

Deutsche Kinemathek

"Perspectives of Ukrainian Cinema"

**The Deutsche Kinemathek presents a Ukrainian film programme
Invitation to a press talk on June 12, 2022**



Вулкані. Volcano, UKR, GER 2018, Roman Bondarchuk, photo: Elemag Pictures

Berlin, Leipzig and Hamburg

12 to 30 June 2022

Opening with guests: June 12, 2022, 8 pm, Delphi Lux, Berlin

There has been a war taking place in central Europe since February 24, 2022. The Russian attack on Ukraine has shaken German society to the core. Solidarity with Ukrainians and the will to help is great among many. At the same time, awareness has grown among people in Germany that we know very little about Ukraine, its history and its society. What is the self-image of Ukrainians, and what are its discourses, perspectives, people and places? And how better to contextualise the images of war that we have seen than in the image itself?

From June 12 to 30, 2022, the Deutsche Kinemathek and participating cinemas in Berlin (Delphi Lux, City Kino Wedding), Hamburg (Abaton Kino) and Leipzig (Schaubühne Lindenfels) invite you to an eclectic Ukrainian film series featuring seven full-length films and two shorts, flanked by introductions and talks with Ukrainian cultural figures. The programme is curated by **Victoria Leshchenko and Yuliia Kovalenko**, whose film curators' initiative, sloïk film atelier, gives space to underrepresented voices and promotes them internationally.

Russian war rhetoric is attempting to deny Ukraine its own history and culture. Yet the country looks back on a long cinematic history, in which Ukrainian directors have used the film to reflect on the past and present and to dream of the future. In recent years, Ukrainian cinema has experienced a boom with the rise of a new generation of filmmakers who follow this tradition and testify to Ukraine's lively independent film scene.

Victoria Leshchenko and Yuliia Kovalenko say: "In the 1920s, Ukraine was one of the most active countries in European cinema. In the following decades, this legacy was partly weakened ideologically by the totalitarian Soviet regime, and partly usurped by Moscow: In 1948, the KGB took films from studios in Kyiv and Odesa to Moscow, and since then Ukraine has been trying to retrieve its heritage by buying or taking it back, film by film. Today, Ukrainian cinema is experiencing a revival, with new names and a colourful map of genres – and this programme expands the view of that map."

"Perspectives of Ukrainian Cinema" spans an arc from comedy to documentary film and from science fiction to drama. It also covers viewpoints from the south and west of the country to the Donbas in the east. Among the selection is the award-winning 'Klondike' by Maryna Er Gorbach which was shown at several international festivals in 2022, and tells the story of expectant parents against the background of the war in the Donbas and the shooting down of the MH17 passenger plane.

The series will open with ‚Arsenal‘ (1929), a classic of Ukrainian cinema directed by Oleksandr Dovzhenko on June 12, 2022 at 8 pm at the Delphi Lux cinema in Berlin. Guest: Anna Onufriienko (Film scholar, Oleksandr Dovzhenko Centre, Kiev), Moderation: Barbara Wurm (Research Associate, Institute for Slavic Studies, Humboldt-University, Berlin)

Admission to all screenings is free of charge.

The complete film programme and venues can be found here:

<https://www.deutsche-kinemathek.de/en/ukrainian-cinema>

Press photographs here:

<https://www.deutsche-kinemathek.de/en/kinemathek/press/perspectives-ukrainian-cinema>

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Press talk with film curators Victoria Leshchenko and Yuliia Kovalenko (Videonote), Rainer Rother, Artistic Director, Deutsche Kinemathek
June 2, 2022, 10:00 to 11:30, Deutsche Kinemathek, 4th Floor, Potsdamer Straße 2, 10785 Berlin

Please register with: presse@deutsche-kinemathek.de

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dates and guests

Berlin

Sun, 12 June, 8:00 pm: »**Arsenal**«

USSR, 1929, directed by Oleksandr Dovzhenko, 93', OV engl. Subtitles

This epic film tells the story of the suppression by Central Council troops of the Bolshevik uprising in 1918 at the Arsenal factory in Kyiv. In Soviet mythology, the uprising at the Arsenal is nothing less than the key episode in the scenario of Bolshevik martyrdom in Ukraine. However, it should be remembered that the uprising was not so much a citizen rebellion of the Kyivans against the Central Council, as a protest against it by Russian workers and instigated by the Bolsheviks, who were competing for power in Ukraine. 'Arsenal' is considered one of the outstanding expressionist films in the Ukrainian cinema canon.

Guest: Anna Onufriienko (Film Researcher, Dovzhenko Centre)

Moderator: Barbara Wurm (Lecturer, Slavic Studies, Humboldt-University)

→ Delphi Lux | Kantstraße 10 | free admission

Wed, 15 June, 7:00 pm: »**Klondike**«

UKR/TUR, 2022, directed by Maryna Er Gorbach, 100', OV engl. Subtitles

July 2014: expectant parents Irka and Tolik live in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine near the Russian border, disputed territory in the early days of the war in Donbas. The nervous anticipation of the birth of their first child is violently disrupted when the nearby downing of flight MH17 exacerbates the tension enveloping their village. The looming wreckage of the downed airliner, and an incoming stream of mourners, emphasize the surreal trauma of the moment.

While Tolik's separatist friends expect him to join their efforts, Irka's brother is enraged by suspicions that the couple has betrayed Ukraine. Irka refuses to evacuate even as the village is captured by armed forces, and she tries to make peace between her husband and her brother by asking them to repair their bombed house.

Guest: Maryna Er Gorbach (Director)

Moderator: Barbara Wurm (Lecturer, Slavic Studies, Humboldt-University)

→ City Kino Wedding | Müllerstr. 74 | free admission

Wed, 22 June, 7:00 pm: »**The Earth is Blue as an Orange**«

UKR/LT, 2020, directed by Iryna Tsilyk, 74', OV engl. subtitles

(documentary)

Single mother Anna and her four children live in the front-line war zone of Donbas, Ukraine. While the outside world is all bombings and chaos, the family manages to keep their home a safe haven, full of life and full of light. Every member of the family has a passion for cinema, motivating them 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 can have in times of disaster. How to picture war through fiction? For Anna and the children, transforming trauma into a work of art is the ultimate way to stay human.

›**Nail**, UKR, 2016, directed by Philip Sotnychenko, 32'
(short/hybrid)

Valentyna works in Lichtenstein. She lived in Kyiv until the age of 13. In 1996, during economic hard times in Ukraine, Valentyna emigrated to Switzerland with her mother and stepfather. Twenty years later, VHS tapes suddenly surface that revitalize their Ukrainian past – which seems incredibly distant and at the same time incredibly close.

Guest: Iryna Tsilyk (Director), online

Moderator: Yuriy Hrytsyna (Filmmaker)

→ City Kino Wedding | Müllerstr. 74 | free admission

Thur, 23 June, 8:00 pm: ›**Atlantis**‹

UKR, 2019, directed by Valentyn Vasyanovych, 108', OV engl. Subtitles

Eastern Ukraine, in the near future. A desert unsuitable for human habitation. Sergiy, a former soldier suffering from PTSD, is having trouble adapting to his new reality: a life in pieces, a land in ruins. When the smelter where he works finally shuts down, he finds an unexpected way to cope by joining the volunteer Black Tulip mission dedicated to exhuming the war victims. By working alongside Katya, he realizes that a better future is possible. Will he learn to live without war and accept himself as he is?

Guest: Dr. Bohdan Tokarskyi (Lecturer, Slavic Studies, University Potsdam)

Moderator: Daria Buteiko (Ukrainian Film Festival Berlin)

→ Delphi Lux | Kantstraße 10 | free admission

Sun, 26 June, 8:00 pm: ›**Volcano**‹

UKR/GER, 2018, directed by Roman Bondarchuk, 106', OV engl. subtitles

A series of odd coincidences has left Lukas, an interpreter for an OSCE military checkpoint inspection tour, stranded near a small southern Ukrainian steppe town. With nowhere to turn, this city boy finds shelter in the home of a local named Vova. With Vova as his guide, Lukas is confronted by a universe beyond his imagination, one in which life seems utterly detached from any identifiable structure. Fascinated by his host and his host's daughter Marushka, with whom he is rapidly falling in love, Lukas's contempt for provincial life slowly melts away and sets him on a quest for a happiness he had never known could exist.

Guest: Daria Badior (Cultural critic)

Moderator: Daria Buteiko (Ukrainian Film Festival Berlin)

→ Delphi Lux | Kantstraße 10 | free admission

Wed, 29 June, 6:30 pm: ›**My Thoughts are Silent**‹

UKR, 2019, directed by Antonio Lukich, 104', OV engl. subtitles
(narrative)

Vadym is twenty-two. He's a sound engineer and a downer. He's going to Canada in three months. Forever. Before his departure, he's assigned to record the voice of a very rare bird, which dwells only in the mountains of Ukraine's Transcarpathian region.

This comedy follows a son and his mother on a trip to the west of Ukraine. The journey is a chance not only to re-define their relationships, but also for silent self-reflection – who are they and what does

home mean? Those issues of identity, which are crucial to Ukrainian cinema in general, here acquire the paradigmatic form of a leitmotif, providing space for humor and a fresh view on modern Ukraine. Ukrainian Film Critics Award 2019, discovery of the year and the best film of 2020 at the Ukrainian National Film Awards.

Guest: Antonio Lukich (Director), online

Moderator: Oleksandra Bienert (Human rights activist)

→ City Kino Wedding | Müllerstr. 74 | free admission

9:00 pm: **'War Note'**

UKR, 2020, directed by Roman Liubiy, 72', OV engl. subtitles

(documentary)

Personal videos from the phones, camcorders, cameras, and GoPros of Ukrainian soldiers are woven into a surreal journey to the front line of the war with Russia. The film shows a bizarre world whose laws are quite different from what we are used to. The behavior is different, the relationships unfold differently, and the humor takes on different notes. The heroes wake up and fall asleep, rejoice and cry, always sensing that the recording may end at any moment.

'Territory of Empty Windows', UKR, 2020, directed by Zoya Laktionova, 10'

(short / documentary)

War and abandoned ecology are two themes that permeate the everyday life of Mariupol residents. World War II and the local Azovstal steel plant were the reason Zoya's family moved to Mariupol. And the war with Russia, along with environmental consequences of the plant's operation, have played a dramatic role in her life.

Guest: Roman Liubiy (Director), online

Moderator: Oleksandra Bienert (Human rights activist)

→ City Kino Wedding | Müllerstr. 74 | free admission

Hamburg

Abaton

Tue, 14 June, 5:30pm: 'Arsenal'

Guest: Anna Onufriienko (Film Researcher, Dovzhenko Centre), online

Moderator: Yulia Marushko (Artist)

Thu, 16 June, 5:30pm: 'Klondike'

Guest: Maryna Er Gorbach (Director), online

Moderator: Yulia Marushko (Artist)

Tue, 21 June, 5:30pm: 'Nail' (Short) and 'The Earth is Blue as an Orange'

Guest: Iryna Tsilyk (Director), online

Moderator: Yulia Marushko (Artist)

Thu, 23 June, 5:30pm: 'Volcano'

Guest: Roman Bondarchuk (Director), online

Moderator: Yulia Marushko (Artist)

Tue, 28 June, 5:30pm: 'Territory of Empty Window' (Short) and 'War Note'

Guest: Andriy Kotliar (Producer), online

Moderator: Anastasia Puhach (PR & program director of Kinovernissage)

Wed, 29 June, 5:30pm: 'Atlantis'

Guest: Valentyn Vasyanovych (Director), online

Moderator: Anastasia Puhach (PR & program director of Kinovernissage)

Thu, 30 June, 5:30pm: 'My Thoughts Are Silent'

Guest: Antonio Lukich (Director), online

Moderator: Anastasia Puhach (PR & program director of Kinovernissage)

Leipzig

Schaubühne Lindenfels

Wed, 15 June, 7pm: 'Territory of Empty Window' (Short) and 'War Note'

Guest: Roman Liubiy (Director), online

Moderator: Olga Reiter (Curator)

Wed, 15 June, 9:30pm: 'Volcano'

Guest: Roman Bondarchuk (Director), online

Moderator: Olga Reiter (Curator)

Fri, 17 June, 7pm: 'Klondike'

Guest: Maryna Er Gorbach (Director), online

Moderator: Elīna Reitere (Film critic)

Fri, 17 June, 9:30pm: 'Atlantis'

Guest: Valentyn Vasyanovych (Director), online

Moderator: Elīna Reitere (Film critic)

Mon, 20 June, 7pm: 'Nail' (Short) and 'The Earth is Blue as an Orange'

Guest: Iryna Tsilyk (Director), online

Moderator: Elīna Reitere (Film critic)

Mon, 20 June, 9:30pm: 'My Thoughts Are Silent'

Guest: Antonio Lukich (Director), online

Moderator: Elīna Reitere (Film critic)

Partners and funding

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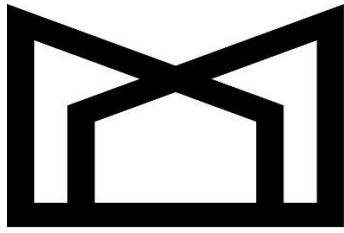


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Deutsche Kinemathek

»Perspectives of Ukrainian Cinema«

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Abaton, Hamburg

Schaubühne Lindenfels, Leipzig

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