



Interfilm Productions Inc.  
Suite 304 - 1515 West Hastings  
Vancouver, BC V6G 3G6 Canada  
Tel: 604-638-8920 Fax: 604-899-4353  
[www.interfilm.ca](http://www.interfilm.ca)  
[www.familyportraitthefilm.com](http://www.familyportraitthefilm.com)

**FAMILY PORTRAIT IN BLACK AND WHITE**  
**a film by Julia Ivanova**

**Short Synopsis:**

Olga NENYA, from a small Ukrainian town, is raising SIXTEEN BLACK ORPHANS in a country of Slavic blue-eyed blonds. The reality of growing up as a bi-racial child in Eastern Europe, a rare and truly visible minority, is not for the faint of heart. While Olga is on a crusade to save her children from the unjust world, she is also determined to shape their future according to her own, sometimes limited vision.

**Long Synopsis:**

OLGA NENYA is a foster mother to SIXTEEN BLACK ORPHANS in Ukraine - where 99.9% of the population is white and where race DOES matter. Forced to constantly defend themselves from racist neighbors and skinheads, these children have to be on guard against the world that surrounds them.

No one is related by blood in this family, but everyone is connected by the color of their skin and by the woman who chose to be their foster mother. Olga is a loving mother but she is not Mother Teresa; she bears much more resemblance to a platoon leader. Some kids have learned to manipulate her, some obey, and only one constantly battles with her. Kiril, a 16-year-old boy nicknamed 'Mr. President' for his intelligence and effortless aristocracy, is the one who dares to openly argue with Olga - and pays dearly for it.

The modern world is interconnected: not only did the British Charity buy the house for the family, but these kids from a tiny place in Ukraine have been spending summers with host families in France and Italy year after year. When European families offer to adopt the kids, Olga refuses despite being aware of what awaits a black Ukrainian beyond the protective shield of her family. For her, these children already have a family and, as she says, "The bird should only have one nest".

This film is a multi-dimensional portrait of one family, the country they live in, and the bigger world they are a part of.

**Director:**

**Julia Ivanova – Director / Writer / Camera / Editor**

Julia Ivanova was trained at Russian Film Institute (VGIK) in Moscow. After moving to Canada, she concentrated on writing, directing, filming and editing documentaries. She has made a number of films on the topics of love, adoption, cultural differences and family, such as "*Fatherhood Dreams*" (2007), "*Love Translated*" (2010), "*True Love or Marriage Fraud? The Price of Heartache*" (2010). She is a Board Member of Hot Docs Film Festival and Documentary Organization of Canada BC Chapter.

**Producer:****Boris Ivanov**

Boris Ivanov producing credits include the documentaries "*Love Translated*", "*True Love or Marriage Fraud? The Price of Heartache*", "*Fatherhood Dreams*", "*From Russia, For Love*", "*Moscow Freestyle*". Other credits include theatrical recreations director/producer for CBS/History channel's *Beyond Top Secret*, Investigation Discovery's series *Deranged* (2008), three episodes of WeTV's *Secret Lives of Women* (2008/2008), a special on *Jaycee Duggard: Kidnapped for 18 years* for TLC (2009) and two specials for TLC *Natalie Holloway: Lost in Paradise* and *TV Murders* (2010)

**Financiers:**

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**High Resolution Images:**

<http://www.interfilm.ca/FAMILYHR.jpg>

<http://www.interfilm.ca/MAXIMHR.jpg>