

The 17th International 1001 Documentary Film Festival Theme

Emergency Exit

There must be an exit of sorts, an emergency exit, which our memories and minds can show us.

This year, between the dates of December 1st and 7th, the 17th International Documentary Film Festival will take place with its theme, “EMERGENCY EXIT.” Under this heading, documentary filmmakers from around the world will awaken and refresh our memories and will stimulate our senses; these stories will reverberate across the screen.

For the 17th time annually, the International Documentary Film Festival will occur between the dates of December 1st and 7th.

In an effort to bring the products of documentary filmmakers, and the viewers together, a meeting between filmmakers occurred 17 years ago. To strengthen the bond of support and collaboration between filmmakers, individuals gathered at the Conference for Documentary Filmmakers and two things occurred; the creation of the Association of Documentary Filmmakers, and the start of the International 1001 Documentary Film Festival.

Since 1997, the Festival has shown thousands of films from Turkey as well as overseas. It has brought together numerous filmmakers, film theorists and viewers. In essence, the Festival created an environment in which individuals could bring together and present to one another stories and experiences from different societies. This coming together resulted in the creation of a space in which individuals could come into contact with and experience those other societies while emphasizing the universality of film as a form of art. Now, at the 17th 1001 Film Festival we as filmmakers are ready to share with you once again our realities and our dreams.

The films chosen to be a part of the 1001 Documentary Film Festival demonstrate their ability to use the universal language of cinema; they discuss human values, they contribute to humanity’s imagination of what the future may hold and they contribute distinct perspectives.

“EMERGENCY EXIT”

For the 1001 Documentary Film Festival, the festival’s committee has designated the 17th theme as “Emergency Exit.”

Our world, to an extent, has been formed by false and abusive policies; on the one hand, it has been subjected to global warming, the depletion of fossil fuels, and natural disasters. While on the other,

individuals come face-to-face with economic, political and social crises. The dominant systems of power find solutions in increased consumption and oppressive regimes and forms of ruling. Yet, there must be an exit of sorts, an emergency exit, which our memories and minds can show us.

The Documentary Filmmakers Association realizes that the missing fragments of collective memory need to be filled, that cultural continuity and a responsibility to our surroundings are essential. We believe an informed and creative approach to crafting the future will gain traction with the institutionalization of Documentary Film.

It is our belief that concepts such as thinking, expressing, creating, and producing need to emerge in a non-discriminatory space. It is through the disentanglement of such channels of creativity that the world becomes livable. (Founding statement from the Documentary Filmmakers Association "What Remains for Tomorrow" - 1997)

Turkey's first and longest-running Documentary Film Festival, the International 1001 Documentary Film Festival, prides itself on its aim every year, for the past seventeen years, to reflect what is happening in the world. This year, the Festival will once again bring these stories together in Istanbul.

The Beşiktaş Municipality will host this year's Festival, with its repertoire of 54 films from 20 countries across the globe. Audiences will meet and come face-to-face with stories from around the world that bring to light many realities. Alongside 19 documentaries from Turkey, viewers will be able to see films from: the United States, Germany, Austria, Argentina, Denmark, Dubai, South Africa, Italy, Spain, Israel, Sweden, Switzerland, Japan, Cyprus, Lithuania, Lebanon, Mexico, Poland and Greece.

A significant component of the International 1001 Documentary Film Festival is its concern with films produced in Turkey. Most of the films have been produced just in the past two years and for many it will be their first time being shown in Turkey.

SCREENING VENUES

As it has been each year, all film viewings and additional events with the 1001 Documentary Film Festival are free of charge. The locations of the screenings are as follows: Sahne Besiktas, the Levent Cultural Center, the French Cultural Institute, Sismanoglu Megaron, Aynali Gecit (Mirrored Passage) and lastly the Nazim Hikmet Cultural Center in Kadikoy.

PARALLEL EVENTS

In addition to bringing documentaries and viewers together, the 17th International 1001 Documentary Film Festival also brings together viewers and filmmakers, as well as the documentary film industry. Occurring throughout the week of the Film Festival, these events open up spaces for students and academics to come together with both professional and amateur filmmakers.

INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTOR MEETING

In addition to producing a documentary film, there are other numerous challenges associated with that process. After finishing a film and making it accessible to an audience, figuring out a way to fund the process is in itself an entirely separate challenge that can evade filmmakers.

In order to discuss these challenges and the struggles many documentary filmmakers experience the Documentary Filmmakers Association is planning an event under the heading of the 1001 Documentary Film Festival that aims to tackle some of these struggles. This event will bring together Turkish documentary filmmakers and international distributors between the dates of December 8th and 9th in Istanbul. During this event, topics such as international distribution, sales relationships, methods and infrastructure, and overseas technical expectations and needs will be discussed by representatives from various international distribution companies. This event serves as a workshop in which filmmakers interested in learning more about the international distribution scene should come prepared with their films and their questions.

SELECTIONS: 101

In the International 1001 Documentary Film Festival, under the heading of *Selections: 101*, there will be a series of discussions which will bring students and first-time documentary filmmakers together. This is the first time that the Festival will be organizing an opportunity for these two groups to meet and discuss their work.

A component of this program includes two cash prizes that will go to two directors that the jury is in charge of selecting. The first prize is worth 3,000 Turkish Liras and will be awarded to a director to support their next project. The second prize is worth 6,000 Turkish Liras and will be awarded to another director for post-production support.

PANELS AND WORKSHOPS

CENSORSHIP AND SELF-CENSORSHIP

Within the realm of the Arts censorship is a growing concern. Not only is it visible in the media but also increasingly in documentary film. Connected to the 17th International 1001 Documentary Film Festival is a panel entitled, *Censorship and Self-Censorship*, which will be devoted to discussing the unfortunate reality of censorship and self-censorship in documentaries. A documentary will be chosen as a case-study to facilitate this panel discussion on censorship and self-censorship within the field of documentary film.

GREEK FILMMAKERS OF ISTANBUL

Sula Bozis

During the 1001 Documentary Film Festival, in a special event being organized by Sula Bozis, artistic director, author and researcher, there will be discussion based off of her book titled, *From Paris to Pera: Film and Greek Filmmakers*. During this event, *Taksim*, a documentary filmed between the years of 1926-27, estimated at 6:30 minutes, will be shown. The documentary consists of short fragments depicting Gezi Park, Taksim, Bomonti and the daily lives of people in those surroundings. In addition to the short fragments or episodes are written components in both Ottoman Turkish and French. A portion of the event will be devoted to discussing Dimitris Meravidis who in 1903 shot films for Pathe with the intent of documenting Istanbul. Sula Bozis is dedicating this event to her husband, Yorgo Bozis, documentarian and one of the founders of the Young Cinema Movement.

3D DOCUMENTARY FILM

Cinematographic Reading of the film Pina

Ersan Ocak - Kurtulus ÖZGEN – Safak DİKMEN

The creative use of 3D cinema technology is becoming widespread in documentary film. Directors such as Wim Wenders and Werner Herzog are the leading examples of those who have worked with 3-D imaging. In this seminar we will discuss and argue what it means and requires to think about documentary film in 3-D. By analyzing Wim Wender's documentary, *Pina*, we can begin to examine what three-dimensionality might hold for documentary film.

We set out on this process of examination with the sub-heading from the film in mind: "dance, dance, otherwise we are lost."

CAMERA IN DOCUMENTARY

Vojtech Pokorny

In the production of documentary films, undoubtedly, the most important element is that of the camera and the ways in which the filmmaker balances various techniques with aesthetic content. We are at a point in time in which advances in technology allow for an individual to film on their cell phone. This advancement, though, creates a need to continually re-evaluate what type of equipment is necessary and vital in the production of documentary film, without getting lost in those technological advances. Vojtech Pokorny, who has been involved in cinematography in Berlin, will discuss alternative equipment and approaches in documentary film in a workshop setting.

DOCUMENTARY AND SOUND

Garip Özdem

In a practical and useful workshop entitled, *Documentary and Sound*, filmmakers will be able to discuss issues related to sound that they encountered while filming. The workshop will address how to anticipate issues connected to the filming environment, circumstances in which challenges may arise and how to resolve those issues in the most efficient way with the available equipment.