

Mama's Voice

a documentary by Ganna Yarovenko



Honorable Mention
LA Femme
International Film
Festival
2025



OFFICIAL SELECTION
2026



OFFICIAL SELECTION
13rd International
Documentary Festival
of Ierapetra & Awards
2026



OFFICIAL SELECTION
New Jersey
Film Festival
Spring 2026



Best Documentary
Osaka Horizon
International Film
Festival
2026

Bonds that keep us together in times of war

86 min, Ukraine / Poland / Canada, 2025

Ukrainian / Polish / English subtitles

LOGLINE

In the early days of the Russo-Ukrainian war, Ganna finds refuge in Poland with her children and mother, where they are taken in by Kaja's family. Ganna's father remains in a Russian-occupied village near Kyiv.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have lost my voice twice—first after throat surgery, and again on February 24, 2022, during Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. As the occupying forces closed in on our home, I grabbed my children and fled to Poland fearing for their safety. There, I met Kaja, an artist, singer, and mother of five, who welcomed us as family in their home. Through her friendship, I found my voice again. This film is my diary of those first months of war.



[Trailer](#)



[Photos](#)



SHORT SYNOPSIS

In the early days of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Ganna and her family escape and find refuge in Poland. There, they meet Kaja and her family. The deep bond the two mothers develop helps Ganna to confront trauma, loss, and the horrors of war.

Mama's Voice is a microcosm of the war's impact on one Ukrainian family and a reflection on their enduring ties to the motherland - those who fled, those who stayed, and what binds them together.

SYNOPSIS

In the early days of Russia's full-scale invasion, film director Ganna flees with her children and elderly mother from Russian gunfire near Kyiv. Amidst the chaos, they find shelter in Poland with Kaja, an artist, singer, and mother of five, who welcomes them as a family. Despite the language barrier, the Ukrainian and Polish mothers form a deep bond that helps Ganna confront trauma, loss, and the terrifying new reality of war.

Ganna's family is torn between those who left and those who stayed. Her father, Petro, refuses to abandon his land near Bucha, surviving the Russian occupation while stubbornly tending to his garden. Her young daughter Malva quickly adapts to life in Poland, while her teenage son Orest struggles with loneliness. Meanwhile, Malva's father—a renowned folk musician—promises to reunite with them at a music festival in Poland, though wartime restrictions rarely allow Ukrainian men to leave the country. What will it take for this family, fractured by war, to come together again?

Told through the lens of a refugee, the film captures the experiences of Ukrainian women and children in Poland during the early months of the Russo-Ukrainian war.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Ganna Yarovenko, born in 1974 in Kyiv, Ukraine (then USSR), is a Ukrainian director, screenwriter, journalist, cinematographer, and editor.



She graduated from the Institute of Journalism at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (1996), and from the Karpenko-Kary State Institute of Film and Theatre Arts (1999), with a degree in documentary film directing. Since 2000, she has been a member of the National Union of Cinematographers of Ukraine, and since 2016, a member of the Ukrainian Film Academy.

Since February 26, 2022, Ganna has been living in Poland with her mother and children.

Filmography (selected)

Author, Director, Cinematographer, Editor, documentaries:

- 2014** Free People
- 2013** Woman - ATM
- 2007** Fiesta
- 2004** Kinomania
- 2002** Portraits of an Era. Fyodor Khitruk
- 2002** Portrait of an Era. Boris Vasilyev
- 1999** Once There Lived a Grandpa Savochka

Director, TV drama series:

- 2010-** "Brave", "Lovers", "Female Doctor", "Two Mothers",
- 2020** "Family Dramas", "Family Melodramas", "Clinic"

Co-author, feature film:

- 2006** Life Unaware

ABOUT THE YAROVENKO SISTERS PRODUCTION

This film began as a family project with a minimal budget after Ganna became a refugee in Poland. Her sister Larysa, based in Canada, took on the role of producer. In March 2024, the project won the Grand Prix in the [pitching competition at Artdocfest](#) in Riga, Latvia. Filmed in Mława, Poland, and Zabuchchia, Ukraine between April and June 2022, *Mama's Voice* is an intimate portrait of a displaced Ukrainian family during the first months of the Russian invasion.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In *November 2013*, a wave of large-scale protests known as Euromaidan broke out in Ukraine in response to pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovych's decision to forge deeper ties with Russia rather than sign a free trade deal and political association with the European Union. By *February 2014*, these mass protests had escalated into the Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity, the largest democratic mass movement in Europe since 1989. The deadly clashes between protesters and state forces culminated in Yanukovych's fleeing to Russia.

In the vacuum of power that followed, the Kremlin annexed Crimea in *March 2014*. Soon after, Moscow-backed armed groups seized control of government buildings in the eastern Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. This marked the beginning of a prolonged and bloody conflict in eastern Ukraine, and the outbreak of the Russo-Ukrainian War—a war that would simmer for years and set the stage for further escalation.



On *February 24, 2022*, Russia launched a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine, bringing the entire country under shelling and bombardment. This invasion led to one of the largest refugee crises in Europe since World War II, forcing millions of Ukrainians to flee their homes to escape the violence and seek safety in neighboring countries.



Sharing an extensive land border with Ukraine and having historical and cultural ties with the country, Poland became a primary destination for many of these refugees. By *mid-2022*, Poland had welcomed more than four million Ukrainian refugees, mostly women and children, offering them shelter, support, and a sense of community. In response to this unprecedented wave of migration, the Polish government, non-governmental organizations, and ordinary citizens mobilized to provide aid, housing, and services to those in need.



CREDITS

Author and Director

Ganna Yarovenko

Cinematographers

Ganna Yarovenko
Maksym Alokhin
Pavlo Tupik

Technical Director

Eugeny Kovalenko

Editors

Ganna Yarovenko
Olena Platonova
Olena Kosenko

Music

Janusz Prusinowski

Sound Engineer

Yevhen Petrusenko

Recording Studio

REJET SOUND

Visual Effects

Magdalena Bryll
Zuzanna Pomorska

Graphic Design

Alexander Konovalov

Translators

Dmitri Priven
Anzhelika Kvolik
Maria Konovalov
Jana Berzina
Larysa Iarovenko

Producers

Larysa Iarovenko
Dmytro Konovalov

FACT SHEET

Original Title:	<i>Holos Mamy</i>
Title in English:	<i>Mama's Voice</i>
Country of Production:	Ukraine, Poland, Canada
Year of production:	2025
Length:	86 min
Screening Format:	DCP (16:9 / 5.1 / 25 fps / 4K)
Language(s):	Ukrainian, Polish
Subtitles:	English
Color or B/W:	Color
Production:	The Yarovenko Sisters
Funded By:	Związku Autorów i Kompozytorów Scenicznych ZAiKS, Poland Artdocfest Fund, Latvia

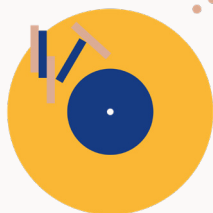
Contact

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Special Thanks To



Creators for Ukraine



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[PHOTOS, PRESS KIT & POSTER](#)

