

VZLOM

(The hack)

Author: Baranov E.A.

Screenwriting workshop of Yury Arabov

Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography (VGIK)

Concept

Genre: detective fiction

Format: TV-series

Duration of one episode: 40 min.

1st season consists of 8 episodes

Target audience: people aged 16 to 35

Having analyzed current tendencies, I've made a decision to create an serialized TV-series with a unified storyline center and procedural microstories involved in each episode. Given the same main characters, location, atmosphere and storyline center, each microstory is essentially a finished work with its own drama, rising action, climax, and resolution.

Logline

Kirill calls himself an independent artist. He is studying at the art department. He gives ridiculous performances all the time and streams them on the internet. Anet is a blogger, whose life is also always shown online. She earns money by keeping her own erotic channel. Edic is a programmer-experimenter, who constantly hacks different websites. He has a way of doing online dating. A life of each of them basically revolves only around the internet. At nights they expose rich perverts and come up with various tasks for them to do.

Story structure

The main storyline involves relationship between Kirill and his father. This line is based on the principle intrinsic to detectives, where guys gradually delve into father's criminal life. In the end of the series, Kirill and his father (antagonist) talk for the first time as father and son. Meanwhile Anet and Edic, who had psychological damage since childhood, get rid of their complexes and phobias, adapting to the real world. The second storyline comprises topical social pressure: from the very first day, life's of people who swallowed the bait become allusions of the real events happening around us, namely the "story of the flayers from Khabarovsk", "story of teenagers, who streamed on snapchat how they shot the policemen from the window, afterwards killing themselves", "robbery of the bank in Kaluga".

The second storyline always has the following structure: *first stage is joining Anet's channel which is pretty expensive (it is somewhat selection of wealthy people). Having done this, men get the private message from Anet with a "present", i.e. a picture of herself. When a user opens the file with a photo, the programme makes the computer to take video of them, Edic getting access to the camera. In the course of observing the wealthy people it turns out that they don't confine themselves with the passion for perversion and all who has joined the channel are involved in even bigger cases. At the next stage, Kirill comes up with a blackmail scheme and unmasks him.*

Slogan

No matter how hard a person is trying to hide something, it will be revealed nonetheless in its worst form

The series touches upon:

The series are not only about bringing up, burdened with common difficulties as incomplete families or insufficient income, but also about a distinctive feature of the 21st century - mass media's influence on the teenagers' minds. Or generally speaking, the series brings up the subject of the people's protection, not depending on their age, from the other people, society, and above all from themselves. It is also about how this protection is both needed and unachievable

Project's relevance

The subject is relevant, for computer technologies are increasingly developing: each cell phone and computer is equipped with a camera, which can be used for one's own purposes.

References

The black mirror / The Mr. Robot



Color design

- The colors are bright and contrast by day:

Bright clothes, colorful advertisements, myriads of variegated items.

Such color design affords to create a conflict in the frame, for example bright color set against the seriousness of the each episode.



- And by night the atmosphere gets grim (Mr Robot series):

Subdued colors, flickering computer monitors, dusky alleys and long dark corridors.



* Youtube and various kinds of civil journalism have given humanity a new perception. Nowadays a lot of news is perceived as direct amateur footage taken with trembling hands straight from the places. The contemporary person considers such form of providing the information as something usual. Exactly this way of shooting will be used during dramatic and tense moments of the series. Thanks to it, it will be possible to create stronger impression of the reality; as if several hours of the life of people, town, and to some extent generation have been ripped out of the time chain. When it comes to surroundings, it will be filled with elements corresponding to the time period: advertising screens, phones, graphic insertions of social networks, popping up sms. Various attributes of our time, affording us to reveal the characters tempers and motives.

Music

Each episode will have its own musical composition combined with variety of musical insertions and sounds (sounds of popping up messages).

Pilot episode

(In the pilot episode the short stories of the main characters will be shown first, then there will be the first pervert caught by the guys. In the description of each episode there will be a story with the manager of an amusement park)

Kirill calls himself an independent artist. He is studying at the art department. He gives ridiculous performances all the time and streams them on the internet. Anet is a blogger, whose life is also always shown online. She earns money by keeping her own erotic channel. Edic is a programmer-experimenter, who constantly hacks different websites. He has a way of doing online dating. A life of each of them basically revolves only around the internet. Three guys are sitting in a room, playing computer games, when all of a sudden they get a call on Anet's channel. The guys turn on the camera and see a man, whose face they had observed on the poster hanging across the street. On the poster it is said «Welcome to the amusement park» and next to those words there is a photo of the park's manager with a top head and handlebars mustache against the background of a ferris wheel. Having joined the channel, Anet drops a message with a present, i.e. the photo of herself. When the user opens the file, a programme starts to record him on his computer and Edic gets the access to it. The guys start observing him and find out that apart from the fact that he's represented as a family man in public, having in fact weakness for call girls, he's also going to hand over a huge batch of drugs in a panic room. Having found it out, Kirill comes up with a blackmail scheme and unmasks him. The day when the manager takes his family to the park, the guys start broadcasting him discussing prostitutes on the phone via loudspeakers. The director gets worried if the guys found out about the business deal for real and that those materials can reach the police, so he consequently agrees to the terms. He starts fulfilling various assignments. After the unmasking, the guys head towards the amusement park and take the ride on a ferris wheel.

1st episode

Kirill's background

Some parts of Kirill's childhood: Kirill lives in a family of a successful businessman. He almost never sees the father though, so he is being brought up by a delicate woman committed to art. He grows as a cynical amateur of provocations. From the very childhood he is being signed up for different clubs devoted to various subjects, such as drawing, playing the piano, and literature. Kirill runs off them and hangs out for a long time with his less well-financed friends, spends money given by parents, lends them cash and buys gifts. Gradually he grows aware of the fact that his friends need only his money and when he doesn't have any he's not invited to any activities. He starts making tricky situations, for instance: when his friend had asked to lend him some money once again, Kirill said that he would do it on the condition that he will lick asphalt (which he did). After that, he fell out of touch with the classmates. At the age of 14 he gave his first "performance": at the dinner party thrown by his parents he burned the table, which was swarming with alcohol and food, as he had noticed that everybody was mostly occupied with meal and that the crowd was formed around it. He finished the school as an external student and under his mother's wing he was enrolled at Art College and started performing on the permanent basis. He also started to keep his own internet channel.

The day when guys met: high ceilings, luxurious surroundings, Kirill puts on a starched shirt and a tie. It's one of those moments when each member of the family is presented. Kirill is sitting in the philharmonic hall and looking around languidly. It was that day when Kirill had carried out his regular provocation act at which he met Edic and Anet, who invited him into their home.

At night Edic and Anet tell Kirill all about themselves, including the part where they keep blogs

and hack sites. Kirill then clams up and sit still for a while without reacting to anything as if being in a trance. When the guys get worried, he smiles and tells them about the system that popped up in his mind: "He system will remain the same all the time: Joining Anet's channel will be costly as it's to some extent a selection of wealthy people. Having joined the channel, Anet will drop a message with a present, i.e. the photo of herself. When a user opens the file, a programme starts to record him on this computer and Edic gets the access to it. In the course of observing the wealthy people it turns out that they don't confine themselves with passion for perversion and all who has joined the channel are involved in even bigger cases. At the next stage, Kirill comes up with a blackmail scheme and unmasks him". The guys agree to participate in it.

Anet turns on the channel and after a while she gets the first call. The camera start the recording and they can see the entrepreneur from the morning's news on the TV, where he told the spectators that he is a decent family man and manager.

2nd episode

The entrepreneur Sergey Viktorovich Mahno is joining the erotic channel belonging to Anet and downloads the photo. The candid dialog is being initiated then. In the morning blackmail process starts to be carried out. At first Sergey Viktorovich doesn't believe the blackmailers. Kirill finds the company which is owned by Sergey Viktorovich and with the help of Edic he gets access to the inner corporate network and via the loudspeakers he starts streaming everything that Sergey Viktorovich had told Anet. Mahno grows worried that his wife will find out about those materials. He agrees to fulfill various tasks. In the end he reaches and implements the last one, namely dousing his favorite car with petrol and burning it (the task may be different though). The guys decide then to go to a bar and celebrate the successful work. Edic and Anet kiss.

Camera turns on and Kirill sees his father.

3^d episode

Edic's background

Some parts of Edic's childhood: Edic is a childish geek. He was born in half-destroyed village. He lived in a large family with 10 brothers and sisters, always drunk father and stern mother. To escape the bustling fashion around, he delves into the virtual reality of computer games. In childhood he would sit all day in the internet clubs. He assembled his first computer by himself as well as getting the internet connection, after which he had started communicating with similar to him geeks. At the age of 12 he started speaking English fluently, at the age of 15 he had hacked his first site, namely site of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which he colored into pink. Meanwhile he is being oppressed by his sisters and brothers. At the age of 17, he decided that it was time to leave his village and move to Moscow, where he was suggested to develop computer games. He came across just an advertisement about searching for a roommate made by one of his acquaintances (Anet) from forums. Having come to the apartment and stepping into Anet's room, he felt that it was the place what he was looking for. He saw light-pink room where Anet, dressed in the cat's costume, was talking to someone through web-camera. "Your room is here, never cross the threshold of mine and if you need to ask about something - knock loudly. Leave the money for rent on the bedside table in the hall" - said Anet harshly and slammed the door. They started living in separate rooms and gradually became friends.

The guys are catching a new pervert, i.e. the manager of the amusement park who under the guise was selling drugs in a panic room.

Kirill starts to observe the life of his father by himself, he finds out that he is involved in various criminal cases.

The guys go towards the amusement park and then to the carousel. Kirill is complaining about his life and brings alcohol. Edic is completely bad at drinking, so he falls asleep straight

away, while Anet gets drunk and then lays with Kirill.

4th episode

The guys are catching a banker, who was clandestinely keeping an elite escort agency. On the sites devoted to dating he found new girls for the work. The guys unmask him and give the payback. He brings a bag of money to them and Kirill gives a performance of burning it. Police catches Kirill and puts him in the cage. Father comes for him. Edic finds out that Anet slept with Kirill and brakes the computer. He says he's not going to keep living in the flat with Anet and goes away.

5th episode

Anet's background

Father abandoned the family when Anya was 3. Two years later, her mother fell in with a Turk and moved in his home abroad, leaving Anya with an ill grandmother, who gradually started feeling even worse, what resulted in her rarely walking and being unable to live a normal life. Anya herself was always reserved; after school she hurried home to help her grandmother. She had her own blog since childhood, as that's where she could pour her heart concerning the plight she was in. In 10th grade she tried streaming herself on the internet, thus getting the first clients and so money. It continued until once her grandmother had entered the room when Anet was standing in front of the camera without her clothes on. She naturally had a heart attack, after which she had passed away. The story goes then back to the present time.

Along the way, Kirill inquires his father about everything: about family, his job. Worked up by his son's playing, he punches Kirill and a small fight has started. Kirill tells his father that each and every wicked will be punished. He turned his father's camera by himself and interferes with an important business meeting. Father loses millions and decides to find blackmailers. He finds Anet's residence and kidnaps her.

6th episode

Kirill starts searching for Edic. He finds him in a devastated plant where geeks of the same sort arrange meetings for the computer club. It's the place where they spend the whole their days playing games. Kirill says sorry to Edic and tells that Anet is in danger. Edic, Kirill and other gamers are developing a rescue plan.

7th episode.

The guys are implementing the plan. Edic manages to save Anet. Kirill shows his face to father and frankly says that the father must tell the mother about everything he's done and then he'll eliminate all the records. They talk to each other.

8th episode.

The father tells the mother about everything. Anet and Edic decide to get engaged. Kirill made a decision to give the last performance. On the screen of malls and ones situated in the city center, he streams all the doings of people which had been caught by them. After revealing these materials to public, Kirill's father and the others go to prison. Kirill himself wishes good luck to the guys and, having visited the father in the prison, he takes his belongings and goes travelling.

Characters:

Kirill



An independent artist. Occupied by performing / solitary picketing Keeps a blog, where he streams his performances live.

Age: 19-21

Explicit confrontational with family which eventually resulted into confrontation with society. Kirill was brought up by a fragile woman and without father's influence he believes he can do anything. He is growing as a cynical amateur in provocations.

Relationships:

Anet likes his appearance. Still, she disapproves his arrogance and selfishness. **Edic** likes him as well; Kirill's ideas appeal to him, so he's ready to help in the implementation.

After he had found out that Anet got laid with Kirill, he punches the latter in the face (for the first time in his life), but after all considers him to be a friend again.

Personal change (circular development, the characters almost doesn't change at all)

In the course of the plot's development Kirill (being arrogant and cynical in the first place; who got used to struggle with the walls of social morality erected around him) for the first time opens to the other people, i.e. mates, lover, and father. But his beloved one prefers a friend over him, the father - easy money and Kirill still prefers to indulge into most destructive actions along with affinity towards changing places.

Edic



Geek. Gamer. Hacker. Weirdo. Keeps a blog on computer games. Truly kind and open person.

Age: 18-20

A pronounced type of a person with bipolar disorder. Has a way of sitting in a room for several days without washing, bathing, eating; just trying to unravel some program's code. Other times he's hyperactive and eccentric. Being in such a state he can, for instance, having bought a yogurt with expired shelf life, run and yell at cashiers, sellers, call to the Federal Service for the Oversight of Consumer Protection and Welfare, write letters to the court but at the end of the day he eventually gets quiet and calm, drawing his attention again towards computer games.

Relationships:

Anet considers him to be a funny person. She wants to take care of him. She thinks that if Edic has made a decision, he will never turn around. She likes his ability to be kind and help others in difficult situations.

Kirill believe he's an important link in the chain designed by him. He considers him as being too open and approachable man. But overall he feels that Edic is his friend and also he respects him for being faithfully committed to his activity.

Personal change:

During the story being shown, Eric, first being oppressed and intimidated, seeing computer world as a shelter in which he can hide, comes to Moscow and eventually faces something real after a hard life with 10 brothers and sisters, constantly drunk father, stern mother and dwelling in his basement 24 h a day, where there was just a computer with chat-pals. He starts building a life and not passive following others' desires. He finds his passion, a friend and keeps doing what he loves most.

Anet



Blogger. Nymphomaniac. Extremely eccentric person.

Age: 18-20

Father abandoned the family when Anya was 3. Two years later, her mother fell in with a Turk and moved in his home abroad, leaving Anya with an ill grandmother, who gradually started feeling even worse, what resulted in her rarely walking and being unable to live a normal life. Anya herself was always reserved; after school she hurried home to help her grandmother. She had her own blog since childhood, since that's where she could pour her heart concerning the plight she was in. In 10th grade she tried streaming herself on the internet, thus getting the first clients and so money. It continued until once her grandma other had entered the room when Anet was standing in front of the camera without her clothes on. She naturally had a heart attack, after which had passed away.

Personal change:

Since her early childhood she didn't know what a true parent's love is, so she tried to perceive love via each and every man she came across. But such a way of behaving only exacerbated everything. As time flew by, she started losing herself and the whole her demeanor was formed on the basis of thoroughly-thought-out 'mask' that she used to wear. But with Edic she starts to feel normal; little by little she gets her trust to people back again.

Actors I see in these roles

Kirill(Pavel Tabakov) Edic(Ivan Makarevich) Anet(Aysel' Babanova)



Locations

Main ones:

1. The apartment of Anet and Edic(includes two rooms and spacious hall)



2. Home of Kirill's mother



3. Father's office

