

Independent Film Production  
under the patronage of the  
**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
MONUMENTS AND LANDSCAPES**  
With support of the  
**SYNOD OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH ABROAD**

PRESENT

DOCUMENTARY FILM PROJECT

***SYNOD***

(WORKING TITLE)

**Production** - Independent Film Company under the International Society for the Preservation of Monuments and Landscapes.

**Duration** - 50+ minutes

**Format** - Digital

**Language** - Russian and English, with subtitles.

**Target Audience** – Wide audience worldwide

**Shooting Locations** - New York, Gordonville, Northville (New York)

**Shooting Time** - Summer-Winter 2017

**Release Date** – April 2018

**Premiere** – April 11, 2018 (Wednesday on the Easter Week) TBA

**Launching the Project** - June 2017

**Logline** - "LET EVERYTHING THAT HAS BREATH PRAISE THE LORD."

**Writer/director** - Marika Maiorova

**Producer** - Hieromonk Evtikhy (Dovganiuk) (Synod relations and scriptural adviser)

**Creative Producer**- Jacques Debs (independent documentary filmmaker specializing Christian film)

**Financing** – Crowdfunding

*Purpose of the film is to create Synod's artistic chronicle, as well as to reach the international television and special interest theatre distribution, film festivals, and the online distribution networks showcase in order to raise the awareness about the Synod and its treasures around the world.*

# Synopsis

Documentary film “Synod” is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the historical events in Russia and is intended to reveal the essence of the history as well as the causes of the split and the unification of the Russian Orthodox Church.

This is a story of the Synod in New York. It will be shot by a master cinematographer focusing on Synod’s elegance and enigmatic beauty. The film will tell about the history of the Synod, about what is happening in the Synod today, and what is being planned for the future.

The main shrine of the Synod - the Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God - will be especially reverent. The stories about the miracles of the Icon will be told by the Clergy and by the parishioners.

The annual congress of the Synod will be a big part of the film as well, the celebration of the patronal feast of the Icon of the Mother of God. (Preproduction, production, Liturgy, celebration, cultural program, etc.)

The film will consist of interviews with clergymen, with leaders and members of the choir, with church ministers, with the founders and members of the “sisterhood”. Separate fragments of church services in both churches of the Synod, in Russian, and in English, will be the leitmotifs of the film. The structure of the film is kino-synthesis prayer for the glory of the Lord. Also, we will show several tours around the Temples and around the Mansion, guided by different guides with different specializations. (spiritual, historical, architectural)

The kitchen of the Synod will highlight the everyday life of the Clergy. The film will feature selections from charitable and cultural events held in the Synod, as well as rehearsals of the church choir and singing lessons; Hopefully we can have some footage of how, sometimes, famous pianists rehearse on the grand piano of the Synod.

The main focus of the film will be the conversation by the Synod about the significance of the October Revolution 1917 and it’s analyses as the greatest tragedy of the 20th century.

Also, we will make a pilgrimage to the Gordonville Monastery and will include in the film the history of the Monastery, the everyday life of monks, and the story of the Synod Museum located at the Monastery.

The First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad, Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York last summer visited the Tsarskoye Selo. If they go this year too, I would like to be able to follow Vladiko to collect this material as well and include it in the film as an

All filming will be conducted with minimal use of lighting equipment and without the heavy-weight film equipment.

The film will have an artistic, museum quality international festival look and sound. The music we are intending to use is the choir performances and recordings performed on the grand piano of the Synod.

The document is subject to review and further development.

Yours faithfully,

Marika Mayorova  
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