



International
Documentary
Film Festival
Amsterdam

Amsterdam, Tuesday, September 29th, 2020

IDFA 2020: Best of Fests and Top 10 lineup announced

In celebration of documentary film and the power of standing together, the **International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA)** is thrilled to announce the first films selected for its 33rd edition: **30 titles in the Best of Fests program, and 10 titles selected by Gianfranco Rosi for the Top 10 program.** Through an initial selection that spans award-winners, newcomers, and hidden gems, IDFA sets the tone for a festival edition that is significant in its creative scope.

[Best of Fests](#)

With **30 films that lit up the selections of Berlin, Sundance, Cannes, and many more**, the **Best of Fests** program applauds the irreplaceable work of film festivals today. This year more than ever, IDFA honors the festivals that, in spite of incredible circumstances, continue to champion the art of documentary filmmaking. The initial Best of Fests selection highlights both audience favorites and award-winning masterpieces. More titles to be announced.

Audience must-sees include the *The Truffle Hunters* by **Michael Dweck** and **Gregory Kershaw**, a stylized glimpse into the northern Italians who live and die by the elusive white truffle—a Sundance premiere that also shone in the Cannes and Telluride selections. **Elizabeth Lo**'s meditative *Stray*, an award-winning film from Hot Docs also selected for the Tribeca Film Festival, poetically observes Turkish city life through the eyes of stray dogs. In *The Foundation Pit*, a notable premiere at this year's Berlinale, **Andrey Gryazev** uses found footage to construct a collective message from Russian citizens to Putin's government. Meanwhile, **Garrett Bradley**'s *Time*, having scored a Directing Award at Sundance, looks to the urgent issue of mass-incarcerated African Americans through one mother's 20-year fight to free her husband.

For cinephiles, **Radu Ciorniciuc**'s exquisitely shot *Acasă, My Home* observes the incredible life of a Roma family on the fringes of Romanian society, a winner of no less than four awards at festivals across Europe and North America. CPH:DOX-selected *IWOW: I Walk on Water*, considered **Khalik Allah**'s best cinematic accomplishment, puts the street life of Harlem, New York under a new lens through a collage of 8mm, 16mm, and video formats. Other artistic highlights include: **Iryna Tsilyk**'s *The Earth Is Blue as an Orange*, one of the year's cinematic hits at Berlinale and Sundance, which beautifully explores how the Ukrainian war can be transformed into film; **Elvis Sabin Ngaibino**'s *Makongo*, the double-awarded Cinéma du Réel film that traces the lives of two young Aka pygmies in the Central African Republic; and Berlinale-favorite *Notes from the Underworld* by **Tizza Covi** and **Rainer Frimmel**, which honors Austria's documentary tradition with an ode to the gangsters of 1960s Vienna.

[Top 10 by Gianfranco Rosi](#)

In the Top 10 program, renowned Italian filmmaker and **IDFA 2020 [Guest of Honor Gianfranco Rosi](#)** presents a nomadic journey through his world of cinema, in the process offering valuable entry points to decode his own oeuvre. Illustrating Rosi's masterful approach, the selection invites audiences to re-discover the filmmaker through discovering the films that helped shape him, which include documentary, hybrid, and fiction titles.

Italian masterpieces such as *Anna* by **Alberto Grifi** and **Massimo Sarchielli** and 10 shorts by **Vittorio De Seta**, never before shown at IDFA, invite film lovers to experience an Italian cinema they may be unfamiliar with. Unexpected selections—ranging from **Robert Kramer's** *Route One/USA* all the way to **Jack Hazan's** *A Bigger Splash*—reveal a lesser-known side of Rosi, in which the filmmaker opens his home library to share the films that had an impact on him. Finally, fiction films such as **Roberto Rossellini's** *Francesco, giullare di Dio* round out the Top 10 selection, illustrating Rosi's wide-ranging and eclectic, yet always moving, influences.

IDFA 2020 runs November 18 to 29 in Amsterdam venues, in addition to online screenings (November 18 to December 6) and online markets (November 16 to 20).

*IDFA puts health and safety first. The 33rd festival edition will take place in Amsterdam and online, with comprehensive hygiene measures in place at all on-site venues. **See the latest updates at idfa.nl/covid-19.***

Editors' notes:

For film stills, please [click here](#).

For more information, please [click here](#) or contact our press office.

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*For more information about **what's on offer if visiting IDFA in Amsterdam or online**, please visit our website or just [click here](#). You can also find all **key dates here**.*

*Every week from September 29th, IDFA presents new festival selections. **The final competition titles will be announced on Wednesday, October 28th, during the IDFA 2020 press conference—available to stream online at idfa.nl.***

*IDFA's audience program is made possible by **Fonds 21**, **Creative Europe Media**, **VSBfonds**, **City of Amsterdam**, **Democracy and Media Foundation**, **Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds** and **Zabawas Foundation**.*