

The Voice of Despair

A short film by **Nina Goldvin**



The Voice of Despair delivers a powerful affecting narrative told from a new perspective - that of an unborn child. Conceived because of a brutal sexual assault, the film brings the audience within the womb of his mother.

As the war rages on outside, The Voice of Despair through this haunting inner monologue, explores the silent traumas of the Ukrainian war, the violation of innocence, and the unspoken resilience. It sheds light on the personal cost of conflict through a voice that was not intended to be heard.



About The Voice of Despair

The Voice of Despair, Nina Goldvin's debut short film, is a deeply moving and rich portrayal of personal trauma set against the brutality of war. Through the story of Mary, a woman navigating the emotional aftermath of rape during the Ukrainian conflict, Goldvin crafts a narrative that is intimate, urgent, and socially resonant.

Told mostly through the voice of Mary's unborn child, the film offers a haunting and poetic lens on maternal grief, guilt, and the destruction of innocence. This narrative device gives the film emotional depth and adds an unsettling layer of vulnerability.

Goldvin's performance is raw and deeply affecting. Her dual role as filmmaker and protagonist brings authenticity to the story, depicting Mary's inner turmoil without excess or sentimentality.

The film's use of symbolism, linking war's destruction to the violent origins of Mary's pregnancy describes with precision and avoids overstatement.

The Voice of Despair succeeds in sparking urgent reflection on war, autonomy, and the unseen suffering of women, leaving a lasting impression through its restrained yet powerful storytelling.



A multidisciplinary team dedicated to child protection.

As the founder of "Innocence in Danger", an international organisation whose daily struggle is to combat sexual exploitation in all its forms, I decided to support this short film. Despite—or perhaps because of—its complex subject matter, this film serves as a crucial tool in our mission to combat sexual violence. By refusing to sanitize the devastating reality of wartime rape and its aftermath, the film breaks the silence that too often surrounds these crimes, making visible what society prefers to ignore.

The narrative gives voice to survivors' psychological trauma and the impossible choices violence forces upon them, fostering the empathy and understanding necessary to mobilize action. Rather than exploiting suffering, the film bears witness to it, honoring victims' experiences while exposing rape as a weapon of war that must be condemned and prevented. Art that confronts us with uncomfortable truths is essential to our advocacy work—it transforms statistics into human stories, galvanizes public outrage into meaningful policy change, and reminds us that behind every act of violence is a person whose dignity and future have been stolen.

By endorsing this film, I reaffirm my commitment to ensuring that these voices are heard, and that these crimes are never normalized or forgotten.

Homayra Sellier - Founder



Nina Goldvin is a multifaceted creative soul of Ukrainian origin, known for her contributions to the fields of film art and personal development.

Nina feels a deep connection with nature, drawing inspiration and wisdom from it, and she practices meditation as a path to inner growth.

As an actress and executive producer, Nina collaborated with director Matthew Brown on the film “Freud’s Last Session,” starring Anthony Hopkins and Matthew Goode.

Film and meditation occupy a special place in her life.

Recently, Nina produced, directed, and starred in her first short film, “The Voice of Despair,” a 14-minute project where she played the lead role.

“The story of the short film is tragic. Unfortunately, it is not an inspiring one. However, I realized how important it is to show what a woman can go through during wartime – and how unacceptable this reality is. The story touched me deeply, and during meditation, I found myself crying from the pain it evoked. That’s when I made the decision to transform this pain into the art of cinema.”

Currently, she is working on the development of her debut feature-length motion picture.

Film representative for Festivals: Michel Burstein / Bossa-Nova
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Cast

Nina Goldvin
Shakiba Ehsani
Sormelina Irantalab
Kiasha Irantalab

Crew

Director / Actress / Producer

Nina Goldvin

Line Producer

Golriz Ehtiati

Consultant

Bahman Gobadi

Editor

Sara Ahani

Sound Design

Bahman Arbalan

SFX Supervisor

Ahmad Sanegheh

Color Grading

Babak Parhizkari

Composer

Reza Davarzani

Narration

Masha Mohebbi

Director of Photography

Frank Cieslik

2nd Camera Unit / Boom Operator

Sam Tofanger

Sound Record

Shayan Shaygan

Make-Up

Shideh Nikoukhessal

Title Design

Mohammad Atash Panjeh

A Coproduction 108 Production / Synchronicity Media / Mij Film

Ukraine - France - Iran - Color - 2025 - DCP - 14 mn - vo engl sub-titles