

## Press Release 2023

Sabralon Productions, present

A new documentary film on the Ukrainian exodus directed by Alon Assouline

Nominé à Berlin « Best Art Documentary Awards 2022 »

# « The Volunteers »

Youtube <https://youtu.be/Dpm3Ah49BcY>



# « The Volunteers »

## AWARDS 2022

It's through my new documentary film, "The Volunteers," made during my two trips to the Ukrainian border, 15 days after the start of the war, that I invite you to discover everything I saw and experienced in as a volunteer. I testify without filter of the situation with the Ukrainian refugees and all these brave Volunteers who have come from all over the world to help and whom I had the chance to meet.

My documentary film « The Volunteers » has been officially selected 4 times in 2022 by several festivals in Cannes, London as well as in New York and Berlin.



Nominated in Berlin 2022

***Format 4K / 26:00 mn / French version with English subtitles.***



# « The Volunteers »

## *Synopsis*

**On February 24, 2022**, Vladimir Putin launched a military offensive on his neighbour country, his brother country, Ukraine! A former country of the Soviet block where its own language was spoken on a daily basis and where the inhabitants had unbreakable ties with Russia. This new war had put part of humanity in distress causing a mass exodus exclusively composed of women and children fleeing their homes and their country. I found myself directly witnessing this 21st century exodus, because I was a Volunteer.

**On March 11, 2022**, I had left behind all my comfort as a Cannes photographer and director for a moment, for a moment, to go to the Ukrainian border with Hungary. I wanted to help in my turn because I am Russian speaking. It was a cause that had pushed me to pause, that had pushed me to reflect, to existential questions, to doubts about our humanity, about our contemporary society, the one we are, the one we have become. with time.

I immediately went as close as possible to this unacceptable distress in order to bring my help, my comfort and my love to all these courageous women and their children who had no other choice but to undergo an exodus...

I had the chance to meet volunteers from all over the world, I was so proud to have crossed paths with them and to have immortalised them through my documentary. I made it for them. I wanted to pay them my way a tribute that they would probably never have received, because they had not come for that, but to help without return.

I testify without filter of each situation that I had encountered at Keleti station, in Budapest and in Zahony, a small Ukrainian-Hungarian border town.

In order to remain discreet during my two trips, I had decided to film everything with my smartphone. "Les Volontaires" is therefore a 26-minute experimental documentary film entirely filmed with an iPhone 11 and in 4K quality with English subtitles.

**Contact : Alon Assouline / [alonassouline@gmail.com](mailto:alonassouline@gmail.com) / 0651826628**

**Sabralon Productions, 14 rue des halles, 06400 Cannes.**