



59TH SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
APRIL 21 - MAY 5

April 2016

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May 2016

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UNDER THE SUN



GGA: Documentaries



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SCHEDULE

April 30, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Alamo Drafthouse New Mission

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May 4, 2016
3:15 p.m.

Alamo Drafthouse New Mission

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May 5, 2016
6:30 p.m.

BAMPFA

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FILM DETAILS

Country(ies):

Russia/Latvia/Germany/Czech Republic/North Korea

Language(s): Korean

Year: 2015

Running time: 106

Director(s): Vitaly Mansky

Producer(s): Natalya Manskaya, Simone Baumann, Filip Remunda

Cinematographer(s): Alexandra Ivanova, Mikhail Gorubchuk

Editor(s): Andrej Paperny

Music: Karlis Ausans

Print Source:

Icarus Films
32 Court Street, Ste. 2107
Brooklyn, NY 11201

FULL DESCRIPTION

Shot with the permission and supervision of North Korean authorities—a collaboration they would come to regret —**Under the Sun** turns a propaganda effort into a deep-cover documentary about life inside one of the world's most repressive nations. Russian director Vitaly Mansky was guided to preapproved locations in Pyongyang and provided with model subjects: young Lee Zin-mi, a student at the city's best school, and her parents, workers at two exemplary factories (or so officials claimed). The film follows Zin-mi as she studies the triumphs of Great Leader Kim Il-sung, joins the Children's Union and participates in the national celebration of Kim Jong-il's birthday. Each sequence is rigorously scripted for maximum ideological correctness, but Mansky shows the cracks in the façade: schoolchildren struggle to stay awake during lectures, adults' carefully composed expressions flicker with exhaustion and anxiety and even the resolutely compliant Zin-mi eventually crumbles under pressure. By keeping the camera rolling while ever-present minders exhort the citizen-performers to play themselves "more joyfully," Mansky reveals the grinding gears of the totalitarian message machine. "I wanted to make a film about the real Korea," he said, but what he found instead was "the myth of a real life." —Juliet Clark

GUESTS EXPECTED



FILMMAKER BIO(S)

