

Duisburg, 15th September 2016



## Press release *doxs!* festivalprogram 2016

*doxs!* documentaries for children and youth # 15

40. Duisburger Filmwoche

7 – 13 November 2016

### Between the time zones:

15 years of documentaries for children and youth

Breakneck fast and doomed to wait, at home between the interface of digital and real - the films' protagonists master various realities and paces. They are experts in information processing. Their identity? A continent about to be explored. Sometimes with caution and always full of drive and curiosity.

In its jubilee year *doxs!* presents 29 contemporary documentaries, among them ten German premieres. The program focuses on the various young realities and ways of life. Passing by naturally in numerous social networks at once, the protagonists also show responsibility in real life. While changing trends surround them everyday, family and tradition still offers stability and support for many of them. The films are about integration, death, friendship and about the world's state. Their protagonists do not resign but reinvent themselves.

### New ways in curating

Also in the program's arrangement *doxs!* takes new paths. "We not only want to curate for the young audience but also shape the festival with them", says Gudrun Sommer, the director of *doxs!*. "In the digital network era smart forms of participation are the order of the day – that is if participation is respected as a creative process and not just as a catalyst for quick opinions."

Therefore and for the second time a complete program slot was curated in collaboration with the Kulturrucksack NRW by pupils from the Reinhard-und-Max-Mannesmann-Gymnasium in Duisburg. Within the workshop "Du hast die Wahl / You have the choice" the adolescents selected the films *Hotspot*, *Ninnoc* and *Het Meisje van 672k* / *The girl with 672k* which they will present to the audience at the festival on Wednesday.

In the workshop „#You are welcome!“ pupils of an international preparation class watched numerous short films and put together a program for children and youth with refugee background. The films mainly talk through their images, verbal language hardly plays a part. The selection will be presented together with the participants at the festival on Friday.

The emancipated spectator and visual politics in documentary film are subjects engaged in the workshop "Und was geht mich das an? / And what's that to me?". It takes place in cooperation with the Federal Agency for Civic Education NRW. With the help of excerpts from current films about the topics "flight and migration" adolescents analyze the question how not only the film's subject but also its aesthetics have political meaning.

With Andreas Hartmann's "Freier Mensch" the third production, that was part of the "doku.klasse", enters the big screen. Even before shooting, the film was subject to a discussion between the filmmaker and youngsters from Duisburg. Since 2014 the scholarship accompanies the ZDF/3sat call for proposals "Ab 18!". This ongoing cooperation walks on new paths in 2016 with the radio-partner Deutschlandradio Kultur.

We open our movie theatre doors also for our very young audience. A program especially designed for preschoolers presents short films that bring documentary storytelling closer to our youngest visitors in a playful and observing way.

It's raining awards!

With two prizes doxs! honours outstanding documentaries in this year's program. A youth jury hands out the European film award GROSSE KLAPPE, donated with 5.000 Euro by the Federal Agency for Civic Education. Furthermore and on the occasion of our anniversary this year, the newly established ECFA DOCUMENTARY AWARD for the best European children documentary premiers in Duisburg. The winner will be selected by an international expert jury during the festival.

Preview Nominations EFCA DOC AWARD: <https://vimeo.com/182240885>

Preview Nominations GROSSE KLAPPE: <https://vimeo.com/182243572>

The main sponsors in 2016 are once again the Ministry of Family, Children, Youth, Culture and Sport of NRW and the Film and Media Foundation NRW.

## Program preview

### The Digital is the Deal

Structure is the keyword. Especially, when freedom seems unlimited - the Web, the choice of your partner or the sneaker brand. The 19 year-old Kaddi studies for her graduation and swings between party planning and math tutoring, virtual chat existence and actual fights with her best friend. Director Britta Wandaogo, who is also the protagonist's mother, comes in "Der Struggle ist real" very close to the Generation Instagram and shows its navigation and communication within a pool of possibilities. Annegien in "Het Meisje van 672k" / "The girl with 672k" is an online celebrity. The 15 year-old Dutch girl posts artsy selfies on Instagram and reaches over 672.000 Follower. In her life privacy and public are in constant exchange. If she would commercialise on her pictures she could earn a lot of money. But wouldn't she sell her passion for art with it?

For Ferry in "Hotspot" the digital has a different meaning. For him it functions as a window to an ordinary life. The teenager lives with his mother in an enclosed and monitored area where they are protected from Ferry's stepfather. When his best friend leaves the facility, he also loses his personal Hotspot and the window to the world starts to close again.

### Solid ground

In a globalized and mobile world that never stands still tradition and belonging are still in great demand. A bunch of young people in the program's films orientate themselves on the life plans and practices of their parents and ancestors. Like the 13 year-old protagonist in "Emil und die

Brückenspringer von Mostar / Emil and the bridge jumpers from Mostar", who wants to jump from the famous 20 meters high bridge in a small city in Bosnia Herzegovina as many brave jumpers before him. In order to do so he has to overcome his fear of heights.

The protagonist in "Crowley - Jeder Cowboy braucht sein Pferd" / "Crowley - Every Cowboy needs his horse" finally wants to do what every real cowboy does: riding a wild horse. But his father, who maintains a ranch in Colorado, thinks the 11 year-old is still too young. Crowley does not agree with him and he starts riding ahead.

The two brothers Sam and Jack from Northern England in "Black Sheep" miss tradition and perspective. Sam's only grip in the present is his racist hate for foreigners und dissidents. He defends values that he does not fulfil himself. Chanting their paroles, he participates in an anti-islam demonstration of the extreme right-wing English Defence League. Jack the younger brother stays outside on the edge. But for how long?

#### A question of timing

"489 years" - that is how long it would take to remove all mines in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. In the area, overgrown by nature and kept under surveillance by hundreds of cameras, the Cold War is still present. It is a constant monitoring and waiting for the worst case. "489 Years" presents an animated expedition through the frontier, where time seems to be frozen.

Being afraid is not an option for Lutwi in "Nordstadtkinder - Lutwi", neither is giving up. But waiting for a final letter from the immigration office does not leave the 11 year-old untouched. In 2011 he came from Kosovo to Dortmund and he integrated himself well. In the evenings he translates official statements for his parents. It does not look good for the Roma family.

Kei, the protagonist of "Freier Mensch", has put his life on hold. The 22 year-old Japanese man left his parents and home behind to find his own way. Now he lives under a bridge in Kyoto, alone with his dreams and surrounded by a reality, in which his personal fulfilment stands more and more in conflict with the existential frameworks of living.

#### Death is not a Game

How do children and youth handle death? Some films rise to that challenge and find astonishing answers. Like Pien, the protagonist of "Pien de bijenkoningin" / "Pien, Queen of bees" who is confronted to the subject of death in two ways. On one hand, as an upcoming beekeeper, she is concerned about the bees' mass mortality worldwide. On the other hand, she is fighting for her own life: Pien has bone cancer. But she has a warrior heart that beats for herself and the bees.

That she can hear everyone but not her parents, Laura in "Dwa Światy" / "Two Worlds" could not grasp as a little child. She got furious when she spoke to them with her voice and they just answered back using signs. Her grandfather explained to her what was going on. He was her ally and a person she could trust. His death created a big hole in her life, even though sign language with her parents is now completely normal to the 12 year-old.

In "Dans for Livet" / "Dancing for you" Vilde wants to become the first Norwegian female champion of Halling, a dance traditionally reserved for men. On the day of competition she not only dances for her dream, but also for her grandfather, who suffers from cancer and does not have much time left.

"Sadness is the price that we have to pay for love."

## Films 2016

### Germany:

Circus Debere Berhan, by Lukas Berger (DE/AT/PT 2015, 11 Min.)

Der Struggle ist real, by Britta Wandaogo (DE 2016, 40 Min.)

Ein Aus Weg, by Simon Steinhorst und Hannah Lotte Stragholz (DE 2016, 20 Min.)

Freier Mensch, by Andreas Hartmann (DE 2016, 45 Min.)

Kindsein im Iran, by Behrooz Karamizade (DE/IRN 2008, 10 Min.)

Nordstadtkinder – Lutwi, by Jörg Haaßengier und Jürgen Brügger (DE 2015, 29 Min.)

Not without us / Nicht ohne uns, by Sigrid Klausmann (DE 2016, 87 Min.)

Onomatopoetikum, by Knut Karger (DE 2006, 4 Min.)

Schau in meine Welt! Emil und die Brückenspringer von Mostar, by Friedemann Hottenbacher (DE 2015, 26 Min.)

Sendung mit dem Elefanten: 70 Rupien, by Markus Tomsche (DE 2016, 2 Min.)

Sendung mit dem Elefanten: Ist 5 viel oder wenig?, by Karen Thilo (DE 2016, 3 Min.)

Stark! Crowley – Jeder Cowboy braucht sein Pferd, by André Hörmann (DE 2015, 15 Min.)

### France:

489 Years / 489 Jahre, by Hayoun Kwon (FR 2016, 11 Min.)

Armand, New York, by Blaise Harrison (FR 2016, 18 Min.)

Digue du Break, by Charles Compagnie und Bénédicte Alloing (FR 2014, 26 Min.)

Illustration: Compostage / Kompostieren!, by Elise Auffray (FR 2014, 3 Min.)

### Great Britain:

Black Sheep / Schwarzes Schaf, by Christian Cerami (GB 2015, 16 Min.)

### The Netherlands:

1 Minuutje Natuur – Kwallenweer / Eine kleine Minute Natur – Quallenwetter, by Stefanie Visjager (NL 2015/2016, 2 Min.)

Guillaumes wondere wereld / Guillaumes wundersame Welt, by Els van Driel (NL 2015, 21 Min.)

Het meisje van 672k / Das Mädchen mit 672k, by Mirjam Marks (NL 2016, 18 Min.)

Hotspot, by Willem Baptist (NL 2015, 19 Min.)

Ninnoc, by Niki Padidar (NL 2015, 19 Min.)

Pien de bijenkoningin / Pien, die Bienenkönigin, by Ellen Vloet (NL 2015, 16 Min.)

Norway:

Dans for Livet / Tanz für das Leben, by Erlend E. Mo (NO 2015, 29 Min.)

Varicella, by Viktor Kossakovsky (NO/DK/SE/RU 2015, 25 Min.)

Austria:

Schwerelos, by Jannis Lenz (AT 2016, 9 Min.)

Poland:

Dwa Światy / Zwei Welten, by Maciej Adamek (PL 2016, 50 Min.)

Figura, by Katarzyna Gondek (PL/BE 2015, 9 Min.)

Spain:

L'équip petit / Die kleine Mannschaft, by Roger Gómez und Dani Resines (ES 2011, 10 Min.)

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