



PRESS RELEASE

SUNNY SIDE OF THE DOC REVEALS ITS OFFICIAL PITCHING SELECTION 2023

THE DOCUMENTARY GENRE HAS NEVER BEEN MORE POPULAR WORLDWIDE

La Rochelle, 11 May 2023 - [Sunny Side of the Doc](#), the most important event for the documentary community and international marketplace dedicated to linear and non-linear documentaries, today reveals the **42 projects from 23 different countries that make up the official selection for its 34th edition** (19-22 June 2023, La Rochelle, France).

The international co-production stakes are high at the eagerly anticipated pitching sessions. These sessions will take place during the marketplace in front of more than 300 high-level international decision-makers, including major broadcasters, streamers, foundations, distributors, buyers and other investors looking for stories with the biggest impact.

This year's call for projects, which was launched in January, received an exceptional response from industry professionals around the world, with 320 documentary projects from 56 different countries (compared to 275 in 2022), 43% of which were led by female filmmakers. The pre-selection committee selected the 42 most inspiring and promising projects.

"We are delighted with the number, quality and diversity of issues, themes and formats of the projects submitted," says Mathieu Béjot, Director of Strategy and Development at Sunny Side of the Doc. "The selected projects come from 23 different countries and make us question major planetary issues, such as migration, women's rights, disability, and of course the impact of climate change, which are present in all documentary genres. Stories great and small use history and humour to challenge our historic, scientific and cultural convictions by offering a diversity of perspectives, particularly from a large number of young directors and new voices. They aim to shake things up, as evidenced by the incredibly powerful projects proposed for the session dedicated to impact campaigns."

Over four days in June, the 42 selected projects will have the honour of competing for the Best Pitch Award in each of the seven themed pitching sessions, sponsored by key industry partners, including PBS, Blue Ant Media & Love Nature, RTBF, Al Jazeera Documentary & AJB Doc, Waterbear Network, and CCTV9:

- [Specialist Factual](#) [cash prize: €3,000] : **Global Issues, Wildlife & Conservation, Science, History, Arts & Culture**
- [Focus of the Year](#) [cash prize: €2,000] over two specific pitching sessions: **New Voices, Impact Campaigns.**

All project leaders will receive support throughout the process, ranging from mentoring from industry experts to exclusive access to a qualified and diverse professional audience. Everything is designed to increase and foster fruitful financial, creative and commercial co-production opportunities for these gems from the documentary genre of tomorrow.

New for this year, the winners of each category will be announced the morning after the pitching session, during the Awards Café on the Level-Up stage. This new gathering will allow participants to meet project leaders in a dedicated and friendly setting. At the end of the four-day market, the remaining special prizes and awards will be revealed and awarded during the closing cocktail reception – an opportunity to celebrate all the winners of the 34th festival edition.

[Go to the following pages to discover the 42 projects in the official selection #SSD23](#)

**For more information on Sunny Side of the Doc 2023
and media accreditation requests,
[visit our online Press Room](#)**

Click [HERE](#) to access the #SSD23 Media Kit

Notes to editors:

***Sunny Side of the Doc** is the international community and marketplace dedicated to linear and non-linear documentary. Every June, a specific event brings together decision makers, producers, filmmakers, sales agents and funders to support the international financing of documentary projects and the circulation of completed programs. The 4-day market offers unique creative, business and networking opportunities for the 2,200+ participants from 60 countries through a mix of high-level pitching sessions, panels on the latest industry trends and an exhibition hall. The 34th Sunny Side of the Doc will be held in La Rochelle from June 19–22, 2023. Doc Services, the organising company of Sunny Side of the Doc, is a member of 1% for the Planet.*

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official selection

science



Bolts From the Blue – The Secrets of Lightning

Produced by
CAPA (France)

Directed by
François Tribolet



Hope! The Greatest Opportunity Ever

Produced by
El Gato Verde Producciones (Spain)

Directed by
Álvaro Ron



Phenomena

Produced by
Mashup Pictures (Australia)

Directed by
Josef Gatti



Science's Forgotten People

Produced by
Good to Know S.A.S. (France)

Directed by
Laurence Thiriat



The Mystery of the Desert Kites

Produced by
Ma drogue à moi (MDAM) (France)

Directed by
Nathalie Laville



The Opposite Direction

Produced by
Hormiga Argentina (Argentina)

Directed by
Julia Castro

global issues



Grains of Paradise

Produced by
Väki Films (Finland)

Directed by
Jenni Kivistö, Jussi Rastas



Right-Wing Extremism: The New Terrorist Threat

Produced by
Roche Productions (France)

Directed by
Magali Serre



Shaking Up Sake

Produced by
Ritornello Films LLC (Japan)

Directed by
Mikako Ito



This is a Quiet Love

Produced by
Curious North Productions Ltd (Ireland)

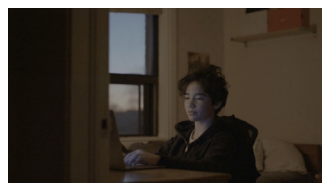
Directed by
Garry Keane



Climate Wars

Produced by
Tremoniamedia Filmproduktion GmbH (Germany)

Directed by
Johan Gabrielsson



Dark Side of the Metaverse

Produced by
Fathom Film Group (Canada)

Directed by
Susan Schafer

official selection

history



Apollo 1 : Eternal Flame

Produced by
Seventyone Films (Germany)

Directed by
Mark Craig



Diary of an Infiltrator

Produced by
Bioesferica Filmes (Chile)

Directed by
Samuel León, Saúl Valverde



Samantha Smith, The Little Girl Who Believed in Peace

Produced by
Bonne Pioche Télévision (France)

Directed by
Yannick Adam de Villiers



The Srebrenica Tape

Produced by
Docdays Productions GmbH (Germany)

Directed by
Chiara Sambuchi



Vietnam – Our Voice Unheard

Produced by
LOOKS Film & TV Produktionen GmbH (Germany)

Directed by
Lucio Mollica



Free to Surf: a Polynesian Revolution

Produced by
YAMI 2 (France)

Directed by
Benjamin Morel

arts & culture



Cerrone – Disco Legacy

Produced by
Bonne Pioche Télévision (France)

Directed by
Olivier Lemaire



Fatma Said – Reviving a Forgotten Treasure

Produced by
3B-Produktion GmbH (Germany)

Directed by
Ralf Pleger



The Sleeper

Produced by
Morena Films (Spain)

Directed by
Longoria Alvaro



Alexina B.

Produced by
Digital Films (Spain)

Directed by
Alexis Borràs



Shakespeare's Folio

Produced by
Kublai Film (Italy)

Directed by
Raffaella Rivi



Wifredo Lam : The Eternal Exile

Produced by
Mar Vivo Films (Hong-Kong, China)

Directed by
Jean-Luc Bonefacino

official selection

nature & conservation



A Year Among Wolves

Produced by
Le Cinquième Rêve (France)

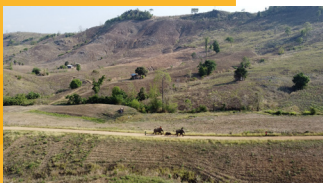
Directed by
Tanguy Dumortier, Olivier Larrey



The Kimberley

Produced by
Wild Pacific Media (Australia)

Directed by
Nick Robinson



Unspoken Souls - The Elephant's Alarm for Our Future

Produced by
KM Tomyam Co., LTD. (Thailand)

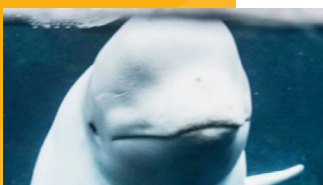
Directed by
Koh Okuno, Mieko Saho



Divia

Produced by
UP UA Studio (Ukraine)

Directed by
Hreshko Dmytro



First Contact

Produced by
IMAGISSIME (France)

Directed by
Jérôme Delafosse



Super Nature

Produced by
Nature Hunter Film Ltd. (United Kingdom)

Directed by
Ed Sayers

new voices



The Rabbis' Intifada

Produced by
Gefilte Fish Films (United States)

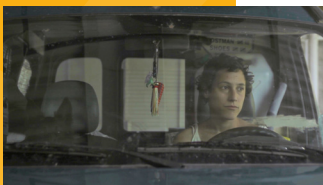
Directed by
Heather Tenzer



Life in the Shadows

Produced by
Kamay Film (Afghanistan)

Directed by
K.D.



Framing Her

Produced by
We Have a Plan (Sweden)

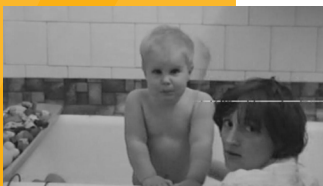
Directed by
Coco Wouters



Copan

Produced by
MVM Movimentos & Culturais (Brazil)

Directed by
Carine Wallauer



Don't Worry Sari!

Produced by
Campfilm (Hungary)

Directed by
Sari Haragonics



Forest Hana

Produced by
Water in a Glass (South Korea)

Directed by
Junsung Kim

official selection

impact campaigns



Pülö; Bloodstream of the Kirike

Produced by
Imbuu Media Limited (Nigeria)

Directed by
Christina Ifubaraboye



#Shout

Produced by
One Life Studios Pvt. Ltd. (India)

Directed by
Vinta Nanda



Marion and the River

Produced by
Bachibouzouk et Les Poissons Volants
(France)

Directed by
Laetitia Moreau, Marion Sellenet



Our Hoolocks

Produced by
Liminal Pictures Production (India)

Directed by
Ragini Nath, Chinmoy Sonowal



The Daughter of the Volcano

Produced by
Auna Producciones S.L. (Spain)

Directed by
Jenifer de la Rosa



The Pickers

Produced by
Berlin Producers
Media GmbH (Germany)

Directed by
Elke Sasse