

**One
World**

**International
Human Rights
Film Festival
2024**

ONE WORLD ANNOUNCES FIRST FILMS. NON-COMPETITIVE DOCUMENTARIES TO BE ACCOMPANIED NOW BY FICTIONAL WORKS

Press Release

Prague, 6 February 2024

Every year, One World Film Festival highlights important topics that stir society. Whether the films screened cover freedom of speech, judicial independence, identity, or relationships, lead us through hidden alleyways, or immerse us in war zones, they always transcend beyond the confines of cinema halls with their impactful ideas. To underscore the significance of the themes explored in its films, the festival will now be enhancing its programme by newly incorporating fictional films that tackle human rights issues. These fictional films will seamlessly blend with non-competitive documentaries, complementing the overall cinematic experience. The 26th edition of One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival is scheduled to run from 20 March to 21 April 2024 in 48 cities across the Czech Republic. In Prague, the festival will unfold from 20 March to 28 March 2024, followed by additional screenings in various districts of Prague from 2 April to 21 April.

One World embarks on its second quarter of a century with a wave of innovations. Beyond maintaining a timeless visual appeal and altering the festival's name, one of the most significant enhancements is the inclusion of **fictional films** in the programme.

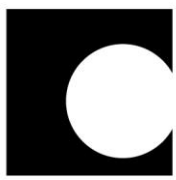
Audiences can now anticipate a diverse lineup, featuring not only documentaries but also engaging fiction titles within the non-competitive film section, creating a harmonious conceptual blend.

"In an era demanding heightened efforts to shed light on human rights issues, it becomes imperative to embrace varied storytelling formats and unleash the power of imagination to envision potential, alternative worlds. Feature films will help elevate the human rights dimension of One World by delving into phenomena that documentary filmmakers might otherwise struggle to capture in a fleeting reality," says festival director Ondřej Kamenický as he describes the new programme. *"In the current landscape where many documentaries employ elements of fiction to intensify their impact, the rigid classification of films into documentary and fiction on today's festival circuit no longer holds validity,"* he adds.

Within the category of fictional films, you can also expect cinematic works originating from countries with less-developed film industries compared to Europe. *"Our goal is to carve out a space for titles that may have been overlooked in the Czech context and to amplify the voices of creators who have yet to become established festival names,"* the director explains.

This year's One World will not only include its traditional competitive sections but will also introduce 7 non-competitive categories that group films by theme into sections. And those sections are: **Identities, Structures of Power, The Middle East, Ecosystems, Searching for Freedom, On the Edge of Maturity,** and **Communities**. These sections will also include something completely new for the festival – **fictional films** that feature human rights themes.

And just like in previous years, festivalgoers can look forward to our discussion panels as part of this year's programme, which will bring together hosts and hostesses from all around the world.



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Structures of Power and The Middle East

The non-competitive film sections in this year's lineup will explore a variety of topical themes that resonate with the world around us. The **Structures of Power** category will delve into the strengths and limitations of the law, issues with justice, and the pursuit of truth. For instance, viewers will be introduced to the full-length feature film debut **Abang and Adik** by Malaysian director Lay Jin Ong, which depicts the lives of two orphans facing hardship in Kuala Lumpur. The hearing-impaired Abang and his companion Adi forge different paths in their quest to obtain official documents and discover a new life. Historian Yuri Dmitriev ventures into the Russian forests to unearth hidden truths. The documentary **The Dmitriev Affair** by director Jessica Gorter recounts the determined effort to find evidence of the horrors of Stalinist terror despite powerful resistance from the state.

In the realm of show business, the film **Sorry/Not Sorry** in the **Identities** category poses an interesting question: What matters more, justice or the audience? Directors Cara Mones and Caroline Suh reflect on the case of stand-up comedian Louis C.K., accused of a series of sexual assaults, and its impact on those who publicly spoke out about his behaviour. Taking a different perspective, the fictional film **Slow** by director Marija Kavtaradzé, recognised at the Sundance Festival, delves into identities. Dancer Elena and sign language interpreter Dovydas form a strong mutual bond full of intimacy and deeper connection.

This year will see a dedicated thematic category focused on **The Middle East**. It will feature, among others, the film **Mourning in Lod** by director Hilla Medalia, which follows the fates of families embroiled in the ongoing cycle of violence in the city of Lod, where Israelis and Palestinians coexist. Beyond facing an unstable political and economic situation, the film **The Burdened** in the same category portrays the pressure from conservative surroundings. Director Amr Gamal narrates the story, inspired by a true event. As a mother of three grapples with a precarious situation, her life takes an unexpected turn, compelling her to resort to a solution that goes against cultural and religious norms.

The last journalists in Mariupol, on the edge of maturity, and a sinking island

Following the onset of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Ukrainian journalist Mstyslav Chernov, alongside the crew from the Associated Press (AP), stayed put in the besieged city of Mariupol. As the last team of journalists on the ground, they shared firsthand accounts of war crimes that would later make global headlines. The documentary **20 Days in Mariupol** in the **Searching for Freedom** category will not only reveal what goes on behind the scenes of war journalism but also shed light on the ill-fated stories of ordinary people in the midst of war. The team was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 2023 for their coverage from the besieged city.

The film **Manifesto**, which is attributed to an anonymous creative collective using the pseudonym Angie Vinchito, will reveal a dark mosaic of often startling videos released by Russian teenagers on social media. Featured in the thematic category **On the Edge of Maturity**, the film, clip by clip, illustrates how aggression and oppression can unknowingly pass on to the next generation.

Directed by Juan Palacios and featured in the **Ecosystems** section, the film **As the Tide Comes In** takes us on a journey to the secluded, Danish island of Mandø. Despite concerns about rising sea levels and climate change, a handful of local residents navigate their everyday lives with all that it entails – be it celebrating a 100th birthday or signing up to compete on the TV game



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show *Farmer Wants a Wife*. In the same section, the festival will showcase the film ***The Buriti Flower*** by directorial duo Renée Nader Messoria and João Salaviza, breathing life into the tumultuous history of the indigenous Brazilian Krahô tribe that resides in the heart of the Amazon rainforest. Recognised at Cannes, the film will serve as a poignant reminder of the struggle for freedom, traditional rituals, and the imperative to protect sacred territory from encroaching corporations.

How does one stay creative under an oppressive regime? Director San San F. Young offers one possible answer in her documentary, ***Hong Kong Mixtape***, featured in this year's **Communities** section. The film will take the audience deep into the artistic underground, providing personal insights into daily life on the edge of the law and the activities of the creative resistance.

One World: Coming to a Czech city near you!

In addition to Prague, the festival is set to unfold in 47 other cities across the Czech Republic this year. Beginning on the 19th of March, film buffs will have the chance to enjoy festival films in cinemas situated in cities like Brno, Pilsen, Jeseník, Sokolov, and Uherské Hradiště. Following this, One World will continue its traditional venture beyond Czech borders, holding screenings in Brussels from 15 to 19 April.

Prague Echoes

The 26th edition of the festival is set to be extra special with an extended duration, allowing more to attend One World screenings in the capital city. Prague Echoes is scheduled to run **from 2 April to 21 April 2024**, offering audiences film experiences not only in the city centre but also in unconventional venues found outside of traditional festival cinemas. One World films will, thus, be presented in new locations such as the Pragovka gallery and the Půda Community Center in Prague-Suchbát.

Festival details and downloadable content can be found at www.jedensvet.cz

Media Contacts

Jan Kovalík, Head of Media Communications and PR, jan.kovalik@clovekvtsni.cz

Eva Müllerová, Media Coordinator, eva.mullerova@clovekvtsni.cz, +420 720 208 552



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Participating cities at this year's festival

Boskovice	20.–21. 3. 2024	Pardubice	8.–13. 4. 2024
Brno	21.–28. 3. 2024	Pelhřimov	12.–13. 4. 2024
České Budějovice	2.–6. 4. 2024	Plzeň	22.–28. 3. 2024
Český Krumlov	21.–23. 3. 2024	Police nad Metují	22.–24. 3. 2024
Děčín	10.–13. 4. 2024	Rakovník	2.–3. 4. 2024
Hodonín	10.–14. 4. 2024	Roztoky u Prahy	11.–14. 4. 2024
Horní Benešov	19.–23. 3. 2024	Rožnov pod Radhoštěm	8.–10. 4. 2024
Hradec Králové	19.–23. 3. 2024	Rychnov nad Kněžnou	10.–11. 4. 2024
Jeseník	20.–22. 3. 2024	Řevnice	21.–23. 3. 2024
Jihlava	10.–17. 4. 2024	Semily	2.–6. 4. 2024
Karlovy Vary	22.–1. 4. 2024	Sokolov	16.–20. 4. 2024
Kladno	18.–20. 4. 2024	Sušice	25.–26. 3. 2024
Klatovy	21.–24. 3. 2024	Šumperk	20.–23. 3. 2024
Krnov	25.–27. 3. 2024	Tábor	4.–7. 4. 2024
Kroměříž	4.–6. 4. 2024	Teč	19.–20. 4. 2024
Liberec	8.–12. 4. 2024	Tišnov	10.–11. 4. 2024
Louny	16.–20. 4. 2024	Třinec	26.–28. 3. 2024
Mikulov	12.–14. 4. 2024	Uherské Hradiště	19.–22. 3. 2024
Mladá Boleslav	21.–24. 3. 2024	Ústí nad Labem	19.–23. 3. 2024
Netolice	25.–27. 3. 2024	Ústí nad Orlicí	6.–13. 4. 2024
Nové Město na Moravě	11.–14. 4. 2024	Vodňany	18.–20. 4. 2024
Olomouc	2.–6. 4. 2024	Vsetín	20.–23. 3. 2024
Opava	8.–12. 4. 2024	Znojmo	19.–22. 3. 2024
Ostrava	11.–19. 4. 2024		