

For Immediate Release

## **Eclectic Film Mix has Something for Everyone at Bloor West Village Toronto Ukrainian Festival**

TORONTO, ON, August 26, 2015 ... Documentary, animation. Feature, short. Modern, traditional. There's a movie style to suit almost every taste at the 2015 Bloor West Village Toronto Ukrainian Festival's annual Film Day on Saturday, September 19.

Featured this year, along with talks from their directors and a live performance, are documentaries *Pride of Ukraine: A Documentary of Hope and Inspiration* and *Music of Survival: The Story of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus*, as well as animated-short *My Baba's Kitchen*. Also screening will be a rarely-seen, full-length feature film from 1938 and a variety of films of diverse lengths and genres.

Film Day is being held at the Runnymede Branch of the Toronto Public Library, 2178 Bloor Street West, from 10:00-6:00 p.m. Admission is free.

### **Special Appearances:**

- **Meet the Directors:** *Michelle Emson, producer/director of Pride of Ukraine, Orest Sushko, producer/director of Music of Survival, and Stephanie Turenko, writer/director of My Baba's Kitchen will introduce their films and take questions following their screenings.*
- **Hear the Music Live:** [The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus](#) will perform on the Northland Power Festival Stage on Saturday, September 19 during the evening program.

### **Film Descriptions:**

- [Pride of Ukraine](#) reveals the history of the LGBT Pride movement in Ukraine. The film, released in March of this year, tells the story of KyivPride, the first attempt of the Ukrainian LGBT community to rise up and make their voice be heard by the government. The documentary includes interviews with activists and allies from Ukraine, Canada and Germany, as well as footage from KyivPride events in 2012, the successful march in 2013, and the cancellation of the 2014 march. (4:00 p.m.)
- [Music of Survival](#) narrated by Colm Feore, is the story of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus – a vivid chronicle that celebrates the human spirit. This is the triumphant story of the original 17 members of the Chorus who survived World War II as a musical ensemble. The film brings out the deepest roots of a fragile tradition, celebrating the resiliency of a music culture that has survived centuries. The film illustrates the bandurist as bard, as seer, as spiritual emissary for the soul of the Ukrainian people, then and now. (2:25 p.m.)
- [My Baba's Kitchen](#) is a short, animated film that tells the story of how the director's grandparents met under extraordinary circumstances. The film takes place in both the past and present as a conversation between a grandmother and her curious granddaughter. It addresses the idea of how culture really connects us, whether it be finding a soul-mate or accepting our grandparents. The animations and music were created in Ukraine, while the writing, producing, editing and art direction were done in Canada. (1:50 p.m.)

### **Bloor West Village Toronto Ukrainian Festival**

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Bloor West Village Toronto Ukrainian Festival runs from September 18-20, 2015 on Bloor St. W. between Runnymede Rd. and Jane St. in Toronto. The event attracts more than 620,000 visitors and features non-stop musical and dancing entertainment, popular Ukrainian foods (perogies, cabbage rolls, borscht and more), beverage garden, street parade, film festival, art exhibit, youth program, arts and crafts, vendor market, children's midway, sidewalk sale and cultural exhibits. Admission is free. ([www.ukrainianfestival.com](http://www.ukrainianfestival.com))

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