

DOK Leipzig's programme for 2020 is complete

International competitions and "Camera Lucida" section with world premieres by Ada Ushpiz, Shelly Silver, Boris Gerrets and Thuniska Pansittivorakul | Live film talks on all full-length films in the International Competition

PRESS RELEASE

8 October 2020



DOK Leipzig 2020 | Children (director: Ada Ushpiz)

The films in the International Competitions have been finalised. The same goes for the new "Camera Lucida" section with unconventional films that are not in competition. This completes the programme of DOK Leipzig.

This year the festival will show a total of 150 films and XR works, including 43 world premieres, 11 international, 7 European and 36 German premieres.

A number of renowned filmmakers have entries in the International Competition Long Documentary and Animated Film, such as American artist Shelly Silver with the world premiere of her new work, "Girls/Museum". Filmed at Leipzig's fine arts museum, the Museum der bildenden Künste (MdbK), young girls aged seven to nineteen engage with works of art, most of which were produced by men. DOK Leipzig is also celebrating the world premiere of "Children" by Israeli director Ada Ushpiz. Her film asks why Palestinian minors participate in the Intifada against Israel. Ushpiz follows children and their families and witnesses tremendous pressure. Congolese director Dieudo Hamadi is represented with "Downstream to Kinshasa". His film starts off in Kisangani and tells the story of people disabled by war who are struggling to receive compensation. Young directors are participating in the competitions with productions from Argentina, Russia and Lithuania.

The United States is one thematic focus of the films, which use various approaches to provide cinematic commentary on the state of the country. The subject of abortion is also dealt with in a controversial and expressive way in the Argentinian film "Vicenta", which has its world premiere at DOK Leipzig.

63rd International Leipzig
Festival for Documentary and
Animated Film

26 October to 1 November

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“The international competitions of DOK Leipzig focus on the fruitful encounter between young people who are eager to experiment and those who have remained true to the curiosity and creativity they started out with,” says festival director Christoph Terhechte. “For the first time, therefore, the international jury in the competition for long films will award not only a Golden Dove, but also a Silver Dove, which is explicitly intended for the best film by an up-and-coming director.”

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In the International Competition Short Film, the film “E14” offers an idiosyncratic examination of the lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic. “William Jefferson Wilderness” is another US film, one that deals with the legacy of former President Bill Clinton in an original way.

The newly established “Camera Lucida” section will present five unconventional films not in competition. The multiple award-winning Dutch director Boris Gerrets, who passed away in spring 2020, created the work “Lamentations of Judas”, which will have its world premiere at DOK Leipzig. For this cinematic essay, he travelled to South Africa, to an abandoned asbestos mining town on the edge of the Kalahari Desert. In his latest film, “Avalon”, Thuniska Pansittivorakul, whose films have been shown at the Berlinale, in Rotterdam and elsewhere, assembles explicitly sexual film footage of himself and his lover, who is twenty years his junior, into a narrative about desire and passion.

“Our new Camera Lucida programme brings together captivating documentaries that challenge the conventions of cinema and confront reality in a particularly lucid way,” explains Christoph Terhechte.

The films in the International Competition Long Film will have their premiere in a live stream in addition to cinema screenings. Live film talks will also be held in cinemas and online. From the day after the premiere, the films will be available online for 14 days.

The other films in the DOK Leipzig programme will also be accompanied by talks and introductions, which will be available online. These include pre-recorded film talks as well as introductions by members of the festival’s selection committee and the “Director’s Short Cuts”, short cinematic messages from the directors, which they were free to structure. “In this way, we strive to allow filmmakers to participate in the festival even if they cannot come to Leipzig this year, and to convey as much of the festival atmosphere as possible to our audience online as well,” says Terhechte.

A total of 150 films and XR works will be shown to the public in nine different venues in Leipzig. DOK Leipzig will again offer free admission to some of the films in the East Wing (Osthalle) of Leipzig’s main railway station. Furthermore, almost all of the films in this year’s programme will be available online throughout Germany for two weeks.

The Golden Dove in the International Competition Long Documentary and Animated Film in combination with €10,000 is sponsored by MDR. The Silver Dove in the International Competition Long Documentary and Animated Film in combination with €6,000 will for the first time be sponsored by 3sat.

You’ll find a list of all the films in the international competitions and the Camera Lucida programme in the attachment.

You can find the complete programme with further details on all films and their screening dates at the festival [here](#).

Images of DOK Leipzig and logos can be found [here](#).

The 63rd edition of DOK Leipzig will be held as a hybrid festival this year. In addition to cinema screenings for the Leipzig audience, a large part of the programme will be shown online throughout Germany. Film talks, podcasts and the industry events of DOK Industry will be available online. Accredited guests are able to view festival films online worldwide.

Would you like to be accredited for DOK Leipzig 2020?

Please, register with a new account on [myDOK](#) by 18 October and use [this form](#) to apply for your online accreditation.

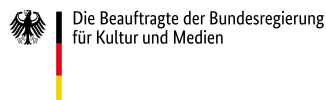
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International Competition Long Documentary and Animated Film



The Annotated Field Guide of Ulysses S. Grant

Jim Finn

USA 2020 | World premiere

Ulysses S. Grant was a general in the the American Civil War, which raged from 1861 to 1865. Grant rose to become a war icon and the 18th president of the United States was. Director Jim Finn uses board games to reconstruct the battles and documents a divided nation full of rebellious factions.



Camagroga

Alfonso Amador

Spain 2019 | German premiere

Old-style farming families are an endangered species. Antonio Ramon and his daughter Inma run a farm of just under four hectares north of Valencia – hardly a profitable size nowadays. And yet they apply a surfeit of care and traditional knowledge to their products.



Children

(Original title: Yeladim)

Ada Ushpiz

Israel 2020 | World premiere

There are children, too, among the Palestinian insurgents. For some time now, the Israeli side has observed minors who take an active part in an Intifada, especially with knives. They are harshly dealt with: prison, hardly any judiciary support.



Considering the Ends

(Original title: Nous la mangerons, c'est la moindre des choses)

Elsa Maury

Belgium, France 2020 | German premiere

Each sheep of shepherdess Nathalie's flock has its own name, each has a biography. Nathalie considers herself responsible not only for their lives, but also for their death.



Downstream to Kinshasa

(Original title: En route pour le milliard)

Dieudo Hamadi

DR Congo, France, Belgium 2020 | European premiere

After the Six-Day War battle between Ugandan and Rwandan troops in Kisangani the International Court of Justice sentenced Uganda to pay one billion U.S. dollars to the civilian victims who have been waiting in vain for this since then.

International Competition Long Documentary and Animated Film



Girls/Museum

Shelly Silver

Germany 2020 | World premiere

Girls in an exhibition: visitors aged between seven and nineteen contemplate individual works in the Leipzig Museum of Fine Arts and offer spontaneous interpretations of facial expressions, body images and gestures in the artworks, most of which come from male hands.



Joy

(Original title: Dzhoy)

Daria Slyusarenko

Russia 2020 | World premiere

The Russian travelling circus "Joy" promises joy to the outside world. Behind the scenes the tone is rather harsh, unless there's a party going on: life is dominated by jealousies, small and bigger cruelties.



The Poets Visit Juana Bignozzi

(Original title: Las poetas visitan a Juana Bignozzi)

Laura Citarella, Mercedes Halfon

Argentina 2019 | German premiere

When the poet Juana Bignozzi dies in 2015, the intellectual property rights to her work pass to the young author Mercedes Halfon. But Mercedes also inherits a refrigerator and a lot of junk that must be cleared out of the orphaned apartment in Buenos Aires.



Roman's Childhood

(Original title: Romano vaikystė)

Linas Mikuta

Lithuania 2020 | World premiere

Romanas, his parents and their little dog live in a cramped place in the Lithuanian harbour town of Klaipėda. Linas Mikuta takes a look at a loving family structure where dreams are interpreted, worries are shared and news negotiated over cigarettes and cake.



Their Algeria

(Original title: Leur Algérie)

Lina Soualem

Algeria, France, Switzerland, Qatar 2020 | German premiere

Lina Soualem is interested in the relationship between her grandparents, who, as the last remaining Algerians in Thiers, France, look back on an eventful past. An investigation all the way back to their native village which leaves room for ambiguous emotions.

International Competition Long Documentary and Animated Film



Truth or Consequences

Hannah Jayanti

USA 2020 | German premiere

Forty kilometres outside the small town of Truth or Consequences in New Mexico lies “Spaceport America”, the first private space mission launch centre. People there have been dreaming of tourism in space for the past decade. Hannah Jayanti observes the people of the town who live in the shadow of such great ideas.



Vicenta

Darío Doria

Argentina 2020 | World premiere

A legal and medical scandal which in 2011 led to the condemnation of the Argentinean state before the UN Human Rights Commission: the mentally and physically handicapped 16-year-old girl Laura had been raped by her uncle in 2006. But a legal abortion was opposed by lawyers and doctors.

International Competition Short Documentary and Animated Film



Ain't No Time for Women

Sarra El Abed

Canada 2020 | World premiere

In the run-up to the presidential elections in Tunisia the hairdressing salon “Saïda” turns into a political arena where the women discuss about the candidates. Their clever and witty statements reflect a young democracy with all its rifts and fault lines.



Alice's Four Stories

Myriam Jacob-Allard

Canada 2019 | German premiere

The director dubs the sound recordings of her grandmother, in which the old lady recaps her encounter with a tornado as a child. The found footage of feature and disaster films, weather reports and landscape images support the story.



Bad Mood

(Original title: Malumore)

Loris Giuseppe Nese

Italy 2020 | World premiere

The narrating voice's mother cares for senior citizens at home for five euros an hour. At their bedsides the ticking clock counts down the working day and falters frighteningly when death comes. The dying are mother's livelihood.

International Competition Short Documentary and Animated Film



Deep in Time's Crevasse

(Original title: Au fond de la crevasse des temps)

Romulus Balazs

France 2020 | World premiere

How can we visualise the past without perceiving it too much as a historical fact? This film uses a clever combination of archival material and oral history to bring memories of a transgenerative trauma and the associated pain to the surface.



E14

Peiman Zekavat

UK 2020 | European premiere

What did the Corona lockdown look like from a window in the residential towers of posh East London in the spring of 2020? The film shows serious shifts in the everyday coordinate system of a privileged urban population at an immediate level.



The End of Kings

(Original title: La fin des rois)

Rémi Brachet

France 2020 | International premiere

The riots that were to spread across the whole of France in 2005 began in Clichy-sous-Bois outside the gates of Paris. What has happened since then? A school class in the Banlieue rehearsing a play discover the subversive power of appropriation.



Es Gibt

(International title: There Is)

Lena Ditte Nissen

Germany, Greece 2020 | German premiere

An encounter with Margaret Raspé on a Greek island, where the artist and filmmaker spends part of the year. Considered to be a pioneer of feminist German film, "I know where I am" is how she sums up her feeling on the island.



Flying Low

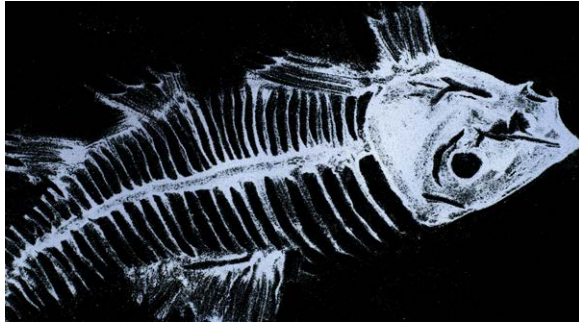
(Original title: Volando bajo)

Diego Piñeros García, Elkin Calderón Guevara

Columbia 2020 | German premiere

In the global North, the DC-3 is regarded as a vintage plane and tourist attraction. In Colombia, however, it is still used as an airliner and serves as the only link to the outside world for remote villages in the Amazon region – the story of a former "Raisin Bomber".

International Competition Short Documentary and Animated Film



Fulesee

Christina Benz

Schweiz 2019 | German premiere

With darkness comes fear, and with fear the light disappears. Sunken memories arise during a dive. The power of the vortices and expressive Swiss-German tone serve to tint and shape this captivatingly graphical sand animation.



I'm Here

(Original title: Jestem tutaj)

Julia Orlik

Poland 2020 | German premiere

An old woman in her final days, who is bedridden and too weak to speak to her husband and daughter, is the centre of attention within her family. But her selfhood fades away amid being cared for by her husband and daughter, who have problems of their own.



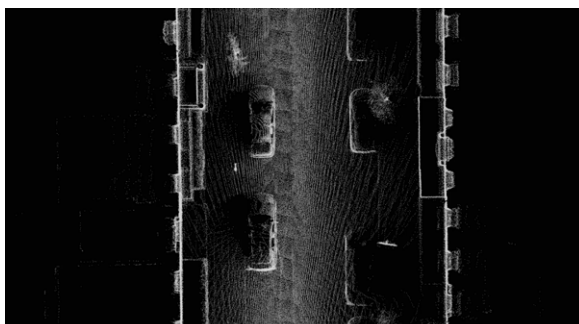
In Ictu Oculi

(Original title: Begiak hesteko artean)

Jorge Moneo Quintana

Spain 2020 | World premiere

The six-decade transformation of a block of houses, shown by means of artfully featured archival shots, highlights the beauty and sadness of human-made decay. In the blink of an eye 66 years pass by and a savings bank replaces a church.



London Knowledge

Max Colson

UK 2020 | World premiere

No cab driver in London is able to omit "The Knowledge". It requires the memorisation of 320 routes, an achievement that takes years, but has been made into a joke by the robot cars of the future. A flesh-and-blood cabby "interacts with people from all walks of



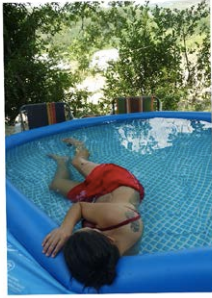
Makaria

Giulia Attanasio

Italy Spain 2020 | World premiere

Enza, in her early twenties, is a singer and seeker studying the rhythms of life in Salento. She breathes music, collects old folksongs and thus connects the people, the present and the past. She uses singing as a means to fight alienation.

International Competition Short Documentary and Animated Film



MON CŒUR DANS UN SAC
DE LA BUEE
DE L'EAU DANS LE FOND
JE NAGE DEDANS
T'ME NOIE

Play Me, I'm Yours

Julia Palmieri Mattison

Belgium 2020 | World premiere

A film like a family reunion – it is not always clear who is doing the desiring or deceiving. A film about the big questions of life, love, family, relationships, death and good food. Seemingly random conglomeration of private photos, video recordings, notes, thoughts, sounds and texts.



Sogni al campo

Magda Guidi, Mara Cerri

France, Italy 2020 | German premiere

In search of the cat Leo a boy roams through sunny fields. Drifting without a care and digging up treasures in the mysterious darkness of the barn are the last throes of childhood before it ends. The crayon colours of this summer are overlaid with the whispering and rustling of shelter.



Tiger and Ox

Seunghee Kim

South Korea 2019 | German premiere

The director's mother was helped by the characteristics of her animal zodiac sign: fierce as a tiger, she earned respect. This hand-drawn animated documentary provides subtle insights into the patriarchal structures of South Korean society and discusses the roles assigned to women there.



To Feather, to Wither

Hanna Hovitie

Belgium, Finland, Hungary, Portugal 2020 | World premiere

A young taxidermist is fascinated by ravens, paying considerate attention to their dead bodies. Her work on the birds is simultaneously a careful study of anatomical connections and a kind of service toward the resurrection of this mythical creature.



Trouble Sleep

Alain Kassanda

France, Nigeria 2020 | German premiere

A dynamic portrait of everyday life in Ibadan. In this rhythmic portrait of life in the Nigerian metropolis the urban cinematic poetry is by no means at odds with the profundity with which it captures themes like lack of perspective, globalisation and corruption.

International Competition Short Documentary and Animated Film



Water Silhouettes

(Original title: Siluetas de agua)

Violeta Paus

Chile 2020 | World premiere

Chile is the only country in the world in which water management has been almost completely privatised. Three women stand for the profound damages: water shortage, above-ground poisoning by industry and underground contamination via landfills.



William Jefferson Wilderness

Ben Young

UK, USA 2020 | World premiere

In his experimental short film, Ben Young portrays the figure of the former U.S. president Bill Clinton as a foil for the questionable political developments, the beginnings of a globalised world and a society marked by collective amnesia.



Zwischen mir und der Welt / Aufräumen

Michaela Schwentner

Austria 2020 | International premiere

Michaela Schwentner looks into the phenomenon of autism spectrum disorder (also called Asperger syndrome) in a refreshingly understanding and perceptive way. The search for a supposedly correct “order of things” triggers the compulsive element in many viewers.



Avalon

(Original title: Dan sak sit)

Thunskas Pansittivorakul

Thailand 2020 | World premiere

Looking for the truth in the past: Thunskas Pansittivorakul confronts the explicitly sexual film footage once produced by his twenty years younger lover. A painful look back that raises existential questions and is immediately affecting.



Everything That Is Forgotten in an Instant

(Original title: Todo lo que se olvida en un instante)

Richard Shpuntoff

Argentina 2020 | German premiere

Between three generations who grew up with three different languages, between New York and Buenos Aires, this intelligent and multi-layered film essay goes in search of identity. An essay on cultural identities, on cities and languages.



Lamentations of Judas

(Original title: Les lamentations de Judas)

Boris Gerrets

Netherlands, France 2020 | World premiere

A group of old men in an abandoned asbestos mining town on the edge of the Kalahari Desert resist evacuation. Once Angolan mercenaries of the Apartheid regime, they now become actors in the story of Judas Iscariot.



To the Moon

Tadhg O'Sullivan

Ireland 2020 | German premiere

How come the moon is able to pour such equally familiar and mysterious light on the earth it shines on? And why have the countless lunar addicts among international filmmakers been so willingly seduced by this magic power? An ode to one of cinema's central motifs.



Zaho Zay

Maéva Ranaivojaona, Georg Tiller

Austria, France, Madagascar | German premiere

"Zaho Zay!", it's me. This is the daily salute of the prisoners in a crowded Madagascan prison whose guard looks for her lost father in each new prisoner. Her projections and fantasies let the mystical, murderous father figure roam the island in simultaneously dreamlike and nightmarish sequences.