

**DANISH  
DOCUMENTARY  
FILM CATALOGUE**

**2014**

# DANISH INDUSTRY CONTACTS

## IDFA ISSUE 2014

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# DANISH DOCUMENTARY

## FILM CATALOGUE 2014

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1989  
/ 1989

1989 is a high-politics drama about the collapse of the Iron Curtain. In 1988, to save Hungary's appalling economy, the young technocrat Miklós Németh becomes the country's new prime minister. He decides to remove the expensive border control apparatus from the state budget. A young couple from East Germany is encouraged by the rumours that the Hungarian border to Austria will be opened and decide to try their luck. But Nemeth's decision has set him up against formidable adversaries and communist hardliners. The young couple gets caught in the political power game, and the young man is shot dead at the border. This tragic event paradoxically accelerates Nemeth's final decision to open the borders, and soon after the Berlin wall falls.

Anders Østergaard (*Tintin and Me* and Oscar nominee *Burma VJ*) and co-director Erzsébet Rácz recreate the events of 1989 using archival footage and placing them in new contexts.

Category / Documentary

**Danish release** / 05.11.2014  
**Running time** / 90 min.  
**Director** / Anders Østergaard  
**Co-director** / Erzsébet Rácz  
**Appearances** / Miklós Németh, Gundula Schafitel, Uta Koch, Mathias Rössler, Reinhard Schmied, Sándor Okányi, Erika Okányi  
**Producer** / Lise Lense-Møller  
**Production company** / Magic Hour Films  
**International sales** / First Hand Films  
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THE CIRCUS DYNASTY  
/ CIRKUSDYNASTIET

Benny Berdino, the owner of one of Europe's biggest circuses, has a dream. To make sure that his dynasty will continue to thrive, he hopes that his grandson, Patrick Berdino, and the award-winning circus artist Merryly Casselly will marry and one day run Circus Arena. With their looks and skills they would be the perfect match. Everything seems to be going according to plan, as Patrick and Merryly have moved into their own caravan. But Benny Berdino's dream is threatened, because mixing love and business is difficult, and the Casselly family is offered a lucrative contract from the biggest circus in the world, Ringling Brothers, in USA.

Anders Riis-Hansen, formerly documentary editor at the Danish Broadcasting Corporation, directed his first feature doc, *Blekingegadebanden – The Invisible Cell*, in 2010 which won the Danish critic's Bodil award the same year.

Category / Documentary

**Danish release** / 12.11.2014  
**Running time** / 75 min.  
**Director** / Anders Riis-Hansen  
**Appearances** / The Berdino Family, The Casselly Family, Ringling Brothers  
**Producer** / Malene Flindt Pedersen  
**Production company** / Hansen & Pedersen Film og Fjernsyn  
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THE ARMS DROP  
/ VÅBENSBUGLINGEN

British arms dealer Peter Bleach is on a mission to find the agent who lied in court as Bleach faced a possible death sentence in India. On his word, Bleach was convicted for dropping four tons of weapons over West Bengal to start a civil war. Bleach was indeed part of the weapons drop – as an informer for MI5 trying to setup the mastermind behind it, the Dane Niels Holck, who was also on board. But Holck dramatically escaped and Bleach paid the price. Now years later Holck stands before trial in Denmark. Bleach decides to forgive his former enemy and embarks on a quest to find the truth behind the mission.

Andreas Koefoed made his first feature-length documentary, *Ballroom Dancer*, in co-direction with Christian Bonke. They received the award for Best Nordic Documentary at Nordisk Panorama in 2012.

Category / Documentary

**Danish release** / 04.06.2014  
**Running time** / 94 min.  
**Director** / Andreas Koefoed  
**Appearances** / Niels Holck, Peter Bleach, Paul McEwan, Andreas Führer  
**Producer** / Miriam Nørgaard  
**Production company** / Fridthjof Film  
**International sales** / DR International  
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DEMOCRATS  
/ DEMOCRATS

Over the course of more than three years director Camilla Nielsson has been up close in the inner circles of politics in Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe. With the process of creating Zimbabwe's new constitution as the film's narrative backbone, the film tells the unique story of the political elite in Zimbabwe fighting the battle over the founding principles defining the country's possible future.

Camilla Nielsson is co-director on *Cities on Speed – Mumbai Disconnected* (2010). She holds an MA in visual anthropology from New York University and worked as a media consultant for UNICEF and UNESCO.

Category / Documentary

**Danish release** / 13.11.2014  
**Running time** / 109 min.  
**Director** / Camilla Nielsson  
**Appearances** / Paul Mangwana, Douglas Mwonzora, Robert Mugabe  
**Producer** / Henrik Veileborg  
**Production company** / Uprfront Films  
**International sales** / DR International  
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CATS IN RIGA  
/ RIGAS KATTE

Jon Bang Carlsen about his film: "For a seasoned filmmaker, focusing on another creature than man is a pleasure. A creature who doesn't give a shit about the meaning of life while in the background, blurred, all the turmoil of man is still there, the warmongering, the pretentiousness, the eagerness to please. My protagonists are beautiful lovers, arrogant killers, serious sleepers and if you caress them they will scratch you right away or love you shortly before they kill you. And nobody plays the grand piano better than a cat who couldn't care less about harmony walking down a dilapidated keyboard in Riga, Latvia."

Category / Documentary

**Danish release** / TBA  
**Running time** / 15 min.  
**Director** / Jon Bang Carlsen  
**Producer** / Antra Gaile  
**Production company** / Mistrus Media  
**International sales** / C&C Productions



THE FENCING CHAMPION  
/ FÆGTEMESTER

Ruben has a great passion for fencing and is one of the best in his age group. We follow Ruben while he is preparing for the big annual championship. Winning means everything to him. However, as he has moved up a level, the opponents are older, bigger and better. He has to give everything in him in order to succeed.

The second in a series of six films about children and sports directed by Simon Lereng Wilmont. The first, *Chikara – the Sumo Wrestler's Son*, premiered at IDFA in 2013.

Category / Documentary

**Danish release** / 2015  
**Running time** / 27 min.  
**Director** / Simon Lereng Wilmont  
**Appearances** / Ruben Wilmont  
**Producer** / Monica Hellström  
**Production company & International sales** / Final Cut for Real  
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**GENETIC ME**  
/ GENETIC ME

A humorous, sexy and very human gateway into the rising science of who we are. Using wit and authenticity, the film connects a deeply personal tale with frontier genetic research and provides new perspectives on the eternal question: "How did I become me?" The film tackles numerous themes for debate and is relevant for panel discussions, scientist talks and audience and student comments. This is the science you thought you would never understand finally made accessible and about to set you on a personal journey into the future.

*Genetic Me* won the Pierre-Gilles de Gennes Prize and the Student Award at Paris Science Film Festival 2014. Pernille Rose GrønkJær is co-owner of Danish Documentary, her *The Monastery* won the Joris Ivens award in 2006 and *Love Addict* received the Cinema Eye Honors for Outstanding Achievement International Feature in 2011.

**Category** / Documentary

**Danish release** / 06.11.2014  
**Running time** / 52 min.  
**Director** / Pernille Rose GrønkJær  
**Appearances** / Lone Frank, Robert Plomin, Daniel Nettle, Ahmad Hariri  
**Producer** / Lone Frank, Bjørn Vidø, Jesper Eugen-Olsen  
**Production company** / The Four Letter Revolution  
**International sales** / DR International sales / t +45 3520 3040  
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**GOOD THINGS AWAIT**  
/ SÅ MEGET GODT I VENTE

Niels is one of the last idealistic farmers in the agricultural country of Denmark. He makes some of the world's finest products, praised by the consumers, prized by the world's best restaurant, NOMA in Copenhagen, and nursed in harmony with the universe. But Niels' ways of farming in accordance with the planets and the primal instincts of the animals are not too popular with the authorities. They are threatening to withdraw his license to keep cattle, the buildings are deteriorating, and with no successor to take over, Niels risks seeing his life fall apart.

Phie Ambo co-directed *Family* (2001) which won the Joris Ivens award for best feature documentary. Ambo is also renowned for *Gambler* (2006), about Danish feature film director Nicolas Winding Refn, and *Free the Mind* (2012).

**Category** / Documentary

**Danish release** / 03.09.2014  
**Running time** / 96 min.  
**Director** / Phie Ambo  
**Appearances** / Niels Stokholm, Rita Hansen, René Redzepi  
**Producer** / Malene Flindt Pedersen  
**Production company** / Danish Documentary Production  
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**HOTEL OF THE STARS**  
/ HOTEL OF THE STARS

A documentary comedy on extras played by extras. On their dreams and how the American society is reflected in these dreams. The film takes place in Hotel of the Stars, a hotel in the centre of Hollywood. An old hotel, yet time has not been able to wipe out all traces of previous elegance. Until the beginning of the sixties the name of this hotel was simply a sober statement: Up there on Franklin Avenue lived "the Stars", when they came in from New York, still blushing from the spotlights of Broadway. The name is still the same, but reality has changed. The stars and their money have moved to other parts of the city and have left the place to those who dream of becoming stars and their loyal followers, poverty and crime.

Jon Bang Carlsen's classic from 1981 is part of his extensive production that also includes *Jenny* (1977), *A Rich Man* (1979), *Phoenix Bird* (1984), *Before the Guests Arrive* (1986), *It's Now or Never* (1996) and his latest feature documentary *Just the Right Amount of Violence* (2013), which was selected for IDFA.

**Category** / Documentary

**Danish release** / 08.08.1981  
**Running time** / 58 min.  
**Director** / Jon Bang Carlsen  
**Appearances** / Dan Pattarson, David Pack, George W. Scott, Joe André  
**Production company** / Workshopen  
**International sales** / C&C Productions  
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**LAAMB**  
/ LAAMB

The rules are simple in Senegalese wrestling: First man down loses. The sport derives from ancient ritual manhood trials, but in modern times it has developed into a national sport with packed stadiums, huge prizes and extreme idol worship. Today the fight is supplemented with bare knuckle boxing, but without any protection. We follow the 22-year-old cattle herder Ndooff and his attempts to become a pro wrestler in Senegal. He has been chosen to compete in an annual talent event in Dakar and faces a possible breakthrough. The film is a modern tale about fighting your way out of poverty in a sport filled with myths and extreme voodoo rituals.

*Laamb* is Kristoffer Hegnsvad's first documentary.

**Category** / Documentary

**Danish release** / 2014  
**Running time** / 28 min.  
**Director** / Kristoffer Hegnsvad  
**Appearances** / Ndooffene Diouf, Youssou Faye, Tonton Leo, Coach Amadou Katy Diop, Ecurie Ndakaru  
**Producer** / Kristoffer Hegnsvad, Peter Alsted  
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**THE LOOK OF SILENCE**  
/ THE LOOK OF SILENCE

Through the filmmaker's work filming perpetrators of the 1965-66 Indonesian genocide, a family of survivors discovers how their son was murdered and the identity of the men who killed him. The family's youngest son, Adi, asks how he can raise his children in a society where survivors are terrorized into silence and everybody is terrorized into treating the murderers as heroes. In search of answers, Adi decides to confront each of the surviving killers involved with his brother's murder. And thus begins, though cinema, an unprecedented dialogue.

Joshua Oppenheimer was nominated for an Oscar in 2014 for *The Act of Killing* which has won huge international acclaim since its world premiere at Toronto Film Festival in 2012.

**Category** / Documentary

**Danish release** / 13.11.2014  
**Running time** / 99 min.  
**Director** / Joshua Oppenheimer  
**Producer** / Signe Byrge Sørensen  
**Production company** / Final Cut for Real  
**International sales** / Cinephil - Philippa Kowarsky Production Ltd.  
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**MALEK MEANS ANGEL**  
/ MALEK MEANS ANGEL

With the smile of an angel and the will of a warrior, Malek is far from an average 11-year-old girl. Striving to one day become a professional fencer, she spends every day training alongside her best friend Yasmine in a working class neighbourhood in Tunis. Malek and Yasmine are training intensively to take the top medals in an upcoming fencing competition. When the day finally arises, Malek's strength and dreams are put to the test. An intimate coming-of-age story, the film captures the life of a young Islamic girl who allows for herself to feel and to fight.

Lea Hjort Mathiesen is a student at the National Film School of Denmark.

**Category** / Documentary

**Danish release** / 2015  
**Running time** / 28 min.  
**Director** / Lea Hjort Mathiesen  
**Appearances** / Malek Hannachi, Yasmine Ayari  
**Producer** / Lea Hjort Mathiesen  
**Production company & International sales** / The National Film School of Denmark  
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Panorama / IDFA 2014

## MISSION RAPE – A TOOL OF WAR

/ VOLDTÆGT SOM KRIGSVÅBEN

Despite increasingly refined war technology, mass rape is used as a tool of war in modern combat. Some 25,000 to 40,000 women were victims of mass rape during the Balkan war 1992-1995. Twenty years after these crimes, only very few cases of war crimes of sexual violence have been investigated and prosecuted. For the women in the film the rapes remain a dark shadow in their lives enshrouded by taboo. For these women legal justice is the only hope to regain integrity and life. But justice fails and betrays them all the way to the International Criminal Court of Justice in The Hague.

Katia Forbert Petersen and Annette Mari Olsen have kept in contact with a group of women who stranded in Denmark in 1992. The women had fled from Bosnia, from the war. They spoke about their experiences, their pain and the fear they had for the future – for themselves and for their children. This was the first time the directors were confronted with mass rape as a war strategy.

Category / Documentary

**Danish release** / 2014  
**Running time** / 61 min.  
**Directors** / Annette Mari Olsen, Katia Forbert Petersen  
**Producers** / Annette Mari Olsen, Katia Forbert Petersen, Karen Hjort  
**Production company** / Sfinx Film/TV  
**International sales** / DR International sales  
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## NAKED

/ DAGBOG FRA PORN VALLEY

Denice, who has starred in hundreds of porn films, has for some years been busy with the start-up of Scandinavia's biggest webcam site. Denice decides to make a comeback in Porn Valley in Los Angeles to make some quick cash over the summer. She moves into a mansion owned by Derek Hay, a porn film agent. Ten young porn models live together in the house – some of them as young as 18 and about to make their debut in the tough industry of porn. After three years away from the industry, Denice starts to see it in a new light. She finds that it makes her extremely sad. Her own situation is reflected in that of the young girls – as if she sees herself for the first time.

Nicole N. Horanyi has directed *Au Pair* (2011) and *The Devil's* (2009). She is a graduate from the National Film School of Denmark.

Category / Documentary

**Danish release** / 05.11.2014  
**Running time** / 51 min.  
**Director** / Nicole N. Horanyi  
**Appearances** / Denice Klarskov  
**Producer** / Helle Faber  
**Production company** / Made in Copenhagen  
**International sales** / DR International sales  
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Of Media and Men / IDFA 2014

## THE NEWSROOM – OFF THE RECORD

/ EKSTRA BLADET UDEN FOR CITAT

The world of printed media is threatened by the financial crisis, as circulation figures are falling and the media corporations' economies are faltering. The Danish media is marked by the crisis as well, including the tabloid Ekstra Bladet, which is going through the worst crisis in the newspaper's hundred years of publishing. The readers have gone online and are failing the printed newspaper. And no one has yet cracked the code on how to capitalize on news on the web. Every day Ekstra Bladet competes with other newspapers for the readers and the good stories, the battle is fierce and in the end only the strongest will survive. The film is a portrait of a tabloid newspaper entering a new era.

*The Newsroom – Off the Record* is Mikala Krogh's 12th documentary film. *A Normal Life* (2012) was selected for competition at IDFA.

Category / Documentary

**Danish release** / 01.10.2014  
**Running time** / 97 min.  
**Director** / Mikala Krogh  
**Appearances** / Poul Madsen, Karen Bro, Jimmy Maymann, Kristian Kornø, Thomas Gösta Svensson  
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## SHADOW BOXER

/ SKYGGE BOKSER

Abdul, 19, is the most promising boxing talent in Denmark. He is working his way up through the ranks with former world champion Mikkel Kessler as a manager – and hero. In the club Abdul is a boxer, but outside he is struggling to gain footing. Pressured by religion, family and the expectations of others, he is constantly afraid to be a disappointment to everyone who trusts him, especially his father. A coming-of-age story, the film explores with great sensitivity a young man's inner conflicts and his deepest feelings as they develop in a heavily masculine environment.

Mikkel Blaabjerg Poulsen is a graduate from the independent film school Super16. He has directed several shorts, documentaries and commercials. He is co-owner of the production company Green Copenhagen.

Category / Documentary

**Danish release** / 11.03.2014  
**Running time** / 48 min.  
**Director** / Mikkel Blaabjerg Poulsen  
**Appearances** / Abdul Khattab, Mikkel Kessler  
**Producer** / Lise Saxtrup  
**Production company & International sales** / Klassefilm  
/ www.klassefilm.dk



Feature-Length Competition  
+ DOC U Competition / IDFA 2014

## SOMETHING BETTER TO COME

/ SOMETHING BETTER TO COME

Right outside of Moscow – home to the highest number of billionaires pr. capita – you find the largest junkyard in the world: the Svalka. It's a hard place run by the Russian mafia. And it's where Yula lives with her mother, her friends and many other people. Life is tough in the Svalka, but it's also a place where beauty and humanity can arise from the most unlikely conditions. It is from this place that Yula dreams of escaping and changing her life, even if it seems impossible. Director Hanna Polak followed Yula for 14 years.

Hanna Polak has directed, produced and shot several films that have won international awards, including the Oscar-nominated, IDA-winner and two times Emmy-nominated *The Children of Leningradsky* (2014).

Category / Documentary

**Danish release** / 2015  
**Running time** / 110 min.  
**Director** / Hanna Polak  
**Producer** / Sigrid Dyekjær  
**Production company** / Danish Documentary Production  
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/ www.filmstransit.com



Panorama + DOC U Competition / IDFA 2014

## SONGS FOR ALEXIS

/ SONGS FOR ALEXIS

A timeless love story about two American teenagers and their struggle to find both love and an individual identity in a grown-up world. Ryan is 18 and a very talented musician. Four years ago he came out as a transgender person and began the difficult transformation from girl to boy. Now Ryan has fallen head over heels in love with the beautiful and enigmatic Alexis. However, her parents' attitude towards their relationship forces Alexis to make the heartbreaking choice between her family and the man she loves.

Eliva Lind graduated from film school in Cape Town. Amongst her earlier works is a documentary web series *Under Copenhagen. Songs for Alexis* premiered at Hot Docs 2014.

Category / Documentary

**Danish release** / 07.11.2014  
**Running time** / 74 min.  
**Director** / Elvira Lind  
**Appearances** / Alexis Ann, Ryan Cassata, Fran Cassata  
**Producer** / Julie Leerskov, Anne Sofie Hansen-Skovmoes  
**Production company** / Copenhagen Bombay  
**International sales** / Copenhagen Bombay Sales ApS / t +45 7242 0800  
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/ www.copenhagenbombay.com



**THE VISIT**  
/ THE VISIT

An alien encounter. A hypothetical visitor arrives from Outer Space. The authorities are immediately alerted – the military, defence and communication advisors, and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. How to deal with this unprecedented event? How to reassure Earth's inhabitants, who are prone to panic, when you have no previous experience to draw upon?

Produced by Oscar-nominated production company Magic Hour Films, as was Michael Madsen's first feature documentary *Into Eternity* (2009), about a depository for nuclear waste. His contribution to Wim Wender's *Cathedrals of Culture, Halden Prison*, premiered at the Berlinale 2014.

**Category** / Documentary

**Danish release** / 2015  
**Running time** / 85 min.  
**Director** / Michael Madsen  
**Producer** / Lise Lense-Møller  
**Production company** / Magic Hour Films  
**International sales** / Outlook Filmsales / t 43 720 34 69 34 / www.autlookfilms.com



**WARRIORS FROM THE NORTH**  
/ KRIGERNE FRA NORD

Abukar, a Somali, lives a life at the very bottom of the Danish society. His son, Mohammed, has joined al-Shabaab in Somalia, perhaps to avoid a life like his father's. Abukar now fears that Mohammed will be the next suicide bomber to carry out his mission, a fear that seems very reasonable, as two out of the seven Danish-Somali men recruited together with Mohammed have already become "martyrs". One carried out a suicide attack at a graduation ceremony for doctors in Mogadishu killing 24. The other attempted an attack at Mogadishu's airport, but failed to kill anyone but himself and two UN soldiers. A fourth young man from this terrorist cell, "The Shadow," got away just in time. "The Shadow" is the narrator of this film.

Søren Steen Jespersen graduated from the Danish School of Media and Journalism in 1993 and has since worked as producer and for television. Nasib Farah made *My Cousin the Pirate* (2010) with Christian Sønderby Jepsen. *Warriors from the North* is Jespersen and Farah's debut as documentary film directors.

**Category** / Documentary

**Danish release** / 09.10.2014  
**Running time** / 58 min.  
**Director** / Søren Steen Jespersen, Nasib Farah  
**Producer** / Helle Faber  
**Production company** / Made in Copenhagen  
**International sales** / DR International sales / t +45 3520 3040 / drsales@dr.dk / www.drsales.dk



**WE ARE JOURNALISTS**  
/ WE ARE JOURNALISTS

A documentary film about the difficult conditions of Iranian journalists inside and outside the country and based on the personal story of the director. The film lays bare not only Ahmad's personal pain and suffering in his relentless fight for freedom of expression, but also the plight of many Iranian journalists who lost their livelihoods when the newspapers they worked for were banned.

Ahmad Jalali Farahani worked as a journalist and editor at Mehr News Agency in Iran. He has lived in Denmark since 2010 where his documentary *Sofar* was screened at CPH:DOX.

**Category** / Documentary

**Danish release** / 2015  
**Running time** / 85 min.  
**Director** / Ahmad Jalali Farahani  
**Producer** / Anja Dalhoff  
**Production company** / Danish Doc Production  
**International sales** / Journeyman Pictures / t 44 208 398 4616 / info@journeyman.tv / www.journeyman.tv

:/FILM/

**DANISH FILMS**  
**IDFA DIGITAL ISSUE 2014**

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