

1 X 60'

COLOUR ME FREE

current affairs/political
documentary

When Viktor Yushchenko finally takes the stage after Ukraine's third and final election in 2004 and accepts the Presidency of Ukraine, it looks like a massive spontaneous movement has swept him to power. This so-called Orange Revolution shocks the world. And it shocks Russia the most – the traditional power center of Eastern Europe.

Colour Me Free takes the viewer to Kyiv's Independence Square and shows where the massive, citizen led energy came from. The film then crosses the border to Russia and Belarus, where the tremendous hope of the Orange Revolution inspires democracy activists preparing to

topple Presidents Vladimir Putin and Aleksandr Lukashenka, respectively. The Kremlin is wary of the "orange wave" of freedom; it has studied Ukraine's success and not only co-opts the same strategies, but demonstrates that it will wield political influence through oil and gas pricing. In Belarus, Lukashenka does everything he can to cut off any democratic tendencies swiftly and brutally.

Six months before the 2006 presidential elections in Belarus, civil society and the opposition is disorganized and demoralized. Only the youth see a glimmer of hope – they feed their souls on the success of the Ukrainians – and they take it upon themselves to inspire their nation with clever acts of courage.

"What will happen you cannot predict," says one democracy activist. "These may not be elections; these may be a confirmation." COLOUR ME FREE documents a remarkable "revolution of the spirit" in a dispirited nation.



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For more information contact:
info@rethinkentertainment.com

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re:think Entertainment Inc.
2938 Dundas St. West
P.O. Box 601
Toronto, ON
M6P 1Y8

