

# WE WILL NOT FADE AWAY

A FILM BY ALISA KOVALENKO

UKRAINE - FRANCE - POLAND - UNITED STATES

2023



WE WILL NOT  
FADE AWAY

INTERNATIONAL TITLE (ENGLISH): **We Will Not Fade Away**

ORIGINAL TITLE (UKRAINIAN): **Ми не згаснемо**

LANGUAGES: **Russian, Ukrainian**

RUNNING TIME: **100 minutes**

TRAILER LINK: [bit.ly/3JA0IBB](https://bit.ly/3JA0IBB)



WORLD PREMIERE

**Berlinale Generation  
COMPETITION 2023**

PRESS MATERIAL CAN BE DOWNLOADED  
[bit.ly/3YnU5pV](https://bit.ly/3YnU5pV)



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## LOGLINE

A group of teenagers from Donbas are entering adulthood, dreaming of conquering the world. Although gunshots and explosions can be heard in the distance, they do not lose hope and decide to fulfill their dream of travelling, which unexpectedly turns out to be realistic.



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## SYNOPSIS

**Donbas, 2019. The prospect of a new Russian invasion hangs in the air, while the sound of gunfire resulting from the old one can still be heard in the distance.**

In this seemingly bleak wartime setting, five teenagers start to seriously think about their future. Their energy, enthusiasm, and hope allow them to fully live out their last golden hours of childhood despite the circumstances. The members of this imaginative band of dreamers paint, take photographs, or fantasise about acting careers or becoming the next Elon Musk. They rebel, ride on the waves of adventure, walk into minefields and sunbathe by a local lake. They dream of escaping not only from the war, but also – like teenagers all over the world – from the boredom of a small town. Then, unexpectedly, an opportunity arises to embark on a long journey all the way to Nepal. Will their dream of conquering the world come true?



# BACKGROUND

**A mosaic portrait of the Donbas teen generation,  
against the backdrop of the war  
and the Russian invasion in Ukraine...**

"We Will Not Fade Away" was filmed between 2019 and 2022 in Zolote-4 and Stanytsia Luhanska, in the Luhansk region, on the frontline of the Donbass war, which began in the spring of 2014 and opposed the Ukrainian army to the separatist republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, supported by the Kremlin and the Russian army.

These two localities, which saw violent fighting in 2014 and 2015, are strategic towns, Stanytsia being at the time one of the only points of passage between separatist territory and territory controlled by Ukraine, Zolote-4 being one of the hearts of the coal extraction industry in Ukraine, the black lands of the exploits of the miner Stakhanov in the 1930s...

For years, the local population has been caught in the grip of recurrent fighting, narrowing the horizons of the young people who have remained with their families on the front line of this war, which did not start in 2022, but eight years earlier. A generation has grown up in the shadow of war, watching the decline of the working class civilisation of their parents.

After the start of the large-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022, Stanytsia Luhanska was very quickly taken over by the Russian army. The Ukrainian army fiercely resisted Zolote, which was finally overrun by Russian forces in June 2022. Since then, both cities have been under the control of the Russian Federation.

The protagonists of "We Will Not Fade Away", as well as the majority of their families, were unable to flee and are still in occupied territory. A crackdown has been carried out on the part of the population with pro-Ukrainian sentiments and filtration camps have been established where civilians are interned and may be subjected to ill-treatment and torture by the Russian occupiers.

It is now well known that teenagers are no exception and are also arrested in these camps, while young boys may be forcibly conscripted into the Russian army to be sent to fight against Ukraine.



## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

**Alisa Kovalenko (1987) is a Ukrainian award-winning documentary director from Kyiv.**

She was born and grew up in Zaporizhia, South-Eastern Ukraine and studied documentary cinema at the Karpenko-Kary National University of Theatre, Cinema and Television in Kyiv and at the Andrzej-Wajda School in Warsaw, in the Dok Pro programme.

Alisa's debut feature-length documentary "Alisa in Warland", a personal diary through revolution and war in Ukraine had its world premiere in the First Appearance competition at IDFA 2015 in Amsterdam. "Home Games" (2018), a social fairy-tale with a sensitive female gaze about the broken dreams of a young professional female football player, appeared at Sheffield Doc/Fest 2018 and played again at IDFA Amsterdam, featured in over 100 festivals and multi-awarded. In 2021, "Home Games" was the first Ukrainian creative documentary ever acquired by Netflix.

In 2018, Alisa directed and coordinated a "Beautiful Game", a 10-parts documentary series commissioned by the Prague-based international broadcaster Current Time TV. That year, she became a member of the European Film Academy (EFA).

After the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, Alisa left the editing room of "We Will Not Fade Away" and joined a volunteer fighting unit of the Ukrainian Armed Forces (AFU), directly engaged on the front line in the Kyiv and the Kharkiv region. She fought in the trenches for four months before returning to finish "We Will Not Fade Away".

"We Will Not Fade Away" will have its world premiere at Berlinale Generation 2023. Meanwhile, as the war in Ukraine continues, Alisa presented a project at the IDFA Forum 2022 based on the footage filmed during her combat time, supported by Chicken & Egg Pictures and Netflix.



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# FILMOGRAPHY

## **Frontline** [WORKING TITLE]

Feature-length documentary. 75 mn

Pitched at IDFA Forum 2022

POLAND, DENMARK, UKRAINE. 2024

## **We Will Not Fade Away**

Feature-length documentary. 75 mn

World Premiere @ Berlinale Generation 2023

UKRAINE, FRANCE, POLAND. 2023

## **Home Games**

Feature-length documentary. 86 mn

World Premiere @ Sheffield Doc/Fest 2018

UKRAINE, FRANCE, POLAND. 2018

AVAILABLE ON NETFLIX

## **Alisa in Warland**

Feature-length documentary. 74 mn

World Premiere @ IDFA First-appearance 2015

POLAND. 2015

## **Sister Zo**

Feature-length documentary. 74 mn

World Premiere @ Molodist Kyiv FF 2014

UKRAINE. 2014



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# PRODUCERS' BIOGRAPHIES



## VALERY KALMYKOV & OLEKSIY KOBELEV

TRUEMAN PRODUCTION / UKRAINE

Valery Kalmykov is a Ukrainian fiction and documentary producer based in Odesa, where he founded Trueman Production in 2013. He has produced several films in Ukraine and former CIS countries, including “Liza’s Tale” directed by Alexander Zhovna, “GogolDoc” and “5 Therapy” by Alisa Pavlovskaya or “My Mermaid My Lorelei” by Nana Jorjadze. Valery has been producing Alisa’s “We Will Not Fade Away” since 2020. His partner Oleksiy Kobelev is also from Odesa and has been producing and distributing television films and series since 1997. Oleksiy created in 2007 the first national school of television in Ukraine for the professional training of young people.

EAST  
ROADS

## STÉPHANE SIOHAN

EAST ROADS FILMS / FRANCE

Stéphane Siohan is a French documentary producer. He’s been working for 20 years as a foreign reporter in Central and Eastern Europe. Stéphane directed two interactive documentaries, including “Gol!” , co-produced by Le Monde and Arte, a IDFA DocLab 2012 selection. In 2016, he created East Roads Films, producing creative documentaries from Ukraine. Stéphane was a creative producer on Alisa Kovalenko’s award-winning “Home Games” (2018). He participated in the Ex Oriente and Eurodoc 2020 training programmes. In May 2022, he released in France the first biography of the Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky, published in 20 countries. Stéphane covers the Russian invasion in Ukraine as a special reporter for the French newspaper Libération.



## KATARZYNA KUCZYŃSKA & TOMASZ MORAWSKI

HAKA FILMS / POLAND

Tomasz Morawski founded HAKA Films in 2015. He worked as a production manager and line producer on many renowned films, including Oscar nominated “10” by Jerzy Skolimowski or “Mr Jones” by Agnieszka Holland. Katarzyna Kuczynska is an associate producer at HAKA Films. She graduated from Lodz Film School and later worked on award-winning films like “Communion”, directed by Anna Zamecka (EFA Award for Best documentary 2017). HAKA FILMS’ first documentary, “Boylesque” by Bogna Kowalczyk, premiered at Hot Docs 2022. The company is currently producing multiple films, including Alisa Kovalenko’s upcoming documentary “Frontline”, pitched at IDFA Forum 2022.



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# ARTISTIC AND TECHNICAL DETAILS

LENGTH:	<b>100 minutes</b>
DATE:	<b>2023</b>
INTERNATIONAL TITLE	<b>We Will Not Fade Away (English)</b>
ORIGINAL TITLE	<b>Ми не згаснемо (Ukrainian)</b>
SHOOTING FORMAT	<b>2K</b>
SCREENING FORMAT	<b>DCP / Colors</b>
SOUND	<b>5.1</b>
AVAILABLE SUBTITLES	<b>English, French, Polish</b>



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AUTHOR & DIRECTOR	Alisa Kovalenko	CREATIVE PRODUCERS	Stéphane Siohan
EDITORS	Maryna Maykovska Kasia Boniecka	PRODUCERS	Alisa Kovalenko  Valery Kalmykov, TRUEMAN PRODUCTION Yana Kalmykova, TRUEMAN PRODUCTION Oleksiy Kobelev, TRUEMAN PRODUCTION
DOP	Alisa Kovalenko Serhiy Stetsenko	CO-PRODUCERS	Katarzyna Kuczyńska, HAKA FILMS Tomasz Morawski, HAKA FILMS Stéphane Siohan, EAST ROADS FILMS
SOUND	Mariia Nesterenko	COUNTRIES	Ukraine, France, Poland, United States
ADDITIONAL CAMERA	Pieter-Jan de Pue	A CO-PRODUCTION WITH	ARTE G.E.I.E – La Lucarne Telewizja Polska S.A. Current Time TV
COLOR GRADING	Jarek Sterczewski		
DIGITAL MASTERING	Oleksandr Djelmash		
POSTER DESIGNER	Beata Śliwińska BARRAKUZ		



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COMMISSIONING EDITORS

**Agnieszka Balicka-Domanska, TELEWIZJA POLSKA S.A.**

**Sabine Lange, ARTE G.E.I.E – LA LUCARNE**

**Kenan Aliyev, CURRENT TIME TV**

**Natalia Arshavskaya, CURRENT TIME TV**

**Andreas Fay, VGTV**

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

**Ukrainian State Film Agency**

**Polish Film Institute**

**IDFA Bertha Fund - Classic Post-production**

SUPPORTED BY

**Eurodoc**

**B2B Docs - From the Baltic to the Black Sea**

**Institute of Documentary Film**

**Ukrainian Institute**

PITCHED AND PRESENTED AT

**CPH:FORUM**

**Fipadoc Biarritz International Pitching**

**Thessaloniki Pitching Forum**

**Docs Barcelona Industry**

**Krakow IFF Cedoc Market**

**Odesa International Film Festival Pitching**

**Medimed**

**East Doc Forum**

**Docudays UA Docs Preview**

**Verzió DocLab Budapest**

**Sheffield Doc/Fest (Work-in-Progress)**

**CineLink Work-in-Progress, Sarajevo IFF**

**Ukrainian Showcase, Edinburgh IFF**

INDUSTRY AWARDS

**Thessaloniki Pitching Forum 2020**

**Odesa International Film Festival 2020**

**Docudays UA Kyiv Doc Preview 2021**



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# FESTIVALS HISTORY

WORLD PREMIERE

Berlinale Generation 2023





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# CONTACTS

PRODUCTION & FESTIVALS

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