



CAROL OF THE BELLS

DIRECTOR
SCREENPLAY

OLESYA MORGUNETS-ISAENKO
KSENIA ZASTAVSKA



Ministry of Culture and
Information Policy of Ukraine

AM.AVISION

FILM, TV SERIES AND HOME VIDEO PRODUCTION



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INTERNATIONAL TITLE: CAROL OF THE BELLS

ORIGINAL TITLE: SHCHEDRYK

Country of Production: Ukraine, Poland

Year of Production: 2021

Genre: Drama, History, War

Language: Ukrainian, Polish, Russian, German, English

Subtitles: English

Running Time: 122 min.

Screen Ratio: 1:1.85

Sound Format: 5.1

Production Companies: AMA VISION (UA), STEWOPOL MS (PL)

Supported by the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine

World Sales: ONE EYED FILMS (UK)

Director: Olesya Morgunets-Isaenko

Scriptwriter: Ksenia Zastavska

DOP: Eugeniy Kirey

Composer: Hossein Mirzagholi

Production Designer: Vladlen Odudenko

Sound Design: Andrii Obod

Editing: Roman Synchuk

Producers: Artem Koliubaiev, Taras Bosak, Maksim Leshchanka

MAIN CAST:

SOFIA	Yana Koroliova
MYKHAILO	Andrey Mostrenko
YAROSLAVA	Polina Gromova
WANDA	Joanna Opozda
WACLAW	Miroslaw Haniszewski
TERESA	Khrystyna Ushytska
BERTA	Alla Binieieva
ISAAC	Tomasz Sobczak
DINAH	Eugenia Solodovnyk
NKVD Officer	Andrii Isaienko





SHORT SYNOPSIS

Immortalised as one of the most scintillating and enlightening Christmas songs, 'Carol of the Bells' adapted from a popular Ukrainian folk melody, came to represent the spirit of brotherhood and unity all over the world. The peaceful and neighbourly existence of three families, Polish, Ukrainian and Jewish, sharing a large house, musical evenings, and merriment in the city of Stanislaviv in the years preceding and post war, is shattered by invaders, first in the Nazi then the Soviet occupation of Ukraine. Death and loss come to these families, but the healing power and joy of "Carol of the Bells" will be everlasting.

Trailer:
http://bit.ly/SHCHEDRYK_Trailer





OLESYA MORGUNETS-ISAENKO

Director, Ukraine

Born in 1984, Ukraine.

Graduate of the Kyiv National I. K. Karpenko-Kary Theatre, Cinema and Television University.

Olesya's graduation film project MOLFAR (2008) won the jury award at the film festival New Cinema. XXI Century held in Moscow.

2014 VIOLONCELLO, narrative short film
Lviv International Short Film Festival
Wiz-Art (Ukraine)

Two Riversides Film and Art Festival (Poland)

Jecheon Intl Music & Film Festival (South Korea)

Golden Apricot International Film Festival (Armenia)

Batumi International Art-House Film Festival (Georgia)

Samawa International Film Festival (Iraq)



2014 Won Ukrainian President's grant for developing screenplay for documentary project Music of Monocle dedicated to life and creative legacy of cinematographer Danylo Demutsky

RECENT FILMS

2018 THE TALE OF MONEY, fairy tale, fantasy, 100 min.

India Cine Film Festival (India)

Tripoli Film Festival (Lebanon)

Kaniv International Film Festival (Ukraine)

Zaporizhzhia International Film Festival – ZIFF (Ukraine)

2019 THE BORDERLINE. HRUBIESZOW OPERATION, documentary, 52 min.

Dream City - Rivne International Film Festival (Ukraine)

2021 DEPORTATION 44-46, documentary, 75 min.

2021 CAROL OF THE BELLS, drama, 122 min.

2022 CRY, MY RIVER, feature documentary (production)



Director's Introduction

http://bit.ly/SHCHEDRYK_Director





Director's Statement

In my opinion, our film *Carol of the Bells* (Schchedryk) deals with a topical theme of the relationship between Ukrainians, Poles, and Jews. These are the nations that suffered the most from both the Nazis and the Soviets during World War II. This story is rather complicated but appealing since it is told from the perspective of the children who do not care about nationalities or cultural differences but appreciate friendship and loyalty.

We paid special attention to the actors' language and their immersion in the material so they could realize the events of that period and understand the circumstances that prototypes of their characters had faced. Ukrainian actors play Ukrainians, and Polish actors perform for Polish characters.

We took Oscar-winning *La vita è bella* by Roberto Benigni and Elem Klimov's *Come and See* as references to develop our filming approach.

Music plays an important part in the film since *Carol of the Bells* (Schchedryk) is one of the characters that lives through these war years together with the main heroes and remains the symbol of Christmas magic.



Making-of – Orchestra Recording
http://bit.ly/SHCHEDRYK_Orchestra

PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

Carol of the Bells is a multilayered story that appeals to the people who believe that war is the worst thing humanity ever invented. This story is told from the perspective of women and children, and it is told by women – Ksenia Zastavska and Olesya Morgunets-Isaenko. They speak for Polish, Jewish, and Ukrainian women in the midst of the most violent, cruel, and terrible human-induced disaster their nations faced in the 20th century. From ancient times women kept traditions of their families and cultural heritage of their nations to entrust them to their children. To build a better future, new generations must remember the past. The thread that links the past and the present in this story is the traditional Ukrainian New Year's song Shchedryk that one of the world's most popular Christmas songs Carol of the Bells is originated from.





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інформаційної політики України

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