



THE MOSCOW TRIALS

by Milo Rau



SYNOPSIS

In the summer of 2012, when the punk activists of Pussy Riot were sentenced to two years' imprisonment in a penal colony for their performance in the Moscow Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, the world reacted with widespread protest rallies. Yet this was only the latest episode in a ten-year series of show trials of artists and dissidents, staged by Putin's system to prevent any form of democratic change. Milo Rau thematises this issue by a three-day theatre show trial. A courtroom was set up, the people on stage were real-life actors: artists, politicians, church leaders, real lawyers and a real judge. A jury composed of seven Moscow citizens finally handed down their sentence – an acquittal for the artists. The film documents the project and its historical and political backgrounds.

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Milo Rau

Germany 2013

86 min

FORMAL CATEGORIES

Conflicts, Arts/Culture, Human Rights, Politics

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

Russian

PREMIERE

Germany (2013)

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Fruitmarket Arts & Media GmbH

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FILM LOCATION

Russia