

AS FAR AS POSSIBLE



Previously "Michel"

Coming from the big city Michel settles down in a remote Ukrainian village to save rare water buffaloes. His dream is challenged when he falls in love with a German girl from his hometown.

Director: Ganna Iaroshevych

Producers: Lena Yakovitska, Aliona Kachkan (TABOR Production) Oleksiy Moskalenko (Mental Drive)

Director of Photography: Serhii Kireiev

Editor: Kateryna Ptashka

Sound Designer: Pavlo Berezin

Expected Release: 2021

Length: 71 min

Shooting Format: HD

Audio Format: Stereo

Language: German, Ukrainian, English.

Subtitled in English

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Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/483520962>

Teaser: <https://youtu.be/3Wib9oOk6kc>

Fb: <https://www.facebook.com/FilmMichel/>





Synopsis

This is a story of a young German man Michel, whose dream is to lead a simple life far from civilization. He lives in the Ukrainian mountains and is taking care of endangered animals - water buffaloes. After 10 years of being a loner, Michel falls in love with Vera, a woman from his hometown in Germany, who has two small kids from the previous relationships. Michel moves back to Germany and for 2 years is trying to create a new family with Vera. After all Michel chooses himself over Vera and moves back to Ukraine on his own to pursue his dream of living in the wild.

Director's statement

About four years ago I've read an article on Facebook about a young German man living in a small Ukrainian village, far in the Carpathian mountains, and taking care of rare animals - water buffaloes. That image stuck in my head. Ok, some people immigrate to different countries to find a better place to live. But normally they move from East to West. And this man, Michel, had done the opposite. To me, it seemed to be a story of reverse migration. And I've decided to make a film about it.

After years working on this project and completing the rough-cut of the film, I'm excited to see how many layers this story has. First of all, this film is about discovering one's purpose in life. It's not about some great achievement but finding a way to spend your limited amount of time well. This film is about finding happiness. Secondly, this film is about

respecting and loving nature, animals and our planet. It's about alternative eco-lifestyle. To end, this is a love story of two people who are meant to be together but choose to separate to pursue their life's dreams.

Even though my and Michels' dreams are different, he lives in nature and I am happy to live in a big city, I feel that we have the same passion pursuing our dreams. I've done several short films about the Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine before, but I never worked on full-length documentaries. So basically I got into this project without much experience in directing. In the beginning, there were just two of us - me and the cameraman. These days I have a team of ten people involved in the production. The film is in fine cut and it is now a part of Ukrainian Tabor Production company. Our project got selected to several pitching and training sessions, such as IDFA Academy, LisbonDocs, DunaDock, DocudaysUA and Beldocs Academy. Recently we gained funding for international film promotion from Ukrainian Institute. And now it's time for us to arrange the festival premiere.

Our film was mainly shot in Carpathian mountains, it has beautiful sounds of nature, picturesque views and meditative shots so I believe that the viewers would dive into a feeling of freedom and ease at some point. I'm keen on finally showing the film to a wider audience sharing all the beauty and senses of the story we've created.

Ganna Iaroshevych, director.

Director's BIO

Ganna Iaroshevych lives and works as a filmmaker and communication strategist in Ukraine. She has Bachelor degree in Journalism and Master's degree in Creative Media Practice, which she gained at the University of Sussex in 2014.

While studying in the UK she's been working as a freelance video maker and editor for TV and independent film projects. Since 2014 Ganna has been working for Babylon'13 as film director and editor. She has completed 10 short documentaries for their YouTube channel (which has more than 60 000 subscribers) and some of them were selected for national film festivals and cinema screenings. Michel is her first full-length documentary, which she has been working on for the last four years.

Selected filmography:

Hospital (short doc.), Babylon'13, 2014 https://youtu.be/chez1_16GqQ

Diana (short doc.), Babylon'13, 2015 <https://youtu.be/04ACIREdPnw>

Where's our home? (short doc.), Babylon'13, 2015 <https://youtu.be/LT5uq7sDvBE>

One year in Izum (short doc.), Babylon'13, 2015 <https://youtu.be/7NaMKMqtXa8>

Producers BIO

Lena Yakovitska, executive producer, has produced around 40 films: short, documentaries and feature films. Among them is the Sundance-awarded documentary “The Earth is Blue as an Orange” directed by Iryna Tsilyk (2020) and The Russian Woodpecker by Chad Garcia (2015), “No obvious signs” by Alina Gorlova (2018).

Aliona Kachkan, line producer, has been working for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty where she held the positions of the news producer and the producer of the Youth Plus program. The project of the documentary film “As Far As Possible” is her debut as film producer.



Production Profile

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.

TABOR's projects were supported by Ukrainian State Film Agency, IDFA Bertha Fund, Ukrainian Cultural Fund, Doha Film Institute and Latvian Film Centre. We are experienced in international co-productions and partnerships, having participated in Polish, British, Italian, German, Latvian and American (Academy Award-nominated) projects. Theatrical performances made by TABOR have been presented at leading Ukrainian contemporary art festivals. Moreover, a considerable part of our activity is geared towards cultural

volunteering, giving rise to unique productions like the film "School #3", which was presented at the Generation 14+ program of Berlinale 67 and awarded the Grand Prix by the international jury.

“No obvious signs” 2018 – feature documentary film

“Solitude” 2018 – short fiction film

“New Year with Family” 2018 – short fiction film

“School #3” 2017 - feature documentary film

“Invisible” 2017 – short fiction film

“Kholodny Yar. Intro” 2016 – feature documentary film

“Babushka” 2014 – short fiction film

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Aliona Kachkan



The film project has been developed and presented at:

B2B DOC workshops (2017 - 2020)

IDFAcademy (2019)

LisbonDocs (2018)

DunaDOCK Pitching Forum (2018)

B2B DOC Producers meet producers at Docudays UA (2019)

Beldocs (2019)

B2B Doc Producers meet producers (2020)

East Silver Market at Ji.hlava IFF (2020)

Docs for Sale at IDFA (2020)



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