

PRESS RELEASE

**Kateryna Yushenko, the first lady of Ukraine at  
Visions du Réel 2009**

*President of Ukraine 3000, a charitable association founded in 2001, and wife of the President of Ukraine Viktor Yushchenko, Kateryna Yushenko will be in Nyon on the occasion of the projection of *The Living*, a Sergiy Bukowsky film presented at the festival in the "Tendances" section.*

Owing to her dual position as First Lady of Ukraine and Director of Ukraine 3000, Kateryna Yushenko is very much involved in actions that touch on education, history, culture, literature and sport.

That is why the artistic directors of Visions du Réel are highly honoured that she has chosen the Festival for this visit to Switzerland. Kateryna Yushenko will thus be arriving on Saturday, April 25 in Nyon, where she will be giving an official reception at the Château de Nyon on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> in the company of her compatriot Sergiy Bukowsky, the director of *The Living*. She will leave Switzerland on Monday 27<sup>th</sup>.

*The Living* will have its international premiere in the "Tendances" section on Friday April 24, at 5.00 p.m. The full-length film covers a dark chapter in the history of Ukraine by relating the "holodomor", the great famine that occurred in 1932-33 owing to Stalin's extreme communist policy. In the course of Stalin's five-year plan and the collectivization of farming from 1930 onwards, countless Ukrainian farmers were forcibly dispossessed of their land. Any resistance to this policy met with brutal repression – the denial of even the minimum amount of food needed to stay alive.

*The Living* by Sergiy Bukowsky tells the story of the men and women who were still children when their parents were robbed of everything they owned. Now old and fragile, they recall the horror of enforced collectivization, which resulted in the deaths of millions of Ukrainians.

The film interweaves the survivor's reminiscences with the story of British journalist Gareth Jones, who witnessed the humanitarian disaster on his travels through the Soviet Union. His letters and diary entries provide insight into the misery experienced by the rural population and the cynicism and arrogance of the Soviet officials. When Jones returned home, his reports were largely ignored – they didn't fit in with official policy in the West. In fact nothing was done to alleviate the sufferings of the Ukrainian population.

*The Living*

Sergiy Bukowsky (2008, Ukraine, 75')

Friday, April 24 at Visions du Réel.

**Visions du Réel 2009: April 23 – 29 2009**

**[www.visionsdureel.ch](http://www.visionsdureel.ch)**

*Press service – PYW – April 23, 2009*

**Press officers:**

**Pierre-Yves Walder, +41 22 365 44 52 / [pywalder@visionsdureel.ch](mailto:pywalder@visionsdureel.ch)  
Rona Grünenfelder, +41 22 365 44 52 / [rgruenenfelder@visionsdureel.ch](mailto:rgruenenfelder@visionsdureel.ch)**

**Press kit on: <http://www.visionsdureel.ch>**