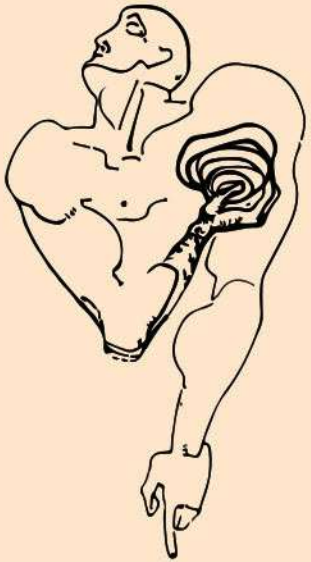


14th RUSDOCFILMFEST

October 18-24, 2021



RusDocFilmFest

14th RUSDOCFILMFEST

October 18-24, 2021

ANNUAL INDEPENDENT DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL IN NEW YORK

2021

Новый Журнал / The New Review

Since 1942

The oldest Russian-language literary quarterly. Founded by world-renowned writers Mark Aldanov and Mikhail Zetlin with support by Ivan Bunin. The New Review has played the role of a cultural center of the multi-ethnic Russian-speaking immigration for 79 years.

Our contributing authors include Nobel Prize laureates:

- the 1933 laureate Ivan Bunin
- the 1958 laureate Boris Pasternak
- the 1970 laureate Alexander Solzhenitsyn
- the 1987 laureate Joseph Brodsky
- the 2015 laureate Svetlana Alexievich

Our mission focuses on the preservation and development of Russian cultural traditions in the diversity of world culture.

The New Review is distributed throughout the world.

Current projects of The New Review, Inc.:

- The New Review / Novyi Zhurnal, quarterly
- International literary award named after Mark Aldanov – for the Best novel of the Diaspora
- RUSDOCFILMFEST, independent documentary film festival in New York
- 'Russian Emigration at the Cultural Crossroads of the 20th-21st Centuries'

The New Review is a non-profit organization.

The New Review, Inc.
1216 Broadway, Floor 2
New York, NY 10001

newreview@msn.com
www.newreviewinc.com
www.rusdocfilmfest.org

14TH ANNUAL INDEPENDENT DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL IN NEW YORK – RUSDOCFILMFEST



The 14th Annual Independent Documentary Film Festival in New York will take place on October 18-24, 2021. ONLINE THEATER screenings will be held through the RUSDOCFILMFEST online platform during the festival week. The online program will be organized according to Eastern Daylight Time. Tickets for the ONLINE THEATER can be purchased at https://rusdocfilmfest.org. Please see additional instructions on the festival website at https://rusdocfilmfest.org.

MANHATTAN THEATERS. The screenings at the Manhattan theaters will be held on October 23-24. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this information will be updated following official New York guidelines during the first week of October.

All films will be in their original language with English subtitles.

The films will be shown online in a closed format: a one-time password will be provided with each ticket purchase which will allow one view of the film in the Online Theater (on the festival website) according to the program schedule. This will mimic the real-life theatre-going experience but will be conducted online.

The festival program includes carefully selected documentaries from the past three years created by filmmakers from (in alphabetic order): Armenia, Bulgaria, Chile, Georgia, Moldova Republic, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, and the USA. All European documentaries are American premieres.
Most of the films are laureates of international film-festivals.

PROGRAM ‘FREE WORLD’

(in ABC-order):

- BLESS YOU (Poland / Russia)
- BUSY INSIDE (USA)
- DORA (USA)
- INTENT TO DESTROY: DEATH, DENIAL, & DEPICTION (USA)
- LISTYEV. A NEW PERSPECTIVE (Russia)
- MOUNTAIN JEWS – JUHURO (USA)
- POLITZEK IS THE NEW BLACK (Russia)
- REMEMBRANCE: FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF THE HOLOCAUST (Russia / Moldova Republic)
- SHORT TUTORIAL ON RAISING SEALS (Russia)
- TEMPORARILY CLOSED (USA)
- THE DOSSIER OF LAUGHTER (Bulgaria)
- THE SAKHAROV CASE (Russia)
- TRUTH TO POWER (USA)
- WE ARE THE PAIN (Bulgaria)



PROGRAM ‘ETERNAL VALUES’

(in ABC order):

- ARBENIN’S MASK (Chile)
- ALILO. THE REBIRTH OF GEORGIAN CHANTS (Russia / Georgia)
- BUROV & BUROV (Russia)
- COSTAKIS’ GIFT (Russia)
- RACHMANINOFF REVISITED (USA)
- SERG HOLLERBACH. A RUSSIAN PAINTER IN NEW YORK (USA)
- A SHROUD OF INCENSE (Russia)
- STANISLAVSKY: LUST FOR LIFE (Russia)
- THE MERCHANT AT ALL TIMES. THE VIRTUAL MUSEUM OF SERGEI DIAGHILEV (Russia)
- THE RUSSIAN RONDO OF NATALIA SHAKHOVSKAYA (Russia)
- TSVETAEVA. OPEN (Russia)
- THE TALE OF THE REAL FISSON (Russia)

PROGRAM ‘FRESH LOOK’

(in ABC order)

- EXCLUSION ZONE (Russia / Ukraine)
- EXPEDITION. BETWEEN ANTARCTICA AND ARCTIC (Russia)
- FIREFIGHTER. THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER (Russia)
- MAGDALENA (USA)
- SHADOWS OF YOUR CHILDHOOD (Russia)

PROGRAM 'FREE WORLD'

- **BLESS YOU!** (Poland / Russia)
- **BUSY INSIDE** (USA)
- **DORA** (USA)
- **INTENT TO DESTROY: DEATH, DENIAL AND DEPICTION** (USA)
- **LISTYEV. A NEW PERSPECTIVE** (Russia)
- **MOUNTAIN JEWS – JUHURO** (USA)
- **POLITZEK IS THE NEW BLACK** (Russia)
- **REMEMBRANCE: FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF THE HOLOCAUST** (Russia / Moldova Republic)
- **A SHORT TUTORIAL ON RAISING SEALS** (Russia)
- **TEMPORARILY CLOSED** (USA)
- **THE DOSSIER OF LAUGHTER** (Bulgaria)
- **THE SAKHAROV CASE** (Russia)
- **TRUTH TO POWER** (USA)
- **WE ARE THE PAIN** (Bulgaria)



SPECIAL SCREENING

PROGRAM 'FREE WORLD'

INTENT TO DESTROY: DEATH, DENIAL AND DEPICTION

The film is part of a special festival program dedicated to the victims of the Armenian genocide in 1915-16. Decades before the Holocaust happened, the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire were the first to face systematic extermination by a modern government. In 1915-16 the Turks murdered an estimated 1.5 million Armenians as part of their jihad, but this tragedy is still not a part of history curriculums. Still, the memories of this mass murder remain vivid for the descendants of victims. Using Terry George's 2016 historical romance, The Promise, as a leitmotif, Oscar-nominated director Joe Berlinger takes a deep look at this tragedy. This includes on-set filming and interviews with the cast and crew of The Promise, as well as interviews with professors, journalists and filmmakers, as well as archival footage from victims' descendants.

Director: Joe Berlinger
Production: Joe Berlinger for Third Eye Motion Picture Co., Eric Esrailian for Survival Pictures, Dave O'Connor for Radical Media
Executive producers: Anthony Mandekic, Patricia L. Glaser, Dan Taylor, Sheri Sani, Jon Kamen, Dave O'Connor, Justin Wilkes
Music: Serj Tankian
Duration: 1'55"
Language: English
2017 | USA



Joseph Berlinger
is an a two-time Emmy winning filmmaker who focuses on true crime documentaries.
Awards: Academy Awards for the Best Documentary, Outstanding Directing for Nonfiction Programming Features;
Emmy: 2-time winner, 3-time nominee;
2019 Career Achievement Award in directing "Intent to Destroy", and others.



PROGRAM 'FREE WORLD'

SPECIAL SCREENING

TRUTH TO POWER

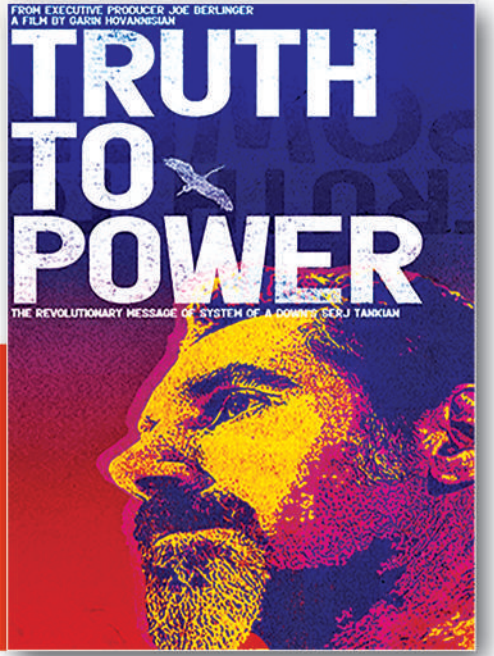
Written and Directed: Garin Hovannisian
Producers: Serj Tankian, Garin Hovannisian
Executive Producers: Joe Berlinger, Michael Rapino, Ryan Kroft
Music: Serj Tankian
Presented: Oscilloscope Laboratories
Duration: 79'
Language: English
2020 | USA

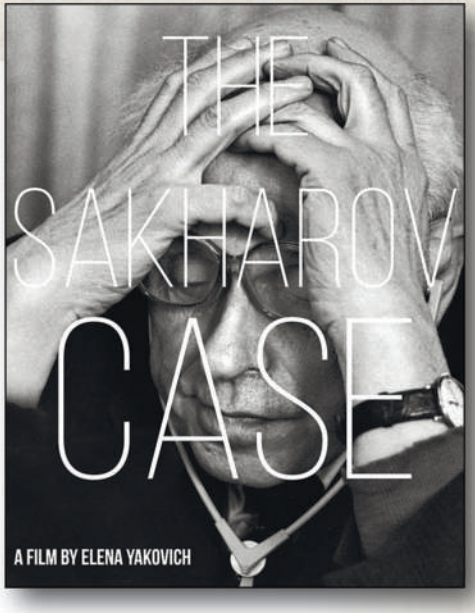
Governments hate him. People love him. Can one man change the world? Yes. International heavy metal rock star **Serj Tankian** has shown it's possible. This film utilizes exclusive interviews and original footage, granting audiences backstage access to Serj, whose faith in music not only revolutionized heavy metal, but also world events. The musician has pursued social justice, harnessing the power of his songs and celebrity status for political change. Serj's indomitable voice is just as likely to take on American corporate greed, as well as lambast the corrupt regime of his homeland. His decades-long campaign for formal U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide was finally confirmed by Congress. The film is part of a special festival program dedicated to all victims of the Armenian genocide in 1915-16.



Garin Hovannisian *wrote about Armenia's struggles for democracy and justice in his book Family of Shadows (2010). His debut film, 1915, (2015) won Armenia's top film prize and his acclaimed documentary, I Am Not Alone, (2020) received many audience awards.*

The film is part of a special festival program dedicated to all victims of the Armenian genocide in 1915-16





THE SAKHAROV CASE

He was the moral conscience of a captive nation, the most visible symbol of resistance to the Soviet regime. Creator of the hydrogen bomb, Andrei Sakharov was Russia's most famous fighter for human rights and a Nobel Peace Prize winner. He lived under six Soviet rulers and hoped he could influence their decisions, but along the way he influenced society.
On May 21, 2021, the world famous scientist would have turned 100.

The documentary film by TEFI award winner Elena Yakovich tells about the difficult fate and incredible strength of Sakharov's spirit, and how his legacy lives on.

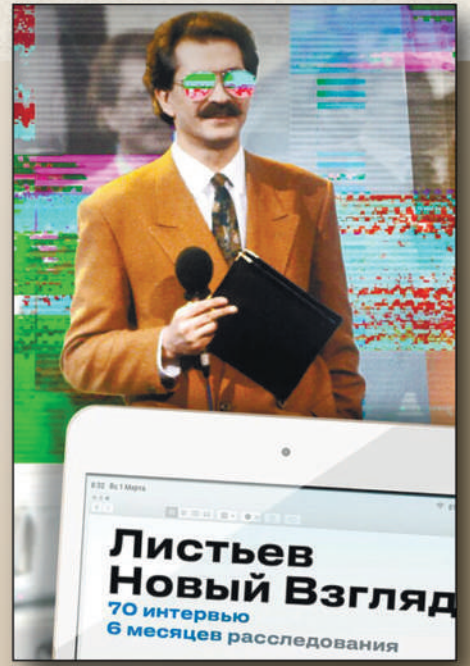
Director/Producer: Elena Yakovich
Studio: RACORD-TV / Channel One Russia
Channel One Russia producers: Svetlana Kolosova, Oleg Volnov, Konstantin Ernst
Duration: 118'29"
Language: Russian, English subtitles
2021 | Russia



Elena Yakovich
is a film-director, and a creator of documentaries about Joseph Brodsky, Sergey Dovlatov, Victor Nekrasov, Vasilii Aksenov, Ernst Neizvestny, and others.

PROGRAM 'FREE WORLD'

LISTYEV. A NEW PERSPECTIVE



In the 1990s, waves of crime and corruption flooded post-soviet Russia, and no murder better summed up that lawless era as that of journalist and TV executive Vladislav Listyev.
But the perpetrators of the most high-profile contract murder in the mid 1990s have never been found. Director Rodion Chepel decided to conduct his own investigation. He wants to know the name of the person who ordered the killing, and so he made dozens of interviews with colleagues, friends and relatives of Listyev, as well as with police investigators. Everyone tries to answer the main question: Who killed Listyev?



Rodion Chapel
is a leading Russian journalist and reporter, famous as one of the creators of the series of programs, 'This is a Real Story.'



Maria Serpionova
Producer

Director: Rodion Chepel
Producer: Maria Serpionova
Creative producers: Igor Sadreev, Alexander Urzhanov
Executive Producers: Rodion Chepel, Anya Shinkaretskaya
Studio: LLC 'Arnurskie Volny'
Duration: 102'
Language: Russian, English subtitles
Parts: 1-2
2020 | Russia



POLITZEK IS THE NEW BLACK

Political protest culture in Putin's Russia has spawned a new form of intellectual and social identity. Moscow street protests in the summer of 2019 were caused by the exclusion of independent candidates from elections to the Moscow City Duma. While protestors were brutally dispersed by riot police, the protests inspired many, despite the arrests and criminal cases against activists. In the end, these detentions and injustices mobilized new forces of solidarity among human rights defenders and ordinary activist citizens, especially young people. Supporting political prisoners is now the new trend. But for how long?

Director: Konstantin Davydkin,
Producer: Maria Muskevich
Studio: Center 'Film Making' / Regista
Duration: 60'
Language: Russian, English subtitles
2020 | Russia



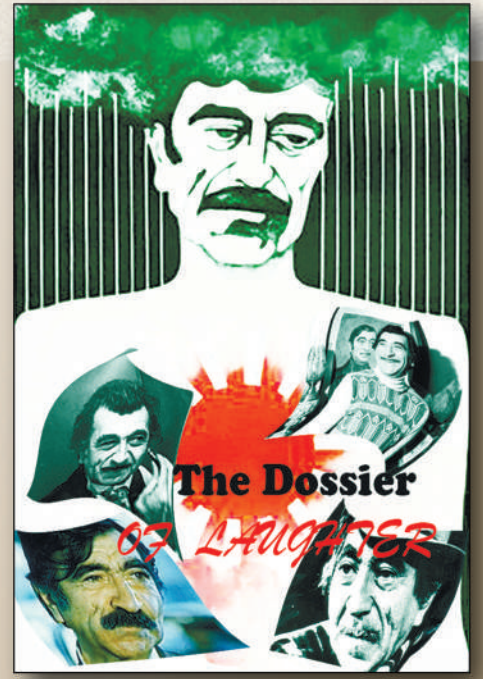
Konstantin Davydkin
graduated from the Higher Courses for Script Writers and Directors.
Since 2003 he has authored and directed many documentary films.



Maria Muskevich
Vice President of the Guild of Non-Fiction Film and Television for the Development of the Film Club Network

PROGRAM 'FREE WORLD'

THE DOSSIER OF LAUGHTER



Humor was viewed as a highly subversive activity in communist times, and comedians fell under the close gaze of the secret police. This film is about Bulgaria's 'King of Comedy' – the tragic story of life, love, and destiny of a free man under communist dictatorship. Georgi Ivanov Partsalev was a famous Bulgarian actor known for his great theatrical and cinema roles and his LGBT lifestyle at a time when it was repressed. This is the story of how and why the communist secret service spied on the famous actor in the 1950s/1960s, and how gathered surveillance information about him was used over the years by the Communist Party. Partsalev's secret police dossier bears witness to a time when the repressive state apparatus of the communist regime was used to reshape society and control every aspect of life.



Oleg Kovachev
is a director/writer/director of photography of dozens of films. He was behind the re-opening of the legendary Vlaikova cinema in Sofia.



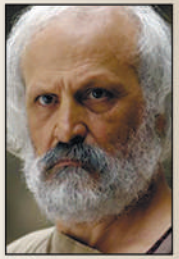
Maria Cherneva
Executive producer

Director: Oleg Kovachev;
Executive producer: Maria Cherneva
Studio: Bulgarian National Television
Duration: 28'30''
Language: Bulgarian, English subtitles
2020 | Bulgaria



WE ARE THE PAIN

In Bulgaria, intellectuals who lived under Soviet rule stood at a crossroads and had to face difficult questions that determined their fate. Many collaborated with the regime. Some did not and paid a high price for their independent spirit. This is a film about three leading Bulgarian writers – Rashko Sugarev (1941-1995), Binyo Ivanov (1939-1998) and Lyuben Petkov (1939-2016) – whose work would do honor to any national literature. Born in the war-years, their childhood was in the starving post-war decades; their upbringing forged by the Soviet Bulgarian state devoid of freedom and independent thought. Nevertheless, these writers, these three friends, created their own independent world of literature. This is not a film about their books and poems. Rather, it's the story of how important events in their lives put them before a choice – What should they do, and what should they be? Citizens or lackeys of the regime?



Boyan Papazov
is a Bulgarian writer, playwright, and director. He was an MP in the Grand National Assembly (1990-1991), and is an author of successful theater plays.

Director/Producer: Boyan Papazov
Studio: ARS Digital Studio /ARS Ltd
Duration: 84'35"
Language: Bulgarian, English subtitles
2020 | Bulgaria

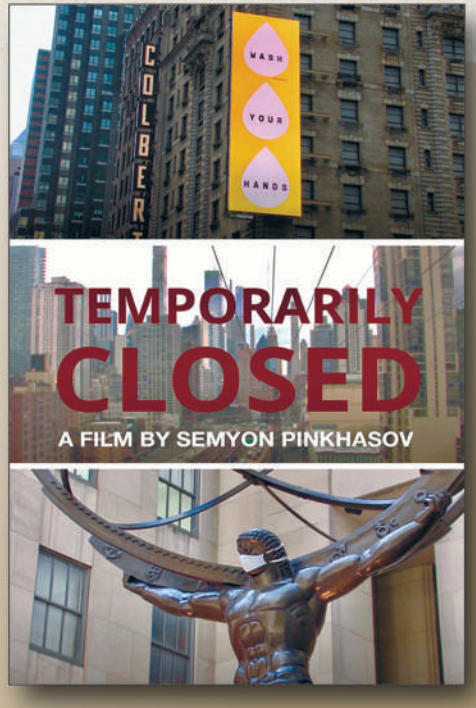
PROGRAM 'FREE WORLD'

TEMPORARILY CLOSED

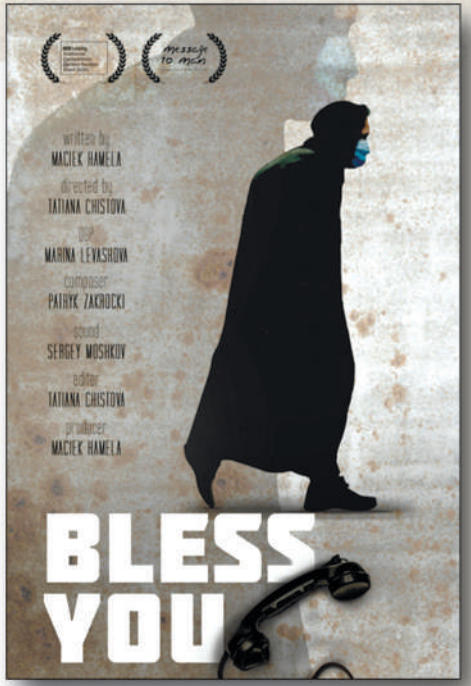
Spring 2020 – the Covid-19 pandemic has New York City in its grip. Not a soul on the streets and no traffic in Midtown Manhattan, except for the wailing sirens of emergency vehicles taking the ill to hospitals. Parks, theaters, malls, offices, subway trains and city buses – all of them empty. When people go outside to buy food, masking wearing is mandatory. The death rate is on the rise. After the initial shock, however, the city begins to fight back. Nurses and doctors from around the country come here to help, businesses begin food delivery programs, and slowly life returns to normalcy. Eventually, parks are busy with music and entertainment. The city is back. Life has returned to a new normal.



Semyon Pinkhasov
emigrated to the U.S. and became a celebrated fencing coach and human rights activist. Eventually he turned his energy to making documentary films that focus on individuality in the face of totalitarianism.



Director/Producer: Semyon Pinkhasov
Duration: 40'
Language: English
2021 | USA



BLESS YOU!

When the Covid-19 pandemic reached Russia in spring 2020 the government imposed a strict lockdown on its population of elderly. Millions were stranded in their flats, some living without immediate family and kin, and lacking access to medication and even food. A municipal helpline was established for those seeking assistance in this dire situation. This film allows us to listen to some of the hundreds of phone calls received each day by the helpline. These conversations give rare insight into the anxieties of those who grew up in the USSR, and who have been largely left to fend for themselves since the fall of communism.



Tatiana Chistova
is Russian director and screenwriter. She has worked as assistant director in Lenfilm Studio with world-famous directors such as Alexander Sokurov, Sergey Bodrov, and Alexey Balabanov.



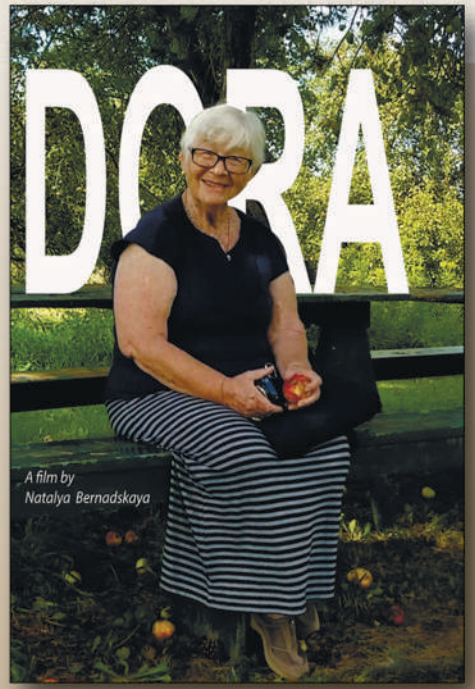
Maciek Hamela
Filmmaker and producer of documentary and fiction films, cofounder of Impakt Film, a Warsaw-based production house specialized in arthouse cinema and international co-productions.

Director: Tatiana Chistova
Producer/Author of idea: Maciek Hamela
Studio: Impakt Film
Duration: 31 min
Language: Russian with English subtitles
2021 | Poland / Russia

PROGRAM 'FREE WORLD'

DORA

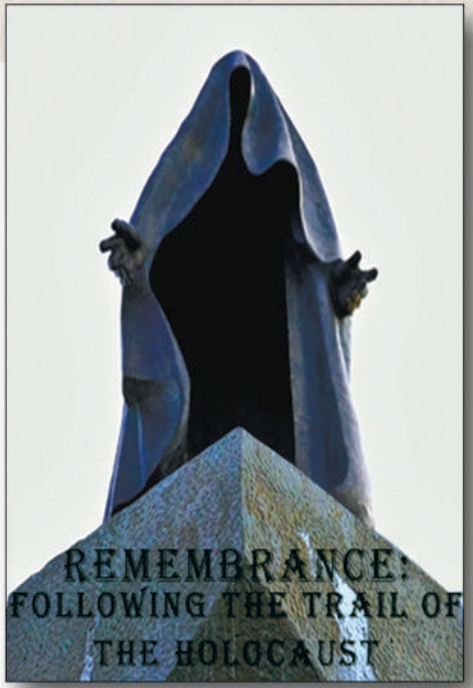
How does one come to terms with a world that has displayed ferocious evil over the past century, especially when one has personally witnessed such horrors? This film is the unusual story of a Jewish woman, a Holocaust survivor, who, as a child during the Nazi occupation of Odessa (Ukraine), found herself in a ghetto and then a death camp. She survived, however, thanks to an incredible and miraculous confluence of circumstances. By telling the true story of this woman's fate, the film shows the importance of not losing our historical memory, not forgetting the terrible and tragic past, and yet still knowing that the world is full of good.





Natalya Bernadskaya
is a film director, scriptwriter, editor and co-author of 'Sdelano v NY' online TV-project.
She came to the U.S. in the 1990s and lives in New York

Director: Natalya Bernadskaya
Studio: Sdelano v NY
Duration: 1:36
Language: Russian, English subtitles
2020 | USA



REMEMBRANCE: FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF THE HOLOCAUST

The tragedy of the Holocaust in large part took place in Germany, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine and the Baltic States, and the crimes in those countries have been well documented. But what about the Jews of Moldova, which today is an independent country that was part of Romania during World War II? More than 75 years since the Holocaust, Yury and Tatyana Zagorcha still gather accounts of Jewish victims in northern Moldova, looking for unnamed graves and setting up monuments at massacre sites. Irina Shihova from Chisinau is a historian researching the Holocaust, and together with her colleagues, she has put dozens of forgotten Jewish cemeteries, synagogues and memorial sites back on Moldova's map.

Director: Eugene Bezborodov
Producer: Alexey Gorovatsky
Studio: Gold Medium Television Company
Duration: 26'
Language: Russian, English subtitles
2020 | Russia / Moldova Republic



Evgeny Bezborodov *has produced over 100 documentaries for Russia's television channels. His main fields of work are history, culture, the arts and ecology.*

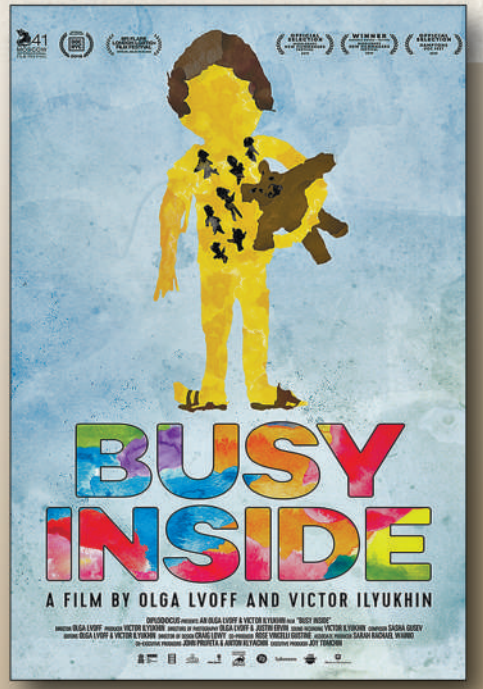


Alexey Gorovatsky *Producer*

PROGRAM 'FREE WORLD'

BUSY INSIDE

This film is a journey into the mind's deepest recesses, an exposé of its complexities as you've never seen before. Karen Marshall specializes in the treatment of Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), a condition linked to a history of childhood abuse. But Karen is more than a therapist. She juggles 17 distinct personalities of her own. The film explores the intricacies of DID and its treatment as Karen helps her patient, Marshay Smith, a talented Black-Latina musician, confront past trauma and embrace her six distinct personalities. The film will cause audiences to question their own personality – is it a function of our brain, a social mask, or an illusion?





Olga Lvoff *is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and a member of The European Film Academy.*



Victor Ilyukhin *is a non-fiction producer who has worked internationally in documentary film and television.*

Directors /Producers: Olga Lvoff, Victor Ilyukhin
Studio: Diplodocus Films
Duration: 70'
Language: English
2019 | USA

Awards: Best feature documentary nomination at Moscow International Film Festival in 2019; The Audience Award for Best Feature at Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in 2019.



A SHORT TUTORIAL ON RAISING SEALS

As climate change intensifies and radically alters ecosystems and animal behavior, Russia's second largest city is enjoying a most unusual surprise. On the banks of St. Petersburg's Neva River, people begin to notice young seals in the spring. There are about 30,000 Baltic seals left, but they've never been spotted so far east, on St. Petersburg's shores. Or maybe they were simply good at hiding from humans and were never noticed before. Now, the people of St. Petersburg can see those amazing sea creatures who are not typical for the city. The film reflects the beauty of local wildlife, and shows how humans can live in harmony with these denizens of the sea.

Director: Vladimir Marin
Producers: Philipp Abrutin, Dmitry Yakunin, Olga Philonova
Studio: Producing Center 'Youth Initiatives'
Duration: 52'
Language: Russian, English subtitles
2020 | Russia



Vladimir Marin
is a director and screenwriter and head of the Shirshov Institute of Oceanology's video studio. He has taken part in 15 expeditions across the seas of Russia.

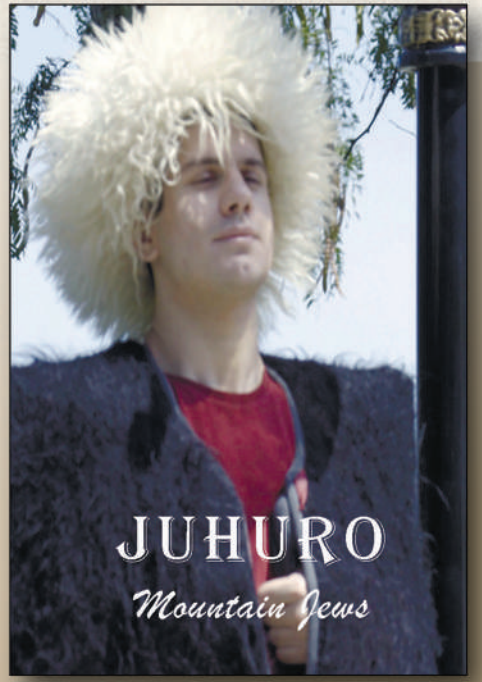
PROGRAM 'FREE WORLD'

MOUNTAIN JEWS – JUHURO

They are the forgotten Jews, living for more than 2,000 years in one of the most remote regions on Earth – the Caucasus region. Initially, these Jews lived in small villages, but during times of conflict they were persecuted, and so eventually they fled to cities that had mighty fortress walls. This is how the Jewish communities of Derbent, Nalchik, and others in the region coalesced. The filmmakers wanted to see how they live today, what they think, and what they're planning. The film was made in the Mountain Jews' historical places of residence: Azerbaijan, Dagestan, and Kabardia, as well as their new places of residence: in Russia, Israel, and the U.S.



Robert Azariev
was born in Derbent, Dagestan (USSR) and came to the U.S. in 1993 where he studied at Columbia University.
He then worked for Morgan Stanley and AIG as a financial analyst.
This is his debut film.



Director/ Producer: Robert Azaryev
Duration: 58:44
Language: Russian, English subtitles
2021 | USA

PROGRAM 'ETERNAL VALUES'

- **ARBENIN'S MASK** (Chile)
- **ALILO. THE REBIRTH OF GEORGIAN CHANTS** (Russia / Georgia)
- **BUROV & BUROV** (Russia)
- **COSTAKIS' GIFT** (Russia)
- **RACHMANINOFF REVISITED** (USA)
- **SERGE HOLLERBACH. A RUSSIAN PAINTER IN NEW YORK** (USA)
- **A SHROUD OF INCENSE** (Russia)
- **STANISLAVSKY: LUST FOR LIFE** (Russia)
- **THE MERCHANT AT ALL TIMES. THE VIRTUAL MUSEUM OF SERGEI DIAGHILEV** (Russia)
- **THE RUSSIAN RONDO OF NATALIA SHAKHOVSKAYA** (Russia)
- **TSVETAEVA. OPEN** (Russia)
- **THE TALE OF THE REAL FISSON** (Russia)



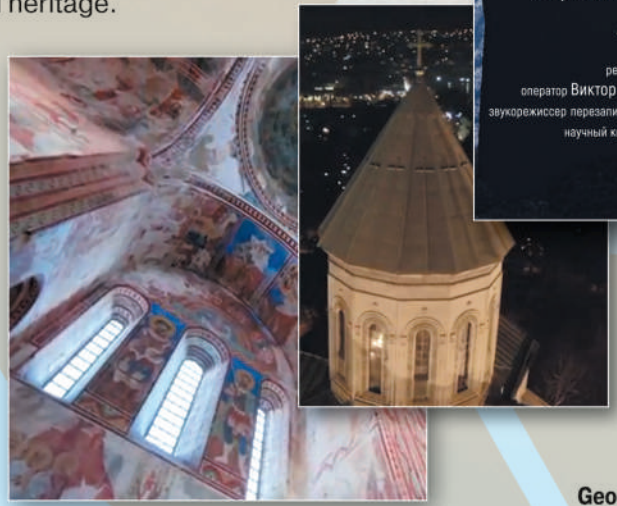
PROGRAM 'ETERNAL VALUES'

ALILO. THE REBIRTH OF GEORGIAN CHANTS

In the Caucasus region, on the border where Europe meets the Middle East, is one of Earth's oldest nations. The Georgian people are heirs to an ancient tradition of religious singing. This film is a journey to that fabulous country, a story about Georgia's exquisite Orthodox Christian chants. Scholars say, 'the best that people have dedicated to God are the Georgian chants.' They are precious gems in mankind's musical heritage.

The film features the finest performances, bringing the audience into contact with the spiritual heights of the Georgian people.







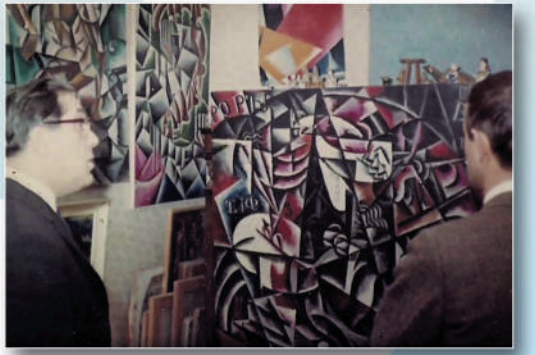
Filipp Orlyansky
was born in Sochi, Russia, and is working on a documentary series titled Angelic Chants, which is dedicated to ancient church chants of different countries.

Director / Producer:
Filipp Orlyansky
Duration: 100 min
Language:
Georgian, Russian, English subtitles
2021 | Russia / Georgia



COSTAKIS' GIFT

During the brutal years of Soviet repression, George Costakis somehow managed to secretly gather and preserve in his Moscow apartment some of the greatest works of the Russian Avant-garde art. The film features the collector's daughter Alika, artists, art critics, and museum curators sharing memories of Costakis. They disagree, and question each other's versions of his life. But through the fragments of their recollections the viewer can piece together the collector's multifaceted personality that was anything but simple.



Director: Elena Lobachevskaya
Producer: Natalia Opaleva
Production: AZ Museum
Duration: 59 min
Language: Russian, English subtitles
2020 | Russia



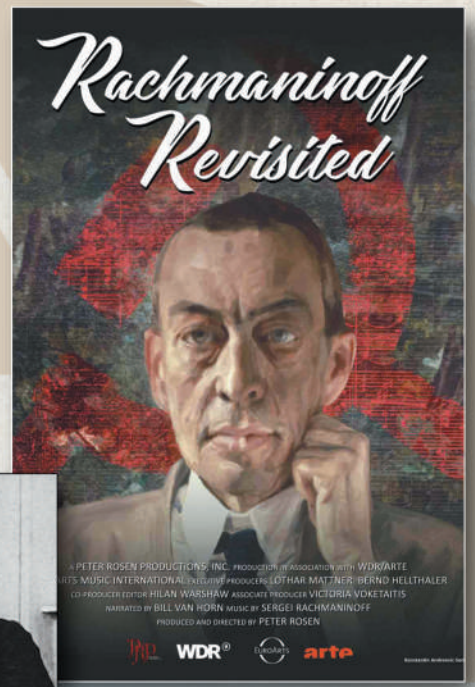
Elena Lobachevskaya *was born in Moscow and studied screenwriting at VGIK (the Russian Institute of Cinematography). This is her debut film.*

PROGRAM 'ETERNAL VALUES'

RACHMANINOFF REVISITED

A great pianist and composer, Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943), escaped from Soviet Russia in the 1920s and found a new life in his new homeland in the USA. This is the first comprehensive biography of Rachmaninoff. Featuring commentary and performances by today's most respected pianists, this is a story of overcoming hardship and eventual redemption through the power of music.

There are excerpts of recordings by Rachmaninoff, contrasted with performances by today's pianists who comment on differences or similarities of their approach.







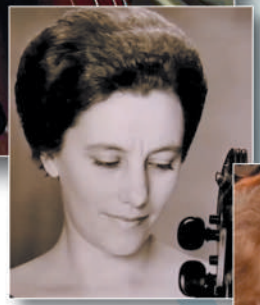
Peter Rosen *has produced and directed over 100 full-length films and TV programs that have won awards at major film festivals.*

Director / Producer: Peter Rosen
Studio: Peter Rosen Productions, Inc. for ARTE/WDR/EUROARTS
Duration: 50 min
Language: English
2020 | USA



THE RUSSIAN RONDO OF NATALIA SHAKHOVSKAYA

The film is the final message from a brilliant musician, a great teacher, and an amazing person, telling the story of the outstanding 20th-century cellist, Natalia Shakhovskaya, professor of the Moscow Conservatory and Reina Sofia School of Music, a holder of the honorary title People's Artist of the USSR. Natalia's name is etched in the history of both Russian and world music. She had many opportunities to leave Russia, but it was completely unacceptable, because for her, the notion of the Motherland, honor, and dedication to music were sacred values. The Queen of Spain presented to Natalia the Civil Order of Knighthood of Alphonse X the Wise, and she has conformed to these knightly ideals and instilled them in her students.





Director / Producer: Irina Zaitseva
Studio: ARS Film Studio
Language: Russian, English subtitles
Duration: 77 min
2019 | Russia



Irina Zaitseva
is a film director and head of ARS Studios. She has written and directed more than 20 documentaries.

PROGRAM 'ETERNAL VALUES'

SERGE HOLLERBACH. A RUSSIAN PAINTER IN NEW YORK





Serge Hollerbach (1923–2021) was one of the most celebrated painters in New York, academician of the National Academy of Design, beneficiary of the most prestigious American and European art awards. Though Serge was legally blind when the film was made, he creates two paintings separated in time by a period of four years during which he has visibly aged and his vision has declined. While painting he discusses art, his time working as a slave laborer in Nazi Germany during World War II, as well as emigrating to the U.S. and starting a new life in New York City, and analyzing his long 95-years path of life.

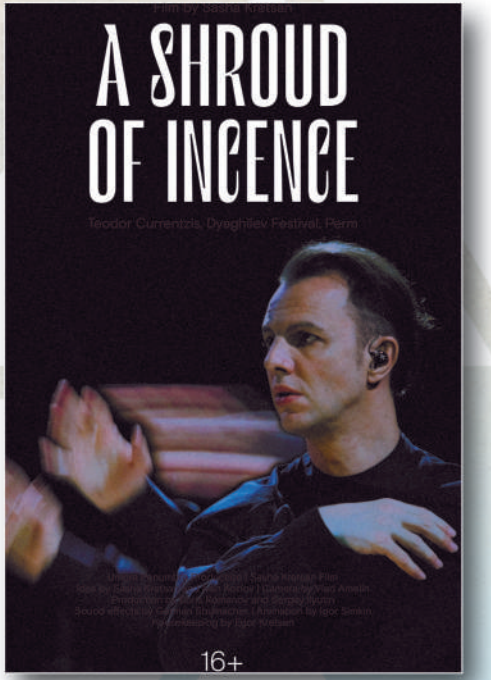


Brian Schumacher
(co-director and co-producer) is a practicing artist and educator. He is also creative director of The Vision & Art Project.



A'Dora Phillips
(co-director and co-producer) runs the Vision & Art Project, a non-profit initiative that documents the lives and work of artists with vision loss.

Director: A'Dora Phillips
Producer: Brian Schumacher
Production: The Vision & Art Project
Executive Producer:
The American Macular Degeneration Foundation (AMDF)
Language: English, Russian with English Subtitles
Duration: 24:33 min
2020 | USA



A SHROUD OF INCENSE

Teodor Currentzis is one of the most prestigious present-day conductors. His interpretation of classical and contemporary music, his extraordinary manner of conducting, and his aesthetic reading of well-known music are inspirational for music admirers throughout the world. The Chief Conductor of the SWR Symphony Orchestra Stuttgart and Artistic Director of the ensemble MusicAeterna and of the MusicAeterna Chamber Choir, Currentzis has been welcomed at the leading concert halls of Europe. Born in Greece, Russia has become Teodor's home since the beginning of the 1990s. Currentzis spent seven years working in Perm, Russia. Combining his knowledge and passion for early music with contemporary composers and new music, Teodor started the Territoria Modern Art Festival, which in a short space of time has become the most prestigious and progressive annual music festival in Moscow; he has also curated the Diaghilev Festival.

This film is the story of two weeks spent with the famous conductor during one of Russia's biggest festivals of contemporary art.

Director: Sasha Kretsan
Studio: Umbra Penumbra, Sasha Kretsan Film
Duration: 64 min
Language: Russian, English subtitles
2019 | Russia



Sasha Kretsan *is a founder of the Umbra Penumbra studio and one of the most successful YouTube channels in Russian.*

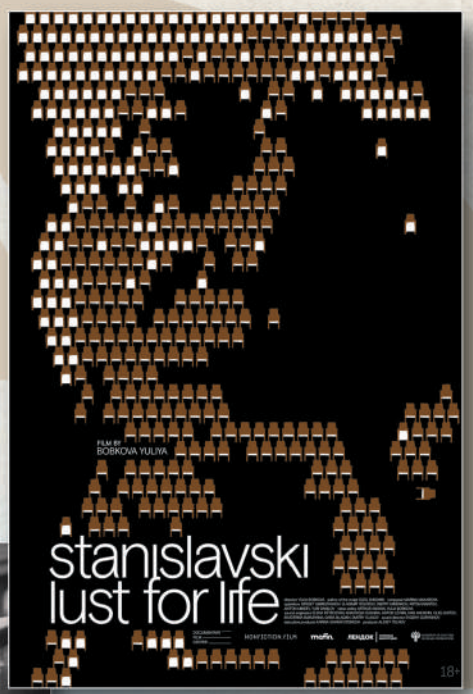
PROGRAM 'ETERNAL VALUES'

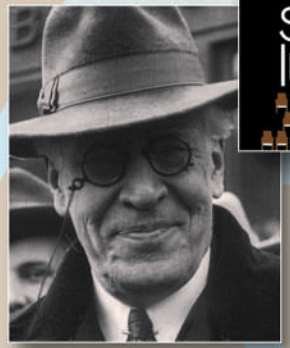
STANISLAVSKY: LUST FOR LIFE

The pillars of modern theater are in large part built upon the genius of a Tsarist-era theater director, Konstantin Stanislavsky. Students around the world train according to his 'Stanislavsky system'. This film explores the acting profession and its impact on viewers. Using rare footage from archives in Russia, the US, Germany and France, the author tells about the life and legacy of the great Russian theater master, about his revolutionary system that changed the world. The film includes interviews with famous actors and their teachers, directors, and producers.



Yulia Bobkova
works at Ostrov Studio in Moscow as a director and scriptwriter.





Director: Yulia Bobkova
Producer: Alexey Telnov
Studio: Lendoc
Language: Russian, English Subtitles
2020 | Russia



TSVETAEVA. OPEN

Poet Marina Tsvetaeva (1892-1941) was one of Russia's greatest 20th century literary geniuses, but long after her death, suddenly her reputation became sullied over revelations that she had abandoned her daughter in 1919. Her life still provokes much discussion and antagonistic interpretations since her suicide in 1940. This film gathered Russian celebrities – artists and writers – to respond to the accusations hurled at Marina Tsvetaeva. Based on letters, diaries and archival documents, the film reveals the most personal details of Tsvetaeva's life from 1917 to 1922, which was a time of Revolution and Civil War.

It's impossible to explain what Tsvetaeva's true motives were. The director seeks to air an alternative point of view to the insults.



Director/ producer:
Alla Damsker, Anatoly Bely
Production Studio: NonFictionFilm
Language: Russian, English Subtitles
Duration: 68:58
2021 | Russia

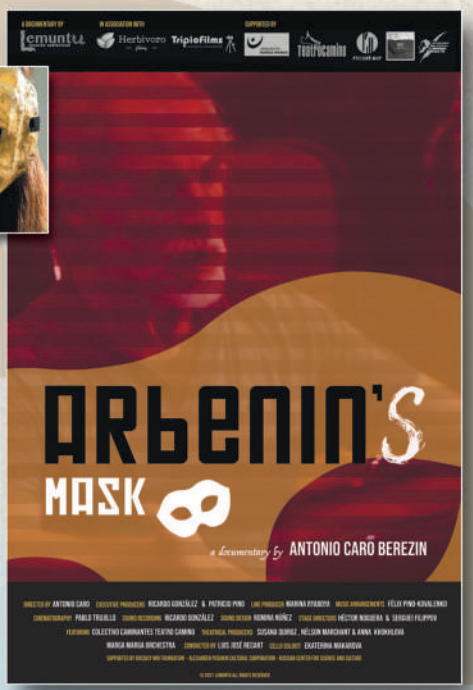


Alla Damsker
was born in St. Petersburg and graduated from the Russian State Institute of Performing Arts.

PROGRAM 'ETERNAL VALUES'

ARBENIN'S MASK





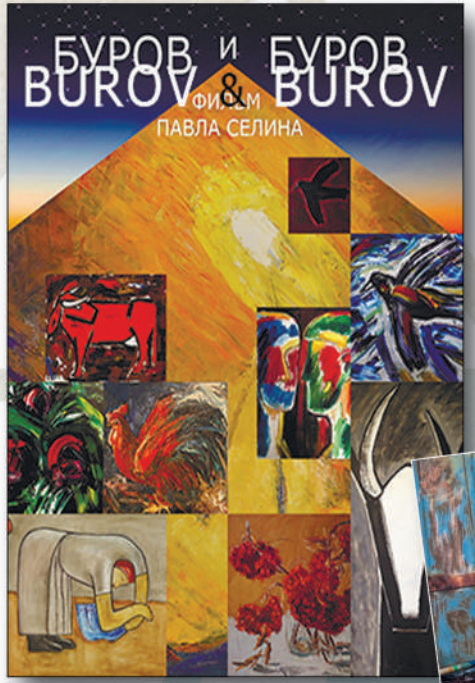
When Russian culture interacts with South American social mores, the results can be slightly awkward. Sergey, a theatre director who graduated from Moscow's renowned GITIS, arrives in Chile to participate in a homage to the Imperial era poet Mikhail Lermontov (1814-1841), who was tragically killed in a duel. Sergey studies Lermontov's play Masquerade, which had been censored and forbidden by the Tsarist government. Meanwhile, a Chilean group of actors learn the same texts in Spanish. But when the creative process touches upon rumors about the poet's life, some uncomfortable moments arise. It turns out Chile has different ways of dealing with culture, sexuality and censorship.





Antonio Caro Berezin *was born into a Chilean-Russian family. He is head of Lemuntu Producciones, where he creates documentaries dealing with intercultural relationships issues.*

Director: Antonio Caro Berezin
Producer: Antonio Caro Berezin, Ricardo Gonzalez Serrano
Production:
Lemuntu Producciones (Chile)
Executive Producers:
Ricardo Gonzalez Serrano, Patricio Pino
Duration: 50 min
Language: Spanish, English Subtitles
2021 | Chile

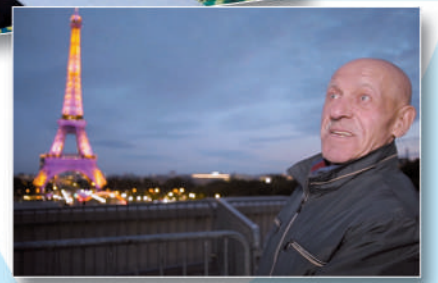


BUROV & BUROV

Two Russian brothers, both natural artistic geniuses. Alexander and Vladimir Burov are residents of the small village of Fedorovka-1 in the steppe in Southern-Central Russia. Alexander is a realist; Vladimir is an abstractionist. They live in the same world, but each sees it in his own way. Their relationship is complex. They live on neighboring streets, but creative jealousy flares up. Alexander is a member of the Union of Artists, and Vladimir is a hermit who can't stand public exhibitions.

The art historians who discovered them speak of the brothers as world-class artists. The true story of this rural 'Russian Cain and Abel' comes to a head at their personal exhibition in France, which was organized by their admirer.





Director: Pavel Selin
Producers: Svetlana Chernomyrdina, Pavel Selin
Production: Chernomyrdin Museum, TV Culture
Duration: 45:00
Language: Russian with English subtitles
2021 | Russia



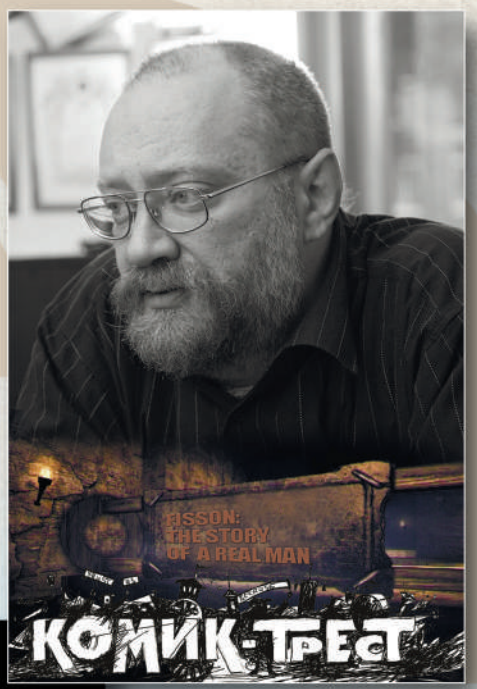
Pavel Selin
was born in Buryatia, Russia, and currently works as a television host and director of documentary films.

PROGRAM 'ETERNAL VALUES'

THE TALE OF THE REAL FISSON

Though confined to a wheelchair, he was one of modern Russia's greatest comic geniuses. Vadim Fisson was a creator, director, and the artistic genius behind the Comic Trust, the world famous St. Petersburg theater. While officially classified as a 'person with disabilities', he lived a dynamic life and conquered all the tragic vicissitudes of fate with his boundless talent, wisdom, and humor. The theater that he gave birth to, the Comic Trust, continues to live on and bring joy to thousands across Russia and the world.







Svetlana Nasenkova *is a filmmaker of the St. Petersburg Documentary Film Studio, and member of the Union of Cinematographers.*



Director: Svetlana Nasenkova
Studio: St. Petersburg Documentary Film Studio
Duration: 26 min
Language:
Russian with English subtitles
2018 | Russia



THE MERCHANT AT ALL TIMES.

THE VIRTUAL MUSEUM OF SERGEI DIAGHILEV

Dedicated to the 20th century's greatest impresario, this film is a journey through the 'virtual' museum of Sergei Diaghilev. Each room displays a different area of Diaghilev's activities. The 'excursion' is led by 'guides' – famous figures in disciplines related to the work of Diaghilev, including ballet great dancer Nikolai Tsiskaridze; as well as fashion historian Alexandre Vassilyev. The focus is not only on Diaghilev's new artistic ideas, but also on his talent as an organizer, as well as his discoveries in the field of producing, public relations and advertising.

Director: Svetlana Astretsova
Producers: IlmirYusupov, Svetlana Astresova
Studio: The Cherry Orchard
Duration: 44 minutes
Language: Russian, English subtitles
2017 | Russia





Svetlana Astresova
worked in Information Programs for Kultura TV channel; since 2015 she is a director and producer at the Cherry Orchard films.

PROGRAM 'FRESH LOOK'



- **EXCLUSION ZONE** (Russia / Ukraine)
- **EXPEDITION. BETWEEN ANTARCTICA AND ARCTIC** (Russia)
- **FIREFIGHTER. THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER** (Russia)
- **MAGDALENA** (USA)
- **SHADOWS OF YOUR CHILDHOOD** (Russia)

EXCLUSION ZONE

When the Chernobyl nuclear power station exploded in 1985 it seemed that Time itself came to a halt for the towns and villages in the immediate vicinity. Indeed, life for residents in areas contaminated by radioactive fallout has remain frozen. In this film, the public hears testimonies from residents, who describe experiences that previously they wouldn't dare to speak aloud. While that fateful catastrophe seems to have faded into the distant past, the fact is that the consequences will still be felt for generations to come. Despite the lingering devastation and danger, something stops residents of contaminated areas from abandoning everything they have and moving to a safer and cleaner place. Why is that?



This genre is called 'post-apocalyptic documentary'. It's a post-reality technique in all its phantasmagoria, transmitted by traditional film means, revealing tomorrow's reality for all mankind.

- **Director: Julia Rytik** • **Producer: Arthur Miller** • **Sound Engineer: Ivan Apilat**
- **Production: GITR Film & TV School** • **Length: 12:43'**
- **Language: Ukrainian, Russian, English subtitles** • **2020** | **Россия**



Julia Rytik worked at the Gorky film studio. Since 2019, she has been working at Mir Media as an assistant director and editing director.

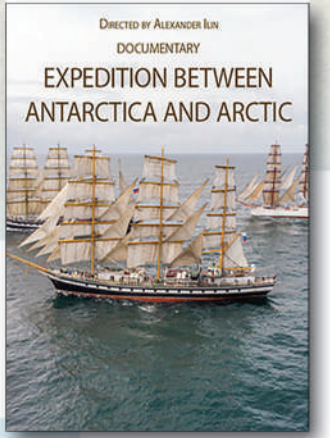


Arthur Miller producer.

PROGRAM 'FRESH LOOK'

EXPEDITION.
BETWEEN ANTARCTICA AND ARCTIC

Few people probably know that Russia has long been a great sea power. This film is about the round-the-world expedition of three Russian sailboats Kruzenshtern, Sedov and Pallada, that all went to Antarctica and the back to the Russian Arctic along the Northern Sea Route. The expedition was dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the discovery of Antarctica by Russian sailors in the Imperial Navy. Part of the cinematic shorts were made with a drone, a sky-high flying, 'unmanned camera'.



- **Director: Alexander Ilyin**
- **Duration: 51'**
- **Language: Russian, English subtitles.**
- **2020 | Russia**

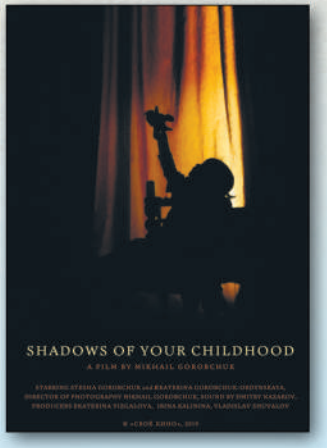


Alexander Ilyin
is a Member of the Union of Cinematographers of Russia, and a director of non-fiction and animation films.

PROGRAM 'FRESH LOOK'

SHADOWS OF YOUR CHILDHOOD

Just how much do we remember from our childhood and why is it important to us? Fragments of elusive memories, as well as voices and shimmers of light – these often are the flickering sensations of childhood. With this film, the director tries to capture his daughter's early years growing up, in order to provide her with her future memories – by creating an intricate labyrinth, where memories have their own path of development. Scenes and fragments cling to each other on an associative basis. In this video essay the director shows the process of the child's cognition of the world by utilizing cinematic techniques that play with light and shadows.



- **Written and directed by Mikhail Gorobchuk**
- **Producers: Ekaterina Vizgalova, Irina Kalinina, Vladislav Shuvalov**
- **Production: Mikhail Gorobchuk**
- **Music: Domenico Scarlatti, J. S. Bach**
- **Sound: Dmitry Nazarov**
- **Duration: 21:23'**
- **2020 | Russia**



Mikhail Gorobchuk
graduated from Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography (VGIK), Faculty of Cinematography. He's received numerous awards, including 'Best Cinematographer' in 2013.

FIREFIGHTER. THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER

Kirill Alatortsev



The first day of summer. A house is on fire. Labeled as a 'documentary thriller', this work was made by a blogger who is a professional firefighter. You'll feel yourself inside a 'bag of fire', inside a burning house. This is genuine and not a staged trick.

About the video project:

My name is Kirill, and I've been working in the 104th Fire Department of the Vsevolozhsk District since 2016, and since 2019 I'm head of the guard. I've put out more than 600 fires, and I'm not going to quit this exciting job. On June 1, at 6:00am, we got a call and packed in a minute and drove to the fire. Upon arrival, the building's attic was burning and the fire had already reached the first floor. I decided to turn on my breathing apparatus and go inside to put out the fire. After four hours we completely extinguished the blaze. The residents were very grateful because we had saved their personal possessions from destruction.



• Director: Kirill Alatortsev
• Production: 104th Fire Department
• Duration: 22:47 min
• Language: Russian, English subtitles.
• 2021 | Russia

MAGDALENA

This film is a story about a woman who survived the Holocaust. In the Fresh Look program, we certainly could not ignore a film that was shot on a mobile phone. The combination of incompatible things: The Holocaust, which we know only from newsreels (mostly black and white) and a modern means of communication – a smartphone, which each of us has in our pockets. The film was shot with a mobile phone.





Nina Zaretskaya
is an American filmmaker, a media art curator, a documentary producer; founder and director of the Art Media Center 'TV Gallery'.
Her filmography includes many remarkable documentaries about American-Russian artists and writers.

• Director: Nina Zaretskaya • Production: Art Media Center "TV Gallery"
• Duration: 4:53 min • Language: English • 2019 | USA

JURY members of the 14th RUSDOCFILMFEST

(in ABC order)

***JEFF BLIUMIS**, sculptor, creator of the festival Grand Prix;*

***NANCY CONDEE**, Professor of University of Pittsburgh, Director of the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures; Program for Film and Media Studies;*

***VITALY KOMAR**, artist, co-founder of the 'Sots-Art' / Soviet Pop Artmovement;*

***LUCY KOSTELANETZ**, independent documentary filmmaker, ex-president of the Flaherty Seminar (2000-2001);*

***BARNEY OLDFIELD**, Chairman of the Anthology Film Archive, member of New York's Center for Experimental and Independent Film, General Manager of Angelika Entertainment Corporation;*

***DAVID TAMES**, film critic, Professor of Northeastern University, co-founder of MIT TechTV, a video sharing site, member of the board of Filmmakers Collaborative.*




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FILM


ALINA & JEFF
BLIUMIS

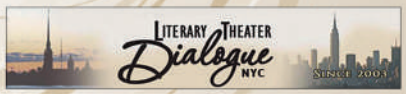

ALEX SOLDIER


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eddiz


PUSHKIN
Society in America
/founded in 1936/


KOLODZEI
ART FOUNDATION


LITERARY THEATER
Dialogue
NYC
SINCE 2004


MORA
MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ART


ARAA-OTRADA

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



Marina Adamovich



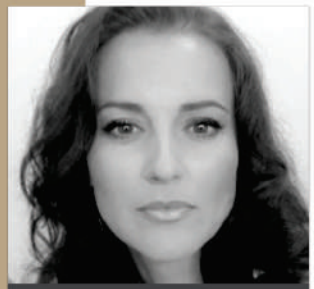
Anna Tcherepnine



Radik Shvarts



Edward Sorsher



Irina Aleshina



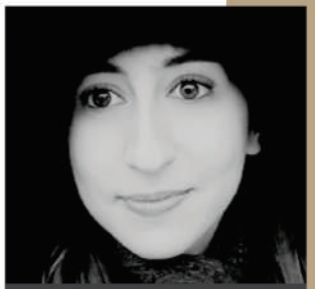
John Varoli



Elena Ulanovski



Ivan Adamovich



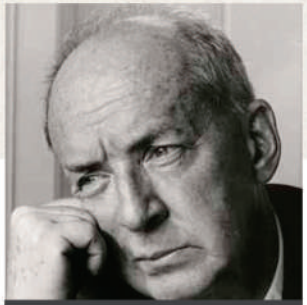
Anna Adamovich

THE NEW REVIEW CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

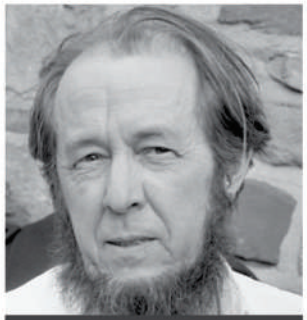

Ivan Bunin

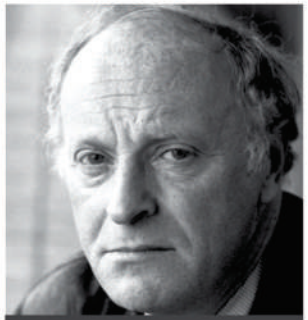

Mark Aldanov


Mikhail Tsetlin


Vladimir Nabokov


Boris Pasternak


Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn


Joseph Brodsky


Svetlana Aleksievich