



Ukrainian Council of NSW Inc.

Об'єднання Українських Громад НПВ

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24 January 2025

Kurt Marcolina & Dudi Rokach
Antenna Film Festival

Re: Screening of "Russians at War"

Dear Kurt/Dudi,

The Ukrainian Council of NSW is dismayed that the film "Russians at War" is receiving a platform in Australia. "Russians at War" may mislead you into believing that it is an anti-war film, one that questions the current regime in Russia. However, this film is pure **Russian propaganda**.

The filmmaker, who spent 7 years at the Kremlin mouthpiece Russia Today, does not mention that Russia invaded Ukraine and annexed Crimea in 2014. The filmmaker also states that her country hasn't participated in wars for many years, overlooking Russia's deep involvement in numerous wars and occupations over the past 30 years in Transnistria, Chechnya, Georgia and Syria.

The filmmaker doesn't question a single statement in the film, and presents without question a soldier saying there are no war crimes committed by Russian soldiers, despite overwhelming objective evidence (by the [UN](#), [Human Rights Watch](#) and [Amnesty International](#) and [numerous others](#)) of widespread torture, murder and sexual violence wherever Russian soldiers are present.

Viewers are manipulated to feel empathy for these soldiers, who voluntarily joined the Russian army for money, and are currently invading another country and killing its occupants.

The Ukrainian Council of NSW requests that this film should **not be shown**, and instead replaced with a Ukrainian film that shows the reality of life for Ukrainians who are bearing the brunt of brutal Russian aggression and imperialism.

If the film is shown, the Ukrainian Council of NSW requests that a delegate from the UCNSW is able to speak at the beginning of the film to provide context and comments and to explain to audience members how they can support Ukraine.

Regards,

Andrew Mencinsky
President – Ukrainian Council of NSW