

DARIA PETROZHYTSKA

RICCARDA RICHTER

OLEKSANDR MELNIKOV



A Million Yard Stare

A MILLION YARD STARE

A mother longs to see him smile when war robs his childhood



WEBFILMLAND PRODUCTIONS in association with TRÄUMER, TÄNZER & ARTISTEN E.V.

Starring: DARIA PETROZHYTSKA, RICCARDA RICHTER, OLEKSANDR MELNIKOV, REBECCA LARA MÜLLER, PAVLO KRUZHNOV, STEVEN GÄNGE, IRYNA DAS. Screenplay - RAVI GAUTAM, PEPINO PUSHPANI & ANNIKA SCHIMETZEK.

Directed by - RAVI GAUTAM. Music: VIKTORIA LELEKA & TABEA ZIMMERMANN, Sound Design: SURYA KARN GUPTA. Cinematographer: PEPINO PUSHPANI. Executive Producers - JENNIFER PENGEL & HOLGER LEISTER.

Director's statement

As a father, I have seen the light in a child's eyes—and I also saw that light dim in the faces of Ukrainian refugee children. This film was born from that gaze. We talk a lot about war in terms of politics, but I wanted to focus on the invisible war: the emotional exile children carry within them.

“A Million Yard Stare” doesn't offer answers. It offers silence, sorrow, and sometimes music — because that's how trauma speaks. The film travels between the violence of a war-torn homeland and the quiet resilience of a child trying to smile again in a foreign place. Through art and movement, this story becomes one of fragile healing.

Germany and Ukraine share the frame, but this story could belong to any child forced from home. I made this film for those who look at refugees with judgment. I want them to see the cost—not in numbers, but in eyes.

Background stories

CIRCUS

"A Million Yard Stare" grew out of a close collaboration between our film team and a local circus club long active in integrating refugee children from war zones.

CHILDREN

To keep the film truthful and rooted in real experience, we trained participating children — many of them refugees, including the film's lead actress — for three months both in front of and behind the camera.

REFUGEES

More than 100 refugees contributed to the production, bringing their stories, gestures and resilience to the screen.

PEOPLE-DRIVEN

This is a film made with the people it portrays: intimate, community-driven and quietly political. Above all, it is a testament to how art and human connection can begin to mend the hidden wounds of war.

Logline

A mother longs to see his smile when war robs
him of his childhood

Synopsis

When war leaves young Roma numb with the “million yard stare,” his mother Oxana fights to heal him. Turning to circus training as a last hope, she embarks on a journey of resilience, love, and healing, striving to bring back Roma’s laughter while facing her own buried trauma.

LONG SYNOPSIS

After fleeing the war in Ukraine, young Roma and his mother, Oxana, arrive in a foreign country—safe but shattered. Once full of life, Roma has retreated into silence, his gaze fixed in a thousand-yard stare. The distance seems even greater for Roma as if he is a million yards away from the boy he used to be.

Oxana, holding tightly to the hope of seeing her son smile again, pushes aside her grief, focusing all her strength on helping him heal. She takes a leap of faith when a psychologist suggests that the circus—a world once shared with his father— might reach the boy where words cannot.

Amid the swirling colours of the circus world, Roma meets Elias, a boy who carries his own story of loss. The two bond slowly, but the darkness behind Roma's eyes does not lift. When Oxana has a bitter argument with their host, Nicole, Oxana is forced to confront the grief she has long denied.

With the circus show approaching and emotions pushed to the breaking point, Oxana faces one final, desperate question: Can this fragile space of friendship, art, and truth be enough to reach her son, or has the war stolen his smile forever?

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Title	A Million Yard Stare
Production Company	Webfilmland Productions Pengel & Kumar GbR
Status	Completed
Country of Origin	Germany
Languages	English, Ukrainian, German, (Russian)
Subtitles	English, German
Format Genre	Fiction Drama, Anti-War
Running Time	89 Min.
Aspect Ratio	2.35:1
Frame Rate	24 fps
Shot on	Panasonic EVA-1 & BGH-1
Delivery Formats	DCP, ProRes, H.264
Sound Format	Stereo, 5.1 Surround
Sound Mix	Theatrical
Premiere Status	World

Production

Film meets Circus



WEBFILMLAND
PRODUCTIONS



The collaboration between Träumer, Tänzer und Artisten and Webfilmland Productions on the production of “A Million Yard Stare” has proven to be a powerful partnership. The experienced circus performers brought their creativity and talent, while Webfilmland contributed its filmmaking expertise in direction and production. This fusion of circus artistry and cinematic technique allowed the film’s artistic vision to be realized at a high level, giving the project its unique energy and expressive power.

Financially supported by



*Cultural department of the
City government Garbsen*



State-government Lower Saxony

Director

Ravi Gautam is an Indian-origin screenwriter and director based in Germany. With an academic background in physics, he brings a distinctive balance of structure and imagination to his filmmaking, favoring practical creativity over abstract theory. His artistic journey began on Himalayan stages before transitioning to cinema, where his short film debut *Die Brücke* (2018) marked his first work as a director. As founder and CEO of Webfilmland Productions, Gautam develops original, socially resonant films. His feature *Soch: A Perception* (2024), addressing misogyny and religious hatred, was awarded the Director's Vision Award at the 22nd Indian Film Festival Stuttgart. In *A Million Yard Stare* (2025), he blends realism and surrealism to depict the lasting impact of war on a mother and child.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY



DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2018

Die Brücke (39 Min.)

Writer & Director

2024

Soch: A perception (100 Min.)

Writer & Director

2025

Un Abrazo (17 Min)

Producer

A Million Yard Stare (89 Min.)

Writer & Director

CHRISTIAN
LEHMANN CARRASCO

JULIA
DORDEL

NATALIA
CHÁVEZ CARES

MORIN
GONZÁLEZ MENA

PA.
HE.

ANJALI
PATIL

MUKTI
RAVI DAS

MUZAMIL
BHAWANI

SILPI
DUTTA

Abraza



SOCH A PERCEPTION

EIN FILM VON
ASTRID ULLRICH HEBEL

A RAVI GAUTAM FILM

WEBFILMLAND PRODUCTIONS in association with AARAMBH PRODUCTIONS & ANAHAT FILMS. Starring: ANJALI PATIL, MUKTI DAS, SILPI DUTTA, BASHIR YASIR BHAWANI, MUZAMIL BHAWANI, RITIKA SHARMA, GAURI WEBSTER, DAYAL PRASAD Screenplay - RAVI GAUTAM & PEPINO PUSHPANI. Background Music - DIPESH VARMA, Sound Design - SURYA KARN GUPTA. Cinematographer - PEPINO PUSHPANI. Directed by - RAVI GAUTAM.

EIN FILM VON ASTRID ULLRICH HEBEL, UN ABRAZO™ COP FILM PRODUCE PRODUKTION TOM BECHMEIER PRODUCE PRODUKTION SCHNITT ASTRID ULLRICH HEBEL SET-LEITUNG/LEITUNG BETRIN KUDAT KAMERALEITER JOHNS BEHLER HELFERSYSTEM UND CONTINGENT ARON M. SOUNDMONTAGE SWANTJE RUTER FOCUS FALKER UND 2. KAMERAASSISTENTEN MEVITA DEVIC RABUS UND MARCO ANTONIO GELER MORGANA AVALEZ TWIG BENTZ BOON OPERATOR MATTY ETIENNE MÄHLER KATHIN JOSE PEYSON WASSER BORDY SEIBERT STEFFENHILF WIKKE LUTZE-KAUFHOLDT/SOUNDDESIGNER TOM BECHMEIER SET-FOTOGRAFEN DENNIS BEHMER, THIBAUD BRANDY UND JACOB TILLIG STEFFENHILF VANDINA SANDKERT UND JASMIN

nomedia mediatalents

Cast



Daria Petrozhytska

Known in Ukraine and among Ukrainian refugees in Germany for her lead role in the hit series “Papik”, Darya's talent extends beyond acting—she also earned second place on Ukrainian Idol, showcasing her versatility. This further solidifies her rising status as a talented actress in both film and television.

2018 Zaryazhennie

2019 Nichnyy Shvydkyy

2019 Papik

2020 Mysholovka dyla kota

2020 Date Vegas

2021 Burshtynovi

2021 Dzhek & London

2022 Spravzhnii Santa

2022 The Best Weekend

2022 The Wild

2024 Yashcho chesno

Oleksandr Melnikov

Oleksandr Melnikov arrived at “Träumer, Tänzer und Artisten” as a refugee from Ukraine, quickly impressing with his ability to shift seamlessly between serious and joyful emotions. This versatility made him an ideal fit for the role of Roma in “A Million Yard Stare”. Over the course of three months, Oleksandr was trained by director Ravi Gautam as part of the “Startklar für die Zukunft” funding program, which prepared him for his role. His natural talent, combined with this focused training, enabled him to bring depth and authenticity to his performance.





Riccarda Richter

Riccarda Richter, winner of the Best Actress Award at the Indie Short Fest in Los Angeles, brings her experience and star power to the role of "Nicole" in "A Million Yard Stare". With her extensive acting background, she transforms Nicole into a multi-layered, emotionally rich character. Her commanding presence and ability to portray complex roles elevate the film, showcasing her as a charismatic and seasoned actress.

2006 Professor T
2018 Die Läusemutter
2019 Die dreifache Schnur

2022 Baba Kush
2024 Tatort
Colonius (aka Der Turm)

Rebecca Lara Müller

Trained in film acting and musical theatre, she works across cinema, TV, and stage. Her leading roles in *Das Leuchten der Nacht* and *Kein Ausgang* earned multiple Best Actress awards at international festivals. Fluent in German, English, French, and Italian, with strong dance and musical skills, she brings versatility and presence to every role.

2016 Familie

2020 Unter Uns

2021 SOKO Stuttgart

2024 Serial Däter

2024 Ever After

2025 (Nicht) mehr wir





Pavlo Kruzhnov

Pavlo Kruzhnov first caught attention as Zbyshek in the indie standout *Shlyakhetni volotsyuhi*—an ensemble that swept Best Costume Design at the 2019 IMDb Awards. He then demonstrated his versatility in the psychological thriller *Nelson* and the heartfelt family drama *Nashi Kotyky*. Now, as Vitalik Pavlenko in „A Million Yard Stare, Kruzhnov“ cements his reputation for filling complex roles with deep emotional nuance..

2018 *Shlyakhetni volotsyuhi*

2019 *Nelson*

2020 *Sashi Kotyky*

Crew

Screenplay Ravi Gautam
Pepino Pushpani
Annika Schimetzek

Producers Jennifer Pengel
Holger Leister
Annika Schimetzek

DOP Pepino Pushpani

Editors Ravi Gautam
Pepino Pushpani

Sound Design Surya Karn Gupta

Dialogue Editor Soham Sanyal

Music Viktoria Lelèka
Tabea Zimmermann



Jennifer Pengel

As co-founder of Webfilmland Productions she launched her producing career with *Soch: A Perception*, which screened at prestigious international festivals and garnered multiple accolades, including the Director's Vision Award at the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart. Known for her strategic vision and collaborative leadership, she shapes bold narratives from concept to completion with exceptional precision and care. Her work on *A Million Yard Stare* further exemplifies her commitment to producing distinctive, character-driven stories that engage audiences and resonate on a global scale.

Producer

2020 Let's not have sex tonight

2024 Soch: A Perception

2025 Un Abrazo

2025 A Million Yard Stare

Surya Karn Gupta

Surya Karn Gupta's extensive experience in sound design and audio editing shapes the rich auditory depth of A Million Yard Stare. His work on major Bollywood productions and in renowned studios has enabled him to craft layered, immersive soundscapes for films worldwide. With a keen sense for subtle audio elements, he heightens the emotional impact of key scenes. Having previously collaborated with director Ravi Gautam on Soch: A Perception, their synergy ensured the sound design aligned seamlessly with the film's visual and narrative elements.

2023 Lust Stories 2

2023 Maidan

2023 Zara Hatke Zara Bachke

2023 Dream Girl 2

2023 Dunki

2024 Emergency

Sound Designer



Viktoria Lelèka

Viktoria Lelèka emerged on Berlin's jazz scene in 2016 with her quartet LELÉKA, blending chamber jazz with Ukrainian folk influences and quickly winning the Creole Global Music Contest and the Burghausen Jazz Prize. She has composed film music, including *There Will Be Humans*, and contributes an expressionist score and original Ukrainian songs to *A Million Yard Stare*. In January 2026, LELÉKA reached the final of Vidbir, Ukraine's Eurovision 2026 national selection, with the song "Ridnym," and is officially contesting as Ukraine's representative.

2020 *There will be humans*
2021 *Platstyk*

2024 *The Runaway*
2024 *Mother*



Film Stills



