



Breathless

00:00:00:00

Deutsch - Tschechisches Dokumentarfilmprojekt

FUNDING CRITERIA

1. The Project

„BREATHLESS – the Dominance of the Moment“ is a Czech-German documentary film project of DOK Leipzig, the Leipzig International Festival for Documentary and Animated Film and the Institute of Documentary Film in Prague (IDF) and initiated by Zipp -- German-Czech Cultural Projects, an initiative of the German Federal Culture Foundation.

The project is running for two years (2007-2009) and invites German and Czech documentary filmmakers to submit their ideas for creative, artistic and author-driven documentary films dealing with the subject of acceleration.

The project provides support for the development, production, post-production and distribution of up to six selected film projects. Besides, it serves as exchange platform for documentary filmmakers from both countries and fosters the cultural exchange and networking between professionals and young talents from both countries. The finished films developed and produced in the framework of “Breathless” will be premiered at the international documentary film festivals in Leipzig and Jihlava in autumn 2009.

2. The Subject: *BREATHLESS – Dominance of the Moment*

In the recent years, the enormous overload of information and new developments in communication and technology has dramatically changed the dynamic of our everyday lives. Terms such as globalization, digitalization or mobility are almost omnipresent. We can permanently feel the consequences: a lack of time for individual needs, stress and illnesses, a loss of orientation and a growing inability to take care of deep human relationships. Traditional foundations of society become disturbed and the acceleration of our lives does not necessarily bring about more time, freedom or enjoyment. When do we ever have space to be by ourselves?

3. The Offer

- Development support and mentoring for up to six selected documentary film projects in the first stage; production funding for four to six projects in the second stage
- Artistic and creative freedom to create an exceptional author-driven documentary
- Mentoring by leading European filmmakers in the course of research, script development, shooting period and post-production
- Mutual inspiration and actual cooperation between Czech and German documentary filmmakers

- Cooperation with experienced head-producers
- Premiere of the films at the international documentary film festivals in Jihlava and Leipzig
- An international release in theatres and on DVD is planned.

The project offers basic financing for the development of up to six and the production of four to six selected film projects. A 100% funding of the film projects cannot be guaranteed. Depending on the character and requirements of the film projects, it will most likely be necessary to raise further financial support for each particular project with the help of the two head-producers in both countries.

4. The Type of Films We Are Looking for

We look for documentary proposals with a relevant and maybe even surprising subject, strong protagonists, a convincing dramatic structure, and an elaborated filmic approach characterised by a clear concept for visual style and sound design. The project aims at supporting outstanding creative and artistic documentaries. Conventional television documentaries driven by a commentary and classic reportages cannot be supported. Every project, whether Czech or German, should **focus on culture and life in the respective countries**. We challenge both young and established directors from the Czech Republic and Germany to deal with the dominant dynamic of our times by taking their personal life, their society, their country and their culture as a basis. Applicants are very welcome to explore the boundaries of the documentary genre and to cross-over to hybrid forms.

The projects should not exceed 30 minutes length, but exceptions can be made if the proposed project requires a longer duration and sufficient financing is raised.

5. Who Can Apply

Applicants can be directors, producers or scriptwriters who want to take part in the programme with one additional member of their creative team, e.g. director, producer, scriptwriter, director of photography or editor. The director must be part of the two-person team.

Applicants must work and live in the country of application for most of the time during the year (Czech or German residency). And they should have a strong connection to that country.

Applicants are not required to have Czech or German nationality (passport).

There is no age restriction for the applicants.

As the working language will be **English** good English language skills are required

6. How to Apply

Czech and German documentary filmmakers, producers or scriptwriters are invited to apply with their film projects **until April 7, 2008** (Postmark).

The necessary application form and a checklist can be retrieved from the websites of the partners.

Applications from German residents have to be sent to DOK Leipzig (www.dok-leipzig.de), Czech applications have to be sent to the IDF in Prague (www.docuinter.net). Please find the contact details below.

The working language will be English. Therefore all required documents must be provided in English language and in six copies. Applications which are incomplete, which are not in English language or which don't meet the application deadline cannot be taken into consideration!

Applicants with a residency in Germany have to send their complete application to
DOK Leipzig
 Att. Ms. Ilo von Seckendorff
 Grosse Fleischergasse 11
 04109 Leipzig
 Germany

Applicants with a residency in the Czech Republic have to send their application to:

IDF in Prague

Att. Ms. Zuzana Pauková
Školská 12
110 00 Prague 1
Czech Republic

7. Timeline of the Project

The project is composed of **two phases**:

1. application, selection and development phase (March - September 2008)
2. production and post-production phase (September 2008 – September 2009).

The selected filmmakers take part in **two workshops** and are supported by experienced mentors and head-producers during the whole project.

7.1. Phase One: Application, Development and Selection (March – September 2008)

An international selection committee pre-selects up to six documentary film projects out of all entered applications until the end of May 2008 which will enter the development process. The pre-selected filmmakers and one member of their creative team will be invited to take part in the first workshop. The pre-selected applicants are obliged to take part in the workshop!

First Workshop (July 10 - 13, 2008)

The first workshop is focused on project development. The six participants will profit from inspirational lectures and be supported in shaping their idea, developing a research strategy and entering the script development and pre-production phase. The experts are experienced lecturers and documentary directors, producers, distributors or other audiovisual professionals.

At the end of this phase four to six projects will be selected by the selection committee to enter Phase two, the production and post-production phase.

7.2. Phase Two: Production and Post-Production Phase (Sept. 2008 – Sept. 2009)

During the second phase four to six of the developed films will go into production.

Second Workshop (May or June 2009)

The second workshop will deal with post-production, editing and distribution strategy. The participants will present the rough cuts of their films to each other and to the mentors and experts involved.

The films will have to be completed until autumn 2009 and will have to have their premiere at the international documentary film festivals in Jihlava and Leipzig in **October/ November 2009**.

8. Selection Process

8.1. Dates and Procedure

Application:

- Call for proposals – March 3, 2008
- Application deadline – April 7, 2008

Pre-Selection (May 22-23, 2008):

- the selection committee will invite up to twenty applicants to pitch their projects personally to the committee; the dates of presentation are May 22-23, 2008.
- the selection committee will pre-select up to six teams (the filmmaker and one member

of his/her creative team as far as available) to be part of the development phase.

Development process (May – Sept. 2008)

- the up to six pre-selected teams (the filmmaker and one member of his/her creative team) attend the first workshop (July 10 - 13, 2008)
- Research, development and pre-production of the pre-selected projects

Final Selection (September, 2008):

- after the end of the development process the pre-selected teams present their developed films again to the selection committee
- the selection committee will select four to six projects for production.

8.2. Selection Committee

An international Selection Committee of film experts evaluate the applications as regard to content and professionalism. Only complete and in-time applications will be taken into account.

The members of the selection committee are:

- **Niels Pagh Andersen** – editor and consultant, Denmark (*to be confirmed*)
- **Claas Danielsen** – director of DOK Leipzig, Germany
- **Miroslav Janek** – filmmaker/ Czech Republic
- **Clare Paterson** – producer/ freelancer, United Kingdom
- **Andrea Prengyová** – director of the Institute of Documentary Film (IDF), Czech Republic

The selection committee will not publish the reasons for their selection decision.

8.3. results of the pre-selection and selection

In the pre-selection meeting the selection committee will pre-select up to six teams (the filmmaker and one member of his/her creative team) to be part of the development phase. The participation on the development phase doesn't constitute a legal claim to the production or funding of a film project.

In the selection meeting the selection committee will make recommendations to produce four to six film projects to the project-responsible organizers: DOK Leipzig, the Institute of Documentary Film in Prague (IDF), ZIPP German-Czech Cultural Projects and the two Head-Producers. The selection committee will also make recommendations about how much money out of the available overall budget of "Breathless" will be dedicated to each film project taking into consideration the character of the project and the production requirements. These recommendations don't constitute a legal claim to the production or the amount of funding for a film project. They will only be legally binding after a production contract between the filmmaker and the head-producer has been signed.

9. Head-producers

Two head-producers, one from the Czech Republic and one from Germany, have been appointed. They will provide their expertise to the selection committee within the selection process and support the pre-selected teams during the development phase.

In the second phase the two head-producers will be in charge of the production, post-production and distribution of the four to six selected film projects. They will supervise the production and post-production process, will be in charge of raising additional financing for the film projects if needed and take over the financial responsibility.

The head-producers will also be the contractual partner for the filmmakers (and their possible producers), for relations e.V./ Zipp German-Czech Cultural Projects as the project's initiator and main funding institution and other film-funds and sponsors as well as for involved broadcasters.

The German head-producer is **Stefan Kloos** (www.kloosundco.de) and the Czech head-producer is **Jiří Konečný** (www.endorfilm.cz).

10. Contact:

IDF Prague

Mrs. Zuzana Pauková

Tel. +420 224 21 48 58

Email: breathless@docuinter.net

DOK Leipzig

Mrs. Ilo von Seckendorff

Tel. +49 (0)341 308 64-18

Email: seckendorff@dok-leipzig.de

11. Term of validity

These Funding Criteria are valid until 31.12.2009.

Prague & Leipzig, March 2008

A project of:

DOK Leipzig (Internationales Leipziger Festival für Dokumentar- und Animationsfilm), IDF - Institute of Documentary Film (Prag)

Initiated by:

This project takes place in the framework of Zipp - German-Czech Cultural Projects, an initiative of the German Federal Cultural Foundation/ Kulturstiftung des Bundes.

Supported by:

Int'l Documentary Film Festival Jihlava, Deutsch-Tschechischer Zukunftsfonds, Ministry of Culture/ Czech Republic