

THE AVIATRIX OF KAZBEK

(De Vliegenierster van Kazbek)



Netherlands

Ineke Smits, Director
Piotr Kukla NSC, Director of Photography

• • • *The Aviatrix of Kazbek* is a modern, universal tale of three young people whose lives come together through the extremities of war. The story is inspired by real events that occurred during World War II, when Georgian soldiers were quartered on the Dutch island of Texel as part of the German occupying forces.

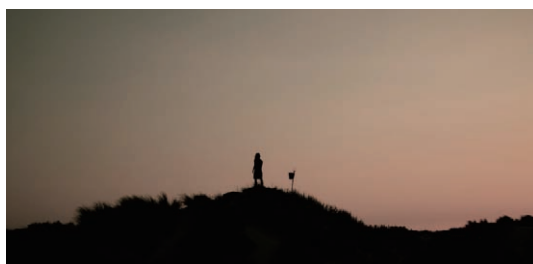
The Aviatrix of Kazbek was produced in 40 days in the Netherlands and in Georgia at practical locations, and one week in a studio.



Piotr Kukla NSC
Director of Photography

I loved the story and believed that it would make a great film. In the beginning of the movie we see the arrival of the Georgian soldiers on the Dutch island of Texel in 1944. The soldiers bring color, life and music to the islanders.

My first conversation with the director, Ineke Smits, took place about a year before we began production. We visited the island of Texel and other locations, and discussed the visual approach for the film. Ineke has an extensive knowledge of cinema and had very clear ideas about how she wanted to



tell the story, but she was also happy to get my point of view on things. Working with her was a fantastic experience for me.

After I had done some test shots and had studied a lot of old photographs from that period, we decided that the movie should be given a desaturated look, a bit like the old postcards from the 1940s, and that we would gradually add more colors during the film. There is also a black and white part, which we shot in Georgia.

I used a combination of four film stocks for the shooting; ETERNA 500 was employed for the nights and interiors, while ETERNA 250D, F-64D and ETERNA Vivid 160 were used for the daytime exteriors. I like the contrast and colors of ETERNA Vivid 160 very much, which I also used for the B&W part, and I'm looking forward to use the new ETERNA Vivid 500.

The camera package provided by CLF in Amsterdam included ARRI 535B and Aaton 35 bodies with a range of Zeiss lenses and an Optimo Zoom 24-290mm.

I shot and edited many still photographs every day to have good references of the look of each scene, and also to keep updating my fantastic colorist

Wouter Suyderhout NSC from Filmmore Amsterdam. Many of the visual effects, including a very beautiful opening aerial shot (achieved without actually flying), were done by Reinier van Brummelen who is, besides being a special effects artist, also an outstanding cinematographer. ■



The Aviatrix of Kazbek

Synopsis

On the flat Dutch island of Texel, Marie dreams of mountains; she loves dancing, but the village community expects her to behave; she wants to be an independent woman, but is the only girl in a large family that can hardly get by. It is only when she meets the Georgians Goga and Irakli that she breaks away from the restricting and suffocating reality by learning to trust her imagination.

DOP Profile

Piotr Kukla NSC graduated in 1983 in Lodz, Poland and went to the Netherlands via France in the mid-1980s. For his brilliant cinematography in *The Twin Sisters**, he was honored in 2003 at CAMERIMAGE with the Silver Frog Award and was nominated for Netherland's Golden Calf Award in the same year.

* Shot on F400 and REALA 500D; received Best Foreign Film OSCAR® nomination. (See EXPOSURE International Vol. 6)

CREW/PROJECT INFORMATION

Director	Ineke Smits (Netherlands)
DOP	Piotr Kukla NSC
Producer	Els Vandevorst Ellen De Waele (Serendipity Films, Belgium)
Duration	105 min
Location	Netherlands, Georgia
Raw Stock	ETERNA 500, ETERNA 250D, F-64D, ETERNA Vivid 160
Release	Summer 2009

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STOCK USED ETERNA 500, ETERNA 250D
ETERNA Vivid 160, F-64D