

# OEKRAIENSE FILMDAGEN

DE WEG NAAR DE VRIJHEID

OEKRAÏNE IN HISTORISCH PERSPECTIEF

31 MAART –  
1 APRIL

PATHE  
TUSCHINSKI,  
Amsterdam



# THE ELEVENTH YEAR

Directed by Dziga Vertov  
Soviet Union, 1928, 52 min  
D o c u m e n t a r y

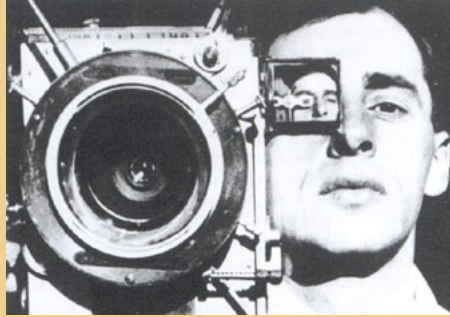


The modern soundtrack for the film will be performed live by Anton Baibakov (electronics) and Sofia Turta (keyboards). Music for the film was written by Ukrainian composer Anton Baibakov, on commission from the Docudays UA International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival, within the serial project of musical cinematic performances, KOLO DZYG Y – one of the best known projects of Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Centre, the biggest film archive in Ukraine.

*The Eleventh Year* is a documentary based on a Soviet newsreel shot during the 1920s, telling the story of the construction of socialism. It is the first film filmed by Vertov in Ukraine. The eleventh year of Soviet rule was a period of industrialization, as well as the building of Dnipro HES and other giants of Soviet industry. The director intentionally focused on this non-anniversary year to avoid holiday shows and official government celebrations. The camera is focused only on the most important thing, which is work – the tireless construction of a new socialist reality in Ukraine. On February 28, 1928, Dziga Vertov said that *The Eleventh Year* was written directly by the movie camera, without the mediation of a script, and that the camera had replaced the writer's pen. This allowed Vertov to claim that he had invented a pure cinematic language (deeply socialist at the same time), in which the camera deals directly with the raw material of the facts.

*The Eleventh Year* was restored at the Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Centre at the end of 2012.

# THE ELEVENTH YEAR



## **Dziga Vertov (1896—1954)**

### ***Director***

Vertov was a Soviet pioneer of avant-garde documentary film, a newsreel director and cinema theorist. His filming practices and Cine-Eye theory were influential for future generations of documentary moviemakers. Fired from Sovkino, Vertov moved to Ukraine at the request of the Odessa Film Studio. In Ukraine he shot three films: *The Eleventh Year* (1928), *Man with a Movie Camera* (1929), which was named the best documentary ever made by British Sight & Sound Magazine, and *Enthusiasm* (1930), which was the first Ukrainian sound film and the first of Vertov's film with a soundtrack. The distribution of these three films was not very successful, yet it is impossible to overestimate their influence on the later development of documentary filmmaking.



## **Anton Baibakov**

### ***Composer of the soundtrack***

Baibakov has been composing music from 1998. In 2005 he graduated from Ivan Karpenko-Kary National Theatre, Cinema and Television University in Kyiv. He worked as sound director on TV, radio and film post-production, sound designer and composer for feature, documentary films and commercials. As an independent musician he constantly works with well-known Ukrainian bands (DakhaBrakha, Katya Chilly). In 2011 he got two prizes for best soundtracks: at Ibiza International Film Festival, Spain (*I'm not Telling* by Igor Kopylov) and Open Night Film Festival, Ukraine (*Hoydalka* by Serhiy Myronenko).

## **Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Centre**

Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Centre is the largest Ukrainian film archive, which performs storage and restoration of national films, research and publishing in the field of cinema, distribution and promotion of Ukrainian films in Ukraine and abroad. Over 5,000 titles of Ukrainian and foreign movies, thousands of archival documents and cinematic exhibits are stored in the Centre's archive. KOLO DZYG is a series of musical cinematic performances launched by Dovzhenko Centre and featuring premieres of restored Ukrainian avant-garde silent films accompanied by contemporary music.

# THE RUSSIAN WOODPECKER

Directed by Chad Gracia  
UK, Ukraine, USA, 2014, 72 min  
**D o c u m e n t a r y**  
*The film will be presented by the  
protagonist Fedor Aleksandrovych  
and the producer Marina Orekhova*



- ***Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary, World Cinema, Sundance Film Festival, 2015***
- ***Nomination for the Best Documentary Feature, Independent Spirit Awards, 2016***

Fedor Alexandrovich is a radioactive man. He was four years old in 1986, when he was exposed to the toxic effects of the Chernobyl nuclear meltdown and forced to leave his home. Now 33, he is an artist in Ukraine, with radioactive strontium in his bones and a singular obsession with the earth-changing catastrophe – why did it actually happen? Was there more to the story than the Soviet government let on? And, most importantly, what did this all have to do with the giant, mysterious steel pyramid now rotting away 2 miles from the disaster site: a hulking Cold War weapon known as the Duga and nicknamed “the Russian Woodpecker” for the strange, constant clicking radio frequencies that it emits? Alexandrovich returns to the ghost towns in the radioactive Exclusion Zone to try to find answers – and to decide whether to risk his life by revealing them, amid growing clouds of Ukraine’s emerging revolution and war.

# THE RUSSIAN WOODPECKER



**Chad Gracia**  
*Director*

Chad has worked in New York theater for nearly 20 years as a producer, dramaturg, and playwright, with a focus on plays in verse. His works have seen productions in various cities in the United States and Europe. He co-wrote *Gilgamesh*, a drama based on the Sumerian epic, with Pulitzer-Prize winning author Yusef Komunyakaa, and has long collaborated with the American verse playwright Kirk Wood Bromley. *The Russian Woodpecker* is his first film.



**Fedor Alexandrovich**  
*Protagonist*

Fedor was born into a well-known family that has provided Ukraine with artists and writers for several centuries. He currently teaches theater design at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kiev, and has worked on more than 40 theater productions across Ukraine. In addition to the theater, he is a poet and a painter, with several books of verse and more than 50 exhibitions of his paintings in galleries and museums in Ukraine.



**Artem Ryzhykov**  
*Cinematographer*

Is the winner of the International Documentary Association's Best Cinematography – 2015 Award for his work on *The Russian Woodpecker*. He graduated in 2010 from The Kiev University for Theatre, Film and Television, and was legendary Soviet cinematographer Vadim Vereshchak's last student and studied for several years under Bogdan Verzhbitsky. As Director of Photography, Artem has won multiple awards worldwide. His short film, *Hindrance* was a semi-finalist in YouTube's Your Film Festival and was presented at the Cannes' Short Film Corner as a selection from Ukraine. a program to promote Ukrainian cinema: every two month Kolo Dzigi performances (silent film screenings accompanied by live contemporary music) are held. A few times a year retrospectives of Ukrainian cinema classics are organized.



**Marina Orekhova**  
*Producer*

Marina is a Kyiv-based producer working with American documentary directors and European TV crews in Ukraine. She has co-produced the Sundance Grand Jury winner *The Russian Woodpecker* by Chad Gracia (2015), line-produced award-winning *The Babushkas of Chernobyl* by Holly Morris and Anne Bogart (2015) and *Bloody Money* by Havana Marking (2016). She has collaborated with ARTE, ZDF, BBC, RBB on a number of TV programs shot in Ukraine. Marina has rich background in festival management in Ukraine and event management worldwide.

# WINTER ON FIRE: UKRAINE'S FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

**Directed by Evgen Afineevsky**  
**UK, Ukraine, USA, 2015, 102 min**  
**D o c u m e n t a r y**  
*The film will be presented by its director  
Evgen Afineevsky, cinematographer Alex  
Kashpur and producer Halyna Sadomtseva*



- Nomination for the Best Documentary Feature, Academy Awards, 2016**
- People's Choice Award, Toronto International Film Festival, 2015**
- World premiere at the 72nd Venice Film Festival, 2015**

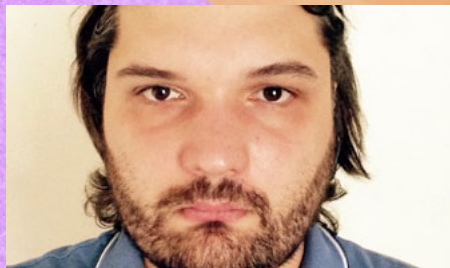
Chronicling events that unfolded over 93 days in 2013 and 2014, the film witnesses the formation of a new civil rights movement in Ukraine. What started as peaceful student demonstrations supporting European integration morphed into a full-fledged violent revolution calling for the resignation of the nation's president. The film captures the remarkable mobilization of nearly a million citizens from across the country protesting the corrupt political regime that utilized extreme force against its own people.

# WINTER ON FIRE: UKRAINE'S FIGHT FOR FREEDOM



**Evgen Afineevsky**  
*Director*

*Winter on Fire* is Evgeny Afineevsky's third feature documentary. He has produced over ten feature and short films, including the 2002 adaptation of *Crime & Punishment*, starring Vanessa Redgrave, Crispin Glover, John Hurt and Margot Kidder. He also produced and directed numerous TV projects. His feature directorial debut, *Oy Vey! My Son is Gay!* has garnered numerous awards at film festivals globally.



**Alex Kashpur**  
*Cinematographer*

Alex worked on documentaries and TV films. Currently he is working on his own feature film *London! The studio?* as a director, writer and executive producer. His previous piece is a short film *The Edge of Life*. Co-founder at UkrStrim TV media resource. Co-founder at the Independent Union of Ukrainian Live Streamers.



**Halyna Sadomtseva**  
*Producer*

Producer, journalist, media activist. By 2014, Halyna coordinated Spilnobachennya public online TV channel. For 4 months during the Revolution of Dignity on Ukraine's Maidan, she has been organizing the 24/7 online broadcast. During that time she has gathered 300 volunteers who operated the TV camera on Maidan and aired from the spot. Since 2015, Halyna is the Chief Producer of SPN Production TV studio. She co-produced the Oscar nominee *Winter on Fire* documentary, fully organizing all of the film shootings.

UKRAINE ON FILM: WAY TO FREEDOM  
IS PRESENTED BY



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