



**K I E V**

**UNBROKEN**







# KIEV UNBROKEN

## UKRAINE REBORN

In November 2013, Ukraine's President Yanukovich signalled an end to EU talks - the eastern European state was instead, to move closer to its neighbour Russia, a nation that had dominated Ukraine for centuries.

There was an outcry at Yanukovich's decision but little was done until a single Facebook post sent hundreds of students to occupy Maidan Square in the capital Kiev. The students' peaceful demonstrations were met by violence as the feared Berkut police unleashed a wave of brutality. But the students, now joined by thousands from across the political spectrum, clung on.

After the police had used tear gas, stun grenades and live ammunition, the protesters began to reply with stones, Molotov cocktails and hunting rifles - a battle for the 'soul of the nation' had begun.

In February 2014, with over a dozen protesters already dead or dying, Russia's Prime Minister called for an even bloodier crackdown - Yanukovich's government was, he said, being treated 'like a doormat...' Within hours Yanukovich responded with savage force; over 100 protesters were shot dead and dozens more wounded. The people of Kiev rose en masse and the Berkut disintegrated as Yanukovich abandoned his palace and fled to President Putin's Russia.

Euromaidan had won - Ukraine's so-called "Revolution of Dignity" had succeeded but within weeks Putin's Special Forces had seized Crimea and armed eastern separatists, sparking a low level war that continues to this day.

Yet across the country and especially in Kiev, the young - who fought in Maidan Square - have now seized the moment to claim once-repressed freedoms.

**KIEV UNBROKEN: *Ukraine Reborn*** is their story - told as the threat of Russian invasion continues to hang over Ukraine...



# FAITH

# HOPE &

# CULTURE:

## ART ON THE FRONTLINE

‘It’s about young Ukrainian artists and their purity’

‘With all the night-clubs and parties, it’s easy to forget there’s a war still going on’

‘Each night we all thought we were going to die’

Kiev is a unique, picturesque city, its 6th Century roots far older than Moscow’s, its architecture and transport a bizarre mix of 1970s trams and Soviet era metros with cutting edge WI-FI and 21st Century design. It’s also the capital of Ukraine who’s eastern war - and its Russian connections - might yet bring down America’s President Trump or even possibly start World War Three. Yet little is known in the West about Kiev or its blossoming art scene.

***KIEV UNBROKEN: Ukraine Reborn*** is a documentary about the work, lives and reality of talented young creatives in Ukraine - with its main focus being on Kiev. For a small but increasing number of well-travelled adventurers, Kiev - despite Ukraine’s continuing problems with corruption - is fast becoming the New London, the New Berlin. It is a metropolis of three million people, a city which has more bridges than Paris, more hills than San Francisco, more greenery than London, more trams than Warsaw and more night-clubs than Los Angeles. A city where artists can both survive and often thrive and where - in spite of the continuing low-level war - there is still that rarity: idealistic hope.

As well as male and female soldiers - and Maidan Square veterans - the ***KIEV UNBROKEN*** crew are interviewing and observing an outstanding series of artists, photographers, actors, editors, sculptors and musicians; each one an up-and-coming name. Through this ***KIEV UNBROKEN*** aims to expose the massive and massively overlooked talent of a nation - and of a city that was once called the “Paris of the East” as all the while, the threat of invasion continues to hang over it.

Capturing a unique Slavic mix - art reportage meets an eastern ***BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB*** - the film ***KIEV UNBROKEN*** is the first feature length documentary to go beyond the war headlines and deep into the heart of the most artistically motivated places in the modern world: Kiev, Ukraine, frontline of the new Cold War.









**Ayna Vilberg** is a successful Ukrainian singer, musician and music mentor who's previous role - as a band member – led to her not only charting, on numerous occasions, but also connecting with various other artists including the much-vaunted photographer Ubik Litvin.

**Alla Shermetevia** is one of Ukraine's leading new art dealers – a regular in London, Paris, Milan and Berlin where she has helped stage many exhibitions and events. Alla is also co-founder of Kiev's acclaimed Art Cult Foundation.



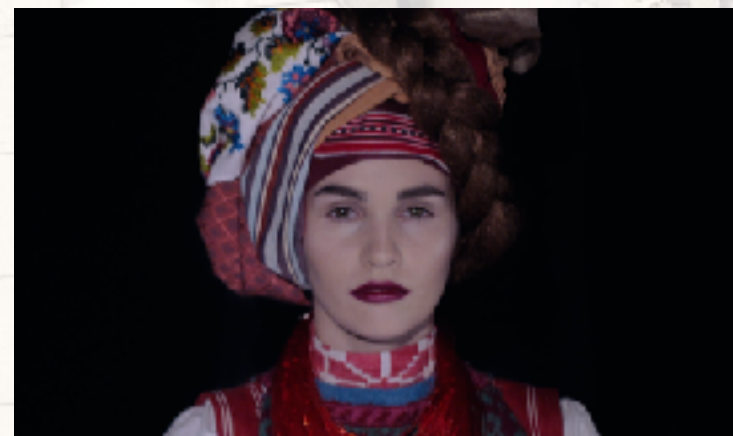
**Anael Sunny** is a former theology student from Kiev, a painter, pianist and singer with a truly haunting voice. Her paintings have been exhibited in Milan, Rome, Paris, the Middle East, in Kiev and throughout her native Ukraine, while her vocal talents have led to performances on three continents.





**Maria Popova** was a participant in the Maidan Square events and was PA to President Poroshenko during 2015. Maria is currently on the board of **Ukraine's National Modernisation Programme**.

**Panivalkova** are one of Kiev's leading new music groups. An all-girl trio who's unique blend of old and new sounds have led them to create their own genre of 'Sensual Minimalism'. They have already released two albums and played the main stages at the **Gogolfest**, the **Kotebel Jazz Festival** and at the **Odessa International Film Festival**. Pictured here – in traditional costume - is percussionist and drummer **Dasha Pugacheva**.



**Sasha Syvets** is a former political science student who is now a young veteran of the Ukrainian Army Signal Corps. She was present in the Maidan uprising and is currently based in the east of the country, within the danger area of the 'de-militarised' zone.





**Sasha Veter** is the guitarist, song-writer and frontman with the band **Eighth Day**. Both he and other members of the band both played concerts and fought with the feared Berkut police during Maidan. He and the band are currently celebrating a new recording contract.

**Ubik Litvin** is perhaps the leading fashion and art photographer in Ukraine, having shot material for numerous labels, including **AMG** and **DNK**, as well as working in the USA, Switzerland, Italy and Germany. Starting as a lay-out artist, his photographic work has since won him many awards and been the subject of numerous exhibitions in Kiev, the Ukraine and around Europe.



**Victoria Zav** is a former translator and photographer's assistant who's recently become something of a Kiev style icon. She is also now an 'independent artist' who's photographs and paintings have already led to much acclaim.





**Vlada Buchko** is a composer, painter, poet, pianist and lecturer. She's had several exhibitions as well as many concerts and feature appearances on radio and television. Despite Vlada's comparative youth - she has just turned 24 – both artists and local journalists regularly refer to her as 'something of a genius'.

**Volodymyr Shuvayev** is a top photo-journalist who's courageous work in Maidan – at the height of the troubles – and in and around Chernobyl have led to him being much in-demand at everything from exhibitions to music and film festivals.



**Yuri Reznichenko** is one of Ukraine's leading film and video editors. Another Maidan participant, Yuri has cut numerous short films, documentaries, pop video clips, trailers and TV adverts. Younger Kiev residents know him more for his live music streams – for he is also a musician, producer and mixer.



# Trump Seems to Side With Putin's Russia in Comments on Ukraine

By Our Staff Reporter. Washington DC, USA February 7<sup>th</sup> 2017

WASHINGTON – President Trump appeared to cast doubt over whether Russia is actually backing the separatists involved in the recent aggressive actions in eastern Ukraine, seeming to side with President Putin, who has consistently denied involvement in the war despite much evidence to the contrary. In words that will cause much consternation in Kiev, the Ukraine capital, Trump said he did not take the recent separatist offensive as being a test of will by Moscow but, instead, seemed to believe Putin's much-derided remarks that the Russian Federation had no direct role in the blood-





## DIRECTOR

**Phil Strongman** is an author and film-maker who's most recent documentary – ***ANARCHY! McLAREN WESTWOOD GANG*** (2016 Cadiz) – has been screened in Los Angeles, Belfast, Manchester, Kiev and London (**BFI SOUTHBANK**). It has been described as 'the Apocalypse Now of art documentaries.' A DVD Box Set of it is to be issued in April 2017. Strongman's best-selling books include ***COCAINE, JOHN LYDON & METAL BOX, JOHN LENNON & THE FBI FILES*** and ***PRETTY VACANT***. He has travelled extensively throughout both Poland, Kiev and Ukraine.

## EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

**David Drury** is an award-winning producer and director whose drama, and documentary, work includes ***DEFENCE OF THE REALM, HOSTILE WATERS, OUR GIRL, TOUGH LOVE, RHODES, BAD COMPANY, ITV's PRIME SUSPECT*** and key episodes of **BBC TV's SILENT WITNESS**. His awards include those from the **Royal Television Society**, the **Samuelson's International Film & Television Awards**, the **Emmy Awards** and **BAFTA**.

## CAMERA

Cameraman, film-archivist and co-producer **Mat Flasque** has worked on dozens of documentaries, news reports and short films throughout Europe. Cameraman **Kuba Dziawa** has filmed or lit everything from ***THE APPRENTICE*** and **CHANNEL 4** youth programmes to **BOY GEORGE, TRACEY EMEN**, the **SEX PISTOLS** and **ADELE**.

## SOUND & MUSIC

**Sonke Prigge** is a renowned sound recordist, mixer, music producer and musician. He has won various music and soundtrack awards in the UK and in his native Germany, including a **BAFTA**. As well as older, traditional and pre-recorded music, the film will also feature newly commissioned songs and music pieces by Ukraine's leading 'cutting edge' musicians, including **VLADA BUCHKO, PANIVALKOVA, SASHA VETER** and **NAZGULYA SHUKAEVA**.



## **CONTACT**

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