

# SHORT SYNOPSIS

In occupied Ukraine, 30-year-old teacher Nina witnesses student
Andrii get arrested for hanging the Ukrainian flag, prompting her to
free him. As they gravitate towards each other they try to remind
people and themselves they deserve a future, too.

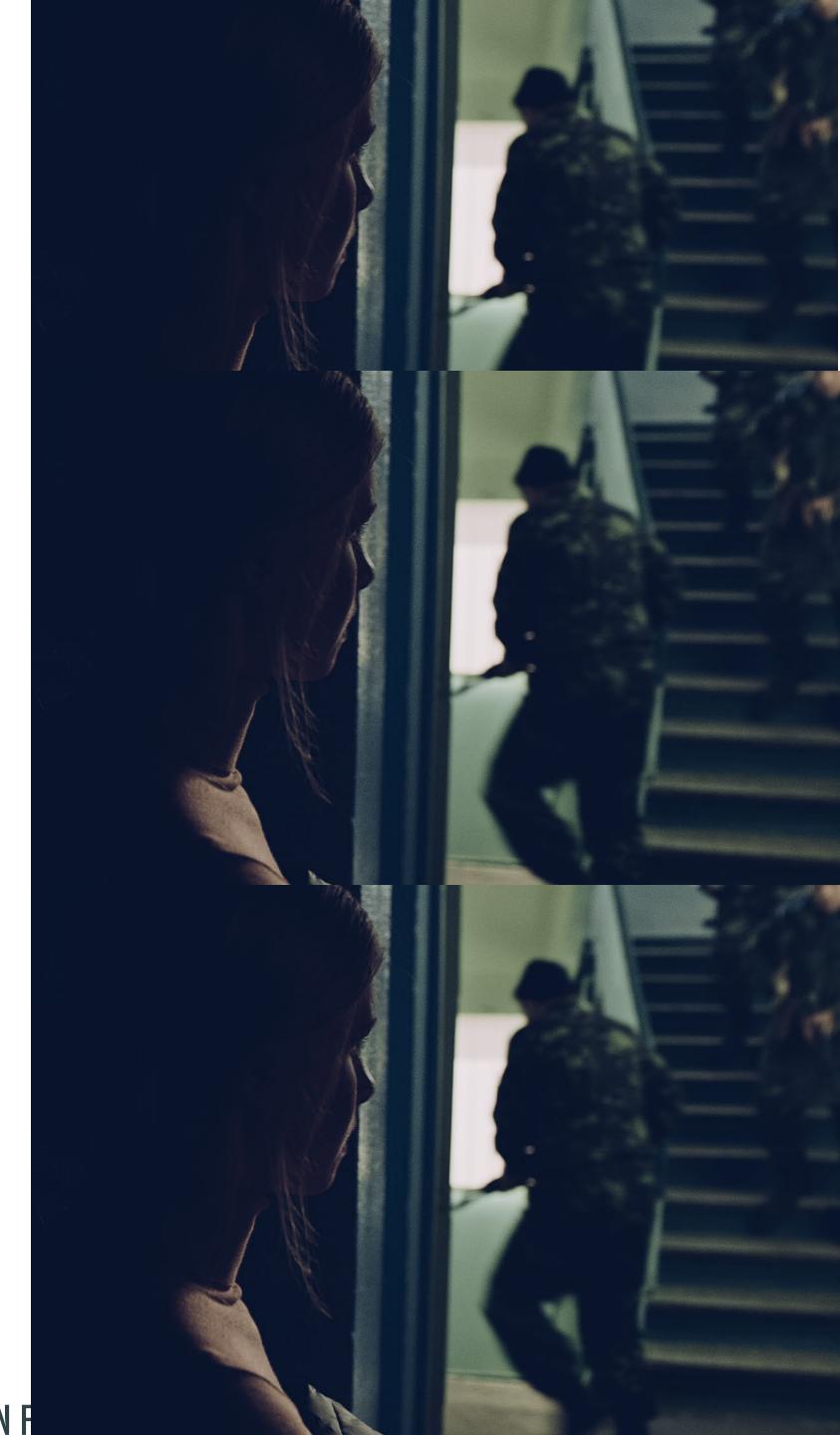
Nina, 30, a Ukrainian language teacher who can't leave the city of Luhansk, occupied by separatists in Eastern Ukraine, is forced to undergo retraining courses for teaching Russian. Andrii, 17, is a student who was orphaned in the aftermath of the war. They cross paths when Nina witnesses Andrii being arrested by the police after hanging the Ukrainian flag from the roof of his school.

Nina knows that because they live in a world of injustice and lies Andrii can stay in jail for a long time, and she risks her life to free him. As they gravitate towards each other, they try to remind people in the occupied territories that they deserve a future, too.

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE **DIRECTOR'S NOTE** This story is dedicated to the displaced people from the East of Ukraine and Crimea as well as to all those people, who stay in the occupied regions against their will. I tried to show the reality as it is, without hiding the facts. It was **DIRECTOR'S NOTE** important for me to say, that in the occupied regions people also have their hopes and dreams, they fall in love, they DIRECTOR'S NOTE deserve to have a future. Nina, the main character is a strong person, who follows her moral principles and dares to **DIRECTOR'S NOTE** fight against injustice. She undergoes many difficulties, but manages to stay true to herself. Poetic hand-camera of Erol **DIRECTOR'S NOTE** DIRECTOR'S NOTE Zubcevic is realistic and romantic at the same time. We tried to follow the heroes and show their inside world, **DIRECTOR'S NOTE** ignoring the details... **DIRECTOR'S NOTE DIRECTOR'S NOTE DIRECTOR'S NOTE DIRECTOR'S NOTE DIRECTOR'S NOTE DIRECTOR'S NOTE** DIRECTOR'S NOTE **DIRECTOR'S NOTE DIRECTOR'S NOTE DIRECTOR'S NOTE DIRECTOR'S NOTE** 04 **DIRECTOR'S NOTE** DIDECTOR'S MOTE

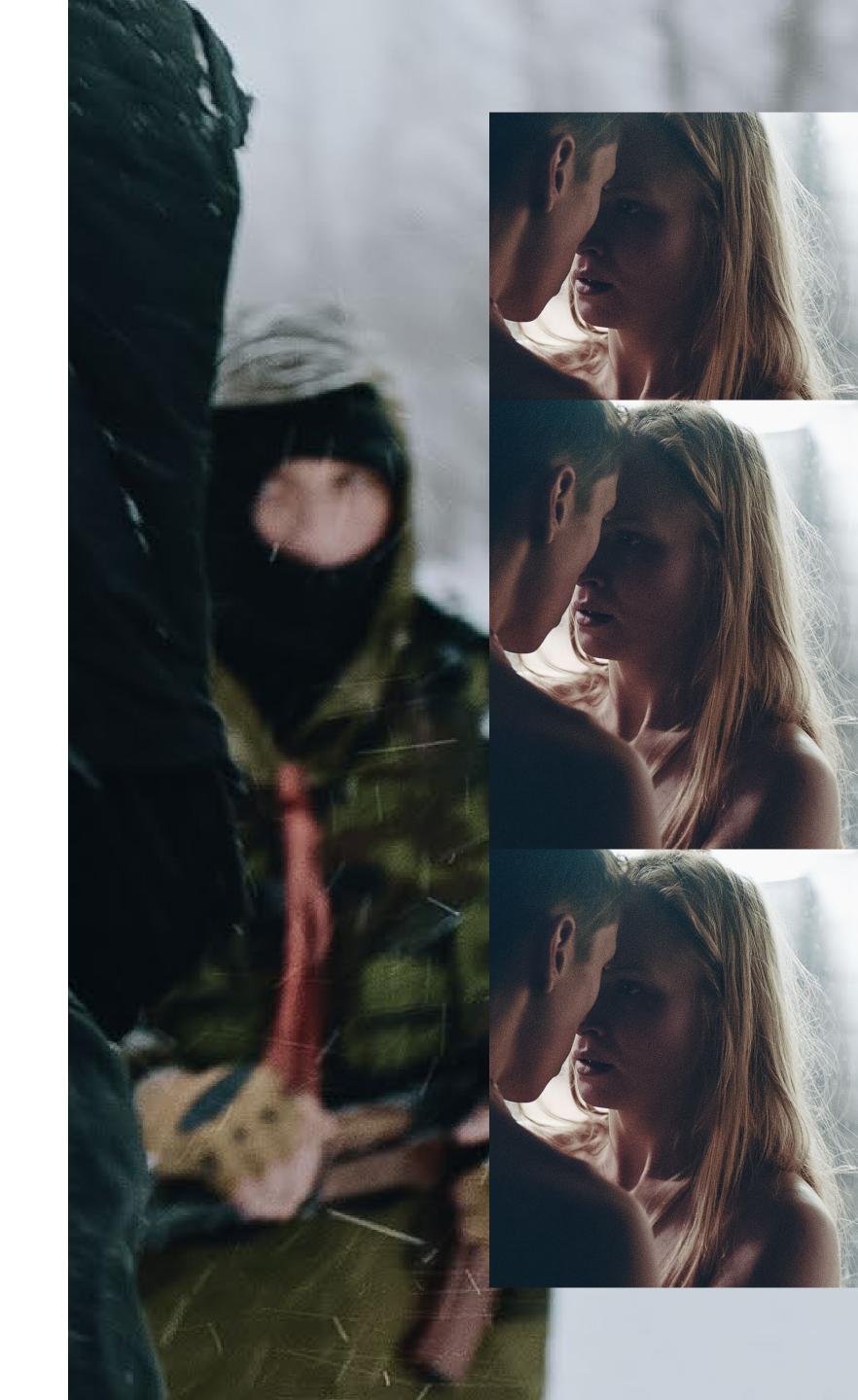
#### ART-PERFORMANCE IN FILM

Site of the abandoned chemical plant in Luhansk. Old lofts and barracks in wreckage. With industrial wreckage as a background, the sculptures of Maria Kulykovska are displayed. Maria's sculptures represent the female bodies molded of soap. There is something magical in these sculptures, feminine strength and energy are visualized. All of a sudden, a woman dressed in a costume of a separatist, storms in. This woman is the sculptor Maria Kulikovska, a ground-breaking, provocative bisexual sculptor, who gained her fame in Ukraine for playing an active role in organizing protests for the rights of women and sexual minorities. She wears a bright red lipstick and black wig, no one can recognize her. She picks up a gun and shoots her sculptures one by one. Bullets hit the soap bodies, limbs get detached. The performance of Maria in the beginning of the film is an on-screen replay of the history of her sculptures, which were made in Donetsk, in 2014 and represents the tragedy of a hybrid incomprehensible war that has already taken thousands of lives and is still going on in the eastern Ukraine.



## DIRECTOR DARIA ONYSHCHENKO GOLD STATES:

"This story is dedicated to the displaced people of Eastern Ukraine and Crimea as well as all those people who have remained in the occupied regions against their will. I tried to show reality as it is, without hiding the facts. It was important for me to say that people have their own hopes and dreams in occupied regions as well. They fall in love, and they deserve to have a future".



## CAST AND CREW:

Production: DIRECTORY FILMS / LEHMANN SISTERS

With the support of: MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF UKRAINE / FEDERAL OFFICE OF CULTURE, SWITZERLAND.

Producers: Igor SAVYCHENKO / Claudia LEHMANN / Dmytro KOZHEMA

Screenwriter: Daria ONYSCHENKO GOLD / Claudia LEHMANN Director of Photography: Erol ZUBCEVIC

Editor: Simon GUTKNECHT

Sound: Oleksandr SHATKIVSKYI

Music: Martin SKALSKY

Production Design: Volodymyr ROMANOV Costumes: Kostyantyn KRAVETS

Make Up: Sergii MAURIN

Cast: Maryna KOSHKINA / Daniil KAMENSKYI / Vasyl KUHARSKYI / Oleksii GORBUNOV / Maria KULIKOVSKA

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## Daria ONYSCHENKO GOLD writer/director

Daria ONYSHCHENKO GOLD was born in Kyiv, Ukraine. In 2000 she began studying communication, PR and international journalism at the Taras Shevchenko University in Kyiv, where she graduated in 2004 with a Bachelor degree in Public and International Relations.

Between 2003-2004 she gained her first experience as a theater director at the Karpenko Kary Theater Institute in Kyiv.

From 2006 to 2012, she has been studying feature film directing at the University of Television and Film in Munich, wrote, directed and produced a number of scripts and award-winning short films.

In 2014 she completed her studies with the feature film EASTALGIA. The film opened in the same year the 46th International Hof Film Festival, and was screened at more than 20 film festivals worldwide, winning various prizes. Daria is represented by the German talent agency Above The Line and a member of the Ukrainian Film Academy.

# $\bigstar$

## Daria ONYSHCHENKO GOLD FILMOGRAPHY (selected)

2019 **THE FORGOTTEN**, writer/director, drama, 105", Ukraine/Switzerland.

Special mention of Warsaw Film Festival

2014 EASTALGIA, writer/director, co-producer, drama, 104", Germany/Serbia/Ukraine.

Hof IFF (Opening Film, best art-directing), Levante IFF (Best film), Avanca IFF (Best Male Actor, best Film) Lets Cee IFF (Opening film), Lato Filmowe Poland (Bronze Dove), Yerevan Golden Apricot IFF (Special Jury Note), Spirit of Fire IFF (Prize of the Russian Guildia of Cinema Critics), Studio Hamburg (Co-Production Film Prize), Nomination for Berlin First Step Awards, Tallin Black Nights IFF, Bratislava IFF, Tiflis IFF, Kyiv IFF...

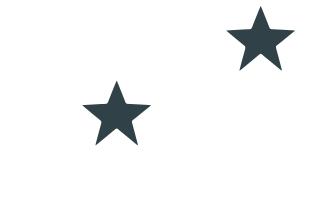
2012 DREI PAAR SCHUHE, co-directing, drama, 120 min., TV-coproduction, BR.

2010 DOGS OF UKRAINKA, writer/director/producer, drama, 30".

Molodist Kyiv International Film Festival (Best Directing), Munich Starter Filmprize for Best Production, Nominated for Max Ophüls Filmprize, Fünf Seen Film Festival, Munich Open Short Film Nights, Prishtina International Film Festival, Signes de Nuit Film Festival, Quebec Short Film Festival, Canada, etc.

2009 SUICIDE CLUB, director/screenwriter, drama, 10".

Molodist Kyiv International Film Festival (Best Directing), Munich Open Short Film Nights, Lemberg Short Film Festival (Best Directing).







## DELEGATE PRODUCER

Igor SAVYCHENKO, producer

Igor Savychenko graduated from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv with a Master's in Mathematics. In 2004, Igor joined the audio-visual industry and became an internationally-recognized film producer. He developed a talent for creative films very early, and has more than 15 years of experience in the film industry: producing 10 feature films, over 40 shorts, documentaries, TV films, miniseries and animation. Films produced by Igor have been screened at more than 650 festivals and have earned over 80 honours, with 17 screenings and 5 awards at A-Class festivals, including blockbusters in Ukraine.

In 2009, he graduated from the New York Film Academy.

A member of ACE Producers and EFA since 2017.

https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4852023/?ref\_=nv\_sr\_1?ref\_=nv\_sr\_1

## Igor SAVYCHENKO FILMOGRAPHY (selected)

- 2020 DRAGON SLAYER, feature film by Peter LUISI, in production, co-producer CH/UA
- 2019 **LETHAL KITTENS**, feature film by Volodymyr TYKHYY, producer USA/CA/UA
- 2019 THE FORGOTTEN, feature film by Daria ONYSCHENKO, producer UA/CH
- 2019 THE PAINTED BIRD, feature film by Vaclav MARHOUL, co-producer CZ/SK/UA
- 2018 MY GRANNY FROM MARS, feature documentary by Aleksandr MIKHALKOVITCH, producer BY/ UA/EE
- 2018 WHEN THE TREES FALL, feature film by Marysia NIKITIUK, producer UA/PL/MK 2017 BRAMA, feature
- film by Volodymyr TYKHYY, producer UA/USA
- 2016 **HOME**, short film by Iryna TSILYK, producer UA/DE
- 2015 CAPTIVES, documentary by Volodymyr TYKHYY, producer USA/UA
- 2015 VOICES FROM CHORNOBYL, creative documentary by Pol CRUCHTEN, co-producer LU/FR/AU/ UA
- 2015 **DIDOCHOK**, short film by Volodymyr TYKHYY, producer
- 2014 FALLEN LEAVES, short film by Masha KONDAKOVA, producer
- 2013 **#BABYLON`13**, web documentary initiative (www.babylon13.com)
- 2013 THE GREEN JACKET, feature film by Volodymyr TYKHYY, producer
- 2013 **THE GUIDE**, feature film by Oles' SANIN, producer
- 2013 BROTHERS. THE FINAL CONFESSION, feature film by Viktoria TROFIMENKO, producer 2012 UKRAINE,
- GOODBYE!, almanac of 26 short films, producer
- 2008 THE BUTTOM, TV movie by Volodymyr TYKHYY, co-producer







# CONTACTS CONTACTS CONTACTS

## PRODUCTION COMPANIES

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