

Artdocfest
Project Pitching
Session
2020



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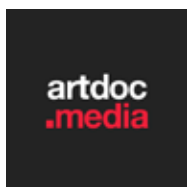
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Artdocfest is the largest international festival of Russian language documentary films. After the annexation of Crimea in 2014, when the organizers of the festival and its program were accused of taking an 'anti-government position' in Russia, Artdocfest moved to Riga and became a part of the Riga International Film Festival.

Artdocfest programmes were part of RIGA IFF for 5 years. In 2020, The first International Documentary Film Festival IDFF Artdocfest/Riga will take place in the capital of Latvia from November 26 to December 1. In addition to the Artdocfest competition it will include the Baltic Focus competition and out-of-competition programs of world documentary filmmaking. The tradition of the famous documentary symposium will also be revived.

Since 2017 Artdocfest has collaborated with the Baltic Sea Forum for Documentaries, thus creating more opportunities for independent filmmakers from the former Soviet Union to make their voices heard in the international documentary environment.



General Partner



RUSSIA

Eternal Life



DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: Mergen Irgit
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 PRODUCTION COMPANY: Zero Cycles Production
 CO-AUTHOR: Andrey Perevozchikov
 LANGUAGE: Russian, Udmurt
 LENGTH: 80'
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

On September 10, 2019, Albert Alekseevich Razin committed the act of self-immolation in front of the Parliament building of Udmurtia, opposing the assimilation of Russian nationalities and protesting against the adoption of a bill regarding the learning of national languages of small nations on a voluntary basis, which could lead to decrease in the number of speakers of the Udmurt language. Albert Razin claimed: *“The loss of a national language and national culture is a regression in the general sociological sense, leading to erosion, simplification and primitivization of social ties, to flattening of culture, that is, to human degradation. Knowledge of many languages contributes to personal development. Knowledge of the native language does not hinder, but instead helps master the complex grammar of the Russian language. Russia should not resemble a melting pot in which ethnic groups and their civilizations are levelled. I want to say that in the absence of internationalism, in conditions that support the imperial mentality, in the conditions of sabre rattling, everybody degrades. In an empire, the human foundation is squeezed out of the human – degradation of people occurs: the*

colonizer is corrupted, and the defeated people lose any ties with their history and nation...” (from an open letter to the deputies of the State Council of Udmurtia).

Albert Alekseevich Razin is the author of the work *Human Science*, dedicated to the theory and practice of “humanizing” a person. He founded the *Demen* society of Udmurt culture and called himself a shaman of the “ancient tradition of tuno”. He called on the Udmurts to return to the origins of their religion. Razin was an activist of the *Udmurt Kenesh* movement who advocated for the compulsory study of the Udmurt language by children in school and prepared an appeal to the deputies of the State Council of Udmurtia entitled: “The Udmurt Ethnos is Disappearing”.

Director/Producer: Mergen Irgit



I remember my early childhood with sand dunes near the village of Lyme in the western part of Tuva. In the spring of 1999, I was drafted into the ranks of the Russian army. After serving in the army I began to work at a construction site. Graduated from the screenwriting workshop of the Advanced Course for Screenwriters and Film Directors in 2018.

Co-Author: Andrey Perevozchikov



Born and raised in the city of Izhevsk; Udmurt traveler, ethnographer and shaman, follower of Albert Razin. “I met Albert Alekseevich during a difficult period of my life. For more than ten years I worked in the oil industry, and then I realized – it is not for me. For me this was a great gift of fate. He did not let anyone else from today’s young generation to come as close to him as me.”

UKRAINE / FRANCE / POLAND

Expedition 49



DIRECTOR: Alisa Kovalenko
PRODUCTION COMPANY: Trueman Production (UKR), East Roads Films (FRA), Haka Films (POL)
PRODUCERS: Stéphane Siohan, Valery Kalmykov, Alexei Kobelev
 Stéphane Siohan
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CO-PRODUCER: Tomasz Morawski
LANGUAGE: Russian, Ukrainian
LENGTH: 90' / 52'
EXPECTED RELEASE: Late 2021 – Early 2022

Expedition 49 is a teen-spirit adventure film about five Tom Sawyers stuck in the social and industrial collapse of Donbas, the largest mining region in Europe, plagued by a never-ending war.

Aged around 15, Andriy, Lisa, Ruslan, Lera and Ilya live near Zolote, a small frontline town. Bombs keep falling, but new dangers are looming: factories are closing, coal mines get flooded and parents lose their jobs. Andriy wanted to be a miner like his dad, who now pumps water out of the bombed pits near the trenches. Obsessed by his passion for old Soviet motorbikes, Andriy smuggles cables, repairs everything and sees himself as Elon Musk! Ruslan struggles to be noticed in the eyes of his father, an ex-cop who has now gone to work in the mines and makes a fool of his son. Ruslan is a bad rapper, but by commenting on Counter Strike online, he earns the salary his dad doesn't. Delicate Ilya wants to be an actor. Lera complains that all cute guys have gone away. On weekends, she dances wildly to the music of Billie Eilish in a bomb shelter. Lisa's boyfriend might be enrolled in the enemy's ranks.

Everything's messed up. Until one day a voice echoes on

the radio. An old adventurer wants to bring kids from the war zone to the Himalayas: therapy to heal their traumas and break the walls around them. Our "Donbas 5" spend months on the coal pits preparing to climb the highest mountain and find some answers. Is there a way out to the world outside? Are they brave enough to chase new horizons? Can you find light in your life when you grew up in the most desolate place?

The 49th expedition will paint the last golden hours of childhood, capture this huge desire of freedom that burns inside every teenager. Like an ode to the sons of the last miners, to the children of the working-class reinventing themselves.

Director: Alisa Kovalenko



Alisa is a Ukrainian director who graduated from the Karpenko-Kary University of Theatre and Cinema of Kyiv before visiting the Andrzej-Wajda School in Warsaw. Her debut *Alisa in Warland* premiered at IDFA 2015 in the First-appearance competition. Alisa's acclaimed second documentary *Home Games* (2018) was again an IDFA 2018 selection. Alisa is a member of the European Film Academy.

Producer: Stéphane Siohan



Stéphane is a French producer, established in Kyiv since 2013. He directed his first documentary in Ukraine, *Gol* (2012), commissioned by Le Monde and Arte, selected at Doclab IDFA 2012. He also directed *Kinshasa FM* (2013). Stéphane created East Roads in 2017, a French studio supporting creative docs that produced Alisa Kovalenko's *Home Games* (2018). He is currently participating in the Eurodoc 2020 training programme.

RUSSIA / GERMANY

Ghost Train



DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: Darya Khrenova
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 PRODUCTION COMPANY: Magic Mountain Production
 CO-PRODUCTION COMPANY: Bildschön Filmproduktion
 CO-PRODUCER: Linda Matern
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 LANGUAGE: Russian / English / German
 LENGTH: 90' / 5x 26'
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

In early 1949 a magnificent funeral procession took place along Nevsky Avenue in Leningrad. It was the last journey of the Head of the Soviet-German film studio DEFA, director Ilya Trauberg. He died at the age of 43 under unexplained circumstances in 1948 in Berlin, where he was immediately cremated...

Ghost Train is this Russian film director's personal investigation of the post-war era in Berlin and Moscow. It begins with the mysterious death of a Soviet cinematographer, a successful apprentice of the great Sergey Eisenstein. Darya Khrenova, documentalist and granddaughter of Ilya Trauberg, is unravelling a detective story. Darya begins the investigation with a single photograph, fearing to discover that her grandfather was a spy or State security agent. It seems that her family has skeletons in the wardrobe and is not very happy to reveal its secrets. Is she at all allowed to dig into a family history that holds so many ghosts from the past?

The hard facts of post-war Soviet life imply that Ilya was probably a victim: Stalin's struggle against

cosmopolitanism resulted in a get-tough anti-Jewish policy. Almost all Soviet "culture officers" in Berlin were Jews, and almost all were arrested. But could it be the real reason for Ilya's murder?

Darya goes to Berlin and checks one shocking hypothesis after another. We follow the progress of her investigation, her meetings, interviews, search for archival material, footage and evidence from the present and the past. The story flows in the dynamic rhythm of a detective tale.

Director: Darya Khrenova



Darya Khrenova was born in Moscow. She worked for TV channel *Culture* and other Russian channels as an author and chief-editor of weekly TV programs. She worked as an Associate Professor at the Moscow State University of Culture and Arts from 2009, and did a lecture series featuring the screening of her film *Pavlensky. Life Naked* at American universities in 2018. She founded Magic Mountain film production in 2014.

Producer: Linda Matern



Linda Matern was born in Russia, then moved Germany. She founded Bildschön Filmproduktion in 1997. The company has produced award-winning documentaries and short films that share warm human touch and unique artistic vision. Among recent projects: *Dorotchka* (2019) and *Siberian Love* (2016) by Olga Delane, and *Dreams Rewired* (2015) featuring narrator Tilda Swinton.

RUSSIA

Gray



DIRECTOR: Daria Likhaia
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 LANGUAGE: Russia
 LENGTH: 21
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

2000. Arkhangelsk. Ivan, Natasha and newborn Sasha live in a one-room apartment. Ivan shoots a happy film about his family – maternity hospital, the birth of a child, their new apartment, new gold velvet sofa, endless walks with a stroller, the awkward, passionate break dancing of courtyard guys, the zoo in pop music tunes, where with a swift zoom the father's VHC darts between little Sasha in a red beret and a cage with wolves.

Amazing country of the 2000s – happy, poor and too smart – a wild colour palette and expressive close-ups through VHC camera.

2019. Volgograd. Ivan, 18-year-old Sasha and Wolf Gray live in a one-room apartment. Sasha lives in the kitchen, sleeps on chairs and doesn't go outside. Meanwhile, Ivan studies Google maps trying to catch any tiny changes, works in a mental hospital and walks with the Wolf on the mound, running away from home for hours. They barely talk; passing coffee through a broken hole in the kitchen door until Wolf's eyes hurt.

This film is a jump through the years – a Russian documentary tale with a Wolf; it is a film about time, dreams, the plans of a small family and the sharp, painful and mysterious unpredictability of life.

Director: Daria Likhaia



Moscow-based independent documentary photographer and director. Born in 1994 in Priozersk, Russia. Worked as a senior engineer in a chemical plant, waiter in a wine bar, photographer in a maternity hospital. In 2018 entered the Moscow Film School. Took part in documentary workshops at Zerkalo FF and Rudnik Documentary Film Festival. In 2019 received a grant to study at the DocDocDoc International School of Documentary Photography. Focuses on human fragility and painful and unanswered questions affecting the connections of past and present life.

RUSSIA

Homeless Man With a Movie Camera



DIRECTORS: Vladislav Bakhanovich, Maxim Lukyanets
 PRODUCTION COMPANY: Vladislav Bakhanovich
 (independently)
 PRODUCER: Yulia Zharuk
 bezdomskino@gmail.com
 LANGUAGE: Russian
 LENGTH: 90'
 EXPECTED RELEASE: DEC 2020

Film director Igor Konovalov sells his apartment in order to create movies using the money, and as a result becomes homeless. But he doesn't even think of stopping making movies. He has a plan for a new comedy, but no money for production. Things start to change when two documentary filmmakers offer to help him with his film, and in exchange ask to record the process for their own film. Igor agrees.

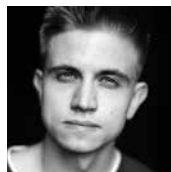
The production of a new comedy by Igor Konovalov: *8 Days of Top-Manager Pasha in the Style of Dance Zouk*, begins. The comedy's plot is inspired by Igor's personal stories as well as those he has heard on the street.

Igor's usual film crew agree to help him, as always: cameraman Fedor has a video recording camera and problems with his nervous system; therefore his hands are constantly shaking. Amateur actress Masha, a smart and beautiful young lady, plays for Igor because she believes other beauties will not help him. Homeless street musician Egor is the author of the songs in Igor's films. He comes to the film shoot because he was also once a film director. Homeless former entrepreneur Roma works as an

actor for Igor in order to get money for food for a pregnant girl with whom he lives in a stairwell.

The team begins to work as usual, but during the filming process it becomes clear that Igor's life is completely changing – journalists are more and more interested in him, people start to recognize him on the streets, successful professionals from the Russian cinema industry are ready to communicate with him. Igor himself doesn't know, but perhaps now he will be able to get out of poverty.

Director: Vladislav Bakhanovich



Producer, director, DOP. Was born in Novosibirsk. Graduated from the Cinematography Department of VGIK in 2018. In 2016 was awarded at the VGIK IFF for the best DOP work. Selected filmography: *Prank* (2015), *Live* (2016), *Therapy* (2016), *Let It Be on the Wall* (2017), *California* (2017), *Reflection* (2019) and *Mincer* (2019).

Director: Maksim Lukyanets



Born in Kaliningrad. Graduated from the Film Directing Department of VGIK in 2018. In 2016 was awarded at the VGIK IFF. Selected filmography: *Prank* (2015), *Live* (2016), *On the Edge* (2016) and *Let It Be on the Wall* (2017).

RUSSIA / BELARUS

Mark, Maria and the Caspian



DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: Kirill Zakharov
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 LANGUAGE: Russian
 LENGTH: 110'
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

This is a story about Mark, Maria and the Caspian Sea. About the relationship between man and nature. How the sea affects a person, his character, how it hears, feels and loves him. It is also about the attitude of man towards the sea, often extremely cruel, thoughtless, barbaric. How nature is forced to respond to disrespect.

This is also a story about the relationships between a father and daughter. About the difficulties and misunderstandings between the young – thriving, and the old – fading.

Mark, Maria and the Caspian Sea will be based on real-life characters Mark and Maria. Father and daughter. Their interviews; in documentary scenes from their family life. Within the setting of the Caspian Sea, the Astrakhan State Natural Reserve, stories about life in fishing villages near the city of Astrakhan. The shooting will also partially take place in Moscow.

Mark is a fisherman. He is seventy-four years old; he lives in a village on the coast. He has a rusty fishing boat, a gray

net and rough, wrinkled skin. Every morning he goes out to sea and performs the same ritual that his father and grandfather did. He has been a fisherman all his life. His wife died from cancer twelve years ago at the age of fifty-two. Their only daughter is Maria.

Maria is Mark's daughter. She grew up on the coast of the Caspian Sea. She moved to Moscow at the age of sixteen and works in park landscaping in one of the city's prefectures. Her husband Maxim teaches history in one of the capital's universities.

The Caspian Sea is the largest enclosed body of water on earth, which can be classified as the largest closed lake, or as a full-fledged sea due to its size, and also due to the fact that its bed is composed of an oceanic earth crust. It's located at the junction of Europe and Asia. The beauty of the nature of the Caspian will be intertwined with the beauty of the people living on its shores.

Director: Kirill Zakharov



In 2003 he graduated from the Theatre Faculty of the Belarusian State Academy of Arts (Minsk). From 2005 to 2012 he worked as an acting teacher at the Academy of Arts and in a French theatre organization. In 2016 he graduated from VKSR (Moscow) with a film director degree (teachers I.M. Kvirikadze, A.M. Dobrovolsky) From 2017 to 2019 he worked as a director for Kultura TV channel. Since 2019, he has been an acting teacher at GITIS. Since 2019, he has worked as an assistant to A.S. Konchalovsky on the performances *Three Sisters* and *Scenes from Married Life*, and on the film *Dear Comrades*. In 2015 he shot the short film *Scenes by the Sea*. In 2019, the documentary, *White*

Guard. The Birth of a Novel. Now he is working on a documentary, *Colin Ross*.

RUSSIA / ESTONIA

The Nameless



DIRECTOR: Nadya Zakharova
 PRODUCTION COMPANY: Marx Film
 PRODUCERS: Maria Gavrilova
 +7 9262479847 (Moscow)
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 Max Tuula
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 LANGUAGE: Russian
 LENGTH: 90'
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

The small towns of Nyrob and Cherdyn are located in the middle of the Russian taiga. Cherdyn is one of the oldest medieval Russian settlements in the Urals, while Nyrob once was a place for a Gulag camp. The prison is still there, but it is not political anymore. Lost on the edge of the world, these towns have developed a very special culture and way of life, special attitude to life and death. All these places – the old trees, the infertile land, the walls of half-abandoned houses – seem to still keep the memories of the terrifying times of the 1930s-50s.

The life in these small Northern Russian towns usually remains unnoticed, their inhabitants live their seemingly unremarkable lives, and it looks like they will disappear from Earth still unnoticed. Our director watches them closely, and in the protagonists her gaze finds the most interesting archetypes of different human characters. She travels to the places where her grandparents died many decades ago, and meticulously examines this seemingly non-existent life, capturing unexpectedly vivid, emotional images in this gloomy reality.

Our cameras work like stoves that melt the ice in the souls of these people, we talk to them about their most hidden secrets and reveal what is behind this façade – a very strange and special mixture of semi-criminal culture, Christianity and remnants of the pagan North.

In her trip, the film director starts a delicate investigation, attempting to document life in places that still carry the memories of tragic deaths. And in the end it turns out that the nameless people do have their own distinctive names and touching stories.

Director: Nadya Zakharova



Studied Arts and Graphic Design at the Perm Pedagogical College in Perm, Russia, and continued her education at the Moscow School of New Cinema. Her graduate film “Fire” (2016) was awarded as Best National Documentary at the Message to Man IFF in St Petersburg, Russia, and participated in various festivals. Her short documentary “Dust of Time” (2017), shot in Nepal, was also participant of many festivals. In 2019 the short documentary “The Bell” (Kolokol), co-directed by Nadya Zakharova, received a Special Mention at the Beat Film Festival in Moscow.

Producers/Production Company: Marx Film

Is a Tallinn-based production company, founded in 2012 by Max Tuula and Maria Gavrilova. Most of their documentaries were made together with Russian filmmakers Aleksander Rastorguev and Pavel Kostomarov. Among them – the experimental documentary “I Don't Love You” by Kostomarov/Rastorguev (Warsaw IFF 2012), “The Term” by Pivovarov/Kostomarov/Rastorguev (Karlovy Vary IFF 2014), “Kiev/Moscow” by Elena Khoreva (Special Mention at Locarno IFF 2015), “My Friend Boris Nemtsov” by Zosya Rodkevich (Best Documentary at Krakow FF 2016) and “How Big Is the Galaxy?” by Ksenia Elyan (IDFA 2018, Best European Children's Documentary 2019).

RUSSIA

The Second Life



DIRECTOR: Anastasia Kozhevnikova
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 LANGUAGE: Russian
 LENGTH: 75'
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

Kriorus is a Russian company that sells people the chance for a second life. For the price of a car, a person can buy a contract to make themselves free from the fear of an eternal nothingness afterlife. Kriorus is the second company in the world outside the US in numbers of cryo-patients. Over 14 years, more than 500 people have become clients, of which 74 were cryo-preserved.

After death, the brain separately or the whole body is cooled down to the temperature of liquid nitrogen, and then stored in special tanks called dewars. People who died and were cryo-preserved will be stored in dewars until the invention of technology that can bring a person back to life.

Valeria Udalova, better known as Valeria Pride in the transhumanism community, is the CEO of Kriorus since 2009. Valeria was one of company's founders in 2006. In recent years, some of the co-founders have been dissatisfied with Valeria's work. The inner conflicts have jeopardized the company's stability and client confidence.

Anton lost his wife in an accident and cryo-preserved her brain. Despite the belief that cryonics works and his hope of a future reunion, Anton is going through a difficult time after losing a loved one. He tries to save traces of his love, and with some friends establishes a fund in her name. He finds photographs that his wife shot and digitizes them. After a year, he goes to Kriorus to renew his contract and finds Valeria talking about new cryo-storage facility.

Clients who link their lives to cryonics are dependent upon the company and the CEO, in particular. There are few alternative companies in the world offering saving from death services.

Director: Anastasia Kozhevnikova



Was born in Chelyabinsk in 1997. In 2015 she moved to Moscow to study filmmaking. In 2020 she graduated from the GITR Film & Television School. During her studies she shot several short documentaries: *Where is Your Home?* (2017), *Elena and Olga* (2018) and *Connection* (2020) – diploma film that was a basis for *The Second Life*. In 2019 she took part in DocTrain programme with *The Second Life* project together with tutors Marina Razbezhkina and Arne Birkenstock, as arranged by Goethe Institute in Moscow. She works as a freelance filmmaker, making documentaries and commercials.

RUSSIA

Shaman vs Putin



DIRECTOR: Beata Bubenets
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 beatabubenec@yandex.ru
 PRODUCTION COMPANY: Ethnofund Film Company
 PRODUCER: Vlad Ketkovich
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 ethnofund.film@gmail.com
 SCREENWRITER: Mikhail Bashkirov
 LANGUAGE: Russian, Yakut
 LENGTH: 80' / 52'
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

Spring 2019, Siberia. A 5-foot tall Yakut man walks along a road, dragging behind him a cart while listening to rock music. Passing truckers stop and ask him what he's doing there in the middle of the highway. He answers: "*I'm a Shaman-Warrior, going to Moscow. God told me to exorcise Putin from power and free Russia from the devil!*"

His name is Alexander Gabyshev. A few years ago, he spent 3 years of isolation in the taiga, then came to Yakutsk and declared himself a Shaman-Warrior. Alexander says he was visited by God, who gave him a holy mission: to reach Moscow by foot and perform a ritual that will banish the almighty power out of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In March 2019, he began his journey to Moscow. Alexander's determination and use of social media created a buzz around him. Some people joined him; many followed him on the Internet, and encouraged him to fulfil his prophecy. Alexander's mission awakened a Russian archetypal belief: that only a holy man can save the country.

However, in present-day Russia, anyone fighting against Putin, even within a meta-political field, is considered an enemy of the State. In September 2019, the Federal security forces (FSB) arrested Alexander. Charged with extremism, he was placed in a mental asylum in Yakutsk. His Yakut fellow citizens, who didn't take him seriously earlier, now rallied together to claim his freedom. In two weeks, he was released.

International newspapers (New York Times, BBC, Le Monde, etc.) wrote articles about him. After several attempts to restart his march, in May 2020 Alexander was arrested anew and sent back to the asylum. That convinced a playwright to set up a puppet play about his journey in the famous Moscow political theatre, TEATR. DOC.

Within the context of an economic crisis in Russia and the decline in Putin's popularity, Alexander has become a real threat to power. This toothless little man succeeded in awakening a great hope in silent Russia.

Director: Beata Bubenets



Born in Yakutsk in 1987, philologist by first education. In 2013 graduated from the M. Razbezhkina Documentary Film School and started making films. Beata is the author of films about the Orthodox activist Dmitry Enteo (*God's Will*), and about Euromaidan and war in East Ukraine (*Chechen, Flight of a Bullet*). Her films travel the festival circuit.

Producer: Vlad Ketkovich



Born in 1971, started as a journalist, worked with visual anthropology, eventually evolved into being a film producer. Over the last decade Vlad has worked internationally, bringing Russian stories and directors to the world film and TV market.

RUSSIA

What If I Don't Die?



DIRECTOR: Elena Laskari
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 www.elenalaskari.ru
 PRODUCTION COMPANY: Kinoartel LLC
 PRODUCER: Evgeny Kokusev
 LANGUAGE: Russian
 LENGTH: 75'
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

The word 'hospice' is usually frightening. It sounds like death. "A hospice is about LIVING!" says Nastya, an inpatient in a children's hospice. She's sixteen. She really wants to live. "I don't read about my condition on the internet. Shame on me, but I don't want to dive into that. I know I'll grow anxious, so I prefer not to know." Nastya lives with her mom and likes travelling, she's learning languages, loves drawing anime, she sings and plays the ukulele, writes short stories on Instagram, and does theatre in the hospice studio...

The life of Nastya's mom (her name is Natasha) is all about fighting for her daughter's life. In Nastya's case (a rare form of spinal muscular atrophy) there is a chance to live for years, provided the treatment is right. But deadly diagnoses are cunning, and you have to be ready to face death at any time.

And at the hospice Natasha should have an important compulsory talk with psychologists and doctors about choosing a path. The main goal of the hospice, should the child's condition significantly deteriorate, is to provide the opportunity to die peacefully, without pain

and with parents. Will the family agree? Or will they choose emergency intervention, reanimation and electric shocks – hoping for a miracle? Parents have to choose how their child will die, however frightful that may sound. Nastya's mom is ready.

When the pandemic happened and all over the world people had to stay locked in their homes, nothing changed in the life of Nastya and her mother. "Double Quarantine". Now healthy people felt on their own skins what this family feels every day, by not having the opportunity to go out. No – to just going for a walk, no – to going to the movies, no – to going to the cafe, no – just to talk, no – just to breathe!

Director: Elena Laskari



Elena Laskari was born in Ryazan (Russia). She graduated from the directing department of VGIK (Institute of Cinematography). She lives in Moscow and has been shooting documentary films for 15 years. Her filmography includes some 40 documentaries and TV series. Her career began with the successful debut *Police Day* in 2006. In 2015, her film *Ceremony* received the main prize at the national competition of the international festival Message to Man. And the picture *Larisa's Artel* represented Russia in the documentary film competition of the MIFF. *Felt Boots* and *Tatyana & Sons* were also laureates and prize-winners in Russian festivals. One of her latest works,

Where is Matryona?, participated in the competition programme at Artdocfest 2019.

RUSSIA

Along the River



A film about ecological disaster that has been going on for 70 years. It tells the stories of ordinary village people living in the Chelyabinsk region along the Techa River, where liquid radioactive waste has been flowing for many years. Completely abandoned and useless, these people are fighting for their daily existence, overcoming inhuman living conditions. And the children are paying triple for their parents' illnesses.



DIRECTOR: Fedor Shmelkin
+7 9067065363
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PRODUCTION COMPANY: Shmelkin Production
LANGUAGE: Russian, English
LENGTH: 95 min
EXPECTED RELEASE: 2020

RUSSIA

At the Bottom



Each year a group of volunteer divers organizes several expeditions to collect garbage from the bottom of Lake Issyk-Kul. They face numerous problems in their activities, but driven by a love for nature, they continue to fight for the cleanliness of the lake. Their dream is that younger generations of scuba divers will dive only out of sport or scientific interest, and not as underwater cleaners.



DIRECTOR: Tamara Kubaeva
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LANGUAGE: Russian
LENGTH: 20 min
EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

RUSSIA / BELARUS

At the Bottom of St. Petersburg Wells



Igor and Sergey live on the streets of St. Petersburg. Residents of nearby houses do not like this gang, so there is conflict. But this does not scare the homeless – they keep arranging showdowns or drunken gatherings under the windows. Soon Igor learns about the death of his father. He goes to his native village to ask forgiveness at the grave. Sergei continues to live in an abandoned house. Soon Igor runs away from his parental home and wanders around in the Republic of Belarus.



DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: Igor Gladkov
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 igorgladkov@aol.com
 PRODUCTION COMPANY: Kinogvardia
 LANGUAGE: Russian
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021 (2022)

RUSSIA

Border Man



A film about the historical experience of the development of the northern lands of Russia. The task is to show the uniqueness of the peoples living in these territories, their cultural codes, and to look beyond the existing boundaries (borders in all senses of the word).



DIRECTOR: Sergey Karandashov
 PRODUCTION COMPANY: Auteur Cinema Studio
 PRODUCER: Ivan Bolotnikov
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 ivan_bolotnikov@mail.ru
 LANGUAGE: Russian, English
 LENGTH: 90 min
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2022

RUSSIA

Buried and Forgotten



Young artist Dmitry Poshtarenko is looking for the remains of soldiers who disappeared during WWII. Using the soldiers' nametags, he identifies the deceased, finds their relatives. Then he creates a 3D model of the dead soldier using gypsum and makeup. There are already hundreds reborn people filling military museums throughout the country. With the regaining of their names, the soldiers are once again captured by the state.



DIRECTOR: Konstantin Selin
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 yakostya.s@ya.ru
 PRODUCER: Semyon Lebin
 LANGUAGE: Russian
 LENGTH: 60 min
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2022

RUSSIA

The Case



Courageous and daring lawyer Maria Eysmont comes face-to-face with the corrupted judicial system of Russia while fighting for the freedom of young political activist, Konstantin Kotov, in the aftermath of the opposition protests of 2019.



DIRECTOR : Nina Guseva
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 PRODUCTION COMPANY:
 Marina Razbezhkina's Documentary Film School
 PRODUCER: Marina Razbezhkina
 LANGUAGE: Russian
 LENGTH: 80 min
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2020

UKRAINE

Demiurge



A tragicomedy about the life of a small rural amateur theatre in Volhynia, and its director, the famous Ukrainian theatre and movie actor Petro Panchuk. Seeking to overcome a personal crisis, the actor returns from the capital city to his native village to create a theatre together with his fellow villagers and prove to himself what he is capable of.



DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: Olga Semak
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 PRODUCTION COMPANY: Metropolis Film Company
 PRODUCER: Olexandr Techinsky
 LANGUAGE: Ukrainian
 LENGTH: 70 min
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

RUSSIA

Do I Love You, Robot, Do I?



Anthropomorphic robots are increasingly being introduced into our lives: they meet us at reception desks, teach us, and even live in families as companions. Scientists are trying to make robots as human-like as possible. In studying the emotional reaction of people to robots, the “uncanny valley effect” has been discovered – the most human-like robots caused feelings of eeriness and revulsion in observers. But what will happen when they become indistinguishable from a human? And will they?



DIRECTOR: Yuliya Kiseleva
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 PRODUCTION COMPANY: Risk-Film LLC
 PRODUCERS: Olga Shaposhnikova, Yulia Kiseleva,
 Alena Akimova, Svetlana Bondareva
 LANGUAGE: Russian
 LENGTH: 55 min
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2020

AZERBAIJAN

Dreamer



Mamed is the coach of a female football team in Sheki. His goal is to raise the girls to be talented and successful football players. In Sheki, and not only, girls are also forced to marry at 15, and they don't even have educational rights. These traditions sadly are still relevant and causing problems for the girls. The only thing that gives them a feeling of freedom is football. Mamed fights this battle with his wife Svetlana.



DIRECTOR: Imam Jabirovich Hasanow
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PRODUCTION COMPANY: Free Art
PRODUCER: Maria Ibrahimova
LANGUAGE: Azerbaijani
LENGTH: 80 min
EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

RUSSIA

Hydroelectric Joy



The love affair between engineer Vadim and biologist Vera is under threat when the construction of a gigantic dam in Egypt separates the couple. Vadim hopes to return with keys to a Volga automobile, but along the way his amateur camera captures the deaths of friends, showdowns with management, the slave labour of the Egyptians, and the helplessness of ordinary people before an industrial giant.



DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: Alexander Markov
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cinemarkov@gmail.com
LANGUAGE: Russian, Arabic
LENGTH: 60 min
EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

RUSSIA

I/WE Are Ice Under the Cop's Feet



A film about the protests in Moscow in 2019–2020, which began after the exclusion of independent candidates from the elections. Brutal detentions, political prisoners, courts, compulsory work in housing and communal services, resetting Putin's terms to zero, changing the Constitution, detentions even for picketing alone – and all this against the backdrop of a global pandemic and the May 9 celebrations. What will happen to the young people, journalists and independent politicians who have joined the endless Russian protests?



DIRECTOR: Kirill Nenashev
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 k.nenashev@gmail.com
 LANGUAGE: Russian
 LENGTH: 85 min
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2020–2021

RUSSIA

Ichtiander-66



In 1966, amateur engineers from Ukraine launched a grassroots undersea lab, which was the first in the history of USSR. Over the next few years they conducted unique independent studies of people living in an underwater environment, and inspired a wave of similar research across the country. Their activities drew the attention of the authorities and the project was shut down, like many other grassroots organizations formed during “the Thaw”.



DIRECTORS: Bulat Sharipov, Alexander Sinitsa
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 LANGUAGE: Russian
 LENGTH: 70 min
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

RUSSIA

Kostya Pritersky



A story about a living legend, a soldier of fortune, a “berserker” hero – Konstantin Masalyov. Natural-born soldier. Fighter with the most formidable and merciless division of the First Chechen War, known as “the berserker platoon”. This is a film about a deadly drug named war, about post-war life and PTSD. Also about love for Russia. And about the bizarre, sometimes cruel way Russia loves her soldiers back.



DIRECTOR: Sushchev Evgeniy
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LANGUAGE: Russian
LENGTH: 60 min
EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

UZBEKISTAN

Krymnash



The film focuses on different aspects of the history and everyday life of Crimean Tatars in Uzbekistan, who were deported from Crimea to Central Asia for alleged collaboration with the Nazis in May 1944. Every single Crimean Tatar in Central Asia has the history of cruel deportation in their family: the loss of property, of home, of freedom, of dignity. These traumatic episodes have been documented, discussed and analysed many times, and we seek to avoid replicating the same narrative. Instead, we are focusing on the experience of those Crimean Tatars who stayed in Uzbekistan, and we have chosen to tell these stories through the eyes of women.



DIRECTORS: Umida Akhmedova, Alex Ulko
PRODUCTION COMPANY: 139 Productions
PRODUCER: Timur Karpov
+998 977494895
timur.karpov@gmail.com
LANGUAGE: Russian, Uzbek
LENGTH: 80 min
EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

RUSSIA

Memory



In this autobiographical documentary, Vladlena Sandu investigates the trauma that she experienced while living through and surviving the war in Chechnya. She returns to the memories of those events, faces the experience of war, repression and the Soviet totalitarian regime, which affected the lives of her family members for several generations. In order to heal from the post-traumatic stress, Vladlena must make sense of the history of her ancestors and reclaim her place in the story.



DIRECTOR : Vladlena Sandu
 PRODUCTION COMPANY: Mimesis
 PRODUCER: Yanna Buryak
 +7 9647975016
 yanna@mimesis productions
 LANGUAGE: Russian
 LENGTH: 90 min
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2022

RUSSIA

Mimino vs Mafia



Driver Alex Chernyshov was killed last summer. Well-known Siberian opposition leader Vadim Ostapov was accused of his murder. He faces life imprisonment, although not a single expert examination confirms his guilt. Whether Vadim is indeed guilty, or the authorities decided to get rid of the popular opposition leader in such a terrible way, we intend to find out in our film.



DIRECTOR: Svetlana Stasenko
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 PRODUCTION COMPANY: Passenger Film Studio
 PRODUCER: Lisa Antonova
 LANGUAGE: Russian
 LENGTH: 90 min
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

MOLDOVA

Monument for Sale



On rare 16 mm family footage, 20-year-old Galina works at the biggest industrial plant in Northern Moldova and travels with her friends. On her son's digital footage, she is 72, lives alone and spends time in a community of widows – her former co-workers. Together they hunt for supermarket sales, dine and fight for an independent life. But Galina must decide: to stay in Moldova, or sell her apartment and move to her daughter in Russia.



DIRECTOR: Artiom Zavadovsky
 PRODUCTION COMPANY: Niște Filme
 PRODUCER: Ion Gnatiuc
 +373 69200029
 niste.filme@gmail.com
 LANGUAGE: Russian, Moldovan-Romanian
 LENGTH: 80 min
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2022

RUSSIA / KYRGYZSTAN

Motherland



Vitaly and Victor have been friends all their lives. They were born in 1936 in the Kirghiz Soviet Republic, survived the famine during WWII, graduated from school in the year of Stalin's death and left for central Russia to build communism. Now they are over eighty. The system to which they dedicated their lives has fallen apart; the homeland has become a separate country. Together, they decide to go on a desperate journey to Kyrgyzstan to find the graves of their parents and do an evaluation of their lives.



DIRECTOR: Tatyana Soboleva
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 tatanaso@mail.ru
 LANGUAGE: Russian
 LENGTH: 75 min
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

ISRAEL

Nameless



2014. The Revolution of Dignity is raging on the main square of Kyiv for the third month. Three young men from different parts of the former Soviet Union find themselves in the very centre of the turmoil. The thread of life sews the destinies of these heroes into a parable about Human Freedom. 2020. The fate of the men was tragic, the perpetrators were never punished, the names never revealed. Nameless heroes of the undeclared war die every day.



DIRECTOR: Alexandra Rahmilevich
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 LANGUAGE: Ukrainian, Russian
 LENGTH: 110 min
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

UKRAINE

Plai. The Path Through the Mountains



If you are not a local, it is easy to get lost in the mountains. It is as if time stops, and every detail takes on a whole new meaning. There is a special rhythm of existence – everyday life in harmony with yourself and the world around you... Overlapping scenes of the family-life of Hanna and Dmytro are intertwined into a story, which depicts a globally humane experience of continuity.



DIRECTOR: Eva Dzhishiashvili
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 eva.viktori@gmail.com
 PRODUCTION COMPANY: IQ Production
 PRODUCER: Oksana Ivanyuk
 LANGUAGE: Ukrainian
 LENGTH: 80 min
 EXPECTED RELEASE: 2020

RUSSIA / SPAIN / GERMANY



Push the Button

Alexander gave everything to the existence of the club, *Autobahn*. In 2006, authorities shut down the business of his life. But during this time, a new generation of promising musicians has grown up; they keep the ideas of the club alive, and techno becomes the new classic. Today the rave movement is recognized as part of modern art all over the world, but in Russia it is still controversial. Clubs and festivals are still being closed down, with no regard for the people for whom techno is life.



DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: Polina Karagergi
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LANGUAGE: Russian
LENGTH: 75 min
EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

TAJKISTAN



Road to My School

In most mountain villages in Central Asia, it is very difficult for the schoolchildren to get to school. Snow-covered roads full of water, and the hot mountain sun. But despite all this, they go to school and love to learn.



DIRECTOR: Daler Imomali
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nigohinav_2013@list.ru
LANGUAGE: Tajik, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Uzbek
LENGTH: 30 min
EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

UKRAINE

Say It With Me



Six months ago, Olya found the strength to leave her husband, who was severely beating and humiliating her. She thought she had dealt with it, and that the pain is in the past. But now, sitting in front of a psychologist, she can't stop crying. She screams that she cannot forgive herself for almost allowing herself to be killed. Olya's son has nightmares, and she is afraid that she will not be able to handle it after all. In search of a way out, Olya creates a support group for women who have survived violence. She also wants to start new relationship. Will she succeed?



DIRECTOR: Liubov Durakova
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LANGUAGE: Russian Ukrainian
LENGTH: 30-60 min
EXPECTED RELEASE: 2022

RUSSIA

Serious People



A sketch, an observation of the Qualification Courses for top-level officials. The big bosses have escaped the high but stuffy rooms of government, and are now fighting for ball and felt-tip pens, like children in kindergarten. They grab gingerbread cookies and compete for lollipops during coffee breaks. Indeed, almost nothing gives it away that they are the harsh representatives of power and government structures.



DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: Peter Starostin
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PRODUCTION COMPANY: Sad Woodpecker
LANGUAGE: Russian
LENGTH: 70 min
EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021

TAJIKISTAN / UZBEKISTAN



Unprotected Defenders

Hazing and taunting in the military service is a widespread problem throughout the post-Soviet space, but in Tajikistan this problem has become overwhelming, with a systemic violation of human rights. Violence at all levels is a leftover from the Civil War, and numbers of mortality and disability cases during military service is the highest in all of Central Asia. The government pretends to ignore this issue. Families are doing everything to protect their sons from military service; most often they leave for work in Russia or neighbouring countries.



DIRECTOR: Elyor Nematov
PRODUCTION COMPANY: 139 Productions
PRODUCER: Timur Karpov
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LANGUAGE: Tajik, Uzbek, Russian
LENGTH: 70 min
EXPECTED RELEASE: 2021
