

INTERVIEW OF MARTA PRUS, FILM MAKER OF 'OVER THE LIMIT'

Bodychou : Why did you make this film in the first place?

Marta Prus : I was fascinated by the hidden world of Russian rhythmic gymnastics and I wished to see what's underneath the medial face of the best team in the world. I wanted to see how gymnast feels in this environment.

B : Where did the difficulties lay to make it?

MP : I'm similar to Rita in not remembering what was difficult. There were a lot of challenges and obstacles in the whole 5-years-long process. From waiting for the approval of Irina Viner, through establishing a relationship with Rita, production problems, to my inner limits that I needed to push several times. Filmmaking is a very tough work, there would be a lot to say... But what matters is the outcome - finished film.

B : How did the main protagonists, Margarita Mamun, Amina Zaripova and Irina Usmanova Viner, react to it (before, during and after the release?)

MP : At the beginning Irina Viner didn't like the idea of making a documentary in Novogorsk, but years of showing her my motivation made it possible. Rita and Amina were happy at the beginning, but during one-year-long shooting period they were sometimes tired with the camera. Unlike Irina, who weren't disturbed by us. All three protagonist behave natural in front of me and I am very thankful to them for the trust.

Before premiere I showed the film to all of them. Rita watched it in Warsaw and she cried a lot. For me as a director it was moving and important to be there with her and see how she feels with the film. Amina watched it at home in Moscow, she needed some more time to reflect and in the end she also liked the film very much. Irina respected my work and liked the film because „it's real and has a dramaturgy like a fiction film”. All three of them went also for the world premiere in IDFA Amsterdam, it was a pleasure for me that they support the film.

B : The documentary seems sincerely true, were there some ban on filming or maybe censorship?

MP : No, there wasn't any censorship. My conscience was a censor.

B : Did your point of view change about RG or did it reinforce your vision on the discipline? In what way?

MP : No, I don't think it changed it. Now I have a deeper insight into the most complex sport discipline - a combination of art and rivalry.

B : How will 'Over the limit' be distributed? Will it be programmed in theaters or on TV? (date of French release?)

MP : At the moment we start the festival journey of the film throughout the world. There will be tv distribution and hopefully theatrical, but I can't say anything solid now. About France I will have news in the first week of January. My sales agent Outlook works very well to establish the film to as broad audience as it's possible. We know that people all around the world would like to see the film. We are doing our best to please them.

B : What is the message you want to share by making this film?

MP : I am not making films as messages. I don't want to direct the way of watching the film. Hopefully the viewer will see something unique for her/himself.

B : How is it received in the gymnastics world, from your point of view?

MP : There were so far only one presentation in Amsterdam, so I can't respond to this question at the moment.

B : Have you already received distinctions for Over the Limit yet? How did it make you feel?

MP : No, in IDFA we didn't receive any mention, but the reception was very good. People from film industry got attracted with the film. Filmmakers that I respect like the film. This means a lot to me.