

The logo for the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (idfa) is located in the top right corner. It consists of the lowercase letters 'idfa' in a white, sans-serif font, enclosed within a black rectangular box. Above the box, there is a stylized white graphic of a leafy branch.

Luminous
2022

WHEN SPRING CAME TO BUCHA

FIEM BY MILA TESHAIEVA & MARCUS LENZ

DIRECTED BY MILA TESHAIEVA & MARCUS LENZ CINEMATOGRAPHY MARCUS LENZ & MILA TESHAIEVA EDITING EVGENIA DANILENKO-BEKKER, JULIA WIEDWALD MUSIC DAKHA BRAKHA, GANNA GRYNIVA
SOUND RECORDING VITALIY GARKAVIY SOUND DESIGN ANDRII NIOZELSKIY COMMISSIONING EDITORS BRITTA WINDHOFF, NICOLE RIPPERDA, ANNA HERBST
DISTRIBUTION NEW DOCS SUPPORTED BY GERMAN FILMS PRODUCTION WILDFILMS IN COOPERATION WITH WDR

LOGLINE

The personal account of the war in Ukraine, filmed in the first weeks after liberation of Bucha district. Movie follows several protagonists closely as they deal with the aftermath, on practical and psychological level. Stories about destroyed lives but also about humanity and hope, as the war in Ukraine continues to rage.

The documentary When spring came to Bucha reaches beyond common representations of war and one-dimensional victimhood... We, the audience, may not have seen Bucha, but with their explorations, the directors have done the rare thing that documentary can achieve.
-Sander Pleij - European review of Books

The authors, in the best traditions of "direct cinema", watch their confused characters with interest and great tenderness and encourage the viewer to do the hard work of understanding.
-Andriy Alferov, Film critic, curator, member of Fipresci.



SYNOPSIS

Russians bombarded Bucha, Borodyanka, Irpin and other cities in the region following their invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. By the time they retreated a month later, the damage was massive: destroyed houses, executed civilians, and ruined lives. Filmmakers Mila Teshaieva and Marcus Lenz went in immediately, in time to film local people emerging from their shelters, but never showing the actual atrocities. That wasn't necessary, as the trauma of war is clear to see on everyone's faces, including those of the volunteers who rushed in from far and wide to help.

Over the course of many weeks, the filmmakers follow various residents as they pick themselves up from the smoldering ruins. The dead are identified, debris is cleared, and prosecutors start talking about a war tribunal. At first, all is panic, despair and sadness—accompanied by sheer bafflement that they have been attacked by a country with so many ties to families and friends. But as the first blossoms of spring start appearing, these Ukrainians also reveal their resilience. Human spirit overcomes war and death.



WHEN SPRING CAME TO BUCHA

Germany, Ukraine 2022

66 min

Ukrainian original with English subtitles

Colour 16:9,

Director

Mila Tessaieva / Ukraine

Marcus Lenz / Germany

Production

Wildfilms / Marcus Lenz

in cooperation with WDR

Cinematography

Marcus Lenz

Mila Tessaieva

Editing

Yevgenia Danilenko

Julia Wiedwald

Sound:

Vitalyi Garkavyi

Andriy Niedzelsky

Music:

DakhaBrakha

Ganna Gryniva



Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/769427007>

Film stills

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2y2f0e4s6vb8oq2/AABX9I2-d86hiPvxIF1TBdyga?dl=0>

International sales

NEW DOCS / Elina Kewitz

elina.kewitz@newdocs.de

Mila Tessaieva

teshaeva@gmail.com

Marcus Lenz /Wildfims

marcus@wildfilms.de





Mila Tessaieva

Mila Tessaieva is a Ukrainian artist, photographer, and filmmaker. Her work is focused on the topics of national memories and collective identities on the territories of the former Eastern block. The retrospective of her work “Imagined Communities” was shown at the MIT Museum in Boston in 2018. From the very first days of the full-scale invasion of Russia to Ukraine Mila Tessaieva has been in Kyiv and the Kyiv region, photographing, filming, and writing on what she describes as “a defining moment of European history”.



Marcus Lenz

is a German director, screenwriter and cinematographer based in Berlin. He graduated from the Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin (DFFB). His feature film *Rival* (2020) premiered at Busan IFF and won the Best Director award at Tokyo IFF, Best Global Film at Pristina IFF, among many other awards, also being shown worldwide at more than 50 festivals. In 2016 he founded a production company Wildfilms, and directed multiple mid-length documentaries for German television channels WDR and Arte.