

# DATUNA

## PORTRAIT OF AMERICA

**GENRE: DOCUMENTARY FEATURE (77 MIN) USA**

**DIRECTOR: BRIAN BAYERL**

**STORY: BRIAN BAYERL, MICHAEL HUTER**

**PRODUCER: MICHAEL HUTER**

**ART DIRECTOR: RYAN HECK**

**ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSITION**

**AND ORCHESTRATION: LJOVA ZHURBIN**

Acclaimed Director Brian Bayerl and Producer Michael Huter, a powerhouse in the art world, come together to tell the remarkable story of Georgian-American artist David Datuna. The film balances multiple story lines of an aspiring immigrant escaping oppression, the triumphant journey of a rising artist, new technologies, and real life crisis. **Datuna: Portrait of America** is the first feature length film in the world to creatively incorporate the use of the wearable technology Google Glass, delivering a tasteful use of first person POV (point-of-view) with the device.

Documenting the events of one tumultuous year, **Datuna: Portrait Of America** follows the compelling journey of artist David Datuna as he pursues a dream of cultural and artistic freedom in his adopted country, the United States. An émigré from Soviet Georgia, the film traces his steps from Tbilisi, Moscow, Miami, New York and ultimately to tens of thousands at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in the shadow of the nation's capital in Washington, DC. As Datuna becomes the first contemporary artist in the world to utilize early wearable technology devices like Google Glass in a work of art, his personal life takes a dramatic turn driven by real-life events when the 40 year old artist discovers he has stage 3 lung cancer.

The film showcases David's passionate creative energy, from behind-the-scenes moments in his studio to the glamour and flash of the New York and Miami art scene. It is multi-layered with David's personal journey to escape the suffocating grip in the former USSR with the unwavering support of his family and friends. A groundbreaking and monumental project becomes the focus of the story -- a 12-foot American flag covered in his signature style of optical lenses thematically celebrating cultural diversity, and specifically designed to engage a rapidly changing new generation. The artwork marks a dynamic contemporary moment in the intersection of culture and technology. Datuna's revolutionary concept layers his traditional art with first generation wearable devices, cameras, computers and social media as a 21st Century tool to illustrate America's continuing sense of E Pluribus Unum. The flag's symbolism conveys the idea that, despite today's cultural fragmentation and diversity, we are still bound together, one from many.

In the middle of filming, David receives a cancer diagnosis that can potentially upend his life, and bring it to a close. While he continues to tirelessly work, he soldiers on through his series of treatments, with his wife, young son and mother's support. The powerful, emotional interplay of artistic triumph and personal trial form a dramatic counterpoint to the arc of David's own story: as an immigrant seeking freedom; his unbridled enthusiasm for the vibrancy of America; and his future-leaning ideas that embraces cutting-edge technology as a bridge for non-tech artists to communicate in relevant ways, creating a new visual language. This remarkable story chronicles one man's quest to achieve his dreams against seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

**“For three days, more than 23,000 visitors waited in long lines to participate in what became a blockbuster event”**

— *Smithsonian Magazine*

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### PRESS QUOTES

**“As a work of art, Portrait of America marks a dynamic contemporary moment in the intersection of culture and technology. Datuna, an émigré from Soviet Georgia, used Google Glass as a 21st-century tool to illustrate the nation’s continuing sense of “E Pluribus Unum.” The flag’s symbolism conveys the idea that, despite today’s cultural fragmentation and diversity, we are somehow still bound together, one from many.”**

— *Smithsonian Magazine*

**“For three days, more than 23,000 visitors waited in long lines to participate in what became a blockbuster event”**

— *Smithsonian Magazine*

**“Artist David Datuna has created a groundbreaking installation”**

— *Smithsonian Magazine*

**“Congratulations!”** (from White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough)

— *The Washington Post*

**“Datuna’s work reexamines what it means to be American”**

— *Fast Company*

**“Datuna finds a way to move viewers engagement beyond smartphones and selfies”**

— *Hyperallergic*

**“Portrays important events and figures in American cultural history”**

— *Town & Country*

**“Artist uses new medium”**

— *USA TODAY*

**“Datuna’s multifaceted vision of our diverse nation”**

— *Washington Post*

**“Datuna...enters the fourth dimension”**

— *BBC*

**“Viewer becomes part of the artwork”**

— *Associated Press*

**“Patriotic art brought to life”**

— *Reuters*

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## PORTRAIT OF AMERICA

### CAST & CREW

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**Brian Bayerl**

**Director, Editor, Cinematographer**

began his career working for PBS where he earned two Associated Press Awards and a regional Emmy. Since then his cinematography and editing has been seen in such shows as Ferrari Challenge (Speed), Swamp Wars (Animal Planet), Airport 24/7: Miami (Travel Channel), and most recently Fish Tank Kings (Nat Geo Wild). In 2010, he teamed up with Academy Award-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black (Milk, J. Edgar) to complete 8: The Mormon Proposition, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. In 2010, he also collaborated on For Once in My Life with GRAMMY-nominated Director Mark Moormann (Tom Dowd & the Language of Music), which won Audience Awards in six film festivals, including SXSW in Austin, Texas. His follow-up feature documentary, Full Circle: Before They Were Famous chronicled Andy Warhol and Robert Indiana's rise to international pop art fame through a series of never-before-seen photographs. Brian's recent films include The Record Man, Jersey Shore Massacre, and Datuna: Portrait of America.



**RYAN HECK**

**Production Designer**

attended Ringling School of Art and Design studying illustration, then transferred to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago to continue studies in film. He later graduated with a degree in Film Technology from Valencia College in Orlando, Florida. Ryan's work as an illustrator and set designer has been seen in films including Green Lantern, Mr. Popper's Penguins, All the King's Men, Miami Vice, The Amazing Spiderman 2, and The Secret Life of Walter Mitty. He has traveled around the United States to set design many feature films, including The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, which won the Academy Award for best Art Direction in 2008. Ryan lives with his wife Amy and daughter Dorothea in New York City, where he continues to set design and art direct major studio feature films and television series.



**Michael Huter**

**Producer**

has produced large-scale events for over 20 years with a focus on visual arts and publishing. He has recently served as publisher and curator for several special projects and events for KIWI Arts Group (Founder) and The Andy Warhol Museum. In 2014, he produced one the most successful events at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in over 30 years. Michael has been involved in various aspects of exhibitions and support material produced for the Indianapolis Museum of Art, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, The Norton Museum, Christie's, Sotheby's, The Andy Warhol Museum, and others. He began his film career as producer for the feature documentary, Full Circle: Before They Were Famous that chronicled Andy Warhol and Robert Indiana's rise to international pop art fame through a series of never-before-seen photographs (that Huter later published), has produced film shorts for The Andy Warhol Museum, and is Producer for Datuna: Portrait of America.

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#### **LJOVA "Lev Zhurbin"**

##### **Composer**

was born in 1978 in Moscow, Russia, and moved to New York in 1990 with his parents, composer Alexander Zhurbin and writer Irena Ginzburg. He divides his time between composing for the concert stage, contemporary dance, and film, leading his own ensemble Ljova and the Kontraband. Ljova is the author of more than 70 compositions for classical, jazz and folk ensembles, as well as scores to four feature films and over a dozen short films. In 2005, Ljova was one of six composers invited to participate in the Sundance Institute's Film Composers Lab. His music has been licensed by HBO, PBS, BBC, CNBC, and NHK networks, among many other independent projects. In 2007, Ljova worked as assistant to composer Osvaldo Golijov on his score to Francis Ford Coppola's film "Youth Without Youth," to which Ljova also contributed an original track, "Middle Village." Ljova is a graduate of The Juilliard School, where he was a pupil of Samuel Rhodes (violinist of the Juilliard String Quartet). He has won numerous prizes as a composer, and appeared several times as a soloist with orchestras across the United States.



#### **Mark Moormann**

##### **Miami Camera Operator**

is a South Florida-based filmmaker with director and director of photography credits on documentaries, commercials, music videos, and branded content. His documentary work includes the GRAMMY-nominated Tom Dowd & the Language of Music, Blindsided (featured on HBO), and For Once in My Life. Mark's films have screened theatrically, at major film festivals (Sundance, Toronto), museums (Experience Music Project, Coca-Cola, Skirball Cultural Center), international airports, and large-scale events (George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch for the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame 25th Anniversary Show at Madison Square Garden).



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Entrance to the Great Hall at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington D.C.



Children enjoying David Datuna's artwork at the Apple Academy in Brooklyn



Looking over Biscayne Bay to the Downtown Miami skyline



Museum patrons viewing David Datuna's American Flag sculpture



Patrick Moore and Michelle Fabrizi of the Andy Warhol Museum viewing Datuna's artwork with Google Glass



**GIORGI MARGVELASHVILI**  
PRESIDENT OF GEORGIA

Giorgi Margvelashvili, President of Georgia, discussing freedom with artist David Datuna



Denis McDonough, White House Chief of Staff to the President, congratulating David Datuna



Artist David Datuna wearing the 1st generation wearable technology Google Glass



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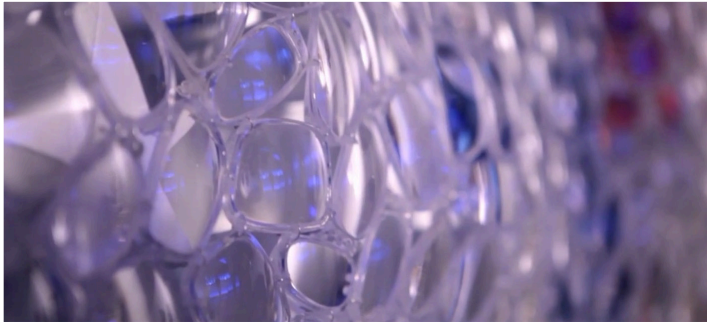
## PORTRAIT OF AMERICA



Vladimir Putin's over-the-top inauguration in the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow, fit for a Czar



Artist David Datuna at Art Miami



Close-up of optical lenses that cover David Datuna's sculpture



5 year old David Datuna in former Soviet Georgia



5 year old David Datuna with his classmates and teachers in former Soviet Georgia



Giorgi Margvelashvili, President of Georgia, discussing European integration with artist David Datuna



Artist David Datuna on the train from Washington D.C. to New York City



Thousands line up outside the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery to view David Datuna's exhibition