

August 26, 2018

Contact: Marylou Bongiorno at: bonpix@verizon.net

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“Highly Recommended Movie: Beautifully shot, erudite, heartbreaking tale of misbegotten love... There is something undoubtedly romantic about having a whole museum or botanical garden to yourself, for a full day of intoxicating conversation, with the love of your life.”

~Sam Weisberg, film critic, Hidden Films

THE BLACK MONK fiction film, inspired by Anton Chekhov

by filmmakers Marylou & Jerome Bongiorno

Produced in Association with The Staten Island Museum

Jefferson Market Library

425 Sixth Avenue in New York City

Screening Sunday, October 7, 2018 at 2:30 pm

Post-screening Talkback with the filmmakers and Special Guests

Free Admission

Learn more and Read Chekhov's short story at: www.BongiornoProductions.com



Emmy-nominated, award-winning, social justice, husband-and-wife filmmakers Marylou & Jerome Bongiorno will present their 105-minute *THE BLACK MONK* fiction film on Sunday, October 7th at 2:30 pm at the Jefferson Market Library. Talkback with the filmmakers and Special Guests immediately following.

The film was inspired by the eponymous short story by Anton Chekhov and depicts a filmmaker struggling with sanity who encounters a legendary monk and uncovers the meaning of life and a lost love.

Shot on Staten Island and featuring alumni of NYU Tisch Grad Acting.

Starring:

Jack Berenholtz	Drew Dix
Emily Gardner Hall	Tim Nicolai
Victoria Wallace	Charles Warburton
Rev. Augustine Curley, OSB	

Image courtesy of and © Bongiorno Productions Inc

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Reviews:

"A wonderful film....exhilarating script...Chekhov's unusual story is not an easy work to construe cinematically, but filmmakers Marylou & Jerome Bongiorno succeed brilliantly in conveying its elusive spirit."

~Rosamund Bartlett, Chekhov Scholar and Author

"The filmmakers (also co-screenwriters) have managed to tap into some of Chekhov's quirkiness and wit, and the result is quite entertaining. They have also done a great service by providing a valuable tool for teaching about mental illness."

~Dr. Guy Glass, MD, MFA, NYU School of Medicine LITMED

"THE BLACK MONK is certainly not a reverentially literal adaptation of Anton Chekhov's eponymous story or a simplistic attempt at dressing Chekhov's narrative in contemporary garb. Rather, the film offers a thoughtful meditation on Chekhov's inquiry into what constitutes human goodness, as well as on the limits of one man's ability to affect universal change, in today's world."

~Nadya Peterson, Russian and Slavic Studies Program, Hunter College & CUNY Graduate Center

"THE BLACK MONK raises questions central to the spiritual life: how we want to live our lives in a safe garden but must venture out...how we must balance faith and science as believers...and how we must negotiate the joyful consolation of our relationships with God and others with the daily bumpiness when things don't go the way we want. This film is a modern riff on an ancient struggle to live for greater ideals in a messy world."

~Christopher Bellitto, Professor of History, Kean University