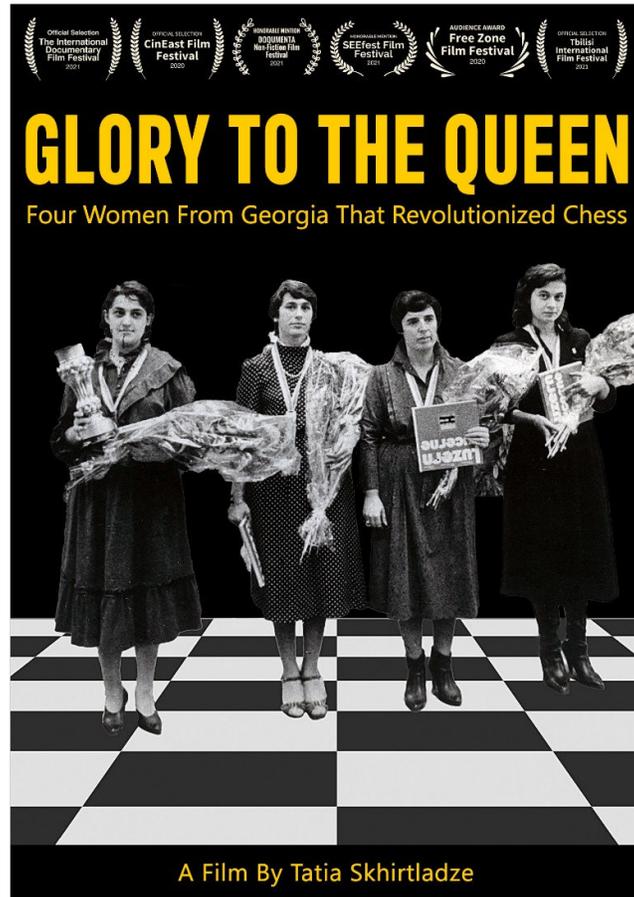


GLORY TO THE QUEEN



A FILM BY TATIA SKHIRTLDZE
Co-directed by Anna Khadzaradze

82 mins / Color / 2020 / Georgian, Serbian, Russian, German, English, English Subtitles
Countries of Origin: Georgia Austria and Serbia



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FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

Women in Film Best Pitch Award from EWA Network and Film Center Serbia at the Fest Forward Film festival in Belgrade, Serbia

Audience Award - Free Zone Film Festival, Serbia

Honorable Mention - Documenta Non-Fiction Film Festival, Mexico

Honorable Mention - SEEfest Film Festival, U.S.

Golden Prometheus Award - CinéDOC Tbilisi Int'l Documentary Film Festival

CinEast Film Festival, Luxembourg

This Human World Film Festival, Austria

The Hamburg International Queer Film Festival, Germany

goEast Film Festival, Germany

Bolzano Film Festival Bozen, Italy

Mill Valley Film Festival, U.S.

Kansas City FilmFest International, U.S.

It's All True International Documentary Film Festival, Brazil

JEONJU International Film Festival, Republic of Korea

Vox Feminae International Film Festival, Croatia

Internationales Frauen* Film Fest Dortmund+Köln, Germany

The International Documentary Film Festival, France

Diagonale Festival of Austrian Film

Sotto le stelle dell'Austria Film Series, Austria

Espoo Ciné International Film Festival, Finland

Millennium Docs Against Gravity, Poland

The International Festival of Contemporary Arts – City of Women, Slovenia

Osnabrück Independent Film Festival, Germany

UnderhillFest, Montenegro

Braunschweig International Film Festival, Germany

The International Documentary Film Festival One World, Slovakia

Triest Film Festival, IT

East by Southeast, Denmark

FIPADOC International Documentary Film Festival, France

SYNOPSIS

Glory to the Queen reveals the intertwined lives of international chess heroes: Nona Gaprindashvili, Nana Alexandria, Maia Chiburdanidze and Nana Ioseliani. These four legendary female players from Georgia revolutionized women's chess and became Soviet icons of women's empowerment. The women leave a lasting legacy. They played together on the Soviet Union's Olympic team, but they were also competitive with each other. *Glory to the Queen* brings them together again after a 25-year break, to remember their competitions and friendship. Now older, they are still important icons of the sport and the country.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

I was born and raised in the Soviet Republic of Georgia, at a time of upheaval and historical transformation during the 1970s and 1980s. Nona Gaprindashvili, Nana Alexandria, Maia Chiburdanidze and Nana Ioseliani, the four best female chess players in the world at that time, who are the subject of my film, were my personal role models. Through them chess became for me a symbol of intellectual and personal emancipation and empowerment.

Glory to the Queen is a film about winning and losing on the chessboard and in life. It is a cinematic reflection on how women's struggle for independence and their rebellion against powerful male systems echoes in individual and collective life stories.

Two of my protagonists Nona Gaprindashvili and Maia Chiburdanidze held the Women's World Chess Champion title for almost 30 consecutive years. Nana Alexandria and Nana Ioseliani were hot on their heels. Nona was the first woman in the world to receive the prestigious title of Grandmaster playing successfully against men, followed then by Maia. The Soviet system celebrated them as idols as they achieved great success with so-called 'male talents' – such as analytical skills, intellect and combativeness.

Having lived abroad in western Europe for the past two decades, I have observed from afar a lot of regressive and reactionary trends developing in Georgia and throughout the whole region especially with regards to the treatment of women.

At some point, I started thinking about the heroines of my youth and I wondered what had happened to them. Nona, Maia and the two Nana's history is largely unknown. Incredibly famous during their active time, nowadays they are only remembered by a few chess specialists. *Glory to the Queen* counteracts this forgetting, finally giving them the stage they deserve.

In the film, they are followed separately in their private and public lives contemplating their past and the present. While they once played together on the same team, they were also competitors. The film shows the ambivalence of their relationship and their dedication to and love of chess. Unique archival Soviet era footage not only documents biographical commonalities and intersections, bonds and ties between the four women, it also reveals an unexpected side of Soviet propaganda.

The Serbian chess player and international journalist Milunka Lazarević plays the role of the narrator. The “Scheherazade” of chess history was the only person during the Cold War who nobody refused an interview. She knows all the stories and knows how to tell them well. She provides the viewer an extra dimension by giving a global perspective on this chapter in chess history that she compares to “landing on Mars or Jupiter.”

Finally, **Glory to the Queen** has one more storyline: the “namesakes” – here we meet some of the countless women who at the time were named in honor of Nona, Maia and the two Nanas and now are a living reminder of our protagonists’ legacy in Georgia. A cleaning lady, a train conductor, a business woman and many others all tell us how each of them came to be named after the chess stars. Their sometimes touching, sometimes strange, but always moving stories paint a vivid picture of the contemporary generation.

Tatia Skhirtladze

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1976 in Tbilisi, Georgia, Tatia (Tamar) Skhirtladze works and lives in Vienna, Austria. Graduated in Art Education in Tbilisi and Vienna and in Fine Arts in the Netherlands, Enschede, she currently teaches video art at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. Her artistic work oscillates between visual arts and film, with a focus on site-specific as well as long-term mix media concepts. She works for different film production companies in Vienna as camerawoman and editor for documentary films, develops film education modules and conducts workshops on audio-visual artistic practices.

Her first feature Documentary *Glory to the Queen* received Women in Film Best Pitch Award from EWA Network and Film Center Serbia at the Fest Forward Film festival in Belgrade, Serbia.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director **Tatia Skhirtladze**

Co-Director **Anna Khadzaradze**

Screenplay **Ina Ivanceanu & Tatia Skhirtladze**

Producers

Karin Berghammer

Alexander Dumreicher-Ivanceanu & Bady Minck

Nino Chichua, Anna Khazaradze & Linda Jensen

Sarita Matijević

Director of Photography **Sebastian Thaler**

Editor **Petra Zöpnek, aea**

Music **Alexandra Vrebalov**

Sound Design **Paata Godziashvili**

Sound Engineer **Irakli Ivanishvili**

Additional Camera **Jerzy Palacz**

Production Companies

berg hammer film

Amour Fou Vienna

1991 Productions

playground produkcija