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INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH 23 – 30, 2018

ZHOVTEN CINEMA

vul. Kostyantynivska, 26, Kyiv, Ukraine

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

PRESS RELEASE

March 7, 2018

EQUAL EQUALITIES

The 15th International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival Docudays UA will take place in Kyiv between March 23 and 30 in the Zhovten Cinema (26 Kostiantynivska str.), Ukraine Cinema (5 Architect Horodetsky str.) and the Creative Community IZONE (8 Naberezhno-Luhova str.).

At the Docudays UA 2018, the audience will see **62 films from 36 countries**, among which **11 Ukrainian films**. In total, the festival will invite **230 participants**, of whom **50 will be international guests**.

This year's Docudays UA topic, *Equal Equalities*, speaks about social challenges related to the concept of equality. It offers to discuss widespread stereotypes and find out how to promote equality practices in our everyday life, and it offers us to "measure" the equal equalities. The six film programs are dedicated to groups of people who face inequality the most often, who are discriminated in the society and insufficiently represented in the media.

The Docudays UA 2018 will open with the film *A Woman Captured* by the Hungarian director **Bernadett Tuza-Ritter**.

The competition program emerges in a new format: in the international competition **DOCU/WORLD**, the films will compete in two nominations, **DOCU/RIGHTS** and **DOCU/LIFE**. For the first time, Docudays UA will have a national competition of feature-length films **DOCU/UKRAINE**. **DOCU/SHORT** will present short films by Ukrainian and international filmmakers. Every competition program will be judged by **its own jury** which will include foreign and Ukrainian experts and documentary filmmakers. The student jury and the audience will also choose their own winners, as usual.

The most anticipated documentary premieres, the films which have won major awards at film festivals worldwide were traditionally included in the **DOCU/BEST** program. The program features an Oscar nominee, the *Last Men in Aleppo* (dir. by Feras Fayyad).

Six non-competitive programs explicate this year's Docudays UA concept and speak about practices of (in)equality in our society in the language of cinema.

SIMPLE FEMALE EQUALITY ironically hints at the expression about "female happiness," and its films address the question about the boundary between the personal and the political in the stories of individual women in Syria, Serbia, Germany.

What are people capable of when they fight for their right to be themselves? The **QUEERLITY** program speaks about the experiences of people from the LGBTIQ+ community and about the differences between the stories of homosexual and transgender people in different countries.

The program **SENIOR EQUALITY** is about what the count of years means within one life, one family and the whole world. It is about the opposition between "the young" and "the old," which is built on the fragile foundation of social stereotypes.



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The **SYNDROME OF EQUALITY** program undermines our habitual concepts of “normal” and “deviating from the norm.” What is it like to live in the society where people with disabilities are not stigmatized as “disabled,” but, on the contrary, there are conditions for their development, education, independent and full life?

Is it possible today to distinguish between two related concepts: religion as an institute of power and faith as a private territory of communication with the Divine? The collection **HOLY EQUALITY** offers us to think about this issue together with more than forty directors from all over the world.

Where does the division into “us” and “them” come from? How does the hate for those who are different develop? What is the everyday life of xenophobes like? The program **NEO-INEQUALITY** dives into the everyday life of intolerance and addresses the danger of growing far-right movements in Europe.

The retrospective of films by the Lithuanian documentary director and producer **Arunas Matelis** includes two feature-length films *Before Flying Back to Earth* and *Wonderful Losers: A Different World*, as well as a selection of short films awarded at festivals in Amsterdam, Cannes, Leipzig, Warsaw. Matelis will visit Docudays UA as a jury member for DOCU/UKRAINE and DOCU/SHORT competitions.

How do we perceive ourselves as we come of age? Why one way of life seems appropriate to us, and another does not? Complex, but fascinating stories of children and teenagers from all over the world are told in the program **DOCU/YOUTH**.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special events at Docudays UA include a screening of the film *Ex Libris: The New York Public Library*. It is a new film by the famous director **Frederick Wiseman** whose work explores the life of American institutions. This time the director looks behind the scenes of one of the greatest knowledge institutions in the world.

Docudays UA and Current Time TV invite viewers to see the film *Parajanov. A Ticket to Eternity* directed by **Harry Tamrazian**, who is the director of Radio Liberty Armenia.

At the end of the festival, its audience will have a chance to attend the national re-premiere of the chronicle *Documents of the Era (1928) feat Son Sovy*. Together with the Dovzhenko Center, Docudays UA will present a sensational cinematic discovery – an edited film *Documents of the Era* by the director Leonid Mogylevsky, a.k.a. Mogi (1928), who combined in the same work unique footage of Kyiv and Odesa of the early 20th century with film chronicles of Ukrainian history from the World War I until the late 1920s.

For the first time, the festival will demonstrate **Wounds 360°**, films made using the virtual reality technology. These are three stories of soldiers who fought in Eastern Ukraine and were heavily wounded. This is a joint project of Hromadske.UA and Yosyp Syvenkyi.

DOCU/PRO INDUSTRY PLATFORM

For the second time, the festival will have the DOCU/PRO industry platform, created to facilitate the development of the Ukrainian film industry, to establish connections with international experts from the world of docu-



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mentary filmmaking, and to create Ukrainian film projects. This year, the platform will bring international distributors, European producers and festival program coordinators to Docudays UA. The core projects of **DOCU/PRO 2018** are Civil Pitch, B2B Doc: Producers Meet Producers, Feel the Change.

DOCU/CLASS

Docudays UA traditionally invites everyone to the documentary workshop of **DOCU/CLASS**. This program will feature various discussions and meetings with prominent directors, producers, film critics about the approaches in contemporary documentary filmmaking and about whether documentary cinema can become a driver of social change. The list of **DOCU/CLASS** speakers will include the photographer **Joseph Sywenkyj**; **Luciano Barisone**, famous film critic and the former director of the Visions du Réel festival in Nyon (Switzerland); **Barbara Wurm**, curator and professor at the Humboldt University of Berlin; directors **Arunas Matelis** and **Manon Loizeau**, producer **Rebecca Ashdown** and many others.

DOC/SADOC

Traditionally, Docudays UA will have a DOC/SASOC kids space with a program full of lively and educational activities. Through games and exploratory quests, our smallest audience members will learn about children's rights, about everyday skills of responsible consumption, about inclusivity of public space for people with special needs.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION AT DOCUDAYS UA 2018

On March 17, the exhibition Looking for Lenin by Swiss photographer **Niels Ackermann** and his French colleague **Sébastien Gobert** will open in the **Triptych: Global Arts Workshop** gallery (34 Andriyivskyy Uzviz). They travelled extensively across Ukraine in the wake of the Revolution of Dignity, following the different fates of fallen statues of Lenin. This series critically reconsiders the phenomenon of decommunization, and it is as much about Ukraine's Soviet past and revolutionary present as it is about its future, where different historical and political narratives can coexist in a united society without the fear of erasure. The project is supported by the Swiss Embassy in Ukraine and the Journées francophonie 2018 programme.

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

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

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RIGHTS NOW!

HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM at DOCUDAYS UA 2018

The International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival **Docudays UA** is a platform not only for film screenings, but first of all for human rights advocacy events. This year, during the eight festival days (between March 23 and 30), there will be more than twenty human rights events, five campaigns and unique film screenings.

For the first time, most of the **RIGHTS NOW!** events will take place in the creative space IZONE (8 Naberezhno-Luhova str.), but conceptually they will remain on the same wavelength as the cinematic part of the festival, the Equal Equalities – it is what will be discussed, shown and talked about at all events of the **RIGHTS NOW!** program.

RIGHTS NOW! joins the **Campaign Against Discrimination** and will organize quite a lot of events whose topic will be resistance to human rights infringements on any level. In particular, Docudays UA will become the first festival in Ukraine which will prepare two competition films with audio descriptions (brief voiceover descriptions of the visual part of the film, which helps people with visual impairments to understand the film's story). So people with visual impairments will be able to watch the films *The First Company* on March 24 at 8:15 p.m. and on March 25 at 11:15 a.m., and the film *The Distant Barking of Dogs* on March 28 at 7 p.m. and on March 29 at 12:15 p.m. Docudays UA will also organize a masterclass for Ukrainian filmmakers on how to create audio descriptions. Time: March 27, 12 p.m., Classic Hall, Zhovten Cinema.

The **I Have the Right Campaign** will be presented at the festival by the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice. The goal of the campaign is to improve the legal literacy of the population and provide access to free legal aid.

RIGHTS NOW! together with IREX will start the No Violence Campaign during the festival. For a whole day, our guests (Anastasia Melnychenko, initiator of the #IAmNotAfraidToSay movement; Yaroslava Kravchenko, founder of the Wild Theatre; Yana Panfilova, founder of the charity organization Teenergizer and others) will talk to children, teenagers and adults about gender equality, bullying at schools, and about how to recognize domestic violence. Time: March 24, creative space IZONE, 8 Naberezhno-Luhova str.

HeForShe Campaign by the UN Women in Ukraine is a movement initiated by the international organization UN Women for solidarity and gender equality; the goal of the movement is to involve men and boys in promoting gender equality.

Every year, **RIGHTS NOW!** aims not only to discuss problematic issues, but also to make decisions which would help to resolve them. For example, at the discussion *Children's Rights in the Ukrainian Media Space*, MPs and producers of major TV shows will discuss legislative changes aimed to protect children's rights (March 29, 4:00 p.m., creative space IZONE, 8 Naberezhno-Luhova str.). And participants of the roundtable *The Right to Fair Trial* will discuss the topic of judicial mistakes in cases of people who were sentenced to life in prison and the need to create mechanisms for reviewing their cases, which is impossible under current legislation (March 25, 11:00 a.m., creative space IZONE, 8 Naberezhno-Luhova str.).

The platform of human rights program **RIGHTS NOW!** will host unique film screenings, particularly a screening of the documentary *The Chronicles of the Black Tulip*, a story of searchers who voluntarily undertook the mission



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to search for bodies of deceased soldiers in the ATO zone and to return them to their families (March 28, 2:30 p.m., creative space IZONE, 8 Naberezhno-Luhova str.). We will also screen a series of documentary video stories about six Ukrainian human rights advocates (March 28, 5 p.m., creative space IZONE, 8 Naberezhno-Luhova str.). Screenings of films which reflect the circumstances of living in the occupied Crimea – *Crimea. Unconquered, Crimea. Winners Cannot Be Judged, Mykola Semena. Forbidden Thoughts, Adamant Balukh. The Sentence, Forbidden Love: Life of the LGBT Community in Crimea* – and a discussion with Crimean Tatar activists, particularly with the freed political prisoner Ilmi Umerov, will take place on March 25, at 6 p.m., in the creative space IZONE.

Documentaries from the project **Wounds 360°**, filmed using the virtual reality technology, became one of the innovations of 2017. These are three films of up to 10 minutes which tell the stories of soldiers who fought in the East and were seriously wounded. The films will be demonstrated during the whole festival period.

Coffee with Human Rights Experts has already become a good tradition. Seven festival mornings – seven human rights topics and seven coffees with **RIGHTS NOW!** partners from the Human Rights Information Centre (between March 24 and 30, from 11:30 a.m., the Zhovten Cinema cafe). The topics of the morning meetings are *War and Children in Donbas, Sex for Money: Work or Slavery?, Responsibility after Occupation: Searching for a Balanced Decision, Is It Acceptable to Torture a Serial Killer?, Security in the Neighborhood: How to Make Your Own Contribution?* (meeting with police officers, *Women and Sexual Harrassment* (Ukrainian reaction to Hollywood scandals), *Flaws of Migration Policies*.

You can check out the full program of human rights events at the festival website www.docudays.ua.

ПАРТНЕРИ ПРАВОЗАХИСНОЇ ПРОГРАМИ



ІНФОРМАЦІЙНІ ПАРТНЕРИ ПРАВОЗАХИСНОЇ ПРОГРАМИ



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Docudays UA

DOCU DAYS UA



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ЗА ПІДТРИМКИ



ОРГАНІЗАТОРИ



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МЕДІА ПАРТНЕРИ



ІНФОРМАЦІЙНА ПІДТРИМКА



ТЕХНІЧНІ ПАРТНЕРИ



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 15th Docudays UA will take place between March 23 and 30, 2018, in Kyiv.