# Ukrainian Producers at the IDFA



Olha Beskhmelnytsina



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# Olha Beskhmelnytsina

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2Brave Productions TIMESTAMP

**Olga Beskhmelnytsina** holds two Master degrees. She studied international economy at the Ukrainian Academy of Foreign Trade (2007) and has finished the course of documentary directing at Kyiv National University, Institute of Cinema and Television (2012). Olha Beskhmelnytsina is a Ukrainian producer with more than 15 years of experience in film production. She is a co-founder of a women-led '2Brave Productions'. Olga is an alumni of Ex Oriente and Eurodoc training programmes. Chairwoman of the board of the Ukrainian Film Academy.

**2Brave Productions** connects a new generation of Ukrainian filmmakers with the global film industry. Founders Olha Beskhmelnytsina and Natalia Libet have garnered acclaim for bringing exciting new names to audiences at home and abroad. Together, with their experience and unique access to Ukrainian talents, they bring this force to the market by structuring international co-productions with traditional and alternative financing strategies.

TIMESTAMP (Director Kateryna Gornostai) tells about a school year during wartime. It's a mosaic of the educational process and the everyday lives of teachers and children from different corners of Ukraine. In the beginning, we attend lessons at a gymnasium in Cherkasy. Then we meet at the end of the year at a gymnasium in Bucha. For the first time since the pandemic, the Last Bell was celebrated offline. We welcome the start of the school year in a rebuilt school in Borodyanka. In the autumn, we go to Kharkiv. Due to the threat of shelling, teachers conduct lessons remotely. But school life goes on even under such circumstances. We see how the lessons look at the gymnasium No. 9 in Cherkasy, and we meet the 11-D class. Next spring, they're going to graduate. The winter episode will consist of the shooting of school life and the celebration of the New Year 2024, which takes place despite the blackouts and power shortage. Spring begins with the initiation of Cherkasy Gymnasium students into cadets and preparation for the graduation ball. For an hour and a half, TIMESTAMP will immerse the viewer in the lives of Ukrainian schools during the ongoing war.



### Oleksandra Kravchenko

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MOON MAN Fixing the War

Oleksandra Kravchenko born in Kherson, Ukraine in 1983 and graduated MA Culture Studies from National University 'Kyiv-Mohyla Academy' (Ukraine). Since 2011, has worked in the film industry: as a communications director (Odesa International Film Festival, Arthouse Traffic film distribution company), executive marketing manager (Animagrad animation studio / FILM.UA Group), and independent producer (ESSE Production House, DGTL RLGN, Albatros Communicos, Moon Man). Since 2019 works as Industry Platform projects coordinator at Docudays UA International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival (Ukraine) and production expert for the Media Fit project by CFI (Canal France International) Media Development Department (France). In 2022 joined Moon Man production as a contributing partner. Participant of 2024 edition of Emerging Producers programme. Based in Kyiv, Ukraine.

**MOON MAN** was founded in 2019 by multidisciplinary professionals who have experience not only in film production, but also in cultural management and festival distribution. The company focused on creative documentary and fiction films with a strong author's approach. Thanks to multifaceted optics, our team is not afraid to develop and accept the challenges of the author's projects.

FIXING THE WAR (Directors Vadym Ilkov (Ukraine) and Clare Stronge (Ireland)) is a feature length documentary film that will reveal the invisible role of the hard news 'fixer' in Ukraine in this 21st century war. This intimate, candid, raw and experiential film will follow the lives and work of several fixers over a year long period as they 'fix' for international media outlets and a relentless news cycle while simultaneously trying to survive and thrive as normal human beings living in a war zone. This is a first person testimony film where we place the invisible personthe fixer - center frame in the film both literally and figuratively to hear their undiluted and unvarnished experience. The fixers' stories and experience are interwoven with beautifully cinematic observational documentary revealing the global news hotspot that Ukraine has now become. Raw, immediate and visceral frontline footage filmed by the fixers themselves on their camera phones truly allows the audience to experience the unedited reality of their work through the fixer's own eyes.







## **Anna Palenchuk**

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435 FILMS MEMO'94

Anna Palenchuk is an experienced Ukrainian producer and scriptwriter. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Additionally, she has completed postgraduate qualifications in Producing at the New York Film Academy and Scriptwriting at the Vancouver Film School. In 2010, Anna founded the production company 435 FILMS in Ukraine. Since then, she has led the company's film and cross-media projects that address social issues related to justice, human rights, the liberation of Ukrainian regions occupied by Russia, the preservation of Ukrainian heritage, etc. Anna has produced award-winning documentaries and feature films in collaboration with acclaimed directors such as Mantas Kvedaravicius, Vitaliy Manskiy, Oleg Sentsov, Akhtem Seitablayev, Maciek Hamela, etc. These titles have premiered at renowned film festivals including Cannes Film Festival, Berlinale, PÖFF, TIFF, IDFA, KVIFF, OIFF, Hot Docs, Cottbus FF, and more. Moreover, Anna served as the line producer for the Ukrainian shooting of the Indian action drama 'RRR' (2022), directed by S.S. Rajamouli, which won both the Golden Globe and Oscar awards.

**435 FILMS** is a Ukrainian film company founded by Anna Palenchuk in 2010. The main areas of activity are the production of feature films and documentaries.

**MEMO '94** (*Director* Kornii Hrytsiuk) uncovers Ukraine's unique story of voluntarily relinquishing the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal in exchange for security assurances stated in the Budapest Memorandum. Nearly 30 years later, Russia, one of the guarantors, violated every term of the Memorandum, launching a full-scale invasion. Through eyewitness accounts, military personnel, and journalists' evidence, the film explores Russia's disregard for the Memorandum and its later nuclear threats. The narrative addresses international law, non-nuclear-weapon state status, betrayal, justice, peace, war, and global nuclear safety. The documentary showcases unpublished archival footage and photos of Ukraine's disarmament in the 90s received from the military, alongside expert interviews, modern footage, and graphics. Filming is set to take place at former secret military sites in Ukraine, the US, and the UK.



Karina Kostyna

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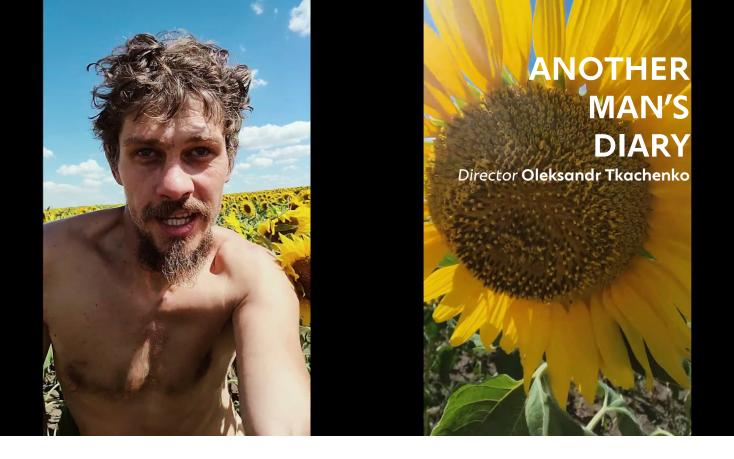
TABOR Production Silent Flood

Karina Kostyna is a Ukrainian film producer. Graduated from Institute of International Relationships, National University of Taras Shevtchenko. Master of international business. After 10 years in advertising, followed her heart and left for film. Karina has a number of successful and award-winning film projects in her background, both doc and fiction. Karina is member of European Film Academy, alumni of the School of Young Producers by Mannheim Meeting Place 2021, Talents Nest at Meeting Point Vilnius 2021, EAVE Change workshop 2021-2022, WA Mentoring program 2022, one of the Spotlighted Producers at Marche du Film during Cannes Film Festival 2023.

**TABOR** is an independent production company, founded by a group of Ukrainian filmmakers and artists. We create feature films, documentaries, theatrical performances, commercials, and social ads.

**SILENT FLOOD** (*Director* Dmytro Sukholytkyy-Sobchuk). Set by a beautiful river canyon in Western Ukraine, a pacifist community with unique religious beliefs, sees their peaceful way of life gradually distressed by regular floods and eventually an unexpected war. A small village situated by the banks of Dniester River in Western Ukraine is a settlement of a Ukrainian religious community. Here, the men and boys are obliged to wear hats, while women wear headscarves. When an even more destructive and overpowering flood comes to the country under the flag of the Russian army, the community has no choice but to unite beyond their comfort. Despite the lack of information in absence of electricity, the villagers gradually start going against their own rules, by connecting to the outer world in order to stand up against the enemy.







### Illia Gladshtein

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Phalanstery Films Another Man's Diary

Illia Gladshtein was born in Kyiv in 1985. Started his career in film as a short film programmer at Molodist IFF. In 2013 he co-founded the International festival of film and urbanism "86" which was organized in 2014-2018 in the town of Slavutych. Since 2014 he has distributed independent films with 86PROKAT. In 2019 he founded an arthouse cinema in Kyiv, KINO42. In 2017 Illia founded a production company Phalanstery Films. His first produced feature documentary "Heat Singers" premiered at Visions du Reel (Nyon, Switzerland), was awarded by National film academy (Zolota Dzyga) and Ukrainian film critics association (Kinokolo) as the best Ukrainian documentary of 2020, and was sold to the biggest Japanese broadcaster NHK. Illia's first produced short film "It's a Date" premiered at Berlinale 2023 and got a special mention.

**Phalanstery Films** is an independent production company, focused on creative documentaries, established in 2017 in Kyiv, Ukraine.

**ANOTHER MAN'S DIARY**, dir Oleksandr Tkachenko, 2024, 80', part of ARTE project "Generation Ukraine."

Cinematographer Dmytro Dokunov had always been a pacifist, but when his homeland was invaded, he joined the army. He became the commander of a platoon and fought in Kherson, Soledar, and Bakhmut. He got wounded twice and experienced the loss of loved ones. He films the entire experience to cope with the harsh reality and to retain his humanity. Despite the ongoing apocalypse, he manages to see beauty in nature and the people around him. How will the war change him?