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1.4. —————>> 5.4.2025.

KAPTOL BOUTIQUE
CINEMA & BAR



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ZAGREBDOX PRO

ZAGREBDOX PRO 01/04 – 05/04/2025

KAPTOL BOUTIQUE CINEMA, DOKUKINO KIC,
HOTEL ACADEMIA

Does growing competition in the documentary film industry result in a growing number of quality documentaries? Is this the right documentary market model? Is there an alternative to the sometimes extremely stressful process? Where pitching art is more important than the art of pitching? In a non-competitive atmosphere, without the stress of 'winning', in a 'slow pitch' mood? This year's edition of ZagrebDox Pro event is trying to find answers to these particular questions. Over the course of five days, four mentors – Nebojša Slijepčević, Ana Fernandez Saiz, Tue Steen Muller and Ieva Ubele – will fully focus on eight projects and their authors. The awards of this year's Pro edition – Al Jazeera Balkans financial support, London-based Impronta Films advisory award and RAFF – Rab Film Festival residential award – additionally stress commitment to the selected projects even after the closure of this programme.

THE FOG OF TRUTH – AI AND DOX

At its core, documentary filmmaking seeks truth. With AI's rise, this quest grows complex. Can generative AI deepen artistic truth or erode audience trust? Recognizing this challenge, the American Archival Producers Alliance issued guidelines to uphold documentary journalism values. ZagrebDox PRO explores AI's creative potential and ethical challenges. Originator of the idea is Nenad Puhovski, concept creator Morana Komljenović, and Artefacto is carried out under the initiative Travelling Docs in collaboration with the Creative Europe MEDIA Desks in Belgium (Wallonia Brussels), Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany (Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, NRW), Greece, Hungary, Italy (Torino), Latvia, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden, while PUBLIKUM in collaboration with the Creative Europe MEDIA Desk Croatia.

WORKSHOP MENTORS

ZAGREBDOX PRO 01/04 – 05/04/2025

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ANA FERNANDEZ SAIZ

Ana Fernández Saiz is a dedicated professional in documentary sales, with over a decade of experience in media development, financing, and distribution. As Head of Sales at Impronta Films, she oversees a diverse slate of 20 documentaries, working closely with filmmakers to bring their stories to audiences worldwide. She develops marketing strategies, negotiates distribution deals, and helps position films at festivals and industry markets. With a strong background in international sales and a passion for connecting compelling stories with the right platforms, Ana focuses on finding the best opportunities for each project, always striving to support filmmakers and their creative vision.

NEBOJŠA SLIJEPČEVIĆ

Nebojša Slijepčević is a film director based in Zagreb, Croatia. He has directed numerous documentaries and short fiction films. His short fiction film *The Man Who Could Not Remain Silent* won the Palme d'Or for Best Short Film at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival, European Film Award and Cesar for Best Short film, and it was nominated for Oscar. His most acclaimed documentary, *Srbenka*, has won over 20 festival awards and was shortlisted for the European Film Awards. Nebojša also works as a creative producer for documentary films at Zagreb Film production company.

TUE STEEN MÜLLER

Tue Steen Müller is a documentary consultant and critic from Denmark. He worked with documentary films for more than 20 years at the Danish Film Board, as press officer, festival representative and film consultant/commissioner. He is co-founder of Balticum Film and TV Festival, Filmkontakt Nord, Documentary of the EU and European Documentary Network, where from 1996 until 2005 he was the first director. From 2006 he is a freelance consultant and teacher in many workshops, as well as programme consultant for the festivals Magnificent7 in Belgrade, DOCSBarcelona, Message2Man in St. Petersburg and DOKLeipzig. He received multiple awards for his contribution to the Danish and European documentary culture. In 2019 he received a Big Stamp at the 15th edition of ZagrebDox. He teaches at the ZELIG.

IEVA ŪBELE

Throughout her career, Ieva has produced numerous documentaries and photo exhibitions exploring social and environmental issues. In 2019, she founded her own production company Baltic Balkan Productions, producing and co-producing films that center on compelling personal narratives and urgent social topics. Alongside her work as a producer, she is currently developing her debut documentary film as a director. In 2020-2023 she worked as Head of Industry programme at Beldocs IDFF (Belgrade, Serbia). Ieva is also a tutor at documentary film workshops, including AGORA Boost (Thessaloniki IDFF), BDC Discoveries, and ESoDoc. An alumna of EURODOC, Emerging Producers and EAVE and a member of the Documentary Association of Europe and EWA – the European Women's Audiovisual Network.

MODERATOR: ROBERT TOMIĆ ZUBER

Robert Tomić Zuber is a journalist, director and a producer who has more than twenty years of experience working as a journalist and editor in the Croatian press, on radio and on television, as well as working for international media like the BBC. He has received two awards from the Croatian Journalists' Association for his work. Over the past decade he has directed four long feature documentaries. *At the Station in Pula* (2001), *Accidental Son* (2008), *Mila Seeking Senida* (2010) awarded with the Human Rights Award at Sarajevo Film Festival, *Million Dollar Life* (2017). From 2013 – 2016 he was Head of Documentary Production on Croatian national television. Today he is a freelancer, and owner of a production house TOROLab, and lecturer at Zagreb's faculty of Vern. He is founder and director of RAFF - Rab Film Festival in Croatia.

ENTR'ACTES

Yuriy Shylov
Ukraine

Project Phase: Development
Producer: Kshtalt Productions;
Olha Tuharinova
Contact: olhatuha@gmail.com

A retired concierge Olena from Kyiv leads an amateur theater group for the elderly. Neither war nor deteriorating health can stop them from preparing for a local competition, which might be their final chance to perform on stage. Through observational storytelling, the film captures their resilience, friendships, and the power of art as quiet defiance in times of uncertainty.

Yuriy Shylov is a member of the European Film Academy. He graduated from the directing department of the Kyiv National Karpenko-Kary University of Theatre, Cinema, and Television. His first feature-length movie, *Projectionist*, premiered in the Documentary Competition of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in 2019. He made the short film *Weight* and the documentary *Panorama*.

IN THE WINDS OF THE ICEFIELDS

Mihkel Oksmann
Estonia

Project Phase: Postproduction
Producer: Sui; Hõbe Ilus
Contact: ilus.hobe@gmail.com

Throughout his career, Vello has built a few dozens of ice yachts. Today he is crafting his last. When the filmmaker hears that, he rushes to the island to film it. Vello forces a helmet on his head instead as he realizes this is his last chance to go on the ice. Over time, the filmmaker starts to enjoy his new reality. He, too, starts to wait for something that might never come – the ice.

Mihkel Oksmann is an Estonian documentary filmmaker and cinematographer. He holds a BA in Fine Arts and has a MA in Documentary Film. His thesis documentary *A Well Kept Secret* was announced as the Best Student Film at Ji.hlava IDFF (2018). His artistic style is a combination of a touch of black humor and good-natured warmth towards his subjects.

LOST AND FOUND: UNCOVERING THE TRUTH

Laurențiu Garofeanu
Romania

Project Phase: Postproduction
Producer: Mekanism Media;
Laurențiu Garofeanu
Contact: laurentiu@mekanism.
media

Lost and Found uncovers the unknown world of child trafficking in Romania. This documentary unravels, firsthand accounts, the complex networks exploiting the vulnerable and seeks to bring light to the shadows of this hidden crisis.

Laurențiu Garofeanu, an experienced documentary filmmaker, has spent over a decade crafting narratives that challenge societal norms and spotlight underreported issues. His work is characterized by a deep commitment to justice and human rights.

LOST IN TEHRAN, LOST IN JAPAN

Jafar Najafi
Iran

Project Phase: Development
Producer: CinemaTales;
Siavash Jamali
Contact: seavash@gmail.com

After arriving at the front lines in Iran-Iraq War, Farshad was so frightened he couldn't move. A nurse told him there was a certain vaccine that makes fear go away. And it did, but after a while, Farshad realized that the anti-fear vaccine was just morphine, and he had become an addict. Post-war, he moved to Japan, gained fame via a documentary, married, and had children. His secret addiction led to divorce. Back in Iran, he seeks his estranged daughter online, haunted by the war. The film explores his life and enduring desire for reunion.

Jafar Najafi was born in 1986 in Koohrang, studied cinema at Tehran University of Art. He directed the award-winning documentary short *Asho* in 2019, which won the Best Children's Documentary Award at IDFA and received Honorable Mention at DOK Leipzig. In 2021, his documentary *Make-Up Artist* won the IDFA FIPRESCI Award and the Award of Excellence at Yamagata. His documentary *Alone* premiered at the Venice Biennale in 2022 and won Best Documentary at Serbia Doc Russia International Documentary Film Festival in 2024.

NESTS OF STORKS AND PEOPLE

Petko Gyulchev
Bulgaria

Project Phase: Postproduction
Producer: Izograph,
Galina Shtarbeva
Contact: izograph@abv.bg

Two storks travel 12,000 kilometers to reach their home in the Bulgarian village of Palamartza and spend the summer there. Like the 250 foreigners from all over the world who choose the poorest European country as the last and dearest dream stop in their lives. Freedom, cheap life, conditional rules and unlimited possibilities are what they find here. Apparently, everyday life in the small village runs in harmony and tolerance. All this and the circumstances around the world COVID pandemic brings a family from London with four children to the Bulgarian village...

Petko Gyulchev is a cameraman, director and founder of IZOGRAPH Ltd. - an independent Bulgarian production company producing feature films, documentaries and TV program. The company works with the most talented Bulgarian filmmakers and production crew. The company produces and fixes programs for the main national TV stations and international broadcasters. Petko is cameraman and director of numerous awarded documentaries. His latest documentary Kalin and the Jail Team was the first Bulgarian documentary bought and released on Netflix.

NO OFFENCE

Lucija Marčec
Croatia

Project Phase: Postproduction
Producer: Academy of dramatic
art Zagreb; Ida Barac,
Ema Mikolaci
Contact: idabarac@gmail.com

No Offence is a feature-length documentary set in Medimurje, the smallest and northernmost county in Croatia, where a unique coexistence unfolds. Croatians, Roma, and Nepalese live in complete separation, yet their unresolved conflicts create a neverending cycle of discrimination. The film was developed as a master's project at the Academy of Dramatic Art in Zagreb and is currently in post-production.

Lucija Marčec graduated with an MA in Journalism at the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb. She worked as a journalist in television and online media, which led her into the world of film. Her focus is documentary film, and she is currently finishing a master's degree in Documentary Directing at the Academy of Dramatic Art in Zagreb, where she directed two short films.

TWO PICTURES PER SECOND

Mladen Ćapin
Croatia

Project Phase: Development
Producer: HRT
Contact: mladen.capin@hrt.hr

This film/essay would be a documentary experimental reflection of myself through the time that has passed. The basic tools I would use to visualize this would be the family archive of Super 8 films (about four hours of various material), photographs, and newly filmed material from the present time. Through the frames (people, places, events...) passing through the scanner, new sequences of the film would emerge, freezing time and impressions that I only vaguely remember today but which, consciously or unconsciously, shaped who I am now.

Mladen Ćapin was born in Karlovac, Croatia. He graduated from college with majors in history and philosophy. Since 2000, he has been working as a screenwriter and director in the documentary department of HRT. He is the author of about fifty documentary programs and films produced by HTV. Most of his work is related to social and psychological stories and depictions of ordinary people, their occupations, passions and destinies. He has also directed music and sports documentaries, screen adaptations of literary works, and documentary essays.

SONIC SILENCE

Ludovico Chincarini,
Alessandro Ambroggi
Italy

Project Phase: Development
Producer: K+; Nicola Fedrigoni
Contact: sales@kplusfilm.com

Thirty years after the Dayton Agreement, the "Sonic Silence" can still be heard. That whistle and unsettling silence inducing alienation and fear, preceding and following an explosion. Jasmin, former captain of the Bosnian forces, still searches for his brother's body; Tarik, a young Bosnian, remains tenaciously in the land he loves and hates; Khalida, fleeing Afghanistan through the Balkans, seeks for a better future. Their souls marked with the scars of the war let us listen to the silence, the Sonic Silence.

Ludovico Chincarini graduated in film studies in Venice and has participated in numerous fiction and documentary film productions in Italy, Germany, and Albania.

Alessandro Ambroggi studied cinema in Pisa and works between Paris, Italy, and Albania.

Together, they create documentaries on social issues commissioned by foundations and worldwide NGOs, working between Italy, Bosnia, Albania, and Turkey.

MASTERCLASS: TRAVELLING DOX MASTERCLASS: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN AUDIOVISUAL PRODUCTION – FROM CONCEPT TO PRACTICE

PRESENTERS: ANNA GIRALT GRIS, JORGE CABALLERO, ARTEFACTO (BARCELONA)

HOST: ROBERT TOMIĆ ZUBER

TUESDAY, 01/04, 17:00
DOKUKINO KIC, PRERADOVIĆEVA 5

THE MASTERCLASS WILL BE STREAMED ONLINE.
CHECK WWW.ZAGREBDOX.NET FOR MORE.

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#CREATIVEEUROPEMEDIADESKS

This masterclass offers a hands-on dive into the world of artificial intelligence in audiovisual production, combining theoretical foundations with real-world case studies based on the impressive portfolio of the renowned Spanish production company Artefacto. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of current AI technologies and their impact on the audiovisual industry.

MASTERCLASS: PUBLIKUM – CONNECTING YOUR AUDIOVISUAL PROJECT WITH AUDIENCES THROUGH AI-BACKED ANTHROPOLOGY

PRESENTER: NIELS ALBERG, PUBLIKUM (COPENHAGEN)

HOST: ROBERT TOMIĆ ZUBER

WEDNESDAY, 02/04, 17:00
DOKUKINO KIC, PRERADOVIĆEVA 5

Co-funded by
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Discover how AI-driven anthropology can transform storytelling with Niels Alberg, co-founder of PUBLIKUM. Learn how filmmakers and cultural professionals can tap into deep audience emotions - beyond market predictions - to inspire creative decisions from development to distribution. PUBLIKUM blends AI analysis with human insights, helping you understand how stories resonate across cultures and markets. This masterclass session offers a fresh perspective on audience engagement, balancing artistic vision with real emotional impact. Perfect for anyone looking to connect with audiences in a more meaningful way.

PANEL-DISCUSSION: FRAMING THE FUTURE: AI, TRUTH, AND THE ETHICS OF DOCUMENTARY

WITH: NADEŽDA ČAČINOVIĆ, MARKO ZELENOVIĆ, MARKO POROBIJA, TOMISLAV FIKET

HOST: ROBERT TOMIĆ ZUBER

THURSDAY 03 / 04, 16:30
DOKUKINO KIC, PRERADOVIĆEVA 5

Join us for a panel on AI and documentary filmmaking, where creative possibilities meet ethical challenges. Experts from AI, film, philosophy, and media theory will explore how these technologies reshape storytelling—offering new tools while raising urgent questions about truth, transparency, and accountability. Can AI deepen narratives or distort reality? How do we uphold artistic integrity in an era of machine-generated content? This discussion offers insights for filmmakers, researchers, and industry professionals.

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Međunarodni
festival
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International
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Film Festival

Zagreb, Croatia
www.zagrebdox.com



SCHEDULE



1.4. –
5.4.
2025.

MONDAY 31/3

TUESDAY 1/4

10:30

COFFEE TIME

Moderated by
Nebojša Slijepčević

12:00

SLOW PITCH SESSIONS

18:00

GET TOGETHER

WEDNESDAY 2/4**10:30****COFFEE TIME**

Moderated by
Tue Steen Müller

12:00**SLOW PITCH
SESSIONS****THURSDAY 3/4****COFFEE TIME**

Moderated by
Ieva Ūbele

**SLOW PITCH
SESSIONS****FRIDAY 3/4****COFFEE TIME**

Moderated by
Ana Fernandez Saiz

**SLOW PITCH
SESSIONS****15:30****FINAL MEETING**

Mentors' Take

17:00**FINAL MEETING**

Participants' Take

22:00**PARTY TIME****SATURDAY 5/4****11:30****AJB DOC +
IMPRONTA FILMS
PRESENTATION**

(Hall 4)

**AWARDS
CEREMONY**

(Hall 4)