

DOK Leipzig
51st International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film
27 October to 2 November 2008

Leipzig,03/18/2008

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Newsletter # 01:

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+++ DOK Leipzig seeks employee in charge of finances
+++ Breathless – One-of-a-kind German-Czech documentary film project
+++ Paris, Damascus, Brussels and more - DOK Leipzig across the world

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DOK Leipzig is looking for a competent person to enlarge our team. If you like films and numbers, are experienced in accounting, budgetary control and funding applications, speak English well and would like to work in a small, dynamic team, please apply to DOK Leipzig until 9 April 2008. More information is available at: www.dok-leipzig.de | Tel. + 49 341 308 640

+++ Breathless – One-of-a-kind German-Czech documentary film project

In co-operation with ZIPP - German-Czech Cultural Encounters, an initiative of the Federal Cultural Foundation, and the Prague Institute of Documentary Film, DOK Leipzig is launching „Breathless“, a call for unusual documentary film projects on the subject of acceleration - a subject which calls for precise observation of everyday life in one’s own country. “Imagine that you have only 30 days to live. What would be important to you then? The massive increase of information and communication, new technologies and the globalisation of our economy have dramatically changed the dynamics of our everyday life over the past few decades...”

As a festival for artistic, but also critical and non-conformist documentaries, DOK Leipzig – together with its partners and supporters – is looking for exceptional author-driven documentaries. “As a festival we observe that it is getting more and more difficult to finance and realise high-quality documentary films and find a suitable slot for them in a highly formatised television landscape,” says festival director Claas Danielsen about the origins of this project idea. “With this initiative we support films that are courageous and important, that challenge our viewing habits. But we also want to show what a rich variety of documentary films both countries have to offer and how exciting and fruitful the artistic discussion across the borders is.”

Interested filmmakers from Germany and the Czech Republic can apply until 7 April. Up to six projects will be selected, developed within the framework of two workshops, supervised by internationally experienced mentors, and will receive basic production funding. More information: www.dok-leipzig.de

Initiators: DOK Leipzig, IDF – Institute of Documentary Film (Prague), ZIPP German-Czech Cultural Encounters
This project takes place within the framework of ZIPP German-Czech Cultural Encounters, an initiative of the Federal Cultural Foundation // Supporters: Int'l Documentary Film Festival

Jihlava, German-Czech Fund for the Future, Ministry of Culture/ Czech Republic
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+++ Paris, Damascus, Brussels and more - DOK Leipzig on Tour

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of DOK Leipzig, the Paris Goethe Institute presented 15 works from the extensive festival retrospective "Spurensuche" (Tracing the Past) from 17 to 20 March. The films, including classics like "Obyknovennyi Fašizm" (Ordinary Fascism) by Mihail Romm or "Winter Adé" (After Winter Comes Spring) by Helke Misselwitz, were grouped by themes and compiled into eight programmes. They are dedicated to political events that have shaped (festival) history and also include DEFA documentaries that were forbidden during GDR times. In this sense, this condensed selection of films which have become symbols of their time and age also reflects an intense investigation into the eventful history of the festival since its foundation in 1955. Themes include "The 1960s: Paris-Leipzig-Berlin", "Fascism", "Vietnam" or "Perestroika".

The programmes were curated by Dr. Grit Lemke who was also responsible for the international part of our anniversary retrospective. "Sensational" was the verdict of Die Presse in Vienna in autumn – now France, too, gets to see the best of "Spurensuche". Dr. Grit Lemke, festival director Claas Danielsen and filmmakers of the retrospective presented the programme in Paris.

Please find the complete programme at:
<http://www.goethe.de/ins/fr/par/prj/ver/de3048319.htm>

DOK Leipzig highlights are presented not only in France:
On 18 and 19 February, the newly-founded Syrian documentary film festival „DOXBOX“ screened a section of „Best of DOK Leipzig 2007“ in Damascus.

Animation film curator Jacqueline Zeitz presented a selection of the best German animated films from the 2007 festival programme at the „Anima“ festival in Brussels in early February, following a reprise screening at the „Babylon“ cinema in Berlin in January.

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