



Guest List

Please note that due to privacy reasons, some of our guests are not shown in this overview.

If you want to get in touch with other guests, please visit the Guests meet Guests in Filmhuis Den Haag.

movies that matter festival 20 – 28 march 2026

guests Grand Jury Documentary



Nataliia Borodynia

Protagonist

MARIINKA

Natasha Borodynia is a student at the medical university of Zaporoshjia, Ukraine. She grew up in the city of Mariinka, Eastern Ukraine, currently under Russian occupation. She was performed as the main protagonist in Pieter-Jan De Pue's documentary, MARIINKA, where she is a paramedic in the Ukrainian army the frontline in Donbass.



Reem Haddad

Producer

American Doctor

Reem Haddad is an award-winning Palestinian-Canadian producer and filmmaker with more than 20 years of experience covering the Middle East and Africa. A former commissioning editor at Al Jazeera English, she has developed and produced documentaries on conflict and humanitarian crises from Gaza to Yemen and South Africa. Her work includes Rescue Mission Gaza, recipient of the Overseas Press Club of America Award and the Royal Television Society Award, as well as Life on Hold, Anxious in Beirut, and Baghdad on Fire. Most recently, she produced the feature documentary American Doctor.

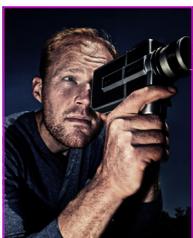


Mark Perlmutter

Protagonist

American Doctor

I am a hand surgeon from North Carolina, USA who volunteered in Gaza in both 2024 and 2025. I have assisted in multiple domestic and global mass casualties including New York City on 9/11 and during the Haitian earthquake. I have organized and participated in over 40 surgical missions on four continents and I am the past president of the International College of Surgeons and The World Surgical Foundation.



Pieter-Jan De Pue

Director

MARIINKA

Pieter-Jan De Pue is a Belgian documentary filmmaker born in 1982 in Ghent, Belgium. He made the film The Land of the Enlightened (Sundance 20`16) and premiered his second documentary film MARIINKA at CPH:DOX 2026 (opening film and part of the DOX:AWARD competition)



Poh Si Teng

Director

American Doctor

Poh Si Teng is the director and producer of AMERICAN DOCTOR. She produced the Oscar-nominated documentary short ST. LOUIS SUPERMAN and executive produced the Emmy award-winning documentary feature PATRICE: THE MOVIE. She is a former creative executive for ABC/Disney, documentary commissioner for Al Jazeera English, IDA grants director, and New York Times journalist. She is the founder of Tiny Boxer Films, which produces non-fiction feature docs, and docu- and unscripted-series for the US and global majority markets.

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Activist Lens



Andrew H. Brown

Director

Kikuyu Land

Andrew H. Brown is an Emmy Award winning documentary filmmaker and cinematographer whose work centers on intimate, character driven stories shaped by land, memory, and power. He is the co director and cinematographer of Kikuyu Land, a feature documentary investigating historical land injustice in Kenya's tea highlands, and the director, cinematographer, producer, and editor of Between the Rains, which premiered at Tribeca, won Best Cinematography, and received an IDA nomination.



Iryna Dovhan

Activist

Traces

Iryna Dovhan is a Ukrainian volunteer, social activist, and survivor-advocate. Born in Yasynuvata, Donetsk Oblast, she survived captivity in eastern Ukraine in 2014 and became one of the first women to speak publicly about conflict-related sexual violence committed by Russian soldiers. Since 2019, she has led SEMA Ukraine, a survivor-led network supporting women and men across the country in seeking justice and recognition under international humanitarian law. Her story is featured in the documentary TRACES directed by Alisa Kovalenko and co-directed by Marysia Nikitiuk (Berlinale 2026).



Rebecka Ekeland

Activist

Let Our Mountains Live

Rebecka Ekeland is a 23 year old Sámi activist from Northern Norway. These last few years she has been working mostly with Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Sápmi and also for human rights in general. Some examples of this being the Fosen actions and the Repparfjord actions. She believes that by fighting for a better world, we can make it happen together.

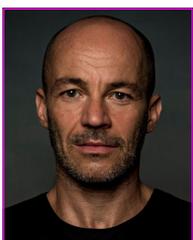


Mohammadreza Eyni

Director

Cutting Through Rocks

Oscar-nominated director, producer, and cinematographer whose work bridges boundaries and connects diverse global perspectives. He is a Sundance Grand Jury Award winner for Cutting Through Rocks, which has also won audience awards at IDFA, Dok Leipzig, Warsaw, Sydney Film Festival, New Zealand International Film Festival, and Visions du Réel, among others. A Directors Guild of America (DGA) nominee, Mohammadreza's cinematic approach has been praised as "uniquely propulsive," "practically magical" (Variety), and "delivering simple moments into cinematic poetry" (Hammer to Nail).



András Földes

Director

80 Angry Journalists

Award-winning documentary filmmaker and journalist with over 26 years of experience. His reporting focuses on migration, conflict zones, humanitarian and environmental issues. He has conducted extensive fieldwork in the Sahel, Sub-Saharan Africa, Afghanistan, and the Middle East. He has reported multiple times from Ukraine since the start of the Russian invasion. Alongside his journalistic work, he produces short documentaries and long-form video reports that have received national and international awards. 80 Angry Journalists is his latest feature-length documentary, exploring the erosion of media freedom and the resilience of independent journalism in Hungary.



Natalie Humphreys

(Impact) Producer

Molly Vs The Machines

Multi-award-winning producer, writer, executive producer and founder of Storyboard Studios. Natalie Humphreys is one of a small number of Producers in Scotland who deliver across the spectrum from independent documentary cinema to high rating television series to short form, including being a specialist in international co-production, often with multiple funders, sensitive access, complex compliance and talent collaborations.

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Leigh Iacobucci

Director

A Free Daughter of
Free Kyrgyzstan

Director and Producer Leigh Iacobucci has been working for over 20 years in television and documentary film production across the U.S. and Switzerland. Most recently, she has produced short films for various UN agencies and is based in Geneva.



Loránd Balázs Imre

(Impact) Producer

80 Angry Journalists

Berlin-based film producer and documentary filmmaker, and the founder of filmDOUGH Productions. He produces socially relevant international documentaries built on first-hand access to sensitive situations, often developed outside national funding systems to protect editorial independence. His work combines long-term observation with close attention to legal, financial, and festival strategy as part of the creative process. His films have been presented at festivals including CPH:DOX, IDFA, Sheffield Doc/Fest, Ji.hlava, and Sarajevo, DOCNYC, etc. with support from organizations such as Doc Society and Fritt Ord.



Andy Jones

(Impact) Producer

Molly Vs The Machines

Impact Producer / Strategist. Molly Vs THE MACHINES. Impact Bench strategist, DocSociety Climate Story Fund.



Sara Khaki

Director

Cutting Through Rocks

Oscar-nominated documentary director, producer, and editor dedicated to telling stories that advance gender equity. A Directors Guild of America (DGA) nominee, a Sundance Grand Jury Award winner, and Visions du Réel Audience Award winner for her feature documentary Cutting Through Rocks. The film has traveled to over 90 film festivals worldwide and has won audience awards at Dok Leipzig, Visions du Réel, and IDFA, among others. The film marks Sara's directorial debut, which also earned an Outstanding Achievement in Directing Award from NYWIFT at Woodstock. Sara holds a BFA from the University of Maryland and an MFA from the School of Visual Arts.



Alisa Kovalenko

Director

Traces

Ukrainian award-winning documentary director, based in Kyiv. Her films Alisa in Warland (IDFA 2015) and Home Games (Sheffield Doc/Fest 2018) won multiple awards. We Will Not Fade Away premiered at the Berlinale 2023. After Russia's invasion, she volunteered to fight on the front line before returning to filmmaking with a personal documentary My Dear Theo (CPH:DOX 2025). A former captive and survivor of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), Kovalenko is a member of SEMA Ukraine and an active human rights advocate. Her personal experience and human rights activism led her to work on the documentary film Traces.



Mike Morrisroe

(Impact) Producer

Kikuyu Land

Mike is President and Executive Producer of Trifilm, a creative production studio based in Kirkland, Washington. For more than three decades, he has led teams that turn complex ideas into human-centered stories across commercial, branded, and documentary work. Most recently, Mike served on the executive producing team for Between the Rains; the film received Tribeca's Best Documentary Feature and received an IDA Awards nomination for Best Cinematography, among other honors. His involvement reflects a deep commitment to stories that illuminate global challenges through a human lens.

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Patience Nitumwesiga

Director

The Woman Who Poked The Leopard

Her documentary debut *The Woman Who Poked The Leopard* premiered at Dok Leipzig and IDFA in 2025 and won two awards at Dok Leipzig. She is now developing her first fiction feature, *How To Forget Your Name*. Nitumwesiga's shorts have been featured at Locarno Film Festival, Berlinale, and festivals worldwide. She was born in the spirit-protected mountains of Buhweju and was raised by a family of teachers and farmers. Her love for stories drove her to the field of art and storytelling. She's an alumna of Makere University where she studied Drama, and Maisha Film Lab as well as Talents Durban.



Joseph Njenga

(Impact) Producer

Kikuyu Land

Film producer and community impact leader working at the intersection of land, memory, justice, and ethical storytelling. He is the producer of *Kikuyu Land* and the Founder & CEO of Better Tomorrow Today (BTT), a community-based organization using human relations as a catalyst for long-term social impact. Joseph's work is grounded in sustained relationships with communities whose stories have historically been marginalized or misrepresented. His approach emphasizes trust-building, consent, and long-term responsibility beyond the screen.



Stella Nyanzi

Activist

The Woman Who Poked The Leopard

A Ugandan medical anthropologist specialising in sexual and reproductive health. She is a social justice activist focused on women's rights, LGBTIQ+ rights, free expression and digital freedom. She is a dissident poet who was imprisoned for 18 months for a poem that criticised President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda. Currently, she is a fellow of the Philipp Schwartz Initiative based at the Institut für Medienwissenschaft at Ruhr Universität Bochum. She is exiled in Germany with her three children, together with whom she is the protagonists of the documentary *The Woman Who Poked the Leopard*.



Marc Silver

Director

Molly Vs The Machines

Marc Silver is currently releasing his 5th feature length documentary *Molly vs THE MACHINES*, the story of a heartbroken father's quest to uncover the truth behind his daughter's death-by-algorithm and his fightback against how the most powerful corporations of the modern age operate.



Siena Stapleton

(Impact) Producer

Molly Vs The Machines

Johannes Vang is a North Sámi director and producer from Nordreisa in Northern Norway. He creates films about Sámi and indigenous topics like culture, identity and society through both fact and fiction.



Johannes Vang

(Impact) Producer

Let Our Mountains Live

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Merry Varney

Activist

Molly Vs The Machines

I am a Solicitor and Partner in the Human Rights Department at Leigh Day. I have spent many years representing bereaved families in inquests, often involving deaths of children and young adults. I represented the family of Molly Russell in the inquest into Molly's death, which concluded in September 2022 and continue to represent other families who have lost a loved one through online harms.



Mia Vyzis

(Impact) Producer

Kikuyu Land

Executive Creative Director of Trifilm Studios, leading an expanding slate of cinematic, socially resonant nonfiction. She is Executive Producer on Kikuyu Land (Sundance 2026) and Between the Rains (Tribeca Grand Jury Prize).



Bea Wangondu

Director

Kikuyu Land

Award-winning producer, journalist, and founder of The Bea Company, a Kenya-based creative studio dedicated to high quality and culturally rich storytelling with a strong focus on women and girls. Her work spans documentaries, branded films, and community-centered narratives designed for global audiences. Most recently, Bea was a producer for The Last Rhinos: A New Hope (National Geographic). Her short Supastarz made its international premiere at the Durban International Film Festival in 2022 and was nominated at the Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF).

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Justice Frame



Jérôme Clément-Wilz

Director

This Is My Body

Jérôme Clément-Wilz's films have been selected and/or awarded in multiple festivals (Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Toronto, San Francisco...) and are part of the collections of the Cinémathèque Française. He has received the Grand Prix at Doxa, the Hong Kong Film Festival, Queer Lisboa, the Festival du Film de Demain, an Étoile de la SCAM... He studied at UC Berkeley, Sciences Po Paris and at La Fémis. He is a founding member of the Ateliers Wonder and a commissioner at the CNC. He was a 2024-2025 resident at the Villa Medici.



Lena Macdonald

Director

Betrayal

Canadian filmmaker whose work explores the human consequences of political power. Working across documentary and narrative she is drawn to stories where personal relationships unfold within systems of institutional violence. Her documentary *Betrayal* is the culmination of more than a decade of collaboration with Liberian whistleblower Cindor Reeves. Macdonald's practice is rooted in long-term research and close relationships with her subjects, approaching filmmaking as both inquiry and stewardship. She lives in Toronto where she continues to develop films about the fragile spaces where private lives intersect with history.



Cynthia Pinet

(Impact) Producer

Muganga

Born in Gabon and raised across Africa, Marie-Hélène Roux trained at the French Conservatoire and at the Stella Adler Academy in Los Angeles. She worked in American independent cinema before returning to France to make her directorial debut. She has written and directed several films with socially engaged themes that emphasize human resilience, including *A Deported Life*, *Shortage Of Children*, *Links of Life*. Her latest feature, *MUGANGA - The One Who Treats*, inspired by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr. Denis Mukwege, won multiple awards and became the highest-rated film in France.



Marie-Hélène Roux

Director

Muganga

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Dutch Focus



Bart van den Aardweg

Director

Voix Invisibles

Grew up surrounded by art, as a teenager, Bart discovered acting, but his love for storytelling soon shifted toward the moving image. His visual language is inspired by classical cinema, bringing a stylised sensibility to documentary filmmaking. Moving between cinematic composition and raw reality, his work feels almost hybrid in form. Drawn to the intensity of life, street culture, and the tension between good and evil, he explores social issues and the complexity of the human mind, with a particular focus on psychological struggle. Through intimate, filmic storytelling, he searches for warmth and vulnerability in places where you least expect it.



Muriel d'Ansembourg

Director

Truly Naked

Dutch writer/director, studied Screenwriting and earned a Masters in Directing (Distinction) from the London Film School. She received mentorship from director Paweł Pawlikowski, and was noted as "One to Watch" by Moviescope. Her work is rooted in delicate performances, pushing the envelope on themes that spark conversation, letting audiences experience something unfiltered, complex and unexpectedly sensitive. She works with both seasoned and first-time actors. Her short films garnered 36 awards across 200+ festivals worldwide. Her debut feature TRULY NAKED premiered at Berlinale 2026 sparking a bidding war amongst distributors.



Shahan Harutyunyan

Protagonist

The Winning Generation

Armenian political figure and the Chairman of the nationalist Shant Alliance party, advocating value-based politics, national sovereignty, and an independent Armenian state. He comes from a family closely connected to Armenia's struggle for national freedom and independence. Across several generations, members of his family have collectively endured nearly four decades of imprisonment and exile during both the Soviet and post-Soviet periods for their political beliefs and activism. He advocates a political vision centered on strengthening Armenia's sovereignty, and building a new political culture grounded in the principles of freedom, equality, and fraternity.



Roxanne Herder

Director

Gedwongen Geloften

Dutch journalist and feminist filmmaker, 31 years old.



Marco De Stefanis

Director

The Winning Generation



Eva Strating

Director

Gedwongen Geloften

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Chris Vijn

(Impact) Producer

The Winning
Generation

Impact producer at BIND Film. As a researcher and journalist, she spent years working on tv programs such as NOVA, Goudzoekers, and Tegenlicht. Through Bureau Stennis, the independent platform she founded that creates impactful programs - using film, photography, installations, and other cultural expressions to spark conversation and dialogue on themes like democracy, inequality, and technology - she won the 2024 &Award for diversity and inclusion. Bureau Stennis also co-produces YUSU!, a talent development project for young artists in Noord-Holland.



Frank Wever

(Impact) Producer

Human rights professional with over 16 years of experience in police accountability, public oversight, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation. She currently serves as Senior Expert and Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist at the Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Warsaw. Ofelya also contributed to documentary filmmaking as Translator, Interpreter, and Executive Producer of The Winning Generation, a project she pitched to director Marco De Stefanis to raise awareness in Europe about the experiences of young people in Armenia and the challenges faced by political prisoners.



Ofelya Zalyan

(Impact) Producer

The Winning
Generation

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Shorts Competition



Anaël Dang

Director

Triangle

Writer-director, director of photography, editor, and photographer, Anaël Dang explores intimacy as a space of tension between the individual and society. His cinema investigates the unspoken, liberates speech, and transforms the first-person narrative into a dialogue with “the self as another”.



Lujain Jo

Director

Rahhala:
Hayya ala Hayya

Lujain Jo is a filmmaker and performance artist exploring nature, power dynamics, and cosmic wonder. Her work spans journalism, films, and collaborations with musicians and dancers, always guided by a poetic, meditative visual style.

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Jury Members



Joelle Alexis

Grand Jury
Documentary

I am drawn to storytelling as a way to reveal hidden layers of our world and give voice to those often unheard. Based in Brussels, I've had the chance to collaborate with filmmakers across borders and genres. Recent projects include *Money & Shame*, *Marching in the Dark*, *Kamay*, and *Cahiers Noirs*. Each film has shaped how I listen, interpret, and build meaning. I also work as a mentor in workshops and offer consultations via Rough Cut Service. I'm a member of both the European and American Film Academies – but what inspires me most is the collaborative process and the shared search for a story's true form.



Luuk Bouwman

Shorts Competition

Filmmaker and musician from the Netherlands. He studied at the St. Joost Academy of Art in Breda and graduated with a sci-fi documentary about the computer art of Remko Scha, professor in artificial intelligence and a film about the criminal history of his birth-town Oss. He has made eight feature documentaries to date, five of which had theatrical releases (*It Is True But Not Here*, *All Against All*, *Gerlach*, *The Propagandist*, *The Desert of the Real*). His documentaries are driven by extensive research and long-term engagement with his subjects, revealing processes and mechanisms.



Sabrina Brandt

Justice Frame

Sabrina Brandt is the Director of Human Rights Watch Netherlands.



Mandy Chang

Grand Jury Fiction

A successful filmmaker, Producer, Curator & Story Consultant. She won awards for her own films like *The Mona Lisa Curse*. As head of global documentary strand BBC Storyville, Mandy commissioned and co-produced over a hundred acclaimed documentary features and series, the last being *One in a Million*, which premiered at Sundance2026. She was Global Head of Documentaries at Fremantle. Her work has premiered at Sundance for the past 8 years. Mandy works independently and runs *Undeniable Productions*, creating a diverse slate of feature docs. She sits on many juries and boards and is a seasoned speaker on documentary issues.



Rohan Berry Crickmar

Dutch Focus

A development producer, documentary producer, festival & industry events producer and S&D specialist, based in Ireland. He has produced or co-produced the documentary features *LOST FOR WORDS* and *REALITY IS NOT ENOUGH*, *COMMUNITY THEATRE* and *THE TOMORROW THAT'LL COME*. He has also worked on television projects with Canal+ and Warner Bros and commercial documentaries with Christian Dior, among others. Currently he is consulting on the debut documentary feature *OUR IMAGINED ISLANDS* of Croatian filmmaker Ana Grgić. He works with the following festivals: Dublin IFF and Lightdox International Sales.



Wim Geerts

Activist Lens

Wim Geerts is Human Rights Ambassador at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prior to this role, he served, among other positions, as Ambassador to China, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Defence, Director-General for Political Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador to Canada.

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Jess Gormley

Shorts Competition

Jess Gormley has worked in fiction and non-fiction films as a producer and executive producer for 15 years. She has worked at the Guardian since 2014; specialising in journalistic documentaries for TV, cinema and online, with projects screening at the Houses of Parliament, US Congress and the UN, as well as key international film festivals. Projects of note include Oscar winner 'Colette' (2021) and BAFTA winner 'The Black Cop' (2022)



Tommy Gulliksen

Grand Jury
Documentary

Norwegian documentary film maker. Educated in Arts and Journalist from University of Oslo. Known for films like "Terror Island", "War of Art" and "Facing War".



Ondřej Kamenický

Dutch Focus

Director of One World International Human Rights Film Festival, held in Prague and other 60 cities and towns in the Czech Republic. One World shows documentaries and fiction films on human rights, social, political, environmental and media issues. One World distributes films, assists to new festivals (e.g. in Nicaragua, Hong Kong, Costa Rica, Armenia), focuses on people with disabilities, is an active member of Human Rights Film Network and Green Film Network, International Coalition for Filmmakers at Risk and organizes also One World in Brussels.



Jolein Laarman

Grand Jury Fiction

Worked as a producer and production designer before turning to screenwriting. She has since written numerous scripts for film and television. The films she has worked on have been selected for international film festivals and have received many international awards. Alongside her writing, Laarman works as a script coach at the Netherlands Film Academy, participates in national and international script labs, and works as a script consultant. She is currently developing several projects, including a costume drama exploring the restrictive corset of social expectations imposed on women, and a feature film about the takeover and fall of Kabul in 2021.



Jana Riemann

Shorts Competition

German-Ukrainian film programmer and curator with an academic background in film studies. She is part of the Berlinale Shorts selection committee, Head of the Short Film section at the Ukrainian Film Festival Berlin, and a preselector for Docudays UA and the Kyiv International Short Film Festival.



Khalid Shamis

Grand Jury Fiction

Documentary director, producer and editor with a film-making practice over 20 years. Khalid's practice is strongly dedicated to the pedagogy of independent filmmaking and story construction in Africa, teaching and consulting in and outside film institutions and organised frameworks. Khalid is on the executive board of the South African Guild of Editors, a doctoral fellow at the Centre for Humanities Research (CHR) at the University of the Western Cape and is founder and director of Rough Cut Lab Africa RCLA, a support programme for independent African films at the rough cut stage.

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Alina Simone

Activist Lens

Award-winning filmmaker and journalist whose work has appeared in the New York Times, The Atlantic, NPR, The Guardian Long Read and Amazon Originals, among many others. She is a 2025 Guggenheim Fellow in film and recipient of the 2025 US Academy Gold Fellowship. Her debut documentary Black Snow won more than a dozen awards and honors around the world, including: the FACT Award for best investigative documentary (CPH:DOX); the Sustainable Future Award (Sydney International Film Festival); Best Documentary Feature at Am-docs 2025, and the 2025 Cinema Eye Spotlight Award.



Julie Trébault

Dutch Focus

Executive Director of ARC – Artists at Risk Connection, a global organization dedicated to safeguarding artistic freedom and supporting artists and cultural workers under threat worldwide. Julie is a frequent speaker at major international art and human rights convenings, including the Geneva International Film Festival & Forum on Human Rights, Documenta, and WOMEX. Her commentary on artistic freedom and cultural rights has appeared in the Guardian, New York Times, Libération, The Art Newspaper, Hyperallergic, and the Associated Press, among others.



Jenni Wolfson

Activist Lens

A fierce human rights advocate and a trailblazer in the art of storytelling for social change. As the CEO of Chicken & Egg Films, her strategic vision has evolved the organization into a powerhouse of support for women and gender-expansive documentary filmmakers. A member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and BAFTA, an Aspen Ideas Fellow, and a Dial Fellow of Emerson Collective, Jenni has been honored with the Women's Media Center Lifetime Achievement Award and DOC NYC's Leading Light Award.



Ilyas Yourish

Justice Frame

Ilyas Yourish founded Kamay Film in Afghanistan in 2018 to explore identity, trauma, history, and memory through cinema. After the Taliban's return in 2021, he was forced into exile and is now based in Belgium. His debut documentary Kamay premiered at Visions du Réel 2024, won multiple awards, and screened at over 30 international festivals. Ilyas now leads the Brussels-based company CONGOO, focused on bold, author-driven cinema. He has co-produced for The Guardian and is developing several feature documentaries supported by leading international film funds and exhibited in European and North American markets.



Debra Zimmerman

Grand Jury
Documentary

Executive Director of Women Make Movies, a NY non-profit social enterprise that has been supporting women filmmakers with distribution and production assistance of their independent films since 1972. Zimmerman is in great demand around the world as a speaker, panelist and mentor. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including NY Women in Film and Television's Changemaker Award and Hot Doc's Doc Mogul Award,. She is is a member of the Documentary Branch of the Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts and Sciences.



Robert Tomić Zuber

Justice Frame

Journalist, director and a producer with more than twenty years of experience in the Croatian press, 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), Million Dollar Life (2017). He is a freelancer, owner of production house TOROlabor, and lecturer at Zagreb's faculty of Vern. He is founder and director of RAFF - Rab Film Festival in Croatia.

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Take on Earth/Freedom/Home/Love/Power



James Dawson

Director

Derek vs Derek

James comes from London, England. He has a background working in UK television as an award-winning documentary/factual director. He's now moved into producing and directing indie feature documentaries. His first feature was started in 2018. 'Organ Stops: Saving the King of Instruments' is all about the crisis facing provincial pipe organs in Britain. Shown at film and music festivals in US and UK, it was bought and screened by BBC Christmas Eve 2023. Production on his latest film, Derek vs Derek, started in 2022 and has just been finished in January 2026.



Julia Hammett-Jamart

(Impact) Producer

Inside Gaza

Managing Director of Catalyst Films and a pioneer of the French impact production sector. Recent projects include award-winning documentaries Zinder and Inside Gaza. Julia has produced/directed fiction and non-fiction films, was Manager of Governance & Strategic Planning at Screen Australia, and holds a PhD in Social Sciences, Media & Communication. She leads impact producing workshops at Venice Biennale, EURODOC, New Images, Futura Cinema, Netherlands Film Academy, KATUU residency for female filmmakers (Togo) et al. In 2025/26 she inaugurated France's first university course in impact producing at the Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle.



Hélène Lam Trong

Director

Inside Gaza

French documentary film maker and journalist. After a debut in journalism at Radio France, she dedicated herself to documentary films that explore the aftermaths of conflicts or personal trauma. She won the 2023 Albert Londres award for the Ghost Children of ISIS.



Yann Ollivier

(Impact) Producer

Inside Gaza

French-German film author journalist and producer. After 20 years as a journalist and international correspondent in Paris, Berlin, Brussels and Strasbourg for The Associated Press and Agence France-Presse, Yann has launched in 2021 the documentary production branch of AFP Group, FACTSTORY DOCS, producing factual documentaries that go beyond the headlines, with a strong emphasis on current affairs, geopolitics, environment, history and society.



Maadja Ooms

Director

Heilig Schuim

Misha Wessel is a documentary director and journalist, working for several European broadcasters. Her films have been broadcasted in over 40 countries, have been awarded with a Banff World Media Rockie Award, a Prix Italia as well as the South African national arts and culture award and have been nominated for an Emmy. Her focus is on investigative stories, human interest and in-depth interviews. Recent credits include: 'The hunt for Gaddafi's billions (BBC Storyville, VPRO, 2021), 'Free at Last' (SABC, ZDF/ARTE, VPRO, 2025), 'The storm of Balkenende' (NTR, 2025) and 'Sacred Beer' (VPRO, 2026)



Misha Wessel

Director

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Take on Earth/Freedom/Home/Love/Power



Ton van Zantvoort

Director

Klantreis

Acclaimed director, cinematographer and editor, whose films have screened at numerous prestigious A- film festivals. His work has been theatrically released in several countries, broadcast all over the world (VPRO, KRO-NCRV, ARTE/ZDF, Al Jazeera, VRT) and has won more than 50 awards for best director, best cinematographer and best editor.



Dikla Zeidler

Director

Alles moet beter

Documentary filmmaker & journalist, based in Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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Take on Film & Impact



Syed Jazib Ali

Participant Take on Film and Impact

Syed Jazib Ali is a Pahari-Kashmiri documentarian, producer, and writer from the Indigenous Pahari tribe of the Pir Panjal mountains. He is the founder of Amsterdam-based Mudland Studio, where his work bridges cinema, impact, and advocacy. Drawing on lived experience from borderlands and conflict-affected regions, his practice explores land, identity, and power, amplifying Indigenous and underrepresented voices through international collaborations at the intersection of culture, politics, and climate justice.



Nina Blažin

Director

Nina Blažin graduated from film academy AGRFT in Ljubljana and works as a director and scriptwriter on different projects, mostly focusing on observational documentaries.



Rebecca Blöcher

Director

German director and animation artist. Her works are created by combining stop motion with 2D animation. In doing so, she develops a distinctive visual language that oscillates between poetry, absurdity and social criticism. Her films have won numerous international awards and have been shown at renowned festivals worldwide. Her Animated Documentary „Mama Micra“ premiered at IDFA and got a Special Mention, it was also nominated for IDA-Awards, Cinema Eye Honors and the German Short Film Award. Rebecca studied illustration in Hamburg and developed an affinity for animated drawing and narrative experimentation.



Jean-Denis Borel

Director

Swiss filmmaker, also trained as a mindfulness meditation teacher. I love finding ways to bridge filmmaking and contemplative work, both by making films that foster self-awareness and by bringing mindfulness training to media professionals.



Kajetan Falkowski

Director

A director and cinematographer and graduate of the Film Image Production program at the Warsaw Film School. Member of the Polish Filmmakers Association. He is the director of photography of Tiger Soup, awarded the Golden Hobby-Horse at the Krakow Film Festival and the Audience Award at the 2024 Warsaw Film Festival. For his cinematography in My Brother the Fisherman, he received the award for Best Cinematography at the 46th Polish Film Festival in Gdynia. The film also won awards for Best Short Film and Best Actor. He is currently working on his feature-length documentary debut Slavic Native Faith.



Laurentiu Garofeanu

(Impact) Producer

Romanian-British filmmaker and producer with over 20 years of experience in international documentary and factual storytelling. His work spans Europe and North America and has been broadcast on major platforms including Discovery, Channel 4, National Geographic, Amazon Prime. His debut feature documentary Lost and Found, has received international recognition, including the Balkan Watchers Grand Prize (Sofia Film Festival) and the CineLink Impact Award at Sarajevo. Garofeanu's films blend intimate character journeys with systemic inquiry and social relevance.

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Ana Gurdiş

Director

Documentary filmmaker and video artist. My work includes creative documentary, film diaries, and video poems, exploring identity, memory, and belonging through intimate storytelling and personal archives. I have experience working with film festivals and cultural projects. In 2024, I returned to Moldova and founded Frame by Frame Association, through which I develop film-education and cultural initiatives for young people and communities. In 2025, Frame by Frame became the official organizer of Animest Chişinău, bringing the international animation festival back to the city.



Tetiana Hanzha

Director

Ukrainian documentary film director based in Kyiv, Ukraine. She studied literature at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and documentary filmmaking at different workshops in Ukraine (IndieLab), Poland (Young Europe), and Germany (Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg). She wrote and made films for the Commons Journal. In 2024 her debut film Bouquinistes premiered at Molodist (Kyiv). Filmography Bouquinistes, 50' (TVP Dokument, Poland, prod. Mirosław Dembinski), 2023 Unknown veterans: how Ukrainians closed the sky over Vietnam, 28', Commons Journal, 2024



Nolwenn Hervé

Director

Daughter of a female pediatrician, Nolwenn studied film history at the International Film Academy in Rio and directing and journalism in Paris. She has lived between France and Latin America for ten years and worked for France's main TV channels: Canal+, Arte, France 2... She has filmed in Venezuela, Colombia and Brazil and is interested in Human and Women rights issues, conservatism and spirituality. Shot and recorded single-handedly by the director in Venezuela, THE CORD is her debut creative documentary.



Ola Hunnes

(Impact) Producer

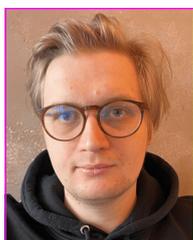
Brings a hands-on documentary filmmaking experience to Integral Film, seasoned by his impactful years at the Norwegian Film Institute from 2005 to 2023. During his time there, Ola played a key role in nurturing documentaries that captured both the hearts of local audiences and the attention of the global stage. Ola's early career involved direct involvement in producing and distributing documentaries, marking a period of rich creative output. Now at Integral Film, Ola's deep understanding of the documentary process and his commitment to excellence in storytelling enhance our collective mission to deliver films that matter.



Ryan Kane

(Impact) Producer

Film distribution strategist & impact producer with 10+ years of experience, including 6 Oscar-nominated theatrical campaigns. A former filmmaker and global traveler, he champions diverse stories that inspire change. With expertise in theatrical, non-theatrical, and streaming, he connects films to audiences, amplifies underrepresented voices, and drives meaningful impact.



Mateusz Kordyl

Other (Film)
Professional

Graduate of Krzysztof Kieślowski Film School in Katowice Poland. Founder of a Polish film production company Lost at Sea.

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Leslie Knott

(Impact) Producer

Award winning documentary filmmaker who has spent over two decades working in conflict and post-conflict regions. Her work spans Afghanistan and Iraq to Indigenous communities in Canada, combining investigative rigour with emotional depth and long-term collaboration. Committed to ethical filmmaking, Leslie mentors emerging storytellers and supports local crews to build sustainable creative infrastructures. She has taught documentary production at the University of British Columbia and led media training initiatives in complex environments. She curates and programmes for On the Walls and is on the screening committee for the Camden International Film Festival.



Dennis Overeem

Other (Film)
Professional

Co-founder of the Buddy Film Foundation that helps refugee filmmakers in The Netherlands to find work and help build a new network in the Dutch film industry. Dennis is a writer, director and actor. He starred in several drama- and comedy series. In 2009 he went to Los Angeles to train acting with Ivana Chubbuck. When he returned to the Netherlands he set his mind on being a writer and a director. Since the summer of 2010 he wrote and directed four comedy series and a couple of short films and commercials.



**Nefise
Özkal-Lorentzen**

Director

Turkish-Norwegian writer, filmmaker, and professor at the Faculty of Film, TV and Games at Inland Norway University. For more than two decades, she has written, produced, and directed award-winning documentaries exploring Islam, gender, and human rights. Her acclaimed trilogy—Gender Me (2008), A Balloon for Allah (2011), and Manislam (2014)—amplifies marginalized voices and challenges dominant narratives. Her feature documentary Seyran Ates: Sex, Revolution and Islam (2021) examines reform movements within Islam and the ongoing struggle for equality and freedom of expression. Her films have screened at major international festivals.



Melanie Pyne

Participant Take on
Film and Impact

Melanie Pyne is a multidisciplinary artist and researcher working at the intersection of human rights, environmental advocacy, and media for social transformation.



Estelle Robin You

(Impact) Producer

Has (co)produced many international documentary and fiction productions featured in international festivals (Cannes, Berlinale, Locarno, IDFA, CPH:DOX) incl. Architecton (V. Kossakovsky), A Thousand Fires (S. Taji Farouky), My name is Charity (F. Devigne) and the CPH:DOX awarded THE LAST SHELTER, one of her several productions focused on migration stories. Her last production, THE CORD (N. Hervé) premieres in 2026 in the CPH:DOX main competition.



Giullienne Sanchez

(Impact) Producer

Indigenous Filipino filmmaker, producer, and community advocate dedicated to storytelling that uplifts Indigenous Peoples, regional voices, and socially relevant themes.

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Vivian Schröder

(Impact) Producer

Impact Producer and field builder who co-founded The Good Media Network. She has worked on impact campaigns for films such as Total Trust and Not Just Celsius, which amplified the voices of World Youth for Climate Justice and Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change. Vivian has organised and co-hosted several key events, including a Climate Story Lab in Berlin (2020) and a Climate Justice Story Lab in The Hague (May 2024). She currently leads The Good Media Lab & Pitch, Germany's first film and impact programme, which runs alongside Doxumentale, the International Documentary and Media Festival Berlin. Additionally, Vivian is a member of GIPA.



Sanjna Selva

Participant Take on Film and Impact

Filmmaker, producer, and impact strategist working at the intersection of justice-oriented documentary film and transnational political movements. Her work bridges creative vision with audience-centered impact strategy. She currently designs and implements distribution and engagement campaigns for independent documentary projects focused on housing justice, U.S.–Cuba relations, public health, and international solidarity movements. Previously, she has worked on impact campaigns for projects on PBS, Al Jazeera, and in collaboration with the New York Public Library.



Iryna Shostak

(Impact) Producer

Ukrainian impact producer and communications strategist working at the intersection of documentary film, human rights advocacy, and social change. She holds a BA in Sociology and an MA in Public Relations Management from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. For over 9 years, Iryna has collaborated with NGOs and international organizations, leading advocacy and impact campaigns on gender equality, war-related trauma, inclusion, and access to justice. She is a member of the Ukrainian Non-Fiction Film Association and focuses on translating powerful stories into tangible impact through partnerships, fundraising, and policy-oriented advocacy.



Irena Taskovski

Tutor

Producer, distributor and mentor with over 25 years of international documentary experience. She is the founder of Taskovski Films and creator of #DocsConnect – Film Academy for Conscious Creative Leaders. Her work bridges development, co-production, sales, distribution and impact strategy, helping local stories travel internationally without losing authenticity. She has designed and led programmes across Europe, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East in partnership with leading festivals, film funds and markets including Sheffield Doc/Fest, Sunny Side of the Docs, Movies that Matter and Jihlava IDFF.



Assia Wildt

Participant Take on Film and Impact

Strategy and impact leader working at the intersection of business transformation and social change. She serves as Senior Director of Strategy, Business Impact & Execution at inDrive, where she leads cross-functional strategic initiatives and the Alternative project. Her work focuses on embedding impact into core business models rather than treating it as peripheral CSR. She has led initiatives across Latin America, MENA and Central Asia in financial inclusion, women's economic empowerment, youth development and community partnerships. She is particularly interested in how storytelling can reshape narratives about equity, access and systemic change.



Batuhan Yalaz

Director

Composer and filmmaker who has worked on award-winning short films, and has composed music for TV series, contemporary dance performances and feature films. He received production training from Palme d'Or-winning producer Zeynep Atakan. In 2025, he was selected for the #DocsConnect Conscious Filmmaking Training program. Preparing to take a major step in his directing career with his upcoming feature length documentary, Yalaz aims to further develop both his directorial and artistic identity. Drawing on his experience in both music and cinema, he continues to create innovative and boundary pushing projects.

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Leonor Zúniga

(Impact) Producer

Nicaraguan director and impact producer working at the intersection of cinema, human rights, and social change. Her work includes a trilogy of short films—*Exiled* (2019), *Madelaine* (2022), and *While You Return* (upcoming world premiere)—portraying women who resist authoritarianism in Nicaragua through intimate and emotional narratives shaped by exile and hope. She holds an MFA in Documentary Film from Stanford University and an MA in Cinematography from Goldsmiths, University of London. Leonor is co-founder of Juli Films, an impact-driven film production company, where she produced *Patrol* (2023), winner of over 20 international awards and currently available on ARTE France and HBO Latin America. Her work has screened at festivals such as Hot Docs, Big Sky, Mountainfilm, and One World. She was recently selected for the EURODOCS program with *Pantasma*.

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Take on Displaced Filmmakers



Yigit Aksakoglu

Other (Film)
Professional

Wannabe producer. Working with and for refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented people.



Rasim Aslan

Other (Film)
Professional



**Yelyzaveta
Danilkovych**

Other (Film)
Professional

Ukrainian filmmaker based in Amsterdam, whose work centres around directing and producing for film while extending into creative affiliation with all things visual capturing the poetic effervescence of women. While completing her bachelor programme at University of Amsterdam majoring in Media and Culture with minor in Political Science she has directed two films - The Motion and The Box. While currently producing two short narrative films - Florence Likes to Die and Stay With The Trouble - her next film The Fragmentation has received a development award from the Roman Coppola backed platform DCP.



Jessica Daugherty

(Impact) Producer

Award winning producer and director of documentary and experimental film, podcasts, and live productions. She is co-founder of the production house Shrine13 in Portland, Oregon. She is a member and served on the board of the Documentary Producer's Alliance 2022-2024. A member of Women in Film PDX, and an alumni of Take on Film and Impact Lab 2022, Rotterdam Lab 2022, International Emerging Film Talent Association, and the New York Film and Video Council. Her feature documentaries include Fracking the System: Colorado's Oil and Gas Wars (2025), Thank You for Supporting the Arts (2021), and Billy Joel: A Matter of Trust - The Bridge to Russia (2013).



Naw Eh Hser Wah

Other (Film)
Professional

I'm JC, a self-taught illustrator from Myanmar with a background in communications. I tell stories about people, community, and social issues through art and creativity.



Klaas Feij

Other (Film)
Professional

An academic lecturer, documentary researcher and film festival professional.

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Take on Displaced Filmmakers



Serhii Kastornykh

Director

Ukrainian filmmaker, screenwriter, and producer. A member of the European Film Academy and the Ukrainian Film Academy. Feature film «How's Katya?» (writer) has two awards at the Locarno International Film Festival in 2022 and director's debut feature film «The Mousetrap» was selected to the Main Competition and had a World Premiere at the POFF: Tallinn Black Nights International Film Festival in November 2024. Other full-length films, shorts, and documentaries were in worldwide distribution in cinemas, VODs, and International Film Festivals.



Zhanna Ivanna Laka

Editor

Ivanna (producer/editor) is a Ukrainian-born film editor, motion graphic designer and film producer, with more than 15 years experience in film and video production, post-production, and animation. Now based in the Netherlands, she continues to explore stories through film and animation.



Lianne Llewellyn

Other (Film)
Professional

Director of the IEFTF Foundation in Greece, where she drives strategy and funding for emerging filmmakers worldwide. She's also Production Manager at Mojo Entertainment, scouting film and TV with edge and social relevance. Formerly Head of Development at IEFTA in Monaco, she brings a distribution background and a sharp focus on cinema that challenges, connects, and cuts through. In 2025, she served on the Activist Lens jury at the Movies That Matter Festival in The Hague.



Darya Nakhost

Researcher

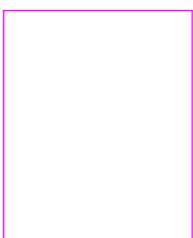
Iranian-Dutch researcher, writer, and editor with a Master's degree in Film and Contemporary Audiovisual Media from the University of Groningen. Her work focuses on narrative structure, cinematic perspective, and visual aesthetics, informed by her thesis on perception, ethics, and the aesthetics of vulnerability in the representation of female youth in coming-of-age cinema. Drawing on philosophy and sociology, she examines how narratives construct meaning and how characters and environments are shaped within broader social frameworks, approaching storytelling as both a formal and ethical structure grounded in analytical rigor.



Marco Orsini

Other (Film)
Professional

Writer, director, producer, and mentor dedicated to using audiovisual storytelling to educate and inspire. He co-founded the International Emerging Talent Film Association (IEFTA) and later established the International Emerging Film Talent Fund (IEFTF) in Greece to support filmmakers from emerging regions and the Global South. Through his company Mojo Entertainment, Marco has financed and supported a number of arthouse and director-driven films. He currently has three films on the international festival and theatrical circuit: God's Work by Michael James, Laundry by Zamo Mkhwanazi, and Pour the Water Before You Leave by Daniella Repas.



**Oleksandr
Parkhomenko**

Director

Director, producer, screenwriter. Ukraine, Kyiv | currently live in Namur, Belgium. Graduated from St. Petersburg State University of Cinema and Television. Member of the "National Union of Cinematographers of Ukraine". Member of the Ukrainian Film Academy. Director of over 20 series broadcast on national television.

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Daniela Repas

Director

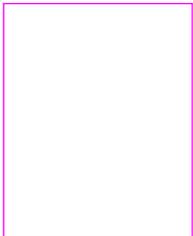
Bosnian born visual artist based in Portland, Oregon. Her work ranges from drawing, animation to installation and film. She has shown her work globally as an artist, a curator and as one of the founding members of DripDrop collective. Recipient of the prestigious Dorothy Lemelson Scholarship and an alumna of the Pacific Northwest College of Art. Her debut as a director of the award winning short film Mnemonics, steered her work to the intersection of film and art. In 2019 she received the Princess Grace Award for Dogs of Home, in 2020 she became an IEFTA selected emerging filmmaker. In 2023, she was awarded the Oregon Media Arts Fellowship Award.



Paul Robinson

Other (Film)
Professional

Chief Creative Officer for NEFT Brands and the founder of NEFTI competition, a short film competition that helps filmmakers in emerging economies and under-represented regions. Paul helps filmmakers' voices to be heard outside of their cities, countries, or regions and puts them on a global stage.



GreCIA Rojas

Other (Film)
Professional

Honduran producer and founder of Lenca Films, dedicated to documentary and fiction projects that explore human stories and social realities. Based in the Netherlands, she focuses on building bridges between Latin America and Europe, supporting meaningful storytelling across cultures. GreCIA combines hands-on production, festival coordination, and project management with a collaborative approach, creating work that connects audiences and amplifies diverse voices with empathy and authenticity.



Alka Sadat

Director

Award-winning Afghan documentary filmmaker whose work amplifies the voices of women and victims of injustice. She grew up under Taliban rule, a time when educating girls was forbidden and even small acts of learning were life-threatening. Her mother secretly taught her daughters, and her sister Roya Sadat became a trailblazer in Afghan cinema. Both inspired Alka to turn filmmaking into an act of resistance. She began her career as a costume designer, but quickly realized the camera was a more powerful tool for truth. Her first documentary First Number (2006) won the Afghan Peace Prize. Half Value Life (2008) documented the dangers faced by female activists in Afghanistan.



Baran Sedighian

(Impact) Producer

Baran Sedighian (she/her) is a producer and animation filmmaker with a deep passion for storytelling, originally from Iran. As a fellow of the New Producer Academy, she is committed to helping artists bring their visions to life. Currently, she works as a producer and animation line producer.

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Monzer Agha

Other (Film)
Professional

I'm a Director of Photography and documentary filmmaker. My work focuses on capturing authentic human moments and cinematic environments. I have experience filming nature, urban life, and human-centered stories, and I manage the full production process from shooting to visual execution.



Matt Alesevich

Director

Matt Alesevich is a filmmaker and journalist from New York currently based in Amsterdam developing international documentary projects focused on human rights, systems of power and investigative storytelling. His most recent short documentary, *Where the Light Enters You*, recent completed an Oscar-qualifying theatrical run and screened at festivals worldwide and the United Nations.



Tamara Babun Zovko

(Impact) Producer

Tamara was born in Zagreb in 1985. She graduated from studies in film, television, and theatre production at the Academy of Dramatic Arts in 2009. After a decade of experience in producing films, videos, and theatre, in 2017 she started her own company—Wolfgang & Dolly LLC. She took part in the Eurimages gender equality ad hoc working group in Strasbourg, has consulted for the Romedia Foundation in Budapest, and has worked on various legislative agendas as a member of the Managing Board and Supervisory Board of the Croatian Producers' Association. Zovko is a member of European Film Academy.



Myriam Bejaoui

Other (Film)
Professional

Buddy Film Foundation

Curator, impact producer, PhD student, & instructor in Cinema Studies at NYU, as well as Inclusion Programs & Partnerships Manager at EURODOC. His research examines the circulation of memory-centered films addressing the assassination of activists & the use of docs as legal evidence. He contributes to impact campaigns and curated programs across the Caribbean, North/South America & Europe. In 2022, he became a UN Fellow for People of African Descent & has consulted for the UN Anti-Racial Discrimination Section in Geneva & Peru. He was selected for Berlinale Talents 2026 as a programmer & impact producer.



Leonard Cortana

Other (Film)
Professional



Fleur van Dissel

Other (Film)
Professional

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Michael Goldshtein

Czech Delegation



Matouš Horcicka

Czech Delegation

Event and Project Manager at the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy of the Czech NGO People in Need. He studied Middle Eastern Studies with a focus on Iran at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague, Czechia. He has been with People in Need since 2023. The Centre for Human Rights and Democracy ranks among PIN's oldest departments and is devoted to protecting civil activists and supporting organisations and movements that seek to respect human rights, civil liberties, and democratic processes in their countries.



Nadiia Ivanova

Czech Delegation

Prague-based specialist on human rights. Since 2014, Ms. Ivanova has been working in People in Need, Central Eastern Europe's largest NGO, at the Center for Human Rights and Democracy. She first coordinated projects in Transnistrian region of Moldova and from 2017, she led a team for capacity-building projects (Transnistria, Ukraine, Russia, Armenia). Since 2019, she has been heading the entire East European program, becoming Deputy Director of the Center for Human Rights and Democracy in 2021 and Director in 2022.



Juliette Jansen

Programme Manager

Mediamakers
Media Archive



Tuki Jencquel

(Impact) Producer

Documentary filmmaker and producer from Caracas based in Berlin. He studied film at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and holds an MBA from IESA in Venezuela. His feature documentaries *Está Todo Bien* (2018) and *Jackie the Wolf* (2023) premiered at festivals including IDFA, Sheffield Doc/Fest and Hot Docs, and were released theatrically and on streaming platforms including Apple TV and Amazon Prime. He has worked as a cinematographer with Ai Weiwei and has directed and produced documentaries for Deutsche Welle. He is a member of AG DOK and an alumnus of Eurodoc.



Damir Markovina

Director

Damir was born in 1973 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. He graduated in Film and TV Directing (Documentary Film) from the Academy of Dramatic Art in Zagreb in 2022. He is a film director, producer, actor and writer. His medium-length documentary film *WAIT FOR ME* won a.o. Oktavijan – the Croatian national FIPRESCI award for the best Croatian documentary film. His second medium-length documentary film *DESERTERS* won the best Central and Eastern European medium-length documentary. Currently he is finishing his first feature length film *WE SHALL LIVE TOGETHER*.

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Zippy Nyaruri

Director

Filmmaker and an upcoming producer recognised for her project “Truck Mama” which had it’s World premiere at IDFA 2025 and International premiere in competition at the Red Sea Film Festival. Her other notable works include “Mama Emerre” and “Zebu and the Photo Fish,” screened at esteemed film festivals like Durban, Aspen, FESPACO and Toronto (TIFF). With a Master’s degree in Film and Photography Studies, she has also attended Maisha Film Lab, IDFA Academy, Berlinale and Durban Talent Campus, CIRCLE Women Doc Accelerator and EsoDoc.



Insa Onken

Director

Has been working as a documentary filmmaker focusing on social and political issues since 2003. She graduated at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne (KHM) 2011 with a feature film. 2009 she was a participant in the Berlinale Talent Campus. With her feature-length documentary film RICH BROTHER, about a Cameroonian who came to Germany as a refugee and became a professional boxer, she won several awards, including the Golden Dove at DOK Leipzig and the German Camera Award for Editing.



Karoline Pelikan

(Impact) Producer

8+ years working in Communications and Visual Media in the documentary and cultural sector. Expert in storytelling and media for impact; a trained impact producer knowledgeable in content-making. Also an expert in creating impactful campaigns that amplify the message of the content, reaching new audiences and fostering a dialogue on social and environmental issues. Worked as Senior Impact Manager at WaterBear Network, leading the impact strategy, research, tactics, and implementation of thematic campaigns. Currently freelancing and leading a campaign against plastics in Fast Fashion for Plastic Soup Foundation.



Chiara Pizzi

(Impact) Producer

Mariia is a film director, creative producer and film industry professional. Mariia studied at Karpenko-Karyi Kyiv National University of Theatre, Cinema & Television in Kyiv and the Netherlands Film Academy in Amsterdam. Mariia’s films were screened at DokLeipzig, IDFA, Sarajevo FF, Sheffield DocFest, Chicago IFF, Krakow FF, HotDocs, Leuven ISFF, Go Short ISFF and more. She is a member of the European Film Academy and a Senior Consultant at the Documentary Association of Europe.



Mariia Ponomarova

Other (Film) Professional

Dewi is a producer and actress and founder of Buddy Film Foundation, Productions and Casting.



Dewi Reijs

(Impact) Producer

Buddy Film Foundation

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Julian Ross

Other (Film)
Professional

Eye Filmmuseum

Julian Ross is head of film programming & distribution at Eye Filmmuseum, the Netherlands.



Zoë Smit

Other (Film)
Professional

SEE NL

Department assistant at SEE NL (Eye Filmmuseum).



Ümit Uludag

(Impact) Producer

German producer mainly for feature length documentaries. Since 2012 he has been involved in numerous national & int. productions with his own debut as a director for *ultrAslan*. Since November 2017 partner of CORSO Film- and Television Production. Ümit's films include successful projects such as *LEFT BEHIND CHILDREN*, *MEMORY WARS*, *EINZELTÄTER 1-3*, *TATA*, *ACASA*, *THE WALL OF SHADOWS*, *TAMING THE GARDEN* etc.



Jordi Wijnalda

Programme
Coordinator

Coalition for
Filmmakers at Risk

Filmmaker, teacher and coordinator of the International Coalition for Filmmakers at Risk (ICFR). Founded by the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, International Film Festival Rotterdam and the European Film Academy, the International Coalition for Filmmakers at Risk's mission is to advocate for and to act in solidarity with filmmakers at severe and acute risk. The Coalition acts in cases of persecution or threats to the personal safety of these filmmakers and will defend their right to continue their work, by mobilising the international film community. contact@icfr.international



Gamila Ylstra

Other (Film)
Professional

NAPA

Dutch independent executive in the film and media sector. She represents NAPA in the several boards of Collective Management Organisations and is a board-member of funds, such as Cultural Fund Audiovisual Producers and the Abraham Tuschinski Fund.