# BELDOCS INDUSTRY DAYS
21–24 MAY 2026



19TH BELDOCS IDFF

BEL DOCS 2026

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**Despair almost certainly leads to surrender, and thus, to death, while hope regenerates the will to move forward and to continue struggling; thus, hope is an inherent characteristic of life. In the words of the activist Mariame Kaba and used particularly in the local and global context of today, hope is a discipline: it requires everyday practice, it requires a struggle to see a broader perspective, despite the threatening darkness around us.**

**Rumena Bužarovska**
Beldocs Guest Curator

# WELCOME TO BELDOCS INDUSTRY DAYS 2026!

Dear Guests,

Stories are how we make sense of the world—and documentary is where that sense-making refuses to be neat. This year, Beldocs turns 19, and with nineteen years behind us, we arrive knowing that the stakes of what we do have never felt more immediate. Under the sign of Hope is Discipline, we gather not to celebrate optimism as comfort, but to insist on it as practice. Documentary, at its best, is exactly that: a disciplined act of attention, returned again and again to what is real, what is urgent, and what refuses to disappear.

Each edition of Beldocs Industry Days brings together a community of people who have chosen this practice. Not by coincidence, but by conviction—filmmakers, producers, curators, and collaborators who believe that the documentary form is not just a genre but a responsibility.

This year, we welcome 20 outstanding projects to the Beldocs Pitching Forum, 4 innovative works at the Beldocs XR Academy, 8 emerging voices in the Balkan Young Talents programme, and 3 independent serious games at Play. Docs. In bringing these together, we are asking what it means—across formats, across borders—to document a moment that many would prefer to leave undocumented. Play.Docs, now in its third year, deepens the conversation between documentary and interactive media. Our industry programme extends this inquiry across masterclasses, talks, panels and co-production forum—examining how truth is constructed, how solidarity is built across divided contexts.

Behind every project here is a person who kept going—through doubt, distance, and difficulty—because someone else believed in the work. Every collaboration forged this week, every conversation over coffee or in the margins of a pitch, is part of that same chain of belief. Doing this work does not have to mean doing it alone, and Beldocs Industry Days exists precisely to remind us of that. Joy, too, belongs here—in the pleasure of meeting people who share your obsessions, who finish your sentences about form and ethics and funding.

Use this week fully: the scheduled and the spontaneous, the formal and the accidental. Just showing up, with your project and your attention and your care, is already an act of solidarity. Ultimately, the warmth you find here is not incidental—it is the work.



**ANDRIJANA SOFRANIĆ ŠUĆUR**
HEAD OF BELDOCS INDUSTRY

# EXPANDING THE IMAGINATION

Beldocs 2026 gathers new thoughts on the theme of hope, driven by a lasting passion for creative documentary film. Hope and documentary share a common ground: both emerge from the complexity of the world, from the harshness of lived experience, and sometimes even from profound despair. By searching for light in moments of darkness, they expand the imagination toward new possibilities that point beyond the troubled present. In resisting regimes of fear, they nurture the courage needed to imagine and shape what does not yet exist.

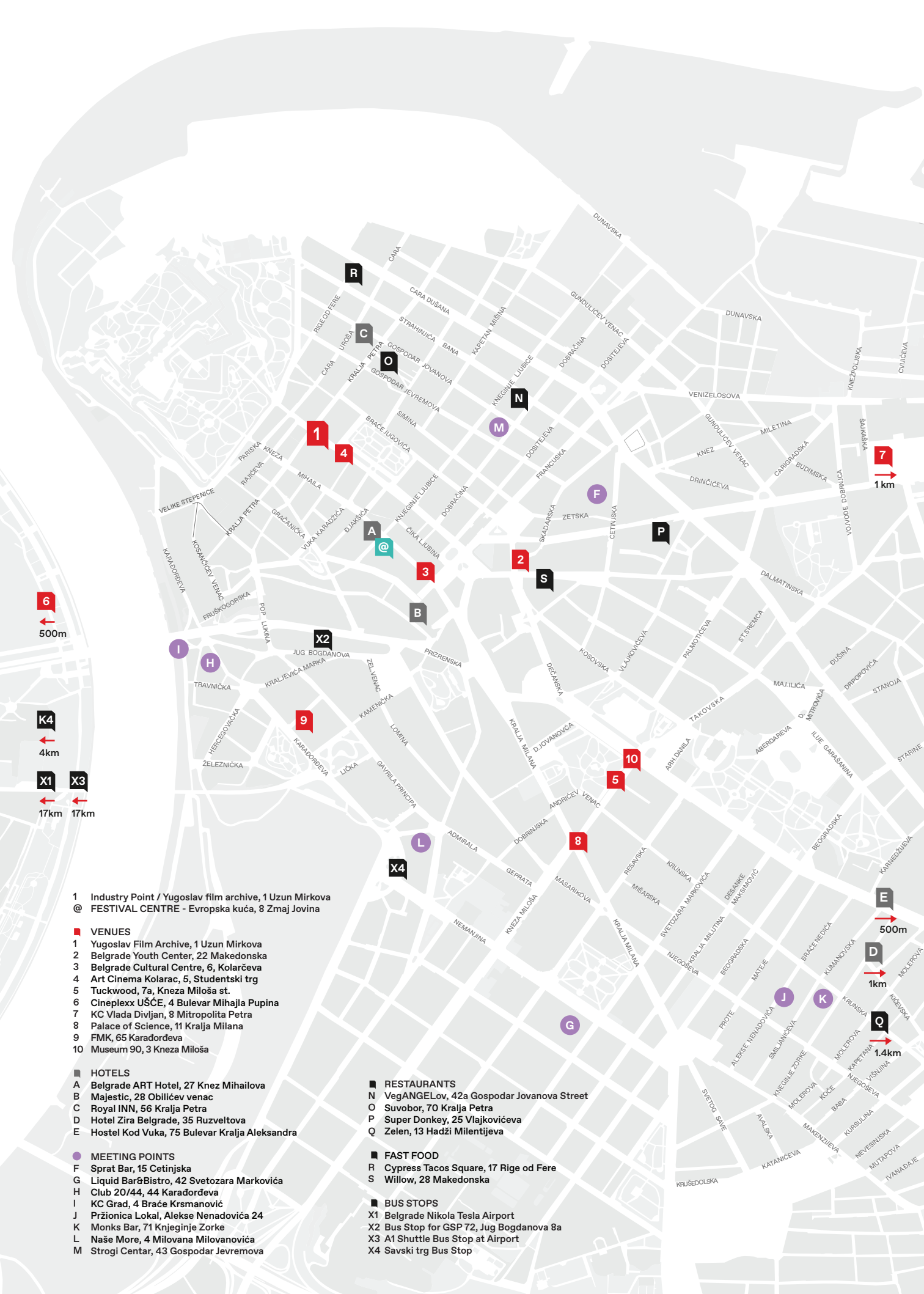
Community forms another key link between the realms of hope and documentary. Thus, we are deeply grateful to all of you for making the Beldocs Industry Days possible and for standing together in support of European talents and bringing their documentary stories into the light. At the same time, we feel deeply honored to share this trusted space at a time of growing distrust in media and institutions, when documentary film remains one of the few credible sources of truth, a tool for fostering inclusivity, and a vital vector for democracy.

Today, when content is produced and distributed at a dizzying pace, the documentary filmmaker's ability to devote time to thorough observation, research, discovery, and reflection on reality is becoming more valuable than ever, while also deepening our sensitivity to what transcends the reality we currently live in.

It is a joy to welcome you to Belgrade!



**MARA PROHASKA MARKOVIĆ**
BELDOCS DIRECTOR




1 Industry Point / Yugoslav film archive, 1 Uzun Mirkova
@ FESTIVAL CENTRE - Evropska kuća, 8 Zmaj Jovina

**VENUES**
1 Yugoslav Film Archive, 1 Uzun Mirkova
2 Belgrade Youth Center, 22 Makedonska
3 Belgrade Cultural Centre, 6, Kolarčeva
4 Art Cinema Kolarac, 5, Studentski trg
5 Tuckwood, 7a, Kneza Miloša st.
6 Cineplexx UŠĆE, 4 Bulevar Mihajla Pupina
7 KC Vlada Divljan, 8 Mitropolita Petra
8 Palace of Science, 11 Kralja Milana
9 FMK, 65 Karađorđeva
10 Museum 90, 3 Kneza Miloša

**HOTELS**
A Belgrade ART Hotel, 27 Knez Mihailova
B Majestic, 28 Obilićev venac
C Royal INN, 56 Kralja Petra
D Hotel Zira Belgrade, 35 Ruzveltova
E Hostel Kod Vuka, 75 Bulevar Kralja Aleksandra

**MEETING POINTS**
F Sprat Bar, 15 Cetinjska
G Liquid Bar&Bistro, 42 Svetozara Markovića
H Club 20/44, 44 Karađorđeva
I KC Grad, 4 Braće Krsmanović
J Pržionica Lokal, Alekse Nenadovića 24
K Monks Bar, 71 Knjeginje Zorke
L Naše More, 4 Milovana Milovanovića
M Strogi Centar, 43 Gospodar Jevremova

**RESTAURANTS**
N VegANGELov, 42a Gospodar Jovanova Street
O Suvobor, 70 Kralja Petra
P Super Donkey, 25 Vlajkovićeva
Q Zelen, 13 Hadži Milentijeva

**FAST FOOD**
R Cypress Tacos Square, 17 Rige od Fere
S Willow, 28 Makedonska

**BUS STOPS**
X1 Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport
X2 Bus Stop for GSP 72, Jug Bogdanova 8a
X3 A1 Shuttle Bus Stop at Airport
X4 Savski trg Bus Stop

# BELDOCS PITCHING FORUM & MARKET 2026 SCHEDULE

LOCATION

YUGOSLAV FILM ARCHIVE
Uzun Mirkova 1
Belgrade
and online

ALL TIMES ARE CET!

## THU 21 MAY

09.00 – 09.30
MEDITATION ROOM

9.30 – 13.00
PITCH PREPARATION WORKSHOP
@ Dušan Makavejev Hall

13.00 – 14.00
LUNCH

14.00 – 17.00
PITCH PREPARATION WORKSHOP
@ Dušan Makavejev Hall

17.30 – 18.00
MEDITATION ROOM - END OF THE DAY RESET

17.30 – 19.30
PRODUCERS MEET PRODUCERS
(by Invitation only)

20.30
DOC.CONNECT
(by Invitation only)

## FRI 22 MAY

09.00 – 09.30
MEDITATION ROOM - MORNING TUNE IN

09:30 – 11:45
BELDOCS PITCHING FORUM: BELDOCS IN DEVELOPMENT
@ Dušan Makavejev Hall

11.45 – 12.15
COFFEE BREAK

12.15 – 13.15
MASTERCLASS: FILMING LIFE AS IT HAPPENS
with Claire Simon
@ Dušan Makavejev Hall

13.30 – 14.30
LUNCH

14.30 – 17.15
BELDOCS PITCHING FORUM: BELDOCS IN PROGRESS
@ Dušan Makavejev Hall

17.30 – 18.00
Meditation Room - End of the Day Reset
@ Multimedia Hall

19.30
DOC.CONNECT
(by Invitation only)

## SAT 23 MAY

09.00 – 09.30
MEDITATION ROOM - MORNING TUNE IN
@ Multimedia Hall

09.30 – 11.30
ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS
@ Attic

12.00 – 13.00
PANEL: ANATOMY OF A COMMISSION: FROM PITCH TO PROGRAMME
@ Multimedia Hall

13.10 – 14.10
LUNCH

14.15 – 15.15
BELDOCS TALK: WHO IS YOUR DOCUMENTARY FOR? AUDIENCE DESIGN AS A CREATIVE STRATEGY FOR DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS
with Paul Rieth
@ Multimedia Hall

15.30 - 16.30
MASTERCLASS: REIMAGINING ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE
with Tomasz Wolski
@ Multimedia Hall

16.40 – 17.00
COFFEE BREAK

17.00 – 18.30
ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS

18.30 – 19.00
MEDITATION ROOM - END OF THE DAY RESET

20.00
BELDOCS INDUSTRY DAYS 2026 AWARD CEREMONY

# BALKAN YOUNG TALENTS

LOCATIONS

YUGOSLAV FILM ARCHIVE
Uzun Mirkova 1
Belgrade
and online

CINEMAS IN BELGRADE

ALL TIMES ARE CET!

## THU 21 MAY

14.00 – 15.00
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

15.00 – 16.30
A BLITZ OVERVIEW OF THE INVISIBLE - Lecture on the documentary film industry
Lecture by Boris Mitić

21.00 Film Recommendation
SOIL / BLACK SALT
@ DOB

## FRI 22 MAY

09.30 – 11.45
BELDOCS PITCHING FORUM: Beldocs in Development

11.45 – 12.15
COFFEE BREAK
@ Main hall

12.15 – 13.15
MASTERCLASS: FILMING LIFE AS IT HAPPENS
with Claire Simone
@ Dušan Makavejev hall

13.30 - 14.30
Lunch
@ Attic

14.30 – 17.00
BELDOCS PITCHING FORUM: Beldocs in Progress

19.30 Film Recommendation
PUNK UNDER COMMUNIST REGIME
@ DOB

## SAT 23 MAY

09.00 – 12.00
GROUP I FOCUS ON PARTICIPANT'S PROJECTS

12.00 – 13.00
BELDOCS PANEL: ANATOMY OF A COMMISSION: FROM PITCH TO PROGRAMME
@ Multimedia Hall

13.10 – 14.00
LUNCH

14.00 – 15.30
GROUP II FOCUS ON PARTICIPANT'S PROJECTS - 1ST PART

15.30 - 16.30
MASTERCLASS: REIMAGINING ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE
with Tomasz Wolski
@ Multimedia Hall

16.35 - 18.05
GROUP II FOCUS ON PARTICIPANT'S PROJECTS - Work with Mentor Boris Mitić

20.00
BELDOCS INDUSTRY DAYS 2026 AWARD CEREMONY

# BELDOCS XR ACADEMY

LOCATIONS

FACULTY
OF MEDIA
AND
COMMUNICATIONS
Karađorđeva 65

EUROPE HOUSE
Corner of Knez
Mihailova and Zmaj
Jovina
Belgrade

All times are
CET!

## THU 21 MAY

10.00 – 11.30
IMMERSIVE ECOSYSTEM: STATE OF THE ART OF CONTEMPORARY PRODUCTION

11.30 – 11.45
COFFEE BREAK

11.45 – 13.00
HOW TO PITCH: SHARED PRESENTATION PARTICIPANT PROJECTS

13.00 – 14.00
LUNCH

14.00 – 16.10
ONE TO ONE SESSIONS & VR LIBRARY

16.30 – 17.30 Parallel event
XR EXHIBITION & PLAYDOCS SHOWCASE VISIT
@ Palace of Science

## FRI 22 MAY

09.30 – 10.45
DOK LEIPZIG MEETINGS

11.00 – 12.30
GAYATRI PARMESAN: NOWHERE MEDIA ONLINE MASTERCLASS

12.30 – 13.30
LUNCH

13.30 – 16.00
ONE TO ONE SESSIONS
With Gayatri Parmesan

17.00 – 18.00
PLAY.DOCS TALK:
Alternative Controllers: Art, Electronics, and Creative Engineering
With Julia Makivic
@ The European House

18.00 – 19.00
PLAY.DOCS TALK:
Ecology of Archive
With Abner Preis
@ The European House

## SAT 23 MAY

10.00 – 11.30
THE ROAD MAP TO IMMERSIVE PRODUCTION: FUNDS AND DISTRIBUTION

11.45 – 13.00
ON THE EDGE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES:
An overview of current tools and technics

13.00 – 14.00
LUNCH

14.00 – 16.00
ONE TO ONE SESSIONS & VR LIBRARY

17.00 – 18.00
SOFT PITCH REHERSAL

20.00
BELDOCS INDUSTRY DAYS 2026 AWARD CEREMONY

# BELDOCS PITCHING FORUM

Beldocs Pitching Forum is a platform to present compelling and visually strong documentary projects in development (Beldocs in Development) and production/post-production (Beldocs in Progress) coming from Western Balkans, Baltic States, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, and to international industry representatives. In addition to the mentioned regions, we also invite projects from festival focus countries. In response to the ever-evolving global documentary landscape, we are also welcoming one outstanding project from the rest of the world.

## BELDOCS PITCHING FORUM

**Film Center of Montenegro Award**
**2000 EUR**

The Beldocs Industry Award by FCCG is granted to the authors of the best pitch of Beldocs in Development decided upon by an international jury consisting of industry representatives.

**Lightdox Award**
**1000 EUR**

Lightdox Award is awarded to the Beldocs in Progress project with the highest international potential at the showcase.

**Forgrade Post-production Award**

The most promising project will receive a post-production services package, allowing the producers to complete the film. The Forgrade Post-production Award includes full color correction and mastering services.*

**East Doc Award Presented by the Institute of Documentary Film**

East Doc Award supports promising documentary films from Central and Eastern Europe. The winning project receives a rough cut consultation with the Institute's specialists, offering focused feedback to help shape the film before its festival run.

**Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival Networking Award**

Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival will offer to the winner of the prize three nights of accommodation for the producer or the director and a free Industry accreditation to participate in the Agora Docs activities of the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival.

**Majordocs Talent Award**

One director will be awarded with accreditation and two nights of accommodation at the upcoming MajorDocs in October 2026.

**Ji.hlava New Visions Market Award**

Two industry accreditations for the 29th Ji.hlava IDFF and the selection of the awarded project to the Ji.hlava New Visions Market 2026.

**DAE – Documentary Association of Europe Talent Encouragement Award**

The DAE Award consists of free memberships for one year for the director(s) and producer(s) and a tailor-made consultancy session with DAE senior consultants. The prize is a talent encouragement award and offers access to the European documentary community.

**Impronta Films Consultancy Award**

The Impronta Films Award offers consultancy focused on strategic planning and international distribution for independent film projects.

*The in-kind services by Forgrade Post-production studio can only be used for the completion of the awarded project within a period of two years. It will not be possible to claim these services for a different project or to expect completion after May 2028. Requests for different types of post-production services will be considered individually, but cannot be guaranteed. Awarded in-kind services listed above that are not claimed cannot be interchanged or replaced. Our partners have the right to demand a specific quality level of the film material that is needed before services can be offered.

# BELDOCS IN DEVELOPMENT

## TUTOR



**JOVANA NIKOLIĆ**

Jovana Nikolić is a Serbian film producer and screenwriter with 20 years long experience in documentary film production. She is the main producer of documentary films *The Undertaker* (IDFA 2013), *The Caviar Connection* (IDFA 2008) and *National Park* (IDFA 2006), and a minority co-producer of the first Swiss-Serbian co-production *Real News* (Locarno 2021). She co-produced with ITVS International (US), Cognito Films (CH) and ARTE (DE), in association with Channel 4 (GB), SVT (SE), YLE (FI), NRK (NO) etc. Jovana is a Board member of Serbian Film Authors Organization - UFUS AFA Protection, and a founding member of DokSerbia - Association of Documentary Filmmakers of Serbia (where she served in 2017 as the President of the Board). Holds a PhD from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade, with focus on the management and production of documentary films. An EAVE, Eurodoc, Producers on the Move and Berlinale Talents alumna, and an associate professor at Academy of Arts in Belgrade.

## MODERATOR



**MARTICHKA BOZHILOVA**

Producer of AGITPROP, Bulgaria. Her high-end author-driven films have been selected and awarded at Cannes, Berlin, IDFA, Toronto, Sundance, Tribeca, Pusan and many others, and broadcast all over the world. Producer of *Father's Day* high-end drama series for Bulgarian National Television and co-producer of *Operation Sabre* (TV series, Cannes series 2024). Producer of *The Cars We Drove into Capitalism* (Dok Leipzig 2021, CPH: Dox 2022) and *A Provincial Hospital* (Karlovy Vary, Cristal Globe Competition 2022). Director of *Balkan Documentary Center*, the institution behind the acclaimed training initiatives – BDC Discoveries,Docu Rough Cut Boutique, organized in collaboration with Sarajevo Film Festival and Balkan Watchers. Director of Sofia DocuMental Film Festival. Member of the European Producer's Club.

# JURY



**ERKKO LYYTINEN**

Erkko Lyytinen (52) holds a MA in Film Studies. He is currently a Commissioning Editor at Yle – The Finnish Broadcasting Company, focusing on domestic and international feature-length documentaries and series. From spring 2026, he will take on a new role at Yle responsible for current affairs and feature length international premium documentaries. Previously, he produced numerous TV series and documentaries for Yle Factual Department. As Artistic Director of DocPoint – Helsinki Documentary Film Festival and with a filmmaker's background, his own works have received international awards at Leipzig Film Festival and Visions du Réel.



**JASMINA VIGNJEVIĆ**

Jasmina Vignjević is the Head of Sales & Acquisitions at Verità Films (formerly Syndicado Film Sales). Since joining the company in October 2016, she has led festival strategy and managed international rights for acclaimed titles such as Taming the Garden. Following the agency's 2025 rebranding, she has been central to the strategic transition toward a specialized, documentary-only slate. Jasmina holds a B.A. in Communications and is based in Europe.



**SARA GLASSBERG**

Sara Glassberg, a Fund Coordinator at the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program for 3 years, previously worked at Tribeca and NYFF in artist relations & services, and at the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival across community engagement, film submissions & selection, ancillary program curation, and logistics & hospitality coordination for talent & guest speakers. Earlier in her career, Sara also worked in independent film distribution doing educational sales and grassroots marketing & outreach.

# BELDOCS IN DEVELOPMENT LIST

**A GUIDE TO GRIEF**
Latvia

**ALL-SEEING EYS OF GOD**
Azerbaijan, Ukraine, USA

**CHASING THE DREAM**
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia

**FLORAL CLEATS**
North Macedonia

**HAUNTED: A GHOST MOVIE ABOUT FAMILY ESTRANGEMENT**
Canada

**IMPORT/EXPORT MD**
Moldova

**IS ANDRÁS ALRIGHT?**
Hungary

**RITA**
Lithuania

**SILENCE OF THE CLASSROOM**
Montenegro

**WHEN I WAKE UP ONE MORNING**
Slovenia

**Country**
Latvia





**IVARS ZVIEDRIS**
DIRECTOR / PRODUCER

Ivars Zviedris is a renowned Latvian documentary filmmaker, cinematographer, and producer. He is the founder and director of the documentary film studio Documentarian, known for its bold, observational storytelling. His recent works include *Documentarian* (2012), *Latvian Coyote* (2019), *See You Never Ever* (2022), *Bach vs Covid* (2022), *Gravediggers* (2023), and *Faithful Unto Death* (2024).



**HARALDS OZOLS**
CO-AUTHOR / CO-DIRECTOR

Haralds Ozols is a film director, screenwriter, cinematographer, and editor with over a decade of experience in documentary film. In collaboration with the studio Documentarian and director Ivars Zviedris, he has contributed as cinematographer and editor to several acclaimed feature documentaries, including *Latvian Coyote* (2019), *Bach vs Covid* (2022), *Faithful Unto Death* (2024) and others.

DOCUMENTARIAN is a documentary film studio from Latvia that specialises in developing custom-tailored projects. Studio work includes acclaimed documentaries such as *Documentarian* (2012), *Lumberjacks* (2017), *Latvian Coyote* (2019), *See You Never Ever* (2022) and *Faithful Unto Death* (2024), among others. The studio frequently collaborates with public service broadcaster Latvian Television (LTV).

# A GUIDE TO GRIEF

**Shortly before Christmas 2024, documentary filmmaker Ivars Zviedris experiences a profound personal loss: the death of his youngest daughter, Anna Roze. Without any intention of making a film, he invites his long-time documentary partner Haralds to document her final Christmas at the church - an act of grief, not art. As condolences and advice pour in from people near and far, Ivars is confronted not only with compassion but also with the opportunism of public attention. These encounters - helpful and hurtful alike - become a constant reminder of the irreversible. Faced with this reality, Ivars sees only two options: run from the pain or express it. He chooses to document it - an attempt not just to cope, but to offer something meaningful to others walking a similar path. Gradually, documenting grief becomes a form of cinematic therapy.**

**Original language**
Latvian
**Length**
70 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2027
**Production company**
Documentarian

**Total budget (in EUR)**
99.991

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
National Film Centre of Latvia 71.921
Self-funding for development 4.500

**Looking for**
Co-producers, Festivals, Sales agents, Broadcaster, Funds, Mentorship on Impact campaigns

**Contact information**
**dokumentalists@gmail.com**

**Country**
Azerbaijan, Ukraine, USA





**IMAM HASANOV**
DIRECTOR

Imam Hasanov is an Azerbaijani filmmaker and founder of the DokuBaku International Documentary Film Festival, the country's first independent documentary platform. His work explores identity, truth, and unseen layers of human experience, viewing cinema as both witnessing and spiritual reflection—a bridge between the visible and invisible, the personal and the cosmic.



**POLINA HERMAN**
PRODUCER

Polina Herman is a Ukrainian-born film producer and founder of UP UA Studio (Kyiv) and UP USA Studio (Los Angeles). She works in documentary and fiction film production, cultural programming, and international co-productions. She is a member of major film academies and guilds and has been based in Los Angeles since 2022.

UP UA STUDIO is a Ukrainian film company founded in 2016 by producer Polina Herman. It creates short and feature-length fiction and documentary films for festivals and wide audiences, offers full-cycle production services, develops audiovisual projects, and organizes events promoting Ukrainian cinema.

# ALL-SEEING EYE OF GOD

**Set in contemporary Baku, *All-Seeing Eye of God* unfolds between the visible and the unseen. It follows Araz, a young café owner torn between family duty and an inner pull toward mysterious signs. Leaving his ordinary life behind, he sets out on a transcendent journey with his stray dog, Rasta. Moving through dreamlike spaces, symbolic encounters, and fragments of collective memory, his path becomes a poetic reflection of humanity's enduring search for identity, destiny, and the divine. Blending documentary realism with metaphysical inquiry, the film weaves real participants and archetypal presences into a hybrid cinematic experience that questions what it means to perceive—and to be seen—by a higher consciousness.**

**Original language**
Azerbaijani, English, Russian, Turkish, Persian
**Length**
70 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2027
**Production company**
UP UA STUDIO

**Total budget (in EUR)**
223.200

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
Own investments 4.000

**Looking for**
Co-producers, Festivals, Sales agents, Broadcaster, Funds

**Contact information**
**polinaupua@gmail.com**

**Country**
Bosnia and
Herzegovina, Serbia





**ALEKSANDRA MITRIĆ-ŠTIFANIĆ**
DIRECTOR / PRODUCER

Aleksandra Mitrić-Štifanić holds a degree in Film and TV Production from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade, and a master's degree in the Art of Documentaries. She is the author and producer of numerous international film and TV projects, and has worked as an educator and jury member at international workshops and festivals. She is the head of the International Film Festival Prvi kadar.



**MATIJA ŠTIFANIĆ**
CO-DIRECTOR

Matija Štifanić is a cinematography student from Belgrade. His work spans filmmaking, documentary cinema, and photography. He has presented his projects and films and has participated in numerous international film festivals, including Beldocs IDFF, MakeDox, and IDFA. He is a member of the Documentary Association of Europe. His work in film and visual arts has been recognized with multiple awards, and he has also taken part in various photography festivals and exhibitions. He is currently developing two feature documentary film projects.

PRVI KADAR production company actively focuses on cinema, as well as the production and post-production of audiovisual works. Prvi kadar is also the organizer of the International Film Festival Prvi kadar, held in East Sarajevo and Zvornik since 2007, bringing together regional and international filmmakers and showcasing notable film achievements.

# CHASING THE DREAM

**The author follows her fifteen-year-old son Vasa, who dreams of joining Bayern Munich's youth Academy. Despite limited financial resources, rare chances to play in his club's matches and a tough world of politics and corruption incorporated in Serbia's football and in general, he does not give up. While his family cannot provide everything he needs, they offer unconditional support and faith in his dream. This emotional, personal story asks: can passion and determination turn a dream into reality?**

**Original language**
Serbian, German
**Length**
75 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2027
**Production company**
Prvi kadar

**Total budget (in EUR)**
193.000

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
Audio-Visual Center of the Republic of Srpska 5.000

**Looking for**
Co-producers, Funds

**Contact information**
**prvikadar@yahoo.com**

**Country**
North Macedonia





**ALEKSANDRA KARDALEVSKA**
DIRECTOR

Aleksandra Kardalevska is a Macedonian film and theater director. She holds a Ph.D. in Cinema from Istanbul University (2021). Her short films — *The Woman in Purple* (2017), *The Script* (2023) and *Frame of Mind* (2024) — have screened at over 100 international festivals and received more than 30 awards. She has also worked as an assistant director on international feature films.



**ONUR OZCAN**
PRODUCER

Onur Ozcan is a producer and writer working at the intersection of auteur cinema and international co-productions. His projects focus on bold, character-driven storytelling with a distinct artistic vision. He has extensive experience in television, including docu-drama series for TRT, and works distributed on platforms such as Amazon Prime.

ALKA FILMS is an independent production company based in Skopje, founded by director and producer Aleksandra Kardalevska. Focused on auteur-driven cinema, it develops and produces fiction and documentary projects with a strong visual identity, exploring themes of identity, memory, and social transformation.

# FLORAL CLEATS

*Floral Cleats* follows two teenage girls from the Juruk community in rural Macedonia, where tobacco fields shape both landscape and destiny. Raised in a deeply conservative environment, they quietly challenge expectations by forming a football team — an act that unsettles family traditions and gender roles alike. Balancing domestic labor, interrupted education, and exhausting training sessions, football becomes a fragile space of freedom and solidarity. Wearing floral dresses transformed into improvised uniforms, their bodies carry the weight of both tradition and rebellion. Filmed through an intimate observational approach, with moments of participatory presence, the documentary captures doubts, resistance, and shared joy as the girls prepare for their first opportunity to play beyond the village — a professional match in the city.

**Original language**
Turkish, Macedonian
**Length**
85 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2027
**Production company**
Alka Films

**Total budget (in EUR)**
100.000

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
Macedonian Film Agency and Alka Films 40.000

**Looking for**
Co-producers, Festivals, Funds

**Contact information**
honoreozz@gmail.com

**Country**
Canada





**LAURENCE OLIVIER**
DIRECTOR

Laurence Olivier is a Canadian filmmaker and author. She has directed five award-winning short films, including *Summer 2000* (2023), which has received critical praise worldwide. Her first novel was adapted for the screen by Denis Côté (Ghost Town Anthology). Her documentary work is inspired by both experimental cinema and genre movies. HAUNTED will be her first feature.



**AUDREY-ANN DUPIUS-PIERRE**
PRODUCER

Audrey-Ann Dupuis-Pierre is a documentary producer based in Montreal. To date, she has produced nine feature films, including Annie St-Pierre's *Le Plein potentiel* (SXSW, RIDM), Zaynê Akyol's *Rojek* (Visions du Réel, Doc NYC) and Emilie Serri's *Damascus Dreams* (Prix FIPRESCI, FNC). In 2023, *Rojek* represented Canada in the race for Best International Feature Film at the Oscars.

PORTAGE is a Montreal based production company devoted to author driven films and art videos. Ongoing projects are directed by Carol Nguyen, Yasmine Mathurin, Patrick Bossé and Julien Faraut. *Damascus Dreams* (2021) from Émilie Serri premiered at International Film Festival Rotterdam and won the Fipresci Prize from Festival du Nouveau Cinema.

# HAUNTED:
# A GHOST MOVIE ABOUT FAMILY ESTRANGEMENT

*Family is everything. Family is forever.* What are you left with, then, if you have to leave it? Are you haunting your family? Or is your family haunting you?... *HAUNTED* uses *paranormal* sightings to immerse us in the experience of family estrangement, a growing social phenomenon yet taboo subject. The people we leave behind or who leave us continue to haunt us: although they haven't completely disappeared, they remain out of reach. *HAUNTED* documents the scars caused by these ruptures – the presences left behind by absences. Here, the outcasts do the talking: by giving voice to those who have cut ties with their families as well as those left behind, the documentary will focus on the aftermath of estrangement. The film's interest is not in assigning blame, but in revealing the unquestioned, often unnoticed social function of family.

**Original language**
French, English
**Length**
70 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2027
**Production company**
PORTAGE

**Total budget (in EUR)**
124.000

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
1.000

**Looking for**
Festivals, Sales agents, Funds

**Contact information**
**olivier.laurence.2@gmail.com / aadp@portagefilms.ca**

**Country**
Moldova





**MAX T. CIORBA**
DIRECTOR

Max T. Ciorbă has directed several films in Moldova and Romania with a strong focus on identity, heritage, and cultural transitions. Currently, he teaches Documentary Directing and Film Editing at the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts, where he is also pursuing a PhD in Documentary Film. His work is marked by a poetic visual language and a commitment to social relevance.



**SERGIU SCOBIOALA**
PRODUCER

Sergiu Scobioala is a Moldovan film and TV producer with over 15 years of experience in media, content development, and project management. He is the founder of Realitatea Film, focusing on high-impact narratives and international co-productions. An EAVE Change alumnus, he has presented projects at CPH:FORUM, IMZ Avant Premiere, Heart of Europe Warsaw, and NEM Zagreb.

REALITATEA FILM is an independent production company based in Moldova, focused on developing and producing feature films and creative documentaries, with both local relevance and international appeal. Founded as a sister entity of Realitatea Media Group, the company leverages strong editorial resources, local partnerships, and regional storytelling expertise.

# IMPORT/EXPORT MD

**Max studies the medical system in Moldova to understand the fissures that led to his father's unexpected death. He discovers an unusual group: doctors who practice stand-up comedy. Ion moves between the operating room and stage with complete presence in each role. Pavel and Eugen abandoned medicine for comedy, while Dumitru left for Romania. Each embodies a different survival strategy amid exhaustion. The film follows these double lives with sincerity, observing how humor becomes resistance against systemic absurdity. But as Max documents the doctors' reality, he becomes a patient. Diagnosed with ulcerative colitis, the director enters directly into what he was observing from outside. He seeks a second opinion in Bucharest, accidentally mapping discrepancies between two systems. The film offers no answers, but explores an open question: what happens when the observer becomes the patient?**

**Original language**
Romanian
**Length**
90 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2026
**Production company**
Realitatea Film

**Total budget (in EUR)**
137.000

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
24.000

**Looking for**
Co-producers, Festivals, Broadcaster

**Contact information**
**scobioala.s@gmail.com**

**Country**
Hungary





**ADAM MIKLÓS**
DIRECTOR

Adam Miklós is a documentary filmmaker, cinematographer, and co-founder of Arrabona Studio. An MA graduate of St Andrews and University of Theatre and Film Arts DLA candidate, he focuses on human-centered narratives. His latest film Beyond Rock Bottom earned a Special Prize at the 2024 Warsaw Film Festival. He is a member of the Hungarian Film Academy.



**EDINA CSÜLLÖG**
PRODUCER

Edina Csüllög is an Estonian based Hungarian producer, focusing on documentaries and short animation films. Graduated at the Baltic Film and Media School, Tallinn. Her award winning documentaries are *Lembri Uudu* and *Sundial* from Estonia. Besides producing, she is the director of the Finno-Ugric Film festival which focuses on indigenous audiovisual works.

The project is a Hungarian-Estonian co-production by Arrabona Studio, AMG Productions, and Undi Teod.

# IS ANDRÁS ALRIGHT?

**A theater falls silent as my cousin Zsolti steps into the spotlight. His raw, fractured dance is the spine of our film—a space where family trauma is exposed. When my father calls in 2023 to report András's death, the shock uncovers a legacy of silence and denial. Returning to old recordings, I find that my *happy* childhood was Zsolti's reality of fear. To understand what happened, Zsolti takes on his dead brother's role on stage. As my wife and I start a new life, the film becomes a risky confrontation with our inheritance. *Is András Alright?* is a feature documentary exploring transgenerational trauma through ballet, asking if a family can finally break free from inherited silence.**

**Original language**
Hungarian
**Length**
90 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2027
**Production company**
Arrabona Studio / AMG Productions / Undi Teod

**Total budget (in EUR)**
140.000

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
49.000

**Looking for**
Festivals, Sales agents, Broadcaster, Funds

**Contact information**
**sara.kisari@gmail.com**

**Country**
Lithuania





**GAILĖ GARNELYTĖ**
DIRECTOR

Gailė Garnelytė is a screenwriter and filmmaker, graduated from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. She has worked on short films, TV series and documentaries, including the IDFA Best Student Film winner Final Destination. Her short films *The Robot* and *The Butterfly* screened at 30+ festivals. She completed her debut feature *In Passing* in 2025 and is now developing *RITA*.



**AKVILĖ ŽILIONYTĖ**
PRODUCER

Akvilė Žilionytė is a Lithuanian film producer with a background in literature and film directing. She is an alumna of EURODOC (2015), ESODOC (2020) and IDFA Academy. She has produced over ten short films screened at international festivals, including Jihlava IDFF and Vilnius FF, and released her first feature documentary in 2025.

Vilnius-based ARTIŠOKAI was founded in 2017. The company has produced over ten short films screened at international festivals, including Jihlava IDFF, Hamburg Short FF and Vilnius FF. In 2025, it released its first feature documentary and is currently developing 4 more feature projects.

# RITA

**Rita (37) is a mother of three living in social housing in Švenčionėliai, Lithuania. Born with cerebral palsy and raised in poverty and violence, she has spent her life overcoming hardship. After her husband's suicide, Rita is left to raise her children alone: her daughter Gabrielė (15) has dropped out of school, while her sons Dovydas (13) and Arnas (10) spend most of their time on the streets. Seeking stability, Rita enters a relationship with Voldemaras (37), a man imprisoned for murder and released on weekends. As the relationship becomes unsafe for her children, she makes the difficult decision to leave him and rebuild her family. Determined to change her life, Rita begins studying social work. Despite setbacks, she holds on to hope — believing she can break the cycle of poverty and create a safer, more stable future for her children.**

**Original language**
Lithuanian, Russian
**Length**
70 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2027
**Production company**
ARTIŠOKAI

**Total budget (in EUR)**
120.000

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
5.000

**Looking for**
Co-producers, Festivals, Sales agents, Broadcaster, Funds

**Contact information**
**akvilezilionyte@gmail.com**

**Country**
Montenegro




# SILENCE OF THE CLASSROOM



**ISIDORA BULATOVIĆ**
DIRECTOR

Isidora is a Serbian director and screenwriter, a graduate of the Academy of Arts in Belgrade. She worked on *Next to You* (2023) and *Next to Us* (2024) and directed short films shown at international festivals including Sarajevo Youth Film Festival, FeKK Ljubljana and several others. Her work often explores identity and perception, with *Dysmorphia* (2022) developed at the Ateliers Varan workshop.



**JASMINA KARAJLOVIĆ**
PRODUCER

Jasmina Karajlović is a film producer working across documentary and fiction, focused on concept-driven projects and international collaboration. Her documentary *One Man Avalanche* (2025) achieved strong regional festival success. Her projects have been supported at international industry platforms. Based in Berlin, she is developing a production platform in Montenegro.

BRIDGE & BEYOND is a newly established production company focused on developing concept-driven film projects across documentary and fiction. Working between the Balkans and international partners, it supports projects from early idea to realization, fostering collaborations that connect local perspectives with global audiences.

**In a remote northern Montenegro village, eight-year-old Nikola is the only pupil left in the local elementary school. His days are filled with the silence of an empty classroom and thoughtful conversations with his teacher, while outside, nature whispers its own stories. Though surrounded by quiet and emptiness, Nikola's imagination brings to life the sounds of play and laughter he can no longer hear. Through his eyes, we witness a quiet struggle to stay connected to knowledge, play and imagination through animation. The film explores loneliness, resilience and endurance, portraying Nikola as a symbol of children who resist being forgotten and remain beacons of hope. A tribute to the little fighters who, despite silence around them, bravely preserve their right to learn, play and dream.**

**Original language**
Serbian
**Length**
75 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2027
**Production company**
Bridge & Beyond

**Total budget (in EUR)**
220.000

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
In kind 11.000

**Looking for**
Co-producers, Sales agents, Broadcaster, Funds

**Contact information**
**jasmina@bridgeandbeyond.me**

**Country**
Slovenia




# WHEN I WAKE UP ONE MORNING

*When I Wake Up One Morning* is a documentary drawing on the widely known song *Bella Ciao* to link the disparate fates of women. By entering their intimate lives, the film sees the contents of the song reflected in today's reality. Though coming from various countries in the Balkans, what the protagonists have in common is their daily battle for survival. To provide additional insight into fragile human fates, which have been and remain part of our immediate and wider universe, the film also connects with the past, symbolically travelling into the time and place of the song's creation, to meet mondine, female workers on Italian rice paddies. One of the songs these women used to sing was *Bella Ciao*. All the women's stories ultimately come together in a poignant vision, regardless of time and place, yet burning with longing and hope. Just like *Bella Ciao*, since it was written.

**Original language**
Slovenian, Macedonian, Serbian, Romanian, Greek, Italian, Bulgarian
**Length**
75 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2027
**Production company**
BLADE PRODUCTION

**Total budget (in EUR)**
260.000

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
Slovenian Film Center, RTV SLO national TV, Maribor Municipality, Blade and Makus 116.000

**Looking for**
Co-producers, Festivals, Sales agents, Broadcaster, Funds



**BOJAN LABOVIĆ**
DIRECTOR

Bojan Labović is a director and scriptwriter with an MA from the FAMU film school. His filmography includes more than 60 short and medium-length film and TV titles, most notably *Partisan Priest* and short fiction film *The Bull*. It was selected in many festivals worldwide. He has received both domestic and international awards for his work.



**ZORAN DŽEVERDANOVIĆ**
PRODUCER

Zoran Dževerdanović is the founder of Blade Production and an Emerging Producers alumnus. He focuses on bold new voices, genre-defying films, and socially engaged international films. With four features and ten shorts produced, all awarded and distributed globally, he is dedicated to bringing authentic and high-impact stories to audiences through creative international collaborations.

BLADE PRODUCTION, founded in 2012 in Ljubljana, produces high-end independent films with global reach. Their filmography has earned accolades at premier festivals like Berlinale, Oberhausen, Sarajevo, including Student Academy Award Finalist and Oscar-shortlisted titles. Blade remains committed to producing authentic, provocative films with strong international potential.

**Contact information**
**info@bladeproduction.com**

# BELDOCS IN PROGRESS

## TUTOR



**JOVANA NIKOLIĆ**

Jovana Nikolić is a Serbian film producer and screenwriter with 20 years long experience in documentary film production. She is the main producer of documentary films *The Undertaker* (IDFA 2013), *The Caviar Connection* (IDFA 2008) and *National Park* (IDFA 2006), and a minority co-producer of the first Swiss-Serbian co-production *Real News* (Locarno 2021). She co-produced with ITVS International (US), Cognito Films (CH) and ARTE (DE), in association with Channel 4 (GB), SVT (SE), YLE (FI), NRK (NO) etc. Jovana is a Board member of Serbian Film Authors Organization - UFUS AFA Protection, and a founding member of DokSerbia - Association of Documentary Filmmakers of Serbia (where she served in 2017 as the President of the Board). Holds a PhD from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade, with focus on the management and production of documentary films. An EAVE, Eurodoc, Producers on the Move and Berlinale Talents alumna, and an associate professor at Academy of Arts in Belgrade.

## MODERATOR



**CEM ÖZTÜFEKÇI**

Born in 1985 in Anatolia, based in Belgrade. Studied filmmaking (BA) and Philosophy (MA) in Istanbul. Directed two internationally acclaimed short films. Worked and still works as an executive producer, editing consultant, editor, pre-selector, industry head for international films and films festivals. He co-edited *Wongar* (2018) by Andrijana Stojković. Worked as the Head of Industry at Beldocs International Documentary Festival (2018-2020) and participated as a jury member for the international competition of Festival dei Popoli (2019) among many other jury duties internationally. Full time parent of two kids since 2020.

# JURY



**ERKKO LYYTINEN**

Erkko Lyytinen (52) holds a MA in Film Studies. He is currently a Commissioning Editor at Yle – The Finnish Broadcasting Company, focusing on domestic and international feature-length documentaries and series. From spring 2026, he will take on a new role at Yle responsible for current affairs and feature length international premium documentaries. Previously, he produced numerous TV series and documentaries for Yle Factual Department. As Artistic Director of DocPoint – Helsinki Documentary Film Festival and with a filmmaker's background, his own works have received international awards at Leipzig Film Festival and Visions du Réel.



**JASMINA VIGNJEVIĆ**

Jasmina Vignjević is the Head of Sales & Acquisitions at Verità Films (formerly Syndicado Film Sales). Since joining the company in October 2016, she has led festival strategy and managed international rights for acclaimed titles such as Taming the Garden. Following the agency's 2025 rebranding, she has been central to the strategic transition toward a specialized, documentary-only slate. Jasmina holds a B.A. in Communications and is based in Europe.



**SARA GLASSBERG**

Sara Glassberg, a Fund Coordinator at the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program for 3 years, previously worked at Tribeca and NYFF in artist relations & services, and at the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival across community engagement, film submissions & selection, ancillary program curation, and logistics & hospitality coordination for talent & guest speakers. Earlier in her career, Sara also worked in independent film distribution doing educational sales and grassroots marketing & outreach.

# BELDOCS IN PROGRESS LIST

ARMOR, RUST AND POWER
Lithuania

CONFESSIONS OF A FEMALE GAMER
Bulgaria, UK and Germany

GUARDIANS OF THE RUINS
Serbia

I WAS TOLD TO SAVE THE WORLD
Serbia, Croatia

IP DIP SKY BLUE
Georgia

KRUNK
Turkey, Armenia

NEW LIFE
Croatia

SILENCE OF THE ESTUARIES
Ukraine

SYMBOLS OF WAR
Serbia, Croatia

THE ESCAPE
Ukraine

**Country**
Lithuania





**ANDRIUS LEKAVICIUS**
**DIRECTOR / PRODUCER**

Andrius Lekavicius (born 1984 in Vilnius, Lithuania) is a multifaceted storyteller known for weaving compelling narratives across documentary features, docuseries, and commercial productions. An alumnus of Berlinale Talents and IDFAcademy, he has built a track record of films and series that connect with broad audiences.

CINEMA CARTEL (Všį 360 Laipsnių Filmai) is a Lithuanian production company where documentary meets interactive storytelling. The company is based in Vilnius and produces a variety of immersive and engaging stories for a broad audience. Led by Lithuanian audiovisual storyteller Andrius Lekavicius.

# ARMOR, RUST AND POWER

**In *Armor, Rust and Power*, two worlds collide in the global, multi-billion-dollar scene of tank collecting. On one side is Dan Starks, a retired American billionaire who is pouring his fortune into building the world's largest working tank museum in rural Wyoming. On the other is Naglis Vilbikas – a Lithuanian technology teacher, scraping together rusty parts in the hope of restoring just one tank from scratch. Inspired by Mark Twain's The Prince and the Pauper, the film contrasts wealth-driven ambition with raw determination, questioning what truly makes a man feel valued in a world in which traditional masculinity finds itself on shifting ground.**

**Original language**
English, Lithuanian
**Length**
90 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2026
**Production company**
Cinema Cartel (Všį 360 Laipsnių Filmai)

**Total budget (in EUR)**
280.500

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
Lithuanian Film Center (Development) 16.500
Lithuanian Film Center (Tax Incentives) 113.500
Producer's investment 70.000

**Looking for**
Co-producers, Festivals, Sales agents

**Contact information**
**andrius@cinemacartel.eu**

**Country**
Bulgaria, UK and Germany





**DOLYA GAVANSKI**
DIRECTOR

Award-winning filmmaker and actor working across screen, stage, radio and video games. Her last multi-awarded feature documentary, which she directed, wrote, produced and narrated — *Women's Day* — has been distributed internationally, theatrically and on TV. Dolya leads Thea Films, an independent production company.



**MARTICHKA BOZHILOVA**
PRODUCER

Martichka Bozhilova's high-end author driven films have been awarded at many notable festivals, such as Cannes, Berlin, IDFA, Toronto, Sundance, Tribeca, Pusan and are broadcasted globally. She is a jury member, lecturer, Director of Sofia DocuMental FF, and member of the European Producer's Club. This is her second collaboration with Dolya, who has also produced films and social impact cultural projects.

THEA FILMS, established in London and later in Varna, produces human-focused, character-driven films with a strong social pulse, with a particular emphasis on creative documentaries. AGITPROP is a well-known production company which has produced a number of films, mainly author-driven documentaries, often in co-production with leading global broadcasters.

# CONFESSIONS OF A FEMALE GAMER

**An actress, reluctantly cast as the voice of the main character (a powerful warrior queen) in a smash-hit video game, becomes an unlikely heroine for female gamers around the world – and uncovers the battles unfolding in their lives.**

**Original language**
English, Bulgarian, Finnish, German and Samoan
**Length**
80 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2027
**Production company**
THEA FILMS / AGITPROP

**Total budget (in EUR)**
495.200

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
250.000

**Looking for**
Festivals, Sales agents, Broadcaster, Funds

**Contact information**
**info@theafilms.com**

**Country**
Serbia





**MARIJA STANOJEVIĆ**
DIRECTOR

**Marija Stanojević is a screenwriter, director and a cultural manager. She creates experimental and short film formats. She has worked as a screenwriter on three fiction TV series. Her short documentary *The Gambler Never Loses* premiered at AJB DOC in Sarajevo. She is also the founder and organizer of the Reflection of Terror Horror Film Festival.**



**MIHAJLO VITEZOVIĆ**
PRODUCER

**Mihajlo Vitezović is a screenwriter, director, and producer. His work includes fiction, documentary, and experimental films, including the award-winning shorts *Memento Mori* and *The Mandela Effect*, feature documentaries such as *Tito and film* and *Oflag XIII-B*. He is a co-founder of Revolt Studio and the Reflection of Terror, and a teaching associate at the Academy of Arts in Belgrade.**

REVOLT STUDIO was founded in 2019 with the idea of creating films with unconventional and thought-provoking themes. Award-winning titles include: *MEMENTO MORI* (short fiction): Student Cuts Zagreb, Eurasia Film Fest Moscow, *Key to Film*, First Frame Sarajevo; *OFLAG XIII-B* (feature doc, co-produced with Zastava Film), Award: *Ralph Richardson*, Saint Andrews Film Festival.

# GUARDIANS OF THE RUINS

***Guardians of the Ruins* explores abandoned industrial sites and war-damaged buildings through the lives of people who inhabit, guard, or appropriate them. The film follows a night watchman whose workplace has become his refuge and home, a Roma family living illegally inside a ruined complex before being forcibly removed, and artists who reclaim abandoned factories as cultural spaces. These ruins stand as monuments to economic collapse, political neglect, and social invisibility, while simultaneously offering shelter, freedom, or creative rebirth.**
**The film moves from decay and nostalgia toward an optimistic vision of renewal, questioning how we treat spaces that are no longer *useful* and what responsibility we have toward both the ruins and the people living within them.**

**Original language**
Serbian
**Length**
90 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2026
**Production company**
Revolt Studio

**Total budget (in EUR)**
28.000

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
Self-financing and in-kind contributions 11.000

**Looking for**
Co-producers, Sales agents, Funds

**Contact information**
**stanojevic.marija@gmail.com / najtovic@gmail.com**

**Country**
Serbia, Croatia




# I WAS TOLD TO SAVE THE WORLD

**Vesna lives in a shelter with 300 rescued animals and the alpha granny who raised her. Facing the weight of hard work and a broken system, she is caught between the need to save the world and the desire to save herself.**

**Original language**
Serbian
**Length**
80 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2027
**Production company**
zenit.films

**Total budget (in EUR)**
156.830

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
18.770

**Looking for**
Co-producers, Broadcaster, Funds



**HANA PIŠČEVIĆ**
DIRECTOR

Hana Piščević (1996) is a writer & film director. She studied at FMK. Her short films premiered at festivals including Brest, Martovski, Prague Indie. She is Sarajevo Talents alumni. She writes for Nedeljnik and is the author of two novels *Pogledaj plavi avion* & *Igračka-plačka*.



**NEBOJŠA RESANOVIĆ**
DIRECTOR

Nebojša Resanović (1994) is a film director and skater from Serbia. After graduating in Plant Protection, he pursued Film Directing at FDU. His film *Under the Pear Tree* premiered at Free Zone Festival.



**SAVINA SMEDEREVAC**
PRODUCER

Savina Smederevac holds BA and MA degrees in Film and TV Production from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade. She is an alumna of Sarajevo Talents, IDFA Academy, MIDPOINT Institute. She produced *Smell of Fresh Paint* (d. N. Petrović) that won the Heart of Sarajevo for Best Student Film 2024, and *When They Bloom* (d. G. Ilić) that premiered at POFF Shorts.

ZENIT.FILMS is a boutique production house dedicated to new approaches in short and feature filmmaking.

**Contact information**
smederevacsavina@gmail.com

**Country**
Georgia





**NINO LOMADZE**
DIRECTOR

Award-winning journalist and researcher transitioning into documentary filmmaking, focused on the intersection of human rights and collective memory. As the Editor-in-Chief of Indigo Media, she has spent over a decade leading cross-disciplinary teams to translate complex socio-political data into visual storytelling.



**GVANTSA NADIBAIDZE**
PRODUCER

Gvantsa Nadibaidze is a producer and video journalist based in Georgia. She has worked on dozens of video projects, including short documentaries and experimental films. Her work blends journalistic storytelling with observational and socially engaged approaches to documentary, and she has developed and led educational and creative initiatives in documentary filmmaking for children across Georgia.

INDIGO PRODUCTION is a Georgian production company focused on socially engaged documentary filmmaking.

# IP DIP SKY BLUE

*Ip Dip Sky Blue* is a documentary co-created with the children growing up in Mejvriskhevi village. Moving beyond the role of mere subjects, the children are collaborators who take the cameras into their own hands, filming scenes and moments they choose to depict. As the camera follows their lead, it captures a radical contrast: the heavy, unmoving history of the adults versus the fluid, boundless world of the young. Situated near a Russian military post, Mejvriskhevi operates under unseen rules where even silence carries political weight. Yet, in their unstructured play and wordless communication, the children reach a state of total abandon. Through collective invention, they carve out a *stolen time*—a space where the rigid boundaries of the occupation dissolve, and for a few fleeting moments, joy outweighs the systemic neglect that surrounds them.

**Original language**
Georgian
**Length**
70 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2027
**Production company**
Indigo Production
**Total budget (in EUR)**
91.000

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
37.600

**Looking for**
Co-producers, Funds

**Contact information**
**ninolomadze@gmail.com / gvantsa.nadibaidze@indigo.com.ge**

**Country**
Turkey, Armenia





**AURORA TUĞÇE AYDIN**
DIRECTOR

Aurora Tuğçe Aydin is a documentary filmmaker whose work centers on memory, displacement, and the stories of marginalized communities. She served as field producer on *The Walk* (Grain Media, UK) and collaborated with Pierre-Yves Vandeweerd on *Inner Lines*, selected for the 53rd Vision du Réel. *Krunk* is her debut feature film.



**MIKAYEL DISHUNTS**
PRODUCER

Mikayel Dishunts is an Armenian producer and founder of 16mm Film Production LLC. Over seven years, he has worked as line producer, executive producer, and production manager across American, European, and Indian productions. His credits include *Inner Lines* (2022) and *Motherland* (2022), which won over 40 international awards, including at Cannes World Film Festival.

16MM FILM PRODUCTION is a film service and production company based in Armenia, offering full-scope production management from development through post-production. Specializing in feature films, documentaries, and music videos, the company has collaborated with award-winning directors and production houses from France, the Netherlands, Spain, Poland, India, and the United States.

# KRUNK

***Krunk*, meaning *crane* in Armenian, takes its name from a traditional song about a bird that carries messages between those in exile and their lost homeland. This poetic documentary follows Tuğçe, a young woman volunteering at a Christian retirement home in Istanbul, where she forms a deep friendship with Astğik, a hundred-year-old survivor of the Armenian catastrophe. On her deathbed, Astğik entrusts her with her only photograph of her father and uncles, taken before they were killed in 1915, and begins to recount a story she had kept hidden for a century. Tuğçe then travels to Astğik's hometown, Merzifon, where she learns to read the small hints that uncover the erased history of its previous inhabitants. Her search into her friend's past becomes an archeology of the threads and knots that hold many lives together, including her own.**

**Original language**
Turkish, Armenian
**Length**
70 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2026
**Production company**
16mm Film Production
**Total budget (in EUR)**
149.000

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
Ministry of Culture (Turkey) 16.800
Antalya Film Forum (Turkey) 10.500

**Looking for**
Co-producers, Festivals, Sales agents, Broadcaster, Funds

**Contact information**
**film.production16mm@gmail.com**

**Country**
Croatia





**GORAN DEVIĆ**
DIRECTOR

Goran Dević was born in Sisak in 1971. He studied Archaeology and Law before earning a degree in Film and TV Directing from the Academy of Dramatic Art Zagreb in 2008. He is currently a professor at the Academy, where he teaches documentary film directing at the graduate level. His films have received multiple awards at various international film festivals.



**HRVOJE OSVADIĆ**
PRODUCER

Hrvoje Osvadić has worked in the film industry since 2000. He is co-owner and director of Petnaesta umjetnost, a Zagreb-based production company. He served as President of the Croatian Producers Association (HRUP) from 2011–2016 and was re-elected in 2023. He has produced 30+ films (6 features) and 700+ TV shows. EAVE producer and EFA member; his films are on HBO, BBC, and HRT.

PETNAESTA UMJETNOST, founded in 2007 in Zagreb, is a film and TV production company focused on socially engaged, author-driven projects. Its portfolio includes 25+ documentary and fiction films and a 12-part TV series for national television, with award-winning projects screened at numerous international festivals.

# NEW LIFE

**A residential building in Sisak, originally constructed for Ironworks workers to mark the introduction of self-management, undergoes a profound transformation seventy years later. As part of a European relocation program, refugees from the Middle East move into apartments once inhabited by the local working class. Like the previous generation, many soon leave in search of better opportunities in Germany. This cycle of arrival and departure is abruptly disrupted by a devastating earthquake. In its aftermath, a new working class emerges—Nepalese workers hired to demolish the very building they temporarily inhabit, bringing the story full circle.**

**Original language**
Croatian, Nepali, English
**Length**
79 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2027
**Production company**
Petnaesta umjetnost

**Total budget (in EUR)**
202.500

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
HAVC Croatian film fund production 80.000
HAVC development 9.290
City of Sisak 7.000
Main Producer investment 13.720
Co-production 25.500
Sponsor 7.000

**Looking for**
Festivals, Sales agents, Broadcaster

**Contact information**
**hrvoje.osvadic@gmail.com**

**Country**
Ukraine





**VOLODYMYR BAKUM**
DIRECTOR

Ukrainian film director and screenwriter. Winner of many Ukrainian film festivals with his student films. While studying at the university, he shot the trilogy *Donbas, I Love You*. His full-length documentary debut *Bartka* in 2023 had its world premiere in Cottbus. In recent years, he has focused on documentary filmmaking, with a focus on emigration, nature, and history.



**VOLODYMYR LADYZHETS**
PRODUCER

Volodymyr Ladyzhets is a Ukrainian producer working within the Public Broadcaster, specializing in socially impactful content. His work focuses on themes of war, society, and culture.

SUSPILNE is Ukraine's public service broadcaster, producing independent documentary, cultural, and social content. It reflects contemporary realities and amplifies diverse voices, exploring themes of war, identity, and societal change for national and international audiences.

# SILENCE OF THE ESTUARIES

*Silence of the Estuaries* is a meditative documentary set in Ukraine's Tuzly Estuaries National Nature Park during a full-scale war. Across four seasons, scientist Ivan, park director Iryna, and their team document war crimes against nature, rescue birds, fight poaching, and restore fragile ecosystems. A reflection on life and death, the film reveals the fragility of nature and the quiet strength of those who defend it.

**Original language**
Ukrainian
**Length**
70 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2026
**Production company**
Suspilne (Ukraine's public broadcaster)

**Total budget (in EUR)**
39.000

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
No external funding required

**Looking for**
Festivals, Sales agents, Broadcaster

**Contact information**
**V.Bakum@suspilne.media / V.Ladyzhets@suspilne.media**

**Country**
Serbia, Croatia






**NENAD MIKALAČKI**
DIRECTOR

Nenad Mikalacki was born in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. He is a graduate of film and TV directing at the National University of Drama and Film (UNATC) in Bucharest/Romania. He participated at numerous festivals, markets, forums, campuses, labs and workshops. In 2009 he founded production company Druid.



**IVANA PEJAK**
PRODUCER

Ivana Pejak is a filmmaker born in Novi Sad, Serbia. In 2020 Ivana finished her BA in Audiovisual and Dramatic Arts – Film and TV Editing, at Academy of Arts Novi Sad. Since 2019, she has worked as a film editor on multiple short documentary, fiction and experimental films and was part of residential programs. Currently, Ivana is part of the KinoEyes Master program.

DRUID is an independent film and video production officially registered since 2009. The crew is of mixed origin and academic background, situated in the multicultural city of Novi Sad, Serbia. Druid also provides production services and has experience in co-production.

# SYMBOLS OF WAR

Lena (21) is a journalism student who is assigned to create a report using her mobile phone. She decides to focus on the topic of the war of symbols taking place in her neighborhood. She uncovers who is behind the nighttime painting of walls in the colors of the Serbian flag and why the police remain silent. In her research she meets other characters involved: the Activist, Local representative, the Loyalists and finally the street artist called the Pianist. When she decides to publicly publish her student work, she hesitates. Fear of the consequences that could affect her and her family leads her to self-censorship. But the war for the walls is escalating. The entire country is entering a state of civil war. Lena can(not) remain neutral.

**Original language**
Serbo-Croatian
**Length**
70 minutes
**Expected date of delivery**
2026
**Production company**
Druid

**Total budget (in EUR)**
112.840

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
36.600

**Looking for**
Co-producers, Festivals, Broadcaster, Funds

**Contact information**
**home@druidfilm.org**

**Country**
Ukraine





**YEVGENIA DANYLENKO BEKKER**
DIRECTOR

Yevgeniia Danylenko is an award-winning filmmaker. She began her career as a writer and documentary journalist in Kyiv, Ukraine. Since 2012, Yevgenia has worked as an editor. Her role as an editor for the feature documentary "When Spring Came to Bucha" contributed to its victory in the Grimme Prize in Germany. "The Escape" marks her debut documentary.



**KAJA PODLESZAŃSKA**
PRODUCER

Kaja Podleszańska joined Blick Productions International in 2024, supporting projects across development and post-production. She holds a postgraduate degree in Film Production from the Łódź Film School and a Master's degree in Theatre and Performance Studies.

Blick Productions International, founded in 2021 in Krakow by Maria Blicharska-Lacroix, produces auteur feature films for international audiences. Building on 22+ years and 35+ co-productions, it continues the legacy of Donten & Lacroix Films and Blick Productions (Paris). Recent titles include films awarded at Venice, Berlinale and Tribeca.

# THE ESCAPE

**Stolen by Russia, persecuted for who they are — four deported queer teenagers and a woman from an underground network break the system, forge documents, and escape genocide to return to Ukraine. *The Escape*: Run Through the Fucking Walls is the story of the great return of four teenagers whom Russia tried to steal.**

**Original language**
Ukrainian, Russian
**Length**
70 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2027
**Production company**
Blick Productions International

**Total budget (in EUR)**
450.000

**Confirmed financing (in EUR)**
150.000

**Looking for**
Co-producers, Festivals, Sales agents, Broadcaster, Funds

**Contact information**
**zhmenna@gmail.com / blickprod.int@gmail.com**

# BELDOCS XR ACADEMY 2026

**Beldocs XR Academy is an intense 3 days program for artists, directors and creative minds that are interested in exploring the emerging realm of immersive storytelling. With a focus on VR and 360° video the XR Academy is a unique opportunity to develop ideas through a creative approach to immersive technology. Workshops, lectures and one to one mentoring will provide the participants with the basic theoretical and practical techniques in order to take their project a step forward into development. Beldocs XR Academy provides possibility for the authors to get feedback from experts as well as to find partners for further development of their projects.**

## Dok Leipzig XR Award

One project will be awarded covered 2 night accommodation and free accreditation to DOK Leipzig and access to DOK Exchange, the XR conference and showcase.

# LEAD TUTOR



**SARA TIRELLI**

Sara Tirelli is an Italian artist and filmmaker whose practice operates between documentary and the imaginary. Tirelli creates films and immersive installations exploring politics of media, invisible structures, and how technology shapes and re-defines our concept of Reality. Her artistic practice is strongly driven by the will to dissect the moving image industry's conventions and to challenge audience's perception beyond anthropocene's narratives.

Her works have been featured in several screenings and exhibitions such as Quadriennale d'Arte of Rome, Sonje Art Centre of Seoul, IFFR among others. In 2017, she won the 3rd prize of Deutsche Bank Video Award and she has been the recipient of the artist's Research & Production grant by IASPIS (SE), where she developed her first VR artwork *Medusa*. Since then she has held various panels about her research within XR such as *Bodies & Movement* n VR at Goldsmiths University of London and Future Narrative with Laurie Anderson at the Gothenburg's Film Festival among others.

She co-founded CSC Immersive Arts, a new department of the National film Scholl of Italy dedicated to XR and she is professor of Expanded Cinema at Iuav University of Venice.

# BELDOCS XR ACADEMY 2026 LIST

**LITTLE RADIO ORCHESTRA**
**North Macedonia**

**MINE LAND**
**Bosnia Herzegovina, Netherlands**

**NOTHING IS EVER REALLY LOST**
**Poland**

**TOMORROW WAS HERE**
**Slovenia**

**Country**
North Macedonia





**ANA ALEKSOVSKA**
DIRECTOR

Ana Aleksovska is a writer and director with experience in documentary, animation, journalistic, and branded media. Trained at Sorbonne Nouvelle and FAMU, she combines strong narrative craft with social insight. Her award-winning work, featured at Hot Docs, Kustendorf (Bronze Egg), and FEKK (Grand Prix), explores human perspective and visual storytelling across borders.

# LITTLE RADIO ORCHESTRA

*Little Radio Orchestra* VR is a poetic immersion into the sensory world of Nikola Galevski, blind visionary who founded Radio Skopje orchestra in 1946 and forged Macedonian musical identity. Imagined as his POV, we enter his recording studio in the radio: musicians emerge as dark silhouettes in faint light. As they play, music ignites—colors, textures and forms pulse from each instrument, transforming raw folk melodies into symphonic visions. Through his standpoint, we experience his creative process: witness a single melody decompose into voice, violin, clarinet, then layer into harmonic musical architecture. The VR simulates his partial vision—contours in dimness, exploding into abstract color when sound erupts. As a part of a larger audio-installation, this VR project evokes empathy and reveals Nikola's legacy.

**Original language**
Macedonian
**Length**
7 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2028

**Contact details**
**ana.alexovska@gmail.com**

**Country**
Bosnia Herzegovina,
Netherlands





**KATJA VERHEUL**
DIRECTOR

I am a filmmaker and artistic archeologist based in Rotterdam (NL). I have shown my films at IFFR, Visions du Réel, Eye Filmmuseum, Kasseler Dokfest, Dokufest, Ji.hlava IDFF, LeGuessWho?, Sharjah Art Foundation, Nederlands Film Festival, Art Rotterdam, MAXXI Museum and on Dutch television, among others.

# MINE LAND

*Mine Land* is an immersive VR installation that confronts audiences with the invisible legacy of war through the dangerous work of mine clearance in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a peaceful looking forest, former enemies now work side by side as deminers, clearing deadly remnants from a war that ended thirty years ago.
**Recipient of first Beldocs XR Academy Award at TiDF 27 AGORA XR Lab.**

**Original language**
Bosnian
**Length**
20 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2027

**Contact details**
**katjaverheul@gmail.com**

**Country**
Poland





**ANNA SZYLAR**
DIRECTOR

Anna Szylar is the founder of Monster Mind Studio, a curator, producer, and strategist working at the intersection of art, culture, and new technologies. She is an alumna of the prestigious Biennale College Cinema Immersive program, through which her studio is producing the VR project *Channelers*, directed by Jakub Wróblewski.

# NOTHING IS EVER REALLY LOST

**What does it feel like to reach out to someone who is no longer there? Are you grasping, searching, holding on, or just desperate for a sign? How far will you go to reconstruct a fading memory? *Nothing is Ever Really Lost* is an exercise in remembrance. Using physical space and personal archives, the author tries to put you in an emotional state where you will intimately witness a daughter's attempts to reconnect with her late mother. The fragile world of the project — a patchwork of forgotten moments and hidden messages — is a reflective space where you can discover your own way of communicating with loved ones who have passed away.**

**Original language**
English
**Length**
25 min
**Expected date of delivery**
2027

**Contact details**
**annaszylar@gmail.com**

**Country**
Slovenia





**NEJC TRAMPUŽ**
DIRECTOR

Nejc Trampuž (1993) is an awarded Slovenian new media artist working across technology, ecology and activism. Using a collage-like aesthetic, he employs AI, glitch, and other tech to explore speculative futures. Key works include Slovenia's first AI film *Rooted in Code*, the game *Solandium 2063*, and *Another Future Entirely*. With 100+ exhibitions, he holds an MA from the Academy in Ljubljana.

# TOMORROW WAS HERE

*Tomorrow Was Here*, a work in progress by Slovenian new media artist Nejc Trampuž and MMC Kibla, is a speculative intervention in our digital topography. Using Google Maps as a global infrastructure, the project contemplates various futures by appropriating 360° panoramas and transforming them into simulations of the year 2071.

These photomontages depict fictional scenarios reflecting today's tensions: techno-feudalism, eco-socialism and solarpunk ideals, total societal collapse or war. These images are then re-inserted into Google Maps as *false photographic evidence*, encountered by random users. For gallery displays, the project incorporates VR, projections and immersive soundscapes. Ultimately, Trampuž questions who controls the narrative of our future spaces—and to what end.

**Original language**
Slovenian
**Length**
/ (not applicable, depending on audience)
**Expected date of delivery**
2026

**Contact details**
**nejc.trampuz@gmail.com**

# BALKAN YOUNG TALENTS

Balkan Young Talents is an innovative initiative that was launched by the Beldocs International Documentary Film Festival and Drama International Short Film Festival. The program is designed to provide young filmmakers from the Western Balkans and Greece with a unique opportunity to attend two 3-day workshops held in both Belgrade, Serbia, and Drama, Greece.

The intense program focuses on fostering creativity, facilitating knowledge exchange, and encouraging networking. The workshops feature lectures, panels, and one-to-one mentoring sessions that will give participants basic theoretical and practical techniques to create a 10-minute documentary film that emphasizes the theme of freedom.

# MENTORS



TEA
LUKAČ

With experiences in different forms, Tea Lukač directed documentary and fiction films, while also exhibiting her works. Her debut feature documentary *Roots* premiered in Karlovy Vary 2021. She teaches film directing and documentary film in the Focus film school, she is a member of DOKSerbia and alumna of EX Oriente and IDFAcademy programmes. She graduated from bachelor, master and PhD studies at the Faculty of Dramatic arts in Belgrade. She is a doctor of arts in the field of documentary film.



BORIS
MITIĆ

Boris Mitić stopped believing in the denotative power of facts and images after 5 years of setting up stories for top global media and 15 on the high-end documentary film circuit. He found refuge in what he calls *inverted-vérité*, an offbeat, personal, text-driven approach to storytelling wherein documentary images suggest different layers of reality than what is actually seen, altogether presenting strangely familiar new points of view. Satire, Nothing & Creative Parenting are his latest playgrounds, which he projected, in collaboration with the likes of Iggy Pop, The Tiger Lillies and Chilly Gonzales, at over 250 festivals and nearly 100 lecturing outlets worldwide, from Dhaka to Florence and from Nordkapp to Buenos Aires.

# BALKAN YOUNG TALENTS PARTICIPANTS

# WHAT BRINGS YOU HOPE?



**ALBIN MUSAJ**
20 years old
*Kosovo

The spirit of collectivism among the enlightened youth... (and superheroes).



**DUNJA ŠESTOVIĆ**
23 years old
Montenegro

For me I really hope, that there is a Jesus, and that all suffering will pay off.



**JANA GOLABOSKA**
23 years old
Macedonia

People not giving up on their dreams.



**JELENA RATKO**
29 years old
Croatia

Children, people that cherish their inner child, the fact that we (can) help each other.

*All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



KATARINA ČUPIĆ
24 years old
Croatia

What brings me hope is the persistence of people who continue to observe, question, and create, even when it feels like nothing is changing. I find hope in paying attention, in films and conversations that open space for doubt, complexity, and new ways of seeing. For me, hope is not something fixed, but something that is constantly built through art, relationships, and the decision to remain sensitive in a world that often rewards indifference.



LENKA TRAJKOVIĆ
21 years old
Serbia
North Macedonia

I would say people around me, small everyday things and movies of course.



MAGDALINI KOUSTERI
28 years old
Greece

Hope is the only thing that feeds you in difficult times. The expectation for sth better, a better life. Hope is what people in a war need to have to keep going, and eventually survive. Hope gives you a power that you didn't know that existed before the rough environment pushed you further. Hope is like an umbrella of different feelings that shape a person and specifically an artist. Hope gives you inspiration and inspiration gives you hope. Hope gives birth to persistence and persistence gives results and satisfaction. Hope exist in so many shapes, colors, religions around the world that can unit us as a whole, but still every one can keep our own uniqueness. Hope is a whole life. Let's experience it then! ... endlessly for ever and ever...



STEFANOS THEODOROPOULOS
23 years old
Greece

My friends. Sometimes, art. But mostly my friends.

# PLAY.DOCS SHOWCASE

Welcome to the PLAY.DOCS Showcase, an engaging journey through the immersive realm where storytelling meets interactivity. As part of the program at the Beldocs International Documentary Film Festival, we invite you to explore profound narratives, thought-provoking themes and innovative gameplay experiences that define the landscape of the so-called serious video and board games.

In recent years, games have transcended their traditional role as mere entertainment, evolving into a powerful medium for exploring complex issues, fostering empathy, and sparking meaningful conversations. Through meticulously crafted gameplay mechanics and compelling narratives, games offer players a unique opportunity to engage with topics ranging from social justice and mental health, all the way to environmental conservation and historical events.

As part of the official program of the 19th edition Beldocs in Belgrade, Serbia, we will showcase 3 interesting games that draw our attention to some of the key social challenges of today through the domain of games.

Throughout PLAY.DOCS showcase, we aim to exhibit a diverse selection of serious video games that push the boundaries of storytelling and challenge conventional perspectives. From emotionally charged narratives that tackle the human condition, to interactive experiences that shed light on pressing global issues - each game invites you to become an active participant in the exploration of important social themes and ideas.




## LOVE VS. PIG

**A shoot-'em-up of misdirected care: love hits the famous, the forgotten get nothing.**

**Authors** Abner Preis
**Type** AR
**Year of release** 2026
**Country** Netherlands



## SOUND BLOCK

**An interactive music instrument where stacking blocks creates sound; the more blocks, the richer the melody.**

**Authors** Julia Makivić
**Type** Art Installation
**Year of release** 2025
**Country** UK




## TRUE LIES

**Board game where players discover how media and interest groups shape public opinion and manipulate the truth.**

**Authors** Dušan Jovčić, Hectic Games
**Type** Board Game
**Year of release** 2026
**Country** Serbia

# WHO IS WHO



**ABNER PREIS**
ABNER PREIS STUDIOS
abnerpreis@gmsil.com

Abner Preis Studios I make films, XR experiences, and participatory installations where story always comes first. Working with cultural institutions and public spaces, I build immersive worlds that push audiences to reflect, interact, and reimagine. Around me is a great group — collaborators, specialists, and makers who share a belief that narrative should lead, and that technology and knowledge exist to be passed on.



**ALEKSANDAR JANKOVIĆ**
UNITED MEDIA
aleksandar.jankovic@unitedmedia.net

United Media, is the leading media company in Southeastern Europe. United Media broadcasts over 60 channels in the countries where we operate and is available for terrestrial, cable, DTH, OTT and IPTV distribution platforms. United Media's digital business is the leading digital publisher in the region with 54 different digital products.



**ALESANDRA TATIĆ**
UC BERKELEY / U BARCELONA
aletatic@ub.edu

Set Sail Films, in partnership with UC Berkeley and the University of Barcelona, specializes in high-impact, transnational documentaries. By merging the Belgrade-based production expertise of Set Sail with the intellectual rigor of world-class research institutions, the company brings authentic, author-driven stories to global audiences. Their current flagship project is a feature documentary, Seasons of Others.



**ALEXANDRE MARIONNEAU**
ARTE FRANCE
a-marionneau@artefrance.fr

ARTE is a public european cultural platform. It offers its programs on three different vectors (non-linear platform, social channels and accounts, linear tv). Arte is available in 7 different languages all over Europe. Subdivided into three main companies : ARTE France, ARTE Deutschland, and ARTE GEIE.

ARTE showcases Europe's rich cultural diversity. In-depth, sensitive, and original documentaries and film documentaries account for 40% of ARTE's programming.



ONLINE PRESENCE

**ANA SAIZ**
IMPRONTA FILMS
info@improntafilms.com

IMPRONTA FILMS is an international media sales company based in London. We represent documentaries that are politically engaged, artistically driven, and socially relevant, as well as films that explore science, the environment, and issues that matter to everyday audiences. Our mission is to cross geographic and cultural borders, bringing thought-provoking, humane, and visually compelling documentaries to audiences worldwide.



**ANNA BERTHOLLET**
LIGHTDOX
anna@lightdox.com

Lightdox is a Swiss and French-based international sales and distribution agency representing powerful documentary storytelling. We are passionate about high-quality author-driven documentaries with a distinctive cinematic language and emotional impact. Among our latest titles are FIUME O MORTE! by Igor Bezinović (Tiger Award & FIPRESCI Prize, IFFR 2025; European Film Awards Documentary winner 2026) and DO YOU LOVE ME by Lana Daher (Giornate deli autori 2025).



**AZRA JŠAREVIĆ**
TASKOVSKI FILMS LTD.
sales@taskovskifilms.com

Taskovski Films Ltd. is a London-based world sales and production company for independent documentaries. We integrate production, sales, and training via Taskovski ≠docsconnect, plus our PR & Publicity agency. We welcome innovative, playful, and risky filmmaking capable of surprising global audiences. Our passion is discovering new talent and authorial stories. We partner with filmmakers to provide strategic support, fostering a collaborative space for bold visions to reach the world.



**BOJANA MARIĆ**
LIGHTDOX
bojana@lightdox.com

Lightdox is a Swiss and French-based international sales and distribution agency representing powerful documentary storytelling. We are passionate about high-quality author-driven documentaries with a distinctive cinematic language and emotional impact. Among our latest titles are FIUME O MORTE! by Igor Bezinović (Tiger Award & FIPRESCI Prize, IFFR 2025; European Film Awards Documentary winner 2026) and DO YOU LOVE ME by Lana Daher (Giornate deli autori 2025).



**ELODIE MELLADO**
FILMIN
elodie@filmin.es

Filmin is a VoD platform based in Spain focused on independent and art-house cinema. Created in 2007 by Juan Carlos Tous, Jaume Ripoll and José Antonio de Luna, Filmin offers more than 12,000 feature films and television series plus 1,100 short films, the largest VoD catalogue of any European company.



**ERKKO LYYTINEN**
YLE THE FINNISH BROADCASTING COMPANY
erkko.lyytinen@yle.fi

Yle, the Finnish Broadcasting Company, is Finland's national public service broadcaster providing television, radio, and digital services. Its mission is to deliver reliable and independent content ranging from news to culture and education. Funded by a public tax, Yle remains free from commercial advertising and political influence. A key part of its offering is Yle Areena, a major online streaming platform.



ONLINE PRESENCE

**HRVOJE PUKŠEC**
ZAGREBDOX // FACTUM
hrvoje@zagrebdox.net

ZagrebDox is an international documentary film festival launched in 2005 with the intention to provide audiences and experts with insight into recent documentary films, stimulate national documentary production and boost international and regional cooperation in co-productions. Since ’22 is EFA qualifying festival and since ’26 is member of Cannes Docs family.



**IGOR MARKOVIĆ**
HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL / MIKRO-KINO MAMA
igor@mi2.hr

Human Rights Film Festival (HRFF) – is an annual film festival, established in 2001. The main goal is to promote a broadly understood culture of human rights, by screening engaged and artistically valuable films. The festival, along with other Multimedia institute activities – publishing program, and Visual Culture series – has established itself as one of the most relevant places for the promotion of contemporary film culture, and at the same time, a broad for critical and engaged discourse concerning human rights.



ONLINE PRESENCE

**JANE MOTE**
THE WHICKERS
jane.mote@whickerawards.com

The Whickers is a global fund for first time feature documentary makers in TV/Film and emerging podcast talent. Submissions for the main TV/Film award close the end of January each year with five projects selected to compete for the £120,000 top award and £25,000 development prize at Sheffield each June. The fund also runs four bursaries for early development in ChileConecta, Durban Film Mart, DocEdge Kolkata and the MENA region.



**JASMIN BAŠIĆ**
VISIONS DU RÉEL
jbasic@visionsdureel.ch

Since 1969, Visions du Réel has been presenting audacious works by filmmakers and artists from all over the world. Recognised as one of the major festivals dedicated to non-fiction filmmaking, it presents a majority of films as world or international premieres. VdR–Industry constitutes an essential platform for film professionals: its activities represent a springboard to find support in every stage of production through pitches, co-production forums, project labs, talks and networking events.



**JASMINA VIGNJEVIĆ**
VERITÀ FILMS
jasmina@verita-films.com

Verità Films is a Toronto-based world sales agent and distribution company specializing in international documentaries.



**JOTA SALINAS**
JAMBIKA DOCS
jota@jambikadocs.com

We are an international documentary sales company focused on bold, entertaining films and series with strong global potential. We represent a curated catalogue of documentary and factual content designed to engage wide audiences through strong storytelling and clear narrative hooks. We work across multiple markets, selling to broadcasters, streamers, inflight, educational, and digital platforms worldwide, positioning each project to reach diverse audiences.



**JULIA MAKIVIC**
JULIA MAKIVIC
jmakivic@gmail.com

Julia Makivic is a game designer and creative technologist. She creates alternative controller games using microcontrollers and sensors. Her games explore what it means to have an emotional exchange with a computational system and how our emotions are mediated by technology. Her projects have been featured in a variety of international festivals including A MAZE, Jeugdfilmfestival Antwerpen, Game Happens, Interactive Futures, and the Leftfield Collection at EGX Rezzed.



**JULIA RITTER**
EUROPEAN FILM ACADEMY
julia.ritter@europeanfilmacademy.org

The European Film Academy seeks to support and connect its 5,000 members and celebrates and promotes their work. Its aims are to share knowledge and to educate audiences of all ages about European cinema. Positioning itself as a leading organisation and facilitating debates within the industry, the Academy strives to unite everyone who loves European cinema. Beldocs is a qualifying partner festival for documentaries vying for the European Film Awards.



**JULIE NEDERKOORN**
MOVIES THAT MATTER
j.nederkoorn@moviesthatmatter.nl

Julie has over a decade of experience in the film industry as moderator, advisor, juror, and workshop facilitator at international festivals and markets. She joined Movies that Matter in 2015 and currently heads the International Programme, supporting human rights film festivals across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. She also manages the Activist Lens programme and the Human Rights Film Network — a partnership of 50+ festivals worldwide. She sits on the advisory board of the International Coalition for Filmmakers at Risk.



ONLINE PRESENCE

**KIM CHRISTIANSEN**
DR SALES
kimc@dr.dk

DR Sales is the sales department of Danish public broadcaster DR - the Danish Broadcasting Corp. It is Scandinavia's largest international Sales Company for international documentary films. We are specialized in social and geopolitical contemporary documentaries and all other genres that do well at Festivals/TV/ Streaming. DR Sales also handles film projects in production in close collaboration with independent producers eligible for international co-productions and pre-sales.



**MARCELLA JELIĆ**
SPLIT SCREEN
marcella@splitscreen.hr

Split Screen is a boutique sized world sales company focusing on cutting edge fiction features and documentaries that raises questions about relevant topics in the world today. We appreciate films with exquisite usage of film language, intriguing characters and thought-provoking topics.



**MANUEL BETANCOURT**
IDA
manuel.betancourt@documentary.org

IDA supports the vital work of documentary makers and champions a thriving and inclusive documentary culture. IDA is dedicated to the vision of a world where documentary creators flourish. Through our work, we connect audiences with the best of the form, provide resources, create community, and defend the rights and freedoms of documentary artists, activists, and journalists around the globe.



**MARIJA JAUKOVIĆ**
THE FILM CENTRE OF MONTENEGRO
marija.jaukovic@fccg.me

The Film Centre of Montenegro is a public institution that supports development of Montenegrin cinematography. FCM supports film production and co-productions, talent and professional growth and aims to position Montenegrin films within regional and international film frameworks and promotes Montenegro as a destination for foreign shoots and implements the national filming incentives in the form of cash rebates. The Centre is an active member of major European film networks and initiatives.



**MARKO STOJILJKOVIĆ**
CINEUROPA
magister.umetnosti@gmail.com

European film industry web portal.



**MARLENE EDOYAN**
RIDM
medoyan@ridm.ca

The RIDM, based in Montreal, is one of North America's leading film festivals, dedicated to showcasing bold and diverse cinematic perspectives in short, medium, and feature-length formats. RIDM celebrates documentary filmmaking as an art form in all its forms of exploration, by pushing creative boundaries. The festival also hosts Forum RIDM, North America's only bilingual documentary market, fostering connections and collaborations within the industry.



**MARTINA ŠANTAVÁ**
CZECH TELEVISION
martina.santava@ceskatelevize.cz

Czech Television is the national public television broadcaster in the Czech Republic, continuing the tradition of Czechoslovak Television, which was founded in 1953. As an independent institution, it is funded primarily by television license fees rather on objective news reporting, education, and culture.



**MAXIM CÎRLAN**
MOLDOX
director@moldox.org

MOLDOX is a cultural organisation from Moldova working across documentary cinema, education, queer culture and community-based initiatives. Through the MOLDOX International Documentary Film Festival, MOLDOX Lab, the Queer Voices International Film Festival and the Queer Cafe community space, it supports emerging filmmakers, socially engaged storytelling, alternative cultural spaces and active audiences across Moldova and Eastern Europe.



**MAYA SFAKIANAKI**
DRAMA INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL
maya.sfaki@gmail.com

Drama International Short Film Festival (DISFF) is an Oscar® and European Film Award qualifying festival dedicated to showcasing the boundless potential of the short format. For nearly half a century, it has served as a leading hub for filmmakers, producers, and industry professionals of the short film circuit in the Balkan region and beyond. A meeting place where inspiring connections and fruitful collaborations have emerged from and materialised into notable innovation across the medium.



**MELTEM INAN**
TRT WORLD
Meltem.INAN@trtworld.com

TRT World is an English-language international news channel based in Istanbul, Turkey, launched by TRT in 2015. It provides global news, documentaries, and debates with a focus on regional perspectives, aiming to compete with major international news networks broadcasting globally.



**MIA AVDAGIĆ**
SARAJEVO FILM FESTIVAL
mia.avdagic@sff.ba

The Sarajevo Film Festival was founded in 1995 during the siege of Sarajevo to help rebuild civil society and preserve the city's cosmopolitan spirit. Today, it is the leading film festival in Southeast Europe, showcasing regional cinema and connecting filmmakers, industry professionals, and audiences through its film and industry programmes.



**MIGUEL EEK**
MOSAIC - MAJORDOCS FILM FESTIVAL
miguel@mosaicprod.com

Mosaic is a production company founded in 2006 focused on Creative Documentary for international audiences. Mosaic films have been selected and awarded in festivals as IDFA, Hotdocs, CPH:Dox, Ficg (Guadalajara), Thessaloniki or the MoMa Fortnite among others. Majordocs is a slow festival for filmmakers, creative process with screenings, talks and WIP presentations.



**MÓNICA HERNÁNDEZ REJÓN**
INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS ASSOCIATION OF SWEDEN
monica@off.se

The Independent Filmmakers Association of Sweden (Oberoende Filmares Förbund-OFF) is a non-profit organization that works to improve conditions for independent filmmakers and film production. Founded in 1984, we work to support filmmakers through advocacy, knowledge-sharing, networking, and professional development in an increasingly competitive and rapidly changing film industry. OFF is committed to building a more inclusive, diverse, and sustainable film community throughout Sweden.



**NADJA TENNSTEDT**
DOK LEIPZIG
tennstedt@dok-leipzig.de

DOK Leipzig is the world's oldest documentary film festival, unique in combining documentary and animated film. As a key hub for networking and industry impact, it has been shaping discourse and addressing urgent contemporary issues for decades. Each year, the festival presents around 200 outstanding films and XR experiences. DOK Industry, Germany's leading platform for the international documentary sector, welcomes about 2,000 professionals and promotes meaningful connections and co-operations.



ONLINE PRESENCE

**NATALIA KOZAKOVA**
KARLOVY VARY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
kozakova@kviff.com

The Karlovy Vary International Film Festival is the largest film festival in the Czech Republic and the most prestigious such festival in Central and Eastern Europe. It is one of the oldest A-list film festivals (i.e., non-specialized festivals with a competition for feature-length fiction films), a category it shares with the festivals in Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Locarno, San Sebastian etc.



**NAMIK KABIL**
FEDERAL TV
namik.kabil@gmail.com

Federal Television Sarajevo (FTV) is a public broadcasting service based in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is one of the key television networks serving the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, producing news, current affairs, cultural, documentary, and entertainment programming. FTV operates in the Bosnian language and plays an important role in informing the public and reflecting the country's social and political life. It is widely recognized in the national media landscape.



ONLINE PRESENCE

**NATALIA IMAZ**
DAE DOCUMENTARY ASSOCIATION OF EUROPE
info@dae-europe.org

DAE – Documentary Association of Europe is the members network for documentary professionals from inside and outside of Europe. Founded in 2020, it connects a diverse international community across the documentary sector. DAE fosters collaboration, provides resources and facilitates exchange among its 700+ members while advocating for better conditions in documentary training, funding and distribution at pan-European and international levels.



**NEDA LUKIĆ**
**FILMS MUNDI**
films.mundi@gmail.com

Films Mundi is a boutique international sales company focused on a curated slate of author-driven documentaries with a strong authorial voice and cinematic approach, as well as films exploring particular themes. Committed to each title throughout its lifecycle, it develops tailored festival strategies, international positioning and all rights distribution across festivals, broadcasters, streaming platforms and non-theatrical markets.



**NEVENA MILAŠINOVIĆ**
**LIGHTDOX**
nevena@lightdox.com

Lightdox is a Swiss and French-based international sales and distribution agency representing powerful documentary storytelling. We are passionate about high-quality author-driven documentaries with a distinctive cinematic language and emotional impact. Among our latest titles are FIUME O MORTE! by Igor Bezinović (Tiger Award & FIPRESCI Prize, IFFR 2025; European Film Awards Documentary winner 2026) and DO YOU LOVE ME by Lana Daher (Giornate deli autori 2025).



**NINA JEGLIČ**
**OTOK**
nina.jeglic@isolacinema.org

Kino Otok – Isola Cinema, organized since 2004, is a boutique, yet the second largest general international audiovisual festival in Slovenia to showcase art cinema. We are committed to broadening our young and adult audiences' film horizons by presenting exceptional international, especially European authors and works that would otherwise not circulate in our territory. The 22nd edition of our festival will take place in the Mediterranean Izola between 10th and 14th June 2026.



**OLIVER SERTIĆ**
**RESTART**
oliver@restarted.hr

RESTART is an organisation from Zagreb, Croatia, focused on the production, education, distribution, and exhibition of mainly creative documentary films. Restart has produced more than 50 feature and short documentary and experimental films. We have so far distributed 150 feature documentaries in ex-YU countries and screened numerous of films in our specialized cinema, Dokukino. We run the School of Documentary Film along with other educational programs and co-organise the Liburnia Film Festival.



**PAUL RIETH**
GET YOUR CROWD
info@paulrieth.de

GET YOUR CROWD is a Berlin-based audience design agency specializing in audience strategy and content development for independent film and documentary. We help filmmakers and media professionals understand who their audience is, where to find them, and how to connect — from early development through release.



**PETAR MITRIĆ**
FILMOTOR
petar@filmotor.com

Founded in October 2017, Filmotor is a premier world sales agent and brand dedicated to the international distribution of visionary independent cinema.
We specialize in creative feature documentaries, hybrids, and fiction films that push the boundaries of storytelling.




**RADA ŠEŠIĆ**
SARAJEVO FILM FESTIVAL
radasesic@yahoo.co.uk

Towards the end of the four-year siege of Sarajevo in 1995, Obala Art Centar initiated the Sarajevo Film Festival, aiming to help reconstruct civil society and preserve the city's cosmopolitan spirit. Today, 32 years later, it is the leading film festival in the region, recognised by both film professionals and the audience. It is known for a strong competition program highlighting regional cinema, the Cine Link industry segment, the Sarajevo Talents and magical open-air screenings.



**RAFAELA KARAGIANNI**
THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL
DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL
karagianni@filmfestival.gr

The AGORA of the Thessaloniki International Documentary Festival (Mar 7-11, 2026), is Greece's leading industry event and one of the largest in the wider region, mainly focusing on the SE Europe and the Mediterranean region, promoting emerging and established talents and offering exciting networking opportunities in a diverse, inclusive market. Activities include: Thessaloniki Pitching Forum, AGORA Docs in Progress, AGORA XR Lab, AGORA Talks and Doc Counseling.



**RENÉ KUBÁŠEK**
JI.HLAVA IDFF
rene@ji-hlava.cz

The Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival (October 23–November 1, 2026) is a leading European documentary film festival and the largest event of its kind in Central and Eastern Europe. The festival retains a distinctive and progressive programming approach and a strong industry strand, hosting annually around 1,300 film professionals. The festival is also famous for its informal atmosphere, discussion character, and full screening venues.



**SARA GLASSBERG**
SUNDANCE INSTITUTE | DOCUMENTARY FILM PROGRAM
sara_glassberg@sundance.org

The Sundance Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the discovery and development of independent artists and audiences, seeking to discover, support, and inspire independent film and media artists from the U.S. and around the world, and to introduce audiences to their new work. The Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program (DFP) is a vibrant global resource for independent nonfiction storytelling, supporting filmmakers worldwide in creating cinematic documentaries on timely themes.



**SEAN PARNELL**
BERTHA DOCHOUSE
sean@dochouse.org

Bertha DocHouse offers a vibrant programme of international, cross-genre documentaries, as well as filmmaker Q&As, masterclasses and discussions, 7 days a week. We aim to celebrate the depth and breadth of the documentary form, showcasing films that you won't see anywhere else, festival favourites, themed seasons and retrospective screenings as well as the very best new releases.



**SETH M. HOLMES**
UC BERKELEY / U BARCELONA
sethmholmes@berkeley.edu

The University of California, Berkeley, is the world's premier public research university. Founded in 1868, it serves as a global engine for innovation, social mobility, and groundbreaking research. With a mission of teaching and public service, Berkeley spans 15 schools and colleges, fostering an ecosystem where academic excellence meets social impact. As a leading economic contributor, it transforms visionary ideas into reality, shaping the future of technology, policy, and the arts.



ONLINE PRESENCE

**SILVIA DE FELICE**
**RAI DOCUMENTARI**
silvia.defelice@rai.it

Rai Documentari is the department entirely dedicated to documentary filmmaking within Rai, Italy's public broadcaster. Rai Documentari's mission is to produce content for Rai's free-to-air channels and its streaming platform. We are therefore looking for stories with a strong televisual appeal, suited to a broad and diverse audience.



**SUDEEP SHARMA**
**SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL**
sudeep_sharma@sundance.org

The Sundance Film Festival is the ultimate gathering of original storytellers and audiences seeking new voices and fresh perspectives. Our annual program includes dramatic and documentary features, short films, and episodic content. Since 1985, hundreds of films launched at the Festival have gone on to gain critical acclaim and reach new audiences worldwide. The 2027 Sundance Film Festival will take place January 21 – January 31 in Boulder, Colorado.



**SZABOLCS SZIRONY**
**VERZIÓ INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL**
szironyszabolcs@gmail.com

Founded in 2004, Verzió is one of the most established film festivals in Hungary, an important meeting place for the documentary film community and a diverse audience of documentary film lovers. Held annually in November in Budapest and throughout Hungary, Verzió showcases 60-80 films yearly, organizes discussions, educational and industry programs and other events.



**TANJA HLADNIK**
**KINO OTOK - ISOLA CINEMA IFF**
tanja.hladnik@isolacinema.org

Kino Otok – Isola Cinema, organized since 2004, is a boutique, yet the second largest general international audiovisual festival in Slovenia to showcase art cinema. We are committed to broadening our young and adult audiences' film horizons by presenting exceptional international, especially European authors and works that would otherwise not circulate in our territory. The 22nd edition of our festival will take place in the Mediterranean Izola between 10th and 14th June 2026.



**TOMÁŠ GIČ**
SILVERART
tomas.gic1@gmail.com

Silverart is focused on feature film and TV series co-productions. Specializing in international collaborations, the company's films have been theatrically released in Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and France, acquired by RTVS, NPO, Netflix, and DAFilms, and screened at film festivals worldwide. Tomas Gic produced short films such as PURA VIDA (Cannes 2019), IN SHALLOW WATER (DOK Leipzig 2021), and feature film FLOOD (Mar del Plata & India Goa 2025).



**VARJA MOČNIK**
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL KINO OTOK - ISOLA CINEMA
varja.mocnik@isolacinema.org

The festival's programme is built around the distinct concept of non-competitiveness, where the focus of the audiences is exclusively on the diversity and richness of cinematic expression. Instead of putting forward jurors and prize winners, the attention of the festival community goes to building personal connections amongst the presented filmmakers, their films, and the general and professional audiences. Instead of rolling out the red carpets we offer the flying ones.



ONLINE PRESENCE

**VERONIKA JANATKOVA**
INSTITUTE OF DOCUMENTARY FILM
janatkova@dokweb.net

The Institute of Documentary Film is a non-profit training and networking center based in Prague, Czech Republic, that has supported creative documentaries in Central and Eastern Europe since 2001. It acts as a vital "gateway" for filmmakers in the region, offering assistance through every stage of production—from initial development and funding to distribution and international promotion.



**VICTOR CORREAL**
GUIDEDOC
victor@guidedoc.tv

Curated award-winning documentaries from the world's top festivals.



**VOJISLAVA JANKOVIĆ**
**UNITED MEDIA**
**vojislava.jankovic@unitedmedia.ne**

**United Media, is the leading media company in Southeastern Europe. United Media broadcasts over 60 channels in the countries where we operate and is available for terrestrial, cable, DTH, OTT and IPTV distribution platforms. United Media's digital business is the leading digital publisher in the region with 54 different digital products.**



**WOJCIECH DIDUSZKO**
**MILLENNIUM DOCS AGAINST GRAVITY FF**
**wojciech@againstgravity.pl**

**Millennium Docs Against Gravity has grown to become the second-largest documentary film festival in Europe and one of the biggest ones in the world. It has gained significance due to its scale and program, becoming a key venue for world and international premieres, as well as a starting point for films on their way to major awards. With over 180 000 admissions at its last edition, the festival takes place annually in May in Warsaw and six other Polish cities.**

# BELDOCS INDUSTRY DAYS 2026 PANELS

## ANATOMY OF A COMMISSION: FROM PITCH TO PROGRAMME

**Every commission has a story — and it rarely starts where filmmakers think it does. Anatomy of a Commission: From Pitch to Programme brings together documentary commissioning editors to unpack the full arc of how a film gets made for broadcast: where they discover projects, what stops them in their tracks, how decisions are made inside a broadcaster, what the timeline really looks like, and what's financially on the table. From first contact to final slot, expect a frank and practical conversation about timing, funding, and how to approach buyers in today's market — no rehearsed answers, just the inside view.**

Speakers

ALEXANDRE MARIONNEAU / ARTE, France
ERKKO LYYTINEN / YLE, Finland
VUK PEROVIĆ / RTCG, Montenegro

Moderator
JOVANA JOVIČIĆ / DokSerbia, Serbia

# BELDOCS MASTERCLASSES



**CLAIRE SIMON**

## FILMING LIFE AS IT HAPPENS

As a documentary filmmaker it occurs every day that what we thought is wrong. Filming a documentary is going from surprises to surprises...
From *Playground* to *Writing life* I have always been so surprised!
As Fred Wiseman would say: Chance! Luck is our best friend!



**TOMASZ WOLSKI**

## REIMAGINING ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE

Tomasz Wolski's masterclass explores his working methodology and creative process, showing how to shape a compelling narrative when archival material is either scarce or abundant. Through techniques such as staged reconstruction, animation, the editing of thematic sequences, and a creative approach to sound design and music, he demonstrates how raw materials can be transformed into a cohesive and emotionally resonant cinematic story.

# BELDOCS TALK



PAUL
RIETH

## WHO IS YOUR DOCUMENTARY FOR?

### Audience design as a creative strategy for documentary filmmakers

**Who is the audience for your documentary — and when does it matter to know? Non-fiction films carry stories that deserve to be seen, but finding that audience requires intention, not luck. This talk introduces audience design as a creative and strategic practice that begins not at the marketing stage, but at the very heart of a film's development. Paul Rieth explores how documentary filmmakers can identify, define, and actively engage their audiences — from the first pitch to distribution — and why thinking about the audience early is one of the most powerful decisions a non-fiction filmmaker can make.**

# PLAY.DOCS TALKS



**JULIA MAKIVIC**

## ALTERNATIVE CONTROLLERS:

### Art, Electronics, and Creative Engineering

Julia will provide an overview of various alternative controller video games, what makes a game controller *alternative*, as well as how hardware hacking and DIY electronic engineering can empower users to understand the technologies that shape our daily lives. She will provide an analysis of Sound Blok, a stackable musical instrument, describing how the user interaction, electronics, and visual design work in unison. She will also provide a step by step discussion of her design process for her latest work in progress, *Brutalist Angels*.




**ABNER PREIS**

## ECOLOGY OF ARCHIVE

Archives are no longer seen as fixed records of the past, but as living systems that keep evolving. Through his work, Abner explores how images, texts, and sounds can be reactivated using AI to create new narratives. Instead of one stable story, the archive becomes a space for multiple perspectives, reinterpretations, and even contradictions—raising questions about authorship, truth, and how memory is shaped today. In the masterclass, Abner will present two projects: *Echo Archive*, commissioned by Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision, and *Lost Hood*, where he animates archival images to bring new life and meaning to them.

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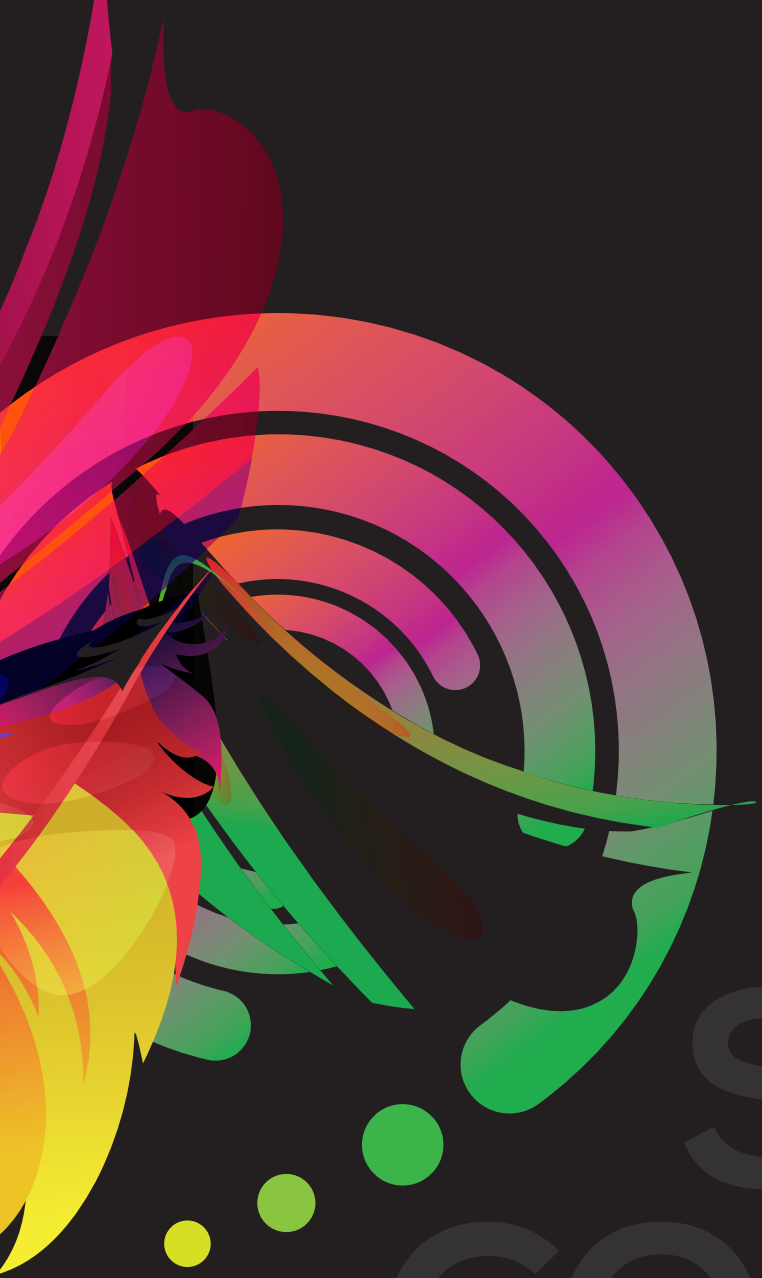

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# TiDF 28

## THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

05–15.03.2026




# AGORA

06–14.03.2026

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# DAE is the members network for documentary professionals working inside and outside of Europe.

**Find like-minded, open, empathetic and internationally-engaged people making up our 900 members in 60 countries.**

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We are fighting for the best conditions for documentary filmmaking and distribution.

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DOCUMENTARY ASSOCIATION OF EUROPE **DAE**

Visit our website **dae-europe.org**

Contact us at **info@dae-europe.org**

**Current deadlines:**
**Docu Talents from the East @Sarajevo FF: May 31**
**Ji.hlava Academy: June 14**
**Film submissions: June 30**




Ji.hlava
INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL
23.10.—1.11.2026


MAJORDOCS
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institute of documentary film

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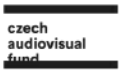







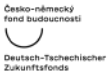










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# IMPRESSUM

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Nušićeva 6, 11 000 Belgrade, Serbia
Tel +381 11 324 8873
info@beldocs.rs
www.beldocs.rs

Founder
MLADEN VUŠUROVIĆ

Director
MARA PROHASKA MARKOVIĆ

Head of Industry Programme
ANDRIJANA SOFRANIĆ ŠUĆUR

Head of Administration
RADA ALEKSIĆ

Head of Production
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