

Press Release

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Programme news and audience jury applications at Prague IFF – Febiofest

The 28th Prague IFF – Febiofest, taking place on 17-24 September, invites film lovers to screenings in traditional programme sections, but also a completely new section this year: **VR Cinema**. 360° VR films will be shown in a special VR cinema at the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, in three thematically divided groups: **For Kids, Art** and **Docu**.

"I'm very happy that Prague IFF – Febiofest is joining other world festivals which have been giving more space to virtual reality projects. We will present works such as the kind-hearted film The Remarkable Life of Bill Monty, which tells the story of a courageous elderly man who goes on all kinds of adventures in his dreams and in real life. I feel that in this period we all need to dive into more positive stories," says Ondřej Moravec, the curator of the new VR section.

Traditional programme sections such as the **Main Competition**, **Comedy Competition**, **Eastern Delights**, the popular **Queer Now**, **Planet Dark** for hard-to-please viewers, **Generation** presenting programme for the whole family, and other sections will all run as usual. The section **Panorama**, on the other hand, will be split for the first time ever into two parts: **Icons**, with well-known directors' work, and **New Currents**, where young filmmakers whose work has resonated at world festivals will be presented. The film **Yesterday's Past** about a young man from the Indian village of Satavaya will have its international premiere here, and we will see other exciting titles such as the unconventional Austrian sci-fi film **Trouble With Being Born** or the Oscar-shortlisted coproduction drama **Night of the Kings**.

This year, the purely documentary section **Docs** will be crowned by the world premiere of **The Most Fearless**: a film about Nasima, the first female surfer in Bangladesh – a country where women do not even swim in public, much less ride the waves on a surfboard. Another film to look out for is **Assassins**, a documentary which investigates the circumstances of the assassination of Kim Jong-un's half-brother Kim Jong-nam.

The extremely popular special section **Culinary Cinema**, which connects current film with unique fine-dining experiences, will serve the documentary **Funke**. Gab Taraboulsy's featurelength documentary debut follows the story of American chef Evan Funke, whose signature feature is handmade pasta. A special menu, created at the famous **La Finestra in Cucina** and inspired by Funke, will be served at Restaurant Obecní dům after the screening.

The 28th Prague IFF – Febiofest's winners will be decided by a jury of experts, but also by an audience jury presided by an honorary chairperson. Any film fan over the age of 15 may sit on the panel – all they need to do is apply through the <u>festival registration form</u>. The 33 selected jurors will watch and rate seven films in the Comedy Competition section.

The organizers of Prague IFF – Febiofest have announced the festival's new **executive director** – **Marta Švecová Lamperová** is taking over from Kamil Spáčil.

Contacts

Prague International Film Festival – Febiofest official website: <u>www.febiofest.cz/en/</u>

Press service: 2media.cz – Simona Andělová, simona@2media.cz, +420 775 112 857

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