

KINO LORBER

DEAD SOULS

A Film by Alex Cox



2025 / 88 minutes / English

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Synopsis

For his directorial swan song, **Alex Cox** (*Repo Man*, *Straight To Hell*) stars in this frontier fable of American greed. Follow mysterious drifter 'Strindler' as he scours the West for the names of dead Mexican labourers.

Here at this border town in 1890, Strindler – or is it 'Swindler'? – raises eyebrows when he offers to pay a pretty penny to add to his list of names. Wandering affably from saloon to ranch, Strindler exercises the old adage that money talks – but sometimes too loudly. Between the town drunk, hot-headed cowherds and local outlaws, Strindler soon finds himself tangled up in his own tall tales.

The Western fits storied filmmaker Cox as snugly as the black bowler hat he wears throughout ***Dead Souls***, a loose adaptation of Nikolai Gogol's 1842 novel of the same name. Pistol duels and crooked officials abound, and spaghetti Western legend **Gianni Garko** claims a co-writer credit. But Cox's idiosyncrasy stands out as the film veers tonally through the picaresque, dark satire and genre curveballs you won't expect.

A meditative, sincere landscape at the borderlands of the American nightmare: where fortunes rest on a dirty deal, and legacies are built on blood and gold.

- Synopsis courtesy of IFFR

Director's Statement

Gogol's novel "Dead Souls" involves a strange, restless protagonist who drifts across an endless landscape, making money off the dead. At least, that seems to be the plan – but Gogol intended his book to be the first part of a trilogy. The first book was to depict human evils, the second book human goodness, and the third paradise.

Only the first book was finished! There are fragments of volume two, which Gogol burned twice. But it is easier to write about bad men than good ones. And bad men riding through an immense plain is the essence of a good Western.

So Gianni Garko and I turned Dead Souls into a Western saga. It was filmed in Almería, Spain, where so many great Westerns were made, and in a town called Mezcal, in southern Arizona.

In Spain, Guillermo de Oliveira was the producer and put together one crew; in Arizona, Merritt Crocker produced, and created another. Merritt also edited the film. The opening credits were designed by Geoff Marslett.

The film was crowdfunded, via Kickstarter. What a pleasure, what a privilege, to step onto that dusty street again, to think of all the ghosts who passed this way, and where to put the camera...

– Alex Cox

DIRECTOR BIO

Alex Cox was born outside Liverpool in England in 1954. He studied at Oxford, Bristol, and UCLA, wrote scripts, directed films and plays, acted in films, taught film production, and wrote several books including "Ten Thousand Ways to Die" and "I Am {Not} a Number: Decoding The Prisoner." He lives in Oregon with his wife, Tod Davies, and two dogs.

FEATURE FILMOGRAPHY

Repo Man (1983)

Sid & Nancy (1985)

Straight to Hell (1986)

Walker (1987)

El Patrullero (1991)

Death & the Compass (1996)

3 Businessmen (1999)

Revengers Tragedy (2002)

Searchers 2.0 (2007)

Repo Chick (2009)

Bill The Galactic Hero (2014)

Tombstone Rashomon (2015)

Dead Souls (2025)

CREDITS

CAST

Alex Cox	"Strindler"
Zander Schloss	"Borracho"
Dick Rude	"The Doctor"
Amariah Dionne	"Rose"
Brendan Guy Murphy	"Sheriff Purdy"
Sarah Vista	"The Widow"
Shayn Herndon	"The Kid"
Levee DuPlay	"Federal Prosecutor"
Karen E. Wright	"Rebecca"
Eric Schumacher	"The Mayor"
Ted Falagan	"Oso"
Maria Robles	"Nuria"
Javier Arnal	"El Teniente"
Geoff Marslett	"The Colonel"
Ed Pansullo	"The Undertaker"
Jesse Lee Pacheco	"Johnny Behan"
Edward Tudor-Pole	"Strindler's Dad"

CREW

Screenplay	Alex Cox & Gianni Garko, based on the poem "Dead Souls" by Nikolai Gogol
Producer (USA)	Merritt Crocker
Producer (Spain)	Guillermo de Oliveira
Cinematographer (USA)	Chance Falkner
Cinematographer (Spain)	Ignacio Aguilar, AEC
Production Designer (USA)	Melissa Woods
Production Designer (Spain)	Leonardo Giménez
Editor	Merritt Crocker
Original Music	Dan Wool
Visual Effects	Tippett Studio
Associate Producers	Del Zamora
	Madmartigan
	Kyle Curry
	Betsy Nofsinger
	Jamie Wilson-Webb
	Jamie Jamieson
	Adam Rutkowski
	Jeff Hause
	Brett Taylor
	Rob Jensen
Co-Producers	Joaquin Montez Herrera

Co-Executive Producers

Executive Producers

Jesse Whiteman
Adam Schoon
Willem Heerbaart
R. Michael Fierro
Amer Hilal
Zack Coffman
Tod Davies
Thomas Etienne
Abby Harris
David Nedrow

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