



## My Mother's Farm

Director: Ilze Burkovska Jacobsen, Norway, 2008, 55 minutes

Tale Kalna is nothing short of a Latvian legend. Shortly after she was born in 1947 her father was imprisoned, tortured, and sent to Siberia simply because he owned a farm. Like most other Latvians of her generation, it became a dream to once again own land. For this dream to become reality, Tale endured some historical political moments: the USSR occupation, Latvia's hard-fought independence, the fall of the red army, and eventually the joining of the EU. Throughout these tumultuous decades she managed to raise two beautiful daughters, work as a propaganda specialist, bring opera to the countryside, and advocate for better rural transit. Tale Kalna's thoughts have never been limited by the borders of her own little farm.

Her tale is told through the eyes of her eldest daughter, director Ilze Burkovska Jacobsen, who began filming 'mama' during glasnost and perestroika. Ilze affectionately chronicles over sixty years of Latvian history through the labours and accomplishments of her mother. With candid narration we learn that in '1985 something unexpected happens. The Soviet Union gets a leader who walks among the people. Mikhail Gorbachev thinks like mama. The country needs agricultural reform.' This was a golden time for Tale, a passionate and patriotic woman who rented, and eventually owned, one of the first independent farms in the Republic of Latvia. As her daughter lovingly notes, 'a little voice can make a difference and if nobody else speaks out, you will.'

### DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Ilze Burkovska Jacobsen moved from Latvia to Norway in 1991. She studied TV directing at Lillehammer University College. She works as a director focusing on author driven documentaries. Her debut film, *The Class Photography*, found an international audience, and her most recent film *My Mothers Farm*, was selected for the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam in 2008.

### PRECEDED BY:

#### **Mama, L'Chaim!**

Director: Elkan Spiller, Germany, 2008, 5 minutes

Sixty-two-year-old Chaim Lubelski lives with his ninety-five-year-old mother, a concentration camp survivor. Chaim's mother was born in Poland and survived the camps, though her parents and first husband all perished. Knowing what his parents had endured, Chaim made it his mission in life to care for them as they got older and now attends to his mother twenty-four hours a day. These lively and humorous characters share both the light-hearted antics of daily life and the tears and memories of the Holocaust. A touching and surprisingly joyful insight into the lives of these astonishing survivors.