

Mychaylo Illyenko is an important figure of the Ukrainian cultural life: a director, screenwriter, stage manager, writer, actor, dean of The Academy of Cinematography in Kyiv (), deputy chairman of The Association of Ukrainian cinematographers, a corresponding member of The Ukrainian Academy of Arts. As the main organizer of the film festival „Open night“ for young Ukrainian filmmakers he attempts to regenerate the declining industry of Ukrainian cinematography. M. Illyenko's outstanding films, such as Fuchzhou (1993) and The Seventh Route (1997), have been awarded at a number of international film festivals.

The question of the being of Ukraine and of the Ukrainianess as a feeling of belonging to one's ethnic origin, as well as the question of the state of the soul of a Ukrainian is still very problematic and urgent. This is hardly surprising, as the historical development of Ukraine since long time ago to the present has been very complicated. Ukraine is still a sort of frontier zone between the East and West, North and South, the past and future. This fatal crossing is thus reflected not only in the geographical situation of Ukraine, but also in the consciousness of the Ukrainian nation and in the soul of individuals.

The play “The Bitch” (2006) is one of Illyenko's later pieces. It represents a very interesting material, which enables us to understand better the Ukrainian mentality and the past and present of Ukraine. One of the most fatal historical corner-stones was the 2nd World War - the play “The Bitch” is about all of this and about other, no less important things.