

75<sup>th</sup> Internationale  
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Berlin  
Forum

# TIME TO THE TARGET

RAILER <https://files.fm/u/rhyb8yxsjz>

A FILM BY  
**VITALY MANSKY**

**DISTRIBUTION**  
VERTOV

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# **TIME TO THE TARGET**

a film by Vitaly Mansky

LATVIA | CZECH REPUBLIC | UKRAINE

2025 - COLOR - 179 min



## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

For the past three years, Ukraine has been fighting for its independence against Russian aggression. What does a "peaceful life" look like far from the front lines, in the rear? For a year and a half, film director Vitaly Mansky has been documenting life in his hometown of Lviv, where people's daily existence is affected by the constant threat of enemy missiles. The time it takes for these missiles to reach their targets now shapes the life of every Ukrainian.

## **Production**

Vertov

Co-production Hypermarket Film and Jan Barta

in association with Czech Television

In association with Braha Production Company.

## **World Premiere**

Berlinale 2025 / Forum

**PHOTOS, POSTER & TRAILER** <https://files.fm/u/rhyb8yxsjz>



## **LOGLINE**

The passage of time in Ukraine, in the rear, where even the illusion of peaceful life has been taken away due to the criminal war imposed by the eastern neighbor.

## **LONG SYNOPSIS**

This film, unlike TV reports and most films about Ukraine, reveals the drama of the war in the deep rear of the front, where, as time goes by, the people have been so harshly affected by the distorted life and constant danger that only a distanced observation allows one to fully and nuancedly see the depths of this tragedy.

The daily life of Lviv (the most European city in Ukraine, reminiscent of a small Paris, Prague, or Vienna). Summer, autumn, winter, and spring...

Despite its location far from the frontlines, this city sees much more than echoes of the ongoing war. The story unfolds following a military brass band. Each musician carries their story, often reflected upon during the countless somber funerals.

The film's protagonists are also the military cemetery in Lviv and the brigade of gravediggers working there. Every day, these elderly men dig up to 10 grave pits for young guys who die defending their country.

As the seasons change, the film's protagonists and certain objects are gradually revealed, while revisiting already familiar places. Everyone there, overwhelmed by a profound sense of loss, is aware that they are in constant mortal danger.

## **DIRECTORS STATEMENT**

The film's director was born and raised in Lviv, his homeland and source of strength. He has returned there in his films at various periods throughout his creative biography. So he cannot stand aside when his country is fighting for its future and his countrymen face the most dramatic moment in modern history – a criminal full-scale war against the existence of Ukraine and its people. He turns his feelings and understanding of this city in the rear of the front into a film depicting diverse and detailed compositions of everyday life as the seasons change. The routine rituals, despite their tragic nature, have become terrifyingly mundane, and there is no refuge from the deep-burning pain.

The film's structure and visual style are distinctive compared to typical news footage from Ukraine. The use of full and long shots allows the viewer to become a participant in the events occurring on screen.

When I went to shoot 'Eastern Front' (2023), I was passing through my hometown of Lviv. A full-scale war had already been going on for several months. My city buried its young men every day. I saw this on my way to and from my filming locations. It was a profound emotional shock as I hold the brightest, most precious memories of this city of my childhood, now transformed into a place of grief and tears.

I stopped during these funerals and looked at the faces of those who had come to say goodbye. Perhaps I was looking for acquaintances from my past... And each time I saw the same military band. These musicians were different in appearance and age, but every day they sympathized with the sorrows that even once experienced are impossible to bear. Then I decided to get closer to them, word by word, and I realized that these musicians should become the protagonists of this film – tragic but filled with love for my hometown.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROTAGONISTS

- The musicians of the Band of the Hetman Petro Sahaidachnyi National Ground Forces Academy are both the protagonists and the unifying core of the film's plot, which takes the viewer through the seemingly peaceful everyday life of the city during the war.



Conductor Victor is the commander of the band's military unit, he has the rank of lieutenant colonel. He is a cheerful, kind, and gentle man, loved by all musicians.

Trumpeter Oleg has played in military bands all his life. When he retired, he built a house on the outskirts of Lviv and raised poultry. With the outbreak of full-scale war, he was again drafted into the army.

Trumpeter Roman was born and raised in a village in the Carpathian Mountains. He became a musician to entertain himself and those around him with folk music, as well as to earn money from it. He played at weddings, anniversaries, and various celebrations throughout the year. When the war started, he was drafted into the army, so he became a musician in the military band.

Drummer Nestor graduated from a conservatory in Austria, majoring in piano, and planned a career as a classical musician in Europe. He came to Lviv to visit his parents, but the war started. Men were forbidden to leave the country, so he joined the army, the military band, where there is no piano, and there was only a place for a drummer. Nestor plays funeral marches every day with huge drums.

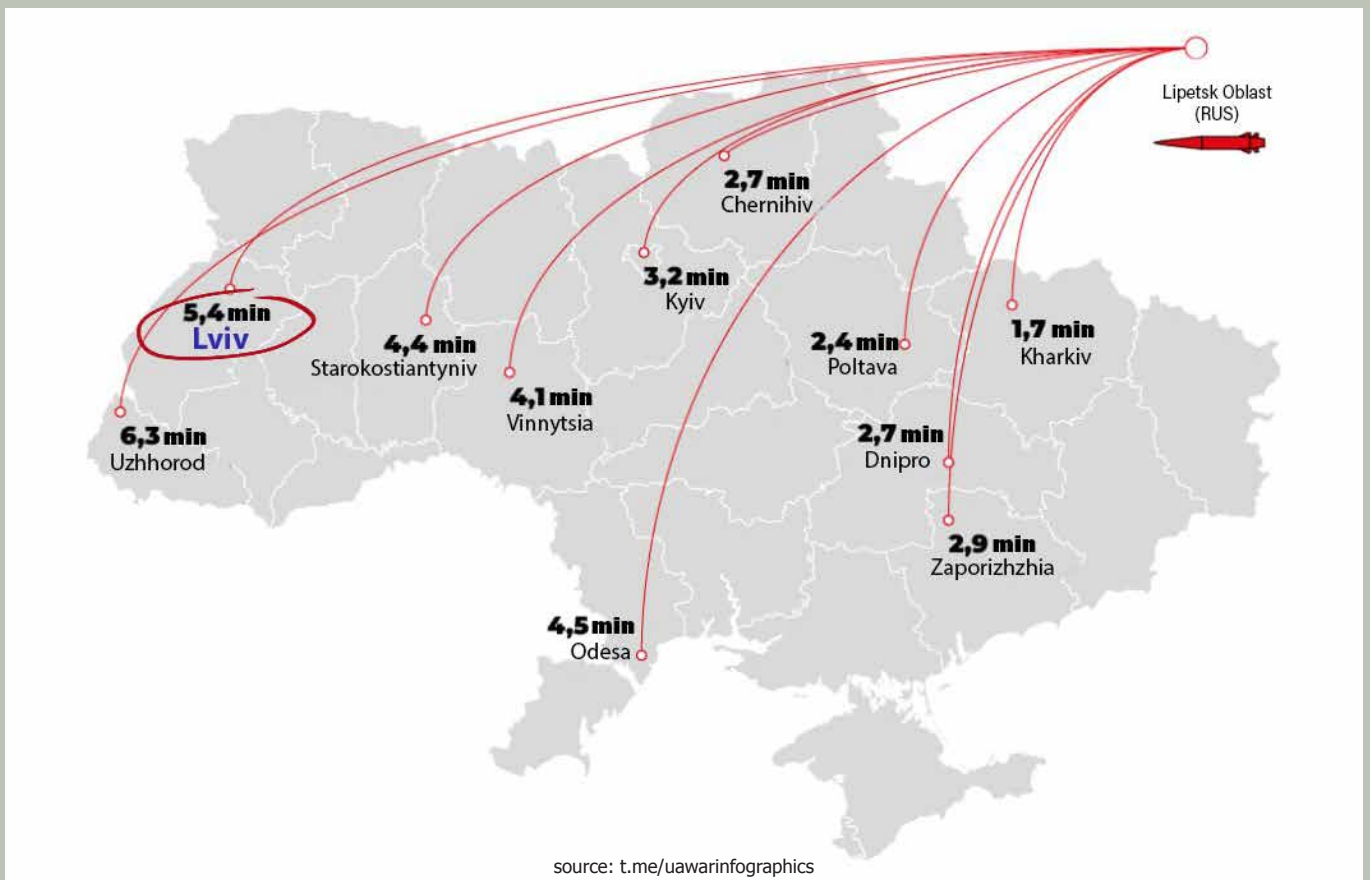
- A brigade of elderly gravediggers and their foreman. The foreman knows everything about everyone. He criticizes the condition of the burial place for soldiers due to the flooding of grave pits in spring. He criticizes the fact that it is difficult to dig there in winter, the fact that there is no bonus for hard work, the fact that it is a sin to dig up long-buried soldiers to bury others in their place...

- The film's protagonist is also the city of Lviv itself. Located in the far west of Ukraine, it was once part of Austria-Hungary and Poland. Lviv's European resemblance makes the film more relatable yet frightening for viewers all over Europe.

Its inhabitants also became the protagonists of the film. Mothers receiving posthumous awards for their killed sons, people aiming at a portrait of Putin in a street shooting range, individuals rallying against the authorities to gain more support for the front, young enthusiasts dancing in the city park as if it were for the last time, and numerous soldiers undergoing rehabilitation in Lviv after experiencing injuries and the horrors of war.



## THE TIME IT TAKES FOR A KINZHAL MISSILE TO REACH UKRAINIAN CITIES



**LVIV** (Ukrainian: Львів ['lʲiviu]) is the largest city in west Ukraine, as well as the 6th largest city in Ukraine, with a population of 710 606 (2022, UN). Lviv is one of the main cultural centres of Ukraine. The historic city centre is on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

**Founded:** 1256

**Area:** 149 km<sup>2</sup>



photos by V.Mansky

## VITALY MANSKY

V. Mansky (Vitaly Manskiy) was born in 1963 in Lviv, Ukraine (at that time, the Ukrainian SSR). He graduated from VGIK (the All-Union State Institute of Cinematography) in 1989 and has become one of the most prominent contemporary documentary filmmakers and producers. He has directed more than 30 films that have been screened at nearly every major festival worldwide and has received over 100 international awards. In 2007, he founded and became the president of the International Festival of Creative Documentary Films "Artdocfest" in Russia. Its operation was suspended in 2022 due to the prevailing censorship and the invasion of Ukraine. He is currently being persecuted by Russian authorities for expressing his civic stance. In 2020, he founded and became the president of the International Documentary Film Festival "Artdocfest/Riga" in Latvia, having emigrated from Russia in 2014. Member of the American Film Academy (Oscar).



[www.manski-doc.com](http://www.manski-doc.com)

## FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTION)

**2025** Time to the Target

**2024** Iron

**2023** Eastern Front

**2023** 2020

**2020** Gorbachev. Heaven

**2018** Putin's Witnesses

**2016** Rodnye (Close Relations)

**2015** Under the Sun

**2014** The Book

**2013** Pipeline

**2011** Motherland or Death

**2008** Virginity

**2008** Dawn / Sunset. Dalai Lama 14

**2005** Gagarin's Pioneers / Nasha Rodina

**2003** Anatomy of T.a.T.u.

**2002** Broadway. Black Sea

**2001** Gorbachev. After The Empire

**2001** Yeltsin. Another Life

**2001** Putin. Leap Year

**1999** Private Chronicles. Monologue

**1995** Bliss 1993 Cuts of a Recurrent War

**1991** Lenin's Body

**1990-1995** Etudes about Love

**1990** Post 1988 Boomerang



## FACT SHEET

**Original title:** Chas pidlotu

**Title in Latvian:** Laiks līdz mērķim

**Title in English:** Time to the Target

**Country of production:** Latvia, Czech Republic, Ukraine

**Year of production:** 2025

**Length:** 179 min

**Shooting format:** 2k & 4K

**Screening format:** DCP 4K FLAT (1,85:1) | SMPTE | 25fps | 5.1

**Language:** Ukrainian

**Subtitles:** English

**Color or b/w:** Color

**Production:** Vertov

Co-production Hypermarket Film and Jan Barta  
in association with Czech Television.

In association with Braha Production Company.

**Funded by:** National Film Centre of Latvia, Czech Film Fund

**Supported by:** Ukrainian State Film Agency

## CREDITS

**Author and director:** Vitaly Mansky

**DOP:** Roman Petrusyak

**Camera operators:** Oleksii Lieskov

**Additional camera:** Vitaly Mansky

**Sound designer:** Jan Čeněk

**Color grading:** Tomáš Daliman

**Editor:** Matvey Troshinkin

**Poster artist:** Maksym Palenko

**Producer:** Natalia Manskaia (Vertov)

**Co-producer:** Filip Remunda, Tereza Horska, Vit Klusak (Hypermarket Film)

**Co-producer:** Jan Barta

**Co-producer:** Nataliia Khazan (Braha Production Company)

**PHOTOS, POSTER & TRAILER:** <https://files.fm/u/rhyb8yxsjz>

