

PBS Distribution Presents

A **FRONTLINE** & **AP** Production

2000 METERS TO ANDRIIVKA

A film by **MSTYSLAV CHERNOV**



WORLD PREMIERE

SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2025

IN COMPETITION: WORLD CINEMA DOCUMENTARY

PUBLIC SCREENINGS

Thursday, Jan. 23 at 5:00pm MT | The Ray Theater, Park City

Friday, Jan. 24 at 1:10pm MT | Redstone Cinemas, Park City

Saturday, Jan. 25 at 6:00pm MT | Broadway Center Cinemas, Salt Lake City

Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 12:00pm MT | The Egyptian Theater, Park City

Friday, January 31 at 8:45pm MT | Library Center Theater, Park City

PRESS & INDUSTRY SCREENINGS

Friday, Jan. 24 at 9:30am MT | Holiday 2, Park City

PUBLICITY	DISTRIBUTION (US)	SALES (International)
Cinetic Media Charlie Olsky charlie@cineticmedia.com 917.545.7260	PBS Distribution Sara Giustini theatrical@pbs.org	Dogwoof Cleo Veger cleo@dogwoof.com

FILM SYNOPSIS

From the Oscar®-winning team behind 20 DAYS IN MARIUPOL, **2000 METERS TO ANDRIIVKA** documents the toll of the Russia-Ukraine war from a personal and devastating vantage point. Following his historic account of the civilian toll in Mariupol, Mstyslav Chernov turns his lens towards Ukrainian soldiers — who they are, where they came from, and the impossible decisions they face in the trenches as they fight for every inch of their land.

Amid a failing counteroffensive in 2023, Chernov and his AP colleague Alex Babenko follow a Ukrainian brigade battling through approximately one mile of a heavily fortified forest on their mission to liberate the Russian-occupied village of Andriivka. Weaving together original footage, intensive Ukrainian Army bodycam video and powerful moments of reflection, **2000 METERS TO ANDRIIVKA** reveals with haunting intimacy, the farther the soldiers advance through their destroyed homeland, the more they realize that, for them, this war may never end.

DIRECTOR STATEMENT | MSTYSLAV CHERNOV

“I think that war is probably the best time in life to just start everything over from scratch,” Fedya once told me. “And we have such a moment now. We need to keep pushing.”

He was 24. A former warehouse worker with a scar on his lip. Now, a sergeant of the 3rd Assault Brigade. In the forest, walking among the trenches that looked like graves, he was sure Ukraine would win this war.

I doubted his optimism.

It was the summer of 2023. The Ukrainian counteroffensive - the largest military operation in Europe since the Second World War was underway. Everyone had been waiting for it, anticipating victories. But the reality was different.

Ukrainian forces were advancing, but the progress was slow, and the losses were devastating. The frontline was nearly inaccessible to journalists. Entire villages and cities hung in limbo while the country stared at screens, hoping for liberation, longing to see more Ukrainian flags raised against the sky.

The world was watching, too.

Before meeting Fedya and joining his battalion's mission, I had been straddling two worlds. In one, I was screening "20 Days in Mariupol" across the US and Europe, briefly visiting my daughters and experiencing the normality of life. People were seeing the war from the safety of their screens, discussing it over coffee in their homes and cafes. The other world was Ukraine. I kept coming back to document the war.

It felt like moving between two epochs. One world was comfortable and set in the present. The other looked like something out of Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Hemingway's dispatches from the Spanish Civil War, or a Paul Nash war painting: cities destroyed by airstrikes, cut-down forests, the roar of artillery, gas, and bullets. Only it seemed even worse now with the realities of modern warfare. Drones dominated the skies, and there was no hiding from them.

Outside Ukraine, the counteroffensive was reported in numbers: casualties, kilometers gained or lost, and days since the beginning of the invasion. On the ground, it was more. Every inch of land was covered in blood, broken bodies, and grieving families. And I wanted to show what those numbers really meant.

That's when we met Fedya and his unit. They were on a mission to liberate Andriivka, a small village on the outskirts of occupied Bakhmut, just two hours from my hometown, Kharkiv. It was surrounded by minefields and trenches, and the only way to reach it was through a narrow strip of forest.

I remember sitting with him and three of his men in the small room of their dorm near the frontline. We shook hands, we smoked, and I recorded some of the first shots of the film. They had just returned from battle and mourned the death of their friend who had been shot in the head. I looked at the maps and their helmet camera footage. I kept thinking about that tiny, seemingly insignificant forest: the battle through it could symbolize the entire 600-mile frontline and the struggle of the whole Ukrainian army fighting for every inch of the land.

A year later, as I write this and the film is complete, only Fedya remains standing among those four people in the room.

FILM TEAM

Mstyslav Chernov | Director, Writer, Producer

Mstyslav Chernov is a [Ukrainian filmmaker](#), [war correspondent](#), [videographer](#), [photojournalist](#), and [novelist](#). He is a [Pulitzer Prize](#) and [Academy Award®](#) winner known for his coverage of the [Revolution of Dignity](#), [War in Donbas](#), [the downing of flight MH17](#), [Syrian civil war](#), [Battle of Mosul](#) in Iraq, and the [2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine](#), including the [Siege of Mariupol](#). Chernov's work on the Siege of Mariupol for The Associated Press, earned AP the



[Pulitzer Prize for Public Service](#), [Deutsche Welle Freedom of Speech Award](#), the [Knight International Journalism Awards](#), [Bayeux Calvados-Normandy Award](#), [Elijah Parish Lovejoy Award](#), [Free Media Awards](#), [CJFE International Press Freedom Award](#), [Royal Television Society Television Journalism Awards](#), and [Shevchenko National Prize](#). AP video journalism from Mariupol became the basis of the film [20 Days in Mariupol](#), which was included in the competition program of the [Sundance Film Festival](#) in 2023, where the film won the Audience Award in the World Cinema Documentary category. The film later won the [BAFTA Award for Best Documentary](#) and [Best Documentary Feature Film](#) at the [96th Academy Awards](#). Chernov won a [Directors Guild of America](#)

[Award](#). In 2023, The Associated Press earned the [Pulitzer Prize for Public Service](#) for Chernov's work with [Evgeniy Maloletka](#), [Vasilisa Stepanenko](#), and [Lori Hinnant](#). He has both won and been a finalist for the [Livingston Award](#), [Rory Peck Award](#), [Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Prize](#), and various [Royal Television Society](#) awards. Chernov is an [Associated Press](#) journalist and the President of [the Ukrainian Association of Professional Photographers \(UAPF\)](#). He has been a member of "Ukrainian PEN" since July 2022.



Michelle Mizner | Producer, Editor

Michelle Mizner is an Academy and Emmy Award®-winning documentary film producer and editor on staff at FRONTLINE PBS. [Films and projects](#) Michelle has cut and produced have broadcast internationally, screened at top tier festivals including Sundance Film Festival, SXSW, DOC NYC and CPH:DOX, and have been awarded by the Peabodys, World Press Photo, Overseas Press Club, Edward R. Murrow Awards and the

duPont-Columbia Awards. Michelle's work for the series has spanned many storytelling forms. In addition to films, she has produced [podcasts](#) and multiple acclaimed interactive documentaries, including [Inheritance](#) (2016), [The Last Generation](#) (2018), and [Un\(re\)solved](#). (2021). All three earned Emmys for Outstanding New Approaches in Documentary. Most recently, Michelle produced and edited the feature documentary [20 Days in Mariupol](#) (dir. Mstyslav Chernov) which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and won the Audience Award. For her editing, Mizner was nominated for an ACE Eddie and Cinema Eye Honor award, and won a British Film Editors award. Later, the film was nominated in two categories for the BAFTAs, winning in Documentary Feature, and won the Academy Award® for Best Documentary Feature. Mizner is a member of the Producers Guild of America and American Cinema Editors.

Raney Aronson-Rath | Producer

Aronson-Rath is the editor-in-chief and executive producer of FRONTLINE, PBS' flagship investigative journalism series, produced at GBH in Boston. Under her leadership, FRONTLINE has evolved into a multi-platform organization, expanded its reporting capacity, and won every major award in



documentary filmmaking, including an Academy Award®, BAFTA Awards, News & Documentary Emmy Awards, Peabody Awards and the Peabody Institutional Award, and, in 2019, the first Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Gold Baton to be awarded in a decade. When Aronson-Rath became Executive Producer of FRONTLINE a decade ago, she began working to expand the storied brand — the diversity of its makers, subjects, and style — and spearhead films more consistently into the theatrical and festival world. During her tenure, the series won an Academy Award® for *20 Days in Mariupol* (2024), and received Academy Award® nominations for *Abacus: Small Enough to Jail* (2018), *For Sama* (2020). In 2021, Aronson-Rath became a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts &

Sciences. An Oscar-winning producer and recipient of the prestigious 2024 John Chancellor Excellence in Journalism Award, Aronson-Rath is thought leader in both documentary filmmaking and in investigative journalism. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and her master's from Columbia Journalism School. She joined FRONTLINE in 2007, previously working at ABC News and The Wall Street Journal.

Alex Babenko | Co-Producer, Additional Cinematography

Alex Babenko began covering the Russia-Ukraine war for The Associated Press as a visual journalist in February 2023, focusing on video production and photojournalism from the frontline. His work from Bakhmut, Vhledar, Andriivka, Siversk and other cities affected by the war has been published by several news agencies.



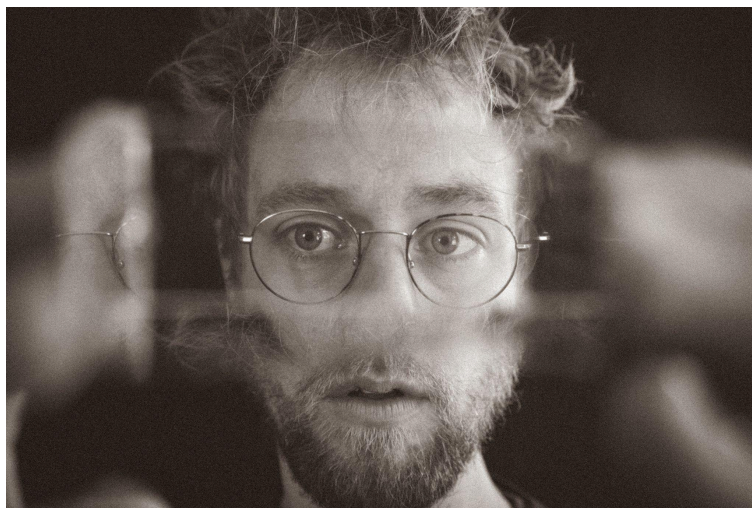
Babenko began his journalism career as sports journalist in local Ukrainian media in 2019 and was a field producer for international media at the start of

the full-scale invasion before starting shooting still photography on the frontline. While at university, he interned at Radio Liberty and filmed short documentaries, including the film "Men Sevi Senem" about Crimean Tatars, which received over a million views on news outlet Donbas.Realitii.

Born in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Babenko has wanted to be a journalist since his teenage years. He graduated from Ukrainian Catholic University in 2021 with a master's degree in journalism. He also holds a bachelor's degree in history from the same university.

Sam Slater | Composer

Sam Slater, a two-time Grammy Award-winning composer, sound designer, and music producer, is renowned for creating immersive soundscapes in various mediums such as installations, games, films, and stage productions. Notably, he won multiple Grammy Awards for his roles as score producer and musical sound designer



for "Joker" and "Chernobyl." He also received accolades like an SCL Award for 'Outstanding Original Score for Interactive Media' for "Battlefield 2042" and an Icelandic Music Award for 'Producer of the Year.' Additionally, he scored projects like "Guerrillas" and "The River Between Us" in 2020, and in 2021, he collaborated with Hildur Guðnadóttir on the soundtrack for EA Games' "Battlefield 2042." In 2022, he

produced the score for "A Haunting in Venice" and scored the Bohpal gas disaster for the Netflix series "The Railway Men." Slater has released solo records with Iceland's celebrated label, Bedroom Community and premiered an immersive mixed-media installation called "Vandals" in collaboration with visual artist Theresa Baumgartner at CTM Festival in 2022. Slater has showcased his creativity through live performances, both solo and in collaborative projects like OSMIUM, a project focussed on self-built instruments and robotics. He toured a live immersive performance of Chernobyl in 2019. Slater's compositions have been featured in performances by prestigious orchestras like the LA Philharmonic Orchestra and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. His musical journey began in his teens with record production, followed by studies in Experimental Composition at Leeds University. He started his professional career in Germany, initially collaborating with Johann

Johannsson as a principal musical sound designer and creative engineer. Slater consistently engages with the experimental music scene, collaborating with friends and artists such as James Ginzburg, Hildur Gudnadottir, Rully Shabara, and others in Europe and beyond.

FILM CREDITS

DIRECTOR

MSTYSLAV CHERNOV

PRODUCER

MSTYSLAV CHERNOV

MICHELLE MIZNER

RANEY ARONSON-RATH

FILMED BY

MSTYSLAV CHERNOV

FEATURED SOLDIERS

BATTLE SCENES RECORDED BY MEMBERS OF THE 3RD ASSAULT
BRIGADE

CO-PRODUCER

ALEX BABENKO

ADDITIONAL CINEMATOGRAPHY

ALEX BABENKO

EDITED BY

MICHELLE MIZNER, ACE

COMPOSER

SAM SLATER

ARCHIVAL PRODUCER

LINDSEY SCHNEIDER

ONLINE EDITOR/COLORIST

JIM FERGUSON

RE-RECORDING MIXER

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JAMES JORDAN, AP

SUSIE BLANN, AP

RANEY ARONSON-RATH, FRONTLINE

ANDREW METZ, FRONTLINE

LAUREN PRESTILEO, FRONTLINE

DALE COHEN, FRONTLINE

About FRONTLINE

FRONTLINE, U.S. television's longest running investigative documentary series, explores the issues of our times through powerful storytelling.

FRONTLINE has won an Academy Award® as well as every major journalism and broadcasting award, including 108 Emmy Awards and 34 Peabody Awards. Visit pbs.org/frontline and follow us on [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X](#) and [Facebook](#) to learn more. FRONTLINE is produced at GBH in Boston and is broadcast nationwide on PBS. Funding for FRONTLINE is provided through the support of PBS viewers and by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Additional support for FRONTLINE is provided by the Abrams Foundation, Park Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Heising-Simons Foundation, and the FRONTLINE Journalism Fund, with major support from Jon and Jo Ann Hagler on behalf of the Jon L. Hagler Foundation, and from Koo and Patricia Yuen.

About AP

The Associated Press is an independent global news organization dedicated to factual reporting. Founded in 1846, AP today remains the most trusted source of fast, accurate, unbiased news in all formats and the essential provider of the technology and services vital to the news business. More than half the world's population sees AP journalism every day. Online: www.ap.org