



PRESS KIT

Ji.hlava

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Competition sections

Opus Bonus

Opus Bonum is a competition section for the documentary films from all around the world, with the price for the Best World Documentary Film.

Self-Portrait, Canada, 2022, Joële Walinga / European Premiere

What does the world look like from a non-human perspective? This surprisingly poetic film, which can be boldly described as an example of pure cinema, takes us on a journey through the seasons using security camera footage from various parts of the country. Individual, seemingly neutral snippets of life look like moving canvases with paintings or postcards that allow us to see places we could never otherwise visit. The cameras, like surveillance tools, reveal the unexpected beauty of industrial spaces, private buildings, and natural landscapes.

The Investigator, Czech Republic, Croatia, 2022, Viktor Portel / World Premiere

Even after more than 25 years since the dreadful war crimes had been taking place in former Yugoslavia, this tragic history is far from over – be it for the victims' families, conflicting nations or for a Czech investigator who comes back to the region to carry on in his work after so many years. The documentary return voyage follows not only the paths of fleeing war criminals, but is driven by an effort to capture a part of the ethic mission of the then newly formed International Criminal Court in The Hague along, in its double nature: based on an independent investigation of war crimes, to strive for reconciliation in cases of multifarious ethnic, national and other conflicts.

07:15 - Blackbird, France, 2022, Auffray Judith / International Premiere

The documentary's brief synopsis sounds like an unconventional fairy tale – an old hermit and a young girl who can communicate with birds hear the singing of an unknown bird one day and set off into the forest and an abandoned mine to find it. Although the story involves modern recording equipment and microphones, this doesn't detract from its fairy-tale poeticism. With birdsong at its centre, the film encourages concentrated listening, while at the same time leading us to reflect on the fact that even a sound as ordinary as birdsong has something mysterious about it.

Kristos, the Last Child, Italy, France, Greece, 2022, Giulia Amati / International Premiere

On the Greek island of Arki there are a thousand goats, but only thirty people. Among them is a single child, a boy named Kristos, who is just finishing his first year of primary school. In order to complete his primary education, he would have to go to another island to study, which his parents cannot afford. However, Kristos' teacher Maria is determined to do everything in her power. In this poetic observational documentary, a ten-year-old boy faces the dilemma of whether to stay on his native island and become a shepherd like his father and brothers, or venture into the unknown..

Boom Boom, France, 2022, Laurie Lassalle / International Premiere

A filmmaker and a young, left-wing activist named Pierre meet outside amidst the pandemonium of civil unrest. Every Saturday, they take to the streets of Paris in support of the yellow vests movement. Originally, when the yellow vest protests started in November 2018, it was about calling for affordable housing and cheaper fuel prices. Later the protests expanded to include demands for economic justice and the French president's resignation. The film consists of footage shot from the heart of the crowd and authentic interviews with opponents and supporters of the movement. The author's introspective voiceover thematizes the passion and romantic feelings brewing inside her despite the brutality and urgency of the demonstrations.

A Silent Gaze, Taiwan, 2022, Hsin-Yao Huang / International Premiere

Tainan County is located on the southwest coast of Taiwan. The locals have a modest lifestyle and make their living by rice farming and fishing. The filmmaker lived there for twelve years, capturing the beautiful coastal landscape and the lives of its inhabitants. This time-lapse documentary shows the transformation of nature and urban settlement by human activity as the permanence of tradition and human belonging. Static shots of sea waves and vast rice field give the impression of photographs come to life, creating a contemplative documentary film about the sense of timelessness in a Southeast Asian rural community.

Cisco Kid, United States, 2022, Emily Kaye Allen / World Premiere

In the midst of a vast desert in the American West lie the abandoned ruins of a city where the last of its eccentric inhabitants continue to eke out an existence. One of them is a young person who has decided to leave the hectic hustle and bustle of modern life and dedicate their life to hard work. During the day, they repair the crumbling houses in the town, at night they sleep in their trailer. They meets many locals and travelers with whom they share both their joys and doubts. The longitudinal documentary works as a double portrait: a portrait of a person defying society's ideas and a portrait of a place living in the past, full of idiosyncratic figures and fascinating life stories.

Bloom, Canada, 2022, Fanie Pelletier / World Premiere

Three groups of adolescent girl friends from Quebec are going through tough changes. The process of inventing their own bodies and identity are being recorded on the move by their smartphones and shared with their peers from other parts of the networked world. Due to their strong need of external confirmation, they alter their lives into a series of retouched pictures and videos. The film camera, however, captures their feelings of void, loneliness and deep inner insecurities that are not so attractive for Periscope, TikTok or Instagram. An intimate portrait of adolescence is made with full comprehension of experiencing and self-presentation in a generation growing up on the brink of the real and virtual worlds.

TERRA IN VISTA, Belgium, 2022, Giulia Angrisani, Mattia Petullà / International Premiere

Sisco, Cecilia, Gibbo and Armelle work as hired crop pickers. Along with other seasonal workers, they sleep on the farmers' land before moving on to the next farm. Their irregular worktime depends on the cyclic changes of the weather. For a while, they pick strawberries in Denmark, and then move on to vine in France or oranges in Spain. Even if they find themselves on the society's edge, with their nomadic way of life condemned by some and adored by others, they remain relatively free and independent. And it counts both in work and money. Precarity, a daily object of struggle of others, is their very own life style. They do not know what tomorrow will bring for them, yet they are still left with a lot of time for dreams and plays.

Greater Gospel, Spain, 2021, Javier Codesal / International Premiere

Josete Massa Residence in Madrid is the world's first retirement home for senior LGTBIQ+ citizens. Javier Codesal filmed here between 2019 and 2020, while the building was undergoing renovations. He places the residents of the home among the rubble almost like living sculptures in a gallery. Their bodies, like their souls, defy heteronormative notions of beauty. They recite fragments of biblical texts and quote Pasolini and Jarman like modern-day apostles. The religious texts flowing from their lips are not so much about faith as they are about cultural tradition. They have laid the foundations for centuries of canonical narratives that reduce the representatives of sexual minorities to a set of stereotypes.

The End Is Not What I Thought It Would Be, USA, 2022, Andrea Kleine / World Premiere

Yoyogi, Estonia, Belarus, Japan, 2022, Max Golomidov / World Premiere

Yoyogi is a park located in the center of Tokyo and the setting as well as the main character of this documentary. However, it is not the director's intention to present the history of the park – apart from the opening title, the audience will not learn any facts about it. The documentary without voiceover captures the park and its visitors only with a static camera and soft editing. Children playing on a monument, a couple on a bench hugging under an umbrella, young men competing in a rap battle, a homeless man passed by somebody, a girl making a TikTok video, a group of black men singing a song in a foreign language. A meditative observation.

The Shift, Slovakia, 2022, Jaro Vojtek / World Premiere

A babysitter, a bunch of laborers, and a long-haul truck driver. All were born in Slovakia, but after the country joined the EU, they took the opportunity to work elsewhere in the Schengen zone. During week-long work shifts in Austria, Germany, or on European motorways, they try to get used to their foreign environments while struggling to maintain contact with their children and partners. For their future, they left for better-paying jobs. Now they are losing them by their absence. They don't know what awaits them when they return home. A trio of saddening stories compose a laconic portrait of a globalised labour market that allows people to fulfil their dreams, but often at great sacrifice.

JUST BE THERE, Austria, 2022, Caspar Pfaundler / International Premiere

Taiwan and Austria, two countries on two different continents, two cultures. Two dance ensembles separated by many differences and yet their members speak the same language. The director spent two years with his camera, attending dance rehearsals of the Vienna State Ballet and the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre from Taiwan. He has captured how small gestures, steps and figures create a performance that we will not see in the end and his film shows more than just the final work. We can see a living matter that is being squeezed and shaped into an ideal form under the guidance of a choreographer. Art is like life and life is like art.

Over Our Hills, Switzerland, 2022, Mateo Ybarra / World Premiere

Switzerland is one of the few European countries that still has mandatory military service. This film provides a glimpse behind the walls of the barracks, where soldiers participate in the required drills and exercises, but also find ways in which to alleviate boredom. We watch young recruits during daily activities: eating, cleaning, and video conversations with the surrounding world. However, the montage also includes the vlogs of men who have already completed their military training and share their experiences, anecdotes, and frustrations over the internet. In this way, the problematic aspects of a militarized society appear in between entertaining excerpts from military life.

Deserters, Croatia, 2022, Damir Markovina / World Premiere

“I had many friends before the war; many of them are dead now”, one of the narrators comments, looking at a photo of her classmates. “We had a perfect life, but we were never satisfied,” she adds laconically. The secondary school in Mostar united them, the War of Independence divided them. This mosaic of memories of the early 1990s is composed of contemporary postcards and silent shots of places where wars were once fought. Their calmness today contrasts with the emotional excerpts from the letters of the Croatian students. They describe their flight across the border, their experiences in refugee camps, and their lingering hatred of the enemies who robbed them of their home and youth.

Czech Joy

Czech Joy is not only a prestigious competition for the best Czech documentary, but also a celebration of the diverse range of new topics and the adventurous spirit of cinematic expression.

Adam Ondra: Pushing the Limits, Czech Republic, Italy, 2022, Jan Šimánek, Petr Záruba / Czech Premiere

Adam Ondra ranks among the best sport climbers in the world, demonstrating breathtaking hand-foot coordination whilst scaling natural rocks and artificial walls. Shot over the course of three years, this documentary follows Adam Ondra as he gets ready for the Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo. The multi world champion spends most of his days training and has neither the time nor the disposition to stop for long conversations. Instead, his ripped muscles and girlfriend Iva do all the talking for him. While Adam climbs up to soaring heights, wins races, and faces increasing pressure from the media and his sponsors, Iva has sacrificed her own climbing career to keep him off the ground. This film of intimate human intricacies and spectacular natural formations explores the limits of physical prowess and partner proximity.

The Investigator, Czech Republic, Croatia, 2022, Viktor Portel / World Premiere

Even after more than 25 years since the dreadful war crimes had been taking place in former Yugoslavia, this tragic history is far from over – be it for the victims' families, conflicting nations or for a Czech investigator who comes back to the region to carry on in his work after so many years. The documentary return voyage follows not only the paths of fleeing war criminals, but is driven by an effort to capture a part of the ethic mission of the then newly formed International Criminal Court in The Hague along, in its double nature: based on an independent investigation of war crimes, to strive for reconciliation in cases of multifarious ethnic, national and other conflicts.

Kapr Code, Czech Republic, Slovakia, 2022, Lucie Králová / Czech Premiere

This operatic documentary takes on an unconventional approach as it covers the life story of Czechoslovak composer Jan Kapr (1914–1988). The once-celebrated composer who was favored by the communist regime was, nonetheless, eventually silenced and erased from history during the 1970s. The film makes use of Kapr's musical scores as well as amateur film shots and, with the help of a playful Dadaist libretto, reveals his life and work, set against the backdrop of historical change. The behind-the-scenes footage from a choir recording deconstructs the biographical genre and shows us how difficult it can be to interpret archival material, memories, and linear narratives.

Pongo Calling, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Great Britain, 2022, Tomáš Kratochvíl / Czech Premiere

Štefan Pongo and his family left the Czech Republic for Britain to escape racial stereotypes and discrimination. To have a normal life. And they did—that is, until he decided to respond on the internet to the racist rhetoric of Czech President Miloš Zeman. The truck driver's fate then took a major turn. The sensitively conceived personal and family portrait is a film-argument that juxtaposes simplistic, chauvinistic assessments with a full-blooded picture in which race issues are more of a problem to be solved than a lived reality. It tells the story of a journey there and back, across countries, beliefs, and our conscience.

All Ends Well, Czech Republic, 2022, Miroslav Janek / Czech Premiere

The queen, or mother, bee, drones and workers. Industriousness, togetherness, and selflessness in the name of a functional community that leaves no room for egocentrism. This poetic essay depicts the fascinating world of beehives, the layouts of which are an example to human society. Through observations of insects and conversations with beekeepers, as well as references from Radomil Hradil's book *Bees and Their World*, we learn that the bee, objectively the most important creature on Earth, has become an endangered species due to the actions of mankind, whose greed and selfishness may lead to its destruction. It's clear, however, that all will turn out well for Earth, with or without humanity...

Found by the One She Seeks, Czech Republic, 2022, Petr Michal / World Premiere

Petr Michal's meditative documentary follows the current life of an esteemed Czech literary translator, Anna Karenina. The film largely treats the relationship with her late husband, poet Petr Kabeš, and the feeling of loneliness she has been facing since his death. It is definitely not a conventional documentary portrait, since the director does not ask questions, and instead lets Karenina voice out her thoughts and feelings, observing her with a casual camera during work or on her mountaineering trips. The film also serves as an implicit proof of love to analogue medium: not only the book, but analogue film as well, with its invisible, yet almost tangible features..

Homies, Czech Republic, 2022, Jan Foukal / World Premiere

In a small Prague apartment, a director waits out a coronavirus lockdown with his friend, a fellow musician who's just left his girlfriend. By observing their actions whilst in home isolation, the reality of time slowly passing by in a pandemic spent looking out the window, cooking, and being bored is revealed. The film consists of shots of their everyday life, and they shake things up with playing music, singing, boozing, and debating about the difficulties of romantic relationships. This melancholy home video of two people cooped up inside their own four walls thus opens up more general questions about the human need for social interaction and sharing one's life with someone.

8th day of the war, Czech Republic, 2022, Oksana Moiseniuk / Czech Premiere

The film takes place on the eighth day of Russia's war campaign in Ukraine. Eight Ukrainians residing in the Czech Republic – a businesswoman, cleaning ladies, construction workers, and bus drivers – make their own diary-like observations of the events in their homeland. They continue to bury themselves in their work, unable to afford to withdraw themselves from their current lives. In their minds, however, they've transported themselves hundreds of kilometers away, helping their fellow countrymen and women by any means necessary. They provide accommodation for refugees, scout for bulletproof vests, and call their loved ones who've taken shelter from falling bombs. They have a hectic and emotionally overwhelming 24 hours ahead of them. But it's not the first 24 hours and it won't be the last.

a-B-C-D-e-F-G-H-i-JONESTOWN, Czech Republic, 2022, Jan Bušta / World Premiere

A children's film about the largest mass suicide of the 20th century reconstructs the 1978 event. The Reverend Jim Jones forced nearly a thousand followers of his People's Temple sect to drink poison in the settlement of Jonestown, Guyana, South America. A third of them were children. Jan Bušta gives sadists, voyeurs, and necrophiliacs one minute to leave the cinema. His self-reflective documentary, which is the result of ten years of time-lapse filming, does not depict dramatic scenes. To the sound of an audio recording from that fateful day, we see a collage of child ghosts preaching about escaping the corruption of the world.

Bandits for a Ballad, Czech Republic, Slovakia, 2022, Vladimír Morávek / World Premiere

“A burned-out group of Brno intellectuals decides to go to Kolochava in Ukraine to perform ‘A Ballad for a Bandit’ there.” With these words, the author's collective presents their film, in which they use primarily documentary imagery to compose a lyrical grotesque about an epochal trip, which might be their goal. But it doesn't have to be. The main tool of expression here is the film's edit, which places various shots, statements, and meanings next to each other, often in a sort of productive conflict. Just like in a poem, the “poetic function” of art and its ability to serve as the primary tool for expressing beauty is manifested in full force before our very eyes.

Leaving to Remain, Slovakia, Great Britain, Czech Republic, 2022, Mira Erdevički / World Premiere

Ondřej, a student and teacher; Denisa, a lawyer; and Petr, a policeman, are all Romani who have enjoyed a world of opportunity in Britain, something that's hard for them to come by in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. This multi-layered, yet rather intimate documentary, which contains a number of scenes shot by the protagonists themselves on their mobile phones, depicts the everyday worries and small victories of the three main characters who represent an educated and ambitious, yet still vulnerable community of Europeans, and who help embrace the opportunities offered to others. In addition to exploring themes of displacement and the search for one's own identity in a post-Brexit world, the film – which features humanism interspersed throughout – also asks how the characters' fates were shaped by the COVID-19 epidemic.

Happily Ever After, Czech Republic, 2022, Jana Počtová / World Premiere

The film is an inquiry into contemporary forms of alternative models of partnerships that often put in doubt an image of today's families. For many protagonists, polyamory, open marriage or long-term lover-to-lover relationships present a fulfilling life style, but also a struggle with misunderstanding of the society or conflicts within their own relationships. The director follows the development of relations of her protagonists over several years, while in intimate talks, she searches for the joy, striving and insecurities brought along by such unusual faces of love, revealing a need for redefining partnership in our times.

Invisible Landscapes, Czech Republic, 2022, Ivo Bystřičan / World Premiere

This documentary film, which is based on the field-recording research method, gives space to the physical places where important energy, natural, and political processes take place. The director, musicians Václav Havelka and Pan Throrarensen, philosopher Lukáš Likavčan, and field-recordists Sara Pinheiro and Magnús Bergson all ask the question: “What are sounds that we don't attach any importance to in our everyday lives trying to tell us and how can they predict the sequence of events that affects our lives?” Here, sound becomes a tool that can oftentimes capture geological time better than an image.

From the Bottom, Czech Republic, 2022, Tereza Vejvodová / world premiere

Even before the pandemic, there were almost 24,000 homeless people in the Czech Republic. In the following months, many more Czechs faced housing crisis due to the increase in the unemployment rate. Filip, a social work student from Prague experiences their reality first hand. The protagonist of a video journal was shooting in the streets of Ústí nad Labem. In the hot summer days, his existence shrank to finding a mere place to sleep and a meal to eat. Growing tiredness and apathy are temporarily brightened by joyful moments of human solidarity and warm meals. In such circumstances, things like that are not at all common; they represent a means of survival.

Those Who Dance in the Dark, Czech Republic, 2022, Jana Ševčíková / Czech Premiere

“Try to describe what it's like to see,” one of the blind actors in Jana Ševčíková's documentary urges the film crew. The same challenge for him is to express how reality is perceived and experienced by a visually impaired person. Ševčíková therefore does not explain the blindness. Using everyday situations as examples, she empathetically and without pathos presents the stories of six people who never stop dreaming, yearning, and searching for ways to be as free in life as the sighted majority. They find sources of energy in work, sports, dance, and relationships. We are also transported into their world by the dimly lit black and white camera and the layered soundtrack.

The Visitors, Czech Republic, Norway, Slovakia, 2022, Veronika Lišková / Czech Premiere

The northernmost city in the world, Longyearbyen, is the most populated settlement in the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard. A Czech social anthropologist attempts to make a new home for herself here with her family whilst also researching social transformations in the local community. The loss of jobs in the mining industry, as well as the complicated relationship between Norwegian natives, foreign immigrants, and tourists all contribute to the city's change of atmosphere whilst the surrounding snowy mountains melt and avalanches threaten the daily existence of the local population. This portrait of the microcosm of an ice town is a raw glimpse into the contemporary globalized world.

Citizen Miko, Czech Republic, 2022, Robin Kvapil / World Premiere

Miko is a truck driver, his father is Romani, and above all he is a man who wanted to help those in need. When the Czech government was looking for reasons not to take in a few dozen children from Greek refugee camps after the chemical attacks on Syrian civilians in 2018, Miko took justice into his own hands and, together with the Czechs Helping initiative, prepared facilities for child refugees. However, government officials gave priority to political interests. Will parliamentary elections and a change of ministries save the situation? An unflattering but accurately portrayal of the Czech Republic as a country that will only offer a helping hand when it is worthwhile.

Darkening, Czech Republic, Germany, 2022, Ondřej Moravec / Czech Premiere

A visually arresting interactive exploration of a space that represents the recesses of the mind and soul, lost in the dips of depressive and anxious states. The autobiographical narrative is a composition of fragments of stories and descriptions of inner turmoil, drawing the audience into an elaborate world of sometimes illustrative, sometimes metaphorical animations and ingenious sound design to understand the causes and experience of depression, the struggle to break out of its darkness, and the feelings of futility and heaviness. Open, almost diaristically intimate notes navigate the journey through rooms, floors and different environments that embody the manifestations of inner heaviness.

Gen A: Do What You Love, Czech Republic, 2022, Kryštof Zvolánek / World Premiere

Jakub Strach aka NobodyListen is a successful Czech DJ and music producer. A portrait of his life and work can be seen as a manifesto of the millennial club-going generation. After hundreds of shows and preparations for the upcoming, renowned Addict party, the DJ must deal with the consequences of inflicting a wound scarring his image. Footage from the club backstage mingles with scenes of everyday life in which NobodyListen ponders the dark sides of the club scene, like drugs and misogyny. During the shooting, the Covid pandemic strikes, revealing the insecurities of work in culture.

how much is it uncomfortable for dogs to step out on a highway?, Czech Republic, 2022, Anna Petruželová / World Premiere

The primary motif of the documentary is the journey. A metaphorical journey, a spiritual journey, a tangible journey, a forest path, a road, a sidewalk, a drug trip, or a journey abroad. The director pastes together a collage of micro-stories of people and places that comment on the journey. Her documentary oscillates between playful absurdism, existentialism and existential questions, environmentalism, and social commentary. The dynamism and rhythm of the narrative are then determined by the jumps between different forms of video, such as analogue film, digital film, and mobile phone filming.

Humans, Czech Republic, 2022, Kateřina Tureček / World Premiere

On the one hand, the multi-layered film functions as an autobiographical portrait of a non-binary person, but at the same time it presents the wide range of difficulties and joys that trans and non-binary people in the Czech Republic go through. The personal is political in this film, which is why the kaleidoscope of situations includes intimate conversations with their mother over fried schnitzels, shots from Ride of the Kings, costumed festivities in the Slovácko region, talking about their coming out around the fire, and serious topics of discriminatory Czech legislation regarding trans people. The informal character of the film is enhanced by authentic interviews and handheld camera footage accompanying the lives of the protagonists.

We Want to Die, Czech Republic, 2022, Jaroslav Tarnovski, Martin Ježek / World Premiere

A poetic story of a proletarian couple's relationship during the years of economic crisis and unemployment – of all the films directed by E. F. Burian, the film *Chceme žít* (We Want to Live, 1949) is probably his worst. The intention to create a powerful work of cinema that would combine modern means of expression with the ideological canons of socialist realism failed completely. Ježek and Tarnovski discovered these „shambles“ and tried to rebuild a structure out of the hopelessness and futility of life. Ježek has photochemically “transcribed” selected passages with the greatest possible degree of humility towards the work of the great avant-gardist, Tarnovski similarly makes the soundtrack visible. The improvised encounter of sound and image in dialogic mode can lead to various misunderstandings resulting in ambiguous compromise.

Fascinations

Fascinations is a prestigious section for experimental documentaries from all around the world, with the price for the Best Experimental Documentary Film.

FUNGUS, Japan, 2022, 8 min., Yoshiki Nishimura / World Premiere

Tutto qui, France, Italy, 2022, 12 min., Anna Marziano / International Premiere

When the shot, Columbia, Netherlands, 2021, 4 min., Ana Bravo Pérez / European Premiere

Survivor Manifesto – The Art of Making Kin, Germany, 2022, 11 min., Dan Dansen / World Premiere

pliii, Austria, 2021, 4 min., Tina Frank / International Premiere

do they speak color?, Austria, 2022, 22 min., Dieter Kovačič, Billy Roisz / European Premiere

Cows:Remains, France, 2021, 6 min., Jean-Michel Rolland / European Premiere

Deep Nostalgia – The Anarchists, New Zealand, 2022, 4 min., Brit Bunkley / World Premiere

Prison with Songbirds, Netherlands, United Kingdom, 2022, 12 min., Ewan Macbeth / World Premiere

Example # 35, Cuba, Uruguay, 2022, 6 min., Lucía Malandro, Daniel D. Saucedo / World Premiere

Life Without Dreams, United States, France, 2022, 13 min., Jessica Bardsley / European Premiere

The geometry of the hunter, South Korea, 2022, 10 min., Soh Boram / European Premiere

New York State of Mind, Canada, 2022, 13 min., Mike Hoolboom / World Premiere

Turbulence, Germany, 2022, 15 min., Telemach Wiesinger / World Premiere

Phantom of Venus, Cyprus, 2022, 10 min., Christiana Ioannou / World Premiere

Parting, Finland, 2022, 11 min., Seppo Renvall / World Premiere

France, Italy, Greece, United States, 2022, 6 min., Philip Cartelli, Mariangela Ciccarello / International Premiere

Spectrum Restoration, Brazil, 2022, 7 min., Felipe Mussel / European Premiere

The Sound of Time, Italy, Brazil, Venezuela, 2022, 15 min., Jeissy Trompiz / European Premiere

(X, flies, Y, falls), Taiwan, 2022, 8 min., Alysée Yin Chen / World Premiere

Intersection, Australia, 2022, 10 min., Richard Tuohy / World Premiere

HACKING THE FUTURE, United Kingdom, Poland, 2022, 12 min., Guli Silberstein / European Premiere

Stay With Me, The World is a Devastating Place, United States, 2021, 9 min., Angelo Madsen Minax / International Premiere

Journey Inside a City, Iraq, Türkiye, Germany, 2022, 12 min., Sarah Kuru / International Premiere

Barbershop, Iraq, United States, Germany, 2022, 7 min., Bassim Al Shaker / International Premiere

Fascinations: Expmrntl.cz

Expmrntl.cz is a competition survey of the latest Czech experimental films that touch upon reality and never cease in their search for new ways of expressing reality through classical and digital film.

Pro(s)thetic dialogues, Czech Republic, 2022, 21 min., Georgy Bagdasarov, Alexandra Moralesová / Czech Premiere

The Landscape of Ashes, Czech Republic, 2022, 5 min., Eliška Plechatová / World Premiere

Planetary Thermodynamics: Energy Justice, Czech Republic, 2020, 18 min., Michal Mitro / World Premiere

forests and coasts near zingst, Slovakia, Czech Republic, 2022, 6 min., Peter Podolský / World Premiere

Kambium 1492, Slovakia, 2022, 24 min., Denis Kozerawski, Peter Kašpar / World Premiere

Glasswork, Czech Republic, 2022, 1 min., Zdeněk Picpauer / World Premiere

We were born and raised, Czech Republic, 2022, 5 min., Lenka Tam Nguyen / World Premiere

Asterión, Czech Republic, Slovakia, 2022, 15 min., Francesco Montagner / Czech Premiere

A guided tour through Glare, and then everything stayed the same, Germany, 2021, 7 min., Martin Kohout / Czech Premiere

Neo-Aboriginal, Czech Republic, 2022, 4 min., Vladimír Turner / world premiere

The Signature of Certain Things, Czech Republic, 2022, 15 min., Zbyněk Baladrán / World Premiere

Empty Location / And what about you, Mireček?, Czech Republic, 2022, 11 min., Jan Rousek / World Premiere

Digital Climate II. - I just want to feel solid ground under my feet, Czech Republic, 2022, 3 min.,
Kristýna Sidlářová / World Premiere

D-SEED I., Czech Republic, 2022, 9 min., Martin Dominik Kratochvíl / World Premiere

Dromoracing, Czech Republic, 2022, 5 min., Daniel Burda / World Premiere

Lycaeon, Czech Republic, 2022, 9 min., Marina Hendrychová / World Premiere

Short Joy

Short Joy is a selection of documentary shorts, with the price for the Best Short Documentary Film.

Over the Forest, Italy, 2022, 8 min., Jacopo Marzi / International Premiere

Alexandrina – A Lightning Bolt, Brazil, 2022, 11 min., Keila Sankofa / International Premiere

Three Sisters, Iran, Germany, 2022, 12 min., Iman Behrouzi / World Premiere

Blue Bed, Belgium, 2021, 24 min., Lize Cuveele / International Premiere

Tunes of Sanatorium, Azerbaijan, 2022, 15 min., Leylakhanim Ganbarli / World Premiere

The Sea Ice, Mexico, 2022, 10 min., Sergio H. Martín / European Premiere

A Summer Love, Argentina, 2021, 21 min., Eline Marx / European Premiere

EVA – a visual essay on the female body, Denmark, 2021, 9 min., Emma Ishøy / International Premiere

The Fire This Time, United States, 2022, 21 min., Mariam Ghani / European Premiere

Me & Her, Estonia, Egypt, 2022, 16 min., Eldar Basmanov, Ahmed Fouad Ragab / World Premiere

13 Eggs, Canada, 2022, 14 min., TJ Cuthand / European Premiere

How to Watch Pornography, Canada, 2022, 20 min., Mike Hoolboom / World Premiere

GLIMMER, Luxembourg, Austria, 2022, 16 min., Ken Rischard / World Premiere

The Hand That Touches the Arm, United States, Brazil, 2022, 13 min., Calac Nogueira / World Premiere

Blue Room, United States, 2022, 11 min., Merete Mueller / European Premiere

Zona, Portugal, 2022, 11 min., Viktor Nemeth / World Premiere

Chronicle of Nowhere, Taiwan, 2022, 24 min., Chun-tien Chen / International Premiere

A short film about virus, Poland, 2022, 14 min., Jan Pawel Trzaska / International Premiere

ANGRY, France, 2022, 8 min., Muriel Cravatte / European Premiere

LIVE-IN, Greece, 2022, 12 min., Laura Maragoudaki, Tatiana Mavromati / International Premiere

WE HAVE TO SURVIVE: Fukushima!, Slovakia, 2022, 12 min., Tomáš Krupa / International Premiere

Algorithms of Beauty, Belgium, 2022, 19 min., Miléna Trivier / World Premiere

Border Conversations, Germany, 2022, 30 min., Jonathan Brunner / European Premiere

30' 70 60' 120, Spain, 2022, 10 min., Marta Valverde / World Premiere

Building Slovakia – Decorations, Slovakia, 2022, 26 min., Mária Pinčíková / International Premiere

GUADIANA IN FOUR MOVEMENTS, Portugal, 2022, 12 min., Pedro Figueiredo Neto, Burak Korkmaz / World Premiere

Serpentis, Czech Republic, 2022, 18 min., Sarah Lomenová / World Premiere

Passportless Mess, Czech Republic, 2022, 21 min., Maja Penčíč / World Premiere

Testimonies

Testimonies is a selection of films that capture the current state of the world from various angles: as much as it may seem that there is no common thread running through them, within the context of Czech and international documentary filmmaking these are works that, for many different reasons, cannot be overlooked.

To the End, United States, 2022, Rachel Lears / Czech Premiere

In an international panel discussion on climate change in 2018, scientists reached a consensus that society must undergo radical changes by the year 2030 in order to prevent climate catastrophe. These changes must first be made in high politics. Documentary filmmaker Rachel Lears follows the thrilling story of four female activists of color who blocked all the entrances to the White House, hoping to get Joe Biden's attention, and embarked on a passionate struggle to save our future. After a three-year effort, architects of the Green New Deal Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) and Rhiana Gunn-Wright, co-founder of the Sunrise Movement, Varshini Prakash, and executive director of the Justice Democrats, Alexandra Rojas, have succeeded in getting Congress to approve the largest carbon dioxide emissions reduction investment plan in history.

A Taste of Whale, France, 2022, Vincent Kelner / Czech Premiere

Since ancient times, the people of the Faroe Islands have benefited tremendously from the abundance of resources that the surrounding sea offers them. Over the years, the hunting of pilot whales (a species closely related to dolphins) has become not only an important source of their livelihood, but also a national tradition. However, activists defending animal rights consider the hunts to be inhumane and needlessly cruel. They believe that the Faroese Islanders' argument for preserving traditions is unwarranted and unnatural because the Faroese now hunt marine mammals using modern technology, such as walkie-talkies and motorboats. According to them, a nation's culture mustn't be dependent on the extermination of an endangered species. But if the Faroese way of obtaining meat is seen as barbaric from today's point of view, then why do we still have modern meat factories that slaughter millions of animals each day?

Camouflage, Argentina, 2022, Jonathan Perel / Czech Premiere

Koudelka Crossing the Same River, Turkey, 2021, Coşkun Aşar / International Premiere

Over the last quarter century, Josef Koudelka, a prominent Czech photographer and member of the international agency Magnum Photos, has travelled many times in the footsteps of the Greek philosopher Heraclitus and visited more than two hundred Hellenistic and ancient Roman cities. And this became the subject of his last big project.

The Happy Worker – Or How Work Was Sabotaged, Finland, 2022, John Webster / Czech premiere

Into the Weeds: Dewayne "Lee" Johnson vs Monsanto company, Canada, 2022, Jennifer Baichwal / European Premiere

This documentary film by Jennifer Baichwal tells the story behind the Johnson v. Monsanto Co. lawsuit filed by Dewayne “Lee” Johnson, who sued the agrochemical corporation Monsanto for exposing him to the Roundup herbicide product that gave him cancer. Johnson's case was the first of thousands of lawsuits filed against the company and its herbicide glyphosate, which at one point was among the best-selling herbicides in the world. The film not only covers Johnson's story, but also exposes the greed of a large corporation that puts profit over people's health and manipulates scientific studies to its advantage. The film also serves as an environmental and humanistic call to action and avoids focusing solely on one specific court case.

Atlantic Ragagar, Switzerland, 2022, Gilles Aubry / World Premiere

The Sidi Bouzid beach near the Moroccan port city of El Jadida is famed for its crystal-clear sea and extraordinary biodiversity. There are dozens of species of algae. However, some of them are used by pharmaceutical and food companies to produce agar powder. The nearby factories producing canned fish and phosphate fertilizer pollute water and air. This documentary uses performative interventions which erase the distinction between the human and the natural to explore the multilayered relationship of the locals to the ecosystem which is a source of both awe and their livelihood.

Rojek, Canada, 2022, Zaynê Akyol / Czech Premiere

The Islamic State is usually presented as an elusive, disembodied evil, materializing only during terrorist attacks. Director Zaynê Akyol decided to look the vague threat in the face and give it a concrete form. She gained unique access to dozens of detained jihadists from around the world, interviewing their wives as well. Instead of the interrogations they're used to, she lets them talk freely about their childhoods, their faith, their dreams and experiences, and the history of the feared organization. She juxtaposes their chilling vision of a worldwide caliphate—which they refuse to give up even after the fall of ISIS—with aerial footage of Syria, decimated by fanatics like them who put ideology above human life.

Elfriede Jelinek – Language Unleashed, Germany, Austria, 2022, Claudia Müller / Czech Premiere

Snow-capped mountain tops, picturesque villages, wholesome towns... this is the Austria we know from travel books and travelogues. And it's the same Austria whose small-town morals have been taking a beating from the critical sting of writer and playwright Elfriede Jelinek since the 1960s. However, Müller's documentary-portrait doesn't rely solely on the tropes of a biopic about this (in)famous literary figure. Instead, the film searches for reasons why the author's assertion of past unfinished business enraged the people of Austria so much that they turned their backs on the provocative Nobel Prize winner. Personal confessions become political. A language experiment becomes a political tool. And history becomes a shadow that will forever hover over distraught Austrian citizens until they choose to confront it head-on.

The Natural History of Destruction, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, 2022, Sergei Loznitsa / Czech premiere

In this documentary film inspired by Winfried Georg Sebald's book of essays of the same name, Sergei Loznitsa addresses whether it's ethical to use civilians as targets for achieving one's warfare aims and whether their use as a means of mass destruction can at all be morally justified. The montage of archival footage depicts German cities being bombed out by Allied air raids during World War II and offers a horrific testimony to the destruction and its cataclysmic consequences that have in many circles remained a taboo topic.

LANGUAGE OF THE BIRDS, France, 2022, Erik Bullof / Czech Premiere

Since time immemorial, people have been trying to understand, describe and imitate birdsong and translate it to their own language, perhaps hoping to learn to communicate with birds. This film which is told from the perspective of a future era after the sixth mass extinction of species is conceived as an ironic overview of the history of the attempts to establish this kind of interspecific communication. Through a series of encounters with musicians and music theorists, the film poses the question whether birdsong only serves a biological purpose or whether it has any poetic qualities and/or fixed rules. However, the often absurd effort to discover the secret of the bird language is motivated not only by curiosity but also by an unsettling desire to dominate.

Body Parts, United States, 2022, Kristy Guevara-Flanagan / Czech Premiere

Mission: Joy – Finding Happiness in Troubled Times, United States, 2022, Louie Psihoyos, Peggy Callahan / Czech Premiere

Two icons of world religion and the struggle for freedom meet for the first time after many years apart to discuss the search for joy in today's complicated world. The Dalai Lama, a Buddhist and the spiritual leader of Tibet, and Desmond Tutu, a South African archbishop and fighter against apartheid, are long-standing friends who tackle wickedness with a wicked sense of humor. The film reconstructs their lives and the political events that shaped them as political and spiritual leaders. In this unique footage of their conversation, they lead a mission in search for joy, finding support along the way from the findings of modern scientists' and the ideas of literary figures.

Good Old Czechs, Czech Republic, Slovakia, 2022, Tomáš Bojar / World Premiere

František Fajtl and Filip Jánký were among the few Czechoslovak airmen who actively fought on all major European battlefronts during World War II and lived to tell the tale. This unique documentary edit, which combines authentic eyewitness accounts of historic events with little-known archival footage, examines various fates and places as well as the journeys associated with them. The resulting amalgam of images, speeches, and music/sound files is far from your typical historical illustration. A suggestive portrayal of life under bleak conditions, far away from home and on the cusp of death, unfolds before our very eyes.

Matter Out of Place, Austria, 2022, Nikolaus Geyrhalter / Czech Premiere

At first glance, from afar and from a distance, we see a charming view of the sea bay, — only in close-ups do we see that the coastline is covered in washed-up plastic bottles. In slow, contrasting still images, the conceptual documentary traces the Sisyphean effort to get waste to its designated place. The inadequacy inherent in the film's title is most evident in the giant Asian garbage dump, a seemingly bottomless pit designed to bury whatever people have left behind. We create waste even in the most unlikely places, like mountain peaks or the surface of the sea, and our efforts to bury it somewhere, to hide it, to make it invisible, seem absurd.

Virtual Reality

Virtual Reality competition gives viewers the chance to enter into 360° films and spatial installations. Here, you can find 360° documentary films, VR installations and works on the boundary between film and art that make use of virtual spaces to create autonomous worlds whose own rules are determined by visuality. We are interested in works that take advantage of the characteristics of virtuality in an innovative and contemplative manner, that experiment with the audiovisual representation of reality and real stories, or that build an entertaining and instructive world of knowledge and learning.

Where..., Germany, 2022, Thomas Kutschker / World Premiere

From the Main Square, Germany, 2022, Pedro Harres / Czech Premiere

Darkening, Czech Republic, Germany, 2022, Ondřej Moravec / Czech Premiere

Missing Pictures Episode 2: Tsai Ming-Liang, The Seven-Story Building, France, Luxembourg, Great Britain, South Korea, Taiwan, 2021, Clement Deneux, Kuan-Yuan Lai / Czech Premiere

Shadow, Denmark, Great Britain, 2021, David Adler, Ole Bornedal / Czech Premiere

CONTAINER, South Africa, 2021, Meghna Singh, Simon Wood / -

On the Morning You Wake (to the End of the World), United Kingdom, France, United States, 2022, Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio, Mike Brett, Steve Jamison, Arnaud Colinart, Pierre Zandrowicz / Czech Premiere

MYRIAD.WHERE WE CONNECT., Germany, 2021, Lena Thiele, Sebastian Baumann, Dirk Hoffmann

Seven Grams, France, United States, United Kingdom, 2021, Karim Ben Khelifa

SORELLA'S STORY, Australia, Hungary, Sweden, 2021, Peter Hegedus

Stay Alive, My Son, Greece, United States, 2021, Victoria Bousis

Non-competition sections

Constellations

Section Constellations presents films, that last year shone on world documentary skies. We introduce carefully selected titles from other film festivals.

Mara, France, 2021, Sasha Kulak/ Czech Premiere

In Belarusian, “mara” means “dream,” but in the sense of “hope.” In Slavic mythology, the word denotes a female spirit that manifests in people's minds while they sleep and brings either dreams or nightmares. An artistic personification of the mythical being Mara roams through the streets of Minsk in 2020–2021 in the film of the same name. During the anti-dictatorship protests that took place, it served as a symbol of the hopes and subsequent horrors experienced by the Belarusian citizens demanding to have their basic rights and freedoms. For the director, Mara is her alter ego incarnate, which in poetic shorthand allows her to talk about her most personal fears and desires in the face of an unpleasant reality that’s hostile towards dreams.

Museum of the Revolution, Serbia, Croatia, Czech Republic, 2021, Srđan Keča/ Czech Premiere

Belgrade’s Museum of the Revolution was meant to become another Brutalist monument celebrating socialism in Yugoslavia. Its construction plan later failed and this desolate building from 1961 is now a refuge for homeless people. Among them is a young mother with her child and Mara, an aging woman. Their lives could not be placed further away from the utopian visions of the perfect world. The Serbian filmmaker Srđan Keča moulded his 2014 video installation into a documentary, a humble glimpse into a fragile personal cosmos lying aside from all social structures. It takes note of a world amid emptiness, on the brink of state affairs, outside of the major population’s field of vision, with human lives flowing slowly through.

PRISM, Belgium, 2021, An van Dienderen, Rosine Mbakam, Eléonore Yameogo / Czech Premiere

Is the movie camera a neutral medium, or is there an ideology behind it? The film's directors investigate how racism is written into the development and current format of filmmaking technology. Their online debates during film production show how controversial the topic is. Although white people are no longer the only ones standing in front of and behind the camera, film equipment is still adapted to white skin. The film consists of three diverse essays in which the authors share their own personal experiences with the bias of technology, confront stereotypical thinking about the film, and demonstrate how truly different it is to capture dark and white skin on film.

Nuclear Family, United States, Singapore, 2021, Travis Wilkerson, Erin Wilkerson / Czech Premiere

The film opens with Travis Wilkerson's childhood memories shaped by the Cold War and his mother's obsession with the atomic bomb. Having lived in constant fear of a nuclear holocaust, he would often be haunted by nightmares. After Donald Trump's electoral victory, the nightmares came back. In an effort to understand the root cause of his neuroses, the filmmaker embarks on a therapeutic road trip across the United States. He’s joined by his daughters and his wife, who is also the co-creator of this documentary. Together, they visit missile launch facilities known as “nuclear silos” and other places linked to the annihilation of indigenous peoples. Their family trip becomes the underlying basis for the pervasive criticism of a national ideology that’s founded on mass destruction and raising fears.

Shall I Compare You to a Summer's Day?, Germany, Egypt, Lebanon, 2022, Mohammad Shawky Hassan / Czech Premiere

The film is a probe into the romantic relationships and sexual adventures of young gay men whose lives deviate from traditional heteronormative ideas. In intimate conversations with several protagonists, they discuss dating in the queer community, polyamory, and unfulfilled love. The scenes consist of colorful animations inspired by Arabic fairy tales, theatrical play scenes with explicit nudity, and musical numbers with Arabic pop songs. The stark contrasts between the different narrative forms support the ironic tone of the film, which explores the possibilities of true love outside of society's expectations.

The Cars We Drove Into Capitalism, Bulgaria, Denmark, Czech Republic, Germany, Croatia, 2021, Georgi Bogdanov, Boris Missirkov / Czech Premiere

This humorous documentary takes us back to the Eastern Bloc during the Cold War, when the car was considered not only a small miracle and a key symbol of technological progress, but also a means of fighting the imperialist class enemy, while paradoxically representing an almost unattainable social status. However, the journey of people who were able to choose their dream car even from the small handful of available socialist brands and wanted to step towards a better tomorrow was often tortuous and lasted for decades. This nostalgia-soaked film odyssey, composed of several autobiographies of Trabant lovers and Muscovites for whom the car means more than a means of transport, presents a fascinating automotive history and the hardships of the socialist era.

Crotch Stories, Belgium, France, 2021, Myleine Guiard-Schmid / Czech Premiere

Can childbirth be a pleasant physical experience? The filmmaker listens to the stories of midwives, doulas, and women who have already given birth, and reflects on childbirth as an intimate yet highly political topic. She processes her experience of pregnancy and the strength of her own body in a self-reflective monologue with a dose of exaggeration and humor. The film consists of documentary footage and physical performances of the protagonists, which are transformed into colorful animations reminiscent of French modernist paintings. This opens up important issues of bodily integrity, the right to pleasure, and the freedom to make decisions about one's own body.

Dreaming Walls: Inside the Chelsea Hotel, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Sweden, United States, 2022, Amélie Van Elmbt, Maya Duverdier / Czech Premiere

The legendary Chelsea Hotel in New York City finds itself at a critical moment in its existence. Eight years of reconstruction means hope for the owners that it will be reopened in its full glory and beauty. But for the more than 50 regular tenants, the already difficult living conditions in the middle of a construction site can result in an even more difficult existential situation. It is this unique turning point that is the subject of the documentary, which uses profiles of residents of different ages and interests to piece together a historical picture of the iconic building. A hotel that in the pop culture imagination – but apparently also in reality – has become more than just a mere place of habitation.

The Fire Within: Requiem for Katia and Maurice Krafft, France, United Kingdom, Switzerland, United States, 2022, Werner Herzog / Czech Premiere

Neighbour Abdi, Netherlands, 2022, Douwe Dijkstra / Czech Premiere

Abdi spent his childhood in Mogadishu during the civil war. Now he designs and makes furniture in the Netherlands. In the past, he repeatedly witnessed violence and war crimes. After he emigrated, he broke the law himself and ended up in prison. His neighbor happened to be filmmaker Douwe Dijkstra. Together, they decided to reconstruct and take a better look at Abdi's childhood and youth full of traumatizing incidents. Besides not-always-reliable memories, their tools include Dijkstra's special-effects studio with a green screen and many miniature models. The film is both a biography and a stimulating deconstruction of an effort to grasp someone else's past.

The Adventures of Gigi the Law, Italy, France, Belgium, 2022, Alessandro Comodin / Czech Premiere

Pier Luigi, called Gigi, is a rural policeman who spends his days investigating minor offenses, flirting with a new colleague over the radio, and arguing with his neighbor about his overgrown garden. But one suicide case keeps him up at night, and he begins to investigate whether there is something more behind it. The slow narrative, absurd situations, and the protagonist's character evoke European art films. The pleasant atmosphere of the unforced passage of time and the stories from the life of Gigi and the people around him create an engaging, empathetic, and at times dreamily poetic film.

The Kiev Trial, Ukraine, Netherlands, 2022, Sergei Loznitsa / Czech Premiere

In January 1946 in Kyiv, under the banner of the Soviet Union, Nazi generals, officers, and their collaborators were tried for war crimes. The film reconstructs the trial using unique archival footage from the courtroom. In chilling testimonies from witnesses and survivors of concentration camps and the Babyn Yar massacre, the horrific crimes against humanity that took place during the war come to life, contrasting with the Nazi defendants' cold-blooded descriptions of events.

Rimini, Austria, France, Germany, 2022, Ulrich Seidl

Richie Bravo, once a successful pop star, travels from Italy to Lower Austria to bid a final farewell to his late mother and his family home together with his younger brother and his father, who lives in a retirement home. He then returns to Rimini, where he is a charismatic and passionate gigolo, entertaining elderly ladies and groups of pensioners with his touching songs in dingy hotels. Suddenly his daughter comes to see him and demands money, which Richie doesn't have. With exceptional empathy, Ulrich Seidl has made a bittersweet portrait of a groping, lonely man trying to start a new life, but it might already be too late.

Everything Will Be Ok, France, Cambodia, 2022, Rithy Pahn / Czech Premiere

Animals have taken over the world. Will they behave in the same way as humans, which even in modern history have committed wars, genocide and general terror? In his ominous mnemonic dystopia, the renowned Cambodian director asks whether a radical change in the social order can reverse tragedy and bring desired peace, or whether we will forever spin in a cycle of power apparatus towards totalitarianism, repeating the same mistakes that inevitably bring injustice and violence. A dreamy political essay structured like a diorama, interwoven with archival footage and evoking Orwell's *Animal Farm* in a futuristic guise.

Sparta, Austria, France, Germany, 2022, Ulrich Seidl / Czech Premiere

Special Event

Exceptional cinema events that guide us through a deep and critical reflection of the meanders of lived life in an unparalleled manner.

Art Talent Show, Czech Republic, 2022, Adéla Komrzý, Tomáš Bojar / Czech Distribution Premiere

Young artists apply to the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague hoping that by studying at the prestigious school they will achieve fame, recognition, and the satisfaction of self-expression. The observational documentary follows the admissions process of three studios headed by strong art figures who attempt to get authentic expression out of the applicants instead of empty verbiage. However, it is not only the teachers and young artists who share their views on contemporary art but also the studio staff and the peculiar porters. In the process, the kaleidoscope of debates and opinions reveals the difficulty judging artistic creation as well as the changing power mechanisms in educational institutions.

Singing in Oblivion, Austria, 2021, Eve Heller / Czech Premiere

This black and white film is a wordless meditation on death, memories, and their absence. The Währinger Jewish cemetery is bathed in sunlight and permeated by the singing of birds. Photos of unknown people, which the director discovered at a flea market and transferred from glass negatives to film stock, capture the past in its boundless anonymity. The film also recalls the genocide that attempted to erase Jewish culture from human memory.

Kunstkamera, Czech Republic, 2022, Jan Švankmajer / World Premiere

According to Jan Švankmajer, museum exhibits are ordered rationally, while the Kunstcamera is an irrational showcase. This holds true also for this film with which the leading Czech surrealist personality decides to finish his cinema career and his close cooperation with the producer Jaromír Kallista. Very playfully, he approaches works of art, curiosities and everyday objects that he and his wife Eva had assembled over many decades inside a former Renaissance granary in the Bohemian village of Horní Staňkov. These immobile objects come to life thanks to Švankmajer's traditional methods of composition and Antonio Vivaldi's music. Dalí, Štýrský, Toyen, dog's food bowl and the creaking floor all create an organic whole, stirring imagination and creative passion.

Godard Cinema, France, 2022, Mathilde Lepostec / European Premiere

This multi-layered portrait of Jean-Luc Godard shows the world of one of the pioneers of the French New Wave as a laboratory of ideas. In the maze of his parallel lives, we meet him as a star who burst into the world of film, as a left-wing radical and advocate of Maoism, and as an experimenter with new technologies through which he reinvents the medium of film. Despite the hectic activity of the director, who made over 140 films, Godard's portrait has a subtly nostalgic tone. Part of his world is solitude, which, according to documentary filmmaker Cyril Leuthy, is necessary to create a work of art.

+90, Slovakia, 2022, Marek Kuboš / World Premiere

In this partly autobiographical documentary, the director traces the history of Generation 90, a group of Slovak filmmakers who studied in the 1990s. Kuboš conducts interviews with his contemporaries, including Jaroslav Vojtek, Peter Kerekes, and Zuzana Piussi, which he intersperses with their work, while at the same time placing both in a broader cultural and political history. A playfulness and respect for documentary film as such shines through the film.

Nature, France, Armenia, Germany, 2020, Artavazd Pelechian / Czech Premiere

The film by the Armenian genius Artavazd Peleshian, made after 27 years of creative silence, is a complex epic treating the spectacular and destructive force of nature. The film is composed of black-and-white images depicting major vicious natural phenomena: floods, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions or tornadoes. At times very terrifying pictures are accompanied by classic symphonic or opera soundtracks. The film in its entirety resembles a monumental art mosaic characteristic of Peleshian's famed distant editing method. Using the latter film technique, this poetic work confronts its viewers with the inferiority of humankind, dismantling our illusions about us being able to command nature.

FREEDOM ON FIRE: UKRAINE'S FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, Ukraine, United States, United Kingdom, 2022, Evgeny Afineevsky/ Czech Premiere

In 2013–2014, Evgeny Afineevsky captured the protests of Ukrainians against the authoritarian regime of Viktor Yanukovich which lasted for several months. Continuing the event of the emotional Winter on Fire documentary, the director has filmed another testimony to the courage and unity of the Ukrainian people. After summarizing the eight turbulent years that followed the Euromaidan, the director focuses on the initial stage of the Russian invasion to Ukraine in February 2022. The stories of civilians, soldiers, journalists, doctors as well as foreign volunteers paint a horrific picture of a humanitarian catastrophe but also of extraordinary resilience. Unsettling shots of destroyed cities and dismembered bodies are accompanied by a voiceover by Helen Mirren.

Old Shatterhand Came To See Us, Czechoslovakia, 1966, Dušan Hanák

A sarcastic report on living in an enclosed reservation behind the iron curtain. Against the backdrop of a first-plan confrontation between natives and inquisitive strangers, Hanák, in a sequence of amusing visual and audio situations, uncovers the weariness of a socialist society tired of building "brighter tomorrows".

Pictures of the Old World, Czechoslovakia, 1972, Dušan Hanák

They live in poverty, away from civilization and in their own bubbles. We might call them weirdoes, outcasts, or idealists. Depicted in this kaleidoscopic portrait are nine people living at world's end in remote Tatra villages. However, the series of lyrical, black-and-white images of solitude, backwardness, and old age do not evoke feelings of sadness or compassion, but rather a celebration of resilience, vitality, and a desire for life above all else. Inspired by Slovak artist Martin Martinček's photographic series, the documentary never graced the screens of Czechoslovak cinemas due to its painting an "unflattering" image of Slovakia. 17 years after its completion, it was finally screened both at home and abroad to great critical acclaim.

Siren Test

The section dedicated to music/sound in contemporary progressive cinematography.

Licht – Stockhausen’s Legacy, Netherlands, 2022, Oeke Hoogendijk / Czech Premiere

Karlheinz Stockhausen was a German avant-garde composer, pioneer of electronic music, visionary, mégalomane and author of a seemingly unrealizable project. In 1977, he started to work on his opera project, Licht. It included seven opera pieces, hundreds of artists and four helicopters. He finished it 26 years later, only a few years before his death. The 29-hour long production was never realized in the composer’s lifetime. Only in 2019, this challenge was undertaken by the Dutch National Opera. The film is an adventurous chronicle of origins of one of history’s most magnanimous music productions, as well as an intimate portrait of Stockhausen himself.

Love, Deutschmarks and Death, Germany, 2022, Cem Kaya / Czech Premiere

Between 1955 and 1973, there was a work programme in West Germany that recruited temporary workers from southern and eastern Europe. Among the largest group of these workers were the Turks. Physically demanding work in often poor conditions, a racist and xenophobic environment, and homesickness gave rise to a specific musical scene, where the themes of the songs were drawn from the lives of migrant workers. The film traces the history and music of this subculture against the backdrop of political events – from folk ballads to rock protest songs.

Music for Black Pigeons, Denmark, 2022, Andreas Koefoed, Jørgen Leth / Czech Premiere

The film poses existential questions to influential jazz players, the likes of which include Bill Frisell, Lee Konitz, and Midori Takada. What does it mean to play music, and what does it mean to listen? How does it feel to spend a lifetime trying to express something through sound? The characters wake up, rehearse, record, play, and talk about music. They listen. And they keep themselves open to encountering something greater than themselves. For the last 14 years, filmmakers have followed Danish author and guitarist Jakob Bro around, documenting his encounters with larger-than-life, eccentric personalities of all generations and ethnic backgrounds. In the end, questions raised are answered by music itself in a poetic and invigorating fashion.

Roses. Film-Cabaret, Ukraine, 2021, Irena Stetsenko / Czech Premiere

The documentary, shot in a cinéma vérité style, follows the Dakh Daughters – a cabaret ensemble of seven actresses operating as a segment of the experimental Dakh Theatre in Kyiv. The video diary spans nearly five years and follows the Dakh Daughters from their first pop song “Rozy / Donbas,” written long before the Donbas region became war-torn and ravaged by the “Russian Spring.” How can one be an artist under extreme conditions and in times of loss and pain? Does creation in the sense of art and motherhood become a natural self-defense mechanism in times of war? The film was finished before Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, yet its feminine viewpoint is a striking commentary on current events.

Doc Alliance Selection

Featuring the best films screened at Doc Alliance festivals, including two 2022 Doc Alliance Award winners. Ji.hlava IDFF is part of the alliance, which together consists of 7 key European documentary film festivals. Representatives from each festival nominate both a short and feature film from their program each year, from which European journalists select two Doc Alliance Award winners.

5 Dreamers and a Horse, Armenia, Germany, Switzerland, 2022, Aren Malakyan, Vahagn Khachatryan / Czech Premiere

This poetic documentary shows the different faces of Armenia through several heroes and heroines, with their dreams and aspirations at the centre of the film's narrative. A 60-year-old hospital lift operator dreams of going into space, a man from the countryside seeks a bride, and two young queer girls want to live their lives despite homophobic sentiments. The directing duo treats their protagonists with respect and empathy, viewing their lives and dreams through the cultural background of Armenia. The whole country becomes the fifth dreamer.

In the Billowing Night, France, 2021, Erika Etangsalé / Czech Premiere

In this intimate film, the director presents a portrait of her father, Jean-René, who left his native Réunion at the age of 17 to work in France. Jean-René talks about his experiences, his homesickness, and his unclear cultural identity. In doing so, he also engages in a dialogue with her daughter, who is similarly dealing with her mixed ethnicity. The visually suggestive story of a father and daughter becomes a metaphor for ambivalence and post/colonial heritage.

Light years, Poland, 2021, Monika Proba / Czech Premiere

After completing seminary training, a graduate becomes a priest in the Orthodox Church only if he marries or becomes a monk. Vitalij and Łukasz delay this moment, living in a shared flat surrounded by books where they devote themselves to their hobbies – philosophical discussions and choral singing. This sensitively composed documentary explores non-conforming friendships that develop within a conforming institution. On the one hand are the pressures caused by expectations tied to social function, on the other is the individualistic experience of the joy of merely existing in the interim, especially when it finds support in the family and among close people.

PEACE, Portugal, 2021, Marta Ramos, José Oliveira / Czech Premiere

The directing duo meets and talks to veterans of the Portuguese colonial war to record their memories, experiences, and feelings. But it's not just about the storytelling – it's about meeting and sharing them. The interviews are interspersed with archival footage, suggesting that the film is not just a nostalgic spectacle, but a reflection on war and the price of peace in general.

The Eclipse, Norway, 2022, Nataša Urban / Czech Premiere

Director Nataša Urban left her native Serbia many years ago. But now, through her father's travel diary and conversations with family and loved ones, she returns to the places where she grew up and which have since become ravaged mementos of the war in former Yugoslavia. Human and concrete remains are all that are left in the villages where the author used to walk with her parents. The overwhelming history of the Balkan peninsula is eating away at the smaller, family ones – happy memories of childhood are overpowered by what has been dredged up from the uncovered mass graves. Looking at the bloody images of Yugoslav history is as painful as looking directly at a solar eclipse.

The Pawnshop, Poland, 2022, Lukasz Kowalski / Czech Premiere

An eccentric Polish couple owns one of the largest pawnshops in Europe, where together with three dedicated employees they try to earn a living every single day. They buy and sell almost anything you can imagine: religious relics, sex books, mammoth teeth, you name it. At the same time, they're also highly valued members of their Silesian small-town community where they're seen by their fellow citizens as good Samaritans and therapists. This tragicomic film, which uses the at-times absurd and diverse pawnshop as an example, thematizes the socio-economic problems of the Polish border: from poverty and a lack of jobs to alcoholism and domestic violence.

Retrospectives

Transparent Landscape: Philippines

Reaching back to the very beginning when motion pictures were made in and about the country (1899), the curatorial program digs deep into the historical past and extends the arc to the latest digital works of today. This has never been done before in such a breathtaking attempt to survey the landmark works of the Philippine motion picture history—a history that intersects with that of world cinema. History provides a curatorial armature which allows for an expansive view of the country's century-old cinematic production.

The Transparent Landscape: Philippines section is organised in cooperation with the Film Development Council of the Philippines.

even if cities would vanish, we will remain, Philippines, 2022, 5 min., JT Trinidad

To Pick a Flower, Philippines, 2021, 17 min., Shireen Seno

Native Life in the Philippines, Philippines, United States, 1913, 75 min., Dean C. Worcester

Advance of Kansas Volunteers at Caloocan, Philippines, United States, 1899, 56 sec., James H. White

Manila Colonial scenes, 1900, 1 min.

Possibly - A Nepomuceno Newsreel, 1900, 36 sec., José Nepomuceno

Revolutions Happen Like Refrains in a Song, Philippines, 1987, 49 min., Nick Deocampo

Oliver, Philippines, 1983, 38 min., Nick Deocampo

The Sex Warriors and the Samurai, Philippines, United Kingdom, 1985, 26 min., Nick Deocampo

Let This Film Serve as a Manifesto For a New Cinema, Philippines, 1990, 26 min., Nick Deocampo

Johnny Crawl, Philippines, 1987, 5 min., Roxlee

The Great Smoke, Philippines, 1984, 7 min., Roxlee

ABCD, Philippines, 1985, 6 min., Roxlee

Mix One and Two, Philippines, 1990, 5 min., Roxlee

Lizard, or How to Perform in Front of the Reptile, Philippines, 1986, 5 min., Roxlee

Storm Children, Book One, Philippines, 2014, 143 min., Lav Diaz

Overdosed Nightmare, Philippines, 2008, 88 min., Khavn De La Cruz

Turumba, Philippines, West Germany, 1983, 87 min., Kidlat Tahimik

Manila by Night, Philippines, 1980, 150 min., Ishmael Bernal

Recuerdo of Two Sundays and Two Roads That Lead to the Sea, Philippines, 1969, 16 min., Bisby M. Carballo

Pilipinas: What Do You Think of the Philippines Mr. Janetzko?, Philippines, 1989, 5 min., Regiben O. Romana

In Manila, Philippines, 1989, 7 min., Mike Alcazaren, Josephine Atienza, Ricky Orellana

Red Saga, Philippines, 2004, 16 min., Kiri Dalena

Two Way Jesus, Philippines, 2016, 12 min., Jet Leyco

Child of Manila, Philippines, 1993, 16 min., Emmanuel Dadivas, Dange Desembrana

Riddle (Superstitions from the Garbage), Philippines, 1990, 6 min., Rei M. Nicandro, Mario Mercado

Margin, Philippines, 2001, 17 min., Paolo Villaluna

On the way to India Consciousness, I Reached China, United States, Philippines, 1968, 37 min., Henry Francia

Bontoc Eulogy, Philippines, United States, 1995, 57 min., Marlon Fuentes

Consequences of Man, Philippines, 2018, 13 min., Jeffrie Po

There is Nothing Here, Philippines, 2015, 8 min., Jean Claire Dy

Shadows, Philippines, 2000, 13 min., Raymond Red

The Woman Behind the Tattoo Artist, Philippines, 2011, 45 min., Lauren Sevilla Faustino

Fury in Paradise, Philippines, 1937, 58 min., Eduardo de Castro

Eyesore, Philippines, 1990, 51 min., Ditsi Carolino, Joseph Fortin, Mylene Segundera, Mario Guzman, Cesar Hernando, Arturo Boncato Jr.

Unison, Philippines, 1990, 10 min., Yam Laranas, At Maculangan

The Brief Lifespan of Fire Act 2 Scene 2: Suring and the Kuk-ok, Philippines, 1995, 9 min., Aureaus Solito

Holy, Philippines, 1993, 8 min., Elvert Bañares

On my way to Freedom Avenue, I was Crushed in EDSA, Philippines, 2019, 4 min., Lem Garcellano

Death in the Land of Encantos, Philippines, 2007, Lav Diaz

Notes on War

These iconic post-1945 documentary films challenge us to look at them and our world in a different light.

Crossroads, United States, 1976, Bruce Conner

After the Second World War the United States knew what the effects were of an atomic explosion on a city of civilians, but information about the impacts of the explosion on military technology was still lacking. The army therefore proceeded to conduct tests using out-of-service boats. They chose the bay of Bikini Atoll for the testing, and the operation was given the name Crossroads. Conner's film uses material that was shot during an underwater atomic explosion, when several cameras were used to record the explosion from various distances. These hypnotizing images, with fascinating energy, are underscored by minimalist music composed by Patrick Gleeson and Terry Riley.

Czech Peace, Czech Republic, Filip Remunda, Vít Klusák

1. radar 2. peaceful landscape 3. America in Bohemia 4. rural inhabitants rise up 5. woods: target of political marketing 6. military police alters the locality's relevance 7. media war between politicians and engaged citizens 8. opponents' discursive weapons grow more sophisticated and louder 9. global issues of international pacifists made tangible in Bohemia 10. Bush replaced by Obama, barbed wire has to come down. The army occupies a hilltop, reserving it for an American radar system promoted by Czech politicians and rejected by much of society, while the local inhabitants look for ways of protecting the place where they live.

Night and Fog, France, 1956, Alain Resnais

With his medium-length documentary, *Night and Fog*, the French director revisits the phenomenon of systemic extermination of ethnic peoples, which in its terrifying perfection is symbolized by the Nazi concentration camps of modern history. Alain Resnais' documentary short film follows the woeful development of the mass death camp model: from the trigonometric measurement of space, the construction of buildings, and the deportation of the first prisoners and their intake at camp processing centers to the routine operation of death factories and ultimately the most economical killing of all – a single human rebellion, the “rebellion of death,” which could have been born in powerlessness.

Obedience, United States, 1962, Stanley Milgram

In May 1962, a classic series of experiments took place at Yale University. In response to the Adolf Eichmann trial, and consequently to Hannah Arendt's essay on the banality of evil, Stanley Milgram decided to investigate how willingly participants would respond to orders coming from authorities that defied their conscience. Volunteers, both male and female, were divided up into teachers and students. The teacher would ask the students (who were in a separate room) a series of questions. Their punishment for giving a wrong answer would be an electric shock, which would intensify on an ad hoc basis. The film, originally intended as teaching material, would later go on to serve as an instrument confirming the validity of Milgram's findings.

Reichsautobahn, West Germany, 1986, Hartmut Bitomsky

The middle part of the German Trilogy, which also includes *Deutschlandbilder* (1983) and *Der VW Komplex* (1989), documents the construction of a monumental motorway across Germany. A massive “marketing campaign” surrounded the project, featuring a concrete monument with aesthetic power similar to Leni Riefenstahl's bodies of male and female athletes in *The Triumph of the Will*. Bitomsky

edited an narrated archive collage that reveals how the media image of Nazi Germany was created. The motorway, which branched like concrete veins through the landscape, was meant to symbolize economic growth and the building of a better future. It represents the rise and fall of a megalomaniacal vision that was ended by the Second World War.

Serious Games I-IV, Germany, 2010, Harun Farocki

The U.S. military not only routinely employs virtual reality and gaming technology for recruitment and combat training purposes, but also for treating its war veterans suffering from PTSD. These combat simulators are often difficult to differentiate from the freely available video games used primarily for “abreaction therapy.” Four standalone films, originally video installations, were shot directly at American military combat centers. In each of the films, Harun Farocki calls attention to the subtle differences between computer simulations and real war exercises while critically reflecting on the ever-closer links between war, the entertainment industry, and modern technology.

Stepping Out, Germany, 2000, Eva Heldmann

The Atomic Cafe, United States, 1982, Pierce Rafferty, Kevin Rafferty, Jayne Loader

This cult collage of archival footage from the 1940s to the 1960s offers an absurdly humorous look at life in the atomic age. A subversive juxtaposition of American propaganda films, educational films, commercials, and newspaper reports, it presents a media image of the world in which those now in their 60s grew up. Cold War paranoia and the threat of nuclear war seeped into their lives in many bizarre ways. The media of the time created a kind of hypothetical universe, a paradoxical nuclear culture of exploding nuclear bombs, war heroism, and pop songs with atomic themes.

The Bizarre World of Kremlin Propaganda, Czech Republic, 2022, Josef Pazderka

Josef Pazderka lived in Russia for many years and witnessed firsthand the rise of a mass propaganda machine fueled by state-run TV channels that were, and still are, fully orchestrated by the Kremlin. Using the Ukraine Crisis from 2014 to the present as an example, Pazderka will show how this fine-tuned and meticulously crafted propaganda machine fundamentally influences how ordinary Russians think and paints a picture of aggression against Ukraine and murder as a necessary evil for defending their country against an imaginary attack from the West.

The War Game, United Kingdom, 1966, Peter Watkins

This Oscar-winning docudrama shows in terrifying detail what a nuclear attack on Britain might look like. In a series of scenes that imitate a wartime newsreel style, we see glimpses of charred bodies, buildings damaged beyond repair, and mass executions of looters and rioters flash onscreen. However, the roles as we know them from typical British patriotic documentaries have been reversed here in provocative fashion. The oppressor who seeks to maintain order after a nuclear explosion is not the enemy soldiers, but rather the British government. The film, originally produced for the BBC, was found by the station's management to be so disturbing that they refused to broadcast it. After its short release at the National Film Theatre in London in 1966 and subsequent screenings at film festivals abroad that same year, the film was buried in the vault for two decades before the wider British public was finally able to see it in 1985 on TV, one year after the premiere of the similarly themed made-for-TV film, *Threads* (1984).

Fascination: Progress

This year, in the ongoing series of retrospectives devoted to the history of avant-garde film through the ways of representation of certain topic or motive, we want to map the representation of "progress". Something inscribed in the nature of the avant-garde itself, the topic was also widely represented - typically with enthusiasm and admiration, but sometimes also critically. We are interested in films from the beginning of cinema until today. The works from the beginning of cinema and between-the-war period. The "classical" works and "big" names, but also not so well-known films and authors.

Europa, Poland, 1931, 11 min., Franciszka Themerson, Stefan Themerson / Czech Premiere

Science Friction, United States, 1959, 10 min., Stan VanDerBeek / Czech Premiere

Rose Hobart, United States, 1936, 19 min., Joseph Cornell / Czech Premiere

Futuro - A New Stance for Tomorrow, Finland, 1998, 28 min., Mika Taanila / Czech Premiere

Energy Energy, Netherlands, 1999, 7 min., Karel Doing / Czech Premiere

Case Sound Tests, United States, 1925, 10 min., Theodore Case / Czech Premiere

Early Superimpositions, United States, 1900, 1 min., Frederick S. Armitage / Czech Premiere

Oil – A Symphony in Motion, United States, 1933, 7 min., M. G. MacPherson / Czech Premiere

Rhythm in Light, United States, 1934, 5 min., Mary Ellen Bute, Ted Nemeth, Melville Webber / Czech Premiere

Interior NY Subway, 14th Street to 42nd Street, United States, 1905, 5 min., Gottfried Wilhelm Bitzer / Czech Premiere

Manhatta, United States, 1921, 9 min., Paul Strand, Charles Sheeler / Czech Premiere

Interim, United States, 1952, 25 min., Stan Brakhage / Czech Premiere

Scene from Elevator Ascending Eiffel Tower, United States, 1900, 2 min., James H. White / Czech Premiere

Unreal News Reels, United States, 1924, 8 min., George Summerville / Czech Premiere

Jack's Dream, United States, 1938, 4 min., Joseph Cornell / Czech Premiere

The Light Penetrates the Dark, Czechoslovakia, 1930, 4 min., František Pilát, Otakar Vávra / Czech Premiere

Beginning a Skyscraper, United States, 1902, 40 sec., Robert K. Bonnie / Czech Premiere

Introspection, United States, 1941, 6 min., Sara Kathryn Arledge / Czech Premiere

Mr. Edison at work in his chemical laboratory, United States, 1897, 1 min., James H. White, William Heise / Czech Premiere

The Dickson Experimental Sound Film, United States, 1894, 1 min., William K. L. Dickson / Czech Premiere

Admiral Cigarette, United States, 1897, 30 sec., William Heise / Czech Premiere

Year 2000, Italy, 1969, 13 min., Gianfranco Brebbia / Czech Premiere

Velocità, Italy, 1930, 13 min., Tina Cordero, Guido Martina, Pippo Oriani / Czech Premiere

Glass, Netherlands, 1958, 10 min., Bert Haanstra / Czech Premiere

Transformation by Holding Time (Landscape), Netherlands, 1976, 2 min., Paul de Nooijer / Czech Premiere

The Maltese Cross Movement, Canada, 1967, 6 min., A. Keewatin Dewdney / Czech Premiere

And Then We Marched, United States, 2017, 3 min., Lynne Sachs / Czech Premiere

Two Marches, United States, 1991, 9 min., Jim Hubbard / Czech Premiere

Learned Spontaneous Movements, Hungary, 1973, 9 min., Dóra Maurer / Czech Premiere

Leaving the 20th Century, United States, 1982, 10 min., Max Almy / Czech Premiere

Fascinations: Michael Bielický

Michael Bielický is a Prague native who has lived in Germany since 1969. He belongs to the generation of visual artists from the 1980s who adopted video as their medium. He has created single-channel works, installations, and video sculptures that make use of a television signal. His artistic conception combines information technology with magic, Kabbalah, and the history of cinema. In 1991 he co-founded the School of New Media at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, which he led until 2006. He is now a professor and the head of the Department of New Media at HfG Karlsruhe.

360°, Czech Republic, 2006, 7 min., Eva Jiříčka

Artstar, Czech Republic, 2004, 2 min., Ondřej Brody

Circulus Viciosus, Germany, 1985, 4 min., Michael Bielický

Dead or Alive 2, Czech Republic, 2001, 3 min., Petra Vargová

Die Fettecke, Germany, 1987, 35 min., Ricardo Peredo, Michael Bielický

Exodus, Czech Republic, 1995, 5 min., Michael Bielický

Four Seasons, Germany, 1984, 3 min., Michael Bielický

Im Herbst, Germany, 1986, 2 min., Michael Bielický

Litanie, Czech Republic, 1992, 5 min., Tomáš Mašín, Elen Řádová

Me and Arafat, Czech Republic, 2003, 3 min., Tamara Moyzes

Muránska Zdychava, Czech Republic, 1992, 4 min., Janka Vidová

Next Year in Jerusalem (Homage to Rabbi Löw), Germany, 1988, 6 min., Michael Bielický

Paik (Nein, Ich bin ein Experimentalist), Germany, 1986, 4 min., Michael Bielický

Perpetuum Mobile, Germany, 1986, 4 min., Michael Bielický

Perpetuum Mobile 2, Germany, 1990, 4 min., Michael Bielický

Riot, Czech Republic, 2005, 6 min, Tamara Moyzes

Tamagotchi, Czech Republic, 1994, 2 min., Tomáš Mašín

Untitled, Czech Republic, 2003, 2 min., Radim Labuda

Wet video, Czech Republic, 1993, 1 min., Elen Řádová

Translucent Being: Lionel Rogosin

Lionel Rogosin (1924–2000) was an American independent documentary filmmaker for whom filmmaking became part of a broader concept of political activism. In New York, he ran the Bleecker Street Cinema and was a founding and active member of the New American Cinema movement alongside the likes of Jonas Mekas. We are honored to present the best of his documentary filmmaking along with a film made by his son – Michael Rogosin.

On the Bowery, United States, 1956, 65 min., Lionel Rogosin

Come Back Africa, South Africa, United States, 1959, 59 min., Lionel Rogosin

Imagine Peace, United States, 2019, 79 min., Michael Rogosin

Good Times, Wonderful Times, United States, 1965, 70 min., Lionel Rogosin

Black Roots, United States, 1970, 60 min., Lionel Rogosin

Arab-Israeli Dialogue, United States, 1974, 40 min., Lionel Rogosin

Woodcutters of the Deep South, United States, 1973, 85 min., Lionel Rogosin

Translucent Being: Shirley Clarke

Shirley Clarke (1919-1997) was an American film director and academic. Originally a dancer and choreographer, she made short films in the 1950s, and later documentaries and feature films. She was active in the feminist movement and her work is often included in the New American Cinema.

Ornette: Made in America, United States, 1985, 85 min., Shirley Clarke

Portrait of Jason, United States, 1967, 105 min., Shirley Clarke

The Connection, United States, 1961, 110 min., Shirley Clarke

The Cool World, United States, 1963, 120 min., Shirley Clarke

Brussels Loops, United States, 1957, 58 min., Shirley Clarke

Bridges-Go-Round 1, United States, 1958, 4 min., Shirley Clarke

Bridges-Go-Round 2, United States, 1958, 4 min., Shirley Clarke

Skyscraper, United States, 1960, 21 min., Shirley Clarke

Robert Frost: A Lover's Quarrel with the World, United States, 1963, 52 min., Shirley Clarke

The Tee Pee Video Space Troupe: The First Years, United States, 1971, 16 min., Shirley Clarke

Tongues, United States, 1982, 20 min., Shirley Clarke

Dance in the Sun, United States, 1953, 7 min., Shirley Clarke

In Paris Parks, United States, 1954, 13 min., Shirley Clarke

Bullfight, United States, 1955, 9 min., Shirley Clarke

A Moment in Love, United States, 1957, 9 min., Shirley Clarke

CZECH JOY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

October 26, 2022
Industry Hub / 5–6:30 PM
English only

Presentation and short previews of brand new Czech documentary films selected to the festival's Czech Joy competition section, introduced by their authors.

The presentation is focused primarily for international audiences – representatives of dozens of film festivals attending the 26th Ji.hlava, sales agents and other film professionals. The new Czech film projects will be presented personally by their authors. The event is held in English without interpretation, and will be broadcasted also online on Vimeo and Facebook.

The presentation is organised by the Ji.hlava IDFF in cooperation with the Czech Film Fund and the Czech Centers.

EMERGING PRODUCERS 2023: Public Presentation

October 26, 2022
Industry Hub / 7:30 – 9:00 PM
English only

Each year, talented European producers are selected for the EMERGING PRODUCERS workshop. In the next months, these up-and-coming film professionals go through a training programme in Jihlava and Berlin. Their journey starts at Ji.hlava IDFF with their public presentation.

Ji.hlava New Visions Forum

October 27–28

Presentation of new European and U.S. documentary projects in development as well as in production and post-production. The selected projects include diverse genres and audiovisual formats – such as fiction films with documentary aspects, hybrid, cinema expanded, experimental and short films.