

LIFE IN UKRAINE BE LIKE

ЖИТТЯ..В
УКРАЇНІ
БІ ЛАЙК

LIFE IN UKRAINE BE LIKE

"Surprisingly regular. Regularly surprising"

short film by Illia Horokhovsky



LIFE IN UKRAINE BE LIKE

Oleg's painstaking search for freedom is interrupted by the sudden return of his ex-girlfriend back to Ukraine, calling into question Oleg's lifestyle in the context of the Russo-Ukrainian War.

Written and directed by Illia Horokhovskyi

Produced by Andrii Storchak

CENTENIAL PRODUCTION in co-production with I.K.KARPENKO-KARY'S
KYIV NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF THEATRE, CINEMA AND TELEVISION

RUNTIME: 15 mins | COUNTRY: Ukraine | 2025 | LANGUAGE: Ukrainian

INSTAGRAM PAGE:

https://www.instagram.com/life_in_ukraine_be_like/

TRAILER: <https://youtu.be/T3XWP4zcBoc>

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TAGLINE

Surprisingly regular, regularly surprising

LOGLINE

A young man living the most boring life tries to become the bravest

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SYNOPSIS



The film follows Oleh, an utterly ordinary twenty-year-old guy living in a major Ukrainian city during the Russo-Ukrainian war. He works in a tea shop, experimenting with new blends, but instead of recognition, his manager only buries him in more work. Oleh feels miserable, like a small cog in a massive system.

Once, while mindlessly scrolling through his phone, he receives a message from someone he never expected to hear from, even in his wildest dreams—his ex-girlfriend, Olha. Spending his last money on a bouquet of flowers, Oleh meets Olha upon her return from abroad. It is a monumental event for both of them, as she is back for the first time since the full-scale invasion began, driven by urgent educational matters.

Through their conversation on the way, Olha once again comes to the conclusion that Oleh is just a naive simpleton. Nevertheless, Oleh invites her to his rented apartment for tea. While he brews the tea, Olha takes in his place, which is filled with eccentric stuff. Their tea session escalates into an argument over where it is better to live, but an air raid siren abruptly cuts their dispute short. As a heavy bombardment begins, Oleh is presented with a sudden opportunity to prove he is a mature individual capable of decisive action. He seizes the moment, saving Olha from her panic and finally putting his shop manager in his place.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

I was born and have lived my entire conscious life in Ukraine. Since childhood, I have experienced the stages of the country's socio-political development firsthand. Therefore, I have always been deeply immersed in the context of the processes driving the country forward toward values close to its people.

With the outbreak of Russia's open war against Ukraine in February 2014, followed by the mad full-scale invasion in February 2022, countless tragedies, acts of heroism, and paradigm-shifting events have occurred. These have become deeply rooted in the informational sphere of our everyday life, instantly shaping the context through a hyper-fast exchange of information.

Once, while discussing life in Ukraine with my colleagues, we came to the realization that the contemporary everyday life and symbolism forged within the country during the years of war look entirely absurd when stripped of their context.

For instance: a national idol is a mine-sniffing dog?! Yes, that's the new normal. A bathtub filled to the brim with fluffy pillows and blankets?! Yes, the new normal. Postage stamps featuring swear words and drones?! Yes, the new normal. And what about fences, lampposts, and every conceivable vertical surface painted yellow and blue? Meanwhile, massive, bloodthirsty bombardments by Russian forces have also become a regular occurrence.

This sparked my interest in exploring how it happens and how it feels to encounter this neo-Ukrainian context for the first time after a long absence. How does it feel when something once familiar to you now seems new, fresh, and alien? Due to certain circumstances, you removed yourself from this specific flow of meanings, and now you are plunging headfirst back into it, re-evaluating the surrounding eccentricities and uncovering their meaning.

In the film, this process is experienced by the character Olga. She returns to the country under the guise of resolving educational matters after spending three years abroad as a refugee. Remembering only the chaos of the first days of the invasion, she finds herself in the bizarre, pseudo-stable everyday reality of civilian residents. This reality is embodied by her ex-boyfriend and the film's protagonist, Oleg, who slowly introduces Olga—and simultaneously the audience—to his Ukrainian life and his sincere pursuit of individual freedom.

In this frantic process of interaction between opposites—peace and war, man and woman, captivity and freedom.

Through this piece of cinematic art, I aim to convey the premise that superficiality destroys meaning. Meaning itself can be hidden in the strangest and most non-obvious places, welcoming a search for it in these times of post-absurdism.

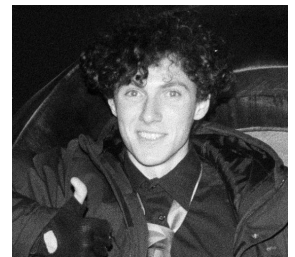
— illia horokhovsky



ABOUT THE TEAM_{pt1}

Illia Horokhovskiy Director & Writer

Illia is studying at the Kyiv National I. K. Karpenko-Kary Theatre, Cinema and Television University, majoring in Non-fiction Film Directing. Previously studied at the New Media and Film Academy from 2019 to 2023. Attended an animation course for kids from 2013 to 2017. Won several awards at national and international festivals with his animated short films.

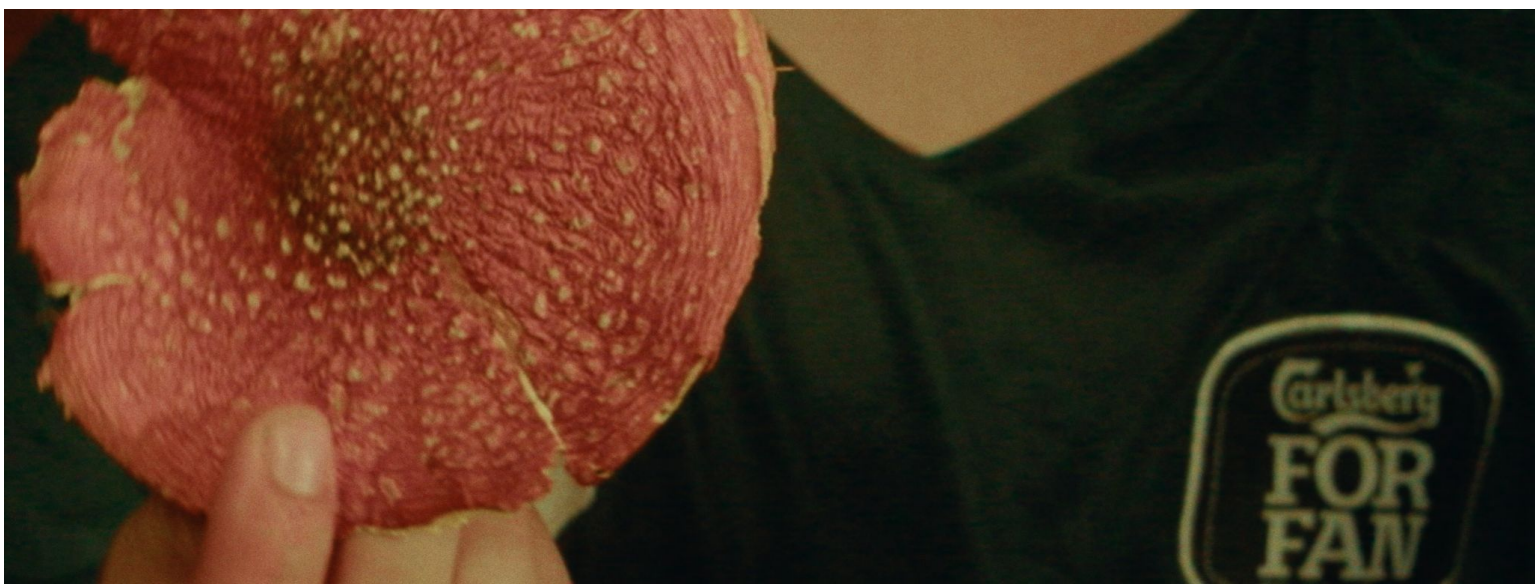


Andrii Storchak Producer

Produced a number of student short and diploma films, feature and documentary works that participated in various film festivals around the world.

In 2022, he received an award from the mayor of Cherkasy as a representative of talented youth for work on films and videos that won at international film festivals.





ABOUT THE TEAM_{pt2}

Dmytro Sukhetskyi plays Oleh

Dmytro Sukhetskyi is a Ukrainian film director and a graduate of Kyiv National I. K. Karpenko-Kary Theatre, Cinema and Television University. His work focuses on tragicomic stories that explore human weakness, absurdity, and social behavior

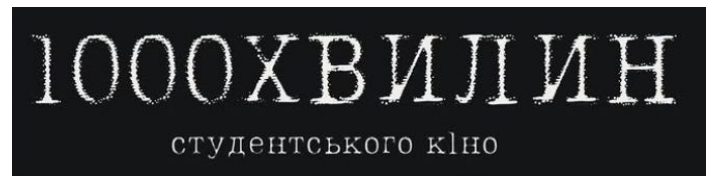


Yelyzaveta Nykytiuk plays Olha

Born on 16.09.2004, have an education as an international economist and a film actress. Plays in the theater, the accordion, the guitar and the piano. Also shoot with a bow.



FESTIVALS



ЖИТТЯ В УКРАЇНІ БІ ЛАЙК

ВИКОНАВЦІ PLAYERS

Олег.....ДМИТРИК СУХЕЦЬКИЙ DMYTRO SUKHETSKYI.....Oleh
Ольга.....ЄЛИЗАВЕТА НИКИТЮК YELYZAVETA NYNYTIUK.....Olha
Менеджер.....СЕРГІЙ ВІРЧЕНКО SERHIY VIRCHENKO.....Manager

Режисер.....ІЛЛЯ ГОРОХОВСЬКИЙ ILLIA HOROKHOVSKYI.....Director
Оператор.....ЛЕОНІД КРАВЧЕНКО LEONID KRAVCHENKO.....DoP
Продюсер.....АНДРІЙ СТОРЧАК ANDRII STORCHAK.....Producer

1 АД.....ЄВА САХНО YEVDOKIYA SAKHNO.....1 AD
2 АД.....УЛЯНА РОБЧИНСЬКА ULYANA ROBCHYNSKA.....2 AD

Механік камери.....ДМИТРИК СЕРДЮК DMYTRO SERDYUK.....Cameraman
Звукооператор.....ДМИТРИК СУХЕЦЬКИЙ DMYTRO SUKHETSKYI.....Sound record

Обробка звуку Audio processing

ВЛАДИСЛАВ РОМАШКО VLADYSLAV ROMASHKO

Консультант з колоргрейду Colorgrade adviser

МИКИТА КРАВЧЕНКО MYKYTA KRAVCHENKO

Колоргрейд Colorgrade

ЛЕОНІД КРАВЧЕНКО LEONID KRAVCHENKO

Реквізит Props

АРТЕМІЙ АНТОНЕНКОВ ARTEMII ANTONENKOV

Грим Makeup

АЛІСІЯ РУБЛІВСЬКА ALICE RUBLIVSKA

Дизайн постеру Poster design

ЄЛИЗАВЕТА БІФІУС YELYZAVETA BIFIUS

Автор картини Painter

СЕРГІЙ ВІРЧЕНКО SERHIY VIRCHENKO

Харчування Catering

АЛІСІЯ РУБЛІВСЬКА ALICE RUBLIVSKA

УЛЯНА РОБЧИНСЬКА ULYANA ROBCHYNSKA

Обладнання Equipment

GARAGE RENTAL

ІВАН МИХАЙЛЕНКО IVAN MYKHAYLENKO

звукові ефекти sound effects

PIXABAY.COM

Саундтрек Soundtrack

КОЛИШНЯ (OLEXY KACHAN DISS.)
Написано MC Baluba
Виконано MC Baluba
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EX (OLEXY KACHAN DISS.)
Written by MC Baluba
Performed by MC Baluba
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СКОРО ПЕРЕМОГА
Написано Ihor Korzhahin
Виконано RukhankoMen
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VICTORY IS SOON
Written by Ihor Korzhahin
Performed by RukhankoMen
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Виготовлено за підтримки коханих інвесторів
Produced with support of beloved investors

МИКИТА КРАВЧЕНКО
MYKYTA KRAVCHENKO

АЛІНА ГАЛИЦЬКА
ALINA HALYTSKA



CENTENIAL
P R O D U C T I O N

