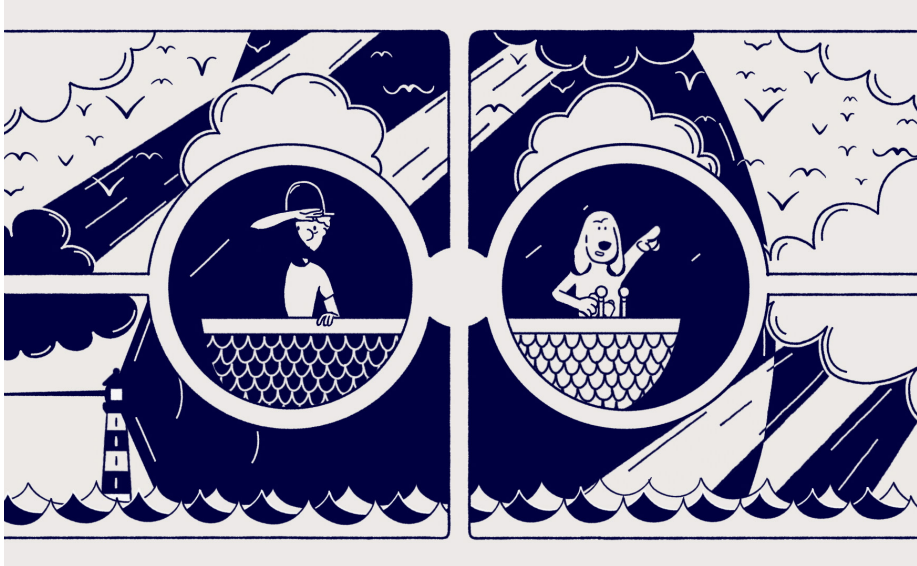


Who am I, who do I want to be? Young DOK presents an imaginative and empathetic programme for young audiences

**Press Release
22.9.2026**

DOK Education offers interactive activities for schoolchildren and teachers



The Empty Panel (Director: Thibault Chollet) | DOK Leipzig 2026

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Whether a cheeky little penguin or an intrepid mouse, the heroes of these stories rise to the challenge and, with a little help from their friends, achieve the impossible. This year, **Young DOK** is once again showing a selection of diverse and age-appropriate documentary and animated films, inviting audiences young and old to dream and reflect.

The section is made up of Kids DOK—for our youngest film buffs, of nursery and primary school age—and Young Eyes, which features films for teenagers. Alongside German productions and films with no dialogue at all, international titles will be screened with subtitles.

Kids DOK showcases short, animated fantasy stories and relatable everyday situations. The programme is curated with three age groups in mind:

Children **aged 3 and over** can look forward to a lineup of short films starring adventurous mythical creatures such as a dancing caterpillar, a mouse on an epic journey and a cloud-fish. The preschool programme for **ages 5 and up** celebrates the joy of friendships and shared experiences—whether racing along on bikes, hiding deep in the jungle, or searching for the last autumn leaf. The **8+ programme** for primary school children centres on unusual connections, finding courage and overcoming personal challenges. Across the three animated and documentary films, Szymon and Franek meet at the skate park, Jools learns to dance with a disability, and Paul deals with the grief of losing his dog by creating comics.

Young Eyes will screen four feature-length documentaries for young audiences **aged 12+**, opening a window onto the different daily realities faced by their peers. The protagonists spend long summer days at the outdoor pool, study at hotel management school or train for their big

69th International Leipzig
Festival for Documentary and
Animated Film

26 October to 1 November 2026

Julie-Madeline Simon
Alena Flemming
Maren Fußwinkel
Sevara Pan
Tel. +49 (0)341 30864 1070
presse@dok-leipzig.de

Leipziger Dok- Filmwochen GmbH
Katharinenstraße 17
04109 Leipzig

Chairwoman of
the Supervisory Board
Dr. Skadi Jennicke

Managing and Artistic Director
Aleksandra Staszal

Place of Performance
Leipzig

Commercial Register
Leipzig, HRB 35 89

VAT Tax ID
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dream. Growing up confronts everyone with many decisions and, above all, poses one central question: Who am I, and who do I want to be?

Press Release
22.9.2026

The [Youth Jury](#) decides which of the films will receive a special honour and presents the Young Eyes Film Award, sponsored by the Rahn Dittrich Group for Education and Culture.

Page 2 of 2

Film education: A class of its own

DOK Leipzig also offers university students, school pupils and teachers a range of opportunities to actively take part in the festival week and is committed to promoting media literacy. The [DOK Education](#) programme includes Teachers' Day, a professional development initiative for educators, as well as exclusive film screenings and guided tours of the extended reality exhibition DOK Neuland for school groups.

In collaboration with the Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig (HGB) the **HGBxDOK Film School Night** will be taking place on 28 October 2026, once again showcasing short films by students. New this year is the addition of a selection and preparation committee made up of Leipzig students. Besides promoting visibility and opportunities for dialogue, the internal screening allows students to gain practical experience in event organisation and film curation.

On Wednesday 28 October at 11:00, pupils aged 12 and over can attend the **screening of "Moving Sisters"**, which is being shown as part of the Young Eyes programme. The documentary tells the story of three sisters who fled Afghanistan and now live in Leipzig, where they attend (or have finished) school. Shot over a period of seven years, the film captures the fragile normality that Nazieh, Shazieh and Hanieh built for themselves with their father in a refugee camp in Athens, after a new law blocked their planned family reunification with their mother in Germany.

In cooperation with SchulKinoWochen Sachsen, DOK Leipzig will present "Moving Sisters" both as a school screening and as part of Teachers' Day.

[Teachers' Day](#) will take place on Thursday 29 October, 10:00–18:00, at the Polish Institute in Leipzig. Organised in cooperation with VISION KINO, this free training session introduces cinematic storytelling and creative approaches to filmmaking. Following the screening, participants will work together to develop teaching methods that incorporate documentary film into the classroom setting.

What's it like to step into the shoes of a journalist, watch films and interview the directors afterwards? That's what the [DOK Spotters](#) programme is all about. Young people aged 14 to 20 will be covering the festival week with their own reports, reviews and interviews. In workshops, participants will learn the fundamentals of journalism, before having the chance to apply them independently at the festival.

Overview of the films of the section: [Film Lists 2026](#)

Press images available to download: [Film stills](#)

Wir danken für die Unterstützung

Thank you for your support

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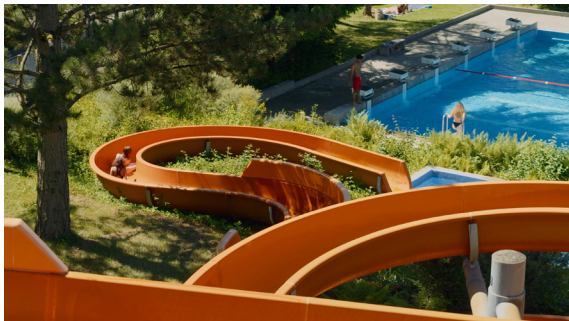
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Between Summers

Documentary Film

Romana Lanfranconi
Switzerland 2026 | 52 min
No Premiere

Zwei Sommer im Freibad: Sechs Teenager zwischen Pommes, TikTok, Freundschaft und großen Fragen. Während die orangene Wasserrutsche abgebaut wird, verändert sich auch ihre Welt ein Stück. – *Two summers at the public pool: Six teenagers between chips, TikTok, friendship and the big questions. While the orange water-slide is being dismantled, their world changes a little, too.*

Language Swiss German, German
Subtitles English



Camille & Chamäleon

Animated Film

Lucie Nichelmann
Germany 2025 | 12 min
No Premiere

Camille und das höhenängstliche Chamäleon lieben das Versteckspiel im Wald. Übermut bringt alles durcheinander und sie verlieren sich im grünen Dickicht. Können sie einander wiederfinden? – *Camille and a chameleon afraid of heights love playing hide and seek in the forest. But their high spirits mess things up and they get lost in the undergrowth. Will they find each other?*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



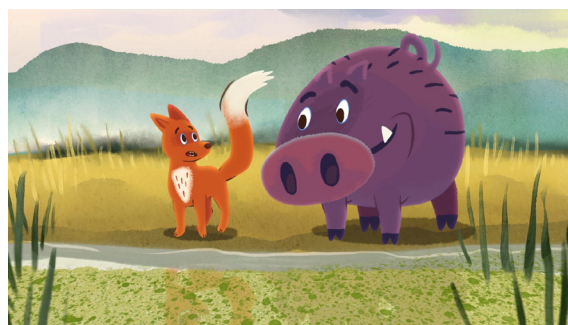
Einfach Jools

Documentary Film

Ezra Verbist
Belgium 2025 | 17 min
No Premiere

Jools möchte auf der Bühne tanzen – ungeachtet ihrer körperlichen Beeinträchtigung. Mit dem Choreografen Yorrith lernt sie eine eigene Art zu tanzen und auf das Urteil anderer nichts zu geben. – *Jools wants to dance on stage – notwithstanding her physical handicap. Together with the choreographer Yorrith, she learns to dance in her own way and not pay any heed to the judgement of others.*

Language Dutch
Subtitles English, German (Overvoice)



Fuchs und Wildschwein

Animated Film

Michał "Śledziu" Śledziński
Poland 2026 | 7 min
German premiere

Es ist Herbst, Fuchs und Wildschwein machen sich auf eine Wanderung zum großen "Blätterbaum". Auf der abenteuerlichen Reise muss der kleine Fuchs eine Prüfung nach der anderen bestehen. – *It's autumn and Fox and Wild Boar sent off on a hike, headed for the huge "Tree of Leaves". Over the course of their adventurous journey, the small fox must pass test after test.*

Language Polish
Subtitles English, German (Overvoice)

Young DOK



Gefunden!

Animated Film

Juliette Bailly
France, Belgium 2025 | 5 min
No Premiere

Ein munteres Schneegestöber lockt Anna nach draußen. Als sie durch die Kälte streift, trifft sie auf einen unerwarteten Spielkameraden. Ist er echt oder nur eine winterliche Fata Morgana? – *A cheerful snow flurry tempts Anna to head outside. As she wanders through the cold, she meets an unexpected playmate. But is he actually real or just a wintry fata morgana?*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



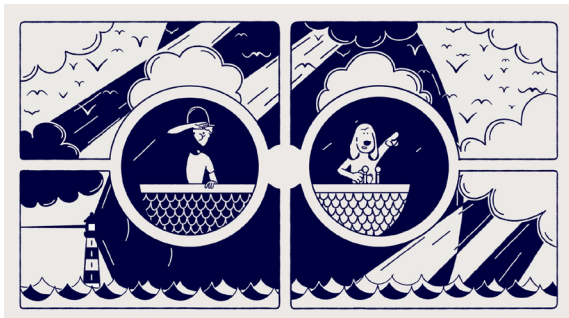
Growing Up

Documentary Film

Adam Roszkowski
Poland 2026 | 71 min
World premiere

Lukasz will Boxchampion werden und zieht dafür weit weg aufs Sportinternat. Dort trifft er auf starke Gegner – und seine erste Liebe. Gelingt ihm der entscheidende Durchbruch? – *Because Lukasz wants to become a box champion, he moves to a sports boarding school far from home. He meets strong opponents there – and his first love. Will he achieve his decisive breakthrough?*

Language Polish
Subtitles English



Der Hund auf dem Papier

Animated Film

Thibault Chollet
France 2025 | 12 min
No Premiere

In der Trauer um seinen verstorbenen Hund hat Paul aufgehört, Comics zu zeichnen. Als er für seine Schwester eine Geschichte wieder aufnimmt, erwacht das Tier in den Bildern wieder zum Leben. – *Mourning for his dead dog, Paul has stopped drawing comics. When he takes up a story again for his sister, the animal in the pictures comes to life again.*

Language French
Subtitles English, German (Overvoice)



Hund und Baum

Animated Film

Franka Sachse
Germany 2026 | 8 min
World premiere

Die Freundschaft zwischen einer Hündin und einem Baum rückwärts erzählt, animiert mit schwarzem und weißem Papier. Viel haben sie zusammen erlebt und sogar einen großen Sturm überstanden. – *The friendship between a dog and a tree narrated backwards and animated with black and white paper. They have experienced a lot together and have even survived a great storm.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None

Young DOK



Ich würd dich gern sehen

Documentary Film

Zaïde Bil, Sébastien Segers, Petronella van der Hallen
Belgium 2025 | 12 min
No Premiere

Gefängnisse sind zwar so gar nicht für sie gedacht und doch gibt es viele Kinder, die regelmäßig dort sind. Vier von ihnen erzählen, wie es ist, Mama oder Papa hinter Gittern zu besuchen. – *Although prisons are definitely not meant for them, there are many children who regularly go there. Four of them talk about what it is like to visit Mum or Dad behind bars.*

Language Dutch
Subtitles English, German (Overvoice)



Der Komet

Animated Film

Julie Charette
Canada 2026 | 12 min
German premiere

Émile und seine Schwester verbringen wundersame Sommertage, bis ein böser Streich der Nachbarsjungen die friedliche Stimmung stört. Findet Émile einen Weg, seine Ohnmacht zu überwinden? – *Émile and his sister enjoy magic summer days, until a nasty prank by the neighbourhood boys disturbs the peaceful atmosphere. Will Émile find a way to overcome his powerlessness?*

Language French
Subtitles English, German (Overvoice)



Moving Sisters

Documentary Film

Christos Stefanou
Greece 2026 | 92 min
World premiere

Drei Schwestern, bei der Flucht von der Mutter getrennt, leben in einem Camp in Athen. Was bedeutet "Zuhause" zwischen Anpassung und Unsicherheit? Und findet die Familie wieder zusammen? – *Three sisters, separated from their mother while fleeing, live in a camp in Athens. What does "home" mean between conformity and insecurity? And will the family be reunited?*

Language Farsi, Greek, German, English
Subtitles English



Nachtschwärmer

Animated Film

Lena von Döhren
Switzerland 2026 | 11 min
No Premiere

Eine Laterne zieht die Insekten des Dschungels in ihren Bann. Eine junge Fledermaus will sie retten – und entdeckt, dass Freundschaft auch in dunklen Zeiten Licht bringt. – *A glowing lantern puts the insects of the jungle under its spell. A young bat wants to rescue them and soon discovers that friendship can also bring light to dark times.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



Otá Layò

Documentary Film

Urânia Munzanzu, Dalton Paula
Brazil 2025 | 9 min
World premiere

Matheus und José leben im Regenwald Brasiliens, sammeln am Wasser Steine für ihre Kunst. Der Film begleitet die Brüder auf ihren Streifzügen und erzählt von ihrer tiefen Verbindung zur Natur. – *Brothers Matheus and José live in the Brazilian rainforest and collect stones by the river to make art. The film follows them on their wanderings, showing their deep connection to nature.*

Language Portuguese (Brazil)
Subtitles English, German (Overvoice)



Piccolo Piccolo

Animated Film

Marta Gennari
France, Switzerland 2025 | 9 min
No Premiere

Die kleinste Maus wird von ihren älteren Geschwistern ausgelacht. Da beschließt sie, auf Wanderschaft zu gehen. Mühsam ist der Aufstieg, hinunter ist es aber fast noch schwerer ... – *When the smallest mouse is laughed at by her older siblings, she decides to set off on her travels. While the ascent is already laborious, going down proves almost harder ...*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



Pingu & Bär

Animated Film

Kai Oppermann
Germany 2025 | 3 min
No Premiere

Die beiden Freunde Pingu und Bär schieben gemeinsam ihr Fahrrad einen gigantischen Berg hinauf. Oben angekommen nehmen sie all ihren Mut zusammen für die beste Abfahrt aller Zeiten. – *Two friends Pingu and Bear push their bike up a gigantic mountain together. Once they've arrived at the top, they gather all their courage for the best downhill run of all time.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



Second Course

Documentary Film

Julie Talon
France 2026 | 59 min
International Premiere

Haute Cuisine trifft auf Lachanfälle: Cocktails mixen, Krawattenbinden, gehobener Service – nebenbei versuchen die Jugendlichen an einer Hotelfachschule, den Weg ins Erwachsensein zu finden. – *Haute Cuisine meets fits of laughter: mixing cocktails, tying ties, first-class service – along the way, the adolescents at a hotel management school try to find their path to adulthood.*

Language French
Subtitles English



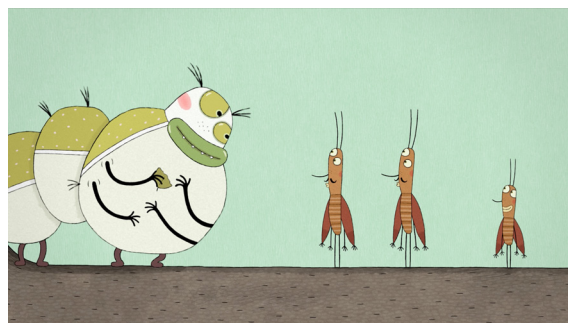
Die stille Ecke

Animated Film

David Johnson
UK 2025 | 8 min
No Premiere

Ein unartiger Pinguin landet beim Abendessen in der stillen Ecke. Zum Glück hat er bald Gesellschaft, Faxen machen geht überall. Schelmischer Puppentrickfilm ohne Dialoge. – *A badly-behaved penguin ends up in the naughty chair during dinner. Luckily, he soon has company, as fooling around happens everywhere. A mischievous puppet animation without dialogue.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



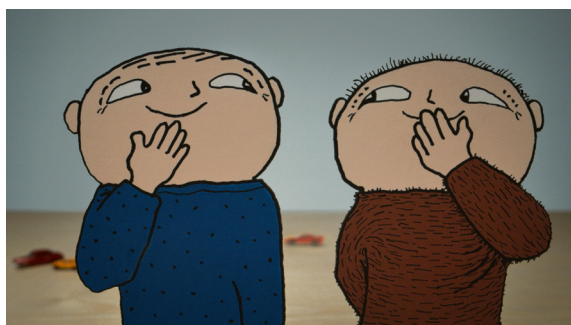
Tanzpartner

Animated Film

Elena Walf
Germany, Croatia 2025 | 5 min
No Premiere

Die tollpatschige Raupe würde gerne mit den anmutigen Schmetterlingen tanzen, doch die machen sich über sie lustig. Nur einer reicht ihr die Hand. Eine Folge aus der KiKA-Reihe "Lenas Farm". – *The clumsy caterpillar would like to dance with the graceful butterflies, but they make fun of her. Just one of them offers her his hand. An episode from the KiKa series "Lenas Farm".*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



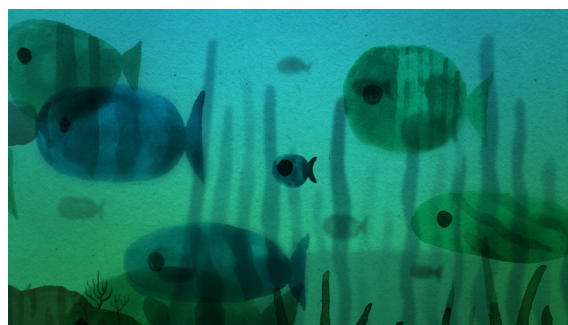
Wir bauen eine neue Welt, Willi Wiberg

Animated Film

Tomas Alfredson
Sweden 2025 | 12 min
German premiere

Ein Bilderbuch-Film aus der Willi Wiberg-Reihe. Papa geht einkaufen, doch bald herrscht im Wohnzimmer ein heilloses Chaos. Jetzt heißt es: Aufräumen in absoluter Rekordgeschwindigkeit! – *A picture book film from the Alfie Atkins series. Dad goes shopping, but soon afterwards there is total chaos in the living room. Now it's about tidying up in absolute record time!*

Language Swedish
Subtitles English, German (Overvoice)



Wolkenfisch

Animated Film

Noé Garcia
France, Belgium 2025 | 6 min
No Premiere

Der Wolkenfisch schwimmt durch die laute und hektische Unterwasserwelt. Ist er zu klein, um hier zurecht zu kommen? In blaugrünen Aquarellbildern gezeichnete Geschichte über wahre Größe. – *The cloud fish swims through the loud, hectic underwater world. Is he too small to cope? A story about size not being the measure of everything, painted in blue-green watercolour images.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None

Young DOK



Zellenkumpel

Animated Film

Melle Windig, Hidde Alberts, Arjen van der Plas, Miquel Reyes,
Jurgen de Smit
Netherlands 2025 | 6 min
No Premiere

Was passiert, wenn ein mürrischer Waschbär und eine vertrauensselige Seekuh gemeinsam ausbrechen? Knuffige Knetfiguren-Animation über die Frage, was mehr zählt: Freiheit oder Zusammenhalt? – *What happens when a grumpy raccoon and a credulous manatee break out together? A cute plasticine animation about what matters more: freedom or solidarity?*

Language Dutch
Subtitles English, German (Overvoice)



Zwei Flüsse

Documentary Film

Felix Maria Bühler
Germany 2026 | 6 min
World premiere

Szymon und Frank leben nahe der Oder, dem Grenzfluss zwischen Polen und Deutschland. Jeden freien Moment verbringen sie im Skatepark. Hier treffen sich alle, ganz gleich, woher sie kommen. – *Szymon and Frank live near the Oder, the border river that separates Poland and Germany. They spend every spare moment at the skate park, where everyone meets – wherever they come from.*

Language English, Polish
Subtitles English, German (Overvoice)