

HAYFILM PRESENTS



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
CANNES CLASSICS
2023 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Hello, It's Me!

A FILM BY
Frunze Dovlatyan

1966 – Armenia – Armenian, Russian – 136' – 4K

mk2
films

SYNOPSIS

Artyom, a famous young physicist, is in love with Lyusya, a sergeant in the Red Army, who is suddenly ordered to the front.

Meanwhile, he is sent to remote mount Aragats to set up a space-ray research center, considered of great wartime importance.

ABOUT THE RESTORATION

This 4K restoration of the film by the National Cinema Centre of Armenia and realised by Locomotive Classics image lab (Latvia) is based on the camera negative and original soundtracks. For the first time, this restoration is a director's cut with a new dual-language, Armenian-Russian sound mix, which helps to preserve the contextual and linguistic integrity of the narrative.

Introduction to HELLO, IT'S ME! by Frunze Dovlatyan

Little-known abroad, Armenian cinema – whose hundredth anniversary was celebrated in 2023 – has produced a number of masterpieces, both from the era of the Soviet Union and since its fall.

HELLO, IT'S ME! by Frunze Dovlatyan is one of them. The son of a civil servant of the revolution, after working as an actor for theatre and film, this director (1927–1997) joined the great Moscow Film School, graduating from Sergei Gerasimov's workshop in 1959, then embarked on the creation OF HELLO, IT'S ME! in 1963, which he made by himself – unlike his previous films. He was inspired by the lives of two physicists and added the participation of three actors from Soviet cinema's hall of fame: Rolan Bykov (*Andrei Rublev* by Andrei Tarkovsky, *Commissar* by Aleksandr Askoldov, *Trial on the Road* by Aleksei German), Armen Dzhigarkhanyan (*Zero City and The Assassin of the Tsar* by Karen Shakhnazarov, *Ivan & Abraham* by Yolande Zauberman) and Margarita Terekhova (*The Mirror* by Andrei Tarkovsky), making her film debut here, aged 22.

Selected in Competition at the Cannes Film Festival in 1966 – the year that Claude Lelouch's *A Man and a Woman* shared its Palme d'or with Pietro Germi's *The Birds, the Bees and the Italians* – HELLO, IT'S ME! had a lasting impact ("*A melancholy examination of the consequences of war,*" wrote Yvonne Baby in *Le Monde* the day after it screened¹).

While it falls within the cinematographic revival of Dégel's cinema (an unexpected onscreen "hero", faithful to the past and to absent friends, jazz music, documentary footage – Dovlatyan actually shot several documentaries before turning to fiction – no extras, very long tracking shots, etc.), above all we find, for the first time in years, a relationship to sacrality in the final scene of the film: a landscape of fortresses and monasteries in ruins against the backdrop of "charakan" (aka "sharagan"), the liturgical chant of the Armenian calendar. Spurred on by Sergei Parajanov – "*Love and death, war and creation, the problem of memory [...] were highlighted with unexpected freshness. Everything here was new: the very space of the film, the faces of the heroes... It's a great film.*" – HELLO, IT'S ME! was released in the Soviet Union in the spring of 1966 and attracted ten million viewers. Parajanov even called on its cinematographer, Albert Yavuryan, for his last film, *Ashik Kerib* (1988).

Presented in France at the Soviet Film Week in 1967, HELLO, IT'S ME! only reappeared at thematic festivals after the Perestroika: a retrospective of films by Frunze Dovlatyan at the fourth Festival of Armenian Film in Paris in 1989, one hundred and twenty Armenian films screened at the Centre Pompidou in 1993...

Presented entirely restored at the Cannes Film Festival in 2023 in the Cannes Classics section, HELLO, IT'S ME! is one of the historic milestones of Armenian cinema.

Joël Chapron

Expert in Eastern European cinematography

Associate Researcher at the University of Avignon, France

¹ https://www.lemonde.fr/archives/article/1966/05/12/la-france-presente-un-homme-une-femme-un-tres-beau-film-de-claude-lelouch_3127448_1819218.html

ABOUT FRUNZE DOVLATYAN

SELECTIVE FILMOGRAPHY

1958 – Who is Guilty

1963 – Morning Trains

1965 – Hello, It's Me!

1972 – Chronicle of Yerevan Days

1976 – Birth Pangs

1979 – Live Long

1982 – The Mkhitarists

1986 – Nostalgia

CAST & CREW

CREW

Written by	Arnold Agababov
Directed by	Franze Dovlatyan
Produced by	Hayfilm Studio Productions
Director of photography	Albert Yavuryan
Music composer	M. Vardazaryan
Sound	E. Vanunts
Costume	G. Arakelyan
Editing	G. Miloserdova
Consulting editor	Pertch Zeytuntsyan
Producer	V. Badalyan
Chef editor	Vigen Galstyan
Assistant director	Ophelia Azizyan
Assistant editor	Krista Gabriela Roba
Source elements	National Archive of Armenia
Restoration	National Cinema Center of Armernia
International Sales	mk2 films

CAST

Artyom Manvelyan	Armen Djigarkhanyan
Oleg Ponomaryov	Roland Bykov
Ljusya	Natalya Fateeva
Tanya	Margarita Terekhova
Zaryan	Frunze Dovlatyan

INTERNATIONAL SALES

mk2 films

Frédérique Rouault
Head of Collections
+33 (0)7 72 26 33 38
[frede-
rique.rouault@mk2.com](mailto:frederique.rouault@mk2.com)

Jacques-Antoine Jagou
International Sales - Li-
brary
+33 (0)6 67 66 26 02
jacques.jagou@mk2.com

Quentin Bohanna
International Sales
+33 (0)6 31 86 77 69
[quentin.bo-
hanna@mk2.com](mailto:quentin.bohanna@mk2.com)

Rosalie Varda
Senior Advisor
+33 (0)6 07 72 14 00
rosalie.varda@mk2.com

Fionnuala Jamison
Managing Director
+33 (0)7 60 83 94 98
[fionnuala.jami-
son@mk2.com](mailto:fionnuala.jamison@mk2.com)

Benoit Claro
Head of Marketing
+33 (0)6 70 53 33 23
benoit.claro@mk2.com

Head Office
mk2 films
55 rue Traversière
75012 Paris France
+ 33 (0)1 44 67 30 30
intlsales@mk2.com

[ACCESS PRESS MATERIAL](#)