

## Red Carpet for Imperia

**"It's said around Hollywood that it takes around ten years to become an overnight success. We're right now at the cusp of the tenth year..."**

Tomorrow's screening of "Say It In Russian" marks the third movie produced by the new Hollywood company, Imperia Entertainment - brainwave of one of the film's co-producers (and writers), Kenneth Eade.

He is a securities attorney in Los Angeles, who is as interested in writing as in creating that administration of the publicly held company. He has lately handed over the management to Jeff Ritchie, who joined Imperia as producer of the next project, "Never Submit."

He is creating a fund to raise \$25m for a three-tier plan to produce, co-produce with other companies and for the new Imperia subsidiary, Signature Entertainment, to acquire films for sales and distribution. The aim is to grow like Canada's Lions Gate, the most commercially successful independent film and television distribution company in North America

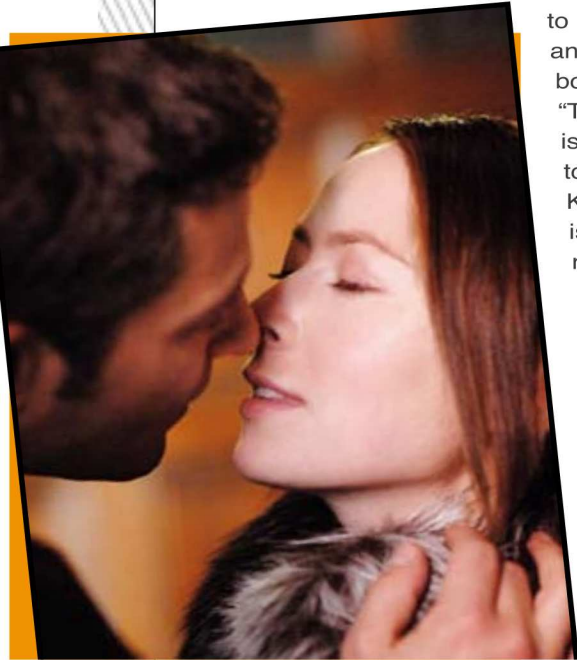
**"We want to make quality product that we think is disappearing from mainstream Hollywood,"** says Ken. "The problem is that distribution is a closed world. Well, now we have a team with 23 years experience of that closed world joining our world!"

Jeff is from the mid-West - Kansas - where having told his eight grade teacher that he wanted to make movies, he was told: "Why don't you think of something more realistic!" From such wounds, careers are made..

Ken says he got his business acumen from his father, creativity from his mother. "I have a passion for writing and that is where every films starts." His inspiration for entering showbiz was his Russian wife, Agata Gotova. They founded Imperia together to make a red carpet interview shows for Russian TV..." and there she was, suddenly interviewing Tom Cruise!" That led to their award-winning sit-down interviews series, "Autograph."

Now they're getting the red carpet treatment - "and best of all from what we consider to be our home town." Ken and Agata have homes in both L.A. and Beausoleil.

"The fact that the festival is screening our film really touches my heart," says Ken. "People think Monaco is all gambling and high-rollers. It's not that at all. It's a country and a city, a small town and a big city... There's no place like it in the world! It's a pleasure to say that we and all our friends (and our hearts) are a part of it. [Pause]. Nobody can host an event like Monaco!" TC



**Producer Kenneth Eade and his Russian star – and wife – Agata Gotova**

## Boy Meets Girl, Moscow Style

**Last night, a Russian film... Tonight, an American romantic-thriller set in Moscow. Last night's opener introduced the ravishing Svetlana Ivanova, tonight's stars another resplendent Russian beauty, Agata Gotova.**

It almost has to... Because she helped write "Say It In Russian." Before that, she helped live it Much of the plot is based on events in Agata's life...

A young Russian woman meets a U.S. businessman in Paris, they fall in love, they attend her father's marriage (to the director's wife!) in Moscow, where he's forced to release a mobster who thanks him by the kind of surprise not normally to be found in the listes de marriage at Galeries Lafayette or Bloomingdales.

"The core story," says writer-producer Kenneth Eade, "is boy meets girl - and can't speak to each other because they don't know a common language. I kinda like that story but it wasn't exciting enough, I guess."

He turned it over to Agata and director Jeff Celentano to script - with added input from Eddie Murphy's "48 Hrs" writer Larry Gross.

So it became boy and girl meets Moscow mafia? "Exactly. Well, it became a father-daughter story.... and a love story thriller. There were a couple of things reminiscent of the original story... but not much."

Paris - where Hollywood ikon Faye Dunaway introduces the young lovers - beat everything. (Doesn't it always). The entire Paris segment of the movie was shot in one 20-hour day... using the Opera House, the River Seine, city streets, immediately on arrival from Moscow - and sans some permits.

"The police are coming - we must move to the next place now," was such a familiar cry from the first assistant director that someone suggested putting music to it... "That," recalls Ken Eade, "is hjw we got the best Paris beauty shots - Place de la Concorde, Tour Eiffel, Opera Garnier - all improvised by Agata and co-star Steven Brand.

Tony Crawley

# Agata Gotova

## Du petit au grand écran

Elle est Daria dans «**Say it in Russian**», présenté ce soir en avant-première. Mais avant d'être actrice Agata Gotova animait un talk show aux Etats-Unis où elle recevait les plus grandes stars du cinéma. **Reconversion.**

On pourrait écrire qu'à force de recevoir des stars du cinéma dans «**Autograph**», le talk-show qu'elle animait aux Etats-Unis, Agata Gotova a décidé de passer devant la caméra. Ce serait simple et évident. Pour ne pas dire simpliste et faux. *C'est vrai que j'ai beaucoup appris auprès de tous ces grands acteurs que j'ai reçus et avec lesquels j'ai passé des moments très forts mais je n'avais jamais pensé à franchir le pas.*

Et pourtant, Agata a commencé sa carrière dans l'ancienne Union soviétique comme Sherley Temple, bien avant elle, avait débuté la sienne aux Etats-Unis. En effet, Agata était l'enfant-star dans «The Mickey Mouse Club», l'émission matinale, «Budilnik» en 1987. Elle a passé son enfance, tournée en Europe dans le cadre troupe de danse d'enfants, Kalinka, et en vedette du film éponyme en 1989. Dès l'adolescence, elle rejoint le théâtre, où sa carrière sur les planches aboutit à un rôle dans «Cabaret politique». Puis, elle arrive en France pour suivre des cours à la Sorbonne avant de mettre le cap sur Hollywood. Dès son arrivée, elle travaille sur un projet

pilote pour la télévision russe qui a pour objet des interviews de célébrités et d'événements.

Ce qui va l'amener à présenter sur le même mode «**Autograph**» qui sera d'ailleurs saluée par la critique. Un parcours parfait. Mais qui ne satisfait pas pleinement cette jeune journaliste.

En dehors de ces entretiens, Agata écrit l'histoire d'une jeune étudiante russe à Paris qui rencontre un homme d'affaires américain. Une histoire d'amour va naître...

Toute ressemblance avec le scénario de «**Say it in Russian**» n'est pas fortuite. *C'est mon histoire. Je l'ai écrite pour le film avec la collaboration du metteur en scène. C'est bien sûr autobiographique avec ici ou là quelques changements pour les besoins de la production. Mais j'ai voulu mettre en exergue que l'amour est source d'espoir et que deux êtres qui s'aiment peuvent abattre des montagnes.* Quand on arbore un tee-shirt sur lequel est écrit «*Love is the drug*», comment ne pas la croire?

Gérard Clétil



## MEDAILLE DE CHINE

Pour eux, le défi est double, à la fois sportif et humain

« L'important c'est de participer ».

