



**ONE
WORLD**

INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS
DOCUMENTARY
FILM FESTIVAL



22/3-2/4 2023
across the Czech republic

One World has released the festival program, featuring dozens of documentaries, an extended discussion program and virtual reality projects

Press Release

Prague, 1 March 2023

The Russian invasion of Ukraine, the energy crisis, climate change, social insecurity – all situations that underline the fragility and value of the Price of Safety, the theme of this year's One World festival, which refers to one of the basic human needs. However, the security and price we are willing to pay for it can mean something different to each of us. One World decided to look at the topic from different perspectives and reflect on it throughout the entire film program. This year, the festival will present 75 feature-length documentaries and 10 films in virtual reality. It will offer a discussion program with guests from around the world and short films for children. The twenty-fifth edition of the One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival will take place in 28 cities across the Czech Republic from 22 March to 2 April. Prague viewers can look forward to the festival from 22 to 30 March.

The festival will open with ***Overcome the Darkness***, made by a team of Ukrainian filmmakers during the first weeks of the war. The narrative mosaic by the Kinodopomiha collective bears chilling testimonies of the Ukrainian people facing the Russian invasion. Producer Olga Beskhmelnytsina and one of the directors, Yegor Troyanovsky, will present the film in Prague.

The opening ceremony of the twenty-fifth anniversary edition of One World will take place at the Prague Crossroads. It will include the presentation of the **Homo Homini Human Rights Award**. This year's laureate is Venezuelan activist Javier Tarazona.

This year's theme will be reflected in various forms in the films in all the competition and non-competition categories. The film program will offer a total of 75 feature documentaries, 10 films in virtual reality and 5 short films for children. Viewers can look forward to the traditional competition sections (**International Competition, Czech Competition, You Have the Right to Know**), to which a new competition category for VR films, **One World Interactively**, has been added. In addition, the program will also group the films into seven thematic categories: **New Gods, Women's Power, Ukraine, Sustainability, Relationships, Uprooting, and Networks**.





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The **International Competition** brings audiences the latest documentaries from around the world. For example, it will present director Vitaly Mansky's new film **Eastern Front**, in which the filmmaker follows the daily life of volunteer medics in the first six months of the war in Ukraine. Viewers will be taken to neighboring Belarus by the directorial duo of Hanna Badziaka and Alexander Mihalkovich. In **Motherland**, they show that it's not only the human rights of critics of the country's regime that are being suppressed but also those trained by harsh means to protect it. How do you judge a former child soldier? Directors Lukasz Konopa and Emil Langballe address this question in **Theatre of Violence** when they take a camera and visit the International Criminal Court, before which one of the commanders of the Ugandan guerrilla army is on trial. Significant changes will take place on the labor market in the near future. Hundreds of millions of jobs could be lost due to the rapid expansion of automation. How would this affect our society? This change is discussed in the film **Postwork** by festival guest and director Erik Gandini. The film **Apolonia**, **Apolonia** by director Ley Glob, in which she follows the life of the artist Apolonia Sokol for thirteen years, explores the world of contemporary art, often linked with tough business. The film will be accompanied to the festival in Prague by both the director and the protagonist.

The competition section **You Have the Right to Know** traditionally uncovers cases of human rights violations and highlights stories that should not remain unnoticed. One of them is **You Have to Be Here to Believe** by director Polina Georgescu, about the fight against the suppression of the rights of queer people in Hungary. What happens when a music celebrity decides to end decades of one-president rule and stirs up the political scene with his candidacy to the rhythm of reggae? This is portrayed in the portrait of Ugandan presidential candidate **Bobi Wine: The People's President**, filmed by Christopher Sharp. The category also gives space to films about inspirational activists who fight to improve conditions in their country. An example is TV reporter Ravish Kumar, who warns of the danger of radicalization of Indian society and rampant nationalism in the country in the film **While We Watched**.

New gods, women's power, and stories from Ukraine

More than a year has passed since Russia invaded Ukraine and unleashed an all-out war that continues today. This year, One World established a special category focused on **Ukraine**. The festival will present, for example, the film **We Will Not Fade Away** by director Alisa Kovalenko, which follows the lives of five teenagers who have the opportunity to leave the reality of Donbas for a while and go on a trip to the Himalayas. From a different - backwards-looking - perspective, the film **Generation Euromaidan** will look at the past year's events. In it, the director follows three activists of the Maidan revolution who subsequently entered the upper echelons of Ukrainian politics. The film presents the political generation from which the current president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, emerged. The young generation of Ukraine is also linked to director Olha Zhurba's film **On the Edge**, which tells the story of a Romani boy who finds himself on the margins of society due to life and social events.





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The **New Gods** thematic section looks at the new and old idols that people admire. It will present, for example, a film by director Guy Davidi, who feels Israel is not a place where children's innocence has a place. The film **Innocence** reveals the tragic effects of Israeli militarism on the lives of its youth, who have been prepared since childhood to defend their homeland. Davidi will attend the festival online. Faith in social systems and human community is explored in the film **Civil Disobedience**. The film considers whether humanity is inherently good and born to cooperate. Director Fredrik Gertten will come to the festival to present the film.

Another new category is **Women's Power**. The films' protagonists in this category face injustice, often at the cost of risking their personal safety, to fight for the rights of the next generation of women. Christine Choy dusted off the meters of film stock on which she documented the young people who stood up to the Chinese regime in Tiananmen Square in June 1989 and were massacred by government forces. Some of the survivors fled into exile and were never able to return home. The filmmaker embarks on a search for three of the dissidents. The resulting film and Sundance festival winner **The Exiles**, shot in collaboration with directors Ben Klein and Violet Columbus, will be accompanied to the festival in Prague not only by Columbus but also by one of the protagonists, the dissident Wu'er Kaixi.

In the documentary **As Long as You Sing**, director Fazila Amiri follows a singer from Afghanistan who, despite facing death threats for her public appearances, tries to encourage other women and girls through her actions. The heroines of the film **Secret Scripture**, filmed by Violet Du Feng and Qing Zhao, are trying to establish themselves in Chinese society governed by patriarchal traditions. They find support in the traditional language of Nüshu, which for centuries has allowed women to communicate in such a way that its meaning remained hidden from men. The directors of the film **Women Behind the Wheel: Unheard Voices From the Pamir Highway** will also bring a unique perspective. Hannah Congdon and Catherine Haigh got behind the wheel and set off to map the state of women's rights in the areas along the Pamir Highway. Together they have created an unvarnished travelogue that tells the stories of women and girls from these neglected parts of the world. Both directors will be at the festival and present the film in person.

Still on the subject of women, in the film **Misogyny in the Digital Age**, entered in the **Networks** category, the directorial duo of Guylaine Maroist and Léa Clermont-Dion draw attention to hateful attacks on women online and show how fake accounts and names help rapists hide their identities. The film will be accompanied to the festival by one of the protagonists, French actress Marion Seclin. From a different perspective on networks, the film **Pornfluencers** presents a young German couple making a living making porn videos. Although director Joscha Bongard originally wanted to make a sex-positive portrait of the civilian life of amateur porn stars, the toxicity of a relationship dominated by gender stereotypes comes to the surface.





New categories dedicated to relationships and sustainability

Few things can be viewed from as many different angles as **Relationships**, so One World has devoted a separate category to them. The protagonist of the film ***Too Close***, shot by Botond Püsök while trying to find peace for herself and her children, experiences the influence of her relationships with those around her on her family. In addition to being considered a black sheep by the villagers, her ex-husband, convicted of abusing her daughter, returns surreptitiously to her life. Julia Bezerra Madsen presents a documentary testimony about the relationship between mother and son who lose their sight due to a hereditary disease in the film ***All That Remains to Be Seen***.

Since climate change is also one of the most important topics of our time, the festival will continue the tradition and bring together films related to the environment in the **Sustainability** section. The documentary comedy ***The Farmer and the Hipster*** explores an unusual friendship. A farmer from the Austrian countryside gets into a dispute with a Viennese journalist, who then accepts his challenge and comes to experience what it is like to farm in the 21st century. In the documentary ***Life Under the Volcano***, the filmmakers Ischa Clissen and Dorus Masure take viewers to Iceland among the inhabitants of two villages who live in constant fear of the Katla volcano, at the foot of which they live. Eventually, they decide to exploit the potential danger and turn the site into a tourist attraction.

In the **Uprooting** section, the festival will present a selection of films from African countries, Latin America and Asia. Thirteen-year-old Opio from Burkina Faso finds himself in a vicious circle in ***If You Are A Man***. His dream is to go to school and quit his job in a gold mine, but to earn his tuition, he literally has to dig deeper and deeper. In ***Lotus Sports Club***, directors Vanna Hem and Tommaso Colognese portray a girls' football club in Cambodia where two boys born into girls' bodies train. But instead of the bullying they would have received in many places around the world, they found a new family in a team led by a coach with a similar gender identity.

Experience movies in virtual reality

In the **One World Interactive** category, the audience can discover virtual worlds through six interactive projects and four 360° films that will transport the participants into the realities of the frosty present, the near future and little-known human experiences. The interactive animated project ***Lou***, created in cooperation with people with autism, enables audiences to experience childhood and the first day of high school with a boy with autism. What would happen if plastic replaced most of our DNA? The futuristic VR project ***Plastic Man***, in which the human body transforms into a completely new entity, proposed an answer to the question. The selection of interactive documentaries includes the award-winning VR project ***On the Morning You Wake (to the End of the World)***, which reconstructs the 2018 event when Hawaii found itself under the false threat of a nuclear missile attack. In Wojciech Puś's essayistic 360° film ***Endless***, participants will follow several people of different gender and ethnic identities as they navigate through the night, life, desire and futility.





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Debate program: confrontational panel discussions and film dissections

Post-screening debates and discussions have become an essential part of the festival. This year, One World will significantly expand the debate program – almost two-thirds of the screenings will be followed by a debate or discussion, with at least one discussion devoted to each film. Guests from all over the world will meet and participate. A new feature will be more different discussion formats – including small-group debates, confrontational panel discussions, and film dissections.

Viewers can look forward to post-film debate on the film *Innocence* about collective trauma, led by the renowned somatic therapist Alé Duarte. Sex work and gender inequalities in access to sex in the context of the film *Pornfluencers* will be the focus of a small-group debate with journalist Petra Dvořáková. The film *Girl Gang* will be subjected to a film dissection, in which digital semanticist Matěj Hřib analyzes a film about a teenage influencer. Leading Polish sociologist Marta Bucholc will lead a debate on the social contract in the 21st century in connection with the film *Civil Disobedience*. This year, the audience will be able to vote for the extraordinary debate in Abakus Foundation Audience Award for Exceptional Debate.

One World in Schools

Every spring, thousands of students leave their desks and head to the cinema for the One World festival. We organize special morning screenings for schools in all cities where the festival takes place. As usual, we have put together selections of films for all age categories. For elementary school pupils, these are two short film collections covering a wide range of topics, from cultural differences and living with disabilities to family relationships to the environment. Five feature films from the One World program were selected, including ***Overcoming the Darkness*** and ***Young Russians on the Run***, which present the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and ***Girl Gang***, revealing what goes on behind the scenes of young influencers. New this year for schools are films in virtual reality. A debate follows all school screenings. Schools must register for screenings in advance: in Prague through the JSNS.CZ portal, and in other cities through local coordinators.

More at www.jsns.cz/festival

East Doc Platform

The Institute of Documentary Film (IDF) traditionally organizes the industry event East Doc Platform during the One World Film Festival, where documentary filmmakers from all over the world meet. In addition to workshops for feature documentaries, series or virtual reality projects, this event provides a space for networking in the form of pitching of upcoming films at the East Doc Forum or the East Silver market with completed films. For the professional and general public there is also a rich program open to all those interested in the current events in the world of documentary filmmaking. During the event, the alternative distribution platform KineDok will hold a conference dedicated to working with





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audiences and the East Doc Platform will also feature the traditional Czech Docs: Coming Soon presentation which will introduce five upcoming Czech films. The Ex Oriente Film, the international training workshop organized by the IDF, has been supporting the creative development and funding of documentary films from the Central and Eastern Europe region for 20 years now. Celebrate this anniversary with us at the screenings of four recently completed films – *BLIX NOT BOMBS* (dir. Greta Stocklassa), *Motherland* (dir. Alexander Mihalkovich, Hanna Badziaka), *Outside* (dir. Olha Zhurba), *Too Close* (dir. Botond Püsök) - which are part of the One World 2023. The East Doc Platform program will offer a lecture by Danish specialist in international project development Mikael Opstrup, a case study by Austrian based international sales agent Christa Auderlitzky (Filmdelights), a masterclass by Italian-Swedish director Erik Gandini and panel discussions Virtual reality – the ideal tool for spreading impact? and How to make films and keep your sanity? The East Doc Platform program takes place at the French Institute in Prague (Štěpánská 35) and is free of charge without accreditation. The full program can be found at dokweb.net. Events are in English only.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Advance ticket sales start online on Wednesday, March 1. Viewers can buy them at the cinema box offices from March 23. The single ticket price is 130 CZK.
- ZTP, ZTP/P card holders, and viewers over 65 years of age receive a 50% discount on admission to all screenings by 50%.
- ZTP/P card holder chaperones have free admission.
- This year we offer direct ticket sales at the information stand in the Lucerna passage. Viewers can buy tickets to any cinema for any screening here and receive printed tickets.
- The Press Centre, where we will issue press accreditations during the festival, can be found on the 1st floor of the People in Need Centre – Langhans (Vodičkova 37, Prague). It will be open from March 22 to 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Throughout the festival, two information booths will be open – one in the Lucerna passage and the other in the foyer of the Municipal Library in Prague. Here you can find all relevant information about the festival. Festival merchandise will be available both at the infostands and in the One World e-shop.

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