

# TOLYATTI A DRIFT

TOLYATTI A LA DERIVA



25 FESTIVAL DE  
MALAGA  
SECCIÓN OFICIAL  
DOCUMENTALES LARGOMETRAJES

A FILM BY LAURA SISTERÓ

A BOOGALOO FILMS / LES FILMS D'ICI PRODUCTION IN COPRODUCTION WITH TELEVISIÓ DE CATALUNYA WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF FRANCE TÉLÉVISIONS  
WITH THE SUPPORT OF MINISTERIO DE CULTURA Y DEPORTE - ICAA, INSTITUT CATALÀ D'EMPRESSES CULTURALS, CENTRE NATIONAL DU CINÉMA ET DE L'IMAGE ANIMÉE, PROCIREP - SOCIÉTÉ DES PRODUCTEURS ET DE L'ANGO  
PRODUCED BY BERNAT MANZANO VALL, VALÉRIANNE BOUÉ, MIGUEL ÀNGEL BLANCA PACHÓN EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MONTSE PUJOL SOLÀ DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ARTUR-POL CAMPRUBÍ  
EDITORS ALISSA DOUBROVITSKAIA, ARIADNA RIBAS, LAURA SISTERÓ SOUND RECORDING GERARD TÀRREGA & JORDI RIBAS SOUND DESIGN IBÁN R. GABARRÓ MUSIC AMIGA - JOSEP COMAS







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**Centre National du cinéma et de l'Image Animée**  
**PROCIREP - Société des producteurs et de l'ANGO**

WORLD SALES  
**Filmotor**

Written and directed by	<b>Laura Sisteró</b>
Produced by	<b>Bernat Manzano, Miguel Ángel Blanca, Valérianne Boué</b>
Executive Producer	<b>Montse Pujol Solà</b>
Director of photography	<b>Artur-Pol Camprubí</b>
Editor	<b>Alissa Doubrovitskaia, Ariadna Ribas, Laura Sisteró</b>
Music	<b>Josep Comas</b>
Sound Recording	<b>Gerard Tàrrega Amorós, Jordi Ribas</b>
Sound Design	<b>Iban R. Gabarró</b>

## STORY LINE

The city of Tolyatti, once the symbol of socialist pride, is now the Russian Detroit. In this desperate atmosphere, Boyevaya Klassika arises, a movement that rescues the iconic old Lada cars from the local factory and turns them into a medium of rebellion and expression that explores the conflicts and dreams of youth. **Tolyatti Adrift** follows Slava, Misha and Lera as they face their first year of adulthood in a place where the future seems to be a dystopia.

## SYNOPSIS

Tolyatti, the Russian city that was once a symbol of progress and socialist pride, is now Russia's poorest large city. Famous for being home to the Soviet automobile industry, with its legendary LADA car, Russia's Detroit is today a decadent place, frozen in time and with the highest youth unemployment rate in the country. It is in this context of desolation that the "Boyevaya Klassika" emerges, a movement of teenagers who rescue the old cars from the local factory to turn them into a means of fun, rebellion and expression of hope, giving a second chance to this icon of the national splendour they never lived.

**Tolyatti Adrift** wants to explore the conflicts and dreams of the teenagers of this town, forced to find their place in difficult circumstances and who, out of their rebelliousness, have started a real movement of expression, trapped in a seemingly hopeless place. The film follows Slava, Misha and Lera for a year on their journey to find a way to survive in this city, to face adulthood and to rewrite their destiny.





## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I arrived in Tolyatti with the idea of portraying how young people in one of the poorest cities in Russia were building a future, looking for certain connections with my own adolescence, without knowing exactly what I would find. I spent my adolescence in a small town on the outskirts of Barcelona that bears many similarities with Tolyatti's reality. A town that had also grown out of control due to the demand for workers in the car factory. The tremendous immigration of the place meant that few felt rooted, that there was no community cohesion and that most of my high school classmates were already depressed for life and only aspired to work in that factory, to end up mortgaging themselves to be able to have one of the cars they made themselves. They tuned them and made noise by pressing the accelerator, so that their existence in this life would leave a mark, even if it was only the marks of their tyres on the asphalt, like involuntary SOS messages.

As a reader of science fiction from the 60s and 70s, I think that today we live in that ungraspable written future and I like to look for traces of the dystopia that belongs to us in the present. We are facing a global conflict due to the change of capitalist economic paradigms; of how the rupture and political systems directly affect young people and their future.

I arrive in Tolyatti on a Friday night. The streets are deserted, there is absolutely nothing lively, upward or inspiring. The large neighbourhoods with their courtyards are designed to grow as families, to reproduce themselves in an involuntary socialism that to this day has not been regenerated since the foundations that support these communities are the same and rusted. Some boys go to a shop where a lady fills up their plastic bottle with the beer of their choice. They walk towards the Volga, they run, they mess with each other amicably and they drink.

And between drinks they confess to me that they drink to solve everything: “your girlfriend leaves you, you drink; you get kicked out of school, you drink; your father has died, you drink; your girlfriend is a lesbian, you drink; you don’t have a job, you drink”. They are 17 years old and already survivors. The screeching of oncoming cars stops our conversation. In the distance we are dazzled by the headlights of a group of six Lada 2101 cars. My new friends start shouting for joy as the cars come skidding in. They arrive and, without turning them off, they invite us into their old spray-painted tartans. On the road, they pass each other on the switchbacks. Without looking, the drivers laugh, joke with each other and even pass cigars from one car to another on two-way roads with only one lane. I think about how strongly one feels about life the closer one is to death, and how this evades their every responsibility and makes them fly over the asphalt. We arrive at the car park of the nearest shopping centre, where they start drifting non-stop, around one of the lampposts, until the tyres are worn out. One guy straps a shopping trolley to the back of a car and they start to spin around the car park. They just want to see how far this car they have bought for 12,000 roubles (€180) can go, the car their grandparents used to make in this new, thriving city. They explain to me that this car is perfect for skidding, because it was conceived with rear-wheel drive so that the well-to-do people of the USSR could travel quietly in the snow. And now it takes on almost the opposite meaning.

The young people of Tolyatti drive their lives aimlessly, drifting, turning in circles on the same axle endlessly until they wear it out, until they break it. **Tolyatti Adrift** is a documentary about survival through the glorious icons of yesteryear, the idea of creating shelters anchored in the past in the face of the difficulty of moving forward.







## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Born in Barcelona in 1986. In 2008 she obtained a higher cycle in Audio-visual Production at EMAV. In 2012 she obtained a university degree in film at the ESCAC school in Barcelona, specialising in documentary filmmaking. She currently combines her work as a photographer, advertising and television director, with more personal fiction and documentary film projects. ***Tolyatti Adrift*** is her first feature documentary.



# PRODUCTION COMPANY - BOOGALOO FILMS

Boogaloo Films is a Barcelona based creative group that spearheads new forms of production and storytelling. Their commitment involves reflecting on current issues, focusing on the internationalization of young talent, while taking risks and exploring creative and artistic points of view.

Their professional work in the world of fiction and documentaries has earned them well over 50 selections and awards at both national and international festivals such as Hot Docs, BAFICI, DOK Leipzig, Gijon International Film Festival, San Sebastian Festival, Ji.hlava Documentary Festival, Seville European Film Festival, Lima Independent Film Festival or Malaga Festival, among others.

They have co-produced documentaries with other production companies including Les Films d'Ici, Little Big Story, Graffiti Doc, Les Films de l'Oeil Sauvage, Lilith Films, Open Society Foundations, Mosaic Productions and with the broadcasters Movistar+, Televisió de Catalunya, Al Jazeera Documentary, France Télévisions, Radio Canada, IB3 or RTS, among others.

Their previous film, *Magaluf Ghost Town* (Miguel Ángel Blanca, 2021), premiered at Hot Docs and won the Golden Alexander award for Best Film at Thessaloniki Documentary Festival.

They are currently premiering ***Tolyatti Adrift***, Laura Sisteró's debut feature, at Málaga Film Festival after winning the Best Pitch award at XIII Lau Haizetara Co-Production Forum (San Sebastián Film Festival, 2017) and the Work In Progress "Cine y Tele" award at Mafiz (Festival de Málaga, 2021).





## FESTIVALS

NATIONAL PREMIERE

**MÁLAGA FILM FESTIVAL, Official Documentary Competition**

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

**To be announced**

NORTH-AMERICAN PREMIERE

**To be announced**

**Project selected at the following markets and work-in-progress labs:**

XIII Foro Lau Haizetara, San Sebastián Film Festival (2017) - Best Pitch award

Abycine Lanza Proyectos (2018)

FIPA Industry Pitch (2019)

DOK Leipzig Co-Pro Market (2019)

IDFA Industry, Upcoming Catalan Docs (2020)

Málaga MAFIZ WIP (2021) - Cine y Tele award

Abycine Lanza WIP (2021)

**THEATRICAL RELEASE IN SPAIN:**

To be announced



## TECHNICAL SPECS

Non-fiction feature  
2022 | 70 minutes | V.O. Russian  
2K 1:85 | color | sound

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## WORLD SALES AND FESTIVALS

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## PRESS ROOM

