

Elena

By Andrei Zvyagintsev

Russia, 2011, 109 min.



Winner Special Jury Prize, 2011 Cannes Film Festival (Un Certain Regard)



Elena and Vladimir come from very different backgrounds. Vladimir is a wealthy, cold man, while Elena comes from a modest background, serving as his docile wife. The two of them have met late in life, each with a child from a previous marriage. Vladimir has a distant relationship with his daughter. In contrast, Elena desperately tries to save her alcoholic son and his family from poverty with means she alone could not provide. When her husband Vladimir has a heart attack, he suddenly realizes his time on earth is limited. A tender but brief reunion with his daughter leads him to name her as the sole heir to his fortune. When Vladimir announces this change to Elena, her hope to help her son quickly vanishes. Submissive housewife Elena then comes up with a plan to provide her son and his family with a real change in life.

Music by Philip Glass

By the director of *The Return* (Golden Lion, Venice Film Festival 2003) and *The Banishment* (Best Actor, Cannes Film Festival 2007)

Release Summer 2012

"terrific...Tense, edge-of-the-seat stuff."

Peter Bradshaw (Jury), Cannes Film Festival, Un Certain Regard



"a sensational Russian drama... a film to crow about loudly...*Elena* has the taut dramatic structure of a Dostoyevsky parable, matched with mesmerising long-take technique, a hushed, disquieting soundscape, and images that jangle in your head for days."

Tim Robey, *The Telegraph*

CAST

Vladimir - Andrey Smirnov
Elena - Nadezhda Markina
Katerina - Elena Lyadova
Sergey - Alexey Rozin
Tatyana - Evgenia Konushkina

CREDITS

Andrey ZVYAGINTSEV - Director
Oleg NEGIN - Screenplay
Mikhail KRICHMAN - Cinematography
Anna MASS - Film Editor
Andrey DERGACHEV and Stas KRECHKOV - Sound
Alexander Rodnyansky & Sergey Melkumov - Producers
Production company : NON - STOP PRODUCTION