



Axis of Life

Based on a book by **Swami Tirtha**

MASTERY BEGINS WITHIN



INFO & KEY CREW

GENRE Road movie / Drama
STATUS Completed
DURATION 115 min
LANGUAGE English

DIRECTOR Atanas Hristoskov
DOP Martin Balkansky
PRODUCER Victor Francess
WRITERS Teodora Markova,
Nevena Kertova,
Georgi Ivanov

CAST Lars Simonsen
Clive Russell
Marina Suma
Aleksandar Aleksiev
Vladimir Mihaylov
Strezo Stamatovski



LOGLINE

A pilgrimage in which a spiritual master must choose one of his disciples as his successor turns into an inner journey for all of them. **A mystic tale about the path of the human soul through eternity.**

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

What I immediately loved about the story was its hidden depth and its narrative structure, which deliberately avoids easy rewards. Instead, it demands patience to get to the end, and even to reconsider it afterward.

This quality is embodied in the film itself. There are no fast-forwards, no dopamine-driven key moments, no "I'm too busy for that" glances at a laptop while commuting from point A to point B.

AXIS OF LIFE invites a meditative state of mind – something we sorely miss today, as instant gratification increasingly shapes our lives and our perception of the world as merely a projection of our immediate demands.

While this alone is reason enough to see the film, the beauty is that it offers much more – if one is willing to breathe slowly with it.

Atanas Hristoskov

On a pilgrimage through mountains and forgotten villages, the spiritual teacher Vid leads three disciples toward an ancient sanctuary where one is expected to become his successor.

The journey turns inward, exposing fears, desires, and illusions. Along the way, intellect, ego, and attachment are tested through encounters with nature, strangers, and an oracle who unsettles their expectations.

As the disciples compete to prove themselves, Vid confronts his own dilemma: can wisdom belong to a single heir? In meeting with his former master he rethinks authority and legacy.

At the sanctuary, in a ritual of symbolic death and rebirth, each disciple faces his truth and recognizes that enlightenment cannot be claimed by one alone.

In the end, Vid disappears. The pilgrimage resolves not in selection, but in a shared awakening – spiritual truth is not owned, only lived.

SYNOPSIS

MAIN CHARACTERS



Lars Simonsen
(Bron/The Bridge, 2013)



Aleksandar Aleksiev
(Vazvishenie, 2017)



Vladimir Mihaylov
(Because I Love Bad Weather, 2024)



Strezo Stamatovski

VID

A wise, enigmatic teacher nearing the end of his path, Vid leads his disciples on a final pilgrimage to choose a successor. Teaching through experience and gentle provocation rather than doctrine, he ultimately confronts the limits of authority and legacy, discovering that wisdom is awakened, not inherited.

YASO

A brilliant, disciplined disciple driven by intellect and control, Yaso believes understanding is earned through logic, preparation, and effort. Forced to confront fear, doubt, and the limits of reason, Yaso's transformation lies in surrendering control and learning to trust what cannot be planned.

PALAKA

A charismatic musician guided by emotion, beauty, and the desire to feel chosen, Palaka masks deep insecurity behind charm and talent. Confronted by the journey and his encounter with Anga, he is forced to release his artistic ego and discover humility, service, and care for others.

TOMAR

A physically strong, warm-hearted follower guided by instinct and loyalty, Tomar is grounded in the body and attached to comfort. Tested by hunger and responsibility, he discovers unexpected courage and depth, revealing that simple goodness and compassion are as vital as intellect or talent.

SUPPORTING CHARACTERS



Clive Russett (*Game of Thrones*, 2016)

MASTER OF MASTERS

A legendary spiritual authority and Vid's former teacher, representing the ultimate source of the lineage. Serene, incisive, and quietly powerful, he challenges Vid at a crucial moment of doubt, reframing the succession question entirely. His role crystallizes the film's core idea: enlightenment cannot be inherited by one individual, only awakened across many.



Marina Suma (*Le occasioni di Rosa* – Best Actress, Venice FF)

ANGA

A feared yet magnetic oracle living outside social norms, Anga possesses the rare gift of foresight and radical honesty. Earthbound, ironic, and emotionally precise, she dismantles spiritual vanity and exposes hidden motivations. Her encounter with the disciples forces each of them to confront the difference between destiny, ego, and service. Her deep, unspoken connection with Vid hints at a shared past and adds emotional depth to the journey.



LOCATIONS

Filmed entirely on location
in Bulgaria and Turkey



MARKETABILITY

WHY NOW?

AXIS OF LIFE is a visually striking cinematic journey about self-recognition and one's relationship to the whole. Following a spiritual teacher and his three disciples on a pilgrimage where a successor is expected to be chosen, the film opens space for viewers to consider their own aims and the paths they take to reach them. Engagement grows as the audience moves alongside the characters, watching situations shift and understanding deepen.

Today's audiences live inside speed and constant stimulus. Meaning vanishes almost instantly. Within this climate, AXIS OF LIFE stands apart. Its restrained rhythm invites identification while withholding certainty about what will happen next.

There is no single imposed protagonist. Each figure becomes central for a time, allowing the audience to travel between perspectives – earth, water, fire, air – and to recognize themselves at different moments of the journey. The only true antagonist is uncertainty: the fear of not knowing who you are. This speaks to viewers who value quality over distraction – audiences drawn to mindful living, intentional cinema, and experiences that continue beyond the screening.

AXIS OF LIFE responds to a growing demand for films that renew emotional clarity and human connection.

TARGET AUDIENCE

CORE CINEMA AUDIENCE

AGES 30 - 65

- International arthouse and festival audiences
- Viewers drawn to contemplative, director-driven cinema
- Audiences familiar with slow cinema, visual storytelling, and philosophical themes

CULTURALLY CURIOUS YOUNG ADULTS

AGES 25-30

- Festival-goers and curated-streaming audiences
- Viewers disillusioned with fast-content culture
- Open to films that challenge pacing norms and reward attention

RESTORATIVE

/ MEANING-SEEKING AUDIENCE

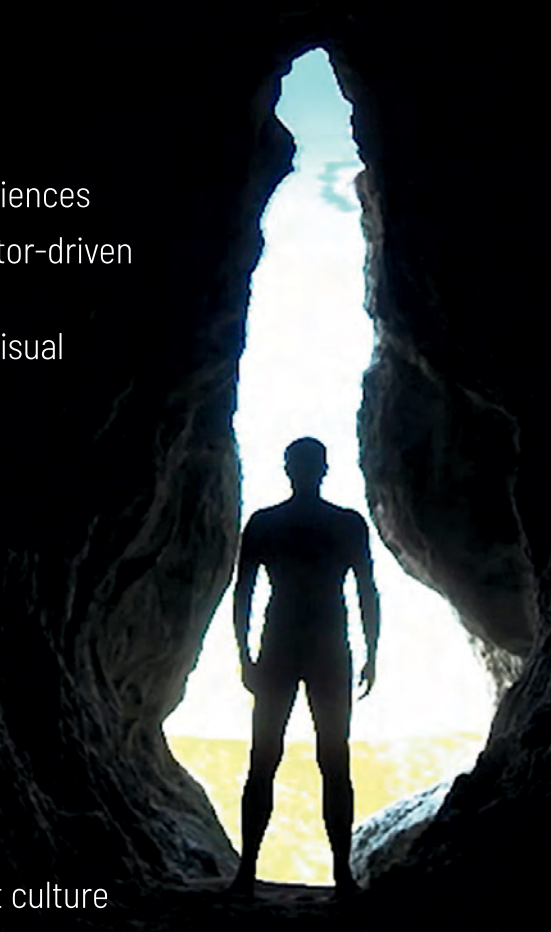
AGES 30-55

- Urban professionals experiencing burnout and digital fatigue
- Audiences seeking calm, depth, and emotional grounding
- Viewers interested in mindfulness, spirituality, and inner development (spiritual but not religious)

EDUCATIONAL & COMMUNITY AUDIENCE

(LONG TAIL)

- Universities, cultural institutes, and art centers
- Philosophy, psychology, spirituality, and film studies programs
- Event-based screenings with discussions and Q&A sessions



CONTACT

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