

## **Two Regimes Documentary/Docuseries**

**Told in her own words from a rescued memoir, a Ukrainian single mother strives to protect the lives and innocence of her two young children. She fights and claws her way through 24 years of abandonment, starvation, homelessness and brutal atrocities under the regimes of Stalin and Hitler. She finds her strength to persevere through her love for her daughters and a vision of a better future for them all.**

The “Two Regimes” memoir is rare, as noted by Jars Balan, 2019 interim director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta. Of the 48 manuscripts published by the Zaporizhia National University, Zaporizhia, Ukraine, where the manuscript was vetted, Teodora’s is the only one written by a woman. Further vetting was done through the Mariupol Archives, as well as the (then) newly opened KGB archives (both of which have now been destroyed in the war). The importance of Teodora Verbitskaya’s narrative cannot be overstated. Its rescue is a gift to Mariupol, to Ukraine, and to the world.

Douglas Darlington of Winding Road Films did not get a chance to meet Teodora, as she had passed in 1994. In 2002, Doug did meet and contracted with Nadia Werbitzky, an accomplished artist and the sole surviving daughter of Teodora. That contract granted Doug exclusive rights to tell her and her mother’s story. In 2020, Teodora’s sole surviving granddaughter, Lucianne Vanilar, contacted Mimi Shaw of Two Regimes and Doug. Luci has become fully committed to the Two Regimes projects, and this project in particular. She is the author of the recently released English translation of her grandmother’s memoir Two Regimes (A Memoir). The book is published and distributed by Kendall-Hunt Publishing.

The current Russian aggression of Ukraine echoes back to the 1930s and 1940s, when many in power knew about the starvation of the Ukrainian people and the concentration camps of the Nazis but chose to ignore it. We can never turn away from the unchecked slaughter of the innocent.

### POSSIBLE DOCUSERIES

Eps. 1 -Teodora’s Story: 1921-1933

#### **Life under Stalin and the Holodomor**

Eos, 2 -Teodora’s Story: 1934-1945

#### **The Great Terror and WWII in Mariupol, Ukraine then Nazi camps**

Eps. 3 - Family History 1900-1921

#### **Czars, Revolution, and Ukraine’s short independence**

Eps. 4 - Family History 1945-Present

#### **DP Camps, emigration, and generational survivors**

Eps. 5 - Nadia’s Story

#### **Through an artist’s eyes**

Eos. 6 - The Two Regimes Collection

#### **Rediscovering, restoring, and revitalizing for a new generation**

Eps. 7 - Ukraine’s History: Then and Now

#### **Lessons Unlearned**