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Yuliya Lysenko

- Star photographer
- Legend of Ukrainian music photography
- Cooperation with Vera Brezhneva and Nadezhda Meier

Julia, you can be called the legend of Ukrainian musical photography. And let's remember how everything began, and when did you first take the camera in hand? When did you first become interested in photography and when did you realize that for you it is not entertainment, but a vocation and life's work?

All my work is tied to concerts, videos, people who are connected with music and artists of our show business. Ironically, my first creative experience was the concert of the group «VIA Gra». It was 2004, I remember that day very well. I came with a semi-professional camera to the nightclub

and decided that I would shoot a concert. Now, of course, this seems very funny, but then I realized that, apparently, the camera needed to be changed. And thanks to this concert, at that moment I realized very clearly that I wanted to shoot concerts, I really liked this atmosphere, the light, and everything in general – from the backstage to the artist's performance.

Your recognizable pictures are a status symbol among the elite of Ukrainian show business. Once you have taken a camera in hand, you will not part with it even for a minute. How did the coup happen and how did you get involved in musical photography? What was your first shoot like?

In 2005, I met Vera Brezhneva, who at that time was still a soloist of the group VIA Gra. We slowly built our communication, and I realized that I wanted to shoot concerts of this group. Then there were no master classes, training courses, I had to learn, practice, and my friend had a photo portal that covered the parties in Odessa, and I

asked him to shoot concerts. I really liked the process, yes, it was not easy, because these are nightclubs, late concerts, delays, etc., but I was ready to work until morning. Many events took place in our city in summer, various artists came, and this made it possible to gain tremendous experience.

WORKING WITH VERA BREZHNEVA IS THE HEART OF MY WORK

I also improved my skills in photography in the future, when Vera Brezhneva left VIA Gra, she began to work on her solo project and offered me a job. It included filming backstages of clips, concerts, various events. It was like someone heard your dream. Then CMM and target were added. At that moment, I realized that I needed to work even harder, practice and learn in order to match the level of professionalism of those people I encountered on the sites of top photographers and clip makers.

GLAD TO BE PUBLISHED IN YOUR MAGAZINE WITH THE PHOTO OF NADEZHDA MEIER ON THE COVER

I always absorbed all the knowledge with maximum thirst, because it seemed to me that I was not up to it, and I wanted to be better than my former self. Working with Vera is the heart of my work; we have worked with her for almost

10 years on an ongoing basis. At that moment, I clearly understood that this is no longer just a hobby – everything is serious, this is huge responsibility, since the footage must go further to work, and this is a completely different level, where you need to work harder.

I burned and lived with it, it inspired me very much, and during my work with Vera I received a colossal upgrade of my personality, a huge, diverse, invaluable experience. She strengthened my responsibility, clarity in everything and professionalism. And I am grateful that once she believed in me. Vera is a special person in my life.

Since the world of show business is, in fact, small, I had acquaintances that later became decisive for me. Artists and managers asked me to shoot or advised me to others. When I attended various events, I had free access to work with different people. There had been no Instagram before, and all the content remained in my archives, but this is how, step by step, my reputation was being developed. I worked with Olga Romanovskaya, also an ex-member of VIA Gra, and I remember it with warmth.

PEOPLE ARE A VERY IMPORTANT COMPONENT THAT AFFECTS PERSONAL GROWTH

You take pictures of the most famous Ukrainian musicians known all over the world, skillfully revealing the individuality of the artists, including Max Barsky. How did you meet – do you remember the first meeting? Tell us about your photography experience.

We had one girl in our team who worked with Max Barsky, that's how we met. Of course, I don't remember the first meeting, we saw each other at various events, but I have been watching Max since the time of the Star Factory. No matter how many shows there were, he was always different from everyone else, he impressed me from the very beginning. I consider him an incredibly talented artist, with a good sense of humor, and I really adore his work.

Every talented person surely has his own recipe for success. Can you share with our readers what path you have to go to catch a perfect frame? What is behind your famous celebrity photos?

I have no recipe for success; I have worked very hard and still work. The result that I had achieved was not easy for me, all thanks to perseverance and work. Of course, talent is also important, it cuts all skills, but it seems to me that you can learn anything if you want.

I believe in fate and that every person in our life is not just like that. People are a very important component that affects personal growth, our wisdom, certain events, but then everything depends on ourselves, how much we want to stay in each other's life, whatever it concerns in principle – work, love, friendship. That is why it is important to work on yourself mentally and spiritually, including being diversified, flexible, remaining a mutual, grateful person, able to communicate,

THERE IS NOTHING PERFECT – NEITHER A FRAME NOR A PERSON, IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO FEEL

listen and hear others. These are all important factors for a person, and then it's everyone's choice: whether you agree with a person in views and tastes or not, look for someone close in spirit and create your own story.

There is nothing perfect – neither a frame nor a person, the ability to feel, notice, sometimes reveal and emphasize individuality is important. I get a lot of inspiration from people, and when I find people who affect me very deeply, I try to cherish them. And I already know from my own experience how it is important to believe in your dream, never to stop, to continue to learn and improve. You can't get hung up on what you have achieved, it is important to move forward, find new goals, achieve them, like, for example, make a couple of portraits of Angelina Jolie.

