

Competitions at the 12th Jihlava IDFF 2008



Press release, 13 October 2008

The main programme of the Jihlava IDFF is broken down into the festival's traditional competitions. **Czech Joy** involves a stroll through the Czech documentary landscape. **Opus Bonum** looks across the world for the best creative film. And **Between the Seas** focuses on work from the countries of Central and – since last year also – Eastern Europe. New this year is the competition of experimental documentary forms called **Fascinations**.

In the press release you'll find:

- the Czech Joy competition
- the Opus Bonum competition
- the Between the Seas competition
- the competition section of Fascinations
- the section for industry professionals – what's new in the East European Forum 2008 and East Silver 2008

“Documentary filmmakers are always sensitive to mood changes in society and not only manage to be among the first to record them but also to identify them precisely. That is one of the reasons why – amidst increasingly militaristic world politics – a frequent theme of documentary films is war, the military, and inquiries into the many faces of freedom. We could not and did not want to avoid these films, so they can be found throughout the festival programme. A counterweight to this rich programme line is the diverse personal creative films by renowned filmmakers along with film discoveries from literally around the world.”

Marek Hovorka, Director of the Jihlava IDFF

CZECH JOY

A walk through the Czech documentary landscape in the Czech Joy competition is an encounter with the most interesting work to emerge in the domestic documentary scene in the past year, much of which will circulate (or has already circulated) through domestic film distribution. An important place in this year's programme is occupied by stylised portraits such as **Cinemensonge (Film Lie)**, directed by Tomáš Petráň, about the author's relationship to women, including his own daughters, or **Das Konzept (Ulrike Meinhof)** by Petr Hátlý, reflecting on terrorism in the history of Western civilisation. There are also some down-to-earth portraits like **René**, a film shot by Helena Třeštíková over a number of years, **Gustáv Husák Center Stage** by Robert Sedláček, and **Ivetka and the Mountain** by Vít Janeček, on the life of a woman who as a child has a vision of the Virgin Mary. In **Gyumri** Jana Ševčíková presents a portrait of the surviving relatives of victims of an earthquake that devastated an Armenian town in 1998. Martin Ryšavý sets out once again into the Siberian plain, (not just) to find the remarkable architecture of the town of Jakutsk in **Malupien**, **Olšový Spas**. And a light immersion into Czech (sub)culture from very diverse perspectives

Jan Hlubek

media manager and press service / media@dokument-festival.cz / GSM: +420723394769

is offered by **RAPublic**, a film by Pavel Abrahám (at the start this project also went through the Ex Oriente Film workshop at the Jihlava IDFF) about the Czech rap scene, and **Merry Christmas, Bosnia!**, in which filmmakers Filip Remunda and Vít Klusák accompany stars from Czech show business on a visit to Czech soldiers stationed in Bosnia in 2001.

Black hearts (...the Earth is not round) – directed by Břetislav Rychlík, Monika Rychlíková
RAPublic – directed by Pavel Abrahám
Das Konzept (Ulrike Meinhof) – directed by Petr Hátle
Domoff – directed by Veronika Janečková
Cinemensonge (Film Lie) – directed by Tomáš Petráň
Gustáv Husák Center Stage – directed by Robert Sedláček
Gyumri – directed by Jana Ševčíková
Hauser and Zizek: teoreticians of postmarxistic philosophy – directed by Helena Všetečková
Ivetka and the Mountain – directed by Vít Janeček
Legion - Patria Nostra – directed by Lucie Králová
Malupien, Olšový Spas – directed by Martin Ryšavý
Panda With Red Ears – directed by Vladimír Voříšek
Plani di giardini ideali – directed by Radek Tůma
Redemption Attempt of a TV Repairman Josef Lávička in Nine Scenes – directed by Lukáš Kokeš
René – directed by Helena Třeščíková
Merry Christmas, Bosnia! – directed by Filip Remunda, Vít Klusák

OPUS BONUM

This year Opus Bonum offers a contrasting mixture of shocking statements and loose meditative reflections, portrait projects, and conceptually inspired films. Bursting with oriental energy **Aka Ana** makes a foray into the world of Japanese prostitution and is the feature-length film debut of the distinguished photographer Antoine d'Agata. In **Iraqi Short Films** Mauro Andrizzi presents viewers with a harrowing collage of amateur shots, many of them filmed on the cell phones of people on different sides of enemy lines. **Standard Operating Procedure** by Errol Morris is a scandalous description of the martyr practices in the prison Abu Ghraib. **Her Summer**, by the South Korean director Sun-Hee Ahn, presents a meditative portrait of an older woman. Arghya Basu conceived his **A Listener's Tale** as essentially a contemplative ode to everyday life. Morgan Dews in **Must Read after My Death** again takes a look at America in the 1960s through film images and tape recordings of his own family. And Michael Noer, for instance, has undertaken an interesting experiment in **Vesterbro**, putting the camera into the hands of his young neighbours so that they can film themselves.

Accoster – directed by Olivier Derousseau (France 2008)
Aka Ana – directed by Antoine d'Agata (France 2008)
Gonzo: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson – directed by Alex Gibney (USA 2008)
Her Summer – directed by Sun-Hee Ahn (South Korea 2007)
Highway World - Martin Hans Schmidt (Germany 2007)
The Royal Road of Cachaca – directed by Pedro Urano (Brazil 2008)
Iraqi Short Films – directed by Mauro Andrizzi (Argentina 2008)
A Listener's Tale – directed by Arghya Basu (India 2007)
Country Profiles: Modern Life – directed by Raymond Depardon (France 2008)
Must Read after My Death – directed by Morgan Dews (USA 2007)
Standard Operating Procedure – directed by Errol Morris (USA 2008)
So You Shall Reap – directed by Darryn de la Soul (UK 2008)

The Threat – directed by Silvia Luzzi, Luca Bellino (Italy 2008)
This Shall Be a Sign – directed by James T. Hong (USA 2008)
Vesterbro – directed by Michael Noer (Denmark 2007)

BETWEEN THE SEAS

A competitive showcase of films that emerged over the past year in the region of Central and Eastern Europe, this year's selection offers, for example, the formally precise montage **A Prima Vista** by the Austrian director Michael Pilz. Or another Austrian film, **Optical Vacuum**, by Dariusz Kowalski, conceived entirely through the lenses of web cameras. **Kites**, directed by Beata Dziańowicz, began its journey four years ago as part of the year-round workshop Ex Oriente Film; the film is about young Afghans learning to work with film. **Bridge of Flowers**, by Thomas Ciulei, is an intimate portrait of a Romanian family in which the mother left several years ago to go to Italy and work and the father looks after the family's three small children mostly by himself. And, for example, **Corridor #8**, by Boris Despodov, is a nostalgic enquiry into the planned trans-European transport route between the Adriatic and the Black Sea.

A Prima Vista – directed by Michael Pilz (Austria 2008)
No Borders – directed by Nastia Tarasova (Russia 2007)
I Am von Höfler – directed by Péter Forgács (Hungary 2008)
Corridor #8 – directed by Boris Despodov (Bulgaria 2008)
Bridge of Flowers – directed by Thomas Ciulei (Romania 2008)
Kites – directed by Beata Dziańowicz (Poland 2008)
Optical Vacuum – directed by Dariusz Kowalski (Austria 2008)
The Revolution That Wasn'ta – directed by Aliona Polunina (Estonia 2008)
(Half) The Time of My Life – directed by Marko Doring (Austria 2008)
Vixen Academy – directed by Alina Rudnitskaya (Russia 2007)
Faux-pas – directed by Jaroslava Bagdasarova (Slovakia 2008)

FASCINATIONS

The longing to witness the invisible and catch sight of the inner worlds of film. To plunge in and wonder at what is yet possible, transported by the aesthetics of the images or the adventure of searching for meaning. Discover landscapes (of film) that last according to the duration of fascination. What is now is of the essence: fascination with film time and with the image and material of film, technical procedures, editing, the possibilities of the camera and lenses. The fascination of a viewer submerged in the twists and turns of unprovable documentation.

Fascinations is a new and rich section focusing on anything from fringe to almost hybrid forms of documentary film – experimental documentaries. It presents films that work with documentary materials or are evidently based on a documentary (or documenting) outlook but employ an experimental approach. It showcases contemporary Czech experimentation, the curatorial selections of Woody Vašulka and Mike Hoolboom, and two retrospective reviews. A key part of Fascinations is the competitive selection of experimental films from around the world that originated within the past two years (up to 30 minutes in length). For example, the section will include **Armoire** by Vincent Grenier, a play on the film frame as a kind of visual cage and a fluttering bird. Or a documentary of the non-physical world of computer algorithms **Loudthings** by Telcosystems. **Still Light** by Jeff Winch takes a short segment from Hitchcock's *Vertigo* to explore the frontiers of story and film. **The Acrobat** by

Chris Kennedy is a non-narrative reflection on construction and illusions. In **Nightstill** Elke Groen examines the shapes of the night, its images and the fears it holds concealed within. And, for example, Johann Lurf in **Vertigo Rush** uses rapid translocation, moving camera, and shifts in focus to take a clever perspective on building the illusion of a fear of the forest.

The competition presents the following films:

The Acrobat – directed by Chris Kennedy (2008)
Nummer Acht – directed by Guido van der Werve (2008)
Four Toronto Films – directed by Nicky Hamlyn (2008)
Dreznica – directed by Anna Azevedo (2008)
Sketch Film 4 – directed by Tomonari Nishikawa (USA 2008)
Hakushu – directed by Kawaguchi Hajime (2008)
Loudthings – directed by Telcosystems (The Netherlands 2008)
Ken Dryden – directed by Clive Holden (2008)
Lezzieflick – directed by Nana Swiczinsky (Austria 2008)
Macro Drawing – directed by Jaehyung Ju (South Korea 2008)
Retrace – directed by Margaret Bong (Malaysia 2008)
Nightstill – directed by Elke Groen (Austria 2008)
Discoveries on the Forest Floor – directed by Charlotte Pryce (USA 2008)
Parícutin – directed by Erika Loic (Canada 2008)
The Political Lunch – directed by Julien Sulser (Switzerland 2008)
Lucid Dreaming – directed by Jaehyung Ju (Jižní Korea 2008)
Tide – directed by Jang Eunju (2008)
Gravity – directed by Nicolas Provost (2008)
Armoire – directed by Vincent Grenier (France 2008)
Midden – directed by David Dinnell (USA 2008)
Somnia_7 – directed by Étienne de Massy (Canada 2008)
Fallen Flags – directed by Amanda Dawn Christie (Canada 2008)
Under Construction – directed by Zhenshen Liu (France 2008)
Suginami – Green – directed by Kawaguchi Hajime (Japan 2008)
Still Light – directed by Jeff Winch (2008)
V = d/t – directed by Amanda Dawn Christie (Canada 2008)
Vertigo Rush – directed by Johann Lurf (Austria 2008)
Distanced Impressions – directed by Luca Ferro (Italy 2008)
Stiffness – directed by Albert Sackl (Austria 2008)

SECTION FOR FILM PROFESSIONALS

EAST EUROPEAN FORUM | October 22 – 27, 2008 - Jihlava



**institute
of documentary
film**

Successful East European Forum Films to Compete at Jihlava IDFF

Kites by **Beata Dzianowicz** that has been selected to compete in the section **Between the Seas** and **Czech RAPublic** by **Pavel Abrahám** included in the section **Czech Joy** in the past attended **IDF's** training programme, the year-long **Ex Oriente Film** workshop, as well as the **East European Forum**.

Developed within the 2004 documentary workshop under the working title **Learning to Watch**, **Kites** opened this August at the **Locarno IFF** and received the prestigious **Critic's Week Award**. The film is part of the Afghan Triptych that also includes **Stone Silence** (director and producer: Krzysztof Kopczyński, presented at the 2005 East European Forum), awarded at numerous international festivals, and the photography exhibition **Afghanistan** by Witold Krassowski (producer: Krzysztof Kopczyński, Eureka Media) that won the International Red Cross Award.

Jan Hlubek

media manager and press service / media@dokument-festival.cz / GSM: +420723394769

Director **Pavel Abrahám**, co-writer **Tomáš Bojar** and producer **Martin Pošta** were among the participants of the 2005 **Ex Oriente Film** workshop, developing their linguistic/hip-hop project with the working title **RAPito ErGO sum**. The newly finished **Czech RAPublic** will make its public debut at the Jihlava IDFF.

You can follow the development and support adventures of the **East European Forum** again this year. The list of 24 current East European projects is available at www.DOCUinter.net, along with the list of a record 21 representatives of European and North American broadcasters who may be able to provide funding for the projects.

Contact: hanka@docuinter.net, +420 777 240 005, www.DOCUinter.net

**DOCUMENTARY FILMS SEEKING INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
AND BROADCAST RELEASE ARE OFFERED AGAIN AT THE
EAST SILVER MARKET IN JIHLAVA 2008**



East Silver market represents the largest database of creative documentaries from Eastern European countries, for all channels of distribution. For this year's market, we have selected 242 films with international outreach. Established distributors and directors of significant film festivals have already confirmed their participation in the market. To ensure that your film reaches people who will find placement for your film abroad, we will arrange your meetings with these industry professionals throughout the market.

For more information about confirmed Industry Guests, please go to:

http://www.eastsilver.net/detnews.phtml?news_id=159

For industry professionals East Silver organises moderated breakfast with TV funds also on Monday.

Monday October 27, from 9.00 – 10.30

Where: The Gustav Mahler Hotel, Křížová 4, Jihlava

Gucci Tribeca Fund will be presented by **Danielle di Giacomo**, pre-selector of the fund and Head of Documentary Acquisitions at IndiePix.

The Gucci Tribeca Documentary Fund is looking for films that examine or document people who are ignored, ostracized or otherwise marginalized, people fighting for political, social, economical or societal justice.

Rahdi Taylor, the Associate Director of **Sundance Documentary Film Program** has confirmed his attendance at East Silver special breakfast

Each year, the Sundance Documentary Program awards more than \$1.5 million in grants to support documentary films focused on contemporary social issues with a potential for social engagement. The Sundance Documentary Fund has deadlines twice a year now. Current deadlines are February 5, 2009 and July 7, 2009.

For more information about breakfasts:

http://www.eastsilver.net/detnews.phtml?news_id=155

Contact: Miriam Šimková, Tel: +420 775 060 821, office@eastsilver.net, skype: eastsilver.net, www.eastsilver.net

WE ARE HAPPY TO WELCOME YOU AT THE JIHLAVA IDFF 2008

Marek Hovorka / festival director / fedofil@dokument-festival.cz
Andrea Slováková / programmer and communications manager / andrea@dokument-festival.cz
Jan Hlubek / media manager and press service / 723 394 769 / media@dokument-festival.cz
Jan Hintenaus / head of production / 774 101 652 / office@dokument-festival.cz

Main Partner:
RWE Transgas a. s.

Main Media Partner:
Česká televize

Co-organizer of section for film professionals:
Institute of documentary film

Partner of "Square" section:
Kronospan

Film a doba

Partners:
Easytalk
Student agency
DataKal
Bouwfonds

Regional media partners
Český rozhlas Region
Deník Vysočina
Hitrádio Vysočina
Jihlavské listy
MF Dnes
Rengl
SNIP

Regional partner:
Top Computers

Media cooperation:
Vysočina news
Kult.cz
Freemusic

The festival was supported by:
Ministry for Culture, Czech Republic
State Fund for the Support and Development of the
Cinema of the Czech Republic
City of Jihlava
MEDIA Programme
International Visegrad Fund
Region Vysočina
Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
Embassy of the United Mexican States
Embassy of Chile
Embassy of Cuba
Embassy of France
Embassy of the United States

International Media Partners
Kino Ikon
Film New Europe

Media partners
Respekt
aktuálně.cz
Český rozhlas
Lidé a Země
A2 kulturní týdeník
Rádio 1
Cinepur
Literární noviny
Cinema