

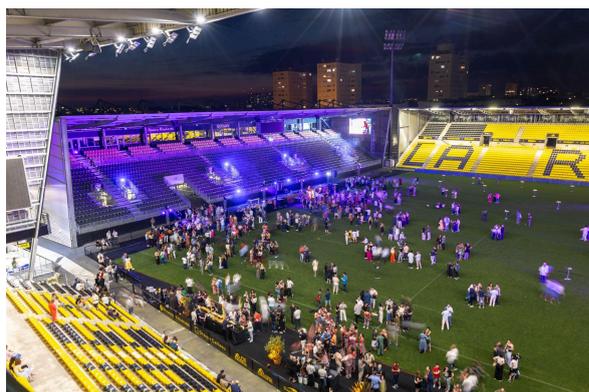
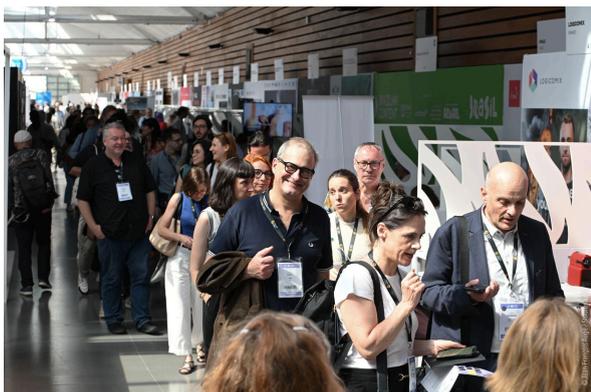


PRESS RELEASE

SUNNY SIDE OF THE DOC 2024: AN ANNIVERSARY EDITION MORE INTERNATIONAL, COMMITTED, AND SUPPORTIVE THAN EVER

Award Winners from seven pitch sessions announced
Sunny Side looking ahead to 2025

La Rochelle, June 27, 2024 – [Sunny Side of the Doc](#), the international professional market dedicated to linear and non-linear documentary content, concludes its 35th edition today (June 24-27, La Rochelle, France) and announces the winners of the seven pitch sessions.



Over four days, the market gathered **2100 participants from 68 countries, over 1000 companies, 90 exhibitors, and 250 international decision-makers** including major broadcasters, streamers, foundations, distributors, financiers, and museums from around the world. The event welcomed **40 delegations** from countries like Australia, Spain, Brazil, Canada, and a large number of participants from China once again this year.

With the **main theme "Mapping the Future"** and in a global context that is challenging for the sector, the market reaffirms its crucial role in supporting international co-productions and serves as a launch platform for all types of linear and non-linear projects. It also provides a space for discussions on new opportunities for distributing immersive and XR content.

"In the current context marked by societal polarization, the rise of extremism, and international geopolitical tensions, Sunny Side supports the powerful and impactful documentary genre more than ever," says **Mathieu Béjot**, Director of Strategy and Development at Sunny Side of the Doc. *"While preserving the DNA that has characterized it for 35 years, Sunny Side continues to diversify to include the entire documentary value chain. The market brings together impact actors, archives, and distributors who play an increasing role not only in the circulation of finished films but also in the pre-financing of projects."*

The rich program of conferences gave a voice to the entire industry and creators from around the world. Highlights of this week included keynotes from PBS, an XR artist, and First Nations Australian voices; the first showcase of Nigerian documentaries; Meet The Executives sessions with international channels; Industry talks on AI, archives, podcasts, new narratives, and women in documentary; and the lineups from French channels and groups like France Télévisions, Arte, Canal+, TF1, M6, and Altice Media.

The seven pitch sessions, always highly anticipated and a true opportunity for international co-production, gathered a large number of professionals impressed by the quality and boldness of this year's projects. Among the winners, five women were awarded; three winners presented their first project, forming an international list: Australia, Iran, France, Ireland, Canada, Malaysia, Kenya, Germany, United States. (Find the complete list of the **2024 Pitch Sessions winners** below.)

Sunny Side looking ahead to 2025

In the coming months, Sunny Side of the Doc will continue to open the event to different perspectives from new territories and emerging forms of storytelling while ensuring diversity and inclusion.

"Today, our goal is to bring together at the end of June in La Rochelle documentary talents from five continents within an ever more resilient and determined community," says **Aurélie Reman**, Managing Director of Sunny Side of the Doc. *"Our event should be a real moment of reunions, exchanges, and debates on the crucial role that documentary plays in our societies. We have a strong commitment to supporting these new voices in the market to fully succeed in their entry onto the international stage. We will support them more structurally so they can find their place alongside more established producers, distributors, and broadcasters."*

2025 will see the development of the Sunny Academy, a platform for sharing expertise and skills for new generations of storytellers worldwide. The next step in this initiative will be organizing the pitch sessions at the first LatAm Content Market in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from March 10–13, 2025. This partnership aims to strengthen the co-production channel between America, Europe, and Africa by connecting today's creative and production talents with key industry decision-makers.

Upcoming Sunny Side of the Doc events:

PIXii Festival, 8th edition, October 17–20, 2024, La Rochelle & Rochefort
Pitch sessions @LatAm Content Market, March 10–13, 2025
Sunny Side of the Doc, 36th edition June 23–26, 2025, La Rochelle

View and download the photo album of Sunny Side of the Doc 2024 [HERE](#)

Visit the [press area](#) for more information on the past edition

Sunny Side of the Doc 2024 AWARD WINNERS

PITCH SESSION WINNERS

BEST SCIENCE PITCH

Sponsored by **PBS Distribution**



THE BRAIN GARDEN

Produced by: Storyland PTY LTD. (Australia)
Directed by: Randall Wood

BEST NEW VOICES PITCH

Sponsored by **Al Jazeera & AJB DOC Film Festival**



DREAM OF THE WILD OAKS

Produced by: Seven Spring Pictures (Iran)
Directed by: Marjan Khosravi

BEST GLOBAL ISSUES PITCH

Sponsored by **RTBF**



INSIDE GAZA

Produced by: Factstory, AFP – Agence France Presse (France)
Directed by: H  l  ne Lam Trong

Special Jury Mention

SILENCE OF THE LAMS

Produced by: EZ Films (Ireland)
Directed by: Ciaran Deeney

BEST ARTS & CULTURE PITCH

Sponsored by **Al Jazeera Documentary Channel & AJB DOC Film Festival**



THE SHAPE OF BLUE

Produced by: Intuitive Pictures inc. (Canada)
Directed by: Sybilla Patrizia

**BEST IMPACT CAMPAIGNS
PITCH**



THE MYTH OF MONSTERS

Produced by: **Gather Together (Malaysia)**
Directed by: **Beatrice Leong**

**BEST NATURE & CONSERVATION
PITCH**

*Sponsored by **Blue Ant Media & Love Nature***



EMPALIKINO

Produced by: **Ripple Productions Ltd (Kenya)**
Directed by: **Eric Mwangi**

BEST HISTORY PITCH



**OUR SISTER ANGELA: BLACK POWER
IN THE GDR**

Produced by: **Florianfilm GmbH (Germany), Dare Pictures (United States), La Lutta (United States)**
Directed by: **Jascha Hannover & Katharina Warda**

Special Jury Mention

THE CURSE OF SUGAR

Produced by: **Hauteville Productions (France)**
Directed by: **Mathilde Damoiseil**



SPECIAL AWARDS WINNERS

AIDC AWARD

DREAM OF THE WILD OAKS

Produced by: Seven Spring Pictures (Iran)

Directed by: Marjan Khosravi

PITCH THE DOC AWARD

A SATELLITE FOR BURU LAÏ

Produced by: Gédéon Programmes (France)

Directed by: Antoine Lechat & Suium Sulaimanova

STUDENT CHOICE AWARD

BA'S BOOK

Produced by: Ina Fichman (Canada)

Directed by: Ashley Duong

IMZ AWARD

NIEMEYER 4EVER

Produced by: Special Touch Studios (France)

Directed by: Aurélia Makdessi

The Roch Bozino de l'engagement AWARD

TALES AND SENTENCES

Produced by: Little Big Story (France)

Directed by: Alexandre Donot-Saby

IMPACT SOCIAL CLUB AWARD

EVERY OTHER GIRL

Produced by: Cinatrix Media (Gambia)

Directed by: Abdoulie B. Jarju

BEST IMPACT MOVIE AWARD

UNWELCOMED

Produced by: Amilcar Films (Chili)

Directed by: Sebastian González Méndez & Amilcar Infante

INSTITUTE OF DOCUMENTARY FILM AWARD

A SATELLITE FOR BURU LAÏ

Produced by: Gédéon Programmes (France)

Directed by: Antoine Lechat & Suium Sulaimanova

DOCEDGE AWARD

YURLU | COUNTRY

Produced by: Illuminates Films (Australia)

Directed by: Yaara Bou Melhem

MOVIES THAT MATTER AWARD

YURLU | COUNTRY

Produced by: Illuminates Films (Australia)

Directed by: Yaara Bou Melhem

AL JAZEERA DOCUMENTARY INDUSTRY DAYS AWARD

INSIDE GAZA

Produced by: Factstory, AFP – Agence France Presse (France)

Directed by: H  l  ne Lam Trong



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 2,000+ participants from 60 countries through a mix of high-level pitching sessions, panels on the latest industry trends and an exhibition hall.

The 35th Sunny Side of the Doc took place in La Rochelle from June 24-27, 2024.

Doc Services, the organiser of Sunny side of the Doc and PiXii Festival, is a member of 1% for the Planet as well as of the SDG Media Compact.

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