

SIGNS OF WAR



A FILM BY
JURI RECHINSKY & PIERRE CROM

85 mins / 2022 / French, English, Russian, English Subtitles / Ukraine, Austria



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AWARDS AND FILM FESTIVALS

Best Austrian Film – The Filmfestival Viennale
Intl Human Rights Film Festival Albania (IHRFFA), Albania
Diagonale – Festival of Austrian Film, Austria
Kraków Film Festival, Poland
Nancy International Film Festival, France
NNW International Film Festival Gdynia , Poland

SYNOPSIS

After years of working in the Dutch parliament, photographer Pierre Crom decides that "it might be more interesting to follow the results of their political decisions instead of making propaganda for politicians". In February 2014, he travelled to Crimea in Ukraine on a one-way plane ticket, one day before its annexation by Russia. From then on, he found himself in the middle of a rapidly escalating conflict and decided to stay. The start of the war in Sloviansk, the crash of the Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, the tank battle in Debaltseve - he manages to gain access to the most important historical stages of this war. Although "lucky" as a photographer. Pierre had to confront violent events on a scale that he could never have imagined before.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This film in its core is an interview-based reconstruction of a photographer's journey, his "Heart of Darkness," immersion into the war in Ukraine through photos, video recordings and verbal narration. Step by step, from its first victims and funerals, to sunflower fields covered with human remains - it shows how strikingly fast normal everyday life in the whole region can descent into surreal cruelty of a modern war. For me Pierre's testimony and his images give an unforgettable insight into crucial events of this war from a perspective which is close and familiar - of a man with a camera. This film is his portrait and my to try to understand if there is a price to pay for being a witness of such events.

Juri Rechinsky

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Juri Rechinsky is a director, editor, and writer. Born in Turkmenistan and raised in Ukraine, he has been living in Vienna since 2013. His documentary SICKFUCKPEOPLE (75', 2013, Novotny Film) and his feature film UGLY (92', 2017, Novotny Film/Pronto Film/Ulrich Seidl Film) have been screened at the IFF Rotterdam, Hot Docs, Sao Paulo Mostra, and DOK Leipzig. He has won several awards, including the Heart of Sarajevo, Raindance, Viennale, European Independent Film Festival, and DocsDF Mexico. He is a member of the European Film Academy.

Pierre Crom (born in 1967 in France) resides in the Netherlands. In his award-winning photo reports, he addresses geo/political and societal issues and collaborates with renowned international photo agencies (Getty Images, ANP, Hollandse Hoogte). Since 2014, Crom has documented the crisis in Ukraine, capturing historical moments such as the annexation of Crimea, the downing of passenger flight MH17, and violations of the ceasefire by Russia. He has received numerous awards for his work.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Direction, Screenplay, Editing & Interviews: Juri Rechinsky
Co-Director & Photojournalist: Pierre Crom
Producers: Barbara Caspar, MarMn Maier, Juri Rechinsky, Pierre Crom
Composer: Anton Baibakov
Cinematography: Serhiy Stefan Stetsenko
Concept and Co-Author: Barbara Caspar
Sound Design and Sound Mix: Peter Utvary / ge+ka Film, Anton Baibakov
Production Management Ukraine: Dmytro Kovalyov
Director's Assistant: Yana Suska
Camera Assistants: Vadym Smarchenko, Mishko Lubarsky, KosMantyn Mokhnach
Sound: Bohdan Barakovskyykh
Sound Research: Kate Herasymchuk
Color Grading and Mix: Raimund Sievetz / ge+ka Film
Legal Counsel: wsmk Rechtsanwälte
Production: Fragile features, MarMn Maier Media
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