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## МІЖНАРОДНИЙ ФЕСТИВАЛЬ ДОКУМЕНТАЛЬНОГО КІНО ПРО ПРАВА ЛЮДИНИ

22-30 БЕРЕЗЕНЯ, 2019

для листування:  
вул. Мала Житомирська 11,  
оф. 10, 01001 Київ, Україна

PRESS RELEASE

March 28, 2019

### THE WINNERS OF DOCUDAYS UA 2019

The 16th International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival Docudays UA has announced the winners. On March 28, the festival award ceremony was held in IZONE, hosted by the journalist Oleksiy Tarasov and the cultural manager Anna Koriagina.

Traditionally, films at Docudays UA competed in DOCU/WORLD, DOCU/SHORT and DOCU/UKRAINE competitions. This year, the festival launched the RIGHTS NOW! award, for which ten films from all the Docudays UA programs were nominated. Each competition program was judged by its own jury which included international and Ukrainian experts, documentary filmmakers and human rights advocates. The student jury and the audience also chose their winners. One film received the **Andriy Matrosov Award** from the festival organizers. The Docudays UA partner **Current Time TV** gave its own award, and the best project at **Ukrainian Doc Preview** received a prize from the Head of Industry of the International Documentary Film Festival **Beldocs**. At the closing ceremony, the festival guests had an opportunity to listen to a performance by the Ukrainian-French band **StereOrpheo**.

The main award of the DOCU/WORLD competition was received by the film *Voices of the Sea* by the British filmmaker **Kim Hopkins** *“for the powerful and touchy and warm characters, for the love that wins above everything, for the sensitive camera that brings harmony of characters within the environment.”*

The special mention in the DOCU/WORLD competition went to the film by **Zosya Rodkevich and Evgeniya Ostanina** *White Mama*, *“for the protagonist that gives us hope and believe that we have enough strength to deal with the hard issues in life.”*

*“A woman’s life work flowers into a portrait of the cycle of nature and inevitable change”* in the film *The Winter Garden’s Tale* by **Simon Mozgovyi**, which received the main award in the DOCU/UKRAINE competition.

The film *A Friendship in Tow/Toe* by **Atsushi Kuwayama** depicts how *“mounting the stairs becomes a story of love, friendship and a promising dinner executed with charm, style, heart and humor.”* That was how the jury evaluated the film that won the DOCU/SHORT competition. And the special mention in this competition went to the film *Above the Styx* by the Ukrainian director **Maria Stoianova** for *“a fine example of how a collective of emerging filmmakers come together and manage to create one whole story from multiple viewpoints of society.”*

In the RIGHTS NOW! nomination, our human rights jury gave the main award to *The Cleaners* by **Hans Block and Moritz Riesewieck**, *“For encouraging discussion about privacy, freedom of choice and human rights protection in the world where the internet and social media take up ever more of our private space, and we ourselves become a part of the global network.”* The special mentions in the RIGHTS NOW! category went to the films *Still Recording* by **Ghiath Ayoub and Saeed Al Batal** and *When Lambs Become Lions* by **Jon Kasbe**.

The student jury gave its main award to the film *Askania Reserve* by **Andriy Lytvynenko** describing it as *“fresh reminder about our nature. The rhythmical and sensual narrative of the film can fascinate and move the audiences with any background, and the protagonists win you over with their sincerity and dedication to their work.”*

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*"For boundless love and tenderness between worlds and generations,"* the Andriy Matrosov award was given by the festival's organizers to the Polish filmmaker **Marcin Sauter**, the author of the film *I Grew Up As You Slept*.

In addition, the film *Before Father Gets Back* by the Georgian filmmaker **Mari Gulbiani** received the special award from the festival's media partner Current Time TV – \$3,000.

The audience also picked their favorite film, *White Mama* by **Zosya Rodkevich** and **Evgeniya Ostanina**.

Of the seven projects presented at **Ukrainian Doc Preview**, the Head of Industry at the International Documentary Film Festival Beldocs gave the prize to the film *Roses. Film-Cabaret* by **Iryna Stetsenko**. The prize is an opportunity to participate in the festival's professional platform Beldocs in Progress International, where the filmmaker will have a chance to present her project to the wider international industry.

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

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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.