

ART DOC FEST ECHO IN PARIS

*7 brave, political and artistic documentaries
that confront Putin's regime!*

LUMINOR HÔTEL DE
VILLE
&
SAINT-ANDRÉ DES
ARTS

21–25
SEPTEMBER
2023

**PART OF
RUSSIAN VOICES
AGAINST WAR WEEK**

LITTLE
BIG
STORY

INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS

ART
DOC
FEST

PARIS

RUSSIE
LIBERTÉS

ARTISTS IN EXILE



ECHO IN PARIS

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ART DOC FEST PRESENTATION

ECHO of ARTDOCFEST IFF in Paris

Artdocfest International Film Festival that exists since 2007 and is directed by famous Russian film director and producer Vitaly Mansky, is the most important forum for independent Russian speaking documentaries. It is traditionally oppositional and shows brave political films that confront Putin's regime. We plan to show several most powerful films of the Artdocfest 2023 program in Paris. We are sure that there is an audience for such an event. There are thousands of Russian, Ukrainian and Belarussian refugees and migrants in France and in Paris, that would be interested in this event. Also, French people who are interested in current politics and in social and political situation in Russia will potentially come and watch the films. We will screen films with French subtitles.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The international documentary film festival Artdocfest started in Moscow, Russia in 2007. In a very short period of time, it became one of the most prestigious festivals in Russia and the largest documentary film festival in the territory of the former USSR. In 2010th according to the results of the professional rating, the festival took first place among all Russian festivals for several years in a row and twice received the White Elephant National Award as the main event of the year. The festival also received prizes in Italy at the Trieste Film Festival and in other countries.

After the start of Russia's aggressive actions against Ukraine in 2014, Russian government agencies began to pressure the festival and its leader, film director Vitaly Mansky. Afterward, the Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky prohibited any state support for all projects related to the festival.

In the following years, pressure on the partners of the festival continued. The Ministry of Culture, high-profile officials and parliamentarians sued the festival on formal grounds in Russia. State mass-media and the leading television channels organized harassment campaigns against the festival. Pickets were held at festival platforms, including attacks on auditoriums, causing health risks to the viewers.

In 2014, the festival director Vitaly Mansky moved to Latvia, where in cooperation with the Riga International Film Festival Riga IFF, presented the Artdocfest documentary program. With continued pressure on the festival in Russia, censorship, and administrative obstacles to the free screenings of the most outstanding documentary films, the Artdocfest increased its activity in Riga.

In 2018, the complete competition program of Artdocfest was transferred to Riga, and the jury started to work in Latvia as well. Until 2022 Artdocfest had its screenings in Moscow, but after Putin's regime unleashed bloody and criminal war in Ukraine in February 2022, the festival was banned in the country completely.

Artdocfest has always selected independent, brave, critical and political films in Russian language and now remains the most important forum for independent Russian-speaking documentaries.



Founder and President of ArtDocFest

Vitaly Mansky was born in 1963 in Lviv, studied film at VGIK (Medynskiy S.E workshop). Vitaly Mansky is one of the most famous Russian documentary filmmakers, directed more than 30 films and produced more than 200 projects. He made his debut film in 1989. His films participated in many international film festivals, including Cannes, Amsterdam, San Sebastian, Oberhausen, San Francisco, Locarno, Munich, Montreal, Turin, Tampere, Krakow, Yamagata, Sheffield, Rio de Janeiro, etc. His films have been awarded with more than 30 prizes and broadcasted by leading TV channels in Russia, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Israel, Norway, Australia, Switzerland and other countries. In 1995, together with producer Natalia Manskaya collected and preserved a unique archive of amateur private chronicles. Since 1996 Vitaly Mansky popularizes documentary film on TV. He is the creator and author of Real Cinema on the First Russian TV channel. At the same year he became the head of cinema service, and later the general producer of the new channel REN - TV. Since 1999 to 2003 Vitaly Mansky was head of production and showing of documentaries public channel Russia - RTR. In 2000 Vitaly Mansky became a general producer of the National Award for Documentary Film and Television Laurel Branch. Since 2006 he is a President of documentary film festival "ArtDocFest". In 2019, for his documentary Putin, the irresistible ris, Vitali Manski received the FIPADOC International Documentary Grand Prize. The documentary is recognized around the world, but in Russia, he suffers the consequences of the gradual narrowing of freedom of expression. Victim of threats, and considered a foreign agent, since 2014, he lives and works in Latvia.

VITALYY MANSKIY

RUSSIAN VOICES AGAINST WAR



Russie-Libertés and its partners are pleased to present the forum entitled "Supporting Russian voices in resistance to war, for lasting peace in Europe", to be held on September 29 and 30, 2023, in Paris, as part of the week of RUSSIAN VOICES AGAINST WAR.

As every year, the Forum, organized by the association Russie-Libertés, brings together and facilitates exchanges between French and European personalities and representatives of Russian civil society, as well as members of the democratic opposition.

In 2023, current events will focus the Forum on the themes of resistance to the war in Ukraine, the need to reflect on Russia's post-war democratization, and the transition to a more peaceful society.

This collective discussion, in Paris, in the heart of Europe, is organized with the support of the Institut Français as part of the "Face à la guerre - Dialogues Européens" project.

The forum will be held as part of a week-long program dedicated to the many voices in resistance to the war in Ukraine, with a wide-ranging cultural program featuring artistic, musical, theatrical and cinematic performances, including the echo of the international independent documentary film festival ART DOC FEST.

READ THE FULL PROGRAM

<https://russie-libertes.org/forum2023/>

OPENING FILM



SELECTED FILMS

EASTERN FRONT

Vitaly Mansky, Yevhen Titarenko, Latvia, Ukraine, Czech Republic, USA, 2023, 98 min

On 24 February 2022, Yevhen, together with his friends, volunteered to join the first aid battalion on the front line. They provided life-saving support and evacuation of the injured. This film reveals the experiences of these young men over six months full of drama, despair, fear, hatred, bitterness, love, and, most importantly, faith in victory.

As they left for the front, they sent their families to the rear – to a village in western Ukraine. All of them come to this idyllic place for a couple of days to baptise the nine-month-old son of one of our protagonists. As soon as they rise from the celebratory feast, they have to go back to the front...

TRAILER

https://artdoc.media/en/movie/shidniy_front_2023_98



THE NEW GREATNESS CASE

Anna Shishova-Bogolyubova, Finland – Norway – Croatia, 2022, 92 min

Anya was an ordinary teenager who dreamed of making life in Russia better. In March 2018, she was arrested and incarcerated on charges of forming an extremist group with the aim to violently overthrow the government. During three following years, her mother Julia desperately struggles to prove her daughter's innocence. Fighting for justice and learning the real state of affairs step-by-step, Julia has been transformed from an apolitical citizen into a passionate human rights activist.

TRAILER

<https://vimeo.com/406582629/b4dd794add>



MANIFESTO

*Angie Vinchito (Anonymous documentary filmmaker.),
Russia, 2022, 68 min*

This found footage film is composed entirely of often shocking videos that Russian teenagers have posted on social media. Innocent morning rituals on YouTube or TikTok have been placed next to shots of panicking young people fleeing school shooters. And students all over Russia are apparently secretly recording images of violent teachers who can't keep their hands to themselves. In class, they are told that a woman must have sex with her husband whenever he wants; furthermore, students are called idiots and are beaten. One critical teenager is threateningly told that a report will be made about her political views. The mobile phone forms a kind of shield between the young people and this brutal world. No matter how extreme the events, they keep filming.

TRAILER
https://artdocfest.com/ru/movie/manifest_2022_68/

LIFE OF IVANNA

Renato Borrayo Serrano, Russia-Norway-Finland-Estonia, 2021, 80 min

Ivanna is a young Nenets woman and mother of five, living in the Russian Arctic. Like her family for centuries before, she has led a traditional nomadic life in the tundra, driving a herd of reindeer. Most of them die, and she knows she will soon be left without a livelihood and be forced to make a dramatic decision. The film is about four years of a Nenets family from the harsh life in the tundra to modern everyday life in the Siberian city of Dudinka. It is both a liberating drama and a melancholy requiem for a lost way of life.

TRAILER

<https://artdocfest.com/en/movie/13387/>



STRICT REGIME

Nikita Efimov, Russia, 2021, 46 min

A film director arrives at a maximum-security penal colony to shoot a documentary about a squad leader who works with prisoners. The manager however, believes that it is not worth showing the daily life of the colony as it actually is and proceeds to shoot staged scenes, which he directs himself. The author of the film patiently records how this movie is shot, but real life still manages to break into the production.

TRAILER
https://artdocfest.com/ru/movie/nachal_nik_otryada_2021_46/

SELECTED FILMS



EXPIRATION DATE

Artem Kusyak, Russia, 2022, 30 min

For several months, the director has been talking to people who find their food in the garbage. Having won their trust, he tries to understand their philosophy, the organization of the garbage dump society, the motivation for leading such a life. The author tries to understand the main reason for their situation and deplorable state. His interlocutors are happy to talk about their difficulties. While hidden from the eyes of other people, they talk about human destiny, politics and God.

TRAILER

https://artdocfest.com/ru/movie/srok_godnosti_2022_30/

SELECTED FILMS



CLOSING FILM

HOLIDAYS

Antoine Cattin, Switzerland, 2022, 86 min

St Petersburg is the city of dreamers. Dzhus dreams of a better life, Nikita dreams of making it big, Dina dreams of taking power and Anna dreams of retiring. As we follow these characters over the course of one year and seven popular holidays, the authoritarian grip of the Kremlin is closing in on all of them, leaving very little room for dreams. "Holidays" is a tragicomedy about contemporary and eternal Russia.

TRAILER
<https://vimeo.com/657418558>



THEATRICAL CASE

THEATRICAL CASE

Screenplay: Mikhail Durnenkov

Production: Mitya Vlasik and art association VERBA

Fragments of the video recording of the original Moscow performance "Finist Yasny Sokol" (copyright: independent theater project "Daughters of SOSO") will be used.

Once upon a time there was a wonderful show in Moscow. "Finist the Clear Falcon." It was born in 2020 from a play and a production by two young and very talented women: playwright Svetlana Petriichuk and director Zhenya Berkovich. The theaters were full, the audience in tears. In 2022, the play received Russia's most prestigious theater award: the "Golden Mask".

And then...

And then - on May 4, 2023 - Zhenya and Sveta were arrested. The play is suddenly branded as "terrorist". They came for Zhenya Berkovich at 7.30 in the morning and took her away right in front of her adopted daughters Kira and Anya. And mom hasn't come home yet. Sveta Petriichuk was also literally kidnapped from her family.

On the day this text is being written and this event catalog is being compiled, Sveta and Zhenya - still in the pre-trial detention center awaiting another "court hearing" - received the Anna Politkovskaya Kamerton Award.

We - friends of Sveta and Zhenya, who were much luckier and are now safely living in Europe instead of being behind bars - we want to tell you this story.

Start the diapason - let the vibrations get to you - make it ring.

AUDIENCE

The main goal is to introduce Art Doc Fest and its top-notch Russian-language films programming, including some that are yet to be released in France, to the Parisian audience. These films encompass political narratives with a bold perspective, openly criticizing the Russian government and its authoritarian tendencies, as well as offering insightful portrayals of contemporary Russia.

The film selection, combined with the filmmakers' presency, the involvement of the French Institute, experts in geopolitics, sociologists, and philosophers, as well as the performance of an anti-war play, collectively serve as valuable instruments for apprehending the conflict. Hence, ArtDocFest Echo in Paris aims to create a platform for Russian artists from the opposition who either face censorship or muzzling, and often find themselves in exile, as well as Ukrainian playwrights. This make a bridge between those audacious films, the Parisian audience and the anti-war artists. That's why we are proud to be part of the great event Russian voices against war.

Our main target is the Parisian audience. With all our partners and networks, we are confident to reach cinephiles who are fond of international documentaries, film students, those with a keen interest in the war in Ukraine and Russia's relations with Europe, individuals eager to hear the voices of the Russian opposition, loyal patrons of Luminor and Saint-André des Arts cinemas, as well as, naturally, the Russian diaspora and exiled artists.

We will make sure to use all the tools at our disposal. The French Institute, partnering companies, and associations (such as Little Big Story, Russie Libertés, Artists in Exile...) will promote the event, an integral part of the Russian Voices Against War Week. Of course, we will provide cinemas with all the materials to them to communicate on their social media platforms.

We are also planning a press relations campaign to share the event extensively and with a large audience through newspapers, radio, and television.

LE LUMINOR HÔTEL DE VILLE

20, rue du Temple 75004 Paris - 180 seats

The LUMINOR Hôtel de Ville is the last independent cinema in Le Marais which is, on another note, currently facing the threat of closure. This vibrant venue, a gathering place for over a century (since 1912), attracts nearly 100,000 moviegoers each year.

LE SAINT-ANDRÉ DES ARTS

30, rue Saint-André des Arts 75005 Paris - 147 seats

The Saint-André-des-Arts is also an independent Art House cinema located in the 6th arrondissement of Paris. Over the years, it has remained committed to the promotion and support of auteur films, particularly focusing on documentaries and experimental movies.

PROGRAM

21st Sept. – 7pm

Saint–André des Arts

OPENING CEREMONY

Lecture of Institut Français and
speech by Olga Prokopyeva,
spokesperson for Russia–Libertés

Screening / EASTERN FRONT
by Vitaly Manskiy

Debate and cocktail
in presence of Vitaly Manskiy

22nd Sept. – 7pm

Luminor Hôtel de Ville

Theatrical performance/ THEATRICAL CASE
by Mikhail Durnenkov, Mitya Vlasik & VERBA

Screening / THE NEW GREATNESS CASE
by Anna Shishova

Debate
in presence of Anna Shishova

23rd Sept. – 5pm

Luminor Hôtel de Ville

Screening / EXPIRATION DATE (30')
by Artem Kusyak

Screening / STRICT REGIME (46')
by Nikita Efimov

Remote debate
with Artem Kusyak and Nikita Efimov

PROGRAM

8 pm

Luminor Hôtel de Ville

Screening / LIFE OF IVANNA
by Renato Serrano

Debate
in presence of Renato Serrano

24th Sept. – 6pm

Saint-André des Arts

Screening / MANIFESTO
by anonymous director

Debate
in presence of the director

25th Sept. – 8pm

Saint-André des Arts

CLOSING CEREMONY

Screening / HOLIDAYS
by Antoine Cattin

Debate and cocktail
in presence of Antoine Cattin

