



FRAUTSCHI

Pro-Am Documentary Film
49 Minutes, Not Rated

This documentary on the life and work of the legendary Muscovite guitar teacher Kamil Frautschi (1921-1997) is an intimate portrait of one of the most influential (and least known) guitar pedagogues in Russia. The Frautschis were Swiss immigrants in Russia. A violinist himself, Kamil taught his son Alexander Frautschi (1954-2008) to play guitar. Alexander later became the first guitarist from the Soviet Union to achieve international fame. Kamil's father Artuzov (Arthur), a top-ranking officer of the NKVD (later KGB), fell victim to Stalinist purges in 1937, and as a result, Kamil spent much of his youth in the Gulag. Through interviews with students, family documents, home videos, and an audio tape he recorded late in his life, this documentary brings Frautschi's ideas on music teaching and performance to any audience interested in music and art.

The film was sponsored by the International Academy for Russian Music, Arts, and Culture (IARMAC), and Oleg Timofeyev and Sabine Golz, co-founders of the organization, wrote and directed film. The film has been edited entirely in Iowa City, partially at the Obermann Center of the University of Iowa, and utilized UI students - Chris Renaud (MFA candidate), and Liam Dale and Casey Swoyer (both 2008 cinema majors) - to round out the crew.

While the film was in its final stages, it was given a test-run at the third International Annual Guitar Festival and Seminar (IARGUS) in late spring of 2008. The festival shares it's sponsor with the documentary itself. This trial run allowed the directors to receive feedback from other knowledgeable Russian seven-string guitar supporters and artists. The final version of the film made a triumphant debut at the Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival (CRIFF) at the Collins Road Theatres in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where it received great reviews.

The trailer to the film is available on YouTube, and a permanent website is being designed at www.arbatfilm.com.