

# WHO, IF NOT US? THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY IN BELARUS



A FILM BY  
JULIANE TUTEIN

79 mins / 2023 / German, Belarusian, Russian, Ukrainian, English Subtitles / Germany



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## **FILM FESTIVALS**

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## **SYNOPSIS**

This documentary provides a unique glimpse into the struggle for democracy in Belarus and the lives of three women after the major protests of 2020. These protests were the largest in Belarus's history, but the Lukaschenko regime brutally suppressed them. Over the course of an entire year, the film follows these exceptional women from different generations, all of whom continue to tirelessly fight for a democratic Belarus.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

"Who, if not us?" is a deeply personal project for me. I had the privilege of accompanying three extraordinary women for over a year as they continue to fight for a free and democratic Belarus. Following the 2020 protests—the largest in the country's history—many peaceful demonstrators, including journalists, NGO workers, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Ales Bialiatski, were imprisoned or sent to labour camps.

Despite the constant threat to their own freedom, these women continue to fight for the future of their country, giving a voice to the many others who are also actively fighting for a free and democratic Belarus— many of whom are still imprisoned or have been forced to flee. This film was only possible thanks to the bravery of the protagonists and the dedication of my small team on the ground. The strength, solidarity, and unwavering courage I witnessed within the democracy movement have deeply moved and inspired me.

Juliane Tutein

## **DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY**

Juliane Tutein studied Anthropology with a specialization in Eastern Europe before enrolling at the renowned German "Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg" to pursue a career in directing and television journalism. Juliane Tutein completed her diploma in directing and television journalism at the "Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg" with the film "Colours in the Snow." "Who, if not us? The Fight for Democracy in Belarus" is her first feature-length documentary film. Previously, she received the Juliane Bartel Media Award in 2022 for the documentary "Colours in the Snow" (56 minutes), and the film was also nominated for the Roman Brodmann Award and "MedienLÖWIN Silber."

