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

Now in its third year, the film festival takes place at two long standing East Village institutions, The Ukrainian Museum and the historic cinema arthouse the Anthology Film Archives.

The Kinofest NYC team is delighted to present this year’s exciting program with a quality selection of new independent feature and short films, many premiering in New York for the very first time!

See you at the movies!
## FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

### THURSDAY MAY 3
**THE UKRAINIAN MUSEUM (UM)**
- 7:30 PM: Filmmaker Maryna Vroda presents her short *Cross Country*, winner of the 2011 Palme d’Or Best Short Film award at Cannes, and *The Rain*
- Introductions of all the visiting filmmakers from Ukraine and Germany
- Festival kick-off reception catered by Veselka Restaurant

### FRIDAY MAY 4
**ANTHOCLOGY FILM ARCHIVES (AFA)**
- 7:30 PM: Filmmaker Jakob Preuss presents *The Other Chelsea: A Story from Donetsk*

### SATURDAY MAY 5
**ANTHOCLOGY FILM ARCHIVES (AFA)**
- 2:00 PM: *The Woman with the 5 Elephants* presented by Prof. Nadia Kizenko
- 5:00 PM: Post-Soviet Film Shorts (10)
- 8:00 PM: *Land of Oblivion*, New York Premiere!

### SUNDAY MAY 6
**THE UKRAINIAN MUSEUM (UM)**
- 2:00 PM: Goodbye, Ukraine! short films (7) presented by filmmaker Volodymyr Tykhyy
- 5:00 PM: *Firecrosser*, U.S. Premiere! Closing film presented by Prof. Alexander Motyl

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**ADMISSION:** $10 each session
On behalf of the staff of the Consulate General of Ukraine in New York, let me extend my greetings to the respected Kinofest NYC team, and to all supporters and participants of the Third Annual Kinofest NYC Film Festival, and wish you all success with this regard.

We strongly believe that Kinofest NYC, as the only film festival in New York dedicated to promoting Ukrainian and post-Soviet cinema, and linking filmmakers in Ukraine with the New York community, deserves due recognition and honor amongst the cinematographers, critics, and experts worldwide.

In this context the Consulate would be honored and pleased to assist Kinofest NYC in its endeavors aimed at further developing and strengthening bilateral American-Ukrainian cultural relations.

Hon. Serhii Pohoreltsev
Consul General of Ukraine in New York
April 10, 2012
It is my honour to patron the 2012 Kinofest NYC Film Festival. Your success in promoting Ukrainian independent cinema is remarkable. Taking this opportunity, I wish to extend my congratulations on the occasion of the third annual Kinofest NYC.

In my view it is highly important now to support emerging Ukrainian filmmakers. Kinofest NYC serves as a unique platform granting them access to the United States audience and bringing them together with their American supporters and partners.

Moreover, the 2012 Kinofest NYC Film Festival has proven to be a very helpful tool in deepening relations between Ukraine and the United States in general.

H. E. Yuriy A. Sergeyev
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations
April 9, 2012
2 short films presented by the director Maryna Vroda

**The Rain (Дощ)**
Ukraine, 2007
Ukr w/Eng subtitles
12 min
A torrential rain unearths the enduring love a seemingly gruff, elderly man has for his wife.

**Cross Country (Крос)**
* 2011 Palme d’Or Best Short Film award at Cannes *
Ukraine, 2011
Rus w/Eng subtitles
15 min
A boy running through the woods with his physical fitness class ditches the safety of his group. When he continues on alone, we get to see through his eyes his reality and an unapologetic portrayal of his world.

Additional highlights:
• Meet the visiting Kinofest NYC filmmakers from Ukraine and Germany!
• Evening ends with the Kinofest NYC kick-off reception catered by Veselka Restaurant
Opening feature presented by the director Jakob Preuss

The Other Chelsea - A story from Donetsk

(Другий Челсі)

Germany, 2010

Rus/Eng w/Eng subtitles

87 min

Filmmaker Jakob Preuss skillfully uses the sudden success of eastern Ukraine’s Donetsk soccer team, Shakhtar, to reveal the links between Donetsk’s politics, business and sport. He often, and successfully, employs humor to show the discordant worlds of Donetsk’s oligarchs with their increasing wealth and the abject poverty and deteriorating working conditions of its coal miners. He then shows how these two worlds meet in the Donetsk soccer stadium.

Preuss has that rare but essential gift for a participatory documentarian: His subjects open up to him on camera. Miners reveal their bitter discontents; a middle-aged, unmarried couple tenderly bare their love for each other; and an up-and-coming, spin-spouting politician, suddenly realizes he may have over-disclosed. This makes for a gem of a documentary.
The Woman with 5 Elephants
Directed by Vadim Jendreyko
Switzerland, 2009
Ger/Rus w/Eng subtitles
94 min
No, the woman is not a circus trainer. She’s Kyiv-born 86-yr.-old Svetlana Geier, a world-renowned Fyodor Dostoyevsky scholar. And the elephants are five of Dostoyevsky’s major works that Svetlana has been translating into German, a 20-year project. As the film opens, she’s near completion. Highly intelligent and down-to-earth sweet, Svetlana is fascinating to listen to and watch as she translates collaboratively, prepares meals for her visiting family, or meticulously attends to household chores. Her life story is riveting. We discover, amongst other things, that her father, an agronomist, died a victim of Stalin’s purges and young Svetlana, to survive during World War II, became a German translator for the Nazis when they occupied Kyiv. Having relocated permanently to Germany during the war, we get to see Svetlana, as she returns by train to Kyiv nearly 65 years later. A deeply satisfying film.

Introduction by Prof. Nadia Kizenko, University at Albany-SUNY

Preceded by short film
1937
Russia, 2010
Rus w/ Eng subtitles
Directed by Svetozar Goloviev

SATURDAY MAY 5  2:00 PM

ANTHOLOGY FILM ARCHIVES (AFA)
SATURDAY MAY 5  5:00 PM

ANTHOLOGY FILM ARCHIVES (AFA)

POST SOVIET SHORT FILMS

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

See pages 13–14 for additional information about the short films.

Ave.AVI
Directed by Maxym Afanasyev

Cradle of Destiny
Directed by Serhiy Siliava

Home
Directed by Ruslan Magomadov

One More Day
Directed by Olexandr Rudyk

To be Human
Directed by Anna Butozova

Christmas with Fritz Dubert
Directed by Michael Nikitin

Oko
Directed by Mykyta Liskov

Treasure Seekers
Directed by Agnieszka Bak

Boyarka Serenade
Directed by Svitlana Tymoschenko

Ambitious
Directed by Aynur Askarov

9
This engaging film about the nuclear plant disaster at Chernobyl and its effect on neighboring Pripyat residents is told primarily through the eyes of a young bride, now a Chernobyl widow, Anya (Olga Kurylenko), and Valery, the son of a scientist who has disappeared. Pripyat, once a thriving city of 50,000 built to house Chernobyl workers, became a ghost town after the meltdown. Ten years later, Anya is working as a guide, showing tourists around a less toxic Chernobyl and Pripyat, and Valery is still searching for his father. But Anya is at a crossroads. She can stay and marry her Ukrainian lover, Dmitri, who’s rebuilding a life in Pripyat, or she can try to escape past horrors by marrying her French lover, Patrick, and moving to Paris.
GOOD BYE, UKRAINE! Short Films
presented by filmmaker Volodymyr Tykhyy

Reed (Очерет)
Directed by Ruslan Batytskyy

Without GMO (Без ГМО)
Directed by Larysa Artiuhina

The Beard (Борода)
Directed by Dmytro Suholytkyj-Sobchuk

Hamburg (Гамбург)
Directed by Volodymyr Tykhyy

Off I’Il Go (Та Поїду)
Directed by Valeriy Shalyha

Almost Love (Майже Кохання)
Directed by Julia Shashkova

Angel of Death (Ангел Смерті)
Directed by Volodymyr Tykhyy

GOOD BYE, UKRAINE! is a Volodymyr Tykhyy series featuring film shorts by Ukrainian filmmakers.

See pages 15–16 for additional information about the short films.

U.S. PREMIERE!

Goodbye, Ukraine! is a Volodymyr Tykhyy series featuring film shorts by Ukrainian filmmakers.

See pages 15–16 for additional information about the short films.
Firecrosser
Той хто пройшов крізь вогонь
Directed by Mykhailo Illienko
Ukraine, 2011
Ukr/Rus/Eng w/Eng subtitles
110 min

This romantic ballad is based on the true story of a Ukrainian hero named Ivan Dodoka. Ivan, a Soviet pilot, is shot down during a sortie and captured by the Germans. After being released from a prisoner-of-war camp, he is returned to the Soviet Union, but instead of being treated as a hero, he is banished to a gulag. Ivan miraculously escapes and winds up in Canada, where he becomes chief of an Indian tribe. Some years later, as the chief, Ivan meets a Soviet delegation in Canada. The delegation is shocked and baffled with this Indian chief who speaks fluent Ukrainian.

U.S. PREMIERE!

Introduction by Prof. Alexander Motyl, Rutgers-Newark, The State University of New Jersey
Ave.AVI
Directed by Maxym Afanasyev, Ukraine, 2011, Silent, 5 min.
The filmmaker uses stop-motion animation to nightmarishly depict a macabre couple whose only delight is watching their coin-operated TV.

Cradle of Destiny
Directed by Serhiy Siliava, Ukraine, 2010, Silent, 6 min.
Society’s expectations and roles foisted on us symbolically represented by a surreal sequence of footwear and feet.

Home
Directed by Ruslan Magomadov, Russia/Chechnya, 2012, Rus/Chechen w/Eng subtitles, 26 min.
An ingenious elderly Chechen forages to survive in the wasteland of Chechnya’s Russian-artillery-obliterated capital, Grozny.

One More Day
Directed by Olexandr Rudyk, Ukraine, 2011, Ukr w/Eng. subtitles, 1 min.
A sweet, old baba and her simple longing.

To be Human
Directed by Anna Butozova, Ukraine, 2011, Rus w/Eng. subtitles, 12 min.
With wanted posters of him posted all over town, a young criminal on the lam faces a moral dilemma when he finds and then wants to turn in an abandoned infant.
Christmas with Fritz Dubert
Directed by Michael Nikitin, USA, 2010, Eng, 13 min.
The night before Christmas and Tanya discovers her husband Albert holds more surprises for her than just her Christmas gift.

Oko
Directed by Mykyta Liskov, Ukraine, 2010, Silent, 10 min.
Animation with a stark, disturbing post-apocalyptic theme

Treasure Seekers
Directed by Agnieszka Bak, Ukraine/Poland, 2009, Pol/Ukr w/Eng subtitles, 20 min.
Equipped with a metal detector, two elderly Polish brothers travel to the city of Lviv in search of their parents’ legendary buried treasure. The problem is it’s almost 70 years later and a lot has changed. A humorous adventure.

Boyarka Serenade
Directed by Svitlana Tymoshenko, Ukraine, 2012, Rus w/Eng subtitles, 11 min.
Enchanting, eleven-year-old Rachel is the product of a Ukrainian mother and African father and has big saxophone dreams of leaving Boyarka for America.

Ambitious
Directed by Aynur Askarov, Russia, 2010, Bashkir w/Eng subtitles, 21 min.
The main event in a picturesque Bashkir village is the weekly film showing at the local recreation center. This delightful tale revolves around film-day’s most passionate fan, a boy nicknamed ‘disco dancer.’
**Reed (Очерет)**
Directed by Ruslan Batytsky, Ukraine, 2011, Ukr w/Eng subtitles, 15 min.
A single father’s struggle to provide for his invalid daughter in a ramshackle Ukrainian village comes to a haunting conclusion.

**Without GMO (Без ГМО)**
Directed by Larysa Artiuhina, Ukraine, 2011, Ukr w/Eng subtitles, 10 min.
A recent widow reconsiders relocating abroad after a most unusual culinary encounter.

**The Beard (Борода)**
Directed by Dmytro Suholytkyj-Sobchuk, Ukraine, 2011, Ukr w/Eng subtitles, 25 min.
an elderly, solitary, village man anticipates his daughter’s return from abroad to partake in an annual, intimate, father-daughter ritual.

**Hamburg (Гамбург)**
Directed by Volodymyr Tykhyy, Ukraine, 2011, Ukr w/Eng subtitles, 6 min.
A hospital in Ukraine fulfills the adventurous fantasies of one of its patients… partially.

**Off I’ll Go (Та Поїду)**
Directed by Valeriy Shalyha, Ukraine, 2011, Ukr w/Eng subtitles, 10 min.
The tedium of small-city family life inspires a middle-aged woman to consider working abroad.
Almost Love (Майже Кохання)
Directed by Julia Shashkova, Ukraine, 2011, Ukr w/Eng subtitles, 10 min.
Fifteen-year-old Anya has a secret crush on the boy next door. She suddenly discovers that he’s emigrating from Ukraine and doesn’t have anywhere to leave his dog.

Angel of Death (Ангел Смерті)
Directed by Volodymyr Tykhyy, Ukraine, 2011, Ukr w/Eng subtitles, 21 min.
Every day, the reclusive Bohdan begs God to exact severe justice on all the scoundrels on earth. At last, his prayers are answered.

SHORT FILMS (see p. 8 and p. 10)

1937
Directed by Svetozar Golovlev, Russia, 2010, Rus w/Eng subtitles, 18 min.
Set during Stalin’s repressive period, an edgy young Russian couple seeks out a secluded priest to baptize their newborn.

Chronicle of Severe Days (Чорнобиль: Хроніка важких тижнів)
Directed by Vladimir Shevchenko, Ukraine, 1986, Silent w/Eng subtitles, 7 min.
Rough but riveting footage of Chernobyl’s aftermath captured by filmmaker Vladimir Shevchenko just days after the explosion. Shevchenko died from radiation exposure soon after shooting the film.
Prof. Jaroslaw and Alla Leshko
Max Pyziur
Oleh and Olenka Kolodiy
and other individual supporters
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