Kinofest NYC is a film festival that celebrates independent cinema from Ukraine and other post-Soviet countries.

The inaugural festival took place in early 2010 at The Ukrainian Museum. Now in its second year, the festival has grown from one to two locations and has doubled the number of screening sessions.

The Kinofest NYC team is delighted to present this year’s selections of feature and short films. We trust that you will enjoy the program.
It is my pleasure to extend my warm wishes to Kinofest NYC. I would like to commend all those who have been committed to achieving the Festival’s noble goals. I strongly believe that the Kinofest NYC film festival will contribute significantly to better perception of the rich Ukrainian art traditions and cementing cultural connections between American and Ukrainian peoples.

H. E. Yuriy A. Sergeyev
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations
March 9, 2011

We are ultimately confident that as the only film festival showcasing emerging Ukrainian and post-Soviet cinema, Kinofest NYC deserves the particular attention of cinematographers, critics and experts worldwide. The Consulate will undoubtedly spread the word about the event, and would be proud and honored to assist with the important efforts aimed at the further strengthening of US-Ukrainian cultural ties.

Hon. Serhii Pohoreltsev
Consul General of Ukraine in New York
February 28, 2011
I Am from Nowhere

Directed by Georg Misch
Slovak/English
(w/Eng. subtitles)
Slovakia, 2002
79 min.

6:00pm to 7:45pm

When asked about his origin, Andy Warhol used to say “I am from nowhere.” Nowhere is actually the tiny village Mikova in Slovakia where all of Warhol’s ancestors lived. Novelist and political scientist Alexander Motyl (Who Killed Andrei Warhol, 2007) identifies him as Rusyn-Ukrainian, a common ethnicity in that region. Georg Misch’s quirky, entertaining, and informative documentary investigates the fuss the media has made about Warhol’s relatives who still live there, Warhol-related media fame, and Warhol’s legendary “15 minutes of fame.”

*Film screening co-sponsored by The Ukrainian Museum*

Photo exhibit opening and reception precedes the film screening

*Slavs of New York: Andy Warhol’s Nowhere*
Curated by Cynthia von Buhler. Photographs of Andy Warhol taken by Anton Perich and Sebastian Piras; photos of other notable figures of Ukrainian descent by Kyle Cassidy, and works by other photographers.
Torn from the Flag
A lyukas zászló

This incisive sociopolitical and historical documentary covers the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and the ensuing international decline of communism with both archival footage and interviews with then youthful revolutionaries, Russia’s Budapest-based troop commander and other historical notables. The extensive interviews span across the US, Hungary, Russia and Italy supplying viewers with lots of new information on behind-the-scenes political dramas leading up to and shortly after the revolution. This film garnered 8 film festival awards worldwide and participated in the 2009 Oscar competition in the “Best Documentary” category.

Directed by Klaudia Kovac
Hungarian/English (w/Eng. subtitles)
USA, 2007
96 min.

Preceded by

The First Karaoke (Перший караоке)
Directed by Oleh Chorniy, Gena Khmaruk, 2 min.
(see page 16)
Fatal Promises

Directed by Kat Rohrer
Russian/English
(w/Eng. subtitles)
USA, 2009
60 min.

This searing and eye-opening documentary about human trafficking exposes the modern day version of sex slavery and the lesser known crime of manual labor slavery. The film focuses on post-Soviet human trafficking, in particular out of Ukraine’s Black Sea port city, Odesa. Heart-breaking interviews with trafficked victims are interspersed with commentary from feminist activist Gloria Steinem and acclaimed British actress Emma Thompson, who has been advocating at the U.N. for stricter legislation to prosecute traffickers.

Preceded by

Liza (Ліза)
Directed by Taras Tomenko, 21 min. (see page 16)

Bingo (Бінго)
Directed by Timur Ismailov, 28 min. (see page 16)
Not Alone at Home
Не один вдома

This film tells about the unusual choice of a Ukrainian woman named Natalia. Having two university degrees, she found her life mission in adopting and taking care of disadvantaged, sickly, and abandoned children of different nationalities. Through the eyes and heart of Natalia’s 12-years-old adopted dark-skinned son Kevin we are able to feel warmth, love, gladness, difficulties and special atmosphere which dominates in this unusual family. Original Ethno-Chaos “DakhaBrakha” Band’s music and pictures of the well known Ukrainian artist Evgeniya Gapchinska increase the impression of the story.

Directed by Olena Fetisova
Ukrainian (w/Eng. subtitles)
Ukraine, 2009
52 min.

Preceded by

Molfar Nechay (Мольфар Ничай)
Directed by Slava Feofilaktov, 35 min. (see page 17)
M. Slaboshpytskiy Shorts and Mum Died...

Short films directed by Myroslav Slaboshpytskiy

Deafness (Глухота)
Ukrainian (w/Eng.subtitles), Ukraine, 2010, 11 min.
A deaf/nonspeaking young man is questioned by a hulking policeman and his partner in their squad car.

Diagnosis (Діагноз)
Ukrainian (w/Eng.subtitles), Ukraine, 2009, 15 min.
Rampant drug addiction, AIDS and relationships among homeless Ukrainian youth who form their own community in abandoned buildings to survive. Best Short Film Berlin Film Festival 2009.

The Incident (Інцидент)
Ukrainian (w/Eng.subtitles), Ukraine, 2006, 20 min.
A man can’t elude the madness of city life by moving to the bucolic Ukrainian countryside.

Mum Died Saturday in the Kitchen...
(Мама померла в суботу на кухні...)
A gentle, textured exposé narrated by the filmmaker Maksym Vasyanovych about his own childhood but focusing on his father, an elderly provincial classical conductor in Zhytomyr, who gave up the chance to study for a professional career as a big-time symphony director in order to raise his family. 2009 Molodist Film Festival Best Film of Ukrainian Panorama.

Directed by
Maksym Vasyanovych
Ukrainian/Russian
(w/Eng. subtitles)
Ukraine, 2009
52 min.

Film screening co-sponsored by
The Ukrainian Museum
Artists of Odessa

Artists of Odessa is a raw, humorous and nostalgic look at life and contemporary art in post-Soviet Odesa. A dynamic city with its own unique cultural tradition, Odesa was home and muse to Babel, Zhabotinskiy, Eisenstein, Kandinsky and many others. Walking through the courtyards of Moldavanka, market stalls of famous Privoz, and underground bars of the old quarters the search is on for the inextinguishable creative spirit of The City by the Black Sea.

Directed by Dmitriy Khavin, Lilya Klimova
English/Russian (w/Eng. subtitles)
USA, 2010
47 min.

Preceded by

Frypoulya (Фрипуля)
Directed by Slava Feofilaktov, 13 min. (see page 16)
Vacation
Канікули

In this youth drama set in an anonymous Belarusian industrial suburb, two alienated and lonely teens, Olga and Sergei, fall in love then fantasize about escaping their dead-end surroundings, full of teen alcoholism and meaningless violence. The two young lovers soon have to face the stark fact that their options are limited.

Directed by Vladimir Kozlov
Russian
(w/Eng. subtitles)
Belarus, 2010
60 min.

Preceded by

Obstacle (Перешкода)
Directed by Maksym Bunitsky, 9 min. (see page 18)

Adam and Eve (Адам і Ева)
Directed by Murat Mamedov, 22 min. (see page 15)

Hush City
Directed by Ilya Andreyev, 8 min. (see page 16)
Women from Georgia
K’alebi sak’rt’velodan

The day-to-day lives of women who have left their families in Georgia for months and years to earn money as home attendants and nannies in the U.S. The women in this documentary share a packed rental house in Brooklyn’s Brighton Beach and discuss homesickness, missing weddings, funerals and other family events, and their unemployed spouses’ over-dependence on the women’s earnings, etc.

Directed by Levan Koguashvili
Georgian/English
(w/Eng. subtitles)
Georgia, 2009
53 min.

Preceded by

2033 Kilometers to the Eiffel Tower
(2033 кілометри від Ейфелевої вежі)
Directed by Olesandra Khrebtova, Olesandr Balaban,
35 min. (see page 15)
Disco and Atomic War
Disko ja tuumasõda

A tongue-in-cheek documentary about growing up in the Estonian capital of Tallinn during the waning days of the Cold War. The filmmaker comically recounts how Estonians discovered the American series *Dallas* via television transmissions from Helsinki, Finland, and how the Communist leadership haplessly attempted to ‘protect’ their citizens from the corrupting influence of televised capitalist decadence. A lot of wonderful chest-pounding Soviet government footage mixed with clips of ordinary Estonians jerry-rigging their TV antennas.

Directed by Jaak Kilmi
Estonian
(w/Eng. subtitles)
Estonia, 2010
80 min.

Preceded by

*Radunytsia* (Радунця)
Directed by Roman Bondarchuk, 15 min. (see page 18)

*The First Karaoke* (Перший караоке)
Directed by Oleh Chorniy, Gena Khmaruk, 2 min.
(see page 16)
The Pied Piper of Hutzovina

This documentary chronicles a road trip through Ukraine by the filmmaker and Eugene Hutz, frontman and lead singer of New York’s Gypsy punk band Gogol Bordello. Hutz’s purpose is to rediscover his Romani (Gypsy) roots and learn the secrets of (Gypsy) music. The filmmaker’s aim is to rediscover a forgotten romance. The result is a story of two people traveling together on two very different yet convergent courses.

Directed by Pavla Fleischer
Ukrainian/Russian/English (w/Eng. subtitles)
2006
65 min.

Preceded by

Akbulak (Акбулак)
Directed by Tatjana Korol, 15 min. (see page 15)

New Business
Directed by Julia Kots, 13 min. (see page 17)
Ukrainian Film Shorts

A selection of short films and animations by Ukrainian filmmakers, curated by New York filmmaker Damian Kolodyi.

See pages 15–18 for additional information about the short films.

Answer for a Prayer (Відповід на Молитву)
Directed by Maksym Bunitsky, 3 min.

Long Walk Forever (Довга прогулянка – на завжди)
Directed by Maksym Bunitsky, 17 min.

Believe (Вірую)
Directed by Christina Danylov, 4 min.

No Comments (Без коментарі)
Directed by Dar Dryuchenko, 3 min.

Melancholy Colors (Сумні Барви)
Directed by Stanislav Leschenko, 7 min.

Ama at Sea
Directed by Malia Cohen, 20 min.

Not Scared (Не Страшно)
Directed by Kateryna Naumenko, 13 min.

Switchman (Стрілочник)
Directed by Serhiy Siliava, 10 min.

The Bear’s Favor (Ведмедя Послуга)
Directed by Zhenya Alyokin, 10 min.

Wandering Between (Блукаючи поміж)
Directed by Anatoliy Lavrenishin, 10 min.

Very Close (Упритул)
Directed by Mykyta Shulyahyn, 17 min.
Man with the Movie Camera
Людина з кіноапаратом

This stunning work remains a perfect distillation of the sense of urban existence. Composed of footage from Kyiv, Moscow and Odesa, the film shows everyday people at work and at play, from dawn to dusk, interacting with the machinery of modern life. In the style of other “city symphony” films of the 1920’s, events are arranged to simulate the passage of a single day through a deliberate sequencing of events. Produced by Dziga Vertov (Denis Arkadievich Kaufman) at the Pan-Ukrainian Committee of Cinema and Photography (VUFKU) in 1929, the film serves as a reminder that he is one of the greatest pioneer filmmakers.

Directed by Dziga Vertov
Titles, silent
Ukraine, 1929
65 min.

Dr. Yuri Shevchuk, founder of the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University, will introduce the film and lead the Q&A. Guest speaker Annette Michelson, Professor Emeritus at New York University and editor of a translation of Dziga Vertov’s writings, will talk about the film and its production studio, VUFKU. Serhiy Trymbach, head of the National Filmmakers Union of Ukraine, will discuss the latest developments in the Ukrainian film industry.

Closing session reception follows the screening and Q&A.
2033 Kilometers to the Eiffel Tower (2033 кілометри від Ейфелевої вежі)
Directed by Olesandra Khrebtova, Olesandr Balaban, Ukrainian (w/ Eng. subtitles), Ukraine, 2009, 35 min. A documentary about a town in Polissia (Ukraine) that once had Europe’s longest narrow-gauge railway, now lost and derelict in the marches. How do people survive after the collapse of the regional economy when there is no work or money?

Adam and Eve (Адам і Єва)
Directed by Murat Mamedov, Russian (w/Eng. subtitles), Ukraine, 2006, 22 min. This visually stunning documentary depicts the daily hardscrabble existence of a group of coal miners and their supportive wives in one eastern Ukrainian mine. Several claustrophobia-inducing shots reveal to viewers the narrow shafts 300 feet below ground then pulls us up to sunlight via a rickety, antiquated pulley system.

Akbulak (Акбулак)
Directed by Tatjana Korol, Russian (w/Eng. subtitles), Kazakhstan/UK, 2008, 15 min. Olja, an urbane teen who’s been living abroad for eight years, revisits her hometown Akbulak, a small, dusty speck in Kazakhstan. It’s a stirring film about reconnecting with one’s roots, rediscovering the haunts of one’s childhood and resurrecting old friendships.

Ama at Sea
Directed by Malia Cohen, Ukrainian (w/ Eng. subtitles), USA, 2009, 20 min. Dark, film-noirish couple in a destructive relationship.

Answer for a Prayer (Відповід на Молитву)
Directed by Maksym Bunitsky, Ukrainian (no subtitles), Ukraine, 2009, 3 min. A man condemned to death by the KGB prays for help and receives an Answer for a Prayer, based on a Shevchenko poem.

The Bear’s Favor (Ведмедя Послуга)
Directed by Zhenya Alyokin, Ukrainian (w/ Eng. subtitles), Ukraine, 2003. Animation, 10 min. A bear and squirrel residing in the same tree team up to battle a blistering blizzard.

**Bingo** (Бінго)
Directed by Timur Ismailov, Russian (w/Eng. subtitles), Netherlands, 2009, 28 min.
Set in Holland, three undocumented workers – a Chechen biology teacher, a former Russian boxer, and Bingo, a Moldavian gypsy – illegally earn money performing demolition. They soon learn not only that the work can be extremely dangerous, but that when things go wrong their very lives are considered expendable.

**The First Karaoke** (Перший караоке)
Directed by Oleh Chorniy, Gena Khmaruk, Ukrainian (w/Eng. subtitles), Ukraine, 2005, 2 min.
The First Karaoke starts with joyous Soviet Ukrainians singing the praises of communist life and ends with a surprise kicker.

**Frypoolya** (Фрипуля)
Directed by Slava Feofilaktov, Ukrainian/Russian (w/Eng. subtitles), Ukraine, 2010, 13 min.
This short film shows Kyiv’s beloved and free-spirited, bohemian, colorfully-costumed artist (recently deceased) as he creates amazing art from ordinary, everyday items.

**Hush City**
Directed by Ilya Andreyev, English text, Belarus, 2008, 8 min.
An experimental multi-media online project using text and stills which tells a personal story set within the city of Minsk, Belarus over 4 seasons. Screening the first season, Autumn.

**Liza** (Ліза)
Directed by Taras Tomenko, Russian (w/Eng. subtitles), Ukraine, 2006, 21 min.
A disturbing documentary about Liza, a homeless, independent 11-year-old orphan in Kyiv who has learned to manipulate the system in order to survive. Poignant and touching.
**Long Walk Forever** (Довга прогулянка – на завжди)
Directed by Maksym Bunitksy, Ukrainian (w/Eng. subtitles), Ukraine, 2010, 17 min.
A Kurt Vonnegut-inspired Long Walk Forever, a soldier returns home unexpectedly to invite a bride-to-be for a fateful walk.

**Melancholy Colors** (Сумні Барви)
Directed by Stanislav Leschenko, no dialogue, Ukraine, 2009, 7 min.
An upbeat little film in which a street performer magically adds waves of spectacular colors to otherwise black and gray surroundings.

**Molfar Nechay** (Мольфар Ничай)
Directed by Slava Feofilaktov, Ukrainian (w/Eng. subtitles), Ukraine, 2008, 35 min.
One of Carpathian Ukraine’s dying breed of herbal magicians and medicine men talks about casting spells, the contents of magic potions, and his ability to predict the future and influence weather.

**New Business**
Directed by Julia Kots, Russian (w/Eng. subtitles), USA, 2007, 13 min.
An off-beat dark comedy about misguided dreams of entrepreneurship and the coming of age of a post-Soviet Russian teenage boy. His attempt at playing ‘pimp’ by prostituting two young women soon goes awry.

**No Comments** (Без коментарі)
Directed by Dar Dryuchenko, no dialogue, Ukraine, 2010, 3 min.
A popular Kyivan bridge draws couples to it and their love pledges.

**Not Scared** (Не Страшно)
Directed by Kateryna Naumenko, Ukrainian (w/Eng. subtitles), Ukraine, 2009, 13 min.
Teen siblings sell apples in their Ukrainian village in hopes of saving money to purchase a motorbike. They are bullied by local kids until a young motorcross championship racer befriends them and invites them into his life, including the racetrack.
**Obstacle** (Перешкода)
Directed by Maksym Bunitsky, Ukrainian (w/Eng.subtitles), Ukraine, 9 min.
A dreamlike short narrative shows schoolchildren on the verge of puberty playact, foreshadowing budding sexuality. Eroticism mixed with innocent, playful fantasy.

**Radunytsia** (Радунця)
Directed by Roman Bondarchuk, Ukrainian, Russian, Surzhyk (w/ Eng. subtitles), Ukraine, 2007, 15 min.
After the fall of the Soviet Union many families were separated by the new state boundaries. Kljusy is a unique village that rests on the borders of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia. The village is full of earthy, interesting, comical characters, many of whom have intermarried. Relatives often have to meet illegally. This is what happens on Radunytsia (All Saint’s Day) when family members who live in three different countries gather at cemeteries.

**Switchman** (Стрілочник)
Directed by Serhiy Siliava, no dialogue, Ukraine, 2009, 10 min.
A lonely train switchman living an isolated life in a hut along the tracks is given the chance to leave his routine-filled life behind. The switchman must choose between his dull yet comfortably predictable existence or the uncharted unknown.

**Very Close** (Упритул)
Directed by Mykyta Shulyahyn, Ukrainian (w/Eng. subtitles), Ukraine, 2010, 17 min.
A campy, comic book inspired sci-fi short where the young hero must save the world from destruction.

**Wandering Between** (Блукаючи поміж)
Directed by Anatoliy Lavrenishin, Ukrainian (w/Eng. subtitles), Ukraine, 2005, animation, 10 min.
A boy searching for love gets lost in a world of fantasy.
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The Ukrainian Museum’s film series is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.
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Admission: $10

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