

The election was stolen.  
The battle lines are drawn.

# ORANGE REVOLUTION

## *Film Summary*

If the world remembers one image from Ukraine's Orange Revolution, it is the hideously scarred face of opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko, and the mystery of his near-fatal poisoning. For many, that's both the beginning and the end of the story.

Veteran filmmaker Steve York fills in the blanks with this in-depth look at the events of the Orange Revolution. With footage never seen even in Ukraine, penetrating conversations with those who made the revolution, and music performed live at pivotal moments, *Orange Revolution* captures the spirit and the determination of the most successful political protest of the decade – a nonviolent victory which reverberates with meaning for citizens the world over.

It was just after 2 a.m. on November 22, 2004, when the call went out: "*The time has come to defend your life and Ukraine. Your victory depends upon how many people are ready to say 'No' to this government, 'No' to a total falsification of the elections.*"

Regime-controlled media claimed victory for Viktor Yanukovich, handpicked by the corrupt sitting president. But credible exit polls showed Viktor Yushchenko, the opposition candidate, had won.

It was shocking enough that Yushchenko had been poisoned -- and nearly killed-- while on the campaign trail. When reports came in of blatant voter intimidation and damaged ballots, people were outraged. When they realized election officials were in on the fraud, the people had had enough.

In freezing temperatures, over one million citizens poured into the streets of Kyiv and took up residence there. They marched in protest and formed human barricades around government buildings, paralyzing all state functions. Restaurants donated food, businessmen sent tents, and individuals brought blankets, clothing, and money. Rock bands kept their spirits up with open-air concerts, day and night.

For seventeen days, these throngs of ordinary citizens kept up their extraordinary resistance, demanding their votes be respected, standing firm even when an internal army is mobilized to remove them. Capturing the songs and spirit of this historic moment, *Orange Revolution* is story of a people united, not by one leader or one party, but by one idea: a better future, in a country of their own.

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