

Mark Prudkin's Legacy Comes to New York

New York, NY On October 18, the Chelsea Film Festival will host the international premiere of *Bleeding Blue Bird*, a surreal drama directed by **Lev Prudkin**, grandson of the legendary Moscow Art Theatre actor **Mark Prudkin**. For New York's Russian-speaking community, this event is a powerful bridge between classical Russian theatre and contemporary independent cinema.

Mark Prudkin (Марк Исаакович Прудкин) was one of the most celebrated Soviet and Russian stage actors of the 20th century. Born in 1898 in Klin, he trained at the Moscow Art Theatre's 2nd Studio and joined the main stage in 1924. He became a symbol of Russian theatrical mastery, performing there for more than sixty years. Prudkin was named People's Artist of the USSR in 1961 and was later awarded the title Hero of Socialist Labour in 1989. His career was marked by psychological depth, versatility, and a devotion to the stage that shaped generations of actors.

Lev Prudkin grew up backstage at that same theatre, surrounded by his grandfather's world. For him, theatre was never just a performance. It was a place of mystery, transformation and danger.

"I started writing this script a long time ago," says Lev Prudkin. "It's based on my childhood memories of being constantly backstage in a theater where almost my entire family worked. It's about Maeterlinck, about Stanislavski's legendary production of *The Blue Bird*, and about that strange, magical, mysterious and sometimes dangerous world that existed behind the curtain."

The film explores the invisible but powerful tension between the artist and the audience.

"There are moments in the theater when a strange energy arises between the actors and the spectators," Lev recalls. "It can be almost violent, like a war of emotions. That feeling fascinated me. I wanted to bring it to the screen."

Bleeding Blue Bird follows a troupe rehearsing Maurice Maeterlinck's *The Blue Bird*. When an actor abandons his role, the director steps in and the fragile boundary between performance and reality begins to collapse. Outsiders infiltrate the stage, roles blur and the theatre itself becomes a living organism that is unpredictable and dangerous.

The cast includes **Arthur Darvill** (*Doctor Who*, *Broadchurch*) and **Hannah Arterton** (*Walking on Sunshine*, *The Peripheral*). The soundtrack blends Depeche Mode with contemporary avant-garde artists Actress and Else, creating a bridge between generations and cultures.

For New York's Russian-speaking community, the name Mark Prudkin represents the Golden Age of Russian theatre and the artistic values of the Moscow Art Theatre. Lev's film transforms this legacy into a living cinematic experience, carrying the spirit of that stage across time and continents.

Premiere: October 18, Chelsea Film Festival, New York

Director: Lev Prudkin

Runtime: 1h 43m

Language: English

Genre: Surreal drama / metacinema

For full screening schedule, please visit chelseafilm.org.

/ENDS

👉 Press Portal: <https://client.cannesfilmagency.com/bbb>

Press Contact



[Watch or Download Trailer Here](#)

For interviews, additional images and press materials, please visit the [Press Portal](#) or contact:

Lilian Baksalevowicz

PR / Media, Bleeding Blue Bird

Email: lilian@filmdaily.tv, Mobile: +33750628243