

press release

We are happy and proud to announce our second film program that circles around Ukraine. Again, we could work together with Nadia Parfan, film maker, co-founder of *86 Festival of Film and Urbanism* and part of *TAKFLIX*, the only streaming service for Ukrainian cinema.

UKRAINE MON AMOUR

In a unique collaboration with Nadia Parfan, we have been able to put a kaleidoscopic program of Ukrainian films together. From Ukrainian music culture of the 70's, to insights into Kyiv youth culture, queer short films, and a bunch of short films on architecture and urbanism, as well as documentaries on the gas industry in Ukraine, the rural live in the Carpathian Mountains as well as fictional films of the dark side of life.

The film program starts in August and continues in Fall/Winter 2022.

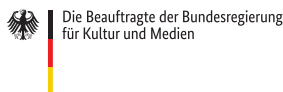
We also try to get the film makers either in person or via zoom connected to the events, to give the possibility for further discussion and exchange. – Please check our website for most recent news.

Our great thanks go to Goethe Institute:

The creation of German subtitles for the film program *Ukraine mon Amour* was made possible by the Goethe-Institute as part of a comprehensive package of measures for which the Federal Foreign Office is providing funds from the 2022 supplementary budget to mitigate the consequences of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.



and:



UKRAINE MON AMOUR

August 10, 11, 12 and August 17, 18, 19, 20 | (the dates for the fall will be communicated later)

Wednesday, August 10, 2022, 8pm

Mustache Funk by Oleksandr Kovsh and Vitalii Bard Bardetskyi, 2021 (German/English subtitles), 72 Min.

music, funk documentary | <https://takflix.com/en/films/moustache-funk>

The citizens of the USSR do not need to listen to James Brown, Frank Zappa or Pink Floyd - the Government thought so. But all that changed in the late 1960s: under the direction of the Politburo, VIAs (vocal-instrumental ensembles) began to appear in Ukraine to become analogues of Western rock bands. But something went wrong: instead of loyal musicians, the government got a modern and original music scene. These musicians did not like their bands to be called VIA. Now this music will have a new name - Moustache Funk!

"Moustache Funk" is a documentary about one of the brightest periods of Ukrainian pop music. The film is released with the support of Hacken (<https://hacken.io/>)

Vitalii Bard Bardetskyi will travel from Kyiv to Bonn on this occasion for a conversation after the film screening.

Thursday, August 11, 2022, 8pm

Stop-Zemlia by Kate Gornostai, 2021 (German/English subtitles), 122 Min.

Berlinale Winner / Teenage Drama | <https://takflix.com/en/films/stop-zemlia>

An introverted high-school girl Masha sees herself as an outsider unless she hangs around with Yana and Senia who share her non-conformist status. While she is trying to navigate through an intense time of the pre-graduation year, Masha falls in love that forces her to leave her comfort zone. From a debutant Ukrainian director Kate Gornostai, a radical, authentic, and sensitive insight into the unsettling feeling of being young and an inside perspective on Ukrainian youth.

Friday, August 12, 2022, 8pm

Short Films on Ukrainian Youth Culture

> **Goodby Golovin by Mathieu Grimard, 2019** (German/English subtitles), 14 Min

<https://takflix.com/en/films/goodbye-golovin>

Ian Golovin is preparing for a departure that was preceded by another: his father's death. Now he believes he can finally become his true self. His longing for change drives him to leave the grey tower block estate where he lives in the Ukraine. But Masha, who is somehow always close by, asks the question: You think by changing the audience, we can change who we are?

> **The Normal by Diana Gorban, Iryna Hromotska, 2019** (German/English subtitles), 13 Min

<https://takflix.com/en/films/normal>

After a failed party, the girl decides to tell about all the sore to a stranger in the park. In the conversation of girls, their vision of the world, a measure of dream and reality opens up.

- > **In Joy, and only in Joy, Marina Roschina, 2018** (German/English subtitles), 27 Min
<https://takflix.com/en/films/in-joy>
 Kate is a young lonely mother. She falls in love with a fellow but does not have the courage to tell him that she has a son. As their relationship develops rapidly the revelation becomes more complicated. The choice between her personal life and responsibility for her son arises.

- > **Dedicated to the Youth of the World-I, Roman Khimey & Yarema Malashchuk, 2017, 3 Min.**
 The title of the film is taken from Leni's Riefenstahl Olympia slogan which appears at the beginning of her documentary. Video-essay mix multiple narratives of 20th-century ideologies. Nazi central philosopher Alfred Rosenberg matches together with the icon of American democracy – poet Walt Whitman. Nietzsche follows the official soviet voiceover. The ideas of youth are wrapped into fashion brand style that mimics early soviet aesthetics.

- > **Kyiv's Youth Leaving a Grocery Store, Roman Khimey & Yarema Malashchuk, 2017, 3 Min.**
 Kyiv's Youth Leaving a Grocery Store is an homage to the Lumiere brothers' classic *Workers leaving the Lumiere Factory*. Reconsidering the world's first cinematic works, the artists address the redefining of labour and change of socio-economic formation. Thus, a producing factory turns into a consuming factory, and leisure turns into exhausting toil on the dancefloor.

- > **Dedicated to the Youth of the World-II, Roman Khimey & Yarema Malashchuk, 2019, 9 Min.**
 Grand Prix MUHi 2019, Kyiv, Ukraine / The best documentary short film at Festival Internacional de Cine Silente 2019, México / VISIO Young Talent Acquisition Prize, Florence, Italy
 The focus of the film is the techno-rave Cxema and the youth, on which the camera is carefully focused the next morning after the event. The space of Dovzhenko's film-studio is transformed into a dancefloor, a synchronized crowd, spotlights, arrhythmic synthetic sound by Stanislav Tolkachev – the camera moves away and approaches, creating a sense of romantic *exaltation* and at the same time a modern *alienation*. This is the place and meeting that the youth of Kyiv are waiting for and preparing for – this particular escape from everyday life, rejection of it – evokes strange feelings of modern ritual. But what does it mean? The film ends with *portraits*, almost static shots, faces *after* utopia. Characters of the film are not ready to accept the new day and its old reality.

Yarema Malashchuk and Roman Khimei, artist and filmmakers, Kyiv might join us for a conversation after the film screenings.

Wednesday, August 17, 2022, 8pm

Short Films on Ukrainian Queer Culture

- > **Chacho, Vitalii Havura, 2020** (German/English subtitles), 20 Min
<https://takflix.com/en/films/chacho>
 Yanush grew up in a conservative Romani community in a small Ukrainian town. He is about to get married, just what his parents want. However, Yanush is gay and in love with another young man, Pasha. Together they decide to sneak away from the wedding and leave the town, but can Yanush really do it?

- > **Exarch, Nadia Parfan, Maria Stoianova, 2014** (German/English subtitles), 10 Min
<https://takflix.com/en/films/exarch>
 A young Orthodox priest, fed up with too much intolerance and hypocrisy at the Kyiv Pechery Lavra, decides to leave his service there. He finds for himself a new flock: gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people as well as those living with HIV/AIDS. However, the official Orthodox Church denies them the right to be Christians and homophobic society compels them to hide their sexual orientation. What has to happen to make the Church embower LGBT believers?

- > **Aftertaste, Yuri Katynskiy, 2017** (German/English subtitles), 20 Min

<https://takflix.com/en/films/aftertaste>

The guy comes back to the small city, where he meets his old friends. They have a good time together. In the end of the day they decided to continue their "meeting". They get into a car with a stranger, whose motives are unknown. Such a spontaneous action turns out to be a chance to become closer to each other and find yourself.

- > **Kittens, Zhanna Ozirna, 2016**, (German/English subtitles), 8 Min

<http://www.86.org.ua/en/kittens/>

Two girls in a Lviv apartment start a casual conversation about their common future. In the midst of the traditional Ukrainian life remnants the usual dreams about future stumble upon the unbreakable social norms and customs. The things that are private for most people the others have to fight for against the society. Surrounded by regular scenery while dealing with the usual household tasks, the sincere conversation turns into a global question: can we afford the freedom at least in our private lives without having to substitute it with pets?

- > **Bond, Zhanna Ozirna, 2018**, (German/English subtitles), 30 Min

<http://www.86.org.ua/en/2018-bond/>

Your family can accept that you're not like others. But could you accept that your family is normal? It's a story of one coming out that has lasted for a year.

Zhanna Ozirna will visit from Paris to join the conversation after the screenings.

Thursday, August 18, 2022, 8pm

Short Films on Architecture and Urbanism

- > **The Bridge, Dmytro Burko, Olena Moskovchuk, Oksana Nosach, 2016** (German/English subtitles), 13 Min

<https://takflix.com/en/films/bridge>

Is it possible that a part of cityscape is a living entity? Just like a human being it has its birth and death, its life filled with events, its fate and the abandoned decline. This is the Rybalsky cable bridge. And these are its memories.

- > **70 streets, Maks Lyzhov, 2016** (German/English subtitles), 6 Min

<https://takflix.com/en/films/70-streets>

When Brovary village officially became a town, one third of its residents were communist. After 60 years and three revolutions such proportion didn't change: thirty percent of its streets keep the names of the former empire.

- > **Modernims. Brutalism. Postmodernism, Roman Blazhan & Mikhail Volkov, 2018** (German/English subtitles), 6 Min.

<https://thesketchline.com/lecture/soviet-modernism-brutalism-post-modernism/>

Short film in support of the upcoming book Soviet Modernism. Brutalism. Post-modernism. Buildings and Projects in Ukraine 1960–1990 (Osnovy Publishing / DOM publishers). Its a wonderful representation of Kyiv's eclectic architectural beauty. Unfortunately we might be seeing the last of some of these outstanding buildings.

> **Beaches of Kyiv, Roman Blazhan & Mikhail Volkov, 2020**
(German/English subtitles), 3 Min

It is a visual essay exploring Kyivan's favorite summer pastime. We take a journey through popular beaches, enjoying their seductive imagery. After many months in quarantine, the film is an ode to freedom and beauty that surrounds us.

> **Orthodox Chic, Roman Blazhan & Mikhail Volkov, 2020** (German/English subtitles), 3 Min.

This short shows the frenzy of building religious architecture that occurred in independent Ukraine. This is encapsulated in one particular story: as a backdrop, whenever a temporary, 'mini chapel' has been installed on a particular site a large church is supposed to finally replace it. Father Petro (Peter) has been filing for planning permission and collecting money for the construction of the Church of St Peter and Paul for more than twenty years. Even if he doesn't succeed in his lifetime, his son Pavlo (Paul), also a priest, will take over the work. This particular snapshot is just one of dozens of similar stories happening right now in Ukraine.

> **Enter Through The Balcony, Roman Blazhan & Mikhail Volkov, 2020** (German/English subtitles), 26 Min.

<https://www.takflix.com/en/films/enter-through-the-balcony>

Enter Through The Balcony is a Documentary Short about Ukrainian make-shift balconies. The film explores the phenomenon of the balcony as a small architectural form. Enter Through The Balcony is a journey through the decades. It is a look inside balconies and their owners in cities across Ukraine. It is a balanced and in depth view of the balconies from their owners, employees of city councils, historians, sociologists, urbanists, developers and architects. Through the history of the balconies film explores the history of Post-Soviet Ukraine — life, culture, and the relationships between personal and public space in cities.

Roman Blazhan will travel from Bavaria to join the conversation after the film screenings.

Friday, August 19, 2022, 8pm

Heat Singers, Nadia Parfan, 2019 (German/English subtitles), 63 Min

<https://takflix.com/en/films/iftke>

For many years, Ivan Vasyliovych has been the trade union leader at Ivano-Frankivsk TeploKomunEnergo, a municipal heating company in western Ukraine. His magnum opus is the trade union choir for mechanics, repairmen, dispatchers, book-keepers and other employees. Is it possible to warm up customer's cold radiators with the power of Ukrainian folk song?

Saturday, August 20, 2022, 8pm

My Thoughts Are Silent, Antonio Lukich, 2019 (German/English subtitles), 104 Min

<https://takflix.com/en/films/my-thoughts-are-silent>

Young sound engineer Vadim gets a simple yet important task – to record the voices of Transcarpathian animals. This job could be his only chance to permanently leave the "uncomfortable"

Thanks to :

NADIA PARFAN | <https://bit.ly/3CbPrSj>

Nadiya Parfan studied cultural studies in Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and social anthropology in Central European University (Budapest). In 2012-13 she was a Fulbright visiting fellow at Temple University, Philadelphia. In 2015 she received a Gaude Polonia stipend and finished a DOK PRO documentary film directing course at Andrzej Wajda Film School in Warsaw. Nadia was Jonathon Narducci's assistant director in the *Love Me* feature documentary (Powershot Production, LA). Since 2014 Nadia has been making her own films as writer and director. Her student film *Reve ta Stohne on Tour* (2016) received a special mention at DocudaysUA IHRFF and was officially selected to Warsaw IFF. Nadia's feature debut *Heat Singers* (2019) premiered at Visions du Reel in the international competition. It was awarded as the best documentary film by Ukrainian Film Academy (2019) and the best documentary by Ukrainian Film Critics Association.

TAKFLIX | <https://takflix.com>

Takflix is the first and only streaming service of Ukrainian cinema. Our mission is to make Ukrainian cinema legally available for viewing everywhere in the world, to encourage viewers to watch high-quality Ukrainian content and to support national cinematography. That is why 50% of Takflix ticket sales are returned to the filmmakers.

Takflix online cinema launched in December 2019. After two years our platform has the largest collection of Ukrainian cinema. Golden classics, bold debuts, creative documentaries and award-winning films of international film festivals – we have films for every taste.

During this time, we held an online short film festival of prominent women filmmakers from Ukraine and UK "7+7" in collaboration with the London Short Film Festival. Together with the IZOLYATSIA Foundation and KyivPride we organized the project "Coming out of isolation". In 2020 and 2021, Takflix in cooperation with the Polish Institute in Kyiv held an online festival "Days of Polish Cinema", and together with the Ukrainian Institute in London - "Ukrainian Film Festival in UK". In collaboration with the Odessa International Film Festival Takflix has created an online project "OIFF Flashback".