



International Film Festival Bratislava (5. – 11. November 2010)

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## IFF Bratislava announces the line-up of 'DOCS', its documentary competition

The documentary competition will present an eclectic selection of ten films, many of them being multi-awarded. 'DOCS' will open with Cannes' winner *Armadillo* and close with the humorous success story *The World according to Ion B.* The jury will be composed of filmmakers Marko Škop and Massoud Bakhshi, and producer Meike Martens.

The opening film *Armadillo*, by Danish director Janus Metz, is preceded by a very strong reputation gained at Cannes Film Festival. This extremely powerful chronicle on the daily life of Danish soldiers at war in Afghanistan won the Critics' Week Grand Prix. It eventually initiated such an intense debate in Denmark that it shook the very bases of national identity. The issue of army presence in Afghanistan is common to most European countries, especially to Slovakia, with more than 300 soldiers in the country.

Another Danish film, *Into Eternity* (Grand Prix in the prestigious documentary film festival 'Visions du Réel Nyon'), tackles another issue particularly relevant to Slovakia. With more than 50% of the electricity produced in the country having nuclear source, it should be of interest to discover Michael Madsen's film, which explores an experiment made in Finland to store nuclear wastes indefinitely. Eventually *Into Eternity* reveals the lack of consistent plan to store the ever-growing nuclear wastes.

The vitality of Scandinavian documentary is finally represented by the very moving *Familia* (Grand Prix Karlovy Vary), directed by Swedish filmmakers Mikael Wiström and Alberto Herskovits, that takes place in Peru and follows a family whose mother has to exile to Spain in order to provide basic needs for her relatives.

This sacrifice of women is also the topic of *The Town of Badante Women* by Stephan Komandarev, which focuses on a small Bulgarian town where most of have gone to Italy where they work as so-called 'badante', who take care of old and sick. Again these two films address a social phenomenon that Slovakia witnesses.

Canadian filmmaker Julian T. Pinder goes on exploration abroad in *Land*, investigating in Costa Rica on how foreign investors aim at transforming the country –especially its coasts - into a tourist destination with massive resort development plans. This daring documentary echoes ironically to this year's '**All at the beach!**' section.

Another range of films has very personal and often poetical approach. Kamal Aljafari's *Port of Memory* and Pietro Marcello's *La Bocca del Lupo* (Grand Prix in Torino Film Festival) are both nostalgic portraits of harbour cities, respectively Jaffa in Palestine/Israel and Genoa in Italy. One tells the tragedy of a family having to leave the house inhabited for generations, whereas the other narrates the heartbreaking love story of a couple that was separated most of their lives.

Unclassifiable is Boris Mitić's *Goodbye, How are you?* Reminiscent of Chris Marker's film essays, it is a superb humoristic travelogue composed of visual aphorisms addressing the madness of modern-day Serbian politics.

The documentary competition will end on a joyful and optimistic note, thanks to the success story of Ion Bârlădeanu. *The World according to Ion B.* directed by Alexander Nanau accounts how a homeless man of Bucharest turned from one day to the other into the most looked-after artist of the country. The film was an audience favourite at the recent Sarajevo Film Festival.

The last and tenth documentary in the competition – a surprise film - will be announced on a later notice.

Filmmakers Boris Mitić, Alberto Herskovits, Stephan Komandarev, Julian T. Pinder, and Alexander Nanau have already confirmed their presence in Bratislava to introduce their films.

The jury will be composed of Slovak native filmmaker and producer Marko Škop (Karlovy Vary winner with *Osadné* in 2009), Iranian filmmaker Massoud Bakhshi and German producer Meike Martens. Massoud Bakhshi will present to the festival his award-winning documentary *Tehran has no more pomegranates*, whereas Meike Martens will present her latest production, Chilean master Patricio Guzman's *Nostalgia for the Light* that premiered in Cannes.

**12<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival Bratislava, 5. - 11. November 2010**  
**PALACE CINEMAS, Aupark; Kino Mladost', FK 35mm**

**Festival days**

KOŠICE 12. – 14.11.2010  
BANSKÁ BYSTRICA 15. – 16.11.2010  
ŽILINA 17. – 18.11.2010

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