

Igor V. Sopronenko
Documentary Film Director
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Igor Sopronenko was born and raised in Moscow, Russia. He began his career as a director's assistant at "Mosfilm," the largest Russian film studio. He graduated the Moscow State University of Culture and Art, where he trained as a director, in 1987. Before moving to the United States, he made a number of documentaries, television and radio programs, and he also worked as a contributing movie critic for various Moscow magazines and newspapers. Sopronenko was an established producer, director, and scriptwriter whose films were shown on national Russian television. His work has received numerous awards in Russia and Europe.

Moving to the USA in 1992 was quite a challenge for him, but his belief in documentary film and his devotion to the genre sustained him. His American experience includes employment at Lexington City TV, an ABC affiliate local news station. For 4 years he also contributed to the US Federal Justices Department Television Project with the Correctional & Juvenile Justice Studies College at Eastern Kentucky University. These experiences expanded Sopronenko's professional repertory and gave him a much better understanding of American cultural traditions, history, and politics.

Sopronenko has worked as an independent documentary filmmaker since 2004. His creative principle can be described as follows: "Everything that involves people is interesting.... People with their concerns and expectations, history and problems, love and hatred, opinions and experiences---that's the essential, the most intriguing, and the most miraculous part of documentary film." Since 1992 he has made more than 30 documentaries and TV programs. He received Telly Awards in 2006 for "Tribal Nation. The Story of Federal Indian Law" and in 2007 for "The Humanities: The Heart of it All..." Sopronenko also teaches a seminar on Russian cinematic history at the University of Kentucky.