



CAR SERVICE

A fiction feature film
by Dmitriy Rozin



Logline

A young Russian Jewish immigrant working as a dispatcher at a Queens car service struggles to find meaning while confronting tragedy, crime, family obligations and a lost love on New Year's Eve 1999.

The story of Car Service is autobiographical, but it is also a story lived by many - a journey marked by the intricate interplay of the immigrant roots, creative aspirations, and the vibrant tapestry of life in New York City. At the heart of the narrative there is the longing to break free from the constraints of tradition and forge a path of your own, fueled by a pursuit of creative expression.

It is about what it means to be an immigrant in America – to navigate the tensions between old and new, tradition and innovation, heritage and aspiration.



Synopsis

The story takes place on New Year's Eve 1999 going into 2000, centered around a Russian immigrant car service in Queens, New York. The main character is Dima, a 25-year-old Russian Jewish art student working overnight dispatch at the car service. Dima feels out of place among the older Russian immigrant drivers and seedy owners, dreaming of being a filmmaker instead.

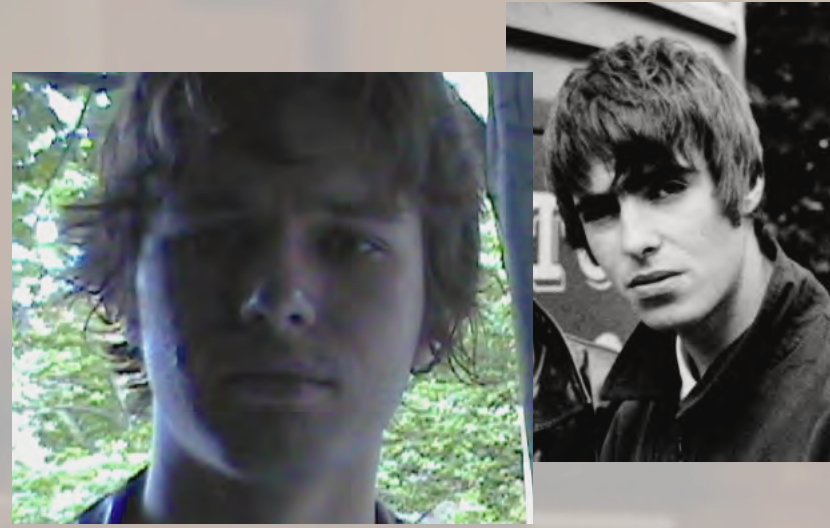
The night begins with tragedy when one of the drivers, Monya, is mysteriously shot dead. Dima goes to collect Monya's car from his grieving widow Bella and crying children. At work, Dima splits his attention between dispatching calls, scribbling poetry and story ideas, and trying to comfort his distraught colleague Georgy.

Dima visits his ailing grandmother in the hospital where his family is celebrating New Year's with Soviet traditions. He promises to return later for holiday gifts. His girlfriend Jus, an Asian-American DJ, expresses concern over Dima wasting his potential in the car service amid danger. They have a tryst in a car while Dima drives her home.

As midnight nears, the car service owners Gregory and Igor prepare to celebrate but chaos mounts. Cars break down, drivers get arrested, arguments erupt over money. Dennis the night dispatcher seems to know more than he lets on. Dima helps the flirtatious Jessica handle dispatching while secretly hoping to pursue his creative passions.

The world enters 2000 without incident, but Dima has an existential crisis over his immigrant identity and purpose in life. He gets a mysterious warning from Dennis as cryptic troubles loom over the business. In the end, Dima falls asleep next to his grandmother, who soothes him like when he was a child, promising to protect him. His girlfriend Jus breaks up with him over audio tape, sensing their diverging paths. The car service world keeps turning, stuck in its own time loop.

Character breakdown



Dima
A 25-year old Russian Jewish immigrant trying to make it as an art school student and poet in New York while working at a Russian immigrant-run car service. Struggles to gain independence from his family and determine his path in life, all while witnessing the seedy underbelly of the car service business.



Jus
Dima's 22-year old Asian-American girlfriend who is a rock DJ and promoter. Comes from a loving mixed-race family. Over the course of the story, she breaks up with Dima, seeking her own path and relationships.



Gregory
One of the 45-year old Ukrainian-Jewish immigrant owners of the car service. A loud, smoking, hard-drinking man who cheats on his wife and shows the corrupt side of the business. Yet he cares for drivers and loves his son.



Igor
The other 40-year old Belarusian-Jewish immigrant owner, who is more cultured but also loves money. Gets caught up in shady dealings, buys a Mercedes he can't afford, and gets arrested for smoking marijuana.



Georgy
A 50-year old stern Georgian-Jewish immigrant driver who got kicked out by his wife and sleeps in the office. Struggles with depression and pills, talks about his kids he dreams of seeing again one day, and descends into paranoia about being chased.



Grandmother
Dima's wise old grandmother soothing him, but she is also the one doubting his choices, the gatekeeper of traditional family values that she worked for her whole life.

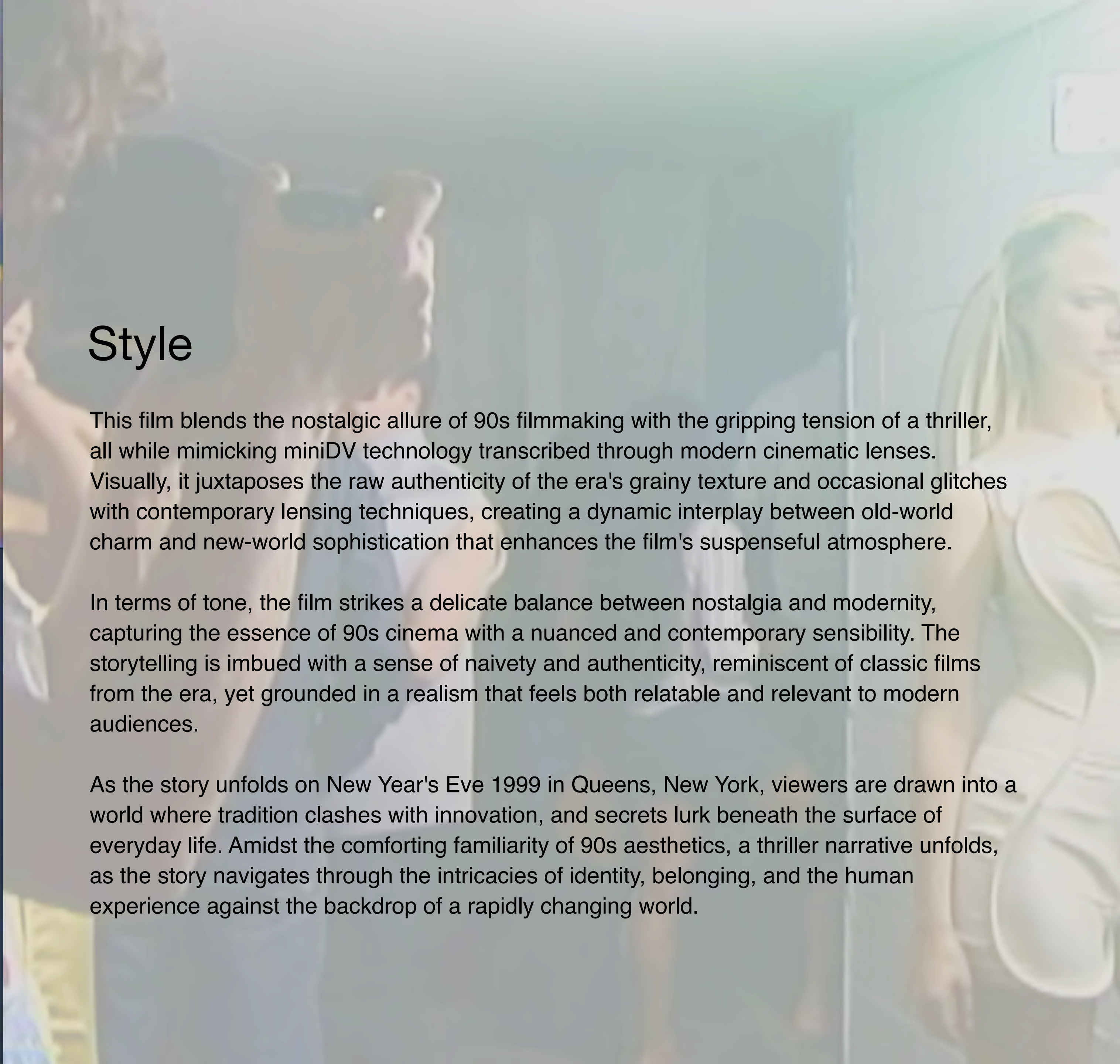


Style

This film blends the nostalgic allure of 90s filmmaking with the gripping tension of a thriller, all while mimicking miniDV technology transcribed through modern cinematic lenses. Visually, it juxtaposes the raw authenticity of the era's grainy texture and occasional glitches with contemporary lensing techniques, creating a dynamic interplay between old-world charm and new-world sophistication that enhances the film's suspenseful atmosphere.

In terms of tone, the film strikes a delicate balance between nostalgia and modernity, capturing the essence of 90s cinema with a nuanced and contemporary sensibility. The storytelling is imbued with a sense of naivety and authenticity, reminiscent of classic films from the era, yet grounded in a realism that feels both relatable and relevant to modern audiences.

As the story unfolds on New Year's Eve 1999 in Queens, New York, viewers are drawn into a world where tradition clashes with innovation, and secrets lurk beneath the surface of everyday life. Amidst the comforting familiarity of 90s aesthetics, a thriller narrative unfolds, as the story navigates through the intricacies of identity, belonging, and the human experience against the backdrop of a rapidly changing world.





ESTIMATED BUDGET \$270,000

PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY STARTS IN 2024

THANK YOU

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