



Sunny Side of the Doc 2020: the Connected Edition Award Winners

The Connected Edition of Sunny Side of the Doc and PiXii Festival, which took place online from 22nd to 25th June 2020, has revealed its award winners live during its awards ceremony.

La Rochelle, 25th June 2020 – The Connected Edition of Sunny Side of the Doc and PiXii Festival is now coming to a close. This year's edition was broadcast via the platform connected.sunnysideofthedoc.com and was met with astounding success, as more than 1,700 accredited industry professionals from more than 60 different countries took part. The Connected Edition platform (with the video library) registered near 100.000 viewed pages.

Amongst the 950 companies taking part, many were able to host one of 350 stands and pavilions at the virtual marketplace.

The Connected Edition's programme featured a mixture of pre-recorded conferences, interactive sessions held live or with a chat interface, an online screening library and networking activities. This enabled numerous delegations of producers to gather together in force, with participants coming from: Canada, USA, Germany, Italy and Spain, as well as territories that would rarely or even never come to La Rochelle, such as Kenya, and several Latin American (Argentina, Chili, Brazil, etc.) and Central and Eastern Europe (Serbia, Bulgaria, Ukraine...) countries.

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“It's an excellent result for our first Connected Edition which has been able to bring together the documentary community from around the world. We would like to give a warm thank you to all industry delegates taking part, for their agility and collective commitment towards this digital adventure,” comments Mathieu Béjot, director of Strategy and Development. *“For the very first time, the ratio of French to international accredited industry delegates is equal at 50/50, which gives us material to think about the global reach an online event can have.”*

Reducing the price for accreditation and entry fees for projects and programme undeniably had an impact on the number of documentaries submitted.

With 1,360 projects and programmes to explore via the online screening library (+134% compared to 2019), the Connected Edition has been able to respond to the demand for documentary content with international potential.

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“After the health crisis and lockdown which we have all faced, this is a strong signal which highlights the crucial need for new documentary productions for television channels and platforms,” remarks Mathieu Béjot.

The networking opportunities for industry professionals were one of the Connected Edition's main attractions. Initial feedback underlines just how relevant the initiative was: almost 400 accredited international decision-makers (buyers, heads of programming and cultural stakeholders), more than 250 meetings organised as part of the Meet The Experts consultations, 215 private one-to-one meetings for projects selected in the Pitching Sessions, and 140 meetings organised between producers for the Italian delegation matchmaking session, supported by Italian Trade Agency.

PiXii Festival also went digital, providing exposure to immersive experiences (AR, VR, 360°, binaural sound and physical installations) from the Official Selection, with video pitches created especially by project holders to get around the lack of physical showroom in La Rochelle. *"These pitch presentations are real assets for the creative teams, as they'll be able to use them for other purposes once the Connected Edition is over,"* points out Stéphane Malagnac, Development Executive of PiXii.

For its 4th edition, the international festival of digital cultures continued to go global with projects coming from Israel, Denmark, Singapore, Poland, Australia and Canada.

These pitch videos will also be available free to watch on the Sunny Side of the Doc website as of the 1st July. This shall enable producers to continue their exchanges with cultural operators, who this year came from 15 different countries: South Africa, Germany, Argentina, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, USA, France, Israel, New Zealand, The Netherlands, the UK, Sweden and Switzerland.

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"This year's Connected Edition has enabled us to offer new opportunities for exchange. This undeniably opens up the perspectives as to how a part of our online marketplace activities shall be run for the 2021 edition - for which a proportion remains to be defined, as well as creating new meet-ups throughout the year," continues Mathieu Béjot.

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"This year, we fixed ourselves the objective of continuing the fight for the documentary genre while reinventing Sunny Side of the Doc. We are obviously incredibly delighted and eager to host the festival once again in La Rochelle next June, together with all industry professionals," concludes Roman Jeanneau, CEO of the organisation. *"Yves used to say, and we all thought the same, that 'As much as the documentary genre must be recognised as a public entity, Sunny Side of the Doc is necessary and vital to the documentary genre.'"*

The platform connected.sunnysideofthedoc.com is open to accredited delegates until 30th June 2020. From the 1st of July, all projects and programs as well as conference and round tables replays will be available (for accredited professionals) via www.sunnysideofthedoc.com until September 30, 2020. The Pitch Sessions are available until 30th June 2020.

The 32nd edition of Sunny Side of the Doc and the 5th edition of PiXii Festival will take place on 21st to 24th June 2021 with a Focus on Documentary Co-productions with Central and Eastern Europe.

2020 AWARDS WINNERS

BEST HISTORY PITCH

Sponsored by



KOZAK

PRODUCED BY
Dot TV & Films, Ireland

AUTHOR
David Burke

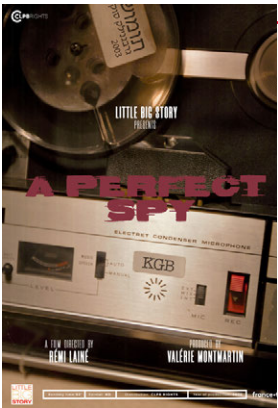
JURY'S QUOTE

PRIZE: €3,000

The jury members decided to select KOZAK because we were heartened to see a fresh story highlighting personal memory in Latin American history. It is told through a subjective lens, using never-before-seen material, including access to the filmed testimony of the main character. We hope the Sunnyside History Award will help to bring this story to fruition and we look forward to seeing it when it is completed.

ARCHIVES STORYTELLING AWARD

Sponsored by



A PERFECT SPY

PRODUCED BY
Little Big Story, France

AUTHOR
Rémi Laine

JURY'S QUOTE

PRIZE: €2,500

The team will use rare audio archive in order to revive world events of the end of World War II and during the Cold War through the lens of a fascinating personal destiny. It is an example of creating a play between audio and video footage, and using an eminent personality, John Le Carré, as an expert non only on espionage but also on storytelling, thus elaborating a captivating mix of angles and narrative means.

BEST WILDLIFE PITCH

Sponsored by



THE TIGER MAFIA

PRODUCED BY
HOOK Film, Switzerland

AUTHORS
Karl Ammann, Laurin Merz

JURY'S QUOTE

PRIZE: €3,000

Several of the pitched projects were topical, original and visually impressive, with convincing storylines and potential for impact. One, THE TIGER MAFIA reveals unsuspected aspects of the wild animal trade that are shocking in both the depth of their cruelty and their geographic reach. This pitch wins the award for its convincing presentation of a gripping narrative, its important message and its powerful potential for impact, which deserve to find a broad audience.

BEST SOCIAL ISSUES PITCH

Sponsored by



ROMA (WORKING TITLE)

PRODUCED BY
Moon Man, Ukraine/ Tangerine Tree, The Netherlands / Final Cut For Real, Denmark

AUTHORS
Olha Zhurba

JURY'S QUOTE

PRIZE: €3, 000

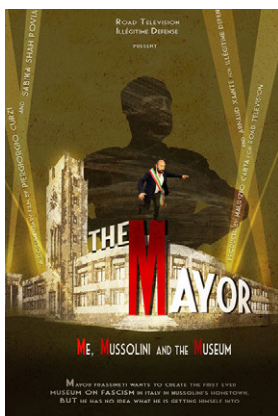
We decided to give the Best Social Issues Pitch award to a project that spent six years with its young and charismatic protagonist in order to gain a great intimacy that creates a deep connection: ROMA is a coming of age story following an Ukrainian teenager through rough and turbulent times – living on the streets, drifting and minor crimes. The clear visual concept, the non-linear storyline as well as the very subtle score already testify a capturing, convincing and sensitive story that will go beyond its microcosm.

BEST ARTS & CULTURE PITCH / WEST LAKE IDF AWARD

Sponsored by



IDF 2020
第20届西湖国际纪录片大会
The 20th West Lake
International
Documentary Festival



THE MAYOR, ME MUSSOLINI AND THE MUSEUM

PRODUCED BY
Road Television, Italy / Illégitime Défense, France

AUTHORS
Piergiorgio Curzi, Sabika Shah Povia

JURY'S QUOTE

PRIZE: €3, 000

In this era where historical legacy is being manipulated for political propaganda, it is more than ever important to find a way to address even the most uncomfortable parts of our history. The strength of the proposal, its out-of-the-ordinary and humorous way to address a very serious topic and our conviction that culture can have a strong political impact led us to this decision. With this Sunny Side of the Doc Pitch Award we want to support the film team in the development of their ambitious endeavor.

BEST SCIENCE PITCH

Sponsored by

**BRITISH
COLUMBIA'S
Knowledge
Network:**



BEHIND LUCY

PRODUCED BY
Somadrome, Spain

AUTHOR
Luis G. Juanes

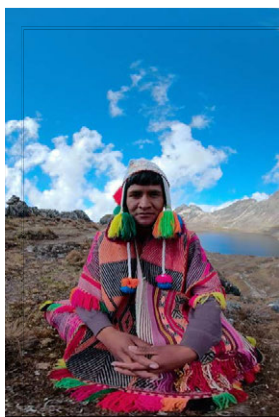
JURY'S QUOTE

PRIZE: €3, 000

BEHIND LUCY is a unique, character-driven project with great access that showcases a diverse team of high-profile scientists. It is one of the most ambitious science films coming out of Spain in a long time, and we feel this contribution will go a long way to raise its international profile.

BEST DIGITAL EXPERIENCES PITCH

Sponsored by



ANCESTRAL SECRET VR

 **PRODUCED BY**
Galgo Storytelling, Chile

 **AUTHORS**
Maria Jose Diaz, Francisca Silva

 **JURY'S QUOTE**

 **PRIZE: €3,000**

We, the jury members are amazed by all the imaginative pitches for this session which seemed crafted with passion and joy. We decided to award the project ANCESTRAL SECRET VR since we think this project carries so much deep meaning. It takes us on a poetic and magical journey which sheds a very promising humanistic light on people and their stories.

SPECIAL PRIZES


EAST DOC MARKET AWARD

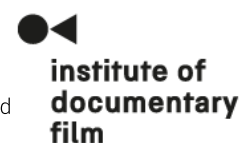


PURE UNKNOWN

 **PRODUCED BY**
Jump Cut, Italy / Sisfos Film, Sweden / Amka Film Production, Switzerland

 **AUTHORS**
Valentina Cicogna, Mattia Colombo

 **PRIZE**
Two accreditations and 2-night accommodation for East Doc Platform 2021. A project selection for one-to-one meetings with decision makers in Prague.




AIDC AWARD



LONG LIVE MY HAPPY HEAD

 **PRODUCED BY**
Melt the Fly, Scotland

 **AUTHORS**
Austen McCowan, Will Hewitt

 **PRIZE**

- Up to two AIDC 2021 All Access Passes for the winning team (valued at AUD\$1040 each)
- 4-night accommodation (twin share option available) (valued at approx AUD\$1000)
- Full access to all conference sessions, social events, and most networking events
- Complimentary waiver of submission fees to the FACTory (AIDC's centrepiece public pitching event) (valued at up to AUD\$60 per project submission)

****please note, this does not guarantee a place in the forum.**

- The opportunity to submit projects to Cut to the Chase, AIDC's program of curated one-on-one meetings between producers and buyers



MEETING POINT VILNIUS



ROMA (WORKING TITLE)



PRODUCED BY

Moon Man, Ukraine/ Tangerine Tree, The Netherlands / Final Cut For Real, Denmark



AUTHOR

Olha Zhurba



PRIZE

Automatic selection to the 2021 edition of Coming Soon, the Work-in-progress pitching session of the industry event Meeting Point Vilnius. MPV will cover travel, accommodation and accreditation for the selected project + accreditation for a second representative of the project. Value of the award: 700€

IMZ AWARD



E. IS FOR ESCOVADO: THE SHEILA E. STORY (WT)



PRODUCED BY

Walnut & Rose Pictures, United States



AUTHORS

Jennifer Steinman Sternin, Sabrina Schmidt Gordon

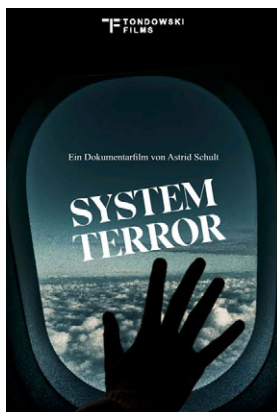


PRIZE

2 accreditations for the 2021 edition of Avant Première, Berlin – value 1200€



DOX BOX MENTORING PRIZE



SYSTEM TERROR



PRODUCED BY

Tondowski Films, Germany



AUTHOR

Astrid Schult



PRIZE

5 hours of tailored online feedback and mentoring with an experienced consultant over the course of 6 months for the producer and director of the selected project.

DAE TALENT ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD



PURE UNKNOWN

**PRODUCED BY**

Jump Cut, Italy / Sisyfos Film, Sweden / Amka Film Production, Switzerland

**AUTHORS**

Valentina Cicogna, Mattia Colombo

**PRIZE**

2 Free membership for a creative team to DAE and up to 4 bespoke mentoring sessions

DAE

DOCUMENTARY
ASSOCIATION
OF EUROPE

FESTIVALS INVITATIONS

The surge of solidarity between many partner festivals, which were forced to cancel or postpone their editions, enabled the allocation of endowments in the form of benefits in kind to several projects presented during the pitching sessions.

DOK.FEST MUNICH

ROMA (WORKING TITLE)

**PRODUCED BY**

Moon Man, Ukraine/ Tangerine Tree, The Netherlands / Final Cut For Real, Denmark

**AUTHOR**

Olha Zhurba

**PRIZE**

2 accreditations for the 2021 edition of DOK.Fest Munich

WORLD CONGRESS OF SCIENCE & FACTUAL PRODUCERS

BEHIND LUCY

**PRODUCED BY**

Somadrome, Spain

**AUTHOR**

Luis G. Juanes

**PRIZE**

2 accreditations for the 2020 edition of WCSFP, Strasbourg

HOT DOCS FESTIVAL

LONG LIVE MY HAPPY HEAD

**PRODUCED BY**

Melt the Fly, Scotland

**AUTHORS**

Austen McCowan, Will Hewitt


**PRIZE**

2 accreditations for the 2021 edition of Hot Docs, Toronto

DOK LEIPZIG

PURE UNKNOWN

 **PRODUCED BY**
Jump Cut, Italy / Sisyfos Film, Sweden / Amka Film Production, Switzerland


 **AUTHORS**
Valentina Cicogna, Mattia Colombo

 **PRIZE**
2 accreditations for the 2020 edition of DOK Leipzig

MOVIES THAT MATTER FILM FESTIVAL

PURE UNKNOWN

 **PRODUCED BY**
Jump Cut, Italy / Sisyfos Film, Sweden / Amka Film Production, Switzerland

 **AUTHORS**
Valentina Cicogna, Mattia Colombo

 **PRIZE**
Prize : 2 accreditations for the 2021 edition of Movies That Matter, Amsterdam

WILDSCREEN FESTIVAL

TIGER MAFIA


 **PRODUCED BY**
HOOK Film, Switzerland

 **AUTHORS**
Karl Ammann, Laurin Merz


 **PRIZE**
2 accreditations for the 2020 Wildscreen Festival, Bristol

JACKSON WILD SUMMIT

TIGER MAFIA

 **PRODUCED BY**
HOOK Film, Switzerland

 **AUTHORS**
Karl Ammann, Laurin Merz

 **PRIZE**
2 accreditations for the 2020 Jackson Wild Summit, Austria

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