

DANISH
DOCUMENTARY
FILM CATALOGUE
IDFA 2016

DANISH FILM INSTITUTE / DFI.DK

DFI FILM

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/ IDFA 2016**

Issued by

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The Danish Film Institute (DFI) is the national agency that supports and encourages Danish film and cinema culture. The DFI funds the production of 25-30 documentary and short films every year. See more at dfi.dk/english.

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THE ALLINS / THE ALLINS

On the 20th anniversary of the extreme punk rock musician GG Allin's mythological death in 1993, his gravestone is removed from the cemetery in New Hampshire. GG's brother, promoter and bass player Merle, accuses both the town police and priest of being behind the removal, but it is in fact his mother Arleta who has removed the gravestone. She is tired of fans vandalising her son's grave. Arleta wishes to preserve the memory of a beloved son, but Merle is afraid that the missing gravestone will disappoint the visiting fans and in the end affect his business. Ever since GG's death Merle has kept the myth and himself alive by carrying on the old band The Murder Junkies and selling merchandise.

Sami Saif made his first feature documentary with *Family* (with Phie Ambo, 2001), winner of the Joris Ivens Award at IDFA. Other films include *Dogville Confessions* (2003), *Paradise* (co-directed with Jens Loftager and Erlend E. Mo, 2008) and *Tommy* (2010).

Director Sami Saif
Producer Signe Leick Jensen, Stine Boe Jensen
Production Toolbox Film
Appearances Merle Allin, Arleta Baird

Genre Documentary
Running time 76 min.

International sales
Toolbox Film
t +45 2077 9047
mail@toolboxfilm.dk
toolboxfilm.dk



AMANDA KNOX / AMANDA KNOX

Twice convicted and twice acquitted by Italian courts of the brutal killing of her British roommate Meredith Kercher, Amanda Knox became the subject of global speculation as non-stop media attention fed the public's fascination through every twist and turn of the nearly decade-long case. In a world that remains strongly divided on the legal findings, the film goes beyond guilt or innocence to shed new light on the events and circumstances of the past nine years. Featuring unprecedented access to key people involved and never-before-seen archival material, the film shifts between past to present, exploring the case from the inside out in exclusive interviews with Amanda Knox, her former co-defendant and ex-boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito, Italian prosecutor Giuliano Mignini and Daily Mail reporter Nick Pisa.

Amanda Knox, world premiering at Toronto, is a collaboration between US directors Brian McGinn and Rod Blackhurst and Danish producer Mette Heide. Heide was also on board McGinn's prize-winning film from 2012, *The Record Breaker*.

Director Brian McGinn, Rod Blackhurst
Producer Mette Heide
Production Plus Pictures
Appearances Amanda Knox, Raffaele Sollecito, Nick Pisa, Giuliano Mignini

Genre Documentary
Running time 91 min.

International sales
Plus Pictures
t +45 3311 1210
info@pluspictures.dk
pluspicutres.dk



AMATEURS IN SPACE / AMATEURS IN SPACE

Over a period of six years, the director follows two best friends and top engineers as they pursue their dream of building a DIY rocket to travel into space. If they succeed, Denmark will be the fourth nation in history to launch people beyond the Earth's atmosphere. Against all odds and technical challenges they build the cheapest rocket for the costs of a small car. They attract a group of space-flight enthusiasts from around the world who support them with great excitement. The film is a story of one of the greatest dreams of humankind and how to make it come true, despite such everyday obstacles as losing your screwdriver or fighting about whose turn it is to take out the trash.

Max Kestner has directed a number of acclaimed documentaries such as *Max by Chance* (2004), *Blue Collar White Christmas* (2004) and *Dreams in Copenhagen* (2009).

Director Max Kestner
Producer Sigrid Jonsson Dyekjær
Production Danish Documentary Production
Appearances Peter Madsen, Kristian von Bengtson

Genre Documentary
Running time 90 min.

International sales
Autlook Filmsales
t +43 720 34 69 34
welcome@autlookfilms.com
autlookfilms.com



BOBBI JENE
/ BOBBI JENE

After a decade of stardom in Israel, American dancer Bobbi Jene takes intensity to a new level when she decides to leave behind her star position at the world-famous Batsheva Dance Company, as well as the love of her life, to return to the US to create her own boundary breaking performances. A love story, the film portrays the dilemmas and inevitable consequences of ambition. It is a film about a woman's fight for independence and her attempt to succeed with her own art in the extremely competitive world of dance.

Elvira Lind graduated from the CityVarsity School of Media and Creative Arts in Cape Town in 2005 and has worked internationally within all aspects of production. Her first long documentary, *Songs for Alexis* (2014), was selected for IDFA and has also screened at Toronto Hot Docs, among other festivals.

Director Elvira Lind
Producer Julie Leerskov, Sara Stockmann
Production Sonntag Pictures
Appearances Bobbi Jene Smith, Ohad Naharin

Genre Documentary
Running time 95 min.

International sales
Autlook Filmsales
t +43 720 34 69 34
welcome@autlookfilms.com
autlookfilms.com



BUGS
/ BUGS

Insects as food is a hot topic. Particularly over the last few years, since the UN recommended edible insects as a resource to combat world hunger, they have been heralded for their taste by cooks and gastronomes, for their low ecological impact by environmentalists and for their nutritional content by public health scientists. It would seem that insects are the new superfood that will fix our problems of global food security. In the past three years a team from Copenhagen-based Nordic Food Lab made up of chefs and researchers Josh Evans, Ben Reade and Roberto Flore have been travelling the world to hear what some of the two billion people who already eat insects have to say.

BUGS premiered at Tribeca Film Festival and has had a busy festival life with screenings among others at Cineambiente in Torino, where it won an award, Edinburgh, Durban, Melbourne, Prizren and Hong Kong. Andreas Johnsen's *Ai Weiwei The Fake Case* was nominated at IDFA in 2013. Other acclaimed titles by Johnsen include *Murder* (2009) and *Kidd Life* (2012).

Director Andreas Johnsen
Producer Sigrid Jonsson Dyekjær
Production Danish Documentary Production, Rosforth Films
Appearances Ben Reade, Josh Evans, Roberto Flore

Genre Documentary
Running time 73 min.

International sales
Autlook Filmsales
t +43 720 34 69 34
welcome@autlookfilms.com
autlookfilms.com



DREAM EMPIRE
/ DREAM EMPIRE

Yana is a 24-year-old rural migrant who recently arrived in Chongqing to pursue her "Chinese Dream." Drawn by the glamour and easy riches of China's historic real estate boom, she opens a foreigner rental agency designed to help Chinese real estate developers market their new developments. But this business takes a dubious turn as her foreigners are increasingly used in a surreal effort to turn remote rural ghost towns into "globalised booming cities" on the days that outside investors and political leaders visit. When the inevitable happens and the real estate bubble starts to pop, Yana is forced to sell her company and reassess everything she ever believed in. Shot over several years, the film is at once a personal story and an on-the-ground chronicle of one of the most critical economic issues of our time.

American director and anthropologist David Borenstein started making *Dream Empire* while in China doing a PhD on the country's housing boom. *Dream Empire* is his first feature documentary.

Director David Borenstein
Producer Jesper Jack
Production House of Real

Genre Documentary
Running time 75 min.

International sales
Gunpowder & Sky Distribution
t +1 212 463 6403
cj@gunpowdersky.com
gunpowdersky.com



A PLACE CALLED LLOYD / UN LUGAR LLAMADO LLOYD

When Lloyd Aereo Boliviano, one of the world's oldest airlines, went bankrupt in 2008, many of their employees decided to just continue working. To this day they still check life vests, stitch covers for plane seats and manage their books despite their planes remaining grounded. The film portrays these employees and their daily lives at the airline that doesn't fly.

Sebastian Cordes has a BA in Philosophy from the University of Copenhagen and Charles University, with a focus on aesthetics. In 2010 he directed *The Life and Times of Don Rosa*, which premiered at CPH:DOX.

Director Sebastian Cordes
Producer Niels Michael Wee
Production Bredidablik Film

Genre Documentary
Running time 80 min.

International sales
Bredidablik Film
t +45 2834 4217
nmw@bredidablik.dk
bredidablik.dk



THOSE WHO JUMP / LES SAUTEURS

In northern Morocco lies the Spanish enclave of Melilla: Europe on African Land. On the mountain above live over a thousand hopeful African migrants, watching the border fence. Abou from Mali is one of them – the protagonist in front of the camera, as well as the person behind it. For over a year, he has ceaselessly persisted in attempting to jump the fence. As Abou portrays the struggle for human dignity and freedom on one of the world's most militarised frontiers, the film ultimately becomes a story about the empowerment of a filmmaker armed only with his camera and his aspirations.

The film was awarded the prize of the Ecumenical Jury at the Berlinale and has since been honoured at a string of festivals, including the Amnesty International Award at Docs Against Gravity in Warsaw.

Director Moritz Siebert,
Estephan Wagner, Abou Bakar Sidibé
Producer Heidi Elise Christensen,
Signe Byrge Sørensen
Production Final Cut for Real
Appearances Abou Bakar Sidibé

Genre Documentary
Running time 82 min.

International sales
Wide House
t +33 1 53 95 04 64
widehouse.org



TUTTI A CASA – POWER TO THE PEOPLE? / TUTTI A CASA – AL MAGT TIL FOLKET?

In many Western democracies, trust between the people and the politicians are at a low point while populist movements are on the rise. In Italy, the protest movement Movimento vows to send all politicians home and bring the people to power. They win a stunning 25% of the vote, but what happens when political ideals meet parliamentary reality? Can you be uncompromising and democratic at the same time? Are internet referendums direct democracy or faceless mob rule? The film follows this democratic experiment.

Lise Birk Pedersen has made a number of films touching on Russian themes, including *Putin's Kiss* (2012) which premiered in competition at IDFA and won Best Cinematography at Sundance and a Special Mention at Amnesty International's Movies that Matter Festival.

Director Lise Birk Pedersen
Producer Lise Lense-Møller
Production Magic Hour Films
Appearances Beppe Grillo

Genre Documentary
Running time 90 min.

International sales
Autlook Filmsales
t +43 720 34 69 34
welcome@autlookfilms.com
autlookfilms.com



VENUS
/ VENUS

Two female directors in their thirties begin an investigation, based on their own sexual frustrations, to understand desire from a female point of view. As an excuse to get more answers, they decide to make a film based on real women's erotic memories and reflections. They send out a casting call and over 100 ordinary Copenhagen women reply. As the shooting progresses it dawns on the filmmakers that what was just meant to be a casting instead becomes an overwhelming shared experience of intimacy. The casting couch is turned into an exploration space for the young women to share their true desires, fantasies and reflections on their experiences with sex, shame, lust and pleasure. The film gives a rare look into the secret language of young female sexuality.

The directors won the Nordic Talent Pitch Prize in 2011 for their film project *Human Female Sexuality*. Glob co-directed (with Petra Costa) *Olmo and the Seagull*, recipient of the best Nordic doc award at CPH:DOX 2014. Albrechtsen is co-director (with Tine Katinka Jensen) of *Wild Girls* from 2012.

Director Lea Glob, Mette Carla Albrechtsen
Producer Kirstine Barfod, Jesper Jack, Julie Leerskov, Anna J. Ljungmark
Production House of Real

Genre Documentary
Running time 80 min.

International sales
Autlook Filmsales
t +43 720 34 69 34
welcome@autlookfilms.com
autlookfilms.com



THE WAIT
/ THE WAIT

Rokhsar Sediqi, 14, lives in Denmark with her mother, father and five siblings. In her spare time she plays on the local football team. Some years back Rokhsar and her family fled from Afghanistan and after six months on the run they ended up in Denmark and applied for asylum. But the Danish Immigration Service is not convinced they are persecuted by the Taliban in Afghanistan, and the family has repeatedly been refused asylum. They are now waiting for the final decision, but the wait has forever changed Rokhsar.

Emil Langballe's graduation film *Beach Boy* (2013) from UK's National Film and Television School was honoured at such film festivals as Karlovy Vary, Thessaloniki, Tampere and Toronto's Hot Docs. Langballe has previously directed *Josephine's Farm* (2015), a television series for children.

Director Emil Langballe
Producer Helle Faber
Production Made in Copenhagen

Genre Documentary
Running time 55 min.

International sales
Made in Copenhagen
t +45 2623 6351
faber@madeincopenhagen.dk
madeincopenhagen.dk



WAITING FOR THE SUN
/ DE DØMTES BØRN

When their father faces the death penalty, two Chinese twin sisters and their little brother are abandoned. No one in the family wants to take care of children with such a shameful background. Instead, they are taken in by Sun Village, an orphanage for children whose parents are imprisoned for serious crimes. Together with the three newcomers, we follow the children's lives as their destinies cross paths and they help each other through the hardest time of their lives. Many of the children have only just learnt to tie their shoelaces and now they are forced to grow up fast and learn to take care of themselves. With great sensitivity and from the children's perspective, Kaspar Astrup Schröder depicts two years at the orphanage during which a group of children are growing up and gaining a foothold.

Though based in Copenhagen, Kaspar Astrup Schröder often works in Asia. His films include *The Invention of Dr. Nakamats* (2009) and *My Playground* (2010), both selected for IDFA. *Rent a Family Inc.* (2012) was honoured with a Golden Eye Award at Zürich.

Director Kaspar Astrup Schröder
Producer Katrine Sahlstrøm
Production Good Company Pictures

Genre Documentary
Running time 92 min.

International sales
Autlook Filmsales
t +43 720 34 69 34
welcome@autlookfilms.com
autlookfilms.com



THE WAR SHOW / THE WAR SHOW

In March 2011, radio host Obaidah Zytoon and her circle of friends join the street protests against President Bashar al-Assad, as the Arab Spring reaches Syria. Knowing their country would be changed forever, this group of artists and activists begin filming their lives and the events around them. But as the regime's violent response spirals the country into a bloody civil war, their hopes for a better future will be tested by violence, imprisonment and death. Obaidah leaves Damascus and journeys around the country, from her hometown of Zabadani to the centre of the rebellion in Homs and to northern Syria where she witnesses the rise of extremism. A deeply personal road movie, the film captures the fate of Syria through the intimate lens of a small circle of friends.

Director Andreas Dalsgaard, Obaidah Zytoon
Producer Miriam Nørgaard, Alaa Hassan
Production Fridthjof Film
Appearances Amal, Houssam, Lulu, Hisham, Rabea, Argha

Genre Documentary
Running time 100 min.

International sales
DR International Sales
t +45 3520 3040
drsales@dr.dk
drsales.dk

Andreas Dalsgaard and Obaidah Zytoon's film won the top prize at Venice Days. Dalsgaard debuted as documentary director with *Afghan Muscles* (2007), winner of the Best Director prize at the AFI Fest in Los Angeles, and has since released *The Human Scale* (2012) and *Life is Sacred* (2015) among other titles.



WHO WE WERE / DEM VI VAR

A life like so many others: Kristian and Mette Line have been together for 12 years. In the beginning it was all about falling in love, travelling the world and careers. Later, it grew from a life of just "you and me" into a family and now they have two children named Celeste and Cyron. Two years ago, they bought their dream house, where they planned to live out their dream of the good life, until one day Kristian suffers a stroke. It destroys one third of his brain. The damage is irreversible, and life as they knew it is gone. Forever.

Director Sine Skibsholt
Producer Helle Faber
Production Made in Copenhagen
Appearances Mette Line Boserup, Kristian Boserup

Genre Documentary
Running time 82 min.

International sales
LevelK
t +45 4844 3072
tine.klint@levelk.dk
levelk.dk

Sine Skibsholt has previously developed, directed and produced a children's documentary series made for national broadcaster DR, to whom she has been attached for more than a decade. Skibsholt's graduation film *By the Sea* (2011) from the National Film School of Denmark screened at various festivals. *Who We Where* is her first feature-length documentary.

IDFA FORUM / DANISH PROJECTS

The Distant Barking of Dogs

Dir. Simon Lereng Wilmont
Denmark-Sweden-Finland / 2017

Everything has changed for the 10-year-old Ukrainian boy Oleg, whose life has been turned upside down by the on-going war in East-Ukraine.

Production Monica Hellström Weston for Final Cut for Real
Co-production Sami Jahnukainen for Mouka Filmi / Tobias Janson for Story

IDFA Forum category
Round Table

Girl in Return

Dir. Katrine Kjær
Denmark / 2017

What happens when an adopted teenage girl decides to change her destiny by taking charge over the fight against the system?

Production Sara Stockmann for Sonntag Pictures
Commissioning Editors Lasse Bjerre for TV 2 Denmark / Charlotte Gry Madsen for SVT / Tore Tomter for NRK / Jenny Westergård for YLE

IDFA Forum category
Round Table

Hunting for Hedonia

Dir. Pernille Rose Grønkjær
Denmark / 2018

This film explores how the burgeoning technology of deep brain stimulation will impact brain identity and our sense of self.

Production Sigríð Jonsson Dyekjær and Sidsel Lønvig Siersted for Danish Documentary Production
Commissioning Editor Flemming Hedegaard for DR

IDFA Forum category
Central Pitch

One Bullet Afghanistan

Dir. Carol Dysinger
Denmark-USA / 2017

One bullet, fired into darkness, hits a boy on a residential street outside Kabul, sending him into the path of a woman filmmaker embedded with International Security Forces in Afghanistan.

Production Jesper Jack and Su Kim for House of Real

IDFA Forum category
Round Table

Ripples on the Shore

Dir. Phie Ambo
Denmark / 2017

The film will take you on an expedition into the unknown territory of the human consciousness.

Production Phie Ambo for Viola-Lucia Film
Co-production Malene Flindt Pedersen for Hansen & Pedersen Film og Fjernsyn
Commissioning Editor Flemming Hedegaard for DR

IDFA Forum category
Rough Cut Project

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