

PRESS KIT

VITALY SUMIN PRESENTS

Nick's adventures IN HOLLYWOOD

- OR -

What is Dostoyevsky Reimagined?

DRAMA-COMEDY-THRILLER





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[animated short. running time: 5 minutes, 17 seconds]

Nick, a fresh graduate from an East Coast college and an aspiring screenwriter arrives in Tinseltown and is hired by Vitaly Sumin's VM Productions for a project involving a secret cult and the Russian mob.



Nick, a young screenwriter arrives in Hollywood. After multiple rejections, he's offered a job drumming up support for a documentary by VM Productions. Titled "Dostoyevsky Reimagined," it's about the making of Vitaly Sumin's "Notes from the New World," an indie art film inspired by Dostoyevsky's "Notes from the Underground." To explain the project to a guy named Bob, Nick takes him back to where it all began: 1860s Russia. Back to Hollywood, Nick soon discovers there's danger in the air.

[Click to watch the short animation video](#)
Nick Adventures

Originally planned as a live action film, it was determined early on that animation was the ideal vehicle for the story's whimsical and fanciful nature. In keeping with the tone of the source material, the animated drawings are both spare and humorous - and peppered with unexpected stylistic touches. Expectations are further defied by the rollicking barrelhouse piano score.

Despite its brevity, the film's narrative contains the boxes-in-boxes aspect of a fiction novel. First, as stated in the synopsis, we have a cartoon character deciding to use his cartooning skills to accomplish his objective. And while the story presents a fictitious character attempting to attain funding for a film titled "Dostoevsky Reimagined," the real-life creators appear to have the same purpose, albeit a noble one - bringing Dostoevsky into the modern world.

AWARDS



NICK FRANCO • CREATOR AND ILLUSTRATOR •



Nick Franco is a comic book artist, screenwriter, and creator of the Nuzlocke Challenge, an ongoing interactive web project with views numbering in the millions. Samples of his work can be found at www.nuzlocke.com

GERARDO TORRES CARRILLO • ANIMATOR •

A 3D artist with more than ten-years experience in the field of animation, Gerardo has worked extensively with game studios, creating characters from scratch. His portfolio also contains a broad variety of personal projects involving animations, videos, and comics.



VITALY SUMIN • DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER •



Vitaly Sumin is a producer, writer and director, known for **White Nights**, **Shades of Day**, **Notes from the New World**, **The Missing Screenwriter**, and the plurality of the other titles.

After receiving an M.S. degree in Oceanography, Vitaly Sumin produced ocean-related documentaries (Jacques Cousteau style) which eventually led him to abandon his scientific career to obtain a B.A. degree in film directing. He subsequently worked as a co-writer and producer on numerous productions.

Sumin's award-winning short film **From Womb To Tomb**, which he wrote, directed edited, and produced, made a world tour of important festivals. Following that initial success, Sumin's path diverged slightly - from filmmaking to game development. In 1988, he received a US patent #4,784,394 for "**The World Belongs To You!**" - an interactive tourist game (including video, reality TV and other versions).

Resuming his film pursuit, Sumin attended the Sorbonne in Paris under a study grant. His script *The Idiot*, which recast Fyodor Dostoyevsky novel as a contemporary international thriller, received a development grant from The Warner Bros Fund. Later Sumin moved to Los Angeles, California, and created **VM Productions** to develop and produce quality films based on original stories and masterpieces of world literature. His project **Crime and Punishment, LA** became the winner of the European Co-Production Matchmaking Program, which was featured during the panel at SXSW:

Post Production (2020):

- **[Dostoyevsky Reimagine-BTS](#)** (97 min)

In Pre Production (2020):

- **[Crime & Punishment, LA](#)**
- **[Nick Investigates Robert Hurley Disappearance](#)**
- **[Shades of Blood](#)**

IMDb

FilmFreeway