PRESS RELEASE

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**DOCU TALENT AWARDS 2022 WENT TO DAD’S LULLABY AND BETWEEN REVOLUTIONS**

**EAST WEST INDEX 2022: THE REPRESENTATION OF EASTERN EUROPEAN FILMS IN WESTERN EUROPE REMAINS UNBALANCED**

**EMERGING PRODUCERS 2023 WERE ANNOUNCED, WITH QATAR AS GUEST COUNTRY**

Nine outstanding documentaries from Central and Eastern Europe, planned for theatrical release during the upcoming 12 months – the Docu Talents from the East – were presented yesterday as part of CineLink Industry Days at the Sarajevo Film Festival.

Projects from Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine made it to the final selection of Docu Talents from the East.

The Docu Talent Award was granted to the most promising project. The international jury selected a personal story from contemporary Ukraine **Dad's Lullaby** directed and produced by Lesia Diak. The award is accompanied with financial prize 5,000 USD, in cooperation with the festival’s partner Current Time TV.

The 3,000 EUR in-kind DAFilms.com Distribution Award was awarded to an archive-constructed film about unofficial history told from the women’s perspective **Between Revolutions** by Romanian director Vlad Petri and produced by Monica Lăzurean-Gorgan. The award covers international VOD release on DAFilms.com (including Americas, Europe, Asia) for two years.

The jury gave the following statements:

“A heartfelt depiction of a life under impossible circumstances. Such a personal story is a valuable way to understand the scars of the ongoing invasion of Ukraine.” (Dad’s Lullaby)

“A true international co-production, it uses a unique method of letter-reading to express a friendship that survives revolutions, regimes and time itself; and has relevance to a world that needs female solidarity as much as ever today.” (Between Revolutions)

Since 2005, Docu Talents curated by the Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival, has been a launch pad for a number of documentaries by both renowned and emerging directors such as Laila Pakalnina, Vladimir Mansky, Bartek Konopka, Piotr Stasik, Peter Kerekes, Dmitrii Kalashnikov and Helena Třeštíková. Films presented at Docu Talents in the past had world and international premieres at major film festivals including in Cannes, Berlin, Locarno, Rotterdam and Sundance.

“All of the selected films do not only explore the phenomena of our day-and-age, but also ask questions about how our choices shape our own future – whether as an individual, a particular social group or an entire society,” says Marek Hovorka, director of the Ji.hlava IDFF.
EAST WEST INDEX 2022: LESS THEN 15% OF EUROPEAN FILMS AT WESTERN FESTIVALS ARE FROM THE EAST

Representatives of the Ji.hlava IDFF presented in Sarajevo also results of this year’s EAST WEST INDEX – an exclusive survey among key European documentary film festivals, which focuses on figures representing individual regions.

The survey shows that most festivals have adopted a hybrid format in the past twelve months. The European documentary festivals are slowly returning to more titles being screened, so the 2020 slump - caused by the pandemic - is fortunately not a permanent state of affairs. On the other hand, only three festivals screened more films in their most recent edition than in the pre-pandemic year of 2019. However, the representation of Eastern European films in Western Europe and vice versa remains very unbalanced.

“While Eastern European festivals screen almost half of the European films produced in Western Europe, the reverse is only 15% - less than one in six European films screened by Western European festivals is from the Eastern European region,”, comments Marek Hovorka, director of Ji.hlava IDFF which has been conducting the annual survey since 2019.

See the survey in detail here.

EMERGING PRODUCERS 2023 WERE ANNOUNCED

During the event, the representatives of the Ji.hlava IDFF also revealed the names of the Emerging Producers 2023. This unique programme aims at promoting talented European documentary film producers and provides them with a range of networking, educational and promotional support throughout the year. 17 European producers will be accompanied by a producer from Qatar, which is the guest country of the 2023 Emerging Producers programme. The Emerging Producers programme will consists of two workshops – taking place in Jihlava in October 2022 and during the Berlinale 2023.

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