**Short Synopsis:**

Overall arc of story is that of Individuals caught in an authoritarian system, and they all must bring more strengths out of themselves, to escape and find freedom. Some lose their loves, but gain others (Vera, Vlad and baby), and other find long lost loves (Tatiana-Nikolai ).

Sveta is now Vera a lead part. Tatiana is a secondary lead part. Mikhail is now Nikolai.

**Tragedy for each main lead**: Vera has the loss of her beloved husband Vlad, but carries his baby to freedom. Tatiana has three suicide attempts while in the camp, but people who love her save her from each one in time, and she does make it to freedom with a childhood friend Nikolai who has always loved her, no matter what has happed to her in life. This is a very challenging role for Vera, Vlad. Tatiana and Nikolai.

**Apartment Omsk, 1964**

1964 USSR, Omsk. Dissident Poet Vera is denied her marriage to Vlad. She marries him in secret. Shortly thereafter Vera is arrested and charged with Article 58. After a heated interrogation by the local city Commissar she sent by deportation train to the GULAG . Vera is a complex character with ties in both ancient traditional Russian-Ukrainian Trypillia culture and contemporary mathematical encoding. Vlad is a complex character who starts off quite normal in the Soviet Man sense, except for the contradiction of hbis thinking with his traditional embroidered shirt. Like all ideal Soviet Man men of 1964 USSR he is partly-emasculated by the Soviet Marxist system in the beginning, even though we always see his rugged side, but indoctrination keeps that in check. After Vera is taken away he embarks on the change, throwing off Soviet indoctrination he needs to save Vera. They become not who they want to be, but which circumstance demands they become. Powerful circumstances push out character traits and personalities within them to make them into Hero and Heroine for the ages.

**Commissar Party, Tomsk, 1964**

Tatiana is an extremely challenging role with deep psychological places. The morality of the Russian Gulag inmates is shown by contrasting against the utter Corruption of the Marxist USSR system. The Rich and Poor. While 99% of the USSR lived in what could be called poverty, the Marxist Elites had over seven hundred private jets, Chanel designer dresses from the West, and other luxury items only available on the Black Market and private closed stores. Here is where Tatiana is introduced. Tatiana is our other powerful female Lead who becomes heroic. Tatiana's family had been murdered by Order 270 and she was left to survive on the street as an orphan. It was off the street that the rich Commissars plucked her and forced her to become their courtesan. We meet Tatiana in a fancy Marxist Elite Commissar party, in a beautiful Chanel dress, drunk as she hates her life of forced prostitution essentially to the Marxist Elites. Tatiana is a complex character. On her deepest, farthest back level she loves her childhood street friend, Nikolai who protected her when she was on the street after her family was taken away. On her contemporary survival layer, she has grown a very close trust and close warm friendship to a powerful female Commissar Nikita, who helps protect her, in part, from the heavy abuse of the male Commissars.

But when Tatiana turns down the marriage proposal of a male Commissar, she is cast out and thrown in the Gulags for good. One of the most difficult psychologies to portray is the fact that the character Tatiana has lost her ability to love and trust Men. She has been used as an object by Men so much she only really trusts Women after the Elite Commissar party experience. This has created a barrier to fully loving her long lost beloved friend Nikolai. But Nikolai persists, and her memory and trust returns. This ends up saving her life towards the very end. She begins to go through the memories of what men did to her as an elite forced Marxist courtesan, against how kind Nikolai was to her, and the suicides are part of working through this conflict and change in her. Layer one is her love for Nikolai. Layer two is her love for women caused by men abuse during her courtesan Commissar party years.

Layer three is the sobriety of the Gulag, where everything comes out, the layers she has to integrate into herself as a person, and survive, make it through, the suicide attempts. She is able to confront, remember, face, her entire life periods, and integrate them into herself, the suicides end, she goes full out to escape and rescue Nikolai to pick up her life where if left off, many years ago.

**Deportation**

On the GULAG deportation cattle car, Vera meets, Tatiana who has had her entire family killed in the Gulags by Order 270. The bond Vera and Rusalka forge is one which will help them survive the horrors of the GULAG camp coming up. Tatiana talks about how her whole family was taken away and killed, and she survived on the street with Mikhail, before the Marixst Elites kidnapped her and forced her to be their high class courtesan, from which she had been cast out a few months earlier.

Vera and Tatiana both witness a horrific scene as the train stops at a Gulag camp. A young mother, with a baby in her arms, makes a run for Freedom, across a field of snow. The Gulag guards begin to open fire, but they keep missing, then she is hit a few times, but gets back up and, limping, keeps trying to run with her baby to freedom. The young mother keeps taking bullets, but with incredible willpower, keeps struggling to get up and try to make it to the forest and freedom. Wants to raise her baby out of Gulag slavery. So her child would know freedom. They finally gun her down, walk to her, take the baby off her and pass the now orphaned baby in through the cattle car to the inmates. Vera and Tatiana witness true courage for the first time, the will to risk one's life for freedom and the freedom of one's baby. Witnessing this event begins to effect powerful changes in both of their characters. Seeing an example of true courage. Putting everything, every last hearbeat, on the line. Resistance grows in their hearts and souls.

Witnessing this leaves a lasting impression on Vera and Tatiana. They have their cattle car boxcar opened up and are greeted by barking dogs and kleig lights. They are lined up in front of the cattle car, advised of what not to do, issued Gulag inmate numbers and are moved on to the barracks.

**Gulag Chic**

Both Vera and Tatiana are wearing the dresses they were wearing when they were arrested. Over this is thrown Gulag telegrika padded worn jackets. They are issued numbers and pants. This is important to show because most inmates arrived in their street clothes, so fast was their arrest without trial and put straight on trains to camps. Due to the fact that Sveta and Tatiana were both wearing dresses, Sveta a traditional embroidered dress, and Tatiana a Chanel designer dress, the impression is one of very interesting cross-couture. A story in itself as a rapid drop in social standing occurs for both of them.

**Interrogations at the Gulag Camp**

Both Vera and Tatiana are called in for arrival interrogations at the camp by the Gulag Commissar. They both exhibit tremendous defiance and mental resistance to the totalitarian crushing of the individual human will to create and to love. Sveta basically tells the Commissar she will keep writing her poetry and Tatiana tells the Commissar she will keep writing her letters to her beloved Nikolai. The Commissar is basically resigned when faced with such strong women of indomitable spirits. He is resigned of course to his Vodka.

**Life in Gulag Barashevo Camp**

LIfe, survival, begins for Sveta and Tatiana in Gulag Barashevo. Vera and Tatiana are welcomed by Olga, Aloysha, Lara, Marina, Natalya. Olga, more experienced. Shows Vera and Tatiana how to work slowly to conserve calories. How to pray in hiding so as not to be executed. Both Sveta and Tatiana are raped in the Gulag Commissar party the night after their interrogations, but with support they recover, as all the women have been raped there.

They witness other inmates, a young woman who goes mad after repeated rapes in the Commissar building of the camp and runs for the barbed wire fence, where she climbs up half way before being shot. The guards leave her corpse hung up, caught up and frozen on the fence for a week. Until the dogs tear it down and begin devouring half of the corpse. They witness other inmates unceremoniously dragged out of morning formation and shot on the spot, as acts of terrorism to try to find out who stole food from the guard shed. They see shallow graves. They see their friends of Natalyia, Marina, Aloysha, all die of sickness, starvation, or killed by execution for praying.

Aloysha is shot by Guards as an act of terrorism. After food is stolen from the Commissars, all the inmates are lined up in front of the barbed wire fence and the Commissar begins pulling out and shooting random inmates. Aloysha is pulled out, but decided to die fighting. She breaks free and runs as fast as she can to try to escape. She zig-zag's dodging the bullets, and makes it to the far fence, climbs up half way before she is shot dead. They leave her there for the dogs to eat. That night inmates sneak out to carry what remains of her carcass to the frozen mass grave at the back of the camp.

Lara goes to pray secretly early the next morning at the mass grave for Aloysha's soul. She sets up a small wooden Orthodox cross she has made by herself and kneels to pray. But a Guard sees her, calls the Commissar. Lara knows she's been spotted, but keeps praying. Knowing they will soon shoot her kneeling, executing her at the edge of the mass grave. The Commissar informs her of the policy against praying. Lara does not stop praying for her dead friend Aloysha. Lara is shot dead in front of the mass grave and her little wooden cross.

Tatiana first suicide attempt. Sober, with no alcohol in the camp, Tatiana is haunted by the memories and flashbacks of what was done to her in the Elite Marxist parties. In her humble way, she waits till the barracks are asleep then gets a chair, pulls out the rope she has been hiding. Hangs herself. When she kicks the chair, Olga hears it and awakes, running to save Tatiana, and pulls her back from the dead for the first time.

**Gulag Poetry Slams**

Engraged, outraged. Vera starts Gulag Poetry Slams. To raise morale in the barracks, Vera changes from her shy poet artist character and begins to become the heroic leader of legends. Doing what she does best, poetry. She organizes Poetry Slams (1950-1960 Beatnik casual cultural literary events) in her barracks. The drunk guards are too worn and jaded to even bother stopping these. Featuring full page non-stop slam readings of the great Gulag poet Irina Ratushinskaya.

**Vlad Develops Further**

Meanwhile Vlad is in some dingy state library which has no heating and little light pouring over books of maps trying to figure out where Vera is. He has never given up, but what he is doing now is far more dangerous and risky than we have ever seen him before. He has broken nearly completely out of the Soviet Man mold and is about to go full blown Rambo to rescue his Woman.

Long, long days of work sawing wood logs in the forest for all the inmates. As inmates fall dead, they bury them in shallow graves and impromptu ceremonies, prayers.

Natalya dies of TB sickness. Slowly Natalya begins coughing more, though tries to hide it from her friends. They all see she is dying. The guards beat and whip Natalya for not marching faster to keep up with the work gang in the mornings. Eventually Natalya's lungs fill up and she dies in the arms of Sveta.

Tatiana's second suicide attempt to leave this world and join the memory of Nikolai . Haunted by what the wealthy Elite Marxists did to her in their parties, Tatiana is determined to end her life. Waking up early she goes to the barracks kitchen, pulls out a knife and begins cutting her wrists. When she passes out and the knife falls, Vera hears it and runs to bandage her wrists to stop the bleeding. Tatiana is brought back to Hell (Life) once again. This is similar to Bjork being brought back from execution several times in Dancer in the Dark because they can't find the right size execution board to strap her onto.

**Vlad develops**

Vlad pulls the strong parts out of him inside and takes on greater risks to save his beloved Sveta. Bribing his way to the Mordvan region where the Barashevo camp is.

**Gulag Work Life**

Long hours in the snow sawing logs. Then tugging them down to the road where they are pushed on a wooden sleigh and they have long ropes to manually haul the sleigh back to camp. These are long scenes so the audience can really get a feel for the huge expanse of time and human labor involved in the Gulag destructive labor camp experience.

Natalya executed while praying outside.

Marina has given most of her food to try to help keep Natalya alive, is slowly succumbing to starvation herself now. Marina dies in the arms of Tatiana. Death and dying all around them. All their friends are dying.

More sobriety, more memories. Tatiana's third suicide attempt. She writes more letter to long lost Nikolai.

Tatiana herself, after she gets sober and begins to remember what the Elite Marixsts did to her in the Chanel dress courtesan period after the street and before the Gulag, tries to commit suicide, not once, but four times. On the fourth time, she switches, something in her head, her way of thinking, completely reverses and she kills a Guard, strangles him with wire. This change from victim to victor, makes her escape inevitable. With a hastily made backback, and the help of Vera and Olga, she escapes, dressed as a boy, and goes to search for her childhood freind Nikolai . Who she finds in a drunken stupor. But who got one of her love letters a month ago. She helps him and saves him. She rescues and saves her Love. It is a Friendship kind of Love. A true kind of Love that they both had lost so long ago and now have again.

**Nikolai develops**

Nikolai makes one final attempt to return a letter to her. Nikolai goes to extraordinary lengths to return one of Rusalka's letters, with a note. They both know eachother is alive and location, they have made contact at last.

**Gulag Camp**

2nd Gulag Poetry Slam. To fight back spiritually, morally, entertainment-wise, and build comraderie, Vera leads poetry slam readings in the Barrack building. This is 1950's Beatnik carried over to Siberian 1960's Gulag dissidents. This is something organic and natural that likely happened by has never been seen on film before.

Marina dies of starvation. Marina, who has given most of her food to her friends to keep them alive, to no avail in most cases, herself dies of starvation. In the snowy work field, Marina asks to be helped out into the forest where she can die among the trees and become a tree. They help her out and she slowly dies to the soft cold of hypothermia. She drifts into the Afterlife in peace.

**Tatiana Escapes Camp**

Tatiana suicide attempt fourth time. Sudden change. Thought process switches and kills a Guard instead of herself. Switching from victim to victor. Her mind now fully integrated past, present, future. This suddenly action causes a catharsis within Tatiana and a full self-examination of herself by herself, she know knows what she can do, instead of how she can kill herself. She now must immediately carry out her new self. She escapes from camp with Nikolai s one returned letter and address, and with Vera and Olga's help she dresses to look like a boy and manages to walk right out of the camps front gates. Sheer guts. Nikolai is days away from death by alcohol in a Soviet slave factory. Nikolai being the guy with the heart of gold doesn't care what has happend to her, or what she has been, or has been done to her. He loves her for who she is, as a friend. She rescues him in the nick of time and they escape together to the border with Finland.

**Vlad gets into Gulag camp**

Vera survives mentally with the help of her poetry writing despite all the deaths, sickness, starvation deaths of friends around her in the barracks. Then one day a strange man from outside picking up their work bags from the laundry building. He catches Vera off guard. It is Vlad in secret who has managed to bribe his way onto running the delivery to her camp. He tells her he will meet her in the forest in a week to rescue her.

**Vera Escapes Camp**

Olga helps her pack and in the gloom of a snowy morning, Vera makes a run for it. Making it through the barbed wire and into the arms of Vlad. Quickly they ski towards the border. During the trip, Vera tells Vlad she is pregnant with his baby. Now the stakes change. Within miles of the border they are spotted.

**Vlad is shot and Dies during escape at Border**

Tragedy strikes. As Vlad vows to shoot at them and hold them off. Vlad is shot. They retreat. Vlad asks that Vera shoot him in the head so he is not tortured. She kisses him on the lips as she pulls the trigger. It is eternal Love. Vera escapes with Vlad's baby in her belly.

**Tatiana and Nikolai, and Vera all Escape to Freedom.**

In the end we see Tatiana and Nikolai together in freedom, who Love each other just as friends, and we see Vera and a Son walking hand in hand through a field of flowers who Love each other as Mother and Son, near a book of poetry that's been published.

The Kickstarter video fundraising pitches will cover the key "Hamlet" moments of each character's catharsis. Locking the investor and viewer into this vital story that needs to be told.