

MEET BDC DISCOVERIES DELEGATION

AT DOK LEIPZIG 2025



**BALKAN
DOCUMENTARY
CENTER**



WANT TO JOIN THE BALKAN FAMILY?
SUBMIT YOUR PROJECT TO BDC DISCOVERS 2026
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 2026

www.bdcwebsite.com; email@bdcwebsite.com
F: [BalkanDocumentaryCenter](#)
IG: [balkandocucenter](#)

Co-funded by the
European Union



Creative
Europe
MEDIA

A LAND THAT TIME FORGOT
Germany/Moldova



An exclusive glimpse into one of the regions overshadowed by Russia that continue to exist after the fall of the Soviet Union – Pridnestrovie, or Transnistria. The film crew follows two tourist agencies in this media-locked place, telling a humorous yet thought-provoking story about their struggle to turn one of the most overlooked areas in the world into a holiday hotspot. The oldest agency attempts to modernize its business model, while the newest one goes all in, aiming to become a full-fledged tourist franchise. An almost impossible mission, caught between multiple crises and daily life stuck in a time capsule for over 35 years. Nation-building in a nutshell, caught between East and West.



DENIS PAVLOVIC, Director
Denis Pavlovic, German-Croatian director and producer from Hamburg. Someone who never takes the easy way and therefore became a documentary film director. Alumnus of the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg, member of AG DOK, Documentary Association of Europe, talent of Doc Around Europe, Robert Bosch Foundation scholarship recipient, alumnus of Documentary Campus, BDC Discoveries and EAVE Change. But all this is not enough for him. So far, Denis has produced and directed over 15 documentaries and feature films of various lengths, where he is questioning the strange beauty of societies worldwide - but always with a wink. His projects have also been selected for some wonderful workshops and pitchings, including: CPH:FORUM, DOK.fest München Marketplace, Max Ophüls Prize, PITCH_IT@Berlinale.

denis@glassfrogfilms.de

JULIA MEYER-PAVLOVIC, Producer
Julia Meyer-Pavlovic and Denis Pavlovic are a passionate producer duo who have been carving out their path in the film world over the past few years. After more than a decade of self-producing their own projects, the time finally felt right to turn this dedication into a full-fledged profession. Along the way, through festivals, workshop programs, and pitching forums, they have built a strong network and kept growing with every new step. Today, they are developing a handful of projects, mostly debut films, where they see themselves right now, always curious, highly motivated, and hungry to become reliable partners in the documentary world, opening hearts and minds with their cinematic visions.

THE 13TH FISH
Montenegro



The 13th Fish is a creative documentary about daughters-in-law and their complex place in Montenegrin society. In a culture where a son brings status and a daughter is “a stranger’s supper,” women move through roles—sister, bride, wife, mother—each with rising or falling value. Through anonymous testimonies and black-and-white visuals, the film tells the stories of women who speak, but still fear being seen. Structured as a visual mosaic, it blends art and sociology to explore patriarchy’s hold. The 13th Fish is the collective, anonymous scream of Montenegrin daughters.



SARA STIJOVIĆ, Director
Sara Stijović is a Montenegrin film director with an MA from KinoEyes – European Film Masters and a BA from the Faculty of Drama (C Arts Ce(n)je. She was the first Montenegrin selected for La Fabrique Cinéma (Cannes’73), and is a Royal Dutch Foundation awardee, Sarajevo Talents alumna, and Al Jazeera Ambassador. Her current projects include the mini-series Pray for Us (Cinelink Drama 2024 - HAVC Award; The Balkan Way - Grand Prix), hybrid feature The 13th Fish, and short Sourdough, supported by the Film Centre of Montenegro. Sourdough is co-produced with An(talent (Croa(a) and Tramal Films (Slovenia). Her earlier films screened at BAFTA- and Oscar- qualifying festivals. She also programs for Herceg Novi and Džada Film Festivals. Her first bilingual book on Vlatko Gilić is forthcoming.



MARIJA VLAHOVIĆ, Producer
Marija Vlahović is a Montenegrin film producer. She co-produced Stork and O9er, and was executive producer of It All Ends Here. Her credits include After the Winter, Sisterhood, Ajvar, and May Labour Day. She also worked on international productions such as Golden Job, Hotels.com, and Ferrari World Abu Dhabi.

tinysofilms@gmail.com

ALL WE HAVE IS US
Chile, Germany



All We Have Is Us connects two distant lands wounded by the same threat: Chile’s Atacama Desert and Serbia’s Jadar Valley, where communities rise against Rio Tinto, the world’s second-largest mining company. The film follows Leyla, an Aymara journalist who stopped exploration in her hometown, facing the paradox of a green energy transition that threatens Indigenous culture. In Serbia, Bojana, a young actress, fights to protect her mother’s village, weaving local resistance into global networks. She meets Ramón, a defender of Andean wetlands, in an international gathering and together they share strategies, fears, and hopes that collide with geopolitics. Against Rio Tinto’s polished promises, the film is an intimate portrait of memory, belonging, and the courage to resist.



ALINE JUÁREZ, Director
Aline Juárez, born in Mexico City and based in Berlin for over a decade, is a filmmaker and cinematographer whose work centers on migrant and diasporic communities, weaving stories across Latin America and Europe. She has directed and collaborated on projects in Germany, Spain, Portugal, Serbia, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico, often exploring socio-environmental struggles through a feminist and decolonial lens. Selected works include Hybrid Zone (Director, 2024, Babelsberg Konrad Wolf), Frutos de Resistencia (Director & Cinematographer, 2023, Interbrigadas e.V.), and Wären Sie mal besser zu Hause geblieben (Director, 2020).

alinejaak@gmail.com

RESISTING RESIDENTS
Greece



Between Athens’ Supreme Court and Police Headquarters, an unusual community of 500 people from 30 countries lives by the principles of direct democracy. “Prosfigika” is Europe’s largest anti-fascist residential squat, facing constant eviction threats amid rising conservatism and repression. Resisting Residents immerses us in their everyday life: collective assemblies, bustling communal kitchens, and relentless struggles against intimidation and violence. Fear turns into courage and solidarity. The film offers a vivid portrait of how resistance, cooperation, and resilience can create an alternative world—one where shared bonds unite rather than divide.



NIKOS PILOS, Director
Nikos Pilos is an Athens-based, award-winning photojournalist and filmmaker celebrated for documenting war, social crises, migration, and human resilience across 60+ countries since 1988. His work appears in The New York Times, TIME, Stern, Der Spiegel, The Financial Times, and other top publications, and has been exhibited widely across Europe and the U.S. He created the cross-media project THE REFUGE, published Kiev Under Siege, and is developing Seven Years of Night, a multilingual online archive on Greece’s dictatorship. His films and photo stories, recognized by POY, Px3, MIFA, and World Press Photo, blend cinematic visual power with socially urgent storytelling, capturing the human impact of conflict, displacement, and political upheaval on global communities.

pilosnikos@gmail.com



DAFNI KALAFATI, Producer
Dafni Kalafati, MA in Art Therapy, is an Athens-based documentary filmmaker and producer with work spanning five continents. Her debut, Oneironauts (2009), won Best Experimental Documentary at Toronto HotDocs. As head of documentaries at FILMIKI S.A., she co-develops international projects, including Maya and Samar (Greece-Canada), Super Paradise (Greece-Germany), and the in-progress What the Land Forgot (Greece-USA). Her films combine artistic innovation with socially engaged storytelling, reflecting her deep commitment to global documentary cinema.

kalafati@filmiki.gr

LIFE ON PAUSE
Bulgaria



In February 2023, the Bulgarian court rescinds the right of transgender people to change their name and gender marker on their personal documents and delivers a devastating blow to the already embattled community. Gaby destroys her dead-named ID and launches a hunger strike on the steps of Sofia Courthouse captured by international media, but soon she’s confronted with losing her job and her parental rights. A court refuses Eda’s case despite her impassioned plea, yet she perseveres with her legal battle supported by her chosen family and top human rights lawyers. Caught up in his own legal fight, Valentin strives to protect his Roma family from small-town conservative mores and to marry his fiancée. All three eagerly await a 2026 decision of the European Court that might give new hope.



ANTHONY HRISTOV, Director
Anthony Hristov holds a BA in Film Production from the Arts University Bournemouth (2020) and an MA in Directing for the Screen from the National Academy of Theatre and Film in Bulgaria (2023). Throughout his academic tenure, he directed four short fiction films: “Robbing Monet,” “Trojan,” “A Little Story,” and “Love and Other Fictions.” Following his graduation, he won the “Stoyan Kambarev” annual film competition with the short narrative film “Flea”. In 2024 he directed a 30-minute short fiction narrative involving the use of 2D animation entitled “Cats Have No Roots”, which screened at the Academy Awards qualifying international short film festival In the Palace among others. “Life on Pause” is Anthony’s directorial debut in documentary filmmaking.

anthony.hristov@gmail.com



SVETLA TURNIN, Producer
Svetla Turnin is the Co-founder and Executive Director of Cinema Politica, an international exhibition and distribution network for political documentaries. She’s a film producer working with under-represented emerging artists, and in particular women, queer and trans filmmakers in Canada and in Bulgaria. For more than 20 years Svetla consulted and programmed for international festivals, markets and film projects around the world. She is a co-editor of “Screening Truth to Power: A Reader on Documentary Activism” and contributor to academic and industry publications. Since 2014 she’s been curating the documentary competition at Sofia International Film Festival and is a graduate of EURODOC 2018. Currently, she sits on the board of The Breach, a Canadian independent media outlet. (766 characters with spaces)

director@documentarymedia.org



JUAN FRANCISCO DONOSO, Producer
Juan Donoso is a filmmaker and producer working at the intersection of cinema and social movements, specializing in projects on land defenders, water rights, and energy justice. He combines filmmaking with impact strategy, public engagement, and community outreach for socio-environmental initiatives. His work has been featured in Deutsche Welle, Süddeutsche Zeitung, El País España, and CNN Chile. Key projects include ESoDoc, Balkan Discoveries, the School of Transnational Activism, and People Powered Climate Justice, highlighting his commitment to stories that drive social change.

jfdonoso@posteo.net

CONNECTING WITH MIT (W.T.)

Greece



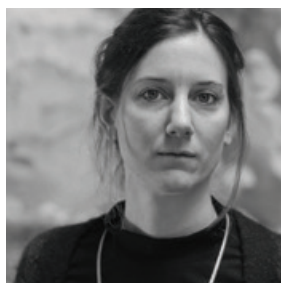
Mit is racing against time to shape his legacy through the ARNode: an interdisciplinary hub for artistic research in his seafaring family's ancestral home in Galaxidi, Delphi. One of the world's first media artists, closely connected to the international art-science-technology movement and MIT's Center for Advanced Visual Studies, Mit Mitropoulos has spent six decades experimenting across video, performance, mail art, sculpture, environmental and conceptual art – consistently exploring communication in human settlements, both with and without technology. Capturing Mit's unique, inventive ways of handling everyday life in Galaxidi, Athens and Brussels, and blending rare archival material from the 1960s to the present, this hybrid film unfolds as an intergenerational dialogue between Mit and the filmmaker, his niece. At once humorous, fragile, and urgent, this intimate portrait captures a visionary whose lifelong exploration of networks and communication finds new relevance in the ethical dilemmas of today's digital and AI-driven world.



DIMITRA KOUZI, Director

Dimitra Kouzi is a filmmaker, producer, writer, and audience strategist drawn to cross-cultural stories on identity and belonging. Trained in Media and Communications at LMU Munich, photography, and storytelling, she moves fluidly between image, sound, and text. After more than a decade in journalism (ERT, ZDF, DW, ARTE), in 2015 she founded Kouzi Productions, focusing on creative documentary and cultural projects. Her debut feature *PASSAGE TO EUROPE* won five awards worldwide. A EURODOC alumna, she teaches and consults on impact and audience engagement with partners including Jihlava Emerging Producers, Docu Rough Cut Boutique, LMU, and Benaki Museum. Her work has received support from institutions across Europe, among them the Greek Film Centre, ERT, Goethe Institut, Schwarz Foundation, and Rosa Luxemburg.

dimitra@kouziproductions.com



VIKI ZIOGA, Producer

Viki Zioga is a producer of audiovisual and cultural projects and co-founder of PHENO. She holds an MA in Education in Arts (Piet Zwart Institut, NL) and an MSc in Audiovisual Production and Education (A.U.Th., GR). She is currently producing two feature documentaries: *IN THE SHADOW OF LAZIKA* (dir. Nikos Kostopoulos, in production) and *CONNECTING WITH MIT* (dir. Dimitra Kouzi, in development), as well as art exhibitions and participatory programs. At the core of her work is the creation of projects that actively engage audiences while contributing meaningfully to the broader cultural and sociopolitical discourse.

viki@pheno.gr

BRATSTVO

Italy



In Bulgaria there's a spiritual movement deeply rooted in the country, yet still widely unknown. Its disciples follow the word of Master Peter Deunov (1864-1944), aimed at guiding them to enter a new Era of brightness and harmony they believe is close to come. It's the Universal White Brotherhood. An internationally renowned violinist, a former atheist cinema operator, an old eccentric couple, a farmer isolated in the mountains, a young teacher in search of herself – they lead ordinary lives, however all dedicated daily to what they call spiritual work. Every August they ascend the top of the Rila Mountains, at an altitude of 2300 meters, to gather and pray. It is said that access to the new Era requires mankind to rise spiritually, and this is the path these people are looking to follow.



MARCO SCHIAVON, Director

Marco Schiavon was born in Treviso, Italy, in 1993. In 2016 moved to Portugal where he studied Documentary Cinema. His first short documentary, *Água nas guelras*, shot in the Azores Islands, was selected and participated in IDFA Docs for Sale and Torino Short Film Market. It premiered in 2022 at the FICG – Guadalajara International Film Festival, Mexico, and was then selected in more than 20 international festivals. Marco is now working on his first feature-length documentary, *Bratstvo - The Brotherhood*, now in development. The project won the Development Regional Fund in Italy and has been selected for the MakeCoProDox Forum. From 2020 to 2022 Marco worked on the Portuguese documentary series *Atrás dos Tempos*. His new short doc *Exploração* is in post-production, to be released in 2026.

marcoschiavon423@gmail.com



ARMANDO ANDRIA, Producer

Armando Andria is a producer, programmer and film critic. Since 2012 he has been curating a number of retrospectives, workshops and events related to cinema, he has written books and has been a correspondent from many film festivals, such as Locarno, Venice, Far East, Torino Film Festival. In 2016 he joined Ladoc, producing the documentaries *When You are Close to Me*, *Corpo a corpo* (both premiered at Festival dei Popoli), *Our Road* (Biografilm, IDFA), *Agalma* (Giornate degli autori Venice Film Festival). He was also a producer for *Gli ultimi giorni dell'umanità* (Venice Film Festival 2022, official selection) directed by Enrico Ghezzi and Alessandro Gagliardo. He is also a lecturer in Theories and Methods of Film Analysis at the University of Naples.

armando@ladoc.it

GET IN TOUCH
WITH BALKAN
DOCUMENTARY
CENTER TEAM:
email@bdcwebsite.com



**MARTICHKA
BOZHILOVA**
Director



**NEDA
MILANOVA**
Project manager