



IDFA announces first titles for its 2018 edition

Amsterdam, Tuesday 2nd of October 2018

Today, the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) announced the first titles in four of its program sections for the festival's 31st edition. As a festival, IDFA's focus is firmly on the creative documentary film. This first edition of IDFA under new artistic director Orwa Nyrabia takes place from Wednesday 14 through Sunday 25 November in various cinemas and locations throughout Amsterdam. More titles and guests will be announced each Tuesday in October. The festival's Guest of Honor this year is Czech filmmaker Helena Třeštková.

The titles and descriptions from the first four program sections were published on the festival website today.

Focus: Me

Focus: Space

Guest of Honor: Helena Třeštková Top 10

Guest of Honor: Helena Třeštková Retrospective

Focus: Me

IDFA is presenting a large-scale focus program under the title Me, concentrating on personal, autobiographical documentary films. This selection comprises a number of cinematic expressions through which the makers investigate their own lives, telling at times deeply rooted personal stories.

The program consists of more than 20 documentary films, both classics and premières, from different regions and by both new filmmakers and established names. Many of these makers – including Naomi Kawase, Mahamat Saleh Haroun and Sara Fattahi – will be present at the festival and will discuss their documentary films following the screenings. At present, this list is still growing.

Focus: Space

As part of its long-running series in which IDFA devotes attention to the art of documentary filmmaking, this year the topic for examination is the use of space in documentary film, physically, metaphorically, as a limitation or as imagined space. The selection includes ten new titles in which space plays a crucial role, in different ways and on different levels. After the screenings, the festival's regular moderators Nicolas Rapold (Film Comment) and Eric Hynes (Museum of the Moving Image) will talk in depth to directors such as Sergei Loznitsa (Victory Day), Karim Aïnouz (Central Airport THF) and Gabrielle Brady (Island of the Hungry Ghosts).

Guest of Honor: Helena Třeštková Top 10

Czech filmmaker Helena Třeštková (Prague, 1949) is renowned for her 'time-lapse filmmaking' method, in which she follows her characters over long periods, sometimes for decades. The bigger, tumultuous history of her country and of Europe subtly reverberates through the intimacy of everyday life, captured glowingly by Třeštková. In her own words: "My goal as a filmmaker is to capture everyday life, the versatility in the course of time and the changes that this passing time brings."

Třeštková was invited by IDFA to pick the ten films that have most inspired her – her selection includes two films by Vera Chytilova not previously screened at the festival, alongside works from well-known makers such as Joris Ivens, Milos Forman and Krzysztof Kieslowski. With her choices,

Třeštíková makes a homage within a homage, tracing longer lines through artistic generations. On Friday November 16th, Třeštíková will give a Filmmaker Talk for the IDFA audience.

Guest of Honor: Helena Třeštíková Retrospective

Seven of Třeštíková's own films will be screening at IDFA, from the first film she made after graduating from the film academy to her most recent work.

The audience program is supported by: Fonds 21, VSBfonds and Creative Europe Media.

– End press release –

Editors' Notes

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About IDFA

IDFA (International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam) offers an independent and inspiring meeting place for audiences and professionals to see a diverse and high-quality program. The diverse nature of the event applies to the form and content of the films as well as to the cultural backgrounds of the filmmakers. IDFA offers an alternative to mass entertainment and uniformity, confirming that there is an increasing need in audiences for high-quality films that delve deep and urge us to reflect. Since 2007, the festival's New Media program IDFA DocLab showcases the best interactive non-fiction storytelling and explores how the digital revolution is reshaping documentary art.

In addition to the festival, IDFA has developed several professional activities, contributing to the development of filmmakers and their films at all stages. At co-financing and co-production market IDFA Forum filmmakers and producers pitch their plans to financiers; at Docs for Sale new documentaries are on offer to programmers and distributors; the IDFA Bertha Fund supports filmmakers and documentary projects in developing countries; and the IDFAcademy offers an international training programs for up-and-coming doc talents.

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