

a film by Maryna Tkachuk

FAMILY ALBUM



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A film by MARINA TKACHUK

2.35:1 • 96' • DOLBY DIGITAL • DRAMA, DOCUMENTARY • 2023

LOGLINE

British photographer Samara Pearce travels from London to the Kharkiv region during the war. Her great-grandfather, Austrian Alexander Wienerberger, was an accidental witness to the Holodomor in Ukraine in 1932-1933 and took historic photos of starving Kharkiv. Samara wants to follow in her great-grandfather's footsteps and take her own photos of the genocide of Ukrainians that continues to this day.



SYNOPSIS

Ten years ago, British photographer Samara Pearce accidentally learned an incredible story about her family: her great-grandfather, Austrian Alexander Wienerberger, witnessed the Holodomor in Ukraine in 1932-1933. He took historical photos of starving Kharkiv with his camera, managed to take them as diplomatic mail to Austria, and thus became the main photographer of the Holodomor in Ukraine. Wienerberger wanted the world to know about the genocide of Ukrainians and stop it, but the Austrian engineer was not heard. After finding her great-grandfather's camera and an album with shocking photos from Ukraine, Samara completely rethinks her career as a photographer. Now her career is completely connected to Ukraine, the Holodomor, and the current Russian-Ukrainian war. Feeling a connection to her great-grandfather, 90 years after the Holodomor, Samara embarks on a creative expedition to the Kharkiv region to take her own photographs of the genocide of Ukrainians that continues to this day.



DIRECTOR

MARYNA TKACHUK

Maryna Tkachuk is a documentary filmmaker, director, and journalist. She has worked as a scriptwriter and editor for Ukrainian television channels such as '5 channel', STB, Novyi channel, and Suspilne. Maryna has collaborated on documentary projects as a scriptwriter, editor, and director with Ukrainian media companies including 'Dobranich Film,' Screen Media Ukraine, and 'Parallel Studio,' as well as with the French media company 'Bonne Pioche.' Maryna Tkachuk is the director and scriptwriter of the documentary film 'Three Ivans' (Screen Media Ukraine, 2018). She graduated from the Journalism Institute of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

The struggle of Ukrainians for survival, statehood, and identity has lasted for centuries. Russia, as the successor to the Soviet regime, has been continuously oppressing Ukrainians.

It is important to note that this fact is not widely known, leading to a lack of understanding of the causes of the current conflict in Ukraine among the global community and even some Ukrainians. The Holodomor of 1932-1933 and the current extermination of Ukrainians by Russia are events in the same logical historical chain. The movie Family Album clearly demonstrates this. Our documentary explores the striking similarities between the Holodomor and the current war through the family history of British photographer Samara Pearce and her great-grandfather, Austrian Alexander Wienerberger. Both events occurred in the same region, employed similar methods of genocide, had the same goal, and were driven by the same source of evil - Russia. The documentary focuses on a man with a camera as a symbol of truth and the pursuit of justice. A concerned Austrian and his British great-granddaughter care about the fate of Ukrainians. They have evidence of the crimes - their photographs. They want to tell the truth about the genocide in Ukraine to the whole world. During the Holodomor, the world remained indifferent to the suffering of Ukrainians. Will the world's democracy have the courage and unity to defend Ukraine from the Russian aggressor today?

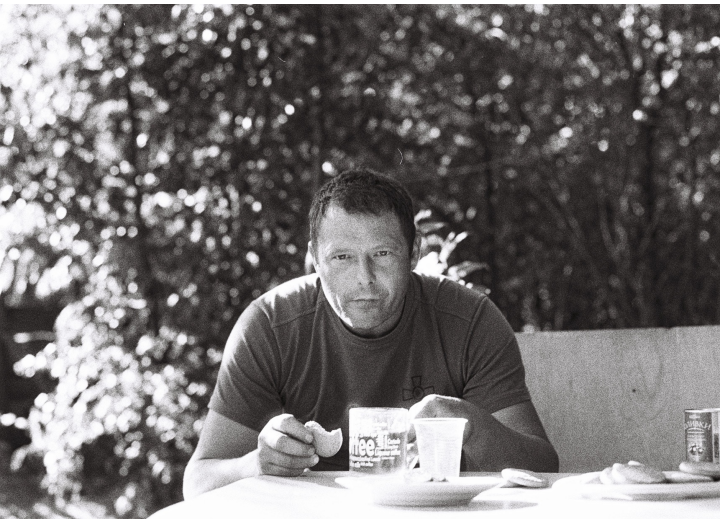
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SAMARA'S PHOTOS



CREDITS

Samara Pearce in the movie "Family Album"

Producer

Andriy Kornienko

Director

Marina Tkachuk

Executive producer

Zlata Efimenko

Director of photography

Vyacheslav Rakovsky

Director of photography

Kirill Nikrashevich

Director of editing

Alexei Taranenko

Composer

Hossein Mirzagoli

Sound designer

Andriy Obod

Sv.Oboda records studio

The project partner is

National Museum of the Holodomor Genocide

Production by Goom Morning Films©