

ALBATROS COMMUNICOS PRODUCTION (UKRAINE)

IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH MOONMAKERS (LITHUANIA)

THE EARTH IS BLUE AS AN ORANGE

Director IRYNA TSILYK

with

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Myroslava Trofymchuk
Anastasiia Trofymchuk
Vladyslav Trofymchuk
Stanislav Gladky
Olena Gladka
Olga Gladka
Danylo Dydenko

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THE EARTH IS BLUE AS AN ORANGE

Logline

To cope with the daily trauma of living in a war-zone, Anna and her children are making a film together about their life in the most surreal surroundings.

Synopsis

When poet/filmmaker Iryna Tsilyk first visits the Trofymchuk-Gladky family home in the war-zone town of Krasnohorivka, Ukraine, she is surprised by what she finds: while the outside world is made up of bombings and chaos, single mother Anna and her four children are managing to keep their home as a safe haven, full of life and full of light.

Every member of the family has a passion for cinema, so it feels natural to shoot a film inspired by their own life during a time of war. The creative process raises the question of what kind of power the magical world of cinema might have during times of disaster, and how to picture war through the camera's lens. For Anna and the children, transforming trauma into a work of art is the ultimate way to stay human.

Director/ Script: Iryna Tsilyk

Cinematographer: Viacheslav Tsvietkov

Editor: Ivan Bannikov

Additional Editing: Danielius Kokanauskis

Sound design: Jonas Maksvytis

Color grade: Jonas Sunklodas

Producer: Anna Kapustina / Albatros Comunicos, Ukraine

Producer: Giedrė Žickytė / Moonmakers, Lithuania

International Sales: CAT&Docs

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Ukrainian Film State Agency

Lithuanian Film Centre

IDFA Bertha Fund, supported by Creative Europe MEDIA Program

Baltic to Black Sea Documentary Network (B2B)

Razom for Ukraine

BROADCASTERS: TVP, Current Time TV

Does art have power during war?

Art does have power – it cracks the ice between us; it facilitates the processing of trauma. It gives witness to all that is funny, joyful and faced with laughter in the midst of remarkable darkness.

--Director Iryna Tsilyk

THE EARTH IS BLUE AS AN ORANGE

Writer/Director Iryna Tsilyk

During the last two years my attitude to this film changed many times.

Everything started at a cinema camp for teenagers in Ukraine. Sponsored in part by the cultural and humanitarian initiative, Yellow Bus, the cinema camp opens doors to the parallel world of cinema for kids. The camps sit predominantly in the small towns of the front-line zone in the Donbas region.

I was one of the mentors in the camp in Avdiivka, a town that is located on the line of separation, and is the site of the deadliest fighting in the ongoing War. At our cinema camp, the students wrote a script and filmed it in one week while we listened to the war continuing just outside, every day.

At the end of the session, one of the camp teenagers invited my Director of Photography, Viacheslav Tsvietkov, our sound engineer Iryna Okhota, and myself to her family home in Krasnohorivka, in the “red zone” aka the front line.

I immediately fell in love with this family, their home and their world. I turned to Viacheslav and said, “I have a strong feeling we could make a movie here”.

For years, working as a poet, I used to come to Donbas, in the front line zone. My husband was a soldier in The Armed Forces of Ukraine. My previous films also covered women fighting during war (“*Tayra*” and “*Kid*” in the cinema-almanac “*Invisible Battalion*,” about women in combat during war). So, Avdiivka was not new to me.

However, when the cinema camp kids were being shown scenes from Bertolucci’s “The Last Emperor”, and shelling was going on right outside but not one of them paid any attention to the sounds -- that was new, that I didn’t expect.

These same kids, when they were choosing locations to film in for their script, chose nearby mine fields. There they were, kids dancing close to minefields, full of life.

It was the same with the family in Krasnohorivka. Because being a civilian in war is surreal enough, but to have gotten used to war is something else completely. What was for me, as a war “tourist”, quite surreal, was for them simply daily life. The first thing we saw in Krasnohorivka was what a brave and funny family they were, in the midst of war. That’s the first film I thought I was making.

Then, in workshops and labs across Europe as I started to show rough cuts and raw footage, it was repeatedly mentioned that it was the film within the film that was something quite special. When the family had decided to make the short film, some kind of surreal journey had unexpectedly begun for all of us.

When the family sat down to interview each other, we experienced a deep emotional shift. I had the feeling some masks were coming off. We all, the family and film team, started to trust each other in this private world we shared. It gave me a huge feeling of responsibility for both the film and the family.

The title, THE EARTH IS BLUE AS AN ORANGE, is a quote from a poem about love between a man and woman, but it is also about things that could not be combined together and yet are. We have felt this way throughout our journey of this film.

Anna, the mother, is at the core of the story; she is the real director. She is the one who will choose how her children get through this. At one point I had thought this was a film about kids, but quite late I realized I was wrong – it was really about her.

Anna is the leader of the family; the father is out of sight because there is nothing to show, he has no impact on the family. It’s as Anna says, “I am the father and the mother”. She is so strong, and has such amazing emotional power she convinces you everything will be okay.

"I’ve realized recently that I try to convey the same themes in so much of my work, that of **home** as a safe haven. You can see this most clearly in one of my short fiction films called "*Home*"— You can kill the person, but not their sense of home, not the sense of it they have in their heart.

I’ve come to the conclusion I also have war trauma – everything I do in my creative work over the last 6 years has to do with this war.

I choose to use “family” in my films as a stand-in for “identity”. Effectively, I’m doing the same thing as my characters – we film to escape.

THE EARTH IS BLUE AS AN ORANGE

Writer/Director IRYNA TSILYK graduated from Kyiv National University of Theatre, Cinematography and Television named by Karpenko-Kary in TV directing in 2005. Her previous short fiction and documentary films were presented and awarded at various international film festivals. In addition, Tsilyk has been working as a writer. Some of her works have been translated into various languages and presented at different international literary festivals.

Filmography: “*Tayra*” (10’), “*Kid*” (15’) 2017; “*Home*” (12’), 2016; “*Commemoration*” (24’), 2012; “*Blue Hour*” (10’) 2008.

“When we were shooting the last scene of the film (the “premiere scene”), we had a very special, and again, very surreal moment. I was watching the film of my characters together with the viewers, and there were the sounds of shelling in their film. And then I came out to the corridor for a while and I heard the real sounds of shelling from outside. It is something really ordinary for this town. You can hear these sounds almost every night there. But that was a very special moment when I realized that sounds from the film and sounds from reality have crossed over each other. It is the same with our lives and my life, too. I’m the filmmaker and I come to Donbas to make my films, yes. But at the same time, I feel deeply connected with this region and their way of living. And I am asking myself – where is that thin line between art and reality? And I still don’t have any answers.”

---Director, Iryna Tsilyk

THE EARTH IS BLUE AS AN ORANGE

Cinematographer VIACHESLAV TSVIETKOV

Viacheslav Tsvietkov (1984) was born in Ukrainka city in Ukraine. Graduated from Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts as D.O.P. in 2011. He used to shoot documentaries and feature films since 2013. He is a member of the European Film Academy.

Filmography:

**"Mariupolis"* documentary 2016 year, 90 min., director Mantas Kvedaravicius, DOP Viacheslav Tsvietkov and Vadim Ilkov. World premiere at Berlinale 2016 in Panorama program.

**"Petro The Cimbalist"* documentary 2014-2017 year, 80 min., director Ielizaveta Smith, DOP Viacheslav Tsvietkov and Khrystyna Lizogub.

* *"Kholodnyi Yar"* documentary 2016 year 90 min., director Alina Gorlova, DOP Oleksyi Kuchma and Viacheslav Tsvietkov.

* *"Brama"* feature movie, 90 min, 2017 year. director Volodymyr Tykhyy, DOP Viacheslav Tsvietkov. World premiere at Black Nights Film Festival in Tallinn.

**"Parthenon"* feature movie, 119 min, 2019 year. Director Mantas Kvedaravicius, DOP Viacheslav Tsvietkov. World Premiere at Venice International Film Critics' Week.

* *"Solitude"* 2019. Short fiction film, 28 min. Director Ielizaveta Smith, DOP Viacheslav Tsvietkov. World premiere at Odessa IFF (Ukraine).

* *'Between two wars'* documentary full-length film, work in progress. Director Alina Gorlova, DOP Viacheslav Tsvietkov. The project was presented at If/Then pitch at CPH:DOX (Copenhagen), Warscape pitch at DocuDays (Kyiv), Co-Pro Market at DokLeipzig.

* *"The Earth Is Blue As an Orange"* documentary film, 74'. Director Iryna Tsilyk, DOP Viacheslav Tsvietkov.

Editor IVAN BANNIKOV

Ivan Bannikov (1989) is Ukrainian film editor working in documentary and fiction. In 2018, he won the award of "Best Film Editor" by Ukrainian Film Academy. His latest credits include "When The Trees Fall" full-length feature film, (dir. Marysia Nikitiuk) which was nominated for Best First Feature Award in Berlin International Film Festival 2018 as well as New Talent Grand PIX at CPH PIX 2018.

The participant of different workshops for documentary filmmakers and editors, such as Dok.Incubator, B2B Doc rough cut workshop and others.

Filmography:

* *Ten Seconds* (2016 Ukraine), 69'. Documentary film by Yuliia Hontaruk;

**When The Trees Fall* (2018, Ukraine, Poland), 88'. Feature film by Marysia Nikitiuk;

**Call Sign "Banderas"* (2018 Ukraine), 113'. Feature film by Zaza Buadze;
Beshoot (2019 Ukraine), 120'. Feature film by Ivan Tymchenko;
**Uljanenko uncensored* (2019 Ukraine), 90'. Documentary film by Yulia Shashkova;
**The Earth Is Blue As an Orange* (2020, Ukraine, Lithuania), 73'. Documentary film by Iryna Tsilyk.

Sound design JONAS MAKSVYTIS

Jonas Maksvytis is an award - winning Lithuanian sound designer. During his career that started in 2003, he worked on more than 50 projects from all over Europe including short, feature, documentary films. Jonas has received 4 national "Silver Crane" awards for the best sound designer work.

Producer ANNA KAPUSTINA / Albatros Comunicos, Ukraine

Anna Kapustina is a producer based in Kyiv, Ukraine and the founder of the production company ALBATROS COMMUNICOS. In 2003 - 2014 she had been producing commercials, TV programs and international reality-shows. Since 2014 she is the producer of the Ukrainian cinematographic community "#BABYLON`13" and NGO "HERO.UA". Selected participant at IDFAcademy Summer School, Dok.Incubator and B2BDoc. Her latest documentary *The First Company* was awarded with Docudays Audience Award and recognized as the Best Ukrainian Documentary.

Filmography:

2020: Producer of documentaries film "The Earth Is Blue as an Orange" by Iryna Tsilyk

2018: Producer of documentaries film "The First Company" by Yaroslav Pilunskyi, Yulia Shashkova, Yuriy Gruzinov

2016: Producer of documentaries film "Ten Seconds" by Yulia Hontaruk

2016: Producer of short-documentaries film "Volunteers Of War" by Yulia Shashkova

2015: Producer of documentaries film "Still alive" by Yulia Hontaruk

2015: Producer of short-documentaries film "Brother" by Yulia Hontaruk

2015: Producer of short-documentaries film "Kozak" by Yulia Hontaruk

Producer GIEDRĖ ŽICKYTĖ / Moonmakers, Lithuania

Giedrė Žickytė is a documentary film director and producer based in Vilnius, Lithuania and the founder of the production company, MOONMAKERS. Her films have been selected at numerous international film festivals including IDFA, DokLeipzig, Hot Docs, Rotterdam IFF, among others, winning over 20 international awards and distributed theatrically. I'M NOT FROM HERE (co-directed with M.Alberdi, Chile) was nominated at the 2016 European Film Academy Awards. In 2015, her feature documentary MASTER AND TATYANA was awarded Best Director, Best Documentary, Best Cinematography, and Best Editing at the Lithuanian Film Academy Awards.

**“THE EARTH IS BLUE AS AN ORANGE”
FILM END CREDITS**

THE EARTH IS BLUE AS AN ORANGE

with

GANNA GLADKA
MYROSLAVA TROFYMCHUK
ANASTASHA TROFYMCHUK
VLADYSLAV TROFYMCHUK
STANISLAV GLADKY
OLENA GLADKA
OLGA GLADKA
DANYLO DYDENKO

director IRYNA TSILYK

cinematographer VIACHESLAV TSVIETKOV

producers ANNA KAPUSTINA, GIEDRĖ ŽICKYTĖ

editors IVAN BANNIKOV, IRYNA TSILYK
additional editor DANIELIUS KOKANAUSKIS

line producer LENA YAKOVITSKA
associate producer ANDRĖJA ČEBATAVIČIŪTĖ
production assistant YANA YUZHANINA

sound designer JONAS MAKSVYTIS
sound engineers IRYNA OKHOTA, MYKHAILO NIKOLAIEV
sound mixers IVETA MACEVIČIŪTĖ, JULIUS GRIGELIONIS

colorist JONAS SUNKLODAS
post production supervisor AUSTĖJA GAPUTYTĖ
DCP mastering MARIUS STEPONĖNAS
post production assistants PAULIUS ZAVADSKIS, DOMINYKAS KILČIAUSKAS

publicist KATHLEEN MCINNIS
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poster design LINA YAKOBCHUK
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NATALIA ARSHAVSKAYA

commissioning editor TVP
TOMASZ PIECHAL

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Krasnohorivka SCHOOL OF ARTS
Krasnohorivka SECONDARY SCHOOL №2
KYIV NATIONAL UNIVERSITY of CULTURE and ARTS

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NORDENSKIOLD, ANASTASIA KIRILOVA, ULDIS CEKULIS, SRDJAN FINK, AUDREY
MAURION, HILLA MEDALIA, KAROLINA LIDIN, MEIKE STATEMA, PAWEL LOZINSKI,
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ABRAMYCHEV, EGOR SKALYGA, TETIANA MASLOVA, ANATOLII KHYMYCH,
EDUARD TIMLIN, YEVHEN KOVALENKO, OLEKSIY SERIK, DARIA PRYVALOVA,
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the title of the film is a quote from the poem "THE EARTH IS BLUE LIKE AN ORANGE" by
PAUL ELUARD

archival footage

excerpt from "MAN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA" by DZYGA VERTOV
excerpts from "2014", a short film by MYROSLAVA TROFYMCHUK, ANNA GLADKA
and ANASTASIIA TROFYMCHUK

music

"SILENT MOVIES DRAMATIC" by DOUG FRANTZ (BMI), published by SOUNDS INCREDIBLE
(SOCAN)

etude by CARL CZERNY (op. 740, no. 41, minor), performed by MYROSLAVA TROFYMCHUK
"HELLO" by ADELE, music by ADELE and GREG KURSTIN, performed by ANASTASIIA
TROFYMCHUK

"VIDIRVATYS VID ZEMLI" by N. MOGYLEVSKA, music by S. PIDKAURA, N. LEI
"KYM MY BULY" by "BOOMBOX", lyrics by A. KHLIVNIUK, music by A. KHLIVNIUK &
A. SAMOJLO

"HALLELUJAH" by LEONARD COHEN, music by LEONARD COHEN, performed by
ANASTASIIA
TROFYMCHUK

Ukrainian folk song "IN THE GROVE BY THE DANUBE", performed by family
GLADKI-TROFYMCHUK

Austrian folk song "THE CUCKOO", performed by STANISLAV GLADKYI
musical improvisation for the final credits by STANISLAV GLADKYI

the film has been shot in KRASNOHORIVKA, KURAKHOVE, AVDIIVKA (Donetsk region)
and KYIV

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the film has been developed at
B2B DOC workshops 2017-2019
IDFAcademy Summer School 2018

the project of the film has been presented at
B2B DOC pitchings at DOCUDAYS UA 2018, 2019
OIFF FORUM 2018
BALTIC SEA FORUM FOR DOCUMENTARIES 2018
CO-PRO MARKET DOK LEIPZIG 2018
B2B Doc pitching at TEMPO DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL 2019
EAST DOC PLATFORM 2019
PARIS DOC work-in-progress 2019
NORDISK PANORAMA FORUM 2019

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CAT & DOCS

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