



Running Time: 28'10"
Production: USA/ 2013
Sound: 5.1 Surround Sound
Aspect Ratio: 2.40:1

Shooting Format: 35mm Film Screening Format: HDSR/ HDCAM/ Blu-ray

Language: Russian

Subtitles: English/ French/ Spanish/ Serbian/ Chinese/ Portuguese

## **FILMMAKERS**

Directed by Goran Stanković
Written by Liska Ostojić & Justin Partridge
Produced by Pin-Chun Liu
Cinematography by Carolina Costa
Production Design by Lauren Spalding
Edited by Cyndi Trissel

## STARRING

Ravil Isyanov Irina Dubova Sasha Feldman

## WAY IN RYE

# W A Y I I R Y E

### SHORT SYNOPSIS:

During the German invasion of Soviet Russia, a humble farmer and his wife must protect a crate of five priceless paintings evacuated from Leningrad while waiting for news from their son, a soldier fighting on the Eastern front.

## LONG SYNOPSIS:

Along a rutted, dusty road, an army truck carries a plain wooden crate through a remote region of Soviet Russia. Stopping at a small farmhouse, two soldiers deliver the crate to a hardened farmer, KOSTYA, and his wife, LIDA.

The sight of it fills the couple with dread, having not heard in months from their only son, a soldier fighting on the Eastern Front.

But inside the crate are paintings -- priceless works of Russian art evacuated from Leningrad days before the German invasion -- which Kostya and Lida must now protect at all costs.

Determined to keep his dying farm alive for his son's return, Kostya sees the paintings as a nuisance and a painful reminder. Yet, as his fields dry up, a harsh winter shrouds the region, and it becomes ever more likely that his son will not return, Kostya must find meaning in his new, strange stewardship, as these works of art become the only legacy he can leave behind.



KOSTYA, the farmer with his son, SERGEI - RAVIL ISYANOV & SASHA FELDMAN

## History

## The Evacuation of The Hermitage Museum: 1941 - 1945

Excerpt from the instructions of Hitler's high command on the destruction of Leningrad, dated 29 September 1941.

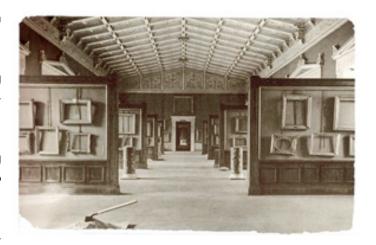
- "2. The Fuehrer has decided to wipe the city of St Petersburg from the face of the earth. We have no interest in the preservation of even a part of the population of that city [...]
- 4. It is proposed to tightly encircle the city and by shelling from artillery of all calibres and constant aerial bombing to raze it to the ground."

On the 22nd of June, 1941, the entire staff of the Hermitage Museum was told that evacuation of the museum's collections must begin immediately. It was news they had been preparing for, and dreading, for months. The staff and hundreds of volunteers worked around the clock to pack up and catalogue over 1,118,000 exhibits.

Paintings were taken off walls, removed from frames, packed into crates, and loaded onto trains bound for destinations yet unknown. Volunteers had to be ordered to sleep and eat, as saving the museum meant more to them than their own health. Sverdlovsk, a region tucked deep in the Ural mountains, became the destination for the art trains. Churches, smaller galleries, even caves and mine shafts of the region became home to priceless works of art.

The siege of Leningrad lasted 900 days, during which hundreds of thousands of people died from illness, exposure, and starvation. Despite the extreme conditions, the museum staff continued protecting the historic buildings and grounds of the museum against fire, snow and rain. But perhaps the most remarkable feat of the staff was to maintain the day-to-day operations of the museum, continuing their scholarly writing, lectures, and conferences, even walking tours of the empty halls were available to the public.

The war in Europe was declared over on the 8th of May, 1945. By October, the Hermitage treasures were starting to arrive back at the museum. By November, the museum opened sixty-eight fully restored rooms. Not one item was lost during the evacuation.





(historical photos courtesy of The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersberg, Russia)

Read more at www.hermitagemuseum.org

## Director's Statement

I have always been curious how an everyday person recognizes his role in world events. When does he become aware he is a part of them, and how much is he willing to sacrifice for a greater cause? Our story takes place during a war, but it doesn't happen in the middle of it. While a global conflict plays out, we choose to observe a world that doesn't seem obviously affected, but it is deeply.

Our main character is ordered to guard items valuable to his country's tradition and identity. They seem as meaningless to him as the war, a faraway, irrelevant conflict for which he has offered up his only son. Yet he eventually grows to recognize himself in one — a lonely figure making his way through fields of rye.

My brothers and I spent summers on our grandfather's farm in the former Yugoslavia. Playing in corn fields, eating fruit off trees, cooking potatoes by the night fire. But when we grew up, we followed different roads in life. None of us took over the care of that farmland. The life my grandfather had built up disappeared slowly before his eyes. The land divided and sold off. Trees cut down. It was a hard process to witness, and harder still for him to accept. It is these memories and emotions I am drawing from for WAY IN RYE, a film about a man dealing with the end of his legacy.

Goran Stanković



BTS Still- Goran Stankovic, the director with the actress, Irina Dubova

## Cast



### RAVIL ISYANOV – Kostya

Ravil Isyanov was born in Voskresensk, in Soviet Russia. He studied directing in Urals University of Culture and then worked in the Khabarovsk Theatre for two seasons, touring all over the Siberian and Far Eastern parts of the USSR. In 1986, he became a member of Moscow Arts Theatre School and was invited to attend British American Drama Academy summer course at Oxford, UK, which he did for three seasons. The dream of playing Shakespeare on the "English boards" came true as he toured with The English Shakespeare Company and The Moving Theatre Company, founded by Vanessa and Corin Redgrave. The professional expertise he gained led him a teaching position with the Drama Centre in London.

Ravil started to participate in Hollywood films and TV series in 1990 and has been based in LA since 1997. His recent work includes Transformers: Dark of the Moon (2011), Defiance (2008). He was fortunate enough to have worked with the best filmmakers of our times and to work all over the world. Despite his success on the big screen, there has never been any disdain for any kind of dramatic acting, however small or risky. And yet, Ravil admits that, before this project "Way in Rye", he has not been so creatively challenged in LA to abandon the typecast niche of "Hollywood Russian" and approach it as a student again. Ravil looks forward to new beginnings.



#### IRINA DUBOVA – Lida

Irina Dubova was born and raised in the former Soviet Union. She aspired to be an actress from a very young age, mainly inspired by her grandmother. At merely 16 years old, she started training to become a part of the theatrical industry. By the age of 19 she was accepted into the theater and fulfilled her dream of becoming a professional actress. Due to unfortunate family circumstances Irina had to drop everything, along with her acting career, and move to the United States. She lives happily in America with her new profession, although her passion will always be acting. Taking part in "Way In Rye" was a wonderful opportunity to remind her what it felt like to be back in the industry. She hopes to discover more opportunities to partake in.



#### SASHA FELDMAN – Sergei

Sasha Feldman was born in the former Soviet Union, a country now known as Azerbaijan. His ancestors were Russian Jews who migrated from the "shtetls" of the pale settlement in Ukraine to the largest region of the Caucasus. He believes his love for art and acting comes from his rich family history. (One of his notable relatives was the famous Yiddish writer, Sholom Aleichem.) One of the reasons Sasha was so inclined to work on the film "Way In Rye", was because of his family's own history with World War II in the Soviet Union. Being a sentimentalist, a student of history, and an actor, Sasha has always had an emotional connection with the Soviet people of that era. One of his grandfathers died fighting in Stalingrad, while the other one survived, liberating a concentration camp, and invading the Berlin frontier. Way in Rye gave Sasha a chance to pay homage to his family and the fallen heroes, who risked everything to save the people they loved.

## WAY IN RYE

## **Filmmakers**



#### Pin-Chun Liu - Producer

After earning a degree in Sociology from the National Taiwan University, Pin-Chun began working in productions and producing independent films in Taiwan in 2008. Her first short, WAITING ALL MY LIFE FOR YOU, was selected for the 36th Brussels Independent Film Festival in 2009. Her first feature, an American-based independent film THE TAIWAN OYSTER, was premiered in narrative competition at the 2012 SXSW Film Festival. Pin-Chun got her first real taste of the Hollywood life while working as a translator and liaison on Ang Lee's LIFE OF PI. In the summer of 2013, Pin-Chun completed both her first Los Angeles-based feature ABBY IN THE SUMMER and her AFI thesis film WAY IN RYE. Graduating at AFI, she also earned the distinction of Finalist in the 2013 PGA Debra Hill Fellowship Awards.



#### Goran Stanković - Director

Goran grew up in Serbia where he received his BA in film directing, and gained experience working on major national and foreign productions. His two undergraduate student films, WHO GUARDS THE GUARDIANS and OLD MOUNTAIN, were selected for over 50 international festivals and won 17 awards. Both films were chosen to represent Serbia in the "European Short Films Tour", and the broadcasting rights were bought by Eurochannel. During his studies at the American Film Institute, he was awarded The Hollywood Foreign Press and The Richard Frank scholarships. He recently gained his MFA in film directing at the AFI with WAY IN RYE, his thesis film. His first feature documentary IN THE DARK about Serbian miners is currently in production and has been supported by several European Funds.



### Liska Ostojić - Screenwriter

Liska started her career as a producer of award-winning short films and as a writer's assistant on HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX. She transitioned to Dreamworks Animation in 2005, rising quickly to writer's assistant and script coordinator on MEGAMIND. Somewhere during the euphoric whirlwind of recording sessions and day-long writers' rooms, Liska decided to pursue a career in writing. Her first short script, MARSHALL COUNTY, was a finalist in a Creative Screenwriting Magazine competition, and another, SOUTH STREET, was independently produced. WAY IN RYE is one of two thesis films for Liska and co-writer Justin Partridge. They both graduated in August 2013 and are continuing their collaboration on several feature length projects.



#### Justin Partridge - Screenwriter

Justin worked for four years as an art director and production designer on numerous features and commercials before turning his hand to screenwriting. He co-wrote and co-produced two independent features in Ireland, PALADIN and THE CROWN AND THE DRAGON. The former was awarded Best Fantasy Feature at BleedFest Los Angeles, and both films have recently acquired international distribution. WAY IN RYE is one of two thesis films for Justin and co-writer Liska Ostojic. They both graduated August 2013 and are continuing their collaboration on several feature length projects.

## WAY IN RYE







#### Carolina Costa - Cinematographer

After training with the Guild Of British Camera Technicians, Carolina worked professionally as a camera assistant and as a cinematographer for four years. Her narrative short, THE DROWNERS, won several awards in England. While attending London College of Communication, she shot a feature film, which was distributed in more than ten countries. Carolina was also selected to shoot a project at Pinewood Studios, funded by the Council and mentored by Sue Gibson, BSC. In 2012, she interned for Steven Fierberg, ASC, on YOU'RE NOT YOU, an independent feature in LA. Coming from Brazil with a background in journalism, earning her BA in London and finally arriving in Los Angeles, Carolina's rich and diverse background contributes greatly to her global perspective and acute narrative eye. Graduating from AFI as a cinematographer, she is very excited to start shooting more projects.

## Lauren Spalding - Production Designer

Lauren has dreamed of being a Production Designer since she was fifteen. Guided by a strong passion for storytelling, she graduated with a BFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design where she designed several short films in the school's film department. She has worked as an Art Director on the Canadian feature film GRACE AND GRAVITY, and spent her first LA summer as a set dresser on the independent feature LOVESICK. Lauren was production designer for two thesis films, WAY IN RYE and REAVER, while finishing her Masters degree at the AFI Conservatory.

## Cyndi Trissel - Editor

After graduating from the University of New Mexico with a BA in Mass Communication and a minor in Media Arts, Cyndi enjoyed a successful career, producing and editing promotional TV spots, documentaries and narrative films. She won best editing at The Duke City Shootout in 2008. Since then, she has edited several films including PLUSH, which screened at the 2011 Seattle International Film Festival and won 1st place for Horror Comedy at the Dragon\*Con Film Festival. WAY IN RYE is one of two thesis films that Cyndi edited while finishing her Masters degree at the AFI Conservatory in Los Angeles.

## **ABOUT AFI**



The American Film Institute (AFI) was founded in 1967 as a national arts organization to preserve the legacy of American film heritage and honor the artists and their work. AFI educates the next generation of filmmakers at its world-renowned Conservatory offering a Master of Fine Arts Program (MFA).

The two-year MFA program provides training in six film-making disciplines: Cinematography, Directing, Editing, Producing, Production Design and Screenwriting. Mirroring a professional production environment, Fellows collaborate to make more films than any other graduate level program. Admission to AFI Conservatory is highly selective, with a maximum of only 140 graduates per year. Professional faculty member work closely with the AFI fellows through the time honored relationship of master and apprentice.

In the 2nd year of the MFA, students team to create a thesis, a short narrative film. Past thesis films have garnered numerous prestigious awards including the Student Oscar. Traditionally AFI Thesis Films are instrumental in launching Fellow's careers in film.

#### AFI Notable alumni:

David Lynch (Dir.)

Mulholland Drive, Blue Velvet, Eraserhead, Dune

Amy Heckerling (Dir.)

Clueless, Fast Times at Ridgemont High

Terrence Malick (Dir.)

Days of Heaven, The Thin Red Line, Tree of Life

Darren Aronofsky (Dir.)

Requiem for a Dream, The Wrestler, Black Swan

Steve Golin (Pro.)

Babel, Being John Malkovich, Eternal Sunshine

Dana Lustig (Pro.)

Brick, Dancing at the Blue Iguana, Kill Me Later

Wally Pfister (Cin.)

Inception, The Prestige, Memento, Batman Begins

Robert Richardson (Cin.)

Kill Bill, The Aviator, Inglorious Basterds

Janusz Kaminski (Cin.)

Saving Private Ryan, Schindler's List, Munich

Matthew Libatique (Cin.)

Cowboys and Aliens, Black Swan, Iron Man

Steven Rosenblum (Edit.)

Braveheart, X-Men, Blood Diamond, Defiance

Victor Du Bois (Edit.)

The Last Samurai, Profiler, Roswell

Susannah Grant (Scr.)

Erin Brockovich, Unfaithful, Everafter, 28 Days

Paul Shrader (Scr.)

Taxi Driver, Raging Bull, Bringing Out The Dead

Todd Cherniawsky (Des.)

Avatar, Alice in Wonderland, Armageddon

Joe Garrity (Des.)

Sunshine Cleaning, Waiting for Guffman, My Girl

# W A Y I I N R Y E

Directed By Goran Stanković Screenplay By Justin Partridge & Liska Ostojić Produced By Pin-Chun Liu Cinematography By Carolina Costa

Production Design By Lauren Spalding

Edited By Cyndi Trissel

Music By Stephen Gallagher

## STARRING

Kostya Ravil Isyanov Lida Irina Dubova Sergei Sasha Feldman

## **CAST**

Sgt. Zverkov Gregory Flitsanov Lt. Tchebarov Alex Vlastin Gravil Alexevich Edward Dratver Nadya Alexevich Yuliya Mozgova Mail Boy Anthony Dratver Sgt. Strelkov Misha Bugaev Lt. Zaitsev Nikita Bogolyubov Stunt Coordinator John Moio Stunt Driver Lou Bircheff

## **CREW**

Unit Production Manager Ryoji Kure
First Assistant Directors John David Denison
Kelly Stevens

Second Assistant Director Quentin Frisman

Line Producer Andrew Schwartz Casting Director Konstantin Lavysh

Art Director Aashrita Kamath Assistant Art Director Patrick Levy Set Decorator Erica Elizondo

Camera Operator Benjamin Hardwicke
First Assistant Camera Ezra Riley
Second Assistant Camera Ludwig Linnekogel
Additonal Second Assistants Camera Kay Hung
Rachael Doughty
Loaders Justin Kane

Still Photographer Alex Lombardi

Edward Salerno Jr.

Script Supervisor Nancy Pollock Language Advisor Konstantin Lavysh Script Translator Taras Bambaev

Production Coordinators Alejandro Torroja Cindy Li Production Accountant Jacqueline W. Liu

> Gaffer Connor O'Brien Additional Gaffer Chris Faulkner Best Boy Electric Michael Solidum Electricians Johanna Coelho Toshihiko Kizu Josh Atkin

Key Grip Terrence Burke Additonal Key Grips J. Van Auken Gareth Paul Cox

Best Boy Grip Andres San Clemente

Dolly Grip Miklos Buk

Grips Guy Pooles
Phillip Gardner

Ilgar Burdani

Additional Grips Enrique Latapi Silva

Colin Oh Ludovica Isidori

## Additional Second Assistant Director Sarah Jung Second Second Assistant Director Mike Faust

Supervising Sound Editor Paul Hackner
Supervising Rerecording Mixer Alexandr Gruzdev
Sound Effects Editor Jithu Aravamudhan
Background Sound Editor Rob Chen
Foley Elisha Drons

Production Sound Mixer "Mr. Woody" Stubblefield
Boom Operators Andy Clark
Nicholas Sanders
Additional Sound Mixer/Boom Operator Luis Molgaard

Violin, Viola Andrew Thomson Cello Rowan Prior Recording Engineer and Score Mixer Mike Gibson Music Preparation Ben Woods

Costume Designer Yuliya Mozgova
Costume Assistant Svetlana Bogatchenko
Additional Costumers Cyndi Trissel
Cynthia Kim
Russian Military Uniforms Provided by Mark Sevigny

Key Make-up / Hair Stylist Toryn Reed Make-up/ Hair Stylist Celina Dalnim Yun

Property Master Galen Forrest Assistant Property Master Frank Madrigal Prop Maker Jacob Whitmore

> Set Dressers Erica Elizondo Dan Duarte On-Set Dresser Justin Partridge

Construction Coordinator
Construction Foreman
Construction
Construction
Andy Reyes
Richard Kane
Paint Foreman
Scenic Painters
Yong Ok Lee
Haley Ho

Elena Cozlovschi Ashley Margo

Special Effects Coordinator - Snow Paul Miller Special Effects Coordinator - Rain Mark Fenlason Tree Logger BJ Scott

> Visual Effects Supervisor John Heller Compositor Sean Kennedy

## Color Corrected by Color Space Finishing Colorist Peter Swartz

Titles and Graphic Designer Sasa Numic

Assistant Production Coordinator Jaime Hutchins Casting Assistant Olga Klenova

> Key Set Production Assistant Derek Taylor Production Assistants Todd Levin

> > John-Paul Panelli Henry Arres

Rainer Weinbrenner

Sean Steffen Aubrey Hinde Ellie Ware

Evan Robert Pugh Julian Rubel Luis Escobar Kasiemba Okeyo

Jackie Lehr

Office Production Assistant Peter Denz

Catering La Bella Montagna

La casita

Mia's Kitchen Impeccable Taste

Craft Service Robert Weiermain

Animals Provided by Phil's Animal Rentals

Party Animals

Animals Trainers Karin Mclean

Teresa Pollock

First Aid Greg Stevens

Cathy Strangis

Studio Teacher Stella Pacific Management

Security Augie's Security

Truck Drivers Matt Pelmear

Jason Nuedecker Johnny Ware Michael Lutz

Shuttle Van Drivers Nick Mosley

Alan Strother Chris Dimarco Chris Koch

Cast Driver John-Paul Panelli

Picture Vehicles by Army Truck Rentals Honey Wagon by Hollywood Honeywagon Water Truck by West Coast Water Tenders

## SECOND UNIT

Second Unit Directed by Sasa Numic
Cinematographer Ava Berkofsky
First Assistant Director Lee Andrew Davis
First Assistant Camera Miklos Buk
Key Grip Guy Pooles

## **EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS**

Paul Bain Jason & Raila Duda

## **PARTNERS**

Chiao Wu-Lin 吳林焦
Fu-Yuan Liu 劉福源
Yu-Chiu Liu 劉玉秋
Aleksandar Ostojić
Lawrence Trissel
Pamela Trissel
Pavle Vidacich
Iris & Cecil Wishart
Jui-Ching Wu 吳瑞卿

## **BENEFACTORS**

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## **PATRONS**

Filip Dubrovski Jade Henderson Chi-Ming Lin 林啟明 Ying-Tzu Liu 劉英姿 Tyler Partridge Gvozden Pediatrics, P.A. Ricardo Rangel Olga Stojanovic Chien-Chou Wu 吳建洲 Hsin-Tzu Wu 吳心慈

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Christopher Orton Maria Luisa Otalora Sara Pan 潘映樺 Darcy Partridge Lezlee Partridge Jacquelyn Piette Jason Pope Jennifer Rothlisberger Nicolas Sauret Alan Schoolcraft Brent Simons Srdian Stankovic Miroslav & Jadranka Stankovic Vanessa & French Stewart Vyacheslav Svechkarev Hsiao-Chi Wana 王曉琦 Jeffrey Wilson Rio Wu 吳孟穎 Hui-Fang Yen 嚴慧芳

## **FRIENDS**

Gordana Adzic Grea Aimo Andrew Aveling Lemia Bodden Murillo Brito De Bessa Michelle Cabalu Zaslav Patrick Canning Barry Caldwell Yu-Ling Chang 張祐綾 Elin Chen 陳怡伶 Yuan Ling Chen 陳苑玲 Shu-Ling Cheng 鄭淑琳 Hsiao-I Chena Yi-Hsiang Cheng 鄭伊翔 Yi-Ying Chiang 江奕穎 Jun-Chau Chien 簡俊超 James Cirile Anita Colbert Marcia & Michael Conley Marcus & Elyse Conley **Emily Conlon** Patricia Conrad Nathan Crommett Agnes Cwalina

Melody Huang 黃齡毅 Sunny Huang 黄泩融 Hilla Israeli Gordon James Mitchell Jarrett **Emily Jones** Daniel Gvozden Megan Harris Amy Hawks Bojana Jovanovic Vivian Ho 何芷薇 Gabriel Horn Mark Hsi 悉義忠 Vivian Ho 何芷薇 Gabriel Horn Mark Hsi 悉義忠 Ding-Ruei Kang 康定睿 Suzanne Kembel Michelle Kercheval Randy J Lantz Alaina Larsen Tracy Larson Barbara Lauriat Jimbo Lee

Vida Oh Kara Oropallo Ljiljana Ostojic Mikki Ozawa Dolores Pan 潘家珊 Matt Pankuch Juliana Patel Jan Peacock Nick Peterson Karolina Podlesna Guy Pooles Jovana Popara Kate Powers Terry Quennell Rosi Ruiz Anna Salim Chitra Sampath Barbara Sazama Nicklas Schmidt Jon Schmidt Felix Schmilinsky Liubica Sefer-Stefancic Huei-Sing Shih 施惠馨 Jeremy Shipp

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Katelyn Sornik Kathleen Spencer Marija Stoinic Yu-Hao Su 蘇瑜豪 Siou-ying Tai 戴秀穎 Ciwang Teyra Nicole Tiesma Lucy Trissel Pei-Han Tsai 蔡沛涵 Len Tseng 曾奕憲 Allison Wade Robert Weiermair Maggie Weisberg Chris Westfield Yen Shih Wu 吳彥蒔 Evana Wu 吳伊凡 Chihda Wu 吳直達 Xiaomeng Xu Albert Zoe 周逸民

## THE FILMMAKERS WISH TO THANK

Ricky Myint

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Renato Bromfman
Devon Byers
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Mike Dallatorre
Debra Dean
Shannon Deats

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Mark Sevigny
Enrique Latapi Silva
Anya Simone

Leslie Swartzenegger Nikola Stankovic Dan Taylor Skyler Tegland Mila Turajlic Jovanka Vidacich Mark Willsher Atilla Salih Yucer Vojin Zivojnovic Susan Zwerman Ryan Denmark

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## VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO

PJB

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Filmed on location in the San Bernardino National Forest.

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Carolina Costa, AFI Cinematography Fellow Pin-Chun Liu, AFI Producing Fellow Liska Ostojić, AFI Screenwriting Fellow Justin Partridge, AFI Screenwriting Fellow Lauren Spalding, AFI Production Design Fellow Goran Stanković, AFI Directing Fellow Cyndi Trissel, AFI Editing Fellow



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KOSTYA finds the painting- RAVIL ISYANOV



Way in Rye Ext. House Set



KOSTYA in the snow - RAVIL ISYANOV



Goran Stankovic, Carolina Costa, Pin-Chun Liu by monitor



LIDA by the window - IRINA DUBOVA



Soilders unload the crate

# WAY IN RYE

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## Contact:

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