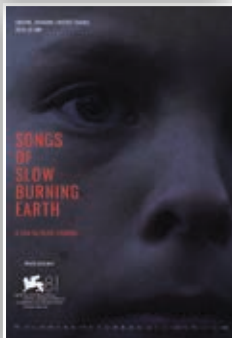
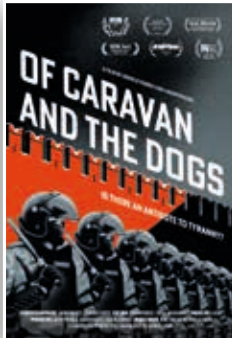




NEW DOCUMENTARIES



AT THE 2025 ASN
WORLD CONVENTION
DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

FILM 1

LUNCH

1.40-3.20 PM

// Room 1201

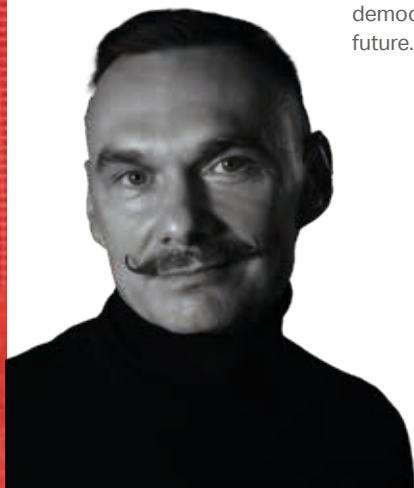


Of Caravan and Dogs

Germany 2024 (99 min.)

In Russian with English subtitles

Since 2012, a series of repressive laws were passed by the Russian government labelling everyone who publicly disagreed with the official narrative as «foreign agent», a traitor of Russia. In these circumstances, a group of independent Russian media and activists are trying to resist. Right after the invasion, another series of repressive laws is passed and overnight their work becomes virtually impossible. The journalists and activists are threatened with long prison sentences and forced to make difficult moral choices in the midst of total war censorship. Shot during one decisive year, before and after the invasion, the film portrays the last defenders of democracy in Russia and gives a glimpse of hope for another future.



Directed by
**Askold Kurov
and Anonymous¹**

Contact:
Anja Dziersek
Rise and Shine
anja.dziersek@riseandshine-berlin.de

Askold Kurov's two previous films – Novaya and The Trial: The State of Russia vs Oleg Sentsov – were shown at ASN 2017 and ASN 2019.



FILM 2

LUNCH

1.40-3.20 PM

// Room 501A



Songs of Slow Burning Earth

Ukraine, Denmark, Sweden, France 2024

(95 min.)

In Ukrainian and Russian with English subtitles

Landscapes, occasional conversations and encounters, and sounds that weave in and out of the frame compose Songs of Slow Burning Earth. Captured in varying proximities to the frontline over two years, the audiovisual diary of Ukraine's immersion into the abyss of total war traces the subtle changes in Ukrainian society. The ragged chords of panic and horror of the first weeks of the Russian invasion slowly morph into the numb stillness of the acceptance of death and destruction, which eventually becomes the tragic normality for the local population, but just an afterthought for the rest of the world. Against the backdrop of the (meta)physical landscape of collective disaster, a new generation of Ukrainians aspires to imagine the future.



Directed by
Olha Zhurba

Contact:
Michaela Čajkova
Filmotor
michaela@filmotor.com

The film had its world premiere at the 2024 Venice Film Festival.

"Olha Zhurba seeks to tell the story of the war in Ukraine through the eyes of ordinary people (...) Despite the horror, every scene is filmed with an eye to beauty"
—Nick Holdsworth, *Modern Times Review*



FILM 3

LUNCH

1.40-3.20 PM

// Room 501B



The Dayton Legacy

France, 2023 (53 min.)

In Bosnian, Serbian, German, Swedish and English with English subtitles

After Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina? Nearly thirty years after the end of the brutal war that ravaged the country and killed over 100,000 people, the small and fragile Balkan state appears to be again on the brink of collapse. This is a revealing analysis of the current crisis, encompassing secessionist temptations, widespread corruption, and foreign interference. Giving voice to key political leaders and members of civil society advocating for more democracy, this documentary delves into the complex legacy of the Dayton peace agreement and provides an in-depth and alarming assessment of the current geopolitical situation. As tensions raise fears of a risk of fragmentation, which side will win the ongoing struggle for influence in the Balkans?



Directed by
Pierre-Olivier François

Contact:
Olivier Semonnay
Java Films
olivier@javafilms.tv

The film was in the official selection of FIPADOC 2025 International Documentary Festival.



FILM 4

LUNCH

1.40-3.20 PM

// Room 1201



A Bit of a Stranger

Ukraine, Germany, Sweden, 2024 (90 min.)

In Russian, English and Arabic with English subtitles

Svitlana is a film director born in Mariupol. For several years she documented her family life: four generations of women who felt how Moscow's long-term imperial policy robbed them of their national identity. After Russia's full-scale invasion, the shock throughout the first months of the war is overwhelming. Her daughter, Alexandra, and her two-year-old granddaughter, Stephanie, escape to London. Valentina, Svitolana's mother, stays in Kyiv and keeps in touch with Mariupol and her daughter via phone. Eager to find out what exactly has happened in Mariupol, Svitolana discovers how their individual experience of war collides with their newfound quest to learn about their families' history. Throughout their events, the three adult women wonder what patriotism really is and if it is worth dying for.



Directed by
Svitlana Lishchynska

Contact:
Hanne Biermann
Film Harbour
hanne@filmharbour.com

The film had its world premiere at the 2024 Berlin Film Festival.



FILM 5
LUNCH
1.40-3.20 PM
// Room 501A



The Kyiv Files

Netherlands, 2023 (78 min.)
*In Ukrainian, Russian, French and Dutch
with English subtitles*

In Ukraine, the Soviet KGB archive with countless files containing reports of observations, has been made accessible to the public. What happens to you, once you find out that the state has been watching you for years? A dissident Ukrainian woman, a Dutch amateur spy and a French tourist betrayed 50 years ago by her "lover", are confronted with their own file in the archive. The film reveals a time when the paranoia of the Soviet regime penetrated deep into the fibers of personal lives. Highlighting the impact of paranoia and mistrust. Through the stories we are reminded of the importance of transparency, accountability, and the protection of individual rights in any society.



"Stokman shows how that era's years of suspicion echo through to the present, with (...) a son now fighting against the Russians."
—IDFA



Directed by
Walter Stokman

Contact:
Kim Buckx
Zeppers Film
kim@zeppers.nl

FILM 6
LUNCH
1.40-3.20 PM
// Room 501B



Turkmenistan: The World's Strangest Dictatorship

France, 2024 (54 min.)
*In Turkmen and French with English subtitles
and voiceover*

The Berdymukhamedov family has ruled Turkmenistan for two generations. The capital, Ashgabat, is a monument to megalomania and is listed as the world's most expensive city. Every one of its buildings is constructed entirely of white marble and only white cars are allowed on its pristine, deserted streets. The city holds the record for the largest star-shaped building, the largest horse-shaped stadium and the highest concentration of fountains. To uncover the secrets of this reclusive dictatorship, the filmmakers discreetly joined a tourist group. Behind the opulence lies a brutal regime that suppresses and threatens any opposition. Only a tiny minority have benefited from the country's wealth. There is mass unemployment and extreme poverty.



Directed by
Ali Watani
Alexis Noé

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Olivier Semonnay
Java Films
olivier@javafilms.tv

FILM 7

LUNCH

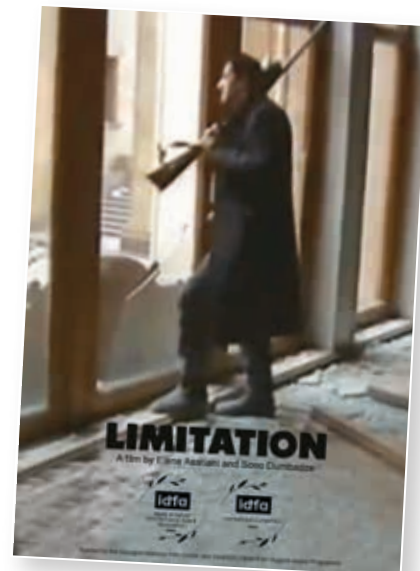
1.40-3.20 PM

// Room 1201

**Limitation (Georgia)**

Georgia, 2023 (125 min.)
In Georgian with English subtitles

In December 1991, a paramilitary coalition led by former members of Georgia's Soviet military and political elite launched a bloody coup d'état against the government of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the nation's first democratically elected president. Long suppressed by the postwar regime, Russia's covert involvement in inciting and supporting the coup is now widely acknowledged by historians. Gathering primary footage sourced entirely from the internet, the film is a riveting account of an authoritarian uprising as depicted by the official cameramen of both sides. Adopting a terse mode evocative of the recent found-footage work of Sergei Loznitsa, Asatiani and Dumbadze allow the fateful concatenation of events to unspool one raw, precipitous episode at a time.



Directed by
Elene Asatiani
Soso Dumbadze

Contact:
Soso Dumbadze
 soso@sa-ga.org

FILM 8

LUNCH

1.40-3.20 PM

// Room 501A

**Fiume O Morte!**

Croatia, Italy, Slovenia, 2025 (112 min.)
In Croatian, Italian, Fiuman (Italian dialect)
with English subtitles

Die yes, live no! This was the motto of the flamboyant Italian officer, poet, dandy, aristocrat and fascist Gabriele D'Annunzio. In 1919, he decided to single-handedly occupy the Croatian city, which the Croats call Rijeka, but which the Italians call Fiume. The peace conference in Paris after the First World War had proposed that Fiume should be handed over to Yugoslavia, but a furious D'Annunzio was determined to prevent this. In the film modern-day residents of Rijeka are cast and interviewed and asked to reconstruct the dramatic occupation. But as the bizarre occupation resurfaces in the crowded streets of the city, it evolves into a thought-provoking film about how absurd, fascist ideas are always just an arm's length away.



Directed by
Igor Bezinović

Contact:
Bojana Maric
 Lightdox
 bojana@lightdox.com

"The movement of memory goes both ways—not only does "Fiume o Morte!" conjure the past, it pulls the events of the past into the present tense, conveying an eerie feeling of witnessing them occurring in real time."

—Richard Brody, *The New Yorker*