

Trek to Bucha 3 - Beyond Bucha

Finding the Spirit in Ukraine - From the Churches to the Front



***Beyond Bucha*, the third film in the *Trek to Bucha* series is currently in production.**

The original film *Trek to Bucha*, was shot in April 2022, just a month after Russia's full-scale invasion shocked Ukraine – and the world. It captured the early aftermath of Ukraine's victory in the Battle of Kyiv and the subsequent return of people to Kyiv and Bucha.

In January 2023, filmmaker Richards embarked on a follow-up project titled *Back to Bucha – Finding the Spirit in Ukraine*. This documentary revisited the characters from the first film and introduced new perspectives, including women and mothers who returned to raise their families amidst the challenges, as well as Ukraine's diverse Christian community and young men facing mobilization.

This past Christmas Day, Richards returned to Bucha to screen "Back to Bucha" and capture footage of the 2023/2024 holiday season. Much of this new material will be incorporated into the upcoming film, with some clips already available on the project's webpage.

Through ongoing documentation of the violence targeting Ukraine's religious and other communities by Russia, the project aims to continue shedding light on their stories and experiences.

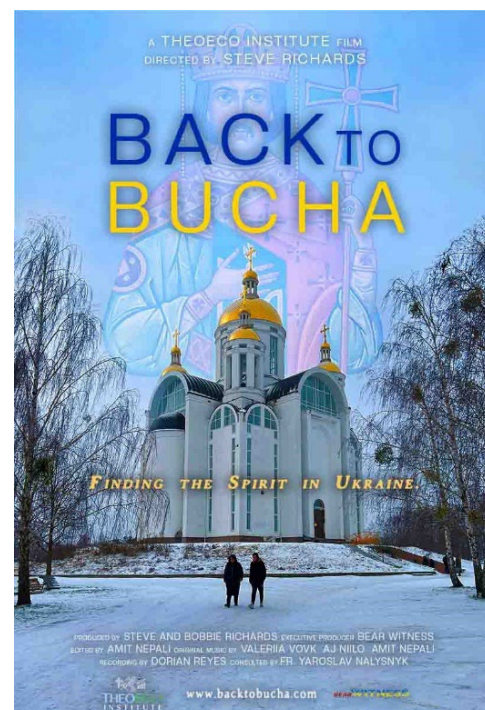
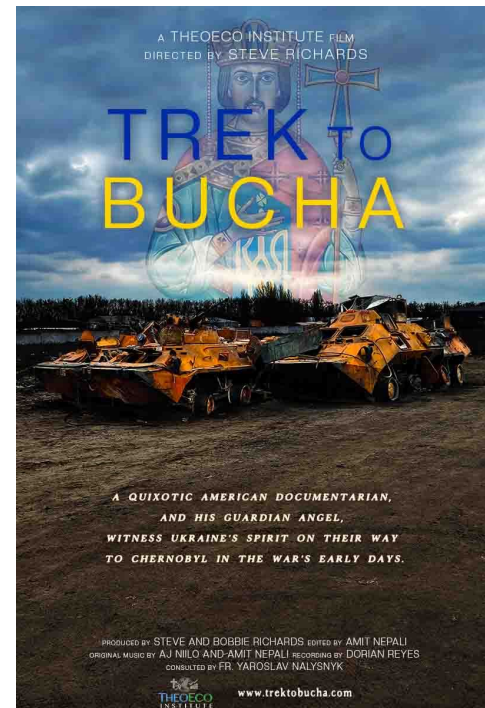
For our upcoming project, we're expanding our scope far beyond Kyiv and Bucha to include:

- Vinnytsia
- Odessa
- Kherson
- Zaporizhzhia
- Kharkiv
- Avdiivka/Chasiv Yar areas

Impact

Beyond simply documenting, *Beyond Bucha* has the potential to deepen Americans' understanding of our new allies by:

- **Immersing with chaplains** from diverse faith backgrounds to observe how soldiers find solace in prayer amid conflict.
- **Capturing the devastation** inflicted upon holy sites and the suffering endured by congregations.
- **Combatting Russian propaganda** regarding de-Satanization and persecution of Christians.



BEYOND BUCHA

The potential impact of Beyond Bucha builds upon the achievements of Back to Bucha, enhanced by a promotional strategy that includes:

- Screenings, both in-person and virtual.
- Distribution through PBS and other broadcast platforms.
- Film Festival participation.
- Streaming services availability.
- Educational markets accessibility.

Our impact extends beyond screenings. TheoEco's films serve as catalysts for outreach to religious leaders, churches, policymakers, international media, and advocates worldwide who engage with our work.



Steve Richards and Nobel Prize winner Sasha Romantsova, at a Boston Screening.

Join Our Cause!

Inspired by the acclaimed 2024 Oscar winner, "20 Days in Mariupol," a groundbreaking film shot in the heart of Ukraine during the early stages of the full-scale invasion, we are driven by the same guerrilla filmmaking ethos that characterizes our projects. **With meticulous editing, evocative music, and other enhancements, we aim to create a film that resonates with audiences both in the USA and around the globe.** We are reaching out for help with the production and promotion of Beyond Bucha through:

- Showings of *Back to Bucha* and *Trek to Bucha* (In-person and virtual)
- Grants and Partnerships with organizations
- Donations from those that want to help

"Steve's films are critical for mainstream America to see..."

- Alex Gamota, Bear Witness
Executive Producer

Join us in bringing this vital project to life and amplifying its impact on audiences worldwide. Together, we can make a difference!

The Director

Steve Richards directs and produces all of TheoEco's documentaries. He went to Ukraine to film "Trek to Bucha" in late March 2022, returned in January 2023 to shoot "Back to Bucha," and went back for a third shoot for "Beyond Bucha" during the 2023-2024 holidays. With six documentaries under his belt, he founded TheoEco in 2015. (For his filmography, click [here.](#))

For more information contact Steve at: SteveR@TheoEco.org



BeyondBucha.com