

50 FILM FESTIVALS WORTH THE ENTRY FEE

# MovieMaker magazine

**RACHEL  
MCADAMS**

Is there, God, for  
**JUDY BLUME**

**ALLEN  
HUGHES**

remembers  
**AFENI and  
TUPAC SHAKUR**

**Owen  
Wilson**

looks  
back and  
forward in  
**PAINT**



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# EAST MEETS WEST SACRAMENTO

**Y**OUNG FILMMAKER Nikolay Velikanov is making waves with his documentary *No Turning Back: The Russian Heat of West Sacramento*, which takes an in-depth look at the West Sacramento Police Department and its innovative approach to building community relations.

Velikanov is an award-winning Russian writer, director and producer living in Los Angeles who has always wanted to make movies that motivate and inspire people.

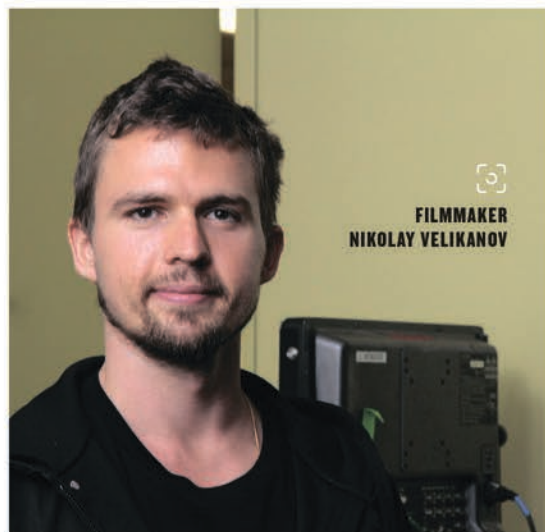
In recent years, the relationship between police officers and the communities they serve has become a highly charged and often contentious

issue around the world. Velikanov set out to explore the dynamic in a unique and powerful way. His story follows four Slavic police officers from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Uzbeki-

stan as they work to build bridges with their communities and find new methods to solve problems.

Shot in a highly cinematic style, the film gives viewers a close perspective on the officers' lives. It balances stunning aerial shots and thrilling car chases with moving depictions of the interactions between the officers and the people with whom they are sworn to protect and serve. At its core, it is about the challenges

that police officers face daily that most people never see.



FILMMAKER  
NIKOLAY VELIKANOV

One of the key messages of the film is that effective policing is a collaborative effort that involves both the police and the people in a community. It also shows the deep sense of responsibility the officers feel. The film is about four men with roots outside the United States, signing up to do one of the most scrutinized jobs in American society, and trying hard to do it well.

"It invites us to see police officers in a new light — not as enforcers of the law, but as dedicated public servants who are committed to making our communities stronger and more vibrant," says Velikanov.

**No Turning Back: The Russian Heat of West Sacramento** is now available on [nikvel.com/noturningback](http://nikvel.com/noturningback)

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