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NEW UKRAINIAN SHORT-FILM COLLECTION OPENS IN SEATTLE

Ukraine Defense Support & Spark Filmmakers Collaborative Celebrate Ukrainian Independence With a Special Evening of Ukrainian Films

SEATTLE, Aug. 14, 2024 – A collection of ten short films by contemporary Ukrainian filmmakers tell personal stories of the Russian invasion's impact on their lives and the lives of their loved ones. Curated into a unique short-film collection, Believe in Ukraine, the event offers an inspirational connection to Ukraine and to Ukrainian Independence Day.

The one-evening event is Wednesday, Aug. 21 from 6 - 8:30 pm at the Majestic theater at 2044 NW Market Street in Seattle's Ballard neighborhood. Proceeds will benefit Ukrainian artists and provide humanitarian aid. The violence-free film festival has been shown in Portugal, Spain, New York, Michigan, Tennessee, Illinois and Oregon.

"As Russia continues to try to extinguish everything Ukrainian, including Ukrainian culture and memory, it is important for us to support both. We are really grateful to each of these filmmakers for sharing their stories, and we are excited to share this experience in Washington," said Lukia Costello, Executive Director, Spark Filmmakers Collaborative.

The evening will feature a Q&A session with Ukrainian illustrator, animator and filmmaker Sashko Danylenko, who has been supporting Ukraine from the Seattle area, including archiving footage of Russian war crimes. Danylenko will share an additional short film based on a true-story in Iceland. A dinner and an after-party will complete the celebration of Ukraine's Independence Day, which is Aug. 24. Please visit https://www.facebook.com/events/1669918480410662?active_tab=about for full details.

Spark Filmmakers Collaborative is a United States-registered 501c3 charity. It inspires and supports voices of all kinds to self-represent through film/video, dismantling stereotypes perpetuated by lack of representation. SFC envisions an open and loving society based on the recognition of our similarities and appreciation for our differences. Our stories help us see ourselves in each other.

<https://sparkfilmmakers.org/film-festivals/believe-in-ukraine-film-program/>

Ukraine Defense Support was founded in 2022 by Carl Larson and Pam Dalan, both of Seattle, after Larson's return from serving in the International Legion in Ukraine. UDS sends urgently needed supplies, including night vision equipment, drones, Humvees and other vehicles, portable generators, military clothing and medical supplies to Ukraine's frontlines. UDS is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit that has raised nearly \$500,000 to help keep as many of Ukraine's defenders alive as possible.

<https://ukrainedefensesupport.org/>

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