

INDESTRUCTIBLE | UNBREAKABLE | UNFORGETTABLE



SABINE TIMOTEO

in a film by
VIESTUR KAIRISH

The Chronicles of MELANIE



On the morning of June 15, 1941, in Soviet-occupied Latvia, over 17,000 people are deported to Siberia. Melānija Vanaga, her husband Aleksandrs, editor of a newspaper of independent Latvia, and their eight-year-old son Andrejs are forced into a lorry and taken to the train station where the men are separated from their families.

The deported are taken on a three-week long ride to the remote village of Tiukhtet. The first months in the alien environment they experience famine and illness. The women and children have to make peace with their new life and find the will to live. This drives some to the point of collapse, yet Melanie is aware of "only one string sounding and that string is hope." She takes detailed notes that later becomes the literary work of her 16 years spent in Siberia.

Out of her notes, Melānija Vanaga prepared a book of documentary prose *Veļupes krastā*, which was published in 1991, soon after Latvia regained independence. Later, it served as the concluding volume in Vanaga's seven-book series "The Gathering of Souls" about the personal history of her family and entire Latvia.



2016 | LATVIA | 120 min | Latvian, Russian & German w/English subtitles | B&W | Historical Drama

CORINTH FILMS PRESENTS A MISTRUS MEDIA SHEADS PRODUCTIONS AND INLAND FILM COMPANY PRODUCTION
 WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY VIESTUR KAIRIŠS DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY GINTS BĒRZLIS LGC PRODUCTION AND COSTUME DESIGNER IEVA JURJĀNE EDITOR JUSSI - RAUTANIEMI SOUND ALEKSANDRS VAICAHOVSKIS ROBERT SLEŽĀK
 COMPOSERS ARTURS MASKATS ALEKSANDRS VAICAHOVSKIS KĀRLIS AUŽĀNS PRODUCERS INESE BOKA-GRUBE GINTS GRUBE CO-PRODUCERS JULIETTA SICHEL KLAUS HEYDEMANN



Viesturs Kairišs (born in Latvia, 30 January 1971) has directed films as well as theatre and opera. Kairišs has successfully worked as an opera director both in Latvia and Germany. His films and theatre productions have been shown in many European festivals.

Kairišs's cinematographic debut was in 1998 with the documentary film *THE TRAIN*, but his first full-length feature film *LEAVING BY THE WAY* was completed in 2001 (it was awarded Lielais Kristaps, the main Latvian award in cinematography – as the best feature film of the year). The film was included in the program of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival and received a prize as the best debut at the Raindance Film Festival in the United Kingdom. Kairišs's documentary *PELICAN IN THE DESERT* (2014) received the special jury prize at the Let's See Film Festival in Austria.



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