

# Screenwriter and Writer Rustam Ibragimbekov Dead at Age 83

The co-author of "White Sun of the Desert" died in Moscow.

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Rustam Ibragimbekov. **Sergei Kiselev / Moskva News Agency**

The Soviet, Russian and Azerbaijan writer and screenwriter died in Moscow on March 11 after a long illness, his family reported.

Born in Azerbaijan Republic, Ibragimbekov graduated from the Azerbaijan Oil and Chemistry Institute and then the main cinematography institute in Moscow. He wrote and cowrote the scripts for dozens of films, as well as worked as a director and producer. He is best known for his feature films "White Sun of the Desert" (1970), written with Valentin Yezhov; "Interrogation" (1979); "Urga, Territory of Love" (1991), "Burnt by the Sun" (1994); "The Barber of Siberia" (1998); and "East-West," written with Sergei Bodrov (1999).

Several of his films were directed by Nikita Mikhalkov — "Urga, Territory of Love," "Burnt by the Sun," and "The Barber of Siberia" — and won many foreign and Soviet/Russian awards. "Burnt by the Sun" won the best foreign language film Oscar in 1994. Later Ibragimbekov

would break off relations with Mikhalkov over their opposing political views.

Ibragimbekov had many run-ins with the authorities in Azerbaijan and was believed to be the target of official harassment. He was the director of the Ibrus Theater in Baku, headed the Confederation of Filmmakers' Unions (CFU) representing filmmakers from all of the former Soviet republics, was secretary of the Russian Filmmakers' Union and a member of European Film Academy and Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He was the recipient of countless awards for his work in cinema, the arts and social causes.

Ibragimbekov was honored at a ceremony in the Moscow House of Cinema and buried in Azerbaijan.

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