



**institute of  
documentary  
film**

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## **Press Release: East Doc Platform 2018**

*Prague, March 9, 2018*

# **East Doc Platform Awarded Best Documentaries from Central and Eastern Europe**

Organized by the Institute of Documentary Film, the EAST DOC PLATFORM – the largest event for documentary filmmakers in Central and Eastern Europe – took place for the seventh time. From March 3 to 9, Prague hosted 350 film professionals from around the world. This unique event allows filmmakers to pitch their documentary projects in early stages to renowned experts, get valuable experience and establish important contacts and partnerships for a future career. Nearly fifty documentary projects were presented to several juries and competed for one of several awards and cash prizes in the amount of EUR 35,000.

For the first time this year, the EDP in partnership with the Tribeca Film Institute introduced a new competition for short documentary projects, the first of its kind in Central Europe. The best short project award went to **Blackandwhite** (dir. Zoe Eluned Aiano, Anna Benner; prod. Linda Dědková and Martin Hůlavec). Against the backdrop of Czech-German relations, this documentary uses a local urban legend about a WWII nurse to challenge our perception of heroism, revenge and the role of women during the war. The project won USD 20,000 to complete the film and the [IF/Then](#) support for multi-platform distribution.

The week-long event culminated in the East Doc Forum, a pitching competition for projects in development and early production. An international jury saw projects on a wide array of subjects – history, science, love, war conflicts and creative animal stories. The best project award was presented to the Estonian-Polish [The Last Relic](#) by director Marianna Kaat. The jury commented on the winner: *“For a strong trailer and a well-written treatment, for a clear point of departure and thereafter different alleys to be pursued, and for telling of a young person searching for a future in their past, and for role models, we award the East Doc Forum Award to Marianna Kaat and her project THE LAST RELIC.”* The award comes with a cash prize of EUR 7,500 for project development.

The Polish-German [Angels of Sinjar. Yazidis – 21st Century Genocide](#) by the award-winning director Hanna Polak (producer Simone Baumann) proved successful with two broadcasters handing out awards. Capturing their strength and determination not to be mere victims, the documentary tells the story of three sisters as they are trying to free their other sisters from ISIS captivity. The **Czech TV Co-production Award** that comes with EUR 5,800



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and the **HBO Europe Award** worth EUR 2,000 will go toward project development.

This year, a jury made up of **Current Time TV** representatives decided to recognize the best director and their work. Due to the high quality of projects, they picked two outstanding filmmakers. The Russian filmmaker Ksenia Gapchenko received the award for her [Holy Culture!](#), a film capturing the peculiar atmosphere of village community centers that are the venue for self-defense, twerking or singing classes. The Belarusian filmmaker Liuba Ziamtsova was awarded for her notable film [The Place of Love](#) that celebrates the remarkable esprit of patients living in a center for people with mental disabilities. This film is also the first Belarusian film at the EDP. Each director received a cash prize of EUR 1,500.

The East Doc Platform also hosts the final leg of the year-long Ex Oriente Film workshop for directors and producers. The **Golden Funnel Award** is designed for a director-producer team whose project makes the greatest progress over the course of the workshop. The jury gave the award to the irreverent [Amoosed!](#) by director Hana Nováková and producer Kateřina Traburová who received EUR 1,000 for the development and international promotion of their project, a moose odyssey across Europe.

The East Doc Platform welcomed representatives of major European festivals we have partnered with, who selected several projects to attend their home events. Participation at the prestigious IDFA Forum goes to [Journey to the End of the Night](#) (d. Ksenia Elyan, p. Max Tuula, Maria Gavrilova, Alexander Rastorguev); Speed Meetings at DocsBarcelona will include [Wishing on a Star](#) by the Slovak filmmaker Peter Kerekes (p. Erica Barbiani, Ralph Weiser, Peter Kerekes, Petra Oplatková), and an invitation to DOK Leipzig was granted to the projects [Lessons of Love](#) (d. Malgorzata Goliszewska, Katarzyna Mateja, p. Anna Stylinska) and [Hacking Friendship](#) (d. Oleksiy Radynski, p. Lyuba Knorozok). A [Sheffield Doc/Fest](#) representative picked Francesco Montagner's [In the Name of Allah](#) (p. Pavla Janoušková Kubečková) as the best Czech project.

The East Doc Platform is organized by the **Institute of Documentary Film** in partnership with the **One World** International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival.

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## **About the Institute of Documentary Film**

The Institute of Documentary Film (IDF) has been supporting creative documentary films from Central and Eastern Europe since 2001. IDF provides both emerging and experienced filmmakers with training, financing, networking and pitching opportunities, helps them get international attention and co-productions, rewards the exceptional projects with Awards and further opportunities and improves their orientation on the international market. To the audience of documentary enthusiasts, IDF also brings a rich programme of lectures, presentations and screenings in their home regions or during IDF's industry events.

## **About the East Doc Platform**

The East Doc Platform (EDP) is the largest co-production, funding and distribution platform tailor-made for Central and East European documentaries. Every year, connecting 120 East European



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filmmakers to more than 100 key decision makers - producers, broadcasters, distributors and festival programmers from around the world.

More details on **selected projects** here: <https://dokweb.net/articles/detail/458/best-documentary-projects-selected-for-east-doc-platform-2018>

More details on **invited guests and programme highlights** here: <https://dokweb.net/articles/detail/466/east-doc-platform-2018-meeting-point-with-interesting-guests>

For more information, please visit [dokweb.net](http://dokweb.net)

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