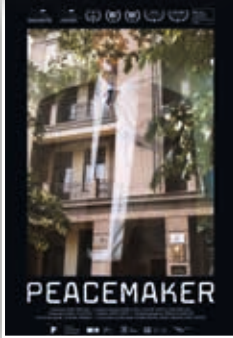


ASN

FILM PROGRAM



AT THE 2026 ASN
WORLD CONVENTION

FILM 1
LUNCH
1.40-3.20 PM
// Room 1201



The Helsinki Effect

Finland, Germany & Norway, 2025 (87 min.)
In Finnish with English subtitles

The Cold War was frozen solid when world leaders from East and West met in Helsinki in the summer of 1975 to discuss security and cooperation. The three-day conference was documented in great detail. 'The Helsinki Effect' brushes the dust off the film reels and analyzes the diplomatic theater with formidable, ironic wit and a keen eye for the vanity and pettiness between the formal lines. Based on hundreds of hours of archival footage, director Arthur Franck also uncovers how the Helsinki conference came to have a profound impact on the world – and how it resonates today in a troubled world, 50 years later.



"Franck's breezy narration makes the dense negotiations refreshingly accessible" —Screen Daily



Directed by
Arthur Franck

Contact:
Anja Dzierzk
Rise and Shine
anja.dzierzk@riseandshine-berlin.de

FILM 2
LUNCH
1.40-3.20 PM
// Room 501A



The Peacemaker (Mirotvorac)

Croatia, 2025 (99 min.)
In Croatian with English subtitles

Winner of the Grand Prize at the 2025 Doc Leipzig festival, *Mirotvorac* traces the months preceding the 1991 Serbo-Croatian War—itsself an outcome of the long collapse of Yugoslavia—through the figure of Josip Reihl Kir, an eastern Croatian politician who strove to diffuse tensions in his community right up until his violent assassination. Composed almost entirely of Croatian television archival material—much of it previously unseen—the images are accompanied by offscreen, first-person accounts that offer an expanded oral history of Kir and that fraught moment.



"A documentary that plays out like the tensest of crime-thrillers." — Cineuropa



Directed by
Ivan Ramljak

Contact:
Neda Lukić
Taskovski Films
neda@taskovskifilms.com

"My film deals with the causes of that event, how it could have happened that a police chief could be killed like that in broad daylight in a populated area, in front of a crowd of witnesses."
— Ivan Ramljak

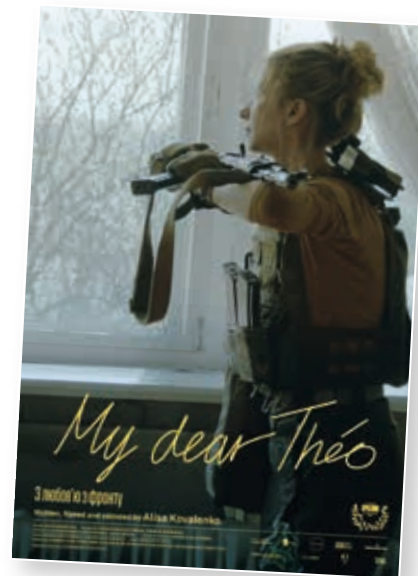
FILM 3
LUNCH
1.40-3.20 PM
// Room 501B



My Dear Théo

Poland, Ukraine, 2025 (100 min.)
In Ukrainian with English subtitles

February 2022. Ukrainian filmmaker Alisa Kovalenko decides to follow a promise to herself and goes to fight on the frontline, leaving behind her 5-year-old son Théo. Through intimate video diaries and poetic letters addressed to a future grown-up Théo, Kovalenko captures the devastating reality of war while reflecting on her choice to serve. Her camera reveals both the chaos of destruction and the profound humanity she finds among her fellow soldiers - their unwavering friendships, mutual support, and tender connections maintained with distant loved ones. This first-person documentary offers an intense and intimate perspective on the profound bonds between parent and child that endure even in the darkest circumstances.



"I still believe that documentary cinema is a key to the heart"
 — Alisa Kovalenko



Directed by
Alisa Kovalenko

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Oksana Lapshuk Dykovska
 Stranger Films Sales
 oksana@strangerfilmssales.com

FILM 4
SESSION 4
5.20-7.00 PM
// Room 501A



Facing War

Norway, Denmark, 2025 (100 min.)
In English and Norwegian with English subtitles

As Russia's war in Ukraine rages on, U.S. President Joe Biden persuades Jens Stoltenberg to extend his tenure as NATO Secretary General for one final year. During a visit to Kyiv, Stoltenberg vows that the Alliance will stand by President Zelensky "for as long as it takes." But as Western support falters and divisions among allies deepen, his promise hangs in the balance. With unprecedented access to NATO's inner sanctum, this film takes you inside the high-stakes power struggles between global leaders like Macron, Biden, Zelensky, Erdoğan, and Orbán. Can Stoltenberg keep his word to Zelensky?



"Gripping documentary – balancing diplomacy, egos and all-out war with unnerving calm" — Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian

"The impression given by Facing War is that we are getting a genuine inside view of how Nato works." — Film Review



Directed by
Tommy Gulliksen

Contact:
Maëlle Guenegues
 Cat & Docs
 maelle@catndocs.com

FILM 7
LUNCH
1.40-3.20 PM
// Room 501B



Cuba & Alaska

France, Belgium, Ukraine, 2025 (93 min.)
*In Ukrainian, French, Russian and Catalan
with English subtitles*

Codenamed Cuba and Alaska, two combat medics serving on the frontlines of the Ukrainian conflict regard the absurdity of war with a combination of grit, humour and hope. Mostly comprising footage from phones and GoPro cameras attached to their helmets and chests, the film offers rare access to the medics' daily lives, their reliance on each other a testament to the camaraderie required to survive in this world. But when one of them is injured and they are separated, the realisation of how despairing the conflict can become gradually sinks in. A raw and powerful film, *Cuba & Alaska* is an essential reminder of the importance of human connection.



"This is war up front and close. There is nowhere to look away."
— Nick Holdsworth, *Modern Times Review*



Directed by
Yegor Troyanovsky

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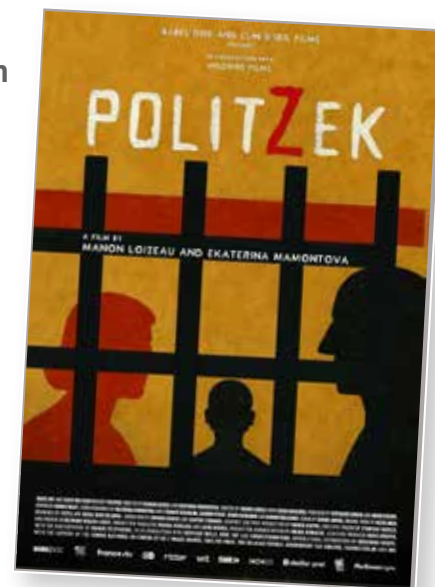
FILM 9
LUNCH
1.40-3.20 PM
// Room 1201



Politzek — The Voices That Defy the Kremlin *[Politzek, les voix qui défient le Kremlin]*

France, Belgium, 2025, 90 mins.
In French and Russian with English subtitles

The Russian term "politzek" refers to political prisoners, whose numbers have skyrocketed in the country, especially since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Activist and chairman of the Memorial Human Rights Defence Centre, Oleg Orlov, as well as fourteen-year-old Arseniy, who was sentenced to five years in prison for criticising Putin on social media, are two such prisoners. Through the intertwined stories of several *Politzek*, and mothers fighting to free their children, the film sheds light on Russia's machinery of repression. With rare footage and fragile yet defiant voices, *Politzek* offers a deeply human portrait of silenced resistance.



"A documentary that breathes with urgency, sorrow, and bravery." — Margareta Hruza, *Modern Times Review*

"These activists leave behind a legacy of resistance — even in death" — Elizabeth Grenier, *Deutsche Welle*



Manon Loizeau

Directed by
Manon Loizeau & Ekaterina Mamontova

Contact:
Kilian Kiefel
Mediawan Rights
kkiefel@mediawan.com

FILM 8

Session 8
10.30-11.35 AM
// Room 1201



Horizons of Belonging

Canada 2025, (64 min.)
*In Ukrainian, Russian, and English
with English subtitles*

The film will begin
at 10.30 AM

What does it mean to be a Ukrainian newcomer in Alberta? A film crew followed four Ukrainian families over a year in Edmonton and Calgary as they navigated the challenges of rebuilding their lives after Russia's full-scale invasion. *Horizons of Belonging* is a deeply personal exploration of identities, displacement and belonging, shedding light on what it means to be a modern Ukrainian, and 'start over' in a new country. The film is honest, touching, at times surprising, and melancholic.



Oleksandr Pankieiev is Associate Professor and Kule Chair of Ukrainian Culture and Ethnography at the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, and the Director of the Kule Folklore Centre at the University of Alberta.

Steven Brese is an Edmonton-based visual storyteller and co-founder of Londyn Legacy Films.

Directed by
Oleksandr Pankieiev (1) & Steven Brese (2)

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pankieie@ualberta.ca

FILM 4

SESSION 9
12.00-1.40 PM
// Room 1201



Facing War

Norway, Denmark, 2025 (100 min.)
In English and Norwegian with English subtitles

As Russia's war in Ukraine rages on, U.S. President Joe Biden persuades Jens Stoltenberg to extend his tenure as NATO Secretary General for one final year. During a visit to Kyiv, Stoltenberg vows that the Alliance will stand by President Zelensky "for as long as it takes." But as Western support falters and divisions among allies deepen, his promise hangs in the balance. With unprecedented access to NATO's inner sanctum, this film takes you inside the high-stakes power struggles between global leaders like Macron, Biden, Zelensky, Erdoğan, and Orbán. Can Stoltenberg keep his word to Zelensky?



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Directed by
Tommy Gulliksen

Contact:
Maëlle Guenegues
Cat & Docs
maelle@catndocs.com