



Ji.hlava Industry Programme 2025

PROGRAMME / INDUSTRY HUB			Open for: Industry, Partners & Press accreditation
TUE OCT 28	WED OCT 29	THU OCT 30	FRI OCT 31
	10 AM - 11:30 AM Ji.hlava New Visions Forum / Presentation of 7 projects in Production & Post-production I. <i>Main stage</i>	10 AM - 11:30 AM Ji.hlava New Visions Forum / Presentation of 7 projects in Development & Production I. <i>Main stage</i>	10 AM - 11:00 AM Ji.hlava New Visions Forum / Country in Focus: Croatia / Presentation of 5 projects from Croatia <i>Main stage</i>
10 PM - 11:30 PM New Cinema 2025: Get to Know your Cinema Operator <i>Dukla Cinema - Edison</i>	12 PM - 1:10 PM Ji.hlava New Visions Forum / Presentation of 7 projects in Production & Post-production II. <i>Main stage</i>	11:40 PM - 12:50 PM Ji.hlava New Visions Forum / Presentation of 6 projects in Development & Production II. <i>Main stage</i>	11:15 AM - 12:45 PM Roundtables JNVF: Croatian projects (by invitation only) <i>Yottabe Space</i>
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Visegrad Accelerator: How to make festivals more inclusive <i>Small stage</i>	12 PM - 1:30 PM Diary: A Tool for Self-reflection and Artistic Exploration (upon registration) <i>IF stage</i>		11:30 AM - 1 PM Future Memory Lab Pitching & Call for Entries <i>Main stage</i>
5 PM - 6:30 PM Czech Joy in the Spotlight Presentation <i>Main stage</i>	2 PM - 4 PM Future Memory Lab Call for Entries 2026 + Case study <i>Dukla Cinema - Edison</i>	2:30 PM - 5:15 PM Roundtables JNVF: EU projects in Development & Production (by invitation only) <i>Small stage</i>	2 PM - 3:15 PM Documentary Calls after the Transformation of the Fund – Czech Audiovisual Fund in Dialogue with ARAS <i>Main stage</i>
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Industry drink with the Czech Joy in the Spotlight hosted by Czech Audiovisual Fund and Doc Alliance Network of Markets <i>foyer</i>	2:30 PM - 5:15 PM Roundtables JNVF: EU projects in Production & Post-production (by invitation only) <i>Small stage</i>	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Creative Europe MEDIA Presentation <i>Main stage</i>	3:30 PM - 4:30 PM Happy Hour with the Council of the Czech Audiovisual Fund <i>foyer</i>
	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Co-production with Croatia: Opportunities in the Croatian Film Industry <i>IF stage</i>	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Delegation Speedmeeting: Meet the Austrian Producers (by invitation only) <i>Small stage</i>	3:30 PM - 5 PM The Public Service Role of Documentary Filmmaking at Czech Television <i>Main stage</i>
	6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Industry Drink hosted by Vysočina Film Office <i>foyer</i>	6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Industry Drink hosted by AUSTRIAN FILMS <i>foyer</i>	5 PM - 6 PM Industry Drink hosted by Croatian Audiovisual Centre <i>foyer</i>
	7:30 PM - 9 PM EMERGING PRODUCERS 2026 Public Presentation <i>Main stage</i>		
	9 PM - 10 PM Industry Drink hosted by Audiovisual Producers' Association <i>foyer</i>		

OCT 24 - NOV 16 / JI.HLAVA VIDEO LIBRARY

Open for: Industry accreditation, online

You can watch the competition films of the 29th Ji.hlava IDFF online, along with other selected titles during the festival. Library will be accessible for industry guests from October 24 until November 16.

OCT 28 - 31 / MATCHMAKING ACCELERATOR

Open for: Industry accreditation, **Venue:** Industry Hub - Horácké Theatre

OCT 29 - 31 / INDUSTRY RECHARGE AREA

Open for: Industry accreditation, **Venue:** Industry Hub - Horácké Theatre

The Ji.hlava Re:charge Area is a tranquil space designed for relaxation. Here, you can take a break from the festival hustle and find a quiet spot to rest and recharge. Whether you need a moment of peace or a cosy place to catch a film, the Recharge Area offers a comfortable environment to enhance your festival experience. During your stay at the festival, you will also have access to the Video Library and the Platform in the Ji.hlava Recharge Area throughout the Industry Days.

OCT 10, 2025 - OCT 10, 2026 / JI.HLAVA NEW VISIONS FORUM AND MARKET / DOC ALLIANCE NETWORK OF MARKETS PLATFORM

Open for: Industry accreditation, online, **Venue:** Industry Hub - Horácké Theatre (OCT 28 - 31)

An online platform featuring 33 Forum projects and 21 Market projects. The trailers of the Forum projects will be released only after their pitching session. The Platform is open and accessible to industry guests til October 2026.

OCT 30 / CONFERENCE ON ETHICS IN DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR TOPIC

Open for: all types of accreditations, **Venue:** IF Stage

INTRODUCTION

Dear friends,

Autumn is here, bringing with it the vibrant high festival season! We are delighted to welcome you to the 29th edition of Ji.hlava.

For twenty-nine years, Ji.hlava has been a meeting place for documentary film enthusiasts, and since 2001, our Industry program has evolved into a gateway for professionals from across the film world – offering a dynamic mix of educational, promotional, and networking opportunities.

Our mission remains unchanged: to nurture creativity, innovation, and the continuous evolution of documentary storytelling. Many of you return each year for this shared spirit of discovery—or perhaps for the festival’s distinctive, open, and inspiring atmosphere, where spontaneous encounters often grow into lasting collaborations. Whatever brings you here, we are truly happy to welcome you and share this experience with you!

This year’s **Ji.hlava New Visions Forum & Market** will once again present an exciting selection of distinctive, author-driven documentary projects in various stages of development, production, and post-production. The spotlighted projects come from Europe, United States, and East & Southeast Asia.

Our signature vinyl-style catalog features personal profiles of the eighteen **Emerging Producers 2026**, who join over 230 alumni from previous years. You’ll have the chance to meet these exceptional professionals in Ji.hlava during their official presentation.

We continue to strengthen regional cooperation, particularly within Central Europe. Filmmakers from Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary, and Poland will again gather to exchange ideas, address challenges, and present future plans during the **Visegrad Accelerator** activities.

The **Ji.hlava Academy** will once more bring together dozens of curious and passionate filmmakers for an intensive creative lab, while festival representatives will reunite for the **Festival Identity** workshop to discuss strategies how to make festivals more inclusive.

We are also delighted to welcome **Croatia as this year’s Industry Guest Country**, presenting its vibrant documentary scene and creative professionals. We will also host an **official industry delegation from Austria**, further strengthening the collaboration.

The 29th Ji.hlava Industry program features a rich lineup of presentations, panels, masterclasses, discussions, and networking events. The **Matchmaking Accelerator** will connect participants with a broad network of industry peers, the **Inspiration Forum** will spark fresh cross-disciplinary perspectives, and the **Conference on Ethics in Documentary Filmmaking** will be dedicated to AI and its role in the creative process.

We invite you to develop bold new projects, discover emerging talents, and engage with the creative energy that defines Ji.hlava. We wish you an inspiring and fulfilling **29th edition of the Ji.hlava IDFF!**

Jarmila Outratová

Head of Industry & Training, Ji.hlava IDFF

Tuesday October 28

NEW CINEMA 2025

Get to Know Your Cinema Operator

10 AM – 11:30 PM | Dukla Cinema - Edison

Czech language only

The New Cinema project has long been educating and connecting cinema operators and distributors not only from the Czech Republic but also from neighboring countries. For the 2024-2025 festival, one of its goals is to connect cinema operators with producers and other stakeholders in the audiovisual industry. The seminar is structured around presentations, moderated discussions, and a “round table” of participants from the New Cinema 2024-2025 project with other stakeholders in the AV industry. Participants in the project operate cinemas in both large cities and small towns and villages, allowing for a comparison of approaches based on the size of the catchment area or competitive environment.

In addition, the seminar will explore the potential of artificial intelligence in cinema or present updated statistics on documentary film attendance in Czech cinemas in 2024 and 2025.

Representatives of cinemas

Bio Central, Hradec Králové
Biograf Kotva, České Budějovice
Kino Kavalírka, Prague
Kino O, Orlová
Kino Miloše Formana, Čáslav
Divadlo Za plotem, Prague
Kino Napajedla, Napajedla
Kosmos, Třinec
Kino Blansko, Blansko
Metropol, Olomouc
Hvězda, Uherské Hradiště
Kino Vlast, Frýdek-Místek
Kino 35, Prague

Moderator Petr Vitek / project coordinator, Nové kino / Czech Republic

VISEGRAD ACCELERATOR

How to make festivals more inclusive

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM | Small stage

The discussion will focus on strategies for making festivals more accessible and welcoming to a broader range of audiences, including marginalized groups such as disadvantaged communities, seniors, and people with disabilities. The discussion will also explore how festivals can better connect with local communities, encouraging their active involvement and building lasting relationships.

Panelists

Viki Gömbös / project manager, International Special Film Festival / Hungary
Marek Hovorka / festival director, Ji.hlava IDFF / Czech Republic
Eva Křížková / festival director, One World / Slovakia
Anna Szczypińska / head of Industry, Millennium Docs Against Gravity / Poland

Moderator Bob Palmer / festival consultant / United Kingdom

-
- Visegrad Fund
- •

CZECH JOY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

5 PM – 6:30 PM | Main stage

Presentation and short previews of brand new Czech documentary films selected for the festival national competition introduced by their authors.

Moderator Diana Tabakov / head of digital content at Czech Television / Czech Republic

The presentation is organised by the Ji.hlava IDFF and the Czech Audiovisual Fund.

INDUSTRY DRINK

with the Czech Joy in the Spotlight hosted by Czech Audiovisual Fund and Doc Alliance Network of Markets

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM | foyer

New talents as well as renowned Czech filmmakers will be sharing their future plans. Come and discuss the latest news on the Czech documentary film scene and learn more about the Doc Alliance Network of Markets, a new platform connecting key European documentary Industry markets.



Wednesday October 29

JI.HLAVA NEW VISIONS FORUM I. Projects in Production & Post-production 10 AM – 11:30 AM | Main stage

Pitching presentation of 7 European, U.S. and East & Southeast Asian projects.

Superhumans / Austria

When a Poet Goes to War / Hong Kong, Myanmar

Wood Street / United States

Thieves of Ashes / Czech Republic, Slovakia, Canada

Thunder and Rosy Clouds / Taiwan

American Believer / United States

Correspondances to inhabit the world / Spain, Switzerland, Uruguay

Moderator Tereza Šimíková / producer at Caliber Pictures and international program consultant for Chicken&Egg Pictures / Denmark



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JI.HLAVA NEW VISIONS FORUM II. Projects in Production & Post-production 12 PM – 1:10 PM | Main stage

Pitching presentation of 7 European, U.S. and East & Southeast Asian projects.

Adam's Tooth / Georgia, United Kingdom

Still—moving / Portugal

Dear You / United States

The Other Preppers / United Kingdom

Ancestral Void / Thailand

Free Joan Little / United States

Momtski Kamen - The Girls Rock / Greece

Moderator Tereza Šimíková / producer at Caliber Pictures and international program consultant for Chicken&Egg Pictures / Denmark



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DIARY: A TOOL FOR SELF-REFLECTION AND ARTISTIC EXPLORATION 12 PM – 1:30 PM | IF stage

Czech language only

Participation is upon prior registration via Eventival

Do you keep a diary? Come and bring it with you! And if you don't, it's worth trying — bring that one too! Experience the power of keeping a diary as a creative and self-reflective process. We will explore how a diary can support deeper reflection on both artistic practice and life itself. You'll try out two techniques that can help you grasp your projects or cope with stress: Drawing for Release and Daily Inventory. We will also

introduce a partial artistic research project exploring how diary-keeping helps to reflect on directorial choices and on the role of the director and researcher during the demanding process of documentary filmmaking.

The workshop will be led by Hana Muchová as part of the project “Possibilities of Working with a Diary in Documentary Filmmaking” developed at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (Specific University Research, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports 2025).

JI.HLAVA NEW VISIONS FORUM: ROUNDTABLES **European projects in Production & Post-production**

2:30 PM – 5:15 PM | Small stage

By invitation only

FUTURE MEMORY LAB

2 PM - 4 PM | Dukla Cinema - Edison

Czech language only

Call for Entries 2026 + Case study The Imprint of a Luxury Party at the Štrougals' in the Film Family Matter.

Information and questions about applications for 2026 for authors and producers from the audiovisual, theater, and gallery fields.

Political-historical case study by Jakub Wagner and Martin Kohout. Director and producer Jakub Wagner and documentary filmmaker and sociologist Martin Kohout will present their work with a unique find – an amateur recording from 1986 capturing a private party of the political and cultural elite of late-normalization Czechoslovakia. The case study will develop a reflection on the broader political and historical context and offer insight into the methodology of working with found archival material and its transfer and interpretation into the author's film Family Matters (Czechia 2014, Andrej Stankovič Award 2015).

FUTURE
MEMORY
LAB

CO-PRODUCING WITH CROATIA **Opportunities in the Croatian Film Industry**

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM | IF stage

Focusing on the landscape of contemporary Croatian documentary cinema, this session will provide an overview of film production, documentary funding, and the country's growing record of international co-productions. It will highlight Croatia's dynamic documentary scene and offer insights into audience trends and cinema attendance. Industry experts will discuss opportunities for international collaboration, available co-production incentives, and strategies to connect Croatian films with global audiences. The session aims to open new pathways for creative partnerships and strengthen Croatia's position within the European and international film community.

Keynote presentation by Robert Tomić Zuber / head of Industry, ZagrebDox

Panelists

Marcella Jelić / sales agent, Split Screen

Hrvoje Pukšec / executive director, ZagrebDox

Oliver Sertić / film producer and film distributor, Restart

Moderator Marta Balaga / journalist, Variety



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INDUSTRY DRINK

hosted by Vysočina Film Office

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM | foyer

The Vysočina Film Office is part of the regional organization Vysočina Tourism. The Vysočina Film Office acts as a bridge between filmmakers, local authorities in the Vysočina Region, and suppliers for audiovisual production. Our unique support system helps filmmakers and location managers secure film locations, obtain necessary permits, and connect with reliable local suppliers offering services such as accommodation, catering, or film equipment. Thanks to this comprehensive approach and financial support, we are able to assist a wide range of projects — from student films to feature productions.

The main goal of the Vysočina Film Office is to streamline and accelerate filmmakers' work, making the region film-friendly while actively supporting the local economy by engaging regional businesses. The result is the growing visibility of Vysočina on movie screens and television.

For more information, visit filmvysocina.cz.



EMERGING PRODUCERS 2026

Public Presentation

7:30 PM — 9 PM | Main stage

Each year since 2011, talented European documentary film producers are selected for the prestigious Emerging Producers workshop. These talented film professionals go through a training programme in Jihlava and Berlin, are promoted at major film festivals throughout the year and get connected with other experts in the film industry. Meet the eighteen Emerging Producers 2026 during their short presentations.

The event is organised in cooperation with the Audiovisual Producers' Association.

Dominic Spitaler / Austria
Maarten D'Hollander / Belgium
Pavla Klimešová / Czech
Nahusenay Dereje / Ethiopia
Julie Meigniez / France
Evi Stamou / Greece
Anna Tóth / Hungary
Angelo Rocco Troiano / Italy
Ringailė Leščinskienė / Lithuania
Yann Tonnar / Luxembourg
Ivana Shekutkoska / North Macedonia
Anita Vedå / Norway
Maria Krauss / Poland
Bernardo Lopes / Portugal
Tomáš Gič / Slovakia
Caroline Drab / Sweden
Azra Djurdjevic / Switzerland
Eugene Rachkovsky / Ukraine

The presentation is preceded by the ceremony of the **APA World Excellence Award** and the **Award for the Best Virtual Reality project**.

INDUSTRY DRINK

hosted by the Audiovisual Producers' Association

9 PM — 10 PM | foyer

Eighteen talented producers set out on a journey with the Emerging Producers programme at the Ji.hlava IDFF. We support up-and-coming talents as they're going to play a key role in the future of documentary cinema. Come to have a drink with this year's Emerging Producers and ask them about their forthcoming plans.

APA

CZECHPRODUCERS.CZ

Thursday October 30

JI.HLAVA NEW VISIONS FORUM I.

Projects in Development & Production

10 AM – 11:10 AM | Main stage

Pitching presentation of 7 European, U.S. and East & Southeast Asian projects.

Laura Zahirah: Just a Regular Muslim / Finland, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia

In the Penal Camp / Germany

Underneath the Waves / Hungary

The Game of Women and War / Belgium, Poland, Ukraine

Conversations with Exes / United States

Braving the Breeze / Malaysia, Taiwan

Newville / United States, Switzerland, Uganda

Moderator Pierre-Alexis Chevit / co-matchmaker of Ji.hlava Industry and head of Cannes Docs at Marché du Film - Festival de Cannes / France



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JI.HLAVA NEW VISIONS FORUM II.

Projects in Development & Production

11:40 AM – 12:50 PM | Main stage

Pitching presentation of 6 European, U.S. and East & Southeast Asian projects.

Dirty Days in Fun City / United States

The Pylon and the Lake / France

The Hope Will Carry Us / Azerbaijan

God, Have You Ever Been Jealous? / Indonesia

Drifting by the River Rhythm / Cambodia

Read my Breast / Austria, Spain

Moderator Patrizia Mancini / co-matchmaker of Ji.hlava Industry and head of Industry at Sheffield DocFest / United Kingdom



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JI.HLAVA NEW VISIONS FORUM: ROUNDTABLES

European projects in Development & Production

2:30 PM – 5:15 PM | Small stage

By invitation only

DELEGATION SPEEDMEETING: Meet the Austrian Producers

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM | Small stage

By invitation only

The Austrian delegation at Ji.hlava Industry is supported by AUSTRIAN FILMS.

**AUSTRIAN
FILMS**

CREATIVE EUROPE MEDIA PRESENTATION

Funding opportunities for producers and other documentary professionals

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM | Main stage

Creative Europe MEDIA is the European Union's programme for the support of European audiovisual industry. It supports the development of new films, TV and online formats, distribution, film festivals and markets, training programmes for audiovisual professionals, cinemas and VOD platforms. What are the funding opportunities available to producers and other documentary professionals? What projects are eligible to apply and under which conditions? The presentation will also briefly present the European Commission's proposal for a new programme for the 2028-2034 period.

Speaker Vladka Chytilová / head of Creative Europe Desk MEDIA / Czech Republic

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INDUSTRY DRINK hosted by AUSTRIAN FILMS

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM | foyer

Through its promotional activities, AUSTRIAN FILMS aims to raise global awareness of a wide range of cinematic narratives produced in Austria for the big screen, in all their diversity and variety of forms. Within a dynamic network, the organization acts as an intermediary between a committed production landscape and the key hubs in the international film business, which primarily support European arthouse films in the global race for audiences.

Official delegation at the 29th Ji.hlava IDFF.

**AUSTRIAN
— FILMS**

Friday October 31

JI.HLAVA NEW VISIONS FORUM

Country in Focus: Croatia

10 AM – 11 AM | Main stage

Pitching presentation of 6 Croatian projects.

Behind Open Doors / Croatia, Serbia, Spain

Closing Time / Croatia

Olimbi - Mother Courage / Croatia

The center of the world / Croatia, Slovenia

The Three of Us / Croatia

Moderators

Patrizia Mancini / co-matchmaker of Ji.hlava Industry and head of Industry at Sheffield DocFest / United Kingdom

Pierre-Alexis Chevit / co-matchmaker of Ji.hlava Industry and head of Cannes Docs at Marché du Film - Festival de Cannes / France



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JI.HLAVA NEW VISIONS FORUM: ROUNDTABLES

Croatian projects

11:15 AM – 12:45 PM | Yotabbe Space

By invitation only



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FUTURE MEMORY LAB

11:30 AM – 1 PM | Main stage

Pitching: Feature and Short Films in Production and Postproduction + Call For Entries 2026

Presentation of new Future Memory Lab projects in production and early postproduction for representatives of the international film industry and the professional public. Feature-length and short films and documentary theater developed in a creative laboratory specializing in the development of contemporary innovative approaches to working with film archives and found footage materials.

FUTURE
MEMORY
LAB

DOCUMENTARY CALLS AFTER THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE FUND Czech Audiovisual Fund in Dialogue with ARAS

2 PM – 3:15 PM | Main stage

Czech language only

How has support for documentary filmmaking changed after the transformation of the Czech Audiovisual Fund (SFA)? The session will

outline where documentary calls have been placed within the Fund's expanded structure and offer practical guidance on how to navigate them. At the end of the debate, the remaining members of all four expert councils of the Fund will briefly introduce themselves and their mandates, and invite the audience to the subsequent Happy Hours for one-to-one conversations and additional questions.

Panelists

Veronika Lengálová / Czech Audiovisual Fund

Petr Bilík / member of the Cinema Council, university lecturer in Film Studies, vice-dean at Palacký University

Tomáš Feřtek / member of the Small screen council, screenwriter and script editor

Petr Kubica / member of the Small screen council, programme director of Ji.hlava IDFF

Dan Krátký / member of the Infrastructure council, Czech Association of Cinema Operators, university lecturer in Film Studies

Zdeňka H. Kujová / vice-chair of the Infrastructure council and producer

Michaela Režová / chair of the Animation and Video Games council, animator, filmmaker and director

Moderator Jindřich Andrš / director and producer/ Association of Czech Film Directors, Screenwriters and Script Editors and Audiovisual Producers' Association



HAPPY HOUR with the Council of the Czech Audiovisual Fund

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM | foyer

Czech language only

An informal gathering with members of the Fund's four expert councils. At round tables, you will have the opportunity to personally ask about the councils' priorities and the future direction of Czech audiovisual culture.

Questions can be addressed to Petr Bilík (Council for Cinematography), Michaela Režová (Council for Animation and Video Games), Tomáš Feřtek and Petr Kubica (Council for Television Works), Dan Krátký and Zdenka Kujová (Council for Audiovisual Infrastructure).



THE PUBLIC SERVICE ROLE OF DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING AT CZECH TELEVISION

3:30 PM – 5 PM | Main stage

Czech language only

The Public Service Role of Documentary Production at Czech Television Public Service Broadcasting in the Digital Landscape: How is Czech Television adapting the development, production, and distribution of its content—both in linear broadcasting and in its online catalogue—to stay competitive in the platform-driven environment and capture the attention of a fragmented audience? What role does documentary production and the work of independent producers play in this context, especially with new television formats soon to be supported

by the State Cinematography Fund? An interview with Milan Fridrich about the present and future vision of public service broadcasting.

Interview with Milan Fridrich (director of the Program and Digital Services Division and deputy CEO / Czech Television) moderated by Jindřich Andrš (director and producer / Association of Czech Film Directors, Screenwriters and Script Editors and Audiovisual Producers' Association).



INDUSTRY DRINK hosted by Croatian Audiovisual Centre

5 PM – 6 PM | foyer

As Croatia takes the spotlight as the Industry Country in Focus of the 29th Ji.hlava IDFF, the Croatian Audiovisual Centre invites all industry guests to a relaxed networking drink. Meet the teams behind six Croatian projects presented at the Ji.hlava New Visions Forum, connect with filmmakers and producers, and discover the creative energy driving Croatia's vibrant documentary scene.



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INDUSTRY AWARD CEREMONY & INDUSTRY PARTY

10 PM - 1:00 AM | Small stage and IF stage

The right **Industry Party** atmosphere will be provided by DJ **Mr Ultrafino**.

Ji.hlava New Visions Forum Awards

Numerous awards in cooperation with the Ji.hlava IDFF partners will be granted to the most promising European, U.S., and Asian documentary projects.



**Ji.hlava
New Visions
Jury
Awards
Matchmakers**

Ji.hlava New Visions Forum Jury



Rada Šešić

**head of the documentary
competition at Sarajevo FF / Bosnia
and Herzegovina, film curator /
Netherlands**

Rada Šešić, formerly from Yugoslavia, is now based in the Netherlands. She serves as Head of the Documentary Competition at the Sarajevo Film Festival, Programmer at the Trieste Film Festival, and is on the selection committee of the DOHA Film Fund. She is Co-head of the Docu Rough Cut Boutique and leads Last Stop Trieste. From 2001 to 2023, she collaborated with IDFA Amsterdam. As a filmmaker, Šešić has directed documentaries and dance films including *Lam Arabi*, *Room Without a View*, *Soske*, *In Whitest Solitude*, and *On the Way to School*, screened at around 60 festivals worldwide. She has served on more than 50 juries, including IDFA and Hot Docs, and is a member of NETPAC and the European Film Academy.



Tue Steen Müller

**film consultant and journalist /
Denmark**

Tue Steen Müller has worked with documentary films for over 20 years at the Danish Film Board as press officer, festival representative, and film consultant. He is co-founder of Balticum Film and TV Festival, Filmkontakt Nord, Documentary of the EU, and the European Documentary Network (EDN). His contributions have been recognized with major honors, including the Danish Roos Prize, the EDN Award, The Cross of the Knight of the Order for Merits to Lithuania and Latvia's Order of the Three Stars. In 2022 he received an honorary award at DocsBarcelona's 25th edition, that he co-founded. From 1996 until 2005 he was the first director of EDN (European Documentary Network). From 2006 a freelance consultant and teacher in workshops in Europe and beyond.



Chris White

**executive producer at POV & America
ReFramed / USA**

Chris White is responsible for producing PBS's award-winning documentary series *POV* and *POV Shorts*, as well as *America ReFramed* on WORLD Channel. He has presented over 300 films for national broadcast, and since becoming Executive Producer in 2015, American Documentary films have won 15 Emmys, 14 Peabody Awards, and garnered 11 Oscar nominations, including the films *Minding the Gap*, *The Mole Agent*, *A House Made of Splinters*, and *Porcelain War*. At the 44th News & Documentary Emmys, Chris was inducted into the NATAS Silver Circle, honoring professionals who have made an enduring contribution (over 25 years) to the television industry.

Ji.hlava New Visions Forum Awards

Ji.hlava New Visions Award 2025 for the most promising European project in cooperation with UPP and Soundsquare

Post-production services in the value of 20,000 EUR - 15,000 EUR (UPP) and 5,000 EUR (Soundsquare)



Ji.hlava New Visions Award 2025 for the most promising U.S. project in partnership with AmDocs

The project will receive 7,000 USD as a cash award granted in cooperation with the American Documentary And Animation Film Festival



Cannes Docs - Marché du Film Award

Two complimentary Marché du Film badges & selection as a Cannes Docs 2026 'Spotlighted Project'

Eligible for European, Asian and U.S. projects



DAE Award

Free memberships for two members of the project team for one year and a tailor-made consultancy session with Documentary Association of Europe senior consultants

Eligible for European, Asian and U.S. projects



#Docs Connect Taskovski training Award

Mentorship and consultancy on the festival, marketing and distribution strategy

Eligible for both European and U.S. projects



Docs by the Sea Award at Ji.hlava New Visions Forum 2025

The winning project will be invited to participate in Docs by the Sea 2026, with accommodation provided for the whole event

Eligible for Asian projects



Jacob Burns Film Center Award at Ji.hlava New Visions Forum 2025

The Jacob Burns Film Center (Pleasantville, NY) will provide a creative residency for the winning project. Residencies span 2–4 weeks and can be utilized at various stages of the creative process. Artists in Residence receive housing in a private three-bedroom house on the JBFC campus; a private editing suite with tailored tech support from JBFC staff; a weekly stipend of \$500 for up to two team members; access to specialized production spaces at the Media Arts Lab (including a 50-seat screening room, sound stage, recording studio, editing suites, and stop-motion animation lab); travel coverage and logistics support from program staff; access to programs at the 5-screen Jacob Burns Film Center cinema; and an open invitation to present finished or in-process work in collaboration with JBFC curators.

Eligible for European, Asian and U.S. projects



Lightdox Award

Strategic guidance on the European and non-US industry landscape, encompassing project positioning, festival trajectory, distribution pathways, and impact strategy for the awarded project

Eligible for U.S. projects

L | G H T D O X

Méditalents Residency Award at Ji.hlava New Visions Forum 2025

Residency for the winning project includes direct selection to Méditalents' LabDoc 2026 (Marseille, March–November), with full residency coverage (registration fees excluded)

Eligible for projects from the Mediterranean region



Sheffield DocFest Networking Award

Two Industry Passes for Sheffield DocFest 2025

Eligible for European, Asian and U.S. projects



Partners of the Ji.hlava New Visions Awards



Austrian Delegation at Ji.hlava 2025

Dominik Spitaler / Emerging Producers Programme

Arash T.Riahi / Golden Girls | 2 projects selected at the JNV Forum

Ina Shevchenko / director of SUPERHUMANS (and main protagonist of Read my Breast) selected at the JNV Forum

Anja Salomonowitz / director of READ MY BREAST selected at the JNV Forum

Alice Royoux / Amour Fou | Project WHO CARES by Ina Ivanceanu selected at the JNV Market

Rebecca Fuxen / Junior producer @ Horse & Fruits production / producer of the new project by Lisa Polster (director of BÜRGEKOPF) funded for development as part of Talent Lab 2025

Stephan Herzog / producer of AUSTROSCHWARZ that will have its international premiere at DOK.LEIPZIG / producer of a documentary film project by Cristian Iorga, funded for development as part of Talent Lab 2024

**AUSTRIAN
FILMS**

Matchmakers



Patrizia Mancini

Ji.hlava Industry Co-matchmaker

Italian based in Paris with a background in theatre and dubbing, Patrizia has been in the documentary industry since 2012. She worked with companies such as Wide House, Slingshot Films and Deckert Distribution GmbH for international sales; acquisitions as well with International Co-production market Sunny Side of the Doc as Head of Talents & International Development. She has been freelancing for international markets and festivals as jury and tutor before joining the team of Sheffield DocFest as Head of Industry.



Pierre-Alexis Chevit

Ji.hlava Industry Co-matchmaker

Since 2015, Pierre-Alexis Chevit runs Cannes Docs, the tailored industry program & networking platform for all creative documentary filmmakers and professionals at Marché du Film - Festival de Cannes. Over the years, Pierre-Alexis has also freelanced for various documentary film festivals, markets and organizations – Ji.hlava IDFF, Visions du Réel, DOK Leipzig, EURODOC, Cinéma du réel, Festival dei Popoli, Fipadoc... –, still regularly collaborating with a number of them, mainly on the industry side. Formerly, he has also worked in the VOD/DVD field, dealing mainly with docs and shorts. Pierre-Alexis often serves as moderator, tutor, consultant, jury or expert on various international documentary events.



Conference on Ethics in Documentary Filmmaking

Thursday October 30 / Horácké Theatre - IF stage

Morning coffee with students on ethics in documentary film

9 AM – 10:30 AM

Facilitated by Jan Motal

Only for pre-registered participants.

Czech language only.

A morning gathering just for students. Together we'll create a safe space where you don't have to hold back: from dilemmas of authorship and representation to the big question of whether audiences can still trust the images we make. Generative AI is changing the game – here you can share your experiences, emotions, and questions. No lines at the mic, no authority at the front – just an open circle where listening and sharing go hand in hand.

Introductory word and conference launch with Tereza Swadoschová and Jan Motal

10:50 AM – 11 AM

Academic perspective: Mapping the Ethics of AI in Documentary Film from Archives to Deepfakes

11 AM – 12:30 PM

Moderated by Veronika Kováč

Who speaks with the voice of an algorithm? And who holds control over storytelling when the tool itself becomes a co-author? This academic panel maps the ethical dilemmas brought by the use of artificial intelligence in documentary film.

Panelists

Katarina Cizek (MIT Co-Creation Studio) will introduce seven key threats AI poses to human creativity, from the erosion of ethics to the flattening of diversity.

Lucie Králová (FAMU) will present her new research supported by the Czech Technology Agency, focused on the ethics of using AI in audiovisual archives.

Andreea Lăcătuș (One World Romania, Bucharest) will open the discussion with the issue of vanishing voices and the dilemmas of using deepfake technologies to reconstruct missing audio.

Marta Materska-Samek (Jagiellonian University, Kraków) will bring insights from the Polish film industry, showing how filmmakers grapple with the question of whether AI is a threat or a collaborator.

Jan Motal (Masaryk University) will focus on ways filmmakers can reclaim creative control through open-source tools and collective practice.

Keynote with Dominic Lees: Documentary film in the era of artificial intelligence: responsibility, trust, authenticity

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Moderated by Jan Motal

Established conventions of documentary practice are undergoing a profound transformation in the age of artificial intelligence. This keynote examines both the theoretical and practical challenges facing documentary from the filmmaker's own perspective: how, within an environment shaped by generative technologies, the web of trust between maker, protagonist, and audience is changing. The talk explores how AI reshapes not only modes of production and storytelling but also the very perception of documentary veracity, and how the value of authenticity can be preserved within a new technological and cultural context.

The central question is how creators can restore trust in image, voice, and sound at a time when their evidentiary value has been fundamentally disrupted. The lecture also reflects on audiences' shifting relationship to archival materials and on the destabilization of the "archival effect", the viewer's emotional response tied to the awareness of a record's authentic origin - an effect that, in the age of AI, may be irreversibly transformed.

Case study with Piotr Winiewicz

3 PM – 4 PM

The experimental essay film *About a Hero* (2024) grew out of a bold experiment in co-authorship between a human and artificial intelligence. The creators developed bespoke tools and drew on a wide range of technologies—from text generation and voice synthesis to image experiments—to test whether an algorithm can assume the role of narrator, emulating Werner Herzog's voice. In this case study of *About a Hero*, Piotr Winiewicz presents the film's making and the reflections that shaped his thinking about authorship, originality, and human control during production. He will also screen unused footage and additional materials that offer a deeper insight into the creative process.

Industry perspective: Who controls documentary film in the era of AI?

4:30 PM – 5:45 PM

Moderated by Marta Balaga

Who really decides what a film looks like today – the director, the producer, the lawyer, or the algorithm? This panel discussion opens up questions of power and control in documentary filmmaking, questions made even more complex by the rise of generative AI. How does the relationship between filmmaker and technology shift? What happens when algorithms shape dramaturgy, distribution, or even content itself? And ultimately, who bears responsibility – for the story, for ethics, for the audience's trust? Bringing together diverse voices from practice and theory, the debate will map out where control over documentary truly lies today.

Panelists

Szilvia Ruszev (HUN)

Tomáš Rampula (CZ)

Veronika Macurová Křížová (CZ)

Tomáš Elšík (CZ)

Evening debriefing with students

7 PM – 8 PM

Facilitated by Jan Motal

Only for pre-registered participants.

The conference began with a morning circle of sharing – and in the evening, we return to it. Once again, a safe space is reserved just for students to pause and reflect together on what they have heard and seen throughout the day. It's a moment when inspiration, questions, and unease can turn into conversation. No protocol, no hierarchy – just an open circle where listening and sharing bookends a day devoted to the ethics of documentary filmmaking in the age of AI.

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COUNTRY IN FOCUS 2025

Ji.hlava New Vision Forum & Market are part of
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