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Kinofest NYC Announces Festival Lineup and Film Premieres

12 guest filmmakers from Ukraine to attend this year

New York City, March 1, 2013 — Kinofest NYC, featuring independent film from Ukraine and the broader post-Soviet region, has announced the upcoming program for its fourth annual festival which will take place April 4–7, 2013. This year, the festival includes more than 25 short and four feature films by independent filmmakers from Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Russia, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The festival weekend will kick off on Thursday, April 4, with opening night at The Ukrainian Institute of America (2 E.79th St.); all other film screenings are scheduled at Anthology Film Archives (32 Second Ave.) and The Ukrainian Museum (222 E.6th St.), two longstanding East Village cultural institutions. The complete program and roster of films are posted on the Kinofest NYC website, www.kinofestNYC.com.

This year's festival will feature the U.S. premiere of seven short films from "Goodbye, Ukraine!" an anthology of 34 short films that examines how and why Ukrainians have left their country since its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. The films also present unique observations of those who stayed behind and how they cope with life in contemporary Ukraine. The collection has been shown commercially in Ukrainian theaters. Five filmmakers who contributed to the anthology and Denis Ivanov, the executive director of "Goodbye, Ukraine!" will be flying in from Ukraine to attend the festival.

This year's festival will also feature the New York premiere of *Pit No. 8*, a human interest documentary by Estonian filmmaker Marianna Kaat. The film follows a Donetsk teenager's journey from a

dysfunctional household to an illegally operated coal mine near his hometown, where he scrapes by, providing for himself and his siblings. The director of the award-winning film will present her film, along with Alla Tyutyunnyk, a director of the International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival DOCUDAYS UA in Ukraine, where this film had its Ukrainian premiere in 2012.

Also making its U.S. premiere at Kinofest NYC is the dark comedy *Business As Usual* by husband-and-wife team Valentyn Vasyanovch and Iya Myslytska. The film tells the story of a Ukrainian doctor going through a mid-life crisis, which leads him on a journey of comical self-discovery, causing him to lose his status-minded wife and get involved in several harebrained schemes with a close friend. Vasyanovych, a student of the Andrzej Wajda Master School of Film Directing in Poland, and his wife will be at Kinofest NYC to present their film.

Tickets to Kinofest NYC 2013 are \$12 per screening, and will be available for online purchase starting March 15. All films shown are in English or their original language with English subtitles.

Kinofest NYC 2013 is being produced with the sponsorship of The Ukrainian Museum, Izolyatsia-Platform for Cultural Initiatives (Ukraine), Self Reliance (NY) Federal Credit Union, Bauer Dental Arts (NYC) the Ukrainian Institute of America (NYC), and individual contributors.

About Kinofest NYC

Kinofest NYC was founded in 2009 by a group of East Village residents with a passion for cinema and independent film. The festival seeks to educate and entertain its viewers, and to provide opportunities in the U.S. for a new generation of innovative and talented filmmakers from Ukraine and other post-Soviet countries.