**18th ZagrebDox Opened**

**This year’s ZagrebDox opened with a screening of *Summer Nights* by Ohad Milstein**

**Zagreb, 3 April** – This year’s eighteenth edition of the **ZagrebDox International Documentary Film Festival** opened on Sunday, April 3, at the Kaptol Boutique Cinema in Zagreb with a screening of the film ***Summer Nights*** by Israeli director **Ohad Milstein**. This gentle and intimate achievement, according to the director who presented his film in front of a crowded audience, skilfully evokes a view of the world from a child’s perspective, full of curiosity and freshness. Ahead of the screening, the audience was addressed by the director of ZagrebDox **Nenad Puhovski** and producer **Hrvoje Pukšec**, and the Deputy Mayor of the City of Zagreb **Luka Korlaet** declared the festival open.

“It is our eighteenth birthday, and we are entering adulthood with an important ‘gift’ and recognition: a few days ago ZagrebDox was included in a prestigious list of only thirty of the world’s best film festivals whose winners directly qualify for the European Film Academy Awards. But our coming of age is obligatory; at a time when one slap in the face at a recent awards ceremony has made just as many, if not more headlines than the thousands of casualties and dozens of destroyed cities in Ukraine, it is our obligation as a documentary filmmakers to work on – remembrance. It is only seemingly paradoxical that, on the one hand, oblivion allows us to deal with life’s trials and tribulations, while collective memory and history make us what we really are: conscious human beings,” said ZagrebDox Director **Nenad Puhovski** at the opening ceremony.

ZagrebDox producer **Hrvoje Pukšec** thanked the patrons, partners and sponsors: the **City of Zagreb**, the **Croatian Audiovisual Centre**, the **Zagreb Tourist Board**, the **Croatian Film Directors Guild**, numerous embassies, cultural institutes and companies and welcomed the new sponsor – **Zagrebačka banka**. The Deputy Mayor of the City of Zagreb, **Luka Korlaet**, officially declared the festival open and pointed out: “Documentaries open a window to the world and new perspectives, they raise awareness about the Other and the Different and today adult ZagrebDox has been committed to this noble role all these years and made us more empathetic and sensitised – in short, to better people. The number and quality of films indicate that an extremely informative and intriguing film week is coming.”

In the next week, ending on Sunday, April 10, almost 90 film titles will be shown, and ZagrebDox will host numerous filmmakers who will personally present their achievements to the audience. A number of film experts are guests at **ZagrebDox Pro**, a section intended for young professionals who will present their projects to this year’s mentors, Finnish TV editor **Sari Volanen** and Serbian director **Želimir Žilnik**. The host and moderator of ZagrebDox Pro is the Croatian documentary filmmaker **Igor Bezinović**.

The first day of the festival starts with free screenings at 3pm: one block features screenings of short films from Teen Dox: ***Love Me*** by **Romane Garant Chartrand**, ***Yaren and the Sun*** by **Renate Raman** and **Joren Slaets** and ***Water, Wind, Dust, Bread*** by **Mahdi Zamanpour Kiasari** in Theatre 2, while films from the international competition ***Children of the Mist*** by **Diễm Hà Lệ** and ***Julia and I*** by **Nina Hobert** are shown in Theatres 4 and 5. The omnibus ***The Year of Eternal Storm***, a love letter to cinema directed by a number of prominent authors, is scheduled for 4pm in Theatre 1, and at the same time Theatre 3 is screening of ***Cusp*** by **Parker Hill** and **Isabel Bethencourt**. The first screening of the **Road Dox** section is scheduled for 5 pm, when the audience will have a chance to watch the poetic film ***Holgut*** by **Liesbeth De Ceulaer**, which addresses the climate crisis in an unusual way. At the same time, in Theatre 4, the film ***The Cars We Drove Into Capitalism*** by **Boris Missirkov** and **Georgi Bogdanov** will be screened, an entertaining film whose protagonists share a love for socialist cars, and in Theatre 5 ***Young and Afraid***, an autobiographical documentary by Norwegian director duo **Petter Aaberg** and **Sverre Kvamme**, is on screen.

At 6 pm, Theatre 1 will screen a film from The State of Affairs section, **Saeed Taji Farouky**’s ***A Thousand Fires***, while in Theatre 3, in addition to the short film ***I Love You, Dad*** by **Diana Cam Van Nguyen**, the film that opened the festival, ***Summer Nights***, will be screened, followed by a Q&A with the author **Ohad Milstein**. At 7 pm in Theatre 2, the director **Valerie Blankenbyl** will present the film ***The Bubble*** from regional competition, while in Theatres 4 and 5, the winner of the DOK Leipzig Festival, the Chinese film ***Father*** by **Deng Wei**, and the touching film about forbidden love – ***A Night of Knowing Nothing*** directed by **Payal Kapadia**, are scheduled.

At 8 pm in Theatre 1, the film ***Divas*** will be presented by **Máté Kőrösi**, while ***Riotsville, USA*** by **Sierra Pettengill** will be screened at the same time in Theatre 2. At 9 pm, three documentaries are scheduled: Theatre 2 shows an interesting film ***My Old School*** where director **Jono McLeod** follows the fate of his former schoolmate, with animated parts and contributions from the renowned Scottish actor Alan Cumming, in Hall 4 ***To Me You Are Ceaușescu*** by **Sebastian Mihăilescu**, and in Hall 5 the short film ***Naya*** by **Sebastian Mulder**is followed by ***The Octopus*** by **Karim Kassem**, a film study of the aftermath of the explosion in the port of Beirut. The first day of the festival ends with screenings at 10 pm, with films ***Aya*** by **Simon Coulibaly Gillard** in Theatre 1 and ***When We Were Bullies*** by **Jay Rosenblatt** and ***1970*** by **Tomasz Wolski** in Theatre 3.

Tickets can be purchased at the box office of the Kaptol Boutique Cinema (Kaptol Center, 17 Nova Ves), at the ticket offices in the cinema lobby and online at www.kaptolcinema.hr. News about this year’s ZagrebDox is available on the official website of the festival: zagrebdox.net.

ZagrebDox takes place with the support of the **City of Zagreb** and the **Croatian Audiovisual Centre**.

**MATERIALS**

**PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE 18TH ZAGREBDOX OPENING CEREMONY •** <https://bit.ly/3J417s2> (by: Samir Cerić Kovačević, Julien Duval)

**STILLS FROM ALL FILMS IN 18TH ZAGREBDOX PROGRAMME •** <https://bit.ly/3Lv7sy7>

**18TH ZAGREBDOX OFFICIAL VISUALS •** <https://bit.ly/38dM2HH>

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