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INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH 22-30, 2019

for correspondence:
11 Mala Zhytomyrska str.,
office 10, Kyiv 01001, Ukraine

PRESS RELEASE

March 6, 2019

ALLOW THE APP TO ALTER YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS?

16th International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival Docudays UA will take place in Kyiv on March 22-30 in the Zhovten Cinema (26 Kostiantynivska str.), Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyka Vasylkivska str.), Lira Cinema (40 Velyka Zhytomyrska str.), the Creative Space IZONE (8 Naberezhno-Luhova str.). In addition, on the audience days, on March 29 and 30, there will be screenings in the Boomer Cinema (4 Lavrukhina str.) and in the Kyivkinofilm cinema network.

At Docudays UA 2019, the audience will see 76 films from 38 countries, including – 27 Ukrainian films. The total number of 190 guests will visit the Festival, including over 115 guests from abroad.

By asking “**Allow the app to alter your consciousness?**”, this year’s Festival topic contemplates how our everyday lives, habits and ways of communication have changed since the development of digital technology. What new opportunities does it open for our exploration of reality? And, at the same time, what kind of threats related to control and information security is it hiding? Rethinking the human rights concept in the online dimension is a challenge for the human rights community.

The central film program, **THE NETWORK**, is a kind of screenshot of the virtual present. **The opening film of Docudays UA 2019, *Bellingcat: Truth in a Post-Truth World***, is about the online media Bellingcat, which investigates high-profile cases using open-access data. ***The Cleaners*** invites us into the world of online censorship, which is outsourced by the major players, such as Google, Facebook or Twitter, to qualified workers in the Philippines. The film ***Sakawa*** introduces us to three protagonists from Ghana who engage in online fraud and apply black magic to it. ***Pre-Crime*** can be predicted today using powerful computers and the most up-to-date police systems, but what kind of risks does this increased control entail for ordinary citizens? ***People’s Republic of Desire*** tells the stories of Chinese internet stars who have made their way from loneliness to fame and wealth thanks to YY, one of the biggest social networks in the world.

Traditionally, the films at Docudays UA will compete in **DOCU/WORLD**, **DOCU/SHORT** and **DOCU/UKRAINE** competitions. This year, the Festival is launching the Rights Now! Award. Ten human-rights-related films from all the Docudays UA programs will be nominated for it. Each competition program will be judged by a separate jury which will include international and Ukrainian experts, documentary filmmakers, human rights advocates. The student jury and the audience will also pick their own winners, as usual.

Explosive, poetic, rebellious – the favorites of international film festivals will be presented in the **DOCU/BEST** program, which this year will also include two Ukrainian films, ***My Father Is My Mother’s Brother*** by Vadym Ilkov and ***Home Games*** by Alisa Kovalenko. Bing Liu’s directorial debut ***Minding the Gap*** deserves special attention as this year’s Academy Awards nominee in the Best Documentary category.

DOCU/ART studies the parallels between art and the gift economy and immerses us together with the famous artist Christo Javacheff in the process of creating his large-scale installation. The special event at **DOCU/ART** will be the screening of ***Occupied Cinema*** about a struggle of the cultural community for the



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privatized Zvezda Cinema in Belgrade. The discussion, involving Serbian and Ukrainian activists, will focus on the issues of the importance of public spaces and the risks faced by activists in their struggle for these spaces.

The return, the search for your roots, the choice you have to make to preserve your independence are the topics of two women's stories in the **IRAN. PRIVATE** program. The program will also present the last film by the prominent director **Abbas Kiarostami** which premiered at the Film Festival in Cannes in 2017.

CHANGE IT! Lab of Influence for Activists and Documentary Filmmakers is a series of educational lectures about some high-profile social campaigns and screenings of the documentaries that launched these campaigns. Aiming for radical change of the public opinion, these campaigns resulted from consolidated efforts by the human rights and the film communities.

Films as drivers of social change were also researched by Ukrainian documentary filmmakers and activists as a part of the **CIVIL PITCH: Civil Activism Films** project. The four films that won at the pitching will be presented during the festival.

A cross-section of Ukrainian reality will be presented in the **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIES** program which will include stories from different corners of the country.

The world of children and teenagers is always full of questions and search: investigating one's own sexuality, finding one's calling, and sometimes struggle for the right to dedicate your future to it. How are digital technologies changing childhood in the 21st century? The **DOCU/YOUTH** program contemplates this question.

Traditionally, the Festival will have a **LIVING LIBRARY**. It is about unique experiences and important conversations about othering, politics, family, work, relationships. It's a space where books are real people who encounter prejudice in the society.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT DOCUDAYS UA 2019

The special events at the Festival will include a screening of **Nikolaus Geyrhalter's** film *The Border Fence* about the wall on the Brenner Pass, on the border between Austria and Italy, which was built by the Austrian government in 2016 to "protect" the country from the influx of refugees. As we listen to the opinions and voices of local residents, farmers, police officers, the film shows us the variety of opinions about this matter – from concealed xenophobia to criticism of the populist government.

In cooperation with Current Time TV, we invite you to see the world premiere of *The Coach* by **Olga Abramchik** about the work with the Belarusian intuitive football team whose members are blind people.

This year, Docudays UA and the Dovzhenko Center present the **retrospective of the Ukrainian documentary filmmaker and famous professor Oleksandr Koval**, whose creative life was closely linked to the UkrFilmChronicle studio.



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The new opportunities for documentary filmmaking opened by the Virtual Reality technology will be presented in **VR CINEMA**. Its films will include the Ukrainian project **Aftermath VR: Euromaidan**, the chronicles of February 20, 2014, with a powerful emphasis on archival footage.

Penelope Isles from Brighton is set to perform at one of Kyiv's most famous locations, the Closer club, on March 23 as part of the *Selector Live* special during the Docudays UA film festival.

DOCU/CLASS

Docudays UA traditionally invites everyone to the DOCU/CLASS documentary workshop. It will host various discussions and meetings with well-known filmmakers, producers, film critics about the effect of VOD platforms on documentaries, about working with open data, about the development of cinemas as public spaces in the city. The speakers at this year's workshop will include the director and editor **Qutaiba Barhamji**, photographer and director **Olha Kravets**, director and producer **Daniel Abma** and many others.

DOC/SADOC

Just like children, who are always moving, the DOC/SADOC space for the younger visitors of the Festival tirelessly experiments with its format. In the new Library of the Future space (25 Mezhyhirska str.), children will, through games, quests, and educational activities, learn about the basics of information security in the virtual world and about media literacy.

For more details about the festival and to arrange interviews, please address **Daryna Nikolenko**, the festival's press coordinator, at daryna.nikolenko@docudays.ua.

Follow the festival news at docudays.ua and on social media:

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за підтримки



партнери



генеральний медіапартнер



медіапартнери



організатори



інформаційна підтримка



The festival is non-political and non-commercial.

Docudays UA is the only international human rights documentary film festival in Ukraine. It is a part of the international Human Rights Film Network. It takes place every year in the last week of March. After the end of the festival, Docudays UA traditionally presents the best films in Ukrainian regions during the Traveling Festival. Screenings and discussions of films with human rights experts last from October until December. Throughout the year, Docudays UA popularizes auteur documentary cinema in film theaters as a part of the DOCU/BEST project. It develops critical thinking among young people through its Docudays UA film clubs for media education in human rights. It presents the cultural diplomacy project SEE UKRAINE in Europe. It helps young Ukrainian documentary filmmakers to produce their films at the DOCU/PRO platform. It publishes an annual catalogue of new Ukrainian films for international promotion. The 16th Docudays UA will take place between March 22 and 30, 2019, in Kyiv.