

UKRAINE ON FILM 2017: BORDERLINES

The theme of this edition of UKRAINE ON FILM festival is BORDERLINES or when borders separate and divide human beings. Territorial separations, but also separations relating to systems of values; limits which, when crossed, inevitably lead to a questioning of identities.

On the program of the 2017 festival there are four new Ukrainian films, which have been screened and awarded at several international festivals. UKRAINE ON FILM will open on 20 January with cineconcert, in which Oleksandr Dovzhenko's film *Earth* (1930), masterpiece of the avant-garde silent cinema, will be screened with live accompaniment by famous Ukrainian group *DakhaBrakha*.

UKRAINE ON FILM is an annual event which aims to present new high-quality films from Ukraine along with the well-known classics. It also aims to introduce Belgian audience to prominent Ukrainian musicians.

The festival is organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Ukrainian State Film Agency, BOZAR and Arthouse Traffic, with the backing of Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Centre and the Association of Ukrainians in Belgium. The organizers are grateful to Ukrainian International Airlines, the festival's official carrier.













OFFICIAL CARRIER



BOZAR

Rue Ravenstein 23, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

20[™] of January FRIDAY

20.00

Opening ceremony followed by EARTH

by Olexandr Dovjenko

with live soundtrack of DAKHA BRAKHA, 83'

21ST of January SATURDAY 17.00 CLOSE RELATIONS, directed by Vitaly Mansky,

Ukraine – Latvia – Germany – Estonia, 2016, 112'

21st of January SATURDAY 19.30 UKRAINIAN SHERIFFS,

directed by Roman Bondarchuk, Ukraine – Latvia – Germany, 2016, 80'

22ND of January SUNDAY 17.00 THE NEST OF THE TURTELDOVE, directed by Taras Tkachenko, Ukraine – Italy, 2016, 110'

22ND of January SUNDAY 19.30

MARIUPOLIS,

directed by Mantas Kvedaravicius,

Ukraine – Lithuania – Germany – France, 2016, 96'

EARTH / ЗЕМЛЯ

dir. Oleksandr Dovzhenko, Ukrainian SSR, 1930, 83 min.

Earth, a masterpiece of silent film, describes the dramatic events relating to the collectivisation of the land destined for agriculture in Soviet Ukraine. An era described by Dovzhenko as "a period not just of economic change, but also of psychological change for the whole population". The work was considered to be one of the greatest films of all time during the Brussels International Exhibition of 1958. Due to the controversial subject matter it was banned in the URSS nine days after its release. Blending lyricism and utopia in a simple, concise language, Earth is a poetic affirmation of life in all its glory.

Restored in 2012 by Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Centre, *Earth* was given a musical accompaniment by the famous Ukrainian Ethno-chaos group DakhaBrakha, who have played, amongst others, at the Glastonbury, Roskilde and the Eurock ennes de Belfort festivals. The new soundtrack hijacks the ideological connotations of the film in order to send out the universal message.



Oleksandr Dovzhenko



One of the most famous and recognizable Ukrainian film directors, pioneer of montage theory. His films are considered masterpieces of Ukrainian avant-garde cinema. He is one of the most important film-makers of early Soviet time, alongside Sergei Eisenstein, Dziga Vertov, and Vsevolod Pudovkin. He gained great success with *Zvenyhora* in 1928 which established him as a major filmmaker of his era. Dovzhenko's so called Ukrainian Trilogy (*Zvenyhora*, *Arsenal*, and *Earth*), although underappreciated by some contemporary Soviet critics, is his most well-known work.

Selected filmography: Zvenigora (1928), Arsenal (1928), Earth (1930)

CLOSE RELATIONS / РІДНІ

dir. Vitaly Mansky, Ukraine / Latvia / Germany / Estonia, 2016, 112 min.

Russian citizen and Soviet-born Ukrainian native Vitaly Mansky crisscrosses Ukraine to explore Ukrainian society after Maidan revolution as mirrored within his own large Ukrainian family. They live scattered all across the country: in Lviv, Odessa, the separatist area in Donbass, and Sevastopol in Crimea. The film is looking for reasons of the conflict after which citizens of a single country found themselves on a different sides of barricades including director's own family. The main narrative takes place here and now, starting with the turning point of ex-president Victor Yanukovych's escape to Russia.

Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, 2016 Toronto International Film Festival, 2016 International Competition, DOK Leipzig, 2016





Vitaly Mansky

One of the prominent documentary filmmakers, born in Ukraine. The founder and President of documentary film festival ArtDoc Fest. Vitaly Mansky was born in Lviv, Ukraine. He studied film at the All-Russian State Institute of Cinematography in Moscow. His works were presented at more than 400 international film festivals, among which are Cannes, Berlin, San-Sebastian, Rotterdam, and many others. He was awarded with more than 50 awards and prizes.

Selected filmography: Broadway, Black Sea (2002), Gagarin's Pioneers (2005), Virginity (2008), Motherland or Death (2011), Pipeline (2013), Under the Sun (2015)

UKRAINIAN SHERIFFS / УКРАЇНСЬКІ ШЕРИФИ

dir. Roman Bondarchuk, Ukraine / Latvia / Germany, 2015, 80 min.

Ukrainian Sheriffs feature was filmed in the south-easterly territories of Ukraine, which are particularly affected by the consequences of Russian aggression, including the question of local identity.

In a village beside the Black Sea, in order to find a solution to the lack of policemen in rural areas, the inhabitants have chosen two local "sheriffs" to keep public order. Both police officers and social workers, they will see their life and that of the village change following the events of Maidan as well as the illegal annexation of nearby Crimea.

Ukrainian submission for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film, 2016 IDFA Special Jury Award for Feature-Length Documentary, 2015





Roman Bondarchuk

Has graduated from Kyiv National Karpenko-Kary University of Theatre, Cinema and Television. His teacher was Yuriy Illenko – one of the founders of Ukrainian Poetic Cinema school.

Roman has created a number of short films, documentaries and music videos. The award-winner of national and international film festivals. Roman works as art-director and member of Selection Committee of International Human Rights documentary film festival Doucdays UA. *Ukrainian Sheriffs* is his first feature-length documentary.

Selected filmography: Kateryna (2005), The taxi-driver (2007), Radunytsia (2007), Euromaidan. Rough cut (2014)

THE NEST OF THE TURTLEDOVE / ГНІЗДО ГОРЛИЦІ

dir. Taras Tkachenko, Ukraine / Italy, 2016, 110 min.

Like millions of Ukrainians, Daryna left her country to work abroad illegally in order to give a better life to her family back home in Ukraine. After several years spent in Italy, she returns to her country of origin and finds that her family has fallen apart. An absence and a return, sources of heartbreak and painful questions... Her pregnancy, due to her Italian employer, doesn't make her situation any easier.

Prize of the Ecumenical Jury, Nomination for Audience Award, Mannheim-Heidelberg International Filmfestival, 2016 Golden Duke for Best Ukrainian Film, Odessa International Film Festival, 2016





Taras Tkachenko

Head of the National Union of Filmmakers of Ukraine. Graduated from Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University and Kyiv National Karpenko-Kary University of Theatre, Cinema and Television, where he also was teaching history of scriptwriting. In 2001-2006, he worked as a director at Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Feature Film Studio. Winner of Grand Prix of the film festival On Waves Of The Enchanted Desna and a diploma of the On The Lake Festival (Toronto).

Selected filmography: Tragical Love For Cheating Nuska (2002-2004), Right To Hope (2008)

MARIUPOLIS / MAPIYПОЛІС

dir. Mantas Kvedaravicius, Ukraine / Lithuania / Germany / France, 2016, 96 min.

Mariupol, the city located alongside the Azov Sea, is a stone's throw from the war zones of eastern Ukraine. From far off you can hear the sound of gunshot. We get to see the daily life of the inhabitants of this encircled city. A man repairs his fishing net and goes out to the bridge. Two trams run into each other — nobody is hurt and the cables are fixed the same day. A small concert is given for factory workers and the sincere performance of a violinist makes them cry. Bombs fall into the sea, no one notices. Everyday life is defined by bomb threats in Mariupol, once populated by Greeks. It is a visually powerful homage to a city in crisis, dedicated to its poets and shoemakers.

Panorama Documents, Berlin International Film Festival, 2016





Mantas Kvedaravičius

Was born in 1976 in Biržai, Lithuania. He studied cultural anthropology at the Vilnius University and the University of Oxford. Now he is making his PhD on the topic of the effects of pain at the University of Cambridge. Since 2006 he has been exploring the tortures and deportations in the Northern Caucasus. His first film about the military conflict in Chechnya was premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2011.

Filmography: Barzakh (2011)

BOZAR

Rue Ravenstein 23, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium **Hélène Tenreira Press Officer** THEATRE/DANCE/CINEMA & CORPORATE

T. +32 (0)2 507 83 91 / +32 (0)476 96 02 01

helene.tenreira@bozar.be

ARTHOUSE TRAFFIC

30/39-212 Schekavytska st., 04071 Kyiv, Ukraine T. +380 44 503-78-60 / Fax +380 44 503-10-47 Anastasiia Sidielnik Press Attaché +380 66 497 34 33 press@arthousetraffic.com