

# DIMA PUCHKAREV

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Passionate and socially conscious filmmaker seeking acceptance into your Film Festival. Dedicated to elevating stories that amplify marginalized voices and explore themes of resilience, redemption, and community empowerment. Through this program, I aim to refine my technical skills, expand my creative vision, and create films that resonate deeply with audiences.

## Creative Experience

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### **May 2024, Grillo, documentary, 17.5 minutes. USC – Dworak-Peck School of Social Work**

Position: director/producer.

A short documentary exploring the journey of David (Grillo), a formerly incarcerated man who finds freedom and purpose through reentry services and gang intervention at Homeboy Industries. The film won the Ron Kovic Peace Prize at the MY HERO International Film Festival, Documentary Short at the IndieFEST Film Awards, nominated for best director and documentary short at IndieX Film Festival and selected to Culver City Film Festival.

[www.grillodoc.com](http://www.grillodoc.com)

### **October 2025, Film Video-Based Therapy and Trauma Research and Practice, book chapter.**

Position: contributing writer.

Authored a chapter on recidivism and trauma, exploring the therapeutic potential of film as client-centered advocacy. This chapter examines the intersection of trauma and recidivism, highlighting my case studies in *Grillo* documentary. Published in *Film Video-Based Therapy and Trauma Research and Practice*, edited by Joshua L.

[www.filmandvideobasedtherapy.com](http://www.filmandvideobasedtherapy.com)

### **May 2023-Present, Feed the Streets, event series documentation and outreach.**

Position: photographer/content creator.

Document community events and volunteer efforts on Skid Row, including weekly and biweekly food distributions, holiday toy drives, and fundraising events. Produced photo essays and social media content to raise awareness and encourage volunteer engagement. Sponsored by brands such as Born X Raised and Undefeated.

[www.feedthestreets.info/](http://www.feedthestreets.info/)

**July 2017, *Tour de Pharmacy*, HBO mockumentary** Position:  
featured extra actor.

Portrayed the brother of the main character's love interest in this satirical mockumentary, directed by Jake Szymanski and written by Murray Miller. *Tour de Pharmacy* takes a comedic look at the world of professional cycling and doping scandals, featuring a star-studded cast including Andy Samberg, Orlando Bloom, and John Cena.

**March 2013, *Phantom*, 20th Century Fox drama/history film** Position:  
featured extra actor.

Played a sailor bodyguard to the main character in this Cold War-era thriller, written and directed by USC School of Cinematic Arts adjunct professor Todd Robinson. *Phantom* follows a Soviet submarine captain on a tense, secretive mission, featuring a distinguished cast including Ed Harris, David Duchovny, and William Fichtner. My role involved close interactions with the main cast, contributing to the film's atmosphere of suspense and historical realism.

## Skills

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Documentary Directing • Producing • Story Development • Editing and Post-Production  
Cinematography • Interviewing Techniques • Digital Marketing for Film • Sound Mixing and  
Design • Film Festival Strategy • Email Campaigns and Newsletters • Crowdfunding  
Management • Fluent Russian • Intermediate Spanish • Microsoft Office • Choreography

## Trainings

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**December 2020, Bachelor of Arts in Drama, University of California, Irvine (UCI)**

Completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Drama, focusing on foundational and advanced studies in acting, scenic design and playwriting.

**Spring 2024, *Media in Social Work: Documentary Class*, University of Southern California (USC)**

Completed a specialized course on documentary filmmaking for social justice under the guidance of distinguished filmmaker and social worker Professor Rafael Angulo. This hands-on course focused on using mobile filmmaking as a tool for social action.

**Summer 2017, Film Studies Courses, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**

Completed 8 intensive classes in film studies during the UCLA summer session, gaining a wellrounded foundation in the theory and practice of filmmaking. Courses included *Film Genres*, *Art and Technique of Filmmaking*, and *Film and TV Development*, covering topics such as genre analysis, cinematic techniques, narrative structure, and the stages of development.