A person in silhouette stands in a dark field at night, holding a long pole that supports a glowing yellow balloon. The background is a dark blue night sky with the faint outlines of trees and a building on the left.

THE ILLUSION OF A QUIET NIGHT

A FILM BY OLGA CHERNYKH

Produced by TABOR, commissioned by Suspilne Ukraine
Ukraine | 2026 | 70'

PRESS NOTES

Further press materials
available [HERE](#)

Logline

Filmed during one night in July 2025 by forty filmmakers and hundreds of citizens, *The Illusion of a Quiet Night* paints a vast collective portrait of war-torn Ukraine. Between fear and exhaustion, moments of joy and scenes of the ordinary day to day, we watch as life goes on in spite of everything, witnessing the resilience of a nation gripped by uncertainty.



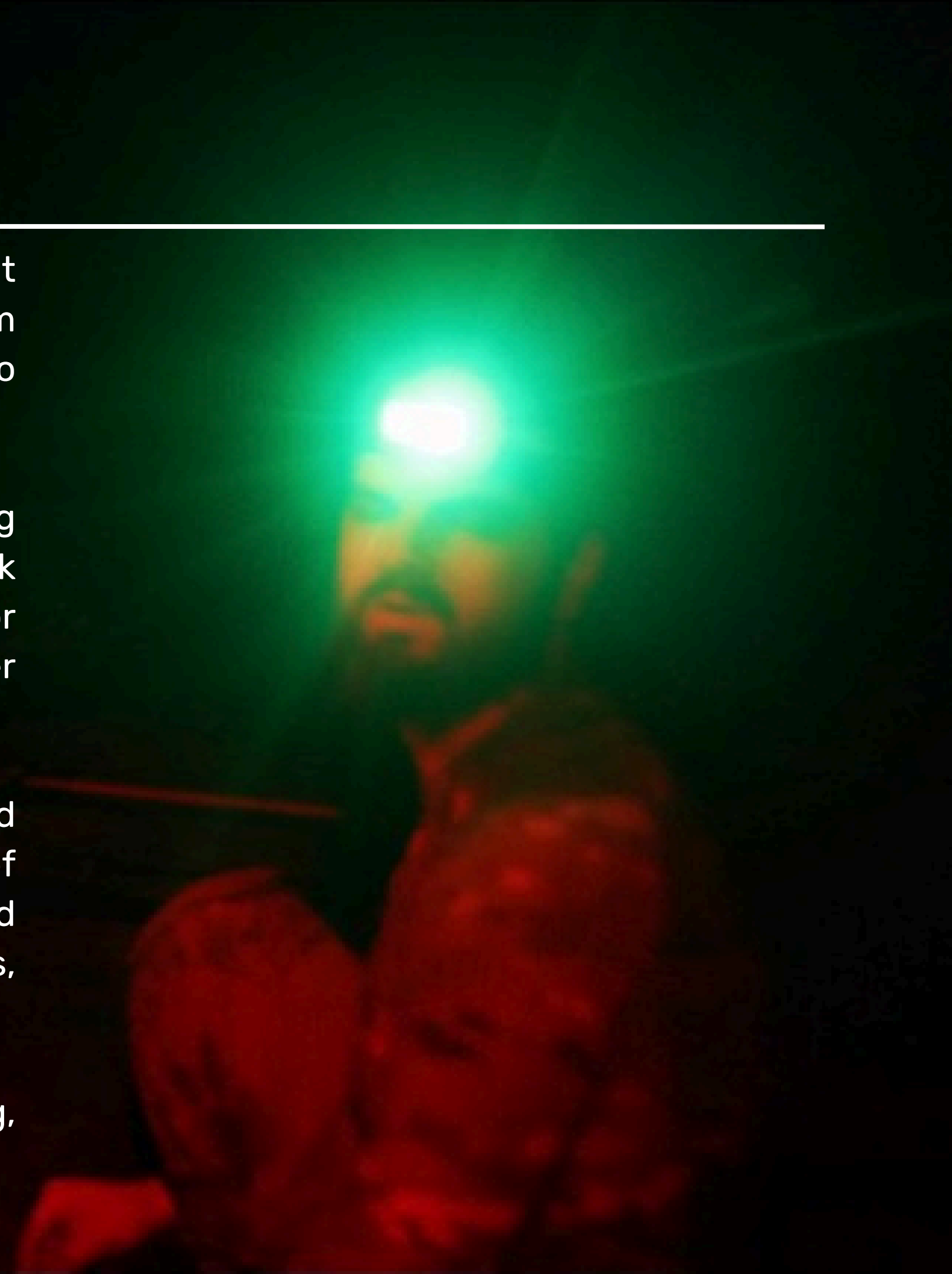
Synopsis

On the night of July 27–28, 2025, forty cinematographers fanned out across Ukraine – from northern forests to southern steppes, from frontline positions to cities still absorbing the shock of air raids – to document a single summer night in a country four years into war.

The result is a collective portrait of nearly a hundred people spanning every region of Ukraine, including the occupied territories of Donetsk and Crimea. For some, the night brought closeness and celebration; for others, confrontation with loss, danger, or the quiet grind of another work shift.

What emerges is a nation that has changed in ways both visible and invisible. Fear has settled into daily life, reflected in the eyes of animals, in forests that feel darker, in the wind moving through ruined cities. And yet life continues to pulse: in moments of tenderness, endurance, and ordinary courage.

This is not a film about surviving the night. It is about knowing, somewhere beneath the exhaustion and the threat, that it will pass.





Directors' Statement

The film grew from the experience of nights I spent in war-torn Ukraine and abroad. Each time I departed from home, I became more aware of how fragile and relative concepts like peace, safety, and comfort are – how quickly they shift depending on context and proximity to war.

I chose the night as both the setting of the film and metaphoric visual and time expression – a time of vulnerability, but also a universal symbol of peaceful rest. By focusing on a single night in Ukraine, I confront the idea of a “peaceful night” with a reality where such calm is constantly interrupted. The film embraces the constant duality in nowadays Ukrainian reality: moments of calmness, peace and normality are suspended by fear, anxiety and life threat. The film reveals the ordinary alongside the deeply disturbing, while a resilient and often subtle sense of humor becomes a vital way for people to endure and navigate the surrounding madness. Through fragments of life across the country, the film reflects the complex emotional landscape of living in war and at the same time conveys a sense of hope and the inevitable triumph of light over darkness.

I was focused on the form and concept of the film, that should be made only in one night and shoot all over Ukraine, including its occupied regions and the front line, as the concept of simultaneous portrayal of different lives.

Now completed, I believe, the film stands as both a document and an artistic gesture. It invites the viewer into an immediate, immersive experience, resisting the normalization of war and reminding us how fragile the idea of a quiet night truly is.

About director Olga Chernykh

Olga Chernykh is Ukrainian film director and cinematographer. She holds a Master Degree in Cinematography and in documentary filmmaking. Her film *A Picture to Remember*, was an opening film of IDFA 2023 and among other awards won the Heart of Sarajevo for Best Documentary. She is a Berlinale Talents alumnus and was a participant of various international workshops such as IDFA Academy, IDFA Project Space, the "Aristoteles Workshop", B2B Docs. She is a member of the European Film Academy and is a recipient of an Akademie der Kunst fellowship (Germany).

Filmography

2026 - *The Illusion of a Quiet Night*, Ukraine, 70 min (documentary)

2027 - *My Dear Vira*, Ukraine, France, Sweden (documentary, in development)

2024 - *Kharkiv, capitale de la photo rebelle*, France, Ukraine (documentary series)

2023 - *A Picture to Remember*, Ukraine, France, Germany, 70 min (documentary)

IDFA 2023 Opening film | Winner Heart of Sarajevo for the Best Documentary | Winner Award for the Best Documentary, GoEast Film Festival

2023 - *The Land of Aliens*, Ukraine, 19 min (fiction)

2023 - *Tiny Summer Trilogy*, Ukraine, Georgia, 8 min (experimental documentary)

2019 - *The Flood that No one Saw*, Romania, 9 min (documentary)

2019 - *Hives of my Heart*, Ukraine, 2 min (documentary)



About producer Daria Zakharova

Daria Zakharova is a Ukrainian producer born in Kyiv. She graduated from the Institute of International Relations at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and began her career managing cultural projects, including the launch of the first contemporary sculpture festival in partnership with Yorkshire Sculpture Park. She later moved into video production, producing commercials, music videos, and films with leading Ukrainian production companies and organizing shoots across Europe, Africa, and Asia. Her debut feature as a producer, *Nematoma* (2019), premiered at the San Sebastián Film Festival. Her second feature, *Chrysanthemum Day*, is in post-production. Since 2022, she has worked with Tabor, co-producing the documentary *Kyiv Soloists* and developing new feature projects.

Filmography

2028 – *The Earth Is Flat – I Flew Around and Saw It*, Germany, Ukraine, 105 min (fiction, in development)

2027 – *Chrysanthemum Day*, Ukraine, Netherlands, 90 min (fiction, post-production)

2026 – *Black Sunflowers*, USA, Ukraine, 92 min (documentary)

2026 – *The Illusion of a Quiet Night*, Ukraine, 70 min (documentary)

2025 – *Kyiv Soloists*, Norway, Netherlands, Ukraine (documentary)

2019 – *Nematoma*, Lithuania, Ukraine, Spain, Latvia, 102 min (fiction)



Picture by Polina Hoch



About TABOR

TABOR is one of the leading film companies in Ukraine, dedicated to producing author-driven fiction and documentary films, creative documentaries and socially impactful works. The company was founded in 2013, just before the Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine and the onset of the war in Donbas. These events affected the future vector of the company's development, which became closely intertwined with the social and political realities of Ukraine. A significant aspect of the company's evolution is its foundation before Ukraine's turbulent times, its resilience in surviving the start of the full scale invasion in 2022, all while maintaining its potential for growth and production expansion.

The company provides comprehensive film production services covering the entire content creation process: from script development to shooting, editing, post-production, and distribution. **TABOR** has released 13 documentaries and 6 fiction films. Another 4 feature-length projects are in various stages of production.

TABOR is making films for an audience that seeks to understand the human experience behind complex social issues. For more than ten years, its focus has been dedicated to documenting the theme of war and its impact on individuals and society. The company sees its films as an educational and artistic mission, to create a space for reflection, document historical memory, and give a voice to stories that must be heard and seen on the international stage.

About Suspilne Ukraine

Suspilne Ukraine is the largest independent media company in Ukraine. It was founded in 2017 through the reform of state broadcasting in Ukraine. The company operates in line with journalistic standards and produces content for millions of people of different ages, incomes, locations and media-consumption habits.

Today, Suspilne Ukraine includes:

- the television channels Pershyi, Suspilne Kultura, Suspilne Sport, and a national network of regional channels;
- the radio stations Ukrainske Radio, Radio Promin, Radio Kultura, Radiotochka;
- digital platforms: the website Suspilne.media, a nationwide network of local digital platforms, and Suspilne Mediateka platform.

They broadcast in the languages of national communities, represent Ukraine at the Eurovision Song Contest, create content for children and teenagers, and train the media community at Public Media Academy. Above all, they protect freedoms in Ukraine.

Their unchanging mission since 2017:

“To defend freedoms in Ukraine. To provide society with reliable and balanced information about Ukraine and the world, to establish public dialogue in order to strengthen public trust, develop civic responsibility, the Ukrainian language and culture, the individual and the Ukrainian people.”

Credits

Director

Olga Chernykh

Idea and Script

Maryna Brodovska, Olga Chernykh

Producer TABOR

Daria Zakharova

Executive Producer TABOR

Eugene Rachkovsky

Producers Suspilne Ukraine

Olena Krasavtseva, Natalie
Movshovych, Sergiy Nedzelskyy,
Anastasiia Zakhilko

Edit

Maryna Maykovska, Kasia Boniecka

Composer

Maryana Klochko

Sound

Serhii Avdieiev

Sound recording

Nataliia Avramenko, Oleksii Diachenko,
Oleksander Gridin, Kateryna
Herasymchuk, Ihor Kravchuk, Vadym
Lahur, Karyna Rezhevskya, Mykola
Shchepotin, Maryna Tarakanova,
Xenia Vynogradova

Colour

Michael Derrossett

Locations and cast managers

Yulia Kozinska, Lisa Tsymbalist,
Mykhailo Panchuk, Maryna
Brodovska

Production Manager

Mykola Poluden

Assistant to producer

Mykhailo Panchuk

Post-production producer

Amina Hadzhyieva

Credits

Cinematography

Oleg Bachynskyi, Yevhenia Bondarenko, Boria Borysov, Lisa Bukreyeva, Andrey But, Volodymyr Cheppel, Dmytro Cherniavskyi, Ivan Fomichenko, Sophia Gera, Dmytro Grabovskyi, Oleh Halaidych, Yerema Holota, Illya Hretskyi, Andriy Karpets, Yevhen Kozeko, Oleksiy Leskov, Anton Lukashenko, Sasha Lunina, Denys Lushchuk, Serhiy Malyi, Dmytro Moglenets, Ivan Morarash, Dmytro Myslinchuk, Olha Oborina, Mykhailo Ohirko, Kyrylo Piddubnyi, Liubov Ploskonosova, Roman Prokopchuk, Yaroslav Pushkarchuk, Liza Pyrozhkova, Oleksandr Roshchyn, Oleksandr Safonov, Vadym Smarchenko, Sofiia Buhrii, Sofiko, Nikoletta Stoyanova, Anton Venchak, Albina Vynar, Ivanusa Volodymyr, Ivanka Kate Yakovyna, Oleksii Yeroshenko, Vadym Zadoroghny



Contacts

Production

TABOR LTD

Daria Zakharova

d.k.zakharova@gmail.com

+380 93 269 5259

Publicist

NOISE Film & TV

Mirjam Wiekenkamp

+31 6 2865 2249

mirjam@noisefilmpr.com

noisefilmpr.com

