

EFM 2020



DOCUMENTARY





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ANTIDOTE Sales is a universal sales agent based in Russia, built on European professional principles and focused on curatorial work with the international art cinema and its commercial distribution worldwide.

BAIKAL: CODE RED?

BEZ BAIKALA?

directed by **Alexander Gornovsky**



[view trailer](#)

documentary

2020

Russia

90 min

Russian



SYNOPSIS

Lake Baikal is the biggest freshwater lake in the world. It's famous for its beauty and its unique ecosystem. Presently, Lake Baikal is facing the threat of degradation because of human activity.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Baikal contains 80% of Russia's surface freshwater resources and 20% of the world's surface fresh water. 800 endemic species live in Baikal. Baikal is more than 20 million years old. Our film is a declaration of love for Baikal. We give an honest and objective analysis of the main issues facing what the locals reverentially call "Saint Sea". Scientists, ecologists, managers of the Baikal nature reserves and native people discuss the future of the lake in our film. The film does not only talk about Baikal's problems, but it offers ways of solving them. Baikal's transcendent beauty, indeed its very existence, depends on us, on every person.

The film *Baikal: Code Red?* is a kind of a declaration of love for the region of my birth and my desire to save Baikal. I grew up near Baikal, spent my childhood there, and I cannot put up with what is happening with Baikal now. The main idea of the film is to talk scrupulously, honestly and objectively about the current problems of Baikal. And to suggest ways out of the current crisis.

TAGS

| ecology | scientific research | catastrophe | nature | reserve | island microcosm | animals | anthropocene | anthropogenic factor | journey | photography | Buddhism | poaching | underwater shooting | activism |

FIDEL, BRAVE CHILD

FIDEL, NIÑO VALIENTE

written and directed by **Mario Verón**



[view trailer](#)

SYNOPSIS

Fidel is a child living in the bowels of Monte de Puerto Libertad, Misiones Argentina. At the age of twelve, he worked as a pawn in the field while racing quad races with Che, his horse. With these runs, he will seek to add triumphs to earn money and help his mother who lives in poverty in Paraguay.

TAGS

| sport | horse racing | youth | coming of age | poverty |
| men's team | competition | horse football | Maradona | provinces |

coming-of-age doc

2020

Argentina/Paraguay

74 min

Guarani



DOCUMENTARY

5

BUROMSKY ISLAND

WARMING THE HEART OF ANTARCTICA

OSTROV BUROMSKOGO

written and directed by **Olga Stefanova**



[view trailer](#)

SYNOPSIS

There's an island in the Southern Ocean off the coast of Antarctica. No one knows about it apart from the polar explorers who spend winter there. And their relatives. The sarcophaguses are situated right on the rocks. These are people who aren't mentioned on the pages of geography textbooks. But without them it would be impossible to explore Antarctica. More than 60 years have passed since the first burial. During this time, the cemetery has never been renovated. Our team of 8 people went to Antarctica to complete this task for the first time.

TAGS

| necropolis | feat | extremeness | penguins | tragedy | men's team | USSR |
| Eastern Europe | memory |

doc tragedy

2020

Russia

52/78 min

Russian, English, German, Czech



DOCUMENTARY

6

WILFRED AND ALEXANDRA

written and directed by **Oleg Galitsky**



CAST

Wilfred Redlich, Alexandra Barkovskaya

SYNOPSIS

A young recruit and a village girl. Two victims of massive political cataclysms. In other circumstances, they might have become friends or even more. The war made them enemies. But the war has long ended, the suffering is behind, the hostility has disappeared. Now they are allies. They are united by a common bitter experience. The two surviving witnesses of the worst events of the 20th century are now facing common enemies: time and oblivion. They define the borderline of our memory. A little more time will pass, and their story will turn into a distant legend just like the Napoleonic Wars.

TAGS

| The Second World War | evidence | village | partisans | memory | Wehrmacht |
| former Wehrmacht soldier | elderly | memoir | veteran |

documentary

2020

Belarus/Germany

~ 60 min

Russian, German



RUSSIA ACCORDING TO EKATERINA

LA RUSSIE SELON
EKATERINA

written, directed and filmed by **Philippe Mac Gaw**

ART
DOC
FEST



SYNOPSIS

In the industrial town of Nizhny Tagil, behind the Ural mountains, the pursuit of an impossible love story between the narrator and Ekaterina, a young woman descendant of Romanov's dynasty. Navigating between poetic illustrations of the passion that blossoms under our eyes, and schizophrenic wanderings in a hostile environment, the film opens in its second part to some characters linked to Ekaterina's world, offering an intimate and heart-breaking portrait of Russia.

FESTIVALS

- ArtDocFest IDFF (*Competition*), Latvia/Russia, 2019

TAGS

| province | artist | lovestory | chance meeting | folklore | Russiansoul | mother-child |

documentary

2019

France/Russia

142 min

Russian, French



DOCUMENTARY

8

VILLAGE OF WOMEN

VILLAGE DES FEMMES

written and directed by **Tamara Stepanyan**

DOX
LEIPZIG



[view trailer](#)

SYNOPSIS

Armenia, a village called Lichk where only women, children and elderly reside. Men leave 9 months of the year to Russia to work. How these women endure waiting, loneliness, absence of their husband? I film and share their intimacy and life, becoming the confident of their frustration, joy and desire.

FESTIVALS

- **World Premiere** — DOK Leipzig (*International Competition*), Germany, 2019

TAGS

| mountains | the female world | the elderly | daily labor | immigration |
| migrant workers | laughter | community | visual anthropology | family |

documentary

2019

Armenia/France

83 min

Armenian



DOCUMENTARY

9

SAINT PETERSDRAG

written and directed by **Ivan Vydumlev**

ART
DOC
FEST



CAST

**Miss Coco, Margo Mandarinova,
Gena Marvin, Vanessa Viper,
Bagoa San, Miss Delmara**

SYNOPSIS

The film is divided into four chapters, each shows different levels of Russian drag. You will know about divas which started their job in the late 90s, about new generation of drag queens and you will see the largest travesty scene in Russia.

FESTIVALS

- ArtDocFest IDFF (*Out of Competition, More Life*), Russia/Latvia, 2019

TAGS

| LGBT | cabaret | travesty | club | costume | subculture | community |
| music | song | theater performance |

documentary

2020

Russia

51 min

Russian



DOCUMENTARY

10

THE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

PROSTOE NASTOYASHEE

written and directed by **Dmitry Kabakov**



[view trailer](#)

SYNOPSIS

What binds a person to a certain place on Earth? What lets him say, "I'm from here, and this is my land?" What's setting the boundaries of our existence? The film immerses us in the daily life of a village near Moscow, where local old-timers live side by side with immigrants from Tajikistan. How do the fences arise, then are destroyed and arise once again between cultures and people?

PRESS

"The title, The Present Simple Tense, is used to tell about things that happen continually in the present, like every day, every week, or every month... that's what the film does in a very fine way"

[Tue Steen Müller, FILMKOMMENTAREN.DK](#)

FESTIVALS

- Window to Europe Russian FF (*Documentary Competition*), Russia, 2019

TAGS

| self-identification | childhood | memories | migrants | family | tolerance |
| Russia | Tajikistan |

documentary

2019

Latvia/Russia

92 min

Russian, Farsi



DOCUMENTARY

11

PROMOTING SUCCESS

AKTSIYA

written, directed, filmed and produced by **Aleksey Sukhovey**

ART
DOC
FEST



[view trailer](#)

SYNOPSIS

Several dozen soldiers in the military echelon are transporting an exhibition with captured weapons from Syria across the whole of Russia. Musicians of military ensembles accompany this celebration. In each city, thousands of spectators meet them. People dance, take pictures. Children swear allegiance to their Motherland.

FESTIVALS

- ArtDocFest IDFF (*Competition*), Latvia/Russia, 2019

TAGS

| propaganda | militarism | ISIL | war in Syria | russian army | putinism |
| railway | agit-train | trans-siberian express |

road movie

2019

Russia

54/61 min

Russian



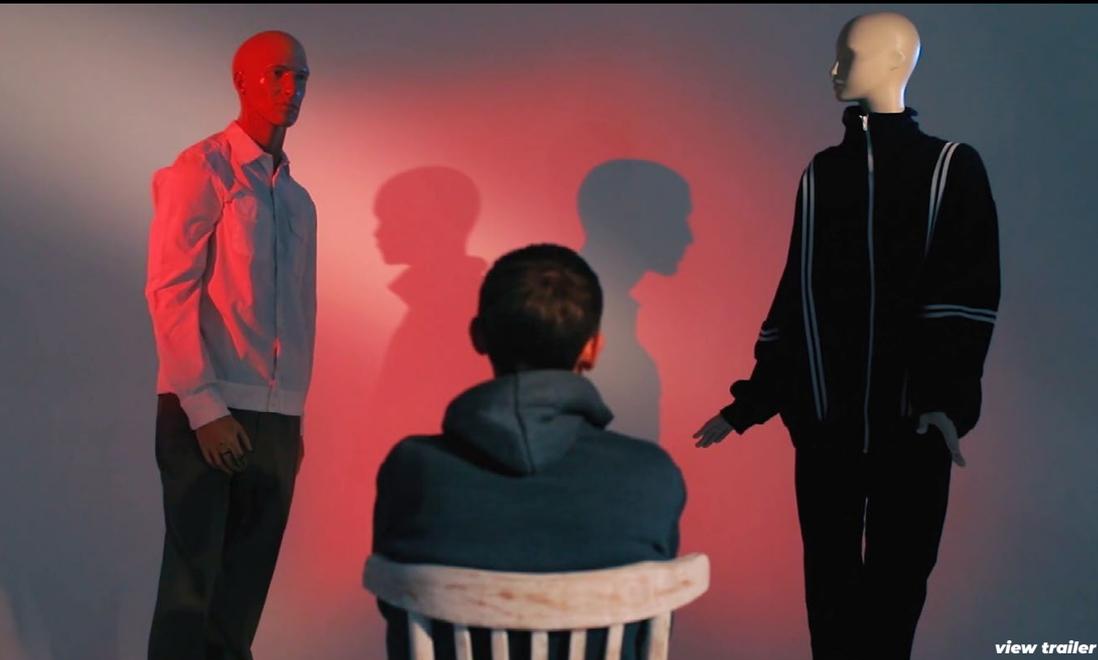
DOCUMENTARY

12

TRANSFORMATION

TRANSFORMATSIA

directed by **Roman Romanov**



[view trailer](#)

SYNOPSIS

Four transgender people share stories of their lives and what it feels like to live in an alien body, as an alien in society and in a family. The film captured a small period of their lives during the filming, the experience of going through the legal process of changing gender, which required attending a government commission consisting of officials completely unrelated to the gender topic, the anxiety it caused. These four stories flow into one narrative about xenophobia, violence and loneliness. Besides transgender people, local LGBT activists and Belarus' government chief sexologist were interviewed. Not every character's story has a "happy end", but all of them managed to find support of friends, all of them "have a dream" and never lose hope.

TAGS

| LGBT | transgender | human | rights | family | psychology |

documentary

2019

Belarus

55 min

Russian



DOCUMENTARY

13

THE BOROVSK EFFECT

EFFEKT BOROVSKA

directed by Julia Grebennikova, Polina Zavadskaya

ART
DOC
FEST



SYNOPSIS

The town of Borovsk is a strange place, which has been an island of memory for all innocent victims since the XIV century. Boyarynya Morozova died here, Archpriest Avvakum was also imprisoned here and numerous victims of political repression were shot here. Here lives street artist Vladimir Ovchinnikov, whose name became widely known in Russia due to the fact that he suddenly began to draw on the walls of houses-despite the indignation of the authorities: the “naive” graffiti artist is not 19, but 80 years old.

Real passions began to flare up in the town, when Vladimir Ovchinnikov painted on one of the fences his first “memorial to the victims of political repressions”...

FESTIVALS

- ArtDocFest IDFF (*Out of Competition, Can Repeat*), Latvia/Russia, 2019
- Didor IDFF (*International Competition*), Tajikistan, 2019

TAGS

| memorialization | human rights | provinces | activism | artist |
| officialdom | putinism |

drama

2019

Russia

66 min

Russian



DOCUMENTARY

14

MILKFORMADNESS

MOLOKOBEZUMIA

written and directed by **Sergey Kavtaradze**



CAST

**Oleg Mamikin, Natalya Panfilova,
Aripula, Lavanday**

SYNOPSIS

This is an insight into unconscious state of mind.

Through the story of Afghanistan war on Soviet side veteran who is working at the ship and experiences problems with aggression and through the ancient world that shows the true essence of war — from its birth to the the tragical consequences. The history repeating — the archetypes of war inside humanity.

TAGS

| visual anthropology | war | instinct | postdoc | ritual death |

fantasy

2019

Russia

60 min

Russian



DOCUMENTARY

15

SACRED GROUND

SVYATOE MESTO

written and directed by **Sergey Kozmin**

ART
DOC
FEST



[view trailer](#)

SYNOPSIS

Some time ago they would come here to walk their dogs, play with their kids or jog. Today they are two hostile parties fighting over a patch of ground in a park. Every Sunday half of them come to pray by a wooden cross, and another half is there to defend a small spot of land, which they want to stay public. Who could have imagined such a confrontation in a country which had been fully secular, even atheistic for decades? Still, a collision between orthodox believers and local dwellers, who don't want to have a new church instead of a park or a public garden is quite common in the Russian capital these days. "200 Churches" development project started by Russian Orthodox Church in cooperation with Moscow government provoked several severe conflicts in the city.

FESTIVALS

- ArtDocFest IDFF (*Competition*), Latvia/Russia, 2019

TAGS

| activism | clashes | park | ecology | orthodoxy | religious wars |
| intolerance | community | unbelievers |

documentary

2019

Russia

64 min

Russian



DOCUMENTARY

16

BLOCKADE

SHRJAP'AKUM

written and directed by **Hakob Melkonyan**



SYNOPSIS

Young people walk several miles each day on their way to school, ignoring the danger of Azeri snipers. On the spot, villagers sell or exchange their meager crops for a little sugar, cereal, and rare medicines. The inhabitants have to look after themselves. Only the wounded or the sick are transported to the military hospital.

In the village, many houses are empty or in ruins abandoned by their occupants. The Petrossians stay and work their land. Repetitive gestures and rare words. Then they have to prepare the meals. The mother spins sheep's wool while the son learns to use a rifle. The father is the guardian of the cemetery where the dead are buried in the fog to avoid enemy fire; and every month he has to join other volunteer soldiers to fight at the border posts.

Sometimes when everything is calm, we hear the sounds of nature, the words of the Petrossians, the teachers with their schoolchildren, the military briefing before the fight, and finally, the conversations between young villagers who talk about the war that hasn't stopped in thirty years. This is the life of the Petrossian's, a life in an endless war.

TAGS

| war | visual anthropology | family | shelling | Nagorno-Karabakh | stress | hope |

documentary

2019

Armenia

55 min

Armenian

THE LAST MEAL

POSLEDNIY UZHIN

written, directed and produced by **Mikhail Brashinsky**



SYNOPSIS

The Golden Moose restaurant was a Turku legend. An old-fashioned funky establishment, opened in 1968 and seemingly never having changed since then. A meeting place for friends and family. A shrine for hundreds of locals. A place many called home. A family — for those who served there, as well as those being served. Now, in December 2016, the building has been bought by a major Finnish retail corporation in order to open a new supermarket, and the restaurant has to close its doors forever...

TAGS

| cooking | microcosm | community | choir | song | Turku | family |

documentary

2019

Russia

66 min

Finnish



DOCUMENTARY

18

ANIMUS ANIMALIS

A STORY ABOUT PEOPLE, ANIMALS AND THINGS

ANIMUS ANIMALIS.
ISTORIJA APIE ŽMONES, ŽVĖRIS IR DAIKTUS

written and directed by **Aistė Žegulytė**

DOK
LEIPZIG



[view trailer](#)

SYNOPSIS

A taxidermist, a deer farmer and a zoology museum worker live in the surroundings where the line between reality and artificiality has almost become imperceptible. While the dead beasts compete for the most vivid posture and the most real look in their eyes, the human keeps trying to stop the time and bring back life to things in which life has long been absent.

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

- **World Premiere** — DOK Leipzig (*Next Masters Competition*), Germany, 2018
- **Grand Prix** — Brussels IFF (*Director's week-European Competition*), Belgium, 2019
- **Grand Prix** — Premieres Plans D'Angers FF (*Diagonal Competition*), France, 2020
- **Cineuropa prize** — Kino pavasaris Vilnius IFF, Lithuania, 2019

TAGS

| ecology | taxidermy | skin | hunting | tradition | murder | ritual | animals |
| forest | nature | irony | macro photography | Zeit Lupe | fur | visual anthropology |

eco-documentary

2018

Lithuania

69 min

Lithuanian, Finnish, English



EVERYDAY MYSTICISM

VELLO SALO.
IGAPÄEVAELU MÜSTIKA

produced, written and directed by **Jaan Tootsen**



CAST

Vello Salo

SYNOPSIS

This film is about the beauty of growing old. It is a story about an old and wise man who is preparing to leave this world and, thus, faces many personal and delicate questions. How not to lose faith in these final hours? Why are the greatest among us put through the hardest trials in the spiritual realm? Vello Salo is a Catholic cleric in his 90s, but first and foremost, a human being: a free spirit, a man with his own quirks and tricks, not to mention a lifetime of experience and wisdom which has been well-preserved to this modern day.

FESTIVALS

- Tallinn Black Nights FF (*Estonian Film Competition*), Estonia, 2018
- EstDocs in Toronto, Canada, 2019

TAGS

priest	vitality	philosophy	senior people	faith	veteran	The Second World War
Catholicism	longevity	multilingualism	irony	service	Pope	
travels	war	soldier				

portrait
documentary

2018

Estonia/Italy

81 min

Estonian, Italian, Spanish,
German, Finnish, Russian



DOCUMENTARY

20

FATEI AND THE SEA

FATEICH | MORE

produced, written and directed by **Alina Rudnitskaya, Sergey Vinokurov**



CAST

Gennady Podkorytov

SYNOPSIS

The action in the film takes place in the Far East, on an uninhabited island called Rikord in the Peter the Great Gulf of the Sea of Japan. The lead character, called Fatei after his father, and his family have their own marine farm where they harvest delicacies from the sea. In amazing images of the underwater world and land-scapes of the Primorsky (Maritime) Territory of the Russian Far East, the film *Fatei and the Sea* tells the story of a little man whose life is inseparable from the big world around him.

FESTIVALS

- **Three special prizes** —Message to Man IFF, Russia, 2018
- Santa Barbara IFF (*Documentary Competition*), USA, 2020
- Flahertiana IDFF, (*Russian Flahertiana*), Russia, 2019

TAGS

family	Pacific Ocean	Poesie	delicatessen	gourmandise	paradise
entrepreneur	poachers	corruption	business in russian		
tourists	diving	senior people			

documentary

2018

Russia/Poland/Finland

58/73 min

Russian

