKE

FILM DIRECTED BY INARA KOLMANE

SOVIET MILK

BORN TO LIVE LIKE DEAD

English title: **Soviet Milk**

Original title: **Mātes piens**

Genre: **Drama**

Year: **2023**

Languages: **Latvian, Russian**

Countries: **Latvia, Belgium**

Directed by **Inara Kolmane (LV)**

Written by **Arvis Kolmanis (LV)**

Cinematography by **Rolandas Leonavicius (LT)**

Production design by **Algirdas Garbaciauskas (LT)**

Editing by **Michal Lansky (CZ)**

Music by **Raimonds Tiguls (LV)**

Sound design by **Arturas Pugaciauskas (LT)**

Costume design by **Evija Dzonsone (LV)**

Make-up by **Gunda Zvirbule (LV)**

Main cast: **Maija Doveika, Ruta Kronberga, Elina Vaska-Botere**

Producers: **Janis Juhnevics (LV), Marta Romanova-Jekabsone (LV)**

Co-producers: **Cloe Garbay (BEL), Bastien Sirodot (BEL), Laurent Jacobs (BEL),**

Inga Alika-Stroda (LV), Ilze Korjusa (LV), Nikita Kalasnikovs (LV)

Produced by **Film Studio DEVINI (LV)**

Co-produced by **UMEDIA (BEL), TET (LV), NK Agentura (LV)**

110 min / DCP / 2:39:1 / 5.1

Contact

Film Studio **DEVINI**

devini@devini.lv

www.devini.lv



Synopsis

A mother, a talented gynaecologist, who has denied her new-born daughter breast milk, loses everything in the conflict with the Soviet totalitarian regime. Later the young daughter becomes her only supporter and takes the role of her mother.

The lifelines of mother and daughter flow in the occupied Soviet Latvia from 1945 to 1989 when the Soviet Union collapses.

Based on a bestseller.

“I didn’t want to live and I didn’t want her to drink milk from a mother who doesn’t want to live.”

Director



Inara Kolmane is one of the most recognised film directors in Latvia with the background of directing more than 15 films. In 1994 she accomplished her film studies at St. Petersburg Institute of Theatre Music and Cinematography in Russia.

She is member of European Film Academy. Some of her latest projects are feature films “MONA” (2012) and “BILLE” (2018) premiered in Tallinn Black Night festival and granted National Film Award as the

best film, and documentaries “My Husband Andrei Sakharov” (2006), “Ruch and Norie” (2015), both named best documentaries at the National film Award, as well as “Double Life. Sex in the USSR” (2017). “Soviet Milk” is her third feature fiction.

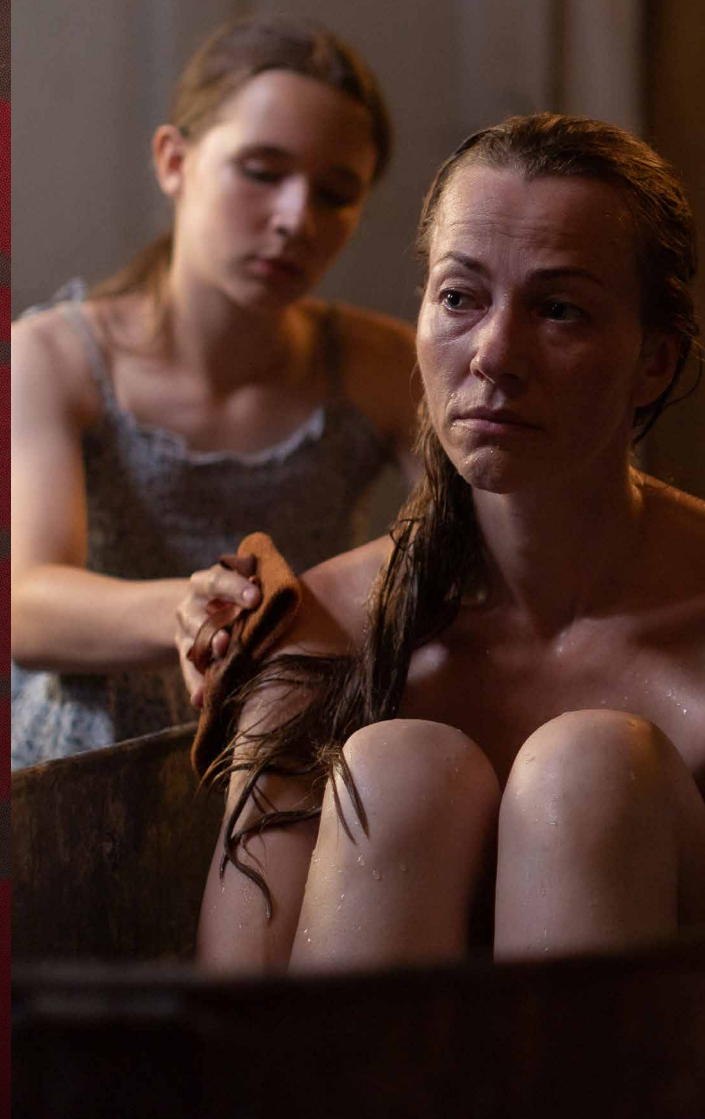


Director's statement – Inara Kolmane

The concept of the film is based on the reflection of interpersonal and social relations as well as historical processes through lives and standpoints of two women. The film consists of two interwoven novels, each featuring a different point of view – that of mother Astra and daughter Nora. This reflects human destiny under the absurd soviet system both through the prism of an adult who has lost her ideals and from the perspective of a child.

Emotional and true observation of the world through Nora's eyes, unmasks the absurdity behind the mystery of historical periods and their influence on the fate of her mother and other people. Unfolded secrets and reflections gradually bring home to Nora the revelation that the world where she lives is completely wrong. In the adult world, Nora should grow up fast and take care of the depressed mother Astra, who has pushed her away from the very moment of her birth. Against the powerlessness of the mother as an individual facing the regime, the daughter's growing-up story contains belief in the future, contradicted with the (im)possibility of personal growth under the regime.

After World War II East Europe had to live under the soviet occupation, which deprived people of their faith, goals and integrity, lots of lives were ruined. This is a short definition of the historical background of "Soviet Milk", which In my opinion it is extremely relevant to the troubled world of these days.



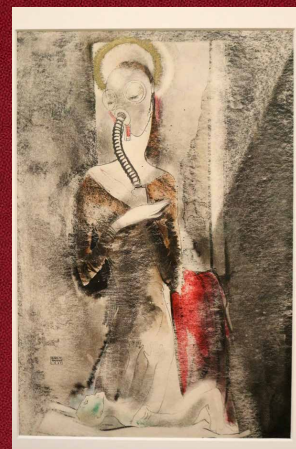


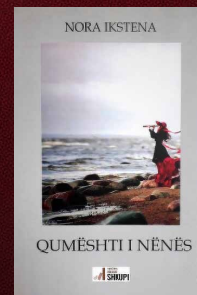
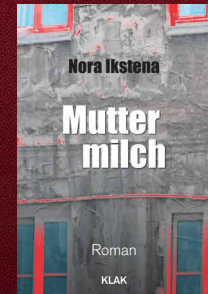
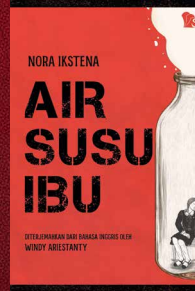
Photo Janis Deinats

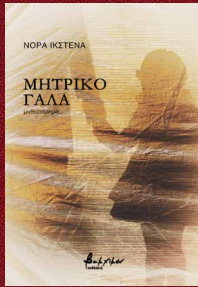
The story is based on the bestseller “Soviet Milk” by the renowned Latvian author Nora Ikstena. “Soviet Milk” (in other languages – “Mother’s Milk”) has been translated and published in more than 20 countries world-wide, including:

Albania
 Arab Emirates
 Austria
 Croatia
 Denmark
 Estonia
 Faroe Islands
 France
 Georgia
 Germany
 Great Britain (UK)
 Greece
 Hungary
 Italy
 Indonesia

Japan
 Latvia
 Lithuania
 Macedonia
 Norway
 Poland
 Spain
 Sweden
 Syria
 Ukraine

On its way to
 Czech Republic
 Kerala (India)
 Netherlands



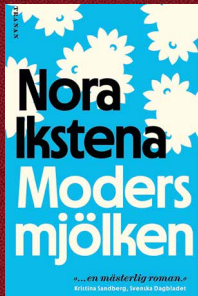
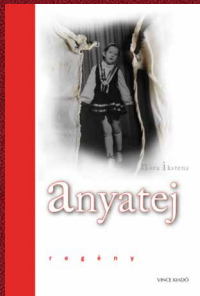


“... a masterful novel”
Svenska Dagbladet

“...a blistering Latvian bestseller”

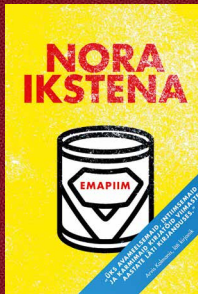
“Yet its powerful evocation of an era that seems almost unimaginable now, but which could all too easily return if Europe fails to defend the hard-won freedoms of its nations, makes it a valuable, even an important one.”

The Guardian



“The atmospheric narrative infused with evocative imagery”

World Literature Today



“The novel defines women’s freedom as something that is collectively achieved across generations.”

The White Review

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