



Pordenone Docs Fest

Le voci del
documentario
25 - 29
march 2026

cinemazero

XIX edition
*Documentaries will
change the world*

An initiative by

Cinemazero

Under the High Patronage of

Parlamento Europeo

With the contribution of

Ministero della Cultura
Regione Autonoma Friuli-Venezia Giulia
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Pordenone Docs Fest supports

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The program is subject to change.

To stay up to date, please visit the website
www.pordenonedocsfest.it
and follow our social media channels.

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All screenings are in the original language with
Italian and English subtitles (when required).
The retrospectives feature Italian subtitles only,
unless otherwise indicated for each film.

WATCH ALL FESTIVAL FILM
TRAILERS HERE →



World-Changing Documentaries

Cinema was born intrinsically “documentary”: for the first time, it showed reality in motion and the variety of the world. Georges Méliès, master of the fantastic, recalled falling in love with the Lumière brothers’ invention because of a detail in one of their early films: three men playing cards in the foreground, while leaves “vibrated” in the wind behind them. In that detail, he saw the essence of cinema: the ability to tell life as it happens, to notice... the imperceptible. And through this act of “looking,” the capacity to be moved by what is discreet, nourishing, and thought-provoking.

Today, immersed in an era overwhelmed by visual content, our gaze seems weakened. Rapid, incessant sequences – often tied to conflicts, destruction, or polarized narratives – saturate perception. Everyday life is besieged by images that appear “natural,” immediate, unfiltered, yet are shaped by algorithms and digital processes beyond our awareness. Amid uncertainty about what is real, we may wonder if we have lost the ability to look deeply.

The poster of Pordenone Docs Fest 2026 stems from this reflection, summarizing its direction: like a herbarium preserving the world, the festival seeks to observe, organize, and present – with utmost care – a curated sample of reality. Its goal is to restore time and responsibility to the gaze, to offer quality visual storytelling, and, when possible, reintroduce beauty as a path to complex emotion. This year’s films and events aim to show “different perspectives,” tackling major contemporary issues with a lateral, unsensationalized view: human, in the fullest sense.

The program spans territories shaped by history – such as the Balkans – and the fragile, accelerated spaces of the contemporary world. It opens and closes in Iran, passes through China, Turkey, Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Cuba, the Arctic contested by superpowers, and nations facing a heavy post-colonial legacy; it crosses Europe and observes the world with curiosity, empathy, and sensitivity; it explores remote islands, peripheries, cities, and villages; it traces human presence and reflects on the consequences of human actions, observing the individual to highlight the collective. The works seek complexity and context, telling stories that lighten the weight of our time while preserving their power to provoke thought.

Among the hundreds of titles viewed – never before so numerous from around the world – the selection prioritizes cinematic value. International guests present their Italian premieres at Pordenone (including an extensive XR selection) and offer engaged, critical perspectives on democracy, equality, migration, inclusion, conflicts, diversity, and rights. Special attention is given to female trajectories and emerging voices, favoring narratives of transformation, redemption, resistance, and freedom. These films affirm the possibility of renewal, hope, and peace, especially when experienced collectively.

Pordenone thus reasserts itself as the “italian documentary capital” (as described by the press), in view of the 2027 Italian Capital of Culture milestone, while celebrating the festival’s twentieth anniversary.

Two retrospectives mark significant anniversaries, using history as a lens for the present: *Sarajevo, the Siege 1992-1996* and *¡No pasarán! Rethinking the Spanish Civil War*. Through works by major international filmmakers, they explore the memory of conflicts and their consequences today. Sarajevo foreshadowed many contemporary crises; the Spanish Civil War reveals the ongoing fracture between democracy and rights on one side, authoritarianism and force on the other. Complementing this path is a photographic tribute to Robert Capa and Gerda Taro, highlighting their way of portraying war as a human experience before a visual one.

The festival also confirms itself as a major European professional platform: film education, new immersive technologies, and international co-productions. Development initiatives focus on emerging talent and high-quality documentaries for the wider public. NIUDOC supports young filmmakers from the Northeast and the Balkan region; *Italian, Doc Future!* strengthens new Italian voices; *Nord/Est/Doc/Camp* and VERO! Connecting Docs showcase works in late-stage development or already completed but deserving wide visibility. The singular goal: to offer audiences fresh stories, stimulating languages, and quality for both eyes and mind.

Film education, central to the festival’s annual activities, culminates in matinées, panels, and student events attracting participants from across Europe. Masterclasses by Igor Bezinović and Nikolaus Geyrhalter – latter honored with multiple screenings – provide direct access to two important and original methods of observing the world, exemplifying the need for qualitative “resistance of the image.” Alongside, the editorial series *Guardare il reale* returns documentary masterpieces to the public in their best form, through both viewing and reading.

Through real-life cinema, the festival invites audiences to rediscover a more attentive way of seeing the world: not the noise of images scrolling past, but what vibrates in the background, what deserves time, listening, and awareness. It hopes viewers will once again be moved, even by the simple beauty of a “leaf’s heartbeat.”

The Festival Awards

Audience Award

All films are eligible for the Audience Award. Viewers can vote for their favorite title at the end of each screening.

Young Jury Award

Students accredited to the festival and members of the Cinemazero Young Club award the documentary that best speaks to audiences under 30 about the present, the world around us, future perspectives, and events of the past.

Green Documentary Award

The 19th edition of the festival reinforces its ecological initiatives through the 10+1-point Green Manifesto. The festival's commitment to environmental awareness and best practices is embodied in the award for the Best Environmental Documentary.

Premio della Critica SNCCI

In collaboration with AFIC – Association of Italian Film Festivals – and the National Union of Italian Film Critics (SNCCI), three nationally appointed critics will select the winner of the SNCCI Critics' Award. The 2026 Jurors are: Luca Baroncini, Maria Di Natale, Francesco Lughezzani.

DocsXR Audience Award

This award recognizes the finest immersive and interactive documentaries at Pordenone Docs Fest, all presented in their Italian premiere. At the DocsXR stand in Piazza XX Settembre, visitors can vote for their favorite immersive experience.

Grand Jury Prize

The festival jury awards the prize for the Best Documentary.



Grand Jury Prize The Festival Jury



Nikolaus Geyrhalter – director and producer, winner of over seventy awards at major international festivals, he stands among the most influential contemporary documentary filmmakers and is recognized as a master for his rigorous and profound capacity to observe and portray the contemporary world and its contradictions.

At just 22 years old, he founded his production company, Nikolaus Geyrhalter Filmproduktion (NGF). In 1999, his documentary *Prípyat*, which offers a raw and direct look at the people living and working within the 30 km zone around the Chernobyl plant, won the SCAM Award at the Festival Cinéma du Réel and the Grand Prize at Diagonale – Graz. In 2001, he directed *Elsewhere*, screened at the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival, the Toronto International Film Festival, and the Jihlava Film Festival, and awarded a Special Jury Prize at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA). He achieved similar acclaim with his next feature documentary, *Our Daily Bread* (2005), which brought him worldwide recognition.

In the following decade, Geyrhalter examined night work across Europe in *Abendland* (2011) and urban decay landscapes worldwide in *Homo Sapiens* (2016), presented at festivals including Berlinale Forum, the Hong Kong International Film Festival, Festival Cinéma du Réel, the Edinburgh International Film Festival, the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, and the Viennale. He explores the endless global struggle for control over massive amounts of waste in *Matter Out of Place*, winner of the Green Leopard Environmental Prize at the Locarno Film Festival 2022.

Geyrhalter's latest film, *Melt*, shot between 2021 and 2025, preserves for future archives some of the world's most striking icy landscapes, addressing some of the most pressing environmental and political issues of our time.



Esther Kinsky – writer, poet and translator. Her most recent book, *Di luce e polvere* (2025), is a love letter to cinema, an intense reflection on the essence of the big screen and the theater experience, revealing her vast and originally poetic cinematic culture. Her debut novel, *Sommerfrische* (2009), was immediately hailed as a literary revelation. In 2002, she received the Brücke-Berlin Prize alongside Olga Tokarczuk. In 2009, she won the Paul Celan Prize for her translation work, particularly for her translation of Tokarczuk's novel *The Wanderers*. She has also received numerous prestigious awards, including the Leipzig Book Fair Prize in 2018 and the Kleist Prize in 2022. Her novel *Rombo*, which recounts the 1976 earthquake in Friuli, was nominated for the European Strega Prize in 2023. In Italian, her works include *Macchia. Il romanzo dei luoghi* (2019), *Sul fiume* (2021), and *Rombo* (2023).



Igor Bezinović – director, winner of the Best European Documentary at the 2026 European Film Awards and the Tiger Award at the 2026 International Film Festival Rotterdam for his latest film *Fiume o morte!*, is one of the most acclaimed contemporary documentary filmmakers for his stylistic originality and the coherence of his reflections. He graduated in Film Directing from the Academy of Dramatic Art in Zagreb and in Philosophy, Sociology, and Comparative Literature from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb. His films include *The Blockade* (2012) and *Veruda* (2015), both recipients of the Oktavijan Award for Best Croatian Documentary, and *A Brief Excursion* (Grand Golden Arena, Best Croatian Feature 2017). His work has been presented at festivals such as IFF Rotterdam, DOK Leipzig, IDFF Jihlava, CPH:DOX, Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, Guanajuato IFF, the Biennale of Young Artists of Europe and the Mediterranean, the Venice Architecture Biennale, and the Museum of the Moving Image.

All screenings are presented in their original language, with Italian and English subtitles when required.

The retrospectives feature Italian subtitles only, unless otherwise indicated for each film.

All industry events are held in English.

Retrospective ¡No pasarán! Rethinking the Spanish Civil War, Ninety Years Later

The Spanish Civil War broke out on 17 July 1936. Ninety years now separate us from this founding event, which bloodied the country, divided families, destroyed cities, and became a battleground where two totalitarianisms – Nazism and Stalinism – first confronted one another. What followed were thirty-six years (until 1975) of fascist rule led by Francisco Franco. Many films – both documentary and fiction – were made during the war, by militants who came from across the world to defend the Republic, as well as by Franco's nationalist forces allied with Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler. These, however, are not the works presented by the festival. Instead, it focuses on films made in the final years of the dictatorship and in the early phase of the Spanish Transition, when the country adopted a democratic constitution and the rule of law.

These were the years when the civil war began to be critically reconsidered – when political commitment was reassessed, rigid ideological positions were challenged, and filmmakers sought to understand the choices of the enemy without excusing them. They were also years of disillusionment and divided memories, marked both by newly won freedom from censorship and by a desire to forget.

Today, as authoritarian temptations once again spread within our democracies, it is precisely from this moment of *après-coup* – of working through grief and rebuilding civic consciousness – that we can, and perhaps must, reflect on the past in order not to repeat its mistakes.

— Federico Rossin

From 2 to 23 April, every Thursday at 8:45 pm, Cinemazero will host a **special retrospective**, in continuity with this program, featuring several classics and **masterpieces by great filmmakers that recount the history of the Spanish Civil War**:

Joris Ivens - *The Spanish Earth* (1937); Paul Strand, Leo Hurwitz - *Heart of Spain* (1937); Henri Cartier-Bresson - *Victoire de la vie* (1937) e *L'Espagne vivra* (1939); André Malraux - *Espoir, Sierra de Teruel* (1939); Alain Resnais, Robert Hessens - *Guer-nica* (1949); Frédéric Rossif - *Mourir à Madrid* (1962)

25 march, h 15.30
Sala Pasolini, Cinemazero

Retrospective
¡No pasarán!

Long live Spain!

José María Berzosa. France, 1976. 116'

Spanish and French, only with Italian subs

A must-see film to understand how Spain has built its present by forgetting its past.

Documentary on the Spanish Civil War and its impact on Iberian society, with testimonies, interviews, and important audio and photographic documents. The memories of the victors and the vanquished are confronted through an ironic and undiscounted polyphony composed of newsreels from the period, excerpts from clandestine films, and interviews with figures from the regime and its opponents. This film is considered the most devastating analysis of the Franco regime ever made.



José-Maria Berzosa (1928-2018) was a great Spanish filmmaker who fled to France after escaping the dictatorship. Provocative, anti-Francoist, nonconformist: his films, produced by French public television, were characterized by irreverence and humor, and relentless formal research.

Interviene

Federico Rossin – Film historian and critic, and an independent curator. He mainly works on documentary, experimental and animated cinema. He has written essays published in various collective volumes and has edited monographic books. He has curated numerous retrospectives for cinematheques, festivals and foundations across Europe, including the Film-museum Vienna, the Cinémathèque Française and the Cinéma du Réel in Paris, DocLisboa in Lisbon, and the Fondazione Feltrinelli in Milan. He lives, works and teaches in France.

25 march, h 17.30
Mediateca Cinemazero,
Palazzo Badini

**POR
DE
NO
NE** → Verso
Capitale
italiana
della
Cultura
2027

Open City: Roundtable discussion for safe, inclusive and accessible cultural spaces

Creating a space where all people feel truly welcome and safe is not utopia: it is a concrete choice. Pordenone Italian Capital of Culture 2027 wants to be a place where every identity is respected.

A meeting open to all cultural and associative realities, to citizenship, to make Pordenone's coat of arms (with its open doors) a reality. Pordenone Docs Fest and Cinemazero put the first piece of the "Open Cities" project: an opportunity for concrete dialogue with voices from the world of culture, journalism, activism, technology and the audiovisual industry. To imagine together a *Manifesto of safe, inclusive and accessible cultural spaces*, a tool not only for the benefit of the festival, but for the whole city and all the realities that animate it.

Panelists

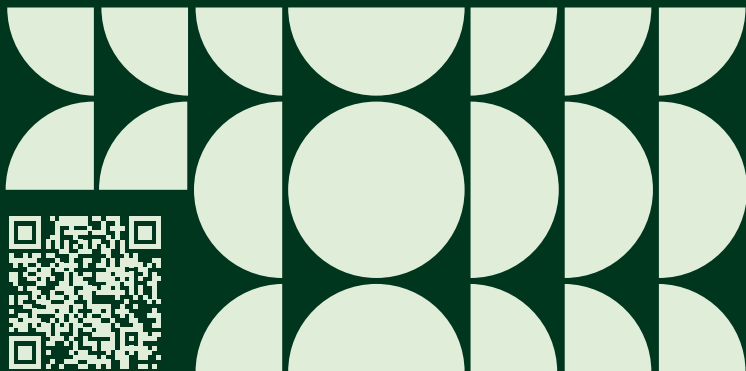
Sofia Righetti Nottegar – philosopher and activist with a focus on the intersectionality of disability, LGBTQIA+ identity, racialization and social justice. As a trainer, she specializes in consultations on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).

Graziella Bildesheim – with over 30 years of experience in the European audiovisual sector-is President of EWA Network (European Women's Audiovisual Network), Europe's leading organization for gender equality in film.

Jennifer Guerra – feminist journalist and writer, leading voice in Italy on gender issues, cultural journalism and popularization. She writes for L'Espresso, Sette Corriere, The Vision, Fanpage.it, Valigia Blu.

Roberta Parigiani – lawyer and activist, specializing in the protection of civil rights and the LGBTQIA+ community. She is spokesperson for MIT, Trans Identity Movement, the oldest transgender association in Europe.

Our Manifesto for Responsible and Inclusive Communication



Cinemazero has always been committed to promoting responsible and inclusive communication, recognizing the crucial impact that words have on society and on our community. Our mission is to create environments where everyone feels respected and represented.

Through this manifesto, we wish to share the principles and practices that guide us toward respectful and inclusive communication, aiming to foster dialogue – with individuals and audiences, with associations, and with local organizations – that reflects values of equality and respect. We are aware that this process may involve mistakes from which we can learn. This document is the result of a training journey that involved all Cinemazero staff. We are certain that the work we have done so far will not end with this manifesto, but is part of an ongoing process that we undertake together with our audience.

We ask for your support and participation in this journey: if you would like to contribute to improving our communication, we invite you to share suggestions and feedback by writing to cinemazero@cinemazero.it

25 march, h 18.00
Sala Grande, Cinemazero

ITALIAN FILM PREMIERE
Retrospective *Sarajevo*

Sarajevo Safari

Miran Zupanič. 2022, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 75'
With English and Italian subs

Sarajevo, 1992. Beyond the siege, a frightening shadow: a chilling journey into the darkest secrets of modern cruelty.

Among the many dramatic episodes of the Sarajevo siege from 1992 to 1996, the story of a human safari has long remained hidden from public view. On the Serbian side, not only the Bosnian Serb army, along with volunteers and mercenaries, but also another small clandestine group participated in the siege of Sarajevo. Wealthy foreign “tourists” who paid high sums of money for a chance to shoot at the inhabitants of the besieged city, with a shocking “price list” differing depending on the victim.



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Speakers

Miran Zupanič – filmmaker. His filmography explores the wounds of History, from the traumas of Goli Otok and the Petriček Camp to the atrocities of Sarajevo Safari.

Andreina Di Sanzo – distributor at Open DDB. She teaches Film History at IED – Istituto Europeo di Design and is a film critic for Birdmen Magazine.

Moderator

Andrea Paco Mariani – founder of Open DDB

In collaboration with

Open DDB
Kinoatelj
EMERGENCY

25 march, h 19.00
SpazioZero - Cinemazero

APERIDOCs
Listen, meet...cheers!

Club d'Heritage

Simone Morettin: drums
Alan Del Piccolo: guitar
Ivo Vanore: guitar

A musical universe where reality and imagination meet, between cinematic atmospheres, dreamscapes and elegant vibes.

UN PONTE PER COSTRUIAMO PONTI NON MURI

Ripudiamo la guerra e lavoriamo ogni giorno alla costruzione della pace e della solidarietà tra i popoli, per difendere i diritti e la dignità di tutte le persone.

Da oltre 30 anni ci battiamo contro violenze e ingiustizie, per affrontare le conseguenze dei conflitti e le cause che li generano.

**Costruiamo insieme
ponti di pace.**



unponteper.it



Before the concert
Exhibition Opening

Exhibition open at SpazioZero
and the Cinemazero Mediateca
from 25 March to 30 April

Tribute to Robert Capa and Gerda Taro Photography, Love, War

An emotional tribute to two leading figures of 20th-century photojournalism. The exhibition traces their courageous and innovative perspective on the Spanish Civil War, where Capa and Taro combined commitment, visual insight, and extraordinary storytelling. A showcase of images of life at the front, civilian resistance, and the human complexity of war – a homage to two masters who turn field documentation into historical memory and civic awareness.



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25 march, h 21.00
Sala Grande, Cinemazero

ITALIAN PREMIERE
IDFA Award for Best Film

A Fox Under a Pink Moon

Mehrdad Oskouei, Iran, 2025. 78'

With English and Italian subs

Fleeing Afghanistan and then Iran, a girl entrusts her drama to her smartphone and try to free her soul with art. A self-portrait in which an artist's moving cry defies boundaries and darkness.

Sixteen years old, Afghan and an artist with an indomitable spirit, Soraya lives as prisoner in Iran dreaming of Europe. For five years with her phone she has been capturing every fragment of a chilling reality, while her hands pour fears and hopes into extraordinary works of art. "Soraya" is an intimately nuanced self-portrait that transforms the cry of a fugitive into a masterpiece of visual resistance.



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With the participation of **Mehrdad Oskouei** – Independent documentary filmmaker, producer, and photographer, known for his deeply humanistic and critically acclaimed works. His films often explore sensitive and complex social issues in Iranian society, with a particular focus on marginalized groups, youth, and women.

Soraya Akhalaghi – Protagonist and artist. She began working in sculpture and painting in 2016. From 2018 to 2025, she served as director of photography, sound technician, and co-director of the film *A Fox Under A Pink Moon*.

In collaboration with
Voce Donna ETS

26 march, h 10.30
Sala Grande, Cinemazero

ITALIAN PREMIERE
FIPRESCI Award
- Beyond Borders IFF

The Longer You Bleed

Ewan Waddell. Ucraina, Regno Unito, Germania, 2025. 73'

With English and Italian subs

In an era of endless scrolling, war becomes spectacle. Between screens and trauma, a group of young ukrainians confronts how horror can be told in the age of social.

This documentary follows a group of Ukrainian teenagers who have fled to Berlin, forced to watch their homeland burn through Instagram pixels. Between observational narrative and visual experimentation, the film traces the disturbing parable of addiction to pain: a reality where absurd humor is the only shield against normalized trauma.



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With the participation of
Ewan Waddell – british filmmaker, winner of the Wim Wenders Award. His films explore aspects of the crisis of modernity, spanning narrative, essayistic, and experimental works. *The Longer You Bleed* is his debut documentary, premiered at Hot Docs 2025 in Toronto.

Liubov Dyvak – producer and protagonist of the film.

In collaboration with
Doctors Without Borders

FREE ADMISSION

Between Documentary and Immersive Experiences – New Ways to Tell the Real

Experiencing firsthand stories and places, traversing archives, inhabiting museums and memories: how Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and 360° video are changing the way of telling the real between cultural heritage and documentary.

Not just technology, but new ways of seeing, remembering and inhabiting cultural places. Extended Reality (XR) is transforming museums, archives, and festivals into immersive spaces where documentary filmmaking becomes an experience: reconstructing vanished environments, reactivating collections, interweaving intimate memories and collective heritage. Between artistic experimentation and research, the panel explores the potential and responsibility of immersiveness: who narrates? From what perspective? For what community?

Panelists

Alina Goldwoman

UX designer and immersive media researcher,
Institute for Sound & Vision, Netherlands

Francesca Panetta

Director AKO Storytelling Institute, UK

Sara Francesca Tirelli

Artist and Filmmaker, XR Consultant and Mentor

Moderator

Antonio Giacomini

Creative technologist, XR artist and consultant

26 march, h 10.30
SalaTotò, Cinemazero

Re-screening
IDFA Award for Best Film

A Fox Under a Pink Moon

Mehrdad Oskouei. Iran, 2025. 78'

With English and Italian subs

Synopsis on pag. 15

With the participation of
Mehrdad Oskouei – Bio on p. 15
Soraya Akhlaghi – Bio on p. 15

In collaboration with
Voce Donna ETS

FREE ADMISSION

Cinemazero Archives

Cinemazero preserves and showcases one of Europe's most important audiovisual collections. Its archives dedicated to Tina Modotti, Federico Fellini, Orson Welles, and Pier Paolo Pasolini represent a unique cultural heritage, still partly unexplored.

The holdings include over 30,000 photographs, negatives and positives from iconic film sets, rare audio materials, and documents used for exhibitions, publications, and documentaries worldwide. The Mediateca offers free access to 22,000 films and 21,000 cinema books.

Around 1,500 film prints are preserved at the Cineteca del Friuli.

Stored in climate-controlled, solar-powered facilities, Cinemazero's archives ensure the protection and accessibility of this invaluable legacy for future generations.

More information: archivi.cinemazero.it

Italian, Doc Future! Body: Politics, Image, Space

The third edition of *Italian, Doc Future!* reaffirms its mission: to give visibility to Italian documentaries that, for their originality and narrative strength, deserve a longer journey and the opportunity to engage with audiences and professionals. This year's selection explores the concept of the "body," its relationship with space, and its political implications.

The shorts *The Trials* by Marta Massa and *Macchina Continua* by Ruben Gagliardini embody the political body; *Sueña Ahora* by Gabriele Licchelli, Francesco Lorusso, and Andrea Settembrini shows how bodies create images; *Night Blooms* by Giulia Di Maggio investigates the absence of bodies; and *Il castello indistruttibile* by Danny Biancardi, Stefano La Rosa, and Virginia Nardelli reshapes space through them.

Over the years, *Italian, Doc Future!* has welcomed prominent filmmakers, creating a space for dialogue between generations and different paths, with Q&A sessions designed to foster discussions and future opportunities with festivals, distributors, and broadcasters. The section continues to support Italian documentary filmmaking, building new horizons of visibility and growth.

Each screening is introduced by the filmmaker in conversation with a high-profile fellow director, creating a fertile encounter between different generations and creative paths. The program concludes with a dynamic Q&A designed to spark new discussions and open future avenues among festivals, distributors, broadcasters, and exhibitors.

In this way, *Italian, Doc Future!* continues to support and promote Italian documentary cinema, renewing its commitment and building, film after film, new horizons of visibility and growth.

Retrospective Sarajevo, the Siege: 1992–1996

On February 29, 1996, the siege of Sarajevo – the longest of the twentieth century – came to an end. An event that closed a century of horrors: from Sarajevo to Sarajevo. Today, thirty years later, it is necessary to reflect on what happened, because in its essence it contained much of our present reality. For the first time in history, war became a daily flow of images: violence and death entered homes in real time, consumed continuously. The world watched the snipers' actions, the queues for water, the strategy of starving an exhausted population, and yet allowed it to continue for many years. Serbian nationalism chose to strike Sarajevo without ever occupying it: not a conquest, but a slow wearing down. The city showed the world that coexistence was possible, and so the axe of nationalist violence had to fall hardest upon it.

To revisit that event, we turn to the reflections of international filmmakers who documented it – Johan van der Keuken, Jean-Luc Godard, Jasmila Žbanić, Paweł Pawlikowski, and many others – demonstrating the global resonance of what happened. By reflecting on those events, they gave us the truest and most complex images of the siege: those of people who stubbornly continued to live, who reaffirmed life in the face of death. As Paolo Rumiz wrote in *Maschere per un massacro*, “the true image of Sarajevo was life.”

Serbian Epics

Paweł Pawlikowski. UK, 1992. 41'

With English and Italian subs

From Oscar winner Paweł Pawlikowski, a disturbing documentary about Radovan Karadžić and his narrative, made one year after the beginning of the siege of Sarajevo.

The documentary by Paweł Pawlikowski, later author of such films as *Ida* and *Cold War*, offers a rare glimpse behind the lines of the četniks in the first months of the siege, but focuses mainly on the epic and nationalist narrative of Republika Srpska. Among the most disturbing scenes, the film shows an incident also recounted by Emmanuel Carrère in *Limonov*: the Russian writer shoots from a hill towards the city of Sarajevo.



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Les Vivants et les Morts de Sarajevo

Radovan Tadic. France, 1993. 75'

With English and Italian subs

Shot between 1992 and 1993, Radovan Tadic's film is an account of everyday life and the fate of some people during the first two years of the siege.

Director Radovan Tadic filmed the siege of Sarajevo for many months, and in this valuable documentary he gives us the stories of the Sarajevese, of those who remained prisoners in that city for more than three years. In their search for a normal life, we follow the fates of some people amid horrors and sadness, in a city deprived of everything, bread, water and basic necessities. Under the crosshairs of snipers, surviving one more day is a victory against death.



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With the participation of
Alessandro Del Re – Senior Programming Manager for MUBI, Italy, former co-artistic director of Lago Film Fest is co-founder of InLaguna Film Festival and Rete Cinema in Laguna. He has written for various industry magazines and participated in collective volumes (Paolo Benvenuti, Matias Pineiro, Dario Argento). Contributor to international festivals such as Viennale, Short Waves, Pordenone Docs Fest and IsReal.

Shaping the Gaze – Educating Documentary between School and Cultural Policies

From national policies to European networks, best practices for bringing documentary into schools – an international discussion on models, partnerships, and strategies for shaping new ways of seeing.

How can a solid and structured documentary education be built? The panel brings together Italian and European experiences that have integrated cinema – and documentary film in particular – into school curricula through national networks, festivals, archives, and educational platforms. From public policies to collaborative models between schools and cultural institutions, the discussion focuses on existing best practices and on strategies to establish documentary film as a lasting tool for visual literacy and cultural citizenship.

Panelists

Mona Klöckner – Head of the NEXTUS – Learning by Documentaries project and member of the DOK. education team at DOK.fest München, Germany.

Veerle Snijders – Coordinator of the National Film Education Network at Eye Filmmuseum, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Gudrun Sommer – Board member of the European Children's Film Association (ECFA) and director of the DOXS RUHR film festival, Germany.

Bruno Zambardino – Directorate-General for Cinema and Audiovisual, Italian Ministry of Culture.

Moderator

Luca Giuliani – film historian, archivist, and cultural project designer.

In collaboration with

AVI – Associazione Videoteche e Mediateche Italiane

Initiative promoted within the framework of the National Plan for Cinema and Images for Schools, supported by the Italian Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Merit.

26 march, h 14.30
Sala Pasolini, Cinemazero

ITALIAN, DOC FUTURE!
Prix des Jeunes Européens
a FIPADOC 2026

The Castle

Radovan Tadic. 2025, Italy, France, 70'

With English subs

Three children transform an abandoned building in downtown Palermo into a secret world where they imagine a future in a city filled with fragility and contradictions.

On the streets of Danisinni, a Palermo neighborhood, chaos reigns. In an abandoned kindergarten, believed to be haunted, Angelo, Mery and Rosy create a secret refuge: they clean it, decorate it, turn it into a safe place to dream and confide. The "Castle" becomes their island of freedom, until the building is returned to the city and the three must confront the outside world.



24

With the participation of
Danny Biancardi – Italian director and filmmaker active in documentary and participatory cinema. Graduated from the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, he works in directing, editing, writing, and audiovisual training. Co-founder of the collective La Bandita and the production company Le Capre.

Alberto Fasulo – Director, co-founder of Nefertiti Film, with a successful career spanning documentaries and narrative films: from *Rumore Bianco* to *TIR*, awarded the Marc'Aurelio d'Oro at the Rome Film Festival, to *Menocchio* and recent international collaborations. His work is renowned for its humanistic and narrative research across genres, focusing on the human being and their challenges.

26 march, h 16.30
Sala Grande, Cinemazero

ITALIAN PREMIERE

Kawakeb Cinema

Mahmoud Al Massad. Jordan, Qatar, 2025. 79'

With English and Italian subs

Amid impossible debts and the Israeli-Palestinian war knocking at the door, Amman's oldest cinema represents the last outpost of a community that has nothing left but its memory.

In a poetic narrative, interwoven with rare archival footage from the Arab-Israeli wars, employees Youssef and Ali struggle to save their cinema, ruined by the owner's thefts – including government funds. Trapped in the ticket booth, they survive on the few coins of Hussien, a homeless man seeking shelter in the theater. As protests over the war in Gaza erupt outside, the cinema's decline mirrors a wider crisis – a portrait of memory and loss in the shadow of History.



25

The Two Memories

Jorge Semprún. France, 1972. 141'

French and Spanish, with Italian subs only

Comparing the memories of both sides in search of a conciliatory position, the film offers a comprehensive view of the historical and ideological stakes of the conflict.

“There was amnesty and then there was amnesia. Amnesty, of course, is sanctioned by law, but amnesia cannot be imposed by law.” Having obtained permission in 1972 to travel legally to Spain for the first time, Semprún presented his project to the authorities as a film about the future of Spain and Europe. The interviews were shot on Super 16mm during the summer of 1972, in France and, in semi-clandestinity, in Spain. The film was never shown in Spanish cinemas.



26

Memory, the possibility of sharing lived experience, was central to the concerns of **Jorge Semprún** (1923-2011), a great writer who lived through exile in his early teens, the Resistance, deportation to Buchenwald and then clandestine involvement at the highest levels of the Spanish Communist Party under Franco's dictatorship.

With the participation of **Esteve Riambau** – has been a Professor of Audiovisual Communication at the UAB and, from 2010 to 2024, the director of Filmoteca de Catalunya. He co-directed the feature films *La doble vida del faquir* (2005) and *Máscaras* (2009) and is the author of forty books on the history of cinema. Among them, he wrote *Jaime Camino. La Guerra Civil i altres històries* (2007), *Laya Films i el cinema a Catalunya durant la Guerra Civil* (2018) and curated the exhibition *Imatges confrontades. La Guerra Civil i el cinema* (2012).

Federico Rossin – Bio on p. 9

26 march, h 18.00
Sala Grande, Cinemazero

ITALIAN PREMIERE

Eyes of the Machine

Daya Cahen. Holland, 2025. 76'

With English and Italian subs

Chinese Re-education Camps Never Seen: Uyghur activist and survivor Kalbinur Sidik recounts the persecution of her people in Xinjiang and the People's Republic's incredible propaganda machine. East Turkestan has been part of China since 1949, but Uighur Muslims in the region continue to fight for their autonomy. Chinese authorities fear separatist movements and persecute them. Kalbinur Sidik, a refugee forced to work in internment camps and now exiled in the Netherlands, pits herself against Chinese state propaganda, using personal photos, intercepted messages, open source data, state media and diaspora voices, hoping one day to find her family.



27

With the participation of
Daya Cahen – director
Kalbinur Sidik – activist and film protagonist

Winners of the 2026 Images of Courage Award

Presentation of the 2026 Images of Courage Award



Daya Cahen is a Dutch artist and director who explores propaganda, mass psychology, and authoritarianism, analyzing how fear of “the other” is created. Her short films (including *Nashi* and *Birth of a Nation*) have been exhibited at prestigious venues such as the Centre Pompidou and the Moscow Museum of Modern Art (MMoMA). A nominee for the Golden Bear at Berlin and featured in festivals such as IDFA and CPH:DOX, she made her feature-length documentary debut with *Eyes of the Machine*.

Kalbinur Sidik is a Uyghur activist who fled Xinjiang after experiencing Chinese repression. A former teacher in Urumqi, in 2016 she was forced to work in two “re-education camps,” where she witnessed systematic torture and abuse. Persecuted and subjected to forced sterilization, since 2019 she has lived in exile in the Netherlands. Despite ongoing threats, she tirelessly denounces the atrocities and persecution against her people.

26 march, h 18.00
Sala Modotti, Cinemazero

TRIBUTE TO
NIKOLAUS GEYRHALTER

Homo Sapiens

Nikolaus Geyrhalter. Austria. 2016. 94'

Without dialogues

In the twilight of the industrial age a film about the finiteness and fragility of existence: about what it means, even in confrontation with Nature and Time, to be Human.

What will be left of our lives after we are gone? Empty spaces, ruins, cities gradually overrun by vegetation, crumbling asphalt: the places we inhabit today but from which humanity has disappeared. Places now abandoned and dilapidated, which nature gradually reclaims after they were taken from her so long ago. An ode to humanity observed from a possible future scenario.



29

26 march, h 19.00
SpazioZero - Cinemazero

APERIDOCS
Listen, meet...cheers!

Gullidanda & Al Sagor

Andrea Gulli: electronics

Giorgio Pacorig: keyboards, electronics

Uneasy listening for adventurous dancefloors. LFO pulses out of sync, rhythmic patterns and arpeggiators fused in industrial wastelands, underwater psychedelia and unexpected yacht rock hits with a touch of Detroit techno... Jazz is the teacher! (and if you haven't figured it out: hard to sit still)



La cura sei tu

Firma per il 5x1000 a Medici Senza Frontiere

Codice fiscale: 970 961 20 585 msf.it/5x1000

 **MEDICISANS FRONTIERES**
MEDICI SENZA FRONTIERE

To the North Pole! Nobile, Rise and Fall

Various authors, original footage 1926 and 1928, edited 2026. 10'

Exceptional footage from the Cinecittà-LUCE archives and set to live music recounts exploits and debacles, Arctic aims of conquest-colonial or geopolitical-at the topical level.

Exactly one century ago, Umberto Nobile challenged the North Pole with his airships. His feats – from the triumph of the *Norge* (1926) to the tragedy of the *Italia* (1928) and the legendary “Red Tent” – tell of humanity’s drive to explore the unknown and push the limits of possibility, but also of desires for expansion and colonial control.

Today, as the Arctic once again becomes a focus of global geopolitical ambitions, these challenges resonate anew.



31

On vibraphone **Luigi Vitale** – vibraphonist and percussionist, graduated with top honors in percussion from the Conservatory of Salerno, winner of the Massimo Urbani Award in 2004. He maintains an active concert career spanning traditional jazz and experimental music, with numerous recordings to his name.

Ice Grave

Robin Hunzinger. France, Sweden, Hungary, 2025. 89'

With English and Italian subs

At the end of the 19th century, three explorers set off on an incredible adventure toward the North Pole aboard a hydrogen balloon. Decades later, the melting ice reveals their diaries and photographs, uncovering long-held secrets.

Ice Grave is an archaeological thriller that digs through ghostly writings and photographs to decipher the explorers' final moments on Kvitøya. Blending science and history, the film weaves the past of a legendary expedition with a present marked by climate change, giving voice to an enigma frozen for decades. A haunting journey between beauty and tragedy.



32

With the participation of **Robin Hunzinger** – filmmaker. His work lies at the intersection of archival cinema, filmed memory, and intimate history. For over twenty years, his films have explored wars, the traces of history, and the transmission of memory. His film *Ultraviolette* won the IDFA ReFrame Award in 2021.

In collaboration with
CAI – Sezione di Pordenone

Itineranze Doc

A six-month training and mentoring program dedicated to documentary film projects in development, aimed at supporting directors working on their first or second film at both the creative and production level.

The Project

A unique initiative born from the collaboration of some of the most important Italian festivals in the field: a series of intensive workshops, a one-to-one mentoring program, and several networking opportunities with producers, distributors, and broadcasters.

A wide-ranging project designed to support participants through the key stages leading to the realization of their film – from writing to pitch preparation, from refining artistic choices to finding producers and funding sources.

A multi-stage journey taking place within the festivals themselves, in close contact with professionals and industry experts, guided by outstanding teachers and supported by experienced tutors.

A public presentation of the program will take place on Friday, 27 March, within the program of NIUDOC.

Itineranze Doc is a project conceived by Bellaria Film Festival, Sole Luna Doc Film Festival, PerSo – Perugia Social Film Festival, Pordenone Docs Fest, FrontDoc – Festival Internazionale del Cinema di Frontiera, Festival dei Popoli.

In collaboration with
APA Vd'A, CIC-Arci Iglesias, CSC – Società
Umanitaria Carbonia Iglesias.

With the support of the Italian Ministry of Culture and SIAE – Società Italiana degli Autori ed Editori within the framework of the Per Chi Crea program, and with the contribution of the Fondazione di Sardegna.

More information:
www.itineranzedoc.it

NIUDOC 2026 – Where Stories Begin!

NIUDOC offers young talent the opportunity to present original documentary ideas through pitching and one-on-one meetings with producers from the Northeast and the Balkans. Selected projects will follow online mentoring (April-July) to develop idea, pitch deck and teaser, leading up to the final presentation at Lago Film Fest.

The initiative promotes and enhances cross-border collaboration, ensuring exchange between emerging and professional voices in the field. Up for grabs are in-kind prizes including equipment rental (Cinema Rental), DCP (KublaiFilm), distribution on ZaLab View, #DocsConnect Taskovski Training Award and Impronta Films Consultancy Award.



34

27 march, h 10.30
Sala Grande, Cinemazero

ITALIAN PREMIERE

Girls Don't Cry

Sigrid Angelika Klausmann, Lina Lužytė. Germany, 2025. 90'

With English and Italian subs

What is adolescence? Six girls fight to reclaim their future amidst the rubble of a difficult reality, seeking the strength to overcome trauma and loss through love and self-determination.

Being a girl today: the documentary follows six young women from different countries, united by the desire to love freely and to reclaim autonomy over their bodies, without restrictions or paternalism. Navigating trauma and loss, the protagonists challenge prejudice, aesthetic obsessions, and brutal traditions such as female genital mutilation. A powerful portrait of adolescent resistance: being young and proud even when the world tries to break you.



35

With the participation of **Sigrid Klausmann** – After working as a modern dance choreographer, she has been directing documentary films since 2003. Since 2011 she has been the main director of the short film series *199 Little Heroes*. Her documentaries have received numerous awards worldwide.

In collaboration with **Voce Donna ETS**

FREE ADMISSION

27 march, h 10.30
SalaTotò - Pasolini, Cinemazero

Giulio Regeni – All the Evil in the World

Simone Manetti. Italy, 2026. 70'

With English subs

The first documentary to reconstruct the judicial truth about the kidnapping, torture and homicide of the Italian researcher found murdered near Cairo on Feb. 3, 2016.

A film that traces the case of Giulio Regeni, amidst denied truths, broken investigations and silences that weigh like boulders. Telling Giulio's story, for the first time, are his parents, Claudio and Paola: a father and mother who turned pain into courage, defying al-Sisi's dictatorship. With them, the voice of lawyer Alessandra Ballerini, in the battle that after eight years led to the trial of four Egyptian agents. A tale of love, justice and resistance.



36

Starting with the festival, Cinemazero makes a yellow bench available to everyone in front of Spazio-Zero – a symbol encouraging reflection on fundamental rights and raising awareness of, and opposition to, their violations.

FREE ADMISSION

The Trials

Marta Massa. Hungary, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, 2025. 25'

With English and Italian subs

Fundamental rights are often denied in Hungary: Maja T. is a young nonbinary activist detained in solitary confinement in Budapest who faces a 24-year sentence. Squares protest the government's restrictive measures...What will her sentence be?

Maja T.'s story is part of what has been called the "Budapest Complex," a full-blown witch hunt waged by Orban for his election campaign with the endorsement of Europe's far-right parties. During a Kafkaesque and ideological trial in which no evidence is admitted, the activist in chains faces her fate with stoic dignity.



37

With the participation of **Marta Massa** – documentary filmmaker and cinematographer. She holds a Master's degree in Documentary Filmmaking from the Edinburgh College of Art. In 2021 she was selected for the New Voices program, established by the Scottish Documentary Institute and dedicated to emerging talents in documentary filmmaking.

CONTINUED



The Continuous Machine

Ruben Gagliardini. Italy, 2025. 20'

In Fabriano there is a noise that spans centuries and people's destinies: it is the breath of the F3 Machine, which produces not only paper, but memory, time and identity.

After centuries, the Macchina Continua comes to a halt, and the silence that remains is not only that of an extinguished plant, but becomes an allegory of an Italy that has sold out its body to the masters of global finance. In a country that confuses efficiency with surrender, competitiveness with submission, the documentary reminds us that work is not a budget item but a form of (r)existence.



38

With the participation of

Ruben Gagliardini – graduate of the Civica Scuola di Cinema Luchino Visconti, his work narrates contemporary crises between cinema and reportage. Awarded at Visioni dal Mondo and Z-Pitch, in 2025 he directed the workers' documentary *Macchina Continua* and the short film *Hope*.

Pietro Giorgetti – artist working between music and writing. He trained at the Scuola Holden with Gabriele Vacis. Founder of the band F4, he also produced events such as Estate Sforzesca before returning to Fabriano.

Moderators

Alessandro Rossi and **Michele Mellara** – authors, filmmakers, event creators, and lecturers who have worked together for about twenty years. After their fiction film *Fortezza Bastiani* (2002), they began their distinctive path in documentary filmmaking. With their company Mammut Film they have produced dozens of documentaries, screened worldwide and broadcast by television networks in more than 50 countries.

27 march, h 15.00
Sala Totò, Cinemazero

Retrospective
¡No pasarán!

The Old Memory

Jaime Camino, Spain, 1977. 161'

Spanish, with Italian subs only

Film-monument on the memory of the Republic and the Civil War: a masterpiece of intelligence and finesse.

Camino has assembled the testimonies, originally filmed as long monologues, in such a way as to make it seem as if these figures in contemporary Spanish history are listening to each other and even dialoguing with each other. The reconstruction of facts that emerges from this dialogue becomes complex, sometimes indeterminate, heterogeneous or divergent because of the variety of points of view.



39

A law graduate, music teacher and film critic, **Jaime Camino** (1936–2015) devoted himself to literature and debuted as a director in the 1960s. Half of his feature films have as their theme the Civil War and its memory, approached from different genres and perspectives.

With the participation of
Federico Rossin – Bio on p. 9
Esteve Riambau – Bio on p. 26

27 march, h 15.15
Sala Grande, Cinemazero

ITALIAN PREMIERE

Confessions of a Mole

Mo Tan. China, Poland, 2025. 95'

With English and Italian subs

China today, in dialogue with the world between tradition and modernity: a filmmaker grappling with a bizarre family and a troubling diagnosis. A tragicomic but profound journey between dreams and love to heal the wounds of the past.

Between old grudges and her parents' bizarre obsession with a "cursed" mole on her face, Mo falters. Then, the shock of fate: a diagnosis of breast cancer that turns superstition into stark reality. Between documentary and stop-motion, the film is a tragicomic journey into the wounds of a family that, in the shadow of trauma, desperately tries to find itself and rediscover love before time runs out.



40

With the participation of

Mo Tan – Born in China and based in Warsaw. She graduated in 2018 from the directing department of the National Film School in Łódź. Her work explores cultural clashes and human dilemmas, blending documentary and narrative filmmaking.

In collaboration with

The Breakfast Club

Beyond Borders

– Strategies, Coproductions and Opportunities for Documentary Filmmaking.

As part of the NIUDOC day, this panel explores minority co-productions in documentary filmmaking and beyond, addressing strategic, production and practical challenges. Local, national and international experts and practitioners share concrete tools to develop agreements, partnerships and market opportunities, promoting collaboration and exchanges between authors and authors, producers and producers from the Triveneto and the Balkan area.



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Panelists

Samantha Faccio

Friuli Venezia Giulia Audiovisual Fund

Martina Petrović

Creative Europe MEDIA Desk Croatia

Petra Skeliksar

Petra Pan Film Production

Marta Zaccaron

Incipit Film

Moderator

Nadia Trevisan

Nefertiti Film

This will be followed by the NIUDOC awards ceremony, with the presentation of the winning projects.

27 march, h 17.15
Sala Grande, Cinemazero

ITALIAN PREMIERE
with Bolzano Film Festival Bozen

Melt

Nikolaus Geyrhalter. Austria, 2025. 127'

With English and Italian subs

An extraordinary cinematic journey into a white universe, which is also a “testament”: climate change melts perennial snows, soon new generations will know what ice was only because of movies.

Breathtaking images from places around the world where snow and ice are fundamental to human existence: from Antarctica, Iceland, Canada and Japan, to the French Alps and the highest glaciers in Austria and Switzerland. A spectacular and mournful film, it bears witness to an atmospheric phenomenon to which we will be the last and final living witnesses, as daily, unstoppable melting highlights humanity's indifference to its planet.



42

Ecce Homo

Vesna Ljubić. Bosnia, 1994. 31'

Without dialogues

A personal reflection on death and life during siege, *Ecce Homo* is a touching wartime urban symphony.

Ecce Homo was born in Sarajevo, where director Vesna Ljubić lived, and took shape “productively” thanks to black market exchanges that made the film’s technical realization possible. What *Ecce Homo* returns is unique in his filmography: Ljubić does not seek explanations, but a deep meaning in what he observes, returning it through gestures, noises, sensations, memories and even songs. Without the need for words, the director offers a small unspoken truth of those days, an intimate yet collective portrait of life under siege.



43

Les 20 heures dans le camps

Chris Marker. France, 1993. 26'

French, with Italian subs only

In the Roska refugee camp, a group of young Bosnian men create a newscast by piecing together, stitching together, and taking information from other newscasts thus reappropriating information.

Chris Marker produced a trilogy devoted to the Balkans, which includes *Casque bleu* and *Un maire au Kosovo*. In this short documentary follows a group of refugees and female refugees who write, stage, and present their own news every day. They attempt to reappropriate 'information, giving birth to "television on tape," like cable television. An attempt to take back the narrative of what is happening, turning the act of informing into an act of resistance.



44

Sarajevo Film Festival

Johan van der Keuken. Netherlands, 1993. 14'

With Italian subs

How can you have a film festival in wartime? Invited to the Sarajevo festival, the Dutch director returns with this film that is also a reflection on the very meaning of filmmaking.

In the 20th month of the siege, during a harsh and unrelenting winter for the citizens and townsfolk of Sarajevo, the city chose to hold a film festival. Among the 13 guests in that edition was Johan van der Keuken, who, once he arrived, decided to stay and film. His camera follows the stories of festival organizer Haris Pašović and an architecture student, interweaving their voices into a broader reflection on the role of cinema in wartime.



45

Waiting for Godot... in Sarajevo

Susan Sontag, France, 1993. 26'

French, with Italian subs only

In the summer of 1993, Susan Sontag was in Sarajevo to stage Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. This documentary preserves the testimony, turning the work into an authentic trace of that city and its spirit.

The documentary captures the atmosphere of Sarajevo during the staging of *Waiting for Godot*, revealing the tireless determination of actors and citizens to stay alive during the siege. The bond between Susan Sontag and Sarajevo was crucial not only for her cultural engagement during the conflict, but also because she devoted important reflections to it in *Regarding the Pain of Others*. Today, the square in front of the Sarajevo theater is named in memory of Susan Sontag.



46

With the participation of
Alessandro Del Re – Senior Programming Manager for MUBI, Italy, former co-artistic director of Lago Film Fest is co-founder of InLaguna Film Festival and Rete Cinema in Laguna. He has written for various industry magazines and participated in collective volumes (Paolo Benvenuti, Matias Pineiro, Dario Argento). Contributor to international festivals such as Viennale, Short Waves, Pordenone Docs Fest and IsReal.

27 march, h 19.00
SpazioZero - Cinemazero

APERIDOCS
Listen, meet...cheers!

Cuerdas Trio

David Beltran Soto Chero: classical guitar

Mario Cardona: charango

Giorgio Scarano: classical, electric and setar guitar

A repertoire of continuous musical entanglements that are expressed both through original instrumentation that juxtaposes classical and electric guitar with charango, and through the interpretation of the many cultured and popular sounds of Latin American countries.

DESIDERIO

Il sesso senza sì è stupro.

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



#iolochiedo

27 march, h 21.00
Sala Grande, Cinemazero

ITALIAN PREMIERE

The Beauty of the Donkey

Dea Gjinovci. Switzerland, Kosovo, France, USA, 2025. 76'

With English and Italian subs

A filmmaker and her exiled father return to a forgotten Kosovo. As they piece together childhood memories, imagination reveals the traumas of war and rekindles the fragile, lost moments of joy.

After fifty years in exile, Asllan returns to Kosovo with his daughter Dea to rediscover the enchanted village of his childhood stories. But Maker-mal no longer exists: the 1998 war has left only ruins and new rows of graves in the cemetery. In an act of poetic resistance, father and daughter involve the village's survivors in staging the lost memories. Blurring fiction and reality, Asllan searches for the truth about his mother's disappearance, transforming grief into a collective ritual of healing.



48

With the participation of

Dea Gjinovci – Swiss-Albanian filmmaker and producer. Her films have premiered at major international festivals, including Tribeca Film Festival, IDFA, Visions du Réel, and CPH:DOX. Her work blends poetic storytelling, magical realism, and cinéma vérité.

Asllan Gjinovci – protagonist of the film

In collaboration with
Amnesty International Italy

ARBËRESHË

She is a contemporary indie-folk artist based in Pristina who explores Albanian folk songs as living matter shaped by personal perception and ancestral memory.

Through voice, guitar, frame drum, shruti box and sound textures, she reinterprets Albanian folk songs as living spaces where memory meets the present.



Kosovo Wedding Band

Their music springs from the heart of Kosovo's folk traditions, but pulses with an energy that transcends folklore to become a collective experience: now hypnotic, intimate and suspended, now irresistibly dancing...Balkan!



50

Gent Hoxha

Fyell, Çifteli (Flute and traditional two-string "lute")

Rustem Xekhaj

Çifteli (traditional two-string "lute")

Gëzim Sadiku

Llaud (lute)

Mentor Xekhaj

Def (frame tambourine)

Leon Hajdari

Clarinet

Resmije Krasniqi

Vocals

27 march, h 23.00
SalaTotò, Cinemazero

ITALIAN PREMIERE
Best Cinematography Award
– Tallin Black Night Film Festival

Edge of the Night

Vladimir Loginov, Estonia, 2025. 90'

With English and Italian subs

The night holds dreams, desires, perversions, excesses, waiting, hopes... A story of an entire night, an ode to the city that never sleeps, to the people who inhabit it, to sleepless hours, and to hidden beauty.

Tallinn's night falls, revealing a nightlife usually hidden from view. A universal portrait of cities that never sleep: from the cries of newborns to the silent park benches, from the last tram to the chaos of emergency services, from swingers in dark rooms to street musicians. A mosaic of lively quiet, inviting audiences to observe dreams... that are real.



51

With the participation of

Vladimir Loginov – filmmaker and producer. His first documentary, *Silence*, dates back to 2006. His films have been presented at prestigious festivals such as Visions du Réel, PÖFF – Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival, Docpoint Helsinki, GoEast, DOK.fest München, Zerkalo Film Festival, ArtDocFest, and the Green Film Festival in Korea.

Vero! Connecting Docs



Six documentaries and their authors meet in a special event in which national and international festivals select their standout documentary of the year from the works presented in their most recent editions. The initiative aims to offer these films, often acclaimed by critics and the festival circuit, a privileged showcase to make themselves known or rediscovered by professionals in the field, fostering visibility and concrete opportunities. Distributors, exhibitors and industry professionals can thus discover new quality works, while the filmmakers have the opportunity to expand their audience and the circulation of their works, within and beyond national borders.

The selected films, and their festivals, are:

- **9 Month Contract** by Ketevan Vashagashvili (Sarajevo Film Festival)
- **Claudia Makes Bad Dreams** by Eleonora Sardo, Marco Zenoni (Biografilm)
- **Do You Love Me** by Lana Daher (Venice Days – Venice Film Festival)
- **Il fantasma che è in me** by Michael Beltrami (Festival dei Popoli)
- **The Town That Drove Away** by Natalia Pietsch and Grzegorz Piekarski (Porto/Post/Doc)
- **Yugo Goes to America** by Filip Grujić and Aleksa Borković (Beldocs)

Fiume o Morte!

Igor Bezinović. Croatia, Italy, Slovenia. 2025, 112'

With English and Italian subs

Beyond history, an investigation into the roots of extremism: from D'Annunzio's visions of Fiume to the nationalist reflections of today. A journey where the past shakes and interrogates our present.

The voices of today's Rijeka guide us through the sixteen months of D'Annunzio's occupation. Between precious archives and reenactments by and of the current inhabitants, the filmmaker transforms modern Rijeka into a space where the past resurfaces unexpectedly. A documentary that challenges the boundaries of fiction to reveal how memory is unreliable and reality a social construction—a necessary journey in which the present becomes the only key to deciphering the future.



53



Followed by
SalaTotò, Cinemazero

Masterclass by Igor Bezinović



54

Igor Bezinović, a Croatian director and one of the most original voices in contemporary cinema, is the author of films such as *The Blockade*, *Veruda*, *A Brief Excursion*, and *Fiume o morte!* – works awarded nationally and internationally, from the Rotterdam International Film Festival to the Pula Film Festival.

His cinema freely moves between documentary and fiction, exploring social, political, and urban spaces with a direct, ironic, and deeply human gaze. Trained in both film directing and philosophical and sociological studies, Bezinović constantly reflects on community, territory, and collective memory in his work.

This masterclass offers a unique opportunity to delve into his method: constructing reality, working with non-professional actors, independent production strategies, and the relationship between aesthetics, politics, and everyday life. A chance for an open dialogue with an innovative filmmaker, continually reinventing what cinema can observe and tell.

28 march, h 10.30
Sala Grande, Cinemazero

ITALIAN PREMIERE

Wise Women

Nicole Scherg. Austria, 2025. 88'

With English and Italian subs

Five women, five countries, one mission: to defend the right to be born safely, turning every birth into an act of freedom and resistance.

They are the first to cross our gaze. In *Wise Women*, Nicole Scherg follows five midwives between Ethiopia, Brazil, Morocco, Nepal and Austria. These professionals not only assist in childbirth, but defend the universal right to conscious birth, challenging social, cultural and economic barriers. A powerful portrait of those who guard life's most vulnerable and exceptional moment. Because how we come into the world affects everyone and everyone: these women hold up, literally, our tomorrow.



55

With the participation of

Nicole Scherg – She studied directing and screenwriting at ZeLIG School of Documentary, Television and New Media in Bolzano. Since 2005, she has lived and worked in Vienna, focusing on feature-length documentaries and international collaborations. Her approach combines documentary precision with empathy, exploring social and existential themes.

In collaboration with

Voce Donna ETS, Carta di Pordenone

FREE ADMISSION

28 march, h 10.30
Sala Pasolini, Cinemazero

ITALIAN, DOC FUTURE!

Night Blooms

Giulia di Maggio. Italy, 2025. 15'

With English and Italian subs

An unbridgeable distance separates two lovers at the ends of a telephone line for an entire, ghostly night.

Nieregen, city where it never rains. Pluvia, city where it rains continuously. From one edge of the globe to the other, unmentionable desires, dreams and fears cross. Voice remains the last hold on reality, while silently, like a night flower, a feverish desire for contact grows: need for skin, hands and bodies. Dream and reality blur, transforming – in the director's words – “dialogue into a pure performance of the imagination.”



56

With the participation of

Giulia Di Maggio – Italian filmmaker. She graduated from the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia – Palermo with the film *Una volta ancora*, selected for *Visions du Réel 2022*. After graduation, she directed *Le Fenne*, winner of the Special Jury Prize at the Torino Film Festival 2023.

Giovanni Di Giandomenico – composer. His music has been featured in numerous international festivals. In 2024, he composed the score for *Il cassetto segreto*, presented at the Berlinale, nominated for the David di Donatello, and winner of the Nastro d'Argento.

Sueña Ahora

Gabriele Licchelli, Francesco Lorusso, Andrea Settembrin. Italy, Cuba, 2025. 20'

With English and Italian subs

Cuba is experiencing continuous blackouts. In absolute darkness, waiting for day, the island continues its activities in a dreamlike atmosphere.

In Cuba, darkness is familiar. Apagón engulfs everything, but in the pitch blackness activities go on, illuminated only by dim portable lights. A parish priest, a blind musician, a young chess player, and a fisherman inhabit the silence, where the sounds of nature return fiercely. In this technological vacuum, reality fades into a dreamlike and intimate experience: a journey in which the imagination and the unconscious become the only compass for not getting lost in the island's perpetual eclipse.



57

With the participation of **Gabriele Licchelli, Francesco Lorusso, and Andrea Settembrini** – directors and producers. Together, they directed and produced *Anche gli uomini hanno fame*, premiered at IDFA, and *Go, Friend, Go*, premiered at Festival dei Popoli and subsequently selected at several international festivals. They are also the founders of Broga Doite Film.

Moderator **Marco Bertozzi** – film historian and director (his films include *Profughi a Cinecittà* and *Cinema Grat-tacielo*). In 2022, he received the Award of the Accademia dei Lincei and the Italian Ministry of Culture for art criticism. Since 2023, he co-directs, with Alina Marazzi, the UnArchive Found Footage Fest.

In collaboration with
Centro Studi Cartel Cubano – Pordenone

28 march, h 15.00
Sala Modotti, Cinemazero

Industry Event

Vero!

Connecting Docs Panel

Rethinking Circulation – New Models for Documentary Film

Dedicated theaters, festival networks, shared VOD platforms and alternative circuits: an international exchange on concrete and transferable models for documentary film distribution and operation.

How can documentaries reach audiences beyond traditional release models? The panel brings together international organizations that have developed sustainable and innovative approaches to distribution and exhibition: dedicated cinemas, collaborative networks between festivals, shared VOD platforms, and screening circuits in unconventional settings. Through case studies and transnational experiences, the meeting explores long-term strategies and visions that are redefining the ecosystem of documentary film circulation.

Panelists

Petra Babić

Representative of Kinedok, Croatia

Lucie Bonvin

Coordinator of Documentaire Sur Grand Écran,
France

Jenny Horwell

Director and Programmer of Bertha DocHouse, UK

Galya Stepanova

Coordinator Doc Alliance Festivals
and Markets Network

Moderator

Silvia Carobbio

Editorial Coordinator Zalab View
and Head of Program of Pordenone Docs Fest

28 march, h 15.15
Sala Totò, Cinemazero

Retrospective
¡No pasarán!

The Disenchantment

Jaime Chávarri. Spain, 1976. 96'

French and Spanish, with Italian and English subs

The widow and three children of a Francoist poet recount their stories with joyful, wild candor – showing, in their own way, how to dismantle the fascist patriarchy.

On screen, as the film's protagonists begin to evoke the past, a story of ruthless family relationships emerges – a mix of unusual erudition, devastating cynicism, and profound cruelty. The “respectable” bourgeois and Falangist family, its values, and its “paternal figure” crumble under the director's gaze. The film became a cult symbol of the fall of the Francoist regime and of the new democracy, which in its early months already showed the cracks of disappointment.



59

Jaime Chávarri (b. 1943) was a key director during Spain's transition to democracy: his irony, humor, and eclecticism (musicals, comedies, melodramas, and even a porn film) conceal his intellectual and creative depth. He was also a much-loved teacher for his students.

With the participation of
Federico Rossin – bio on p. 9

28 march, h 15.15
Sala Grande, Cinemazero

ITALIAN PREMIERE
Golden Dove for Best Feature-
Length Documentary - DOK Leipzig

Peacemaker

Ivan Ramljak. Croatia, 2025. 99'
With English and Italian subs

In the burning Balkans, one man chooses dialogue over weapons. Josip Reihl Kir is a forgotten hero who tried to stop the horror before blood wiped out all hope.

In 1991, before the outbreak of the Croat-Serb war, Josip Reihl Kir chose the path of dialogue instead of arms. Head of the Osijek police and tireless mediator, Kir was assassinated in an attempt to stop the impending massacre. Peacemaker reconstructs his final months through testimonies and rare archives, exploring a crime that, after 30 years, still presents unknown principals and disturbing shadows. A necessary work by Ivan Ramljak that interrogates history to give voice to a forgotten hero of peace.



60

With the participation of
Ivan Ramljak – director, film critic and independent curator. Since 2016, he has served as Artistic Director of the Tabor Film Festival, Croatia's oldest short film festival. His works have been presented at over 80 international festivals worldwide, including International Film Festival Rotterdam, Cinéma du Réel, and Dok Leipzig, winning numerous awards.

Martina Napolitano – researcher, translator, and president of Meridiano 13.

In collaboration with
Bottega Errante, Meridiano 13

Moana with Sound

Robert J. Flaherty (1926), Monica Flaherty (1980). USA, Polynesia, 1996. 98'
2K Restoration produced by Bruce Posner

With Italian and English intertitles

One of the great Flaherty's masterpieces, the film that gave birth to the word "documentary," chronicles the "faraway world" of Polynesia, offering today—even more so in its sound version—a reflection on anthropology and visual colonialism.

The events of the young "Moana of the South Seas," the rituals of her community, are filmed by Flaherty as an expression of "life itself." Fifty years after the filming she witnessed as a child, Monica Flaherty returns to Samoa for a titanic undertaking: to add voices and sounds to her father's silent masterpiece.



61

Guardare il reale

The new editorial series by Pordenone Docs Fest

***Moana* – a book and the re-released sound version of Robert J. Flaherty’s film that gave birth to the term “documentary.”**

The festival embarks on a new journey: a series dedicated to the centennial masterpieces of cinema of the real, based on the idea that certain key documentaries in film history – essential for the evolution of style and of exceptional aesthetic value – should be seen, and perhaps studied in depth, by a wide audience. Each year, a book and a film (in the best possible version) will be presented, offering both a viewing guide and documentary material, along with the possibility of watching the film in high-quality streaming via a special QR code and the participation of the Italian platform CGTV.

The series opens with a key film: *Moana*, which celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2026, and gave birth to the word “documentary,” as defined by critic (and also producer and director) John Grierson.

The volume includes an essay by **Margaret Jolly**, a leading anthropologist and one of the world’s foremost experts on Pacific cultures, analyzing how cinema shaped Western perceptions of Polynesian women. **Jeffrey Geiger**, Emeritus Professor of Film Studies at the University of Essex, reconstructs the film’s genesis, highlighting the tension between the staged rituals and the modernity that Samoan society was already negotiating. The volume is completed by contributions from **Riccardo Costantini**, curator of Pordenone Docs Fest; **Marco Bertozzi**, film historian and director; **Maria Ida Bernabei**, researcher at the University of Udine specializing in visual culture and scientific cinema; and **Paolo D’Andrea**, film historian. Numerous photographs and documents from the extensive Cinemazero Archives – including an unpublished text from the 1950s by **Gideon Bachmann** – accompany the volume.

Digital dystopias, real censorship. The *Horses* case

Horses: the Pasolini-inspired video game that challenges taboos and censorship. Between surreal visions and the Steam ban, a provocative work that questions the boundaries of freedom of expression.

Described by *Wired* as the most controversial video game of the year, *Horses* shakes up the industry with a raw and surreal style. Inspired by Salò's Pasolini, the title explores the weight of Puritan values, authoritarian regimes and the frailties of masculinity.



63

Panelists

Andrea Lucco Borlera – Independent visual artist, trained in filmmaking.

Pietro Righi Riva – Co-founder of Santa Ragione studio, producer of *Horses* and game design theorist.

FREE ADMISSION

What if reality changed-in a flash of light?

The enchantment of Polaroid: a workshop to rediscover the world without filters.

An experience to discover how amazing it is to observe the world carefully. Through the use of Polaroids, you rediscover the excitement of an image appearing in your hands-a little instant magic, without screens or filters. Each shot is unique, concrete and unrepeatable. The workshop is an invitation to slow down and carefully choose what to capture, revealing that reality can tell a thousand different stories depending on the gaze of those who, with a simple gesture, decide to stop it.



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Ages 6 and up
Cost: €5

For info and bookings write to
didattica@cinemazero.it

Retour à Sarajevo

Philippe Grandrieux. France, 1996. 73'

With Italian subs only

Grandrieux follows Sada, a Bosnian Muslim, on her journey back to Sarajevo after the signing of the Dayton Accords in a road movie that traverses a devastated country.

French filmmaker Philippe Grandrieux follows the return of a Bosniak woman to Sarajevo after years of forced absence due to the war. In the faces and words of the people she meets, the material and moral ruins of a conflict that tore the country apart – and left lasting wounds – come to the fore. *Retour à Sarajevo* is Grandrieux's first feature film, a precursor to works like *Sombre* (1998) and *La Vie nouvelle* (2002), through which the director would consolidate his radical cinematic language.



65

Images from the Corner

Jasmila Žbanić. Bosnia Herzegovina, 2023. 32'

With English and Italian subs

The director of *Quo Vadis, Aida?* reflects on the visible and invisible scars that still mark Sarajevo, nearly a decade after the end of the war.

In 1992, while an explosion causes a young woman to lose her arm, a French photographer, instead of helping her, takes a photo that will make him famous. This event profoundly shaped the career of the director of *Quo Vadis, Aida?* and *Grbavica*, who has consistently focused on the role of women in history. In this documentary, she turns the camera toward herself, reflecting on that moment and her first encounter with death and destruction.



66

With the participation of

Roberta Biagiarelli – multidisciplinary artist, cultural maker, and activist. She produces, researches, and performs works on historical and social themes. Her “theater of reality” extends into documentaries, books, and podcasts. Passionate about 20th-century Balkan history, with particular focus on the Srebrenica genocide, she is co-author of the book *Shooting in Sarajevo* (2020).

28 march, h 17.30
Sala Grande, Cinemazero

ITALIAN PREMIERE

Far from Maine

Roy Cohen. France, Italy, Hungary, 2026. 99'

With English and Italian subs

Israel-Palestine: how will young people on both sides of the border live? A great story of friendship, an analysis of the sense of responsibility and the complexity of imagining the future.

Israeli filmmaker Roy Cohen, who has just become a father, traces his teenage years, spent with his Palestinian friend Aseel, who was killed by police during a demonstration. In the 1990s, both were part of a delegation of young people who aspired to be the seeds of a peaceful future for the Middle East. Today, Roy questions mourning and a sense of responsibility in an increasingly radicalized Tel Aviv.



67

With the participation of

Roy Cohen – director, writer, and activist based in Tel Aviv. A member of Film Independent and Dok.Incubator, he was awarded the Clayton-Goldrich Award. His previous film, *Machine of Human Dreams* (2016), premiered at CPH:DOX and DOC NYC.

In collaboration with
Un Ponte Per

Serge Gordey – producer of international documentaries on war and geopolitics. His credits include the Oscar-nominated *5 Broken Cameras* and the multi-award-winning *Occupation Lab*.

28 march, h 18.00
Sala Pasolini, Cinemazero

TRIBUTE TO GEYRHALTER

Our Daily Bread

Nikolaus Geyrhalter. Austria, 2005. 95'

Without dialogues

A landmark film: food as we've never seen it before. An industrial feast hard to digest, of which we are all guests. A unique visual experience that dissects the European food system, leaving judgment to the audience.

To the rhythm of conveyor belts and massive machinery, the film observes the sites where Europe's food is produced: monumental spaces, surreal landscapes, and strange sounds. A cold, industrial environment leaves little room for individualism, where people, animals, crops, and machines all play supporting roles in the logistics of a system that sustains our standard of living.



68

With the participation of
Nikolaus Geyrhalter – Bio on p. 6

In collaboration with
AIAB FVG

Followed by an organic aperitif at spazioZero

28 march, h 19.00
SpazioZero - Cinemazero

APERIDOCS
Listen, meet...cheers!

Vise & Rob Daz Acoustic Duo

Rob Daz: Trumpet

Alberto Visentin: Voice and guitar

A sonic journey that blends blues, folk and soul. The duo – already backing legends such as Mud Morganfield and Sugar Blue, the Rolling Stones' historic harmonica player – transforms the African-American tradition into a multicolored, vibrant and timeless sonic experience.

Organic aperitif curated by **AIAB FVG**, featuring stories and tastings from the Pan of D.E.S. – Distretto di Economia Solidale del Friuli di Mezzo.

QUESTO FESTIVAL

RIPUDIA
LA GUERRA

Ripudiare la guerra significa rivendicare e mettere
in pratica l'**articolo 11** della nostra Costituzione.

Vai su **ripudia.it** per scoprire come condividere con altre
persone la campagna RIPUDIA promossa da **EMERGENCY**.

EMERGENCY ONG ETS è un'organizzazione internazionale nata in Italia nel 1994 per offrire cure medico-chirurgiche alle vittime della guerra, delle mine antiuomo e della povertà e, allo stesso tempo, per promuovere una cultura di pace, solidarietà e rispetto dei diritti umani.

Dal 1994 a oggi, in tutte le strutture sanitarie di EMERGENCY sono state curate gratuitamente oltre 14 milioni di persone.

 **EMERGENCY**
MEDICINA, DIRITTI E UGUAGLIANZA

28 march, h 21.00
Sala Grande, Cinemazero

ITALIAN PREMIERE

32 meters

Morteza Atabaki. Turkey, Iran, 2025. 84'
With English and Italian subs

Turkey: in a patriarchal society, a group of women defy traditions with a smile in a bold rebellion: an unconventional race that breaks the silence and ignites hope.

Halime believes that there is more to life than home and children. Driven by this belief, she organizes a rifle shooting competition for the women of the village, but the idea meets resistance from the men. The film is a hopeful portrait of a determined woman who, through passion, perseverance and the support of friends and allies, challenges entrenched traditions and proves that even in today's Turkey, change is possible.



70

Speakers

Morteza Atabaki – Born in Iran, he is a photographer and filmmaker. He has collaborated on over 50 film and television productions as a set photographer and backstage filmmaker. He served as director of photography for the documentary *Queen Lear* and has received multiple international awards for photography and directing, including the Jury Prize at the Leipzig Film Festival for his short film *Alien*.

Zeynep Secil – Director of photography, photographer, and camera operator. Expert in film production, cinematography, and visual arts.

In collaboration with
Voce Donna ETS, Carta di Pordenone

28 march, h 23.00
By invitation only

Secret Party Robertino dela Bloc DJ Set



La fabbrica dei sogni

Artistic Residencies for Pordenone Italian Capital of Culture

**POR
DE
NO
NE** | → Verso
Capitale
italiana
della
Cultura
2027

***La Fabbrica dei Sogni* (The Dream Factory) is a project that aims to transform a unique archival heritage into a dynamic cultural engine, showing how archives are living material capable of generating dialogue and creativity.**

Cinemazero preserves one of the richest film, sound and photographic archives in the world – spanning Pasolini, Fellini, Modotti, Welles, Zeffirelli, Bertolucci, Tarkovsky and more – alongside audiovisual and documentary materials that reflect the territory's social and cultural memory. The project activates artistic residencies, masterclasses, and national and international collaborations, giving artists full expressive freedom to work with archive materials in innovative ways, in dialogue with local collections and other national centers of excellence. An open call will soon be launched to select projects – both regional and national – so that artists can work over time and deliver their results in 2027, transforming archives and memories into contemporary experiences capable of generating unexpected visions and engaging broad audiences.

More info and updates on
www.pordenonedocsfest.it and www.cinemazero.it

After...First Part You cannot be left alone

Cecilia and José Juan Bartolomé. Spain, 1981. 93'

Spanish, with Italian and English subs

The first documentary on the Transition. The film was blocked by the Administration, a victim of shameful censorship that prevented its screening for years.

The Bartolomé brothers set out to record testimonies from across the political spectrum of the time. We hear the recollections of ordinary citizens, the claims of various social groups, demands for local autonomy, and tensions arising from violent attacks by radical groups. All these voices break with the idea of a transition to a consensus-based democracy. To watch this extraordinary film is to understand where many of the problems in Spain today come from...



73

Cecilia Bartolomé (b. 1940) was the pioneer of Spanish feminist cinema: she always considered cinema as a free expressive medium to raise ideological debates, criticize the establishment, expose patriarchy and scandalize well-meaning audiences. Many of her films were censored and rendered invisible for decades.

With the participation of
Federico Rossin – Bio on p. 9

29 march, h 11.00
spazioZero, Cinemazero

Industry Event
Panel in Italian only

Industry Roundtable

New Perspectives – Building a Shared Ecosystem for Documentary Circulation

What concrete tools can effectively promote wider circulation of independent documentaries? On this occasion, the new platform launched by Pordenone Docs Fest will also be presented.

Based on the discussions developed in the festival's industry section, sector professionals will engage in a dialogue on a project aimed at facilitating the circulation of independent documentaries through the development of an innovative platform. This tool is designed to expand access opportunities for films in cinemas, enhance existing expertise, and promote more effective connections between production, distribution, and exhibition.

Panelists

Marte Puck Bernardi – Cinema Operator, Cinema Teatro Galliera

Giorgio Bigoni – Operations Director, Cinetel

Michele Zanlari – Commercial Director, Tucker Film, Europictures, Officine Ubu

Alessandro Rossi – Director, Representative of 100Autori

Moderator

Marco Fortunato – Programming Director, Cinemazero

Donauspital

Nikolaus Geyrhalter. Austria, 2012. 75'

With English and Italian subs

A hypnotic journey inside one of the largest hospitals in Europe, questioning us about the importance of these public facilities. An unfiltered inquiry into where humanity resides between life, medicine and technology.

Between aseptic corridors and high-tech hums, Nikolaus Geyrhalter immerses us in the steely pulse of a large hospital. Without filters or interviews, the film becomes a mirror of the eternal passage between life, illness, and death. In a world of robots and monitors, where the patient is an anatomical detail, a poignant question emerges: in this miracle of technological perfection, where does the human being hide?



75

29 march, h 15.30
Sala Grande, Cinemazero

ITALIAN PREMIERE

2m²

Volkan Üce. Belgium,Germany,Turkey, 2026. 83'

With English and Italian subs

Where to get buried when you have two homelands? Through the wry eye of a Turkish-Belgian funeral director, *2m²* wittily chronicles the fine line between bureaucracy, identity, and the desire to return home.

How much land does a man need? For funeral director Tayfun, the answer is 2m², the space of a grave. In this documentary tinged with delicate irony, the dilemma of the final resting place divides families in the Turkish-Belgian community: rest in the adopted soil or return to the land of origin? The result is a surprising human comedy about the nuances of belonging between two homelands.



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With the participation of
Volkan Üce – filmmaker. His first feature documentary, *Displaced*, premiered at DOK Leipzig in 2017. His second documentary, *ALL-IN*, premiered at CPH:DOX and Hot Docs in 2021; selected for the European Film Awards, it won Best Documentary at the Antalya Film Festival.

Tayfun Arslan'o – protagonist.

After...Second Part Bound and Well Attached

Cecilia and José Juan Bartolomé. Spain, 1981. 102'

Spanish, with Italian and English subs

The first documentary on the Transition. The film was blocked by the Administration, victim of shameful censorship that prevented its screening for years.

Part two of the monumental diptych on Spanish public opinion. The second part, Bound and Well Attached, is a political analysis of the transition. Here, in addition to the people, the most prominent political leaders of the moment intervene, and topics such as the new autonomies, the rebirth of neo-Francoism, the annexation of Spain to Europe, terrorism and the extent of violence, the crisis at the Center, and ending with the involutory and insurreccional possibility of the Army.



77

Cecilia Bartolomé (b. 1940) was the pioneer of Spanish feminist cinema: she always considered cinema as a free expressive medium to raise ideological debates, criticize the establishment, expose patriarchy and scandalize well-meaning audiences. Many of her films were censored and rendered invisible for decades.

With the participation of
Federico Rossin – Bio on p. 9

29 march, h 17.30
Sala Ellero - Mediateca Cinemazero

Masterclass by Nikolaus Geyrhalter

The work of Nikolaus Geyrhalter, one of the most influential documentary filmmakers on the contemporary scene, has redefined the way we observe the world. With films such as, among others, *Our Daily Bread*, *Homo Sapiens* and *Matter Out of Place*, Geyrhalter constructs images of powerful visual rigor, capable of narrating the complexity of the present often without the need for words. His visual gesture is an act of resistance to contemporary image bulimia.

His wide, posed shots, use of depth of field and almost archaeological attention to human gestures (and their absences) open up a unique space for contemplation. This masterclass offers a rare opportunity to get to the heart of his method: research, preparation of footage, use of time, relationship to environments, and in particular the political responsibility of the gaze, a central reflection for today's hyper-visual world.

Geyrhalter is one of the most radical yet consistent voices in world documentary filmmaking: talking with him, reviewing his cinema, is an invitation to reflect together on how cinema can still interrogate reality, transform it, and-perhaps-give us new tools to imagine a different one.

Speakers

Nikolaus Geyrhalter – bio on p. 6.

Denis Brotto – Professor of Film and Visual Culture at the University of Padua. His publications include *Osservare l'incanto. Il cinema e l'arte di Aleksandr Sokurov* (2010), *Trame digitali. Cinema e nuove tecnologie* (2012), and *Jean Vigo* (2018). Alongside his academic research, he also works as a filmmaker. His documentary *Logos Zanzotto* was presented at the Venice Film Festival in 2021.

FREE ADMISSION with recommended reservation
info@pordenonedocsfest.it

29 march, h 17.30
Sala Grande, Cinemazero

ITALIAN PREMIERE

Super Nature

Ed Sayers. UK, 2025. 82'

With English and Italian subs

A collective work full of “analog poetry”, a love letter to nature: filmed entirely in Super 8, a portrait of our living companions, human and nonhuman, in a magnificent family film.

Documentary filmmaker Ed Sayers asked people from 25 countries to chronicle their most beloved corner of nature with images. The result is an unprecedented celebration of the planet, with a strong message of hope for the future and, at the same time, alarm at the threats posed by the climate crisis. Shot exclusively with vintage Super 8 cameras, the images are interwoven with biographical details of those who made the films, building a collective Home Movie of life on Earth.



79

Speaker

Ed Sayers – independent filmmaker and producer. In 1999 he founded straight 8, a renowned global challenge for Super 8 short films shot entirely in-camera, now also developed into a digital app.

In collaboration with

GEA – Gestioni Ecologiche Ambientali, AIAB FVG

Followed by
organic aperitif at spazioZero.

29 march, h 18.00
Sala Pasolini, Cinemazero

Retrospective
Sarajevo

Je Vous Salue, Sarajevo

Jean-Luc Godard. France, 1993. 2'

French, with Italian subs only

An image that unravels in fragments; a lament that traverses and rethinks human history.

A photograph emerges slowly, like a mosaic that is put together tile by tile, until its entirety forces us to confront the violence contained in that shot. To the tune of Arvo Pärt, in just two minutes and fifteen seconds, Jean-Luc Godard weaves Srebrenica, Mostar and Sarajevo within a larger narrative: that of human history. A history that the filmmaker does not merely evoke, but invites us to radically rethink.



Notre Musique

Jean-Luc Godard. France, 2004. 84'

French, with Italian subs only

A return to Sarajevo for Godard, who in this film divided into Hell, Purgatory and Heaven confronts the themes of responsibility and guilt in a visual fresco of extraordinary power.

Notre Musique marks another return by Godard to Sarajevo, following *Je vous salue, Sarajevo* and *For Ever Mozart*. The film begins with a forest of fragmented images of war and destruction, and continues with a fictional literary event that takes place in a post-settlement Sarajevo. *Notre Musique* is a reflection on war and the barbarity of the 20th century, but also on the very essence of cinema, a journey that questions the nature of memory, violence, and art.



81

With the participation of
Alessandro Del Re – Senior Programming Manager for MUBI, Italy, former co-artistic director of Lago Film Fest is co-founder of InLaguna Film Festival and Rete Cinema in Laguna. He has written for various industry magazines and participated in collective volumes (Paolo Benvenuti, Matias Pineiro, Dario Argento). Contributor to international festivals such as Viennale, Short Waves, Pordenone Docs Fest and IsReal.

29 march, h 19.00
SpazioZero - Cinemazero

APERIDOCS
Listen, meet...cheers!

Ajde Zora

Milica Polignano: voice - **Francesco Mattarello:** accordion
Micol Tosatti: violin - **Giulio Gavardi:** guitar, sax
Giorgio Marinaro: bass - **Francesco Prearo:** drums

Ajde Zora was born in 2012 from the meeting of five musicians with Serbian singer Milica Polignano. From the initial intent to offer the frenetic Balkan repertoire, the true essence of the project soon takes shape, which expands boundaries and is enriched by the gypsy music tradition of Eastern Europe contaminated by more modern sounds.

Organic aperitif curated by **AIAB FVG**, featuring stories and tastings from the Pan of D.E.S. – Distretto di Economia Solidale del Friuli di Mezzo.

29 march, h 21.00
Sala Grande, Cinemazero

82

Awards Ceremony

With the participation of
the Jury Members
Nikolaus Geyrhalter – bio on p. 6
Esther Kinsky – bio on p. 7
Igor Bezinović – bio on p. 7



The Westoxicated

Gilda Pourjabar. Canada, Iran, 2025. 85'

With English and Italian subs

Between forbidden cassettes and secretly drawn dreams, two brothers grow up in post-revolution Iran. A rebellious act of love toward freedom, art, and a youth that won't shut up.

The filmmaker and her brother, a visual artist, trace their “westernized” adolescence in 1980s and 1990s Iran. Through archival materials and animation, the film chronicles the clandestine circulation of pop culture, the hidden spaces of youth expression, and the impact of those networks on contemporary art education. A complex look at the constant tension between the desire for freedom and state control, yesterday and today.



83

Speaker

Gilda Pourjabar – filmmaker and editor based in Montréal, originally from Iran. After earning a degree in Film Production and a Master's in Film Studies, she built a solid career in documentary as an editor for films and television series. As co-editor of *Let*

There Be Light, nominated for the Grand Jury Award at SXSW and winner of the Artistic Vision Award at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, she gained wide recognition. *Westoxicated* is her first feature-length documentary.

DocsXR

The Immersive Section of Pordenone Docs Fest

DocsXR is the section of Pordenone Docs Fest dedicated to new narrative technologies. Eight works presented as national premieres invite audiences to immerse themselves in other lives and other worlds.

The immersive experiences are available free of charge throughout the festival at two locations: the glass pavilion in Piazza XX Settembre and the Cinemazero Mediateca at Via Mazzini 3.

FREE ADMISSION

84

DocsXR Audience Award

Watch, vote, choose. The audience will decide the best immersive experience by awarding the Audience Award. The winner will be announced during the closing night, together with the other prizes of the Pordenone Docs Fest.

XR Space – Glass Pavilion
Piazza XX Settembre
25–29 March
10:00–14:00 and 15:00–19:00

National premieres of:

Break the silence

Olena Romaniukova. Ukraine, 2025. 7'

A work highlighting the environmental devastation caused by the war in Ukraine: air and soil pollution, the destruction of flora and fauna, and even nuclear threats.

The Choice - Chapters 2 & 3

Joanne Popińska. Canada, Poland, USA, 2025. 23'+25'

A Texan woman and later a married couple reflect on an unplanned pregnancy, exploring the challenges of making a choice, with a rare focus on the role of the male partner.

Shelter

Sjors Swierstra, Ivanna Khitsinska. Ukraine, Netherlands, 2025. 15'

Scenes of daily life in a war-torn Ukraine: from an underground maternity ward in Kyiv to the moving performance of a symphony orchestra in a basement in Kharkiv.

The East Sea

Michel D.T. Lam. Canada, 2023. 18'

An immigration journey from Vietnam to Canada. An exile, a family, three generations. From the East China Sea to the St. Lawrence River, names and words change while the water keeps flowing and life goes on.

Under the Same Sky

Khalil Ashawi. Palestine, Turkey, 2025. 38'

Sami, a Palestinian journalist, documents the horrors of Gaza, reduced to rubble. Wherever the eye turns, harrowing scenes unfold.

XR Station
Mediateca Cinemazero
25–29 March
10:00–14:00 and 15:00–19:00

National premieres of:

Another Place

Domenico Singha Pedroli. France, 2025. 19'

Renée, a trans woman, fled Thailand after sharing a post on Facebook. Now, in an unwelcoming Paris, she awaits the outcome of her asylum application.

Masquedare Chapter I: Píllaro's Devil Dance

Juan Pablo Urgilés. Ecuador, 2025. 15'

Follow the rhythm of Píllaro's traditional Devil Dance, exploring the symbols and myths of this Ecuadorian town.

We Are Dead Animals

Tote Tiere Maarten. Netherlands, Germany, 2025. 20' (approx.)

Explore the afterlife with your hands. Find, collect, and bring dead animals back to life, uncovering their stories. Artist Tote Tiere Marteen created each 3D model by scanning real carcasses found outdoors. A grotesque reflection on our relationship with mortality.

Nord/Est/Doc/Camp IV Edition


Nord/Est/Doc/Camp is a consultancy and mentoring workshop for documentary films produced in the North-East of Italy and currently in production. In March 2026, Cinemazero hosted the first stage of the workshop. The teams of the films selected for this edition engaged with tutors, in a program designed to develop strategies and practical solutions to fully realize the potential of the works in progress.

The second stage of Nord/Est/Doc/Camp will take place at the Bolzano Film Festival Bozen, where on April 13 the projects will be presented to a selected audience of producers, buyers, distributors, exhibitors, festival delegates, broadcasters, and platforms in one-on-one meetings between professionals and film crews. The final stage of the workshop will be held during the Euganea Film Festival in September, featuring sessions led by experts in promotion, distribution, marketing, and communication, with dedicated consultancy for each participating project.

The four documentaries participating in Nord/Est/Doc/Camp 2026 are: *Grand-Popo* by Nuno Escudeiro (production: Helios Sustainable Films, Bolzano) *Mia sorella è un pirata* by Jacopo Mutti (production: Jump Cut, Trento) *Quando è pronto, il fieno canta* by Letizia Buoso (co-production: Headline, Rovereto, and Okta Film, Trieste) *Sonic Silence* by Alessandro Ambroggi and Ludovico Chincarini (production: Orango, Verona)

A project by

**BOLZANO
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BOZEN**

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film festival**

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FILM COMMISSION**

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More info: www.nordestdoccamp.com

Our Green Manifesto



Our Green Manifesto aims to serve as a virtuous model to transform the cultural industry and make it more sustainable, both environmentally and socially. A visionary commitment born from concrete actions, going beyond mere declarations of intent. This year, as part of the lead-up to the festival, we are inaugurating the first Cinema-zero Swap Party at SpazioZero – a festive initiative based on exchanging gently used clothing, promoting a culture of reuse and the reduction of waste.

We commit ourselves (and invite anyone who wishes) to:

- Whenever possible, choose sustainable mobility to reach festival venues, benefiting from a “green” discount on the festival pass;
- Favor renewable energy sources and reduce energy consumption;
- Use natural E.C.F. pure cellulose paper – FSC-certified and made from recycled fibers – and avoid waste. The audience is encouraged to prioritize purchasing tickets online;
- For set-ups and installations, choose recycled and recyclable materials, without reference to edition numbers, to allow reuse;
- Manage waste following separate collection systems, committing to reduce overall waste production and avoid plastics;
- Produce awards and gadgets using wood certified from sustainably managed forests or reclaimed materials, with the involvement of a social sewing workshop;
- Encourage guests to choose the most ecological travel options possible, and for staff transfers, rent electric vehicles;
- For food and beverages, avoid waste and plastic, favor local, zero-kilometer, organic products, always providing vegetarian and vegan options;
- Promote inclusivity, facilitating access to all festival venues for people with disabilities and specific needs;
- Spread a culture of environmental, social, and digital sustainability through the screening of films and events focused on ecological themes.



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HERB. H. HORTI PATAVINI

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The 2026 poster: a special graphic, from the herbarium by Silvia Zenari

On the occasion of the 19th edition of *Pordenone Docs Fest*, **Cinemazero** chose a very special image for the poster: a detail of a “Venus Slipper” orchid, collected by **Silvia Zenari** in Val Cimoliana, in the Friulian Dolomites, in June 1922, and preserved in the **Herbarium** of the University of Padua, connected to the Padua Botanical Garden, the oldest in the world (1545) in its original location. Just as a herbarium can be defined as **“a sample of the world”** (in the words of poet Camillo Sbarbaro), our festival aims to represent **a window onto reality and to illuminate little-known stories and details, or those narrated through fresh, original perspectives.**

The poster emphasizes a close connection with the territory: it is a tribute to Silvia Zenari, a Friulian botanist and geologist, to whom the Pordenone Museum of Natural History is dedicated. With this initiative, and in the context of the path **toward becoming the Italian Capital of Culture 2027**, Cinemazero helps to consolidate and expand the network of active cultural institutions in the city, from the Pordenone Museum of Natural History to the Padua Botanical Museum.

Raised in Montereale Valcellina (Pordenone), tireless explorer of the Eastern Alps, researcher Silvia Zenari (1895–1956) served as assistant at the Institute of Botany and the Botanical Garden of the University of Padua and taught Phytogeography and Systematic Botany. Thanks to her numerous explorations, Zenari played a key role in enriching the Herbarium of the University of Padua. Her story and collections help highlight herbaria as scientific, historical, and cultural heritage to be preserved and studied, and add a new chapter to **the often-overlooked contribution of women to science.**

Informazioni e abbonamenti

Cinemazero e spazioZero
Piazza Maestri del Lavoro

Mediateca Cinemazero
and Sala Ellero
Via Mazzini 2,
Palazzo Badini

XR Space
Piazza XX Settembre

Tel 0434.520404
festival@cinemazero.it

www.pordenonedocsfest.it
Tickets and passes section

Pordenone Docs Fest è sui social
FB [Pordenone Docs Fest](#)
IG [@pordenonedocsfest](#)

Tickets

Full Ticket	€ 8,00
Reduced Ticket	€ 6,00
CinemazeroCard	€ 5,50
CinemazeroYoungCard (for Under25)	€ 3,00

Passes*

Base Pass	€ 49,00
GreenPass (You commit to coming to the hall by bike, walking, or public transportation)	€ 45,00
Reduced Pass (Reserved for CinemazeroCard holders)	€ 35,00
Reduced Green Pass	€ 35,00
CinemazeroYoungCard Pass (for Under25)	€29,00
Pordenone Docs Fest Supporter Pass	€ 99,00

*The festival pass grants access to all festival events, upon collecting a free ticket at the Cinemazero box office no later than 30 minutes before the start of the screening. All screenings take place at Cinemazero, unless otherwise indicated. Workshops, masterclasses, and roundtables are free to attend.

Pordenone Docs Fest

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Pordenone Docs Fest
Le voci del documentario
25–29 march 2026

www.
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