



77 YEARS BACK

VICTOR STROIE

PROD. COMPANY **DSF MEDIA FILM** CO-DIRECTORS **DAN STROIE & ALEXANDRU BODRUG**

EDITOR **EMILIA COMAN** SOUND DESIGN & MUSIC **MATEI VASILACHE**

LOGLINE

A grandfather goes back to seek his past in the village where he was born, after 77 years.

SYNOPSIS

The film is a touching and heartfelt exploration of a grandson's journey with his grandfather to uncover the truth about their family's past as refugees from Bessarabia.

The movie follows the grandson, Dan, as he films his grandpa recounting memories and seeking information about his birth and his relatives in Moldova. Through their journey, they have emotional encounters with people of Moldova and navigate bureaucratic challenges in their search for answers. Along the way, the bond between Dan and his grandpa, Victor, grows stronger, and the film captures the significance of listening to and caring for our elders.

The grandfather comes back home in Romania to his daily life, near his loving wife. He takes his time to think more deeply about what he found in Moldova, accepts his past and bonds even more with his big family.



Technical Specs

Title: 77 Years Back
Original title: *77 de Ani Înapoi*

Genre: Documentary

Language: Romanian

Available subtitles: English, Romanian

Runtime: 38 min

Production year: 2023

Country of production: Romania

Countries of filming: Romania & Republic of Moldova

Shooting format: Digital

Screening format: DCP

Color/B&W: Color

Film Speed: 25 fps

Screen ratio: 2:1

Sound format: 5.1 (& Stereo)

Find the film at

www.77yearsback.com

[instagram.com/77yearsback](https://www.instagram.com/77yearsback)

For more info

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Victor Stroie

the main character

Victor Stroie, my grandfather, was born in Mărculești, a village in the historical region of Bessarabia, now part of Republic of Moldova.

At a very young age, he had to run with his family from there, because of the war. They ended in south-western Romania, where his mother died, and he was adopted by another family who lost their child in the army. He was raised there and then started his own family, offspring of which I am.

He is a jack of all trades, both artistic and technical – by the nature of his work as a foreman in factories. Having a poetic soul, my grandfather would've wanted to be an artist. He experienced writing and drawing but, given the times he lived, he never pursued these passions further.



About the film



I knew that my grandfather was writing a book about his childhood and his memories after coming from Bessarabia. Although he wrote almost 100 pages, he was never able to finish it, but the desire to reminisce and discover the past was always present.

“Often at an older age, the memories from childhood are fresher and clearer and the closest ones are forgotten more quickly.”, he said.

From this love for my grandpa and from my desire to know more about his life story, I began thinking about this movie. It took me over two years to finish the movie, with multiple crew changes, a crowdfunding campaign and two stages of filming and post-production. The making of the documentary was a journey in itself, which I am very proud I completed, along with the co-director Alexandru Bodrug.



The Directors



Dan Stroie

Co-director, Producer, DoP

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Dan Stroie is a passionate filmmaker with a deep appreciation for storytelling and capturing the human experience on screen. Born and raised in south-western Romania, Dan started filming at the age of 14, by shooting music videos and short films with friends. After, he developed a keen interest in cinema while pursuing Cinematography BA studies at UNATC "I.L. Caragiale", the National Film School in Romania.

While working mainly as a director of photography, this documentary is Dan's first work as co-director, exploring themes of family, identity, and heritage. He has a keen eye for capturing authentic moments and emotions.

Alexandru Bodrug

Co-director

Alexandru Bodrug, born in the Republic of Moldova, graduated from UNATC University "I.L. Caragiale", Film Directing BA (2021). His first documentary was selected at CineMAiubit ISFF in 2019.

In 2020 he directed a self-portrait documentary about his family, the story of a boy raised without a father - *"Our house"*. In 2021, he directed the film *"Three Oranges"*, shot on 35mm film, with the main theme being the emigration of parents. The graduation film is *"Dragons do not exist"*, which is based on his own experience through which he met his father, selected at multiple festivals: CineMaiubit, Filmul de Piatra, European Film Festival, Moldova Film Festival.



The Crew

Directors

Dan Stroie
Alexandru Bodrug

Producer

Dan Stroie

Executive Producer

Alexandru Cocindău

In partnership with

Asociația pentru Excelență și Performanță

Cinematography

Dan Stroie
Maria Stroie
Alexandru Bodrug

Special thanks

Andrei Olănescu
Corocea Codruța
Adina Ghiță
Alexandru Văduva

With the help of

iRonic Distors
Alessia Cremenescu

& the other backers of the movie

Editing

Emilia Coman

Sound design & music

Matei Vasilache

Boom operator

Dragos Duruian

Color grading

Răzvan Dimitriu

Camera & sound equipment

Iancu Moraru
Andi Șorcoată

Thanks to

Marin Cumatrenco, Theodor Ioniță, Alin Durian
Cristina Popa, Livia Sîrbu, Eleonora Pistorel
Silvia Petrică, Ioana Grigore, Ariel Constantinof

Poliția de Frontieră România
Poliția de Frontieră Rep. Moldova
Compania Teleradio Moldova
Arhiva Florești
SSC Florești
Primăria satului Mărculești
Primăria satului Prajila
Cinema Multiplex București

Director's statement

As the co-director of this film and nephew of my grandfather who I deeply love, I am moved by the incredible journey I embarked on with him. It is a story that holds great personal significance for me as I sought to uncover more information about our family's past as refugees from Bessarabia. Through this film, I wanted to capture the power of familial connections, the significance of our roots, and the importance of listening to and valuing the stories of our elders.

As I filmed my grandfather recounting his memories and seeking information about his birth and his relatives in Moldova, I was struck by the resilience and courage of those who fled their country. I wanted to highlight the bureaucratic obstacles my grandpa and I faced, while also showcasing the deep emotional connections that we made along the way.

Throughout the film, I wanted to capture the intimate moments between my grandfather and me, as we traveled together and reflected on our family's history. I also aimed to portray the love and bond between my grandparents in their daily life in Romania, emphasizing the importance of cherishing our present and valuing the stories of our elders.

Ultimately, this film is a declaration of love for my grandfather and a tribute to the strength and wisdom of our elders. It is my hope that this film serves as a reminder to audiences of the profound connections that can be formed when we care, listen, and honor the stories of our loved ones. Through this journey, I have learned that by truly valuing and understanding our family's past, we can build a stronger and more meaningful present and future.



Film Stills

