

# ESCAPEES

A short film by Mikhail Rudenskii

Press Kit | 2026 | Armenia | 28 min



## Overview

In Yerevan, a Russian émigré girl with a fear of dogs and a man fleeing the war try to sell a T-shirt signed by Pasha Technik, but a nighttime encounter with stray dogs brings them closer than they expected.

<b>Original Title</b>	Побеги
<b>International Title</b>	ESCAPEES
<b>Year of Production</b>	2026
<b>Country of Production</b>	Armenia
<b>Runtime</b>	28 minutes
<b>Genre</b>	Drama / Road Movie
<b>Languages</b>	Russian, Armenian
<b>Subtitles</b>	English

## Short Synopsis

Polya, a young Russian émigré living in Yerevan, is terrified of dogs. Dima has fled the war and is drifting through life with little sense of direction. Together they set out to sell a T-shirt signed by the late rapper Pasha Technik. What begins as a simple errand turns into a nighttime journey through the outskirts of Yerevan, where an encounter with stray dogs forces them to confront their fears and discover an unexpected sense of connection.

## SEO Description

Pobegi (Escapees) is a short film set in Yerevan about a Russian émigré girl with a fear of dogs and a man fleeing the war, whose attempt to sell a late rapper's signed T-shirt leads to an unexpected bond.

## Themes

- Exile and displacement
- War and its aftermath
- Fear, vulnerability and trust
- Human connection in a state of uncertainty
- Yerevan as a temporary refuge and emotional landscape

## **Director's Vision**

As an emigrant myself, I wanted to make a film about people who have already run out of places to escape to.

To me, this is a story about a generation of lost Russians trying to stop running. Two broken strangers help each other stay. Their moment of greatest closeness is simple: one bowl of soup shared between two.

Emigration lays wounds bare. Her fear of dogs reflects a deeper vulnerability. He has fled the war and lost even the will to go on.

In cinema people can still believe that things will be all right, if only for a moment. I made this film to say that we are still here. Still capable of connection.

## **Production Notes**

POBEGI (ESCAPEES) is an Armenian production created by an international cast and crew from Armenia, Iran, Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia.

Set largely during one night in Yerevan, the film combines documentary immediacy with intimate character-driven storytelling. The city becomes both a temporary refuge and a psychological landscape for two people trying to stop running.

## **About the Director**

Mikhail Rudenskii is a director and screenwriter. He studied screenwriting at VGIK and has worked across film, television and commercial projects. He participated in the screenwriting lab of the international film festival "One Sixth" and is currently based in Yerevan, Armenia.

His previous short film "Day Off" screened in the Cinema Without Borders Program at One Shot International Short Film Festival in Yerevan, was selected by AmAuteur Film Festival in Chicago, and received awards at STTP+, Rolling Ideas and Short Film Factory.

## Cast

Karolina Melkumyan – Polya

Viktor Pryakhin – Dima

## Key Crew

<b>Director &amp; Writer</b>	Mikhail Rudenskii
<b>Director of Photography</b>	Nikita Kornev
<b>Producer</b>	Vasilisa Borzova
<b>Production Sound Mixers</b>	Kirill Logutov, Anastasia Anisimova
<b>Production Designer</b>	Anastasia Svetlikova
<b>Editor</b>	Sergei Zinevich
<b>Colorist</b>	Viktor Mironenko

## Online Links

Website: <https://pobegifilm.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pobegifilm/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61588663505673>

## Contact Information

Producer: Vasilisa Borzova

Email: [vasilisaborz@gmail.com](mailto:vasilisaborz@gmail.com)

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Additional materials available upon request: screener, trailer, English subtitles, spotting list, poster artwork and stills.