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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 29, 2018

### THE WINNERS OF DOCUDAYS UA 2018

The 15th International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival Docudays has ended in Kyiv. On March 29 at the Dovzhenko Center, the festival held the award ceremony, hosted by the festival moderator Kateryna Popravka and the festival culture manager Anna Koriagina.

In the international competition **DOCU/WORLD**, the films competed in two nominations: **DOCU/RIGHTS** and **DOCU/LIFE**. For the first time, Docudays UA had a national competition of feature-length films, **DOCU/UKRAINE**. The **DOCU/SHORT** program presented short films by Ukrainian and international filmmakers.

Traditionally, the student jury, as well as the festival audience, also picked their favorites. One film was awarded by the festival organizers with the **Andriy Matrosov Award**. Special prizes were awarded by Docudays UA partners: **Current Time TV** and the **Letter to Fest** distribution company. At the end of the festival, the audience watched the national re-premiere of the film chronicle *Documents of the Epoch (1928) feat. Son Sovy*.

The **DOCU/WORLD** competition award in the **DOCU/LIFE** nomination was won by the film *Sand and Blood* by the directors **Matthias Krepp and Angelika Spangel**. According to the competition jury, “the strength of found footage clearly shows the craziness of war and the need of fostering hate in order to create an enemy. The thoughtful construction puts the audience in the position of filling the gaps, giving shape to a moving and deep portrait of a complex world that finally becomes a universal experience.”

The **DOCU/WORLD** competition award in the **DOCU/RIGHTS** competition was won by the film *No Obvious Signs* by the Ukrainian director Alina Gorlova. For a true portrait of a person who has gone through war and tries to return to life. It is about the female face of war and about the trauma which affects everybody equally.

In the *Film for Carlos* (dir. **Renato Borraro Serrano**), with an irony that is warm and respectful, when at the same time revealing a hilarious, outrageous backdrop of jingoism and russophile chauvinism, a young father documents the state of the world into which his baby is born: family ties unite what ideologies separate. This is how the **DOCU/SHORT** competition jury evaluated the film as they gave it with the main award.

The **special mention** at the **DOCU/SHORT** competition was won by the film *Mustard in the Gardens* by the director **Piotr Armianovski**. In addition, the competition jury gave a special mention to the film *Zhalanash – An Empty Shore* by the Polish director **Marcin Sauter**.

The main award of the **DOCU/UKRAINE** competition was won by the film *Wherewithal* by **Dmytro Lavrinenko**. According to the competition jury, “One might think of it as chaotic, but a form is a form only, if it is convincing. Many avant-gardists have put their camera on the ground and taken up a direct, more primitive way of looking at themselves and the world around. Zhenya does that, too, assisted by a filmmaker, whose editing skills just rock. The result lifts a seemingly naïve and simply hilarious, at times tragic account of life (as: man-in- world) onto another level – a reflection of history, a transition in time.”



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The special mention at the DOCU/UKRAINE competition was won by the film *Enticing, Sugary, Boundless or Songs and Dances About Death* (dir. Tania Khodakivska, Oleksandr Stekolenko).

The student jury gave its main award to the film *The Distant Barking of Dogs* (dir. Simon Lereng Wilmont).

The special mention of the student jury was won by the film *Enticing, Sugary, Boundless or Songs and Dances About Death* (dir. Tania Khodakivska, Oleksandr Stekolenko).

“For the extent of love which knows no limits,” the Andriy Matrosov Award was given by the festival organizers to Piotr Armianovski, the director of the film *Mustard in the Gardens*.

The prize of the the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, the participants of the project *Dumaidan 2017: Uniting Around the Tent of Understanding*, and the Docudays UA festival was awarded to Oksana Yakubova, the protagonist of the film *No Obvious Signs*, for her willpower, courage and unfailing affirmation of the idea of equality between women and men with her own example. The same film was also awarded by the festival distributor Letter to Fest with a certificate which allows the film’s authors to apply for participation in 50 international festivals free of charge.

In addition, the film *No Obvious Signs* received a special prize of \$5,000 from the Festival’s media partner Current Time.

The audience members also chose their favorite, the film *The First Company* (dir. Yaroslav Pilunsky, Yulia Shashkova, Yuriy Gruzinov).

As a result of the pitching of the **CIVIL PITCH: Civil Activism Films** competition on March 28, the jury chose four projects among the program participants. Each of the winning projects received \$5,500. The competition was part of the DOCU/PRO industry platform. The winners are:

1. Save the “Flying Saucer” by the director Oleksiy Radynski and the activist Oleksandr Burlaka (#savekyivmodernism movement).
2. No Status. Ukraine by the director Dmytro Tiazhlov and activist Kateryna Babich (No Borders project).
3. “Shut Your Damn Mouth!” by the director Taisiya Kutuzova and the activist Yelizaveta Sokurenko (NGO Human Rights Information Center).
4. Behind Kitchen Doors by the director Yulia Kochetova-Nabozhniak and the activist Natalia Dorofeyeva (Charity Organization Legalife Ukraine).

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For more details about the festival and to arrange interviews, please address Daryna Nikolenko, the festival’s press secretary, at [press@docudays.org.ua](mailto:press@docudays.org.ua).

For questions related to the human rights program, please address Kateryna Lutska, the festival’s PR manager: +38 (068) 304 3145

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ПАРТНЕРИ



МЕДІА ПАРТНЕРИ



ІНФОРМАЦІЙНА ПІДТРИМКА



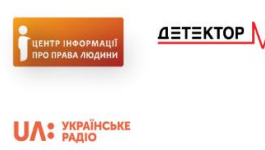
ТЕХНІЧНІ ПАРТНЕРИ



ПАРТНЕРИ ПРАВОЗАХИСНОЇ ПРОГРАМИ



ІНФОРМАЦІЙНІ ПАРТНЕРИ ПРАВОЗАХИСНОЇ ПРОГРАМИ



**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.*