



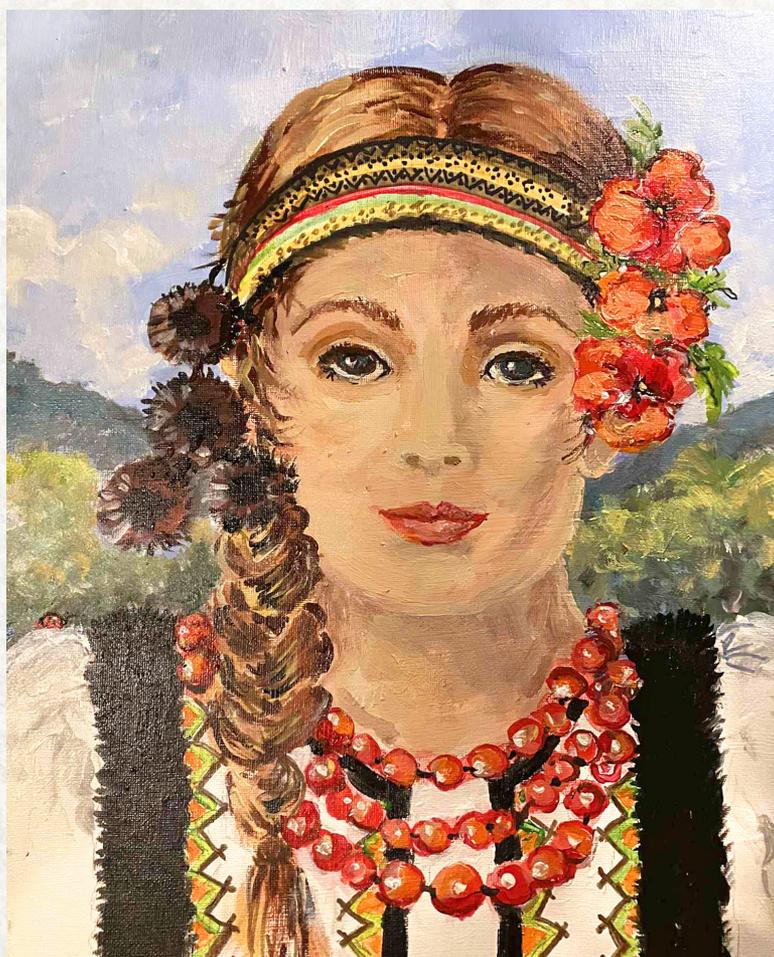
NAPLES UKRAINIAN FILM FESTIVAL 2026



MARCH 6-8
PARAGON THEATERS PAVILION

[PARAGONTHEATERS.COM/FEST](https://paragontheatres.com/fest)





Luba Marino

Hutsulka Marichka, 2025
Acrylic on canvas

Cover:
Luba Drahosz

Untitled, 2025
Acrylic on canvas

WELCOME TO THE FIRST

NAPLES UKRAINIAN FILM FESTIVAL



For Ukraine, cinema is a way to tell the world about Ukraine, about our eternal devotion to freedom, our suffering as well as our victories over tyranny. Ukrainian cinema, established at the beginning of the 20 th century, has a long history of struggle for eternal human values and now, in a revitalized Ukraine, captivates the world with its profoundness, diversity and promise for the future!



Branch 136, Ukrainian National Women's League of America and the prestigious "Coronation of the Word" literature competition, present films that have received numerous awards in Ukraine and at international film festivals.



UNWLA was founded 100 years ago with a main goal: "to inform the free world about events in Ukraine, to support spiritually and materially, and to promote the preservation of Ukrainian national identity, cultural heritage, and ethnic traditions in America"

Glory to Ukraine! Glory to its Heroes!





UKRAINIAN NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA BRANCH 136

Founded in 1925, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) is the oldest and the largest Ukrainian Women's organization in the U.S.

Today, with its century-long history, the UNWLA is a nationwide community of thousands of members dedicated to developing and promoting educational and cultural programs, providing humanitarian aid to Ukrainians worldwide, and advocating for Ukraine in the U.S.

Our Branch 136 in Naples was chartered on March 12, 2014. Since Russia's full invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, we have focused on raising funds for humanitarian aid and medical supplies for both military and civilian needs, especially those of children. Our aim is to raise awareness about Ukraine's democratic identity and support decolonization efforts through education and cultural engagement. The war against Ukraine has only intensified Russia's cultural suppression. In response, we have organized this 2026 Ukrainian Film Festival at the Paragon Theater to celebrate and preserve Ukraine's creative heritage and national identity. We thank you for your support.





CORONATION OF THE WORD

Коронація слова

Koronatsiya Slova (Coronation of the Word), was founded in 1999 by Tetyana and George Logush to develop Ukrainian literature at a time of its perilous decline due to extremely difficult economic conditions of the 1990s. It was founded as an international, Ukraine-based annual open literature competition for original (unpublished/not produced) novels, film scripts, theater plays, lyric poetry and works for and by teens and children.

Manuscripts are submitted in annual cycles, evaluated by teams of experts and judged by eminent juries of writers, literary critics, journalists, producers, actors and literary scholars. Authors remain anonymous to the several hundred experts and juries to preserve objectivity and the integrity of the competition.

In its 26 years, Koronatsiya Slova (KS) has discovered, recognized and awarded more than 1,200 writers, resulting in more than 1,500 published novels (in 30 million copies) and over 50 feature films and TV series. With its massive scale, wide reach and long duration, KS has been acclaimed as the "Third Wave of modern Ukrainian literature", following the short-lived revivals of 1920s and 1960s that were brutally suppressed by the Soviet regime.

Film scripts and novels by KS-awarded laureate-authors are internationally known, award-winning films - "The Guide", "Shchedryk/Carol of the Bells", "Slovo House - Unfinished Novel", "Ivan the Powerful", "Pamfir" and "U are the Universe" - are being screened at this Festival and at future screenings at the Paragon Cinematheque.



NAPLES CINEMATHEQUE

Naples Cinematheque is proud to have partnered with the Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 136 and Coronation of the Word in launching the inaugural Naples Ukrainian Film Festival.

Our mission has always been twofold: to bring the very best of cinema's past back to the big screen, and to ensure that contemporary voices from around the world receive the spotlight they deserve. This festival is a living expression of that commitment, a celebration of artistry, courage, and the transformative power of film.

Where else in Southwest Florida can audiences experience some of the most urgent and profound films emerging globally today? Opportunities like this are rare. By sharing our years of festival experience, we were able to help guide the Ukrainian community in creating a weekend that honors its rich, resilient cinematic culture.

But this festival is more than screenings, it is a profound moment for cinema preservation, for the cultural landscape of Southwest Florida, and for the world. It places a spotlight on filmmakers creating extraordinary work under unimaginable duress, ensuring that their stories are not only seen, but felt, remembered, and celebrated in the way only the theater can make possible.



EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY | MAR 06

- 4 PM **OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION**
- 6 PM **THE UNBORN | SHORT**
*FEATURING Q&A WITH FILMMAKER
GEORGE HERASYMIUK*
- UKRAINIAN DANCE MOVIE | SHORT**
- VIRSKY DANCE ENSEMBLE | SHORT**
- JULIA BLUE | NARRATIVE FEATURE**

SATURDAY | MAR 07

- 1 PM **PAMFIR | NARRATIVE FEATURE**
- 330 PM **CULTURE VS. WAR | DOCUMENTARY**
THE GUIDE | NARRATIVE FEATURE
- 630 PM **SLOVO HOUSE. UNFINISHED NOVEL |**
NARRATIVE FEATURE
*FEATURING Q&A WITH GEORGE AND
TETYANA LOGUSH*
- YAROSLAV THE WISE - FATHER-IN-LAW OF
EUROPE | SHORT/DOCUMENTARY**

SUNDAY | MAR 08

- 1230 PM **FOXTER AND MAX | NARRATIVE FEATURE**
- 330 PM **U ARE THE UNIVERSE | NARRATIVE FEATURE**
- 6 PM **SHADOWS OF FORGOTTEN ANCESTORS |**
NARRATIVE/CLASSIC
- FROM UKRAINE TO HOLLYWOOD |**
DOCUMENTARY

FRIDAY MARCH 6

SCHEDULED FILMS START AT 6 PM



THE UNBORN

SHORT - 2021 - 9 MIN
DIRECTOR AND CINEMATOGRAPHER
GEORGE HERASYMIUK
STARRING OLHA MANKOVSKA, NATALIA
TOPALO, ANNA DUKH

After a coerced miscarriage and psychological collapse, a family's fragile peace unravels when the unborn child's ghost returns, confronting them with buried guilt, control, and generational wounds that refuse to fade.

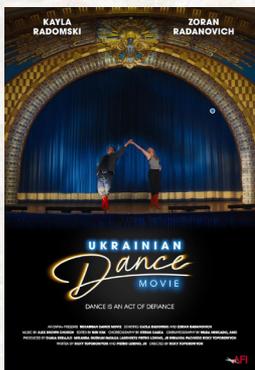
Featuring Q&A:
George Herasymiuk, Filmmaker



JULIA BLUE

NARRATIVE FEATURE - 2018 - 86 MIN
DIRECTOR ROXY TOPOROWYCH
STARRING POLINA SNISARENKO,
DARIYA BARIKHASHVILI

Julia, a photojournalism student living in war-torn Ukraine, finds her path towards independence and a brighter future challenged after meeting and falling for English, a young soldier fresh from the war zone.



UKRAINIAN DANCE MOVIE

SHORT - 2024 - 19 MIN

DIRECTOR ROXY TOPOROWICH
STARRING KAYLA RADOMSKI,
ZORAN RADANOVICH

After an audition goes awry, a professional Ukrainian-American folk dancer, whose career was upended by war, tries to find a new sense of meaning by teaching at her spirited father's folk dancing school in Hollywood.



VIRSKY DANCE ENSEMBLE

SHORT - 2022 - 19 MIN

A performance video featuring the incredible talents of the Virsky Ukrainian National Folk Dance Ensemble.

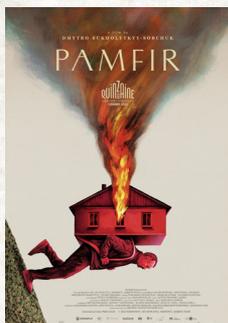
FEATURED GUEST

George Herasymiuk



Heorhii (George) Herasymiuk is a Ukrainian award-winning filmmaker, director, and researcher based in Miami. He is a member of the International Creative and Art Association (ICAA) and National Union of Filmmakers of Ukraine. Also, a jury Member at International Film Festivals and Literary Competitions. He has been covered by national and international media. He will also talk about his about-to-be released 2026 short film "Algorithm15", with actress Maria Yarovska.

SATURDAY MARCH 7



1 PM

PAMFIR

NARRATIVE FEATURE - 2022 - 107 MIN
DIRECTOR DMYTRO SUKHOLYTKYY-SOBCHUK
STARRING OLEKSANDR YATSENYUK, STANISLAV POTIAK

On the eve of a western Ukrainian carnival, Pamfir returns home after months away. When his son commits a grave mistake, Pamfir is forced back into a dangerous past, setting off irreversible consequences.



DOUBLE FEATURE 330 PM

CULTURE VS. WAR

DOCUMENTARY - 2023 - 11 MIN
DIRECTOR KADIM TARASOV
STARRING TARAS KOMPANICHENKO

Taras Kompanichenko, a renowned Ukrainian kobzar and soldier, preserves historical music through the "Culture vs War" project. Armed with ancient instruments, he performs charity concerts to support and inspire his comrades.



THE GUIDE

NARRATIVE FEATURE - 2014 - 122 MIN
DIRECTOR OLES SANIN
STARRING STANISLAV BOKLAN, JEFF BURRELL

In early-1930s Soviet Ukraine, ten-year-old Peter flees the police after his American father is killed for hiding evidence of repression. Guided by a blind kobzar, he survives through stories that preserve his humanity amid terror.

DOUBLE FEATURE 630 PM



SLOVO HOUSE. UNFINISHED NOVEL

NARRATIVE FEATURE - 2021 - 112 MIN

DIRECTOR TARAS TOMENKO
STARRING DMYTRO OLIYNYK,
VYACHESLAV DOVZHENKO

Slovo House is a story about a generation of Ukrainian artists persecuted by the totalitarian system, unfolding against the backdrop of one of the largest genocides of the 20th century - the Holodomor.

Featuring Q&A:
George and Tetyana Logush (Coronation of the Word)



YAROSLAV THE WISE - FATHER-IN-LAW OF EUROPE

NARRATIVE FEATURE - 2023 - 48 MIN

DIRECTOR OLESYA NOHINA
STARRING YEVHEN LACIK, NASTIA KOROL

The documentary drama follows Yaroslav the Wise's rise from a bullied, lame boy to Kyiv's great ruler, revealing his pivotal marriage to Ingigerda and a dynasty that placed their daughters on Europe's thrones.



SUNDAY MARCH 8



1230 PM

FOXTER AND MAX

NARRATIVE FEATURE - 2019 - 90 MIN
DIRECTOR ANATOLIY MATESHKO
STARRING AMADEY, DMITRIY GAVRILOV

A frustrated young artist brings his graffiti dog to life—an ultra-intelligent nanobot super-dog—and becomes a target when a ruthless criminal hunts them both for the powerful technology.



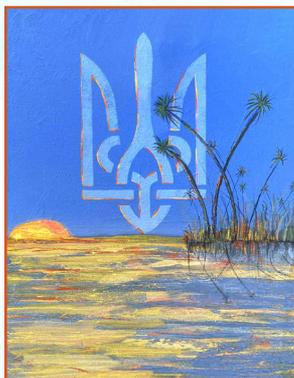
330 PM

U ARE THE UNIVERSE

NARRATIVE FEATURE - 2024 - 90 MIN
DIRECTOR PAVLO OSTRIKOV
STARRING VOLODYMYR KRAVCHIK, ALEXIA DEPICKER

After Earth explodes, Ukrainian space trucker Andriy Melnyk becomes the last person in the universe until he receives a call from Catherine, a French woman on a distant space station. Despite the obstacles, Andriy decides to find her.

FESTIVAL RAFFLE PRIZES



UNTITLED, 2025

LUBA DRAHOSZ

Acrylic on canvas

HUTSULKA MARICHKA, 2025

LUBA MARINO

Acrylic on canvas



TRADITIONAL GERDAN

A traditional Ukrainian, hand-woven, beaded necklace with deep historical roots. It is a staple of women's festive, traditional attire, often passed down as family heirlooms.



FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL

Diamond (\$5,000)



Ukrainian National Association, Inc.

Gold (\$500-\$999)

Lidia Devonshire

Dr. George and Catherine Szczerbaniuk

Silver (\$100-\$499)

Dr. & Mrs. Eugene Evans

James Gamache

Luba Marino

Natalie Santarsiero

Myron and Vera Senyk

Halyna Traversa

**Our most sincere gratitude for
your generosity and support!**

