



WALES INT'L
DOCUMENTARY
FESTIVAL '17



Wales International Documentary Festival 2017

Now in its second year, the Wales International Documentary Festival aims to bring high-quality documentaries from all over the world to the heart of Wales. Running from April 5th-7th, the festival will showcase documentary features and shorts, all of them UK premieres, whilst also organising Q&As, masterclasses, and training programmes.

Held in Blackwood in the centre of the Welsh Valleys, WIDF's home is the newly refurbished five-screen Maxine Cinema and the historic Blackwood Miners' Institute. Easily reachable by car, bus or train, the town has a rich working class history. An important coal-mining area, it is also the birthplace of the Chartist's Movement, a movement for basic worker's rights that swept the UK during the 1830s and '40s, as well as a centre for action during the Miners' Strike. The town has long been a hub for radical ideas and culture in the Valleys, producing such nationally-acclaimed rock groups like the Manic Street Preachers. By building bridges and connecting Blackwood with the wider creative world, we hope to promote understanding and co-operation, for the benefit of Blackwood, the Welsh Valleys, and the UK as a whole.



The first incarnation of the festival in 2016 was a great success. With a small but focused lineup of films, it was able to deliver not just an excellent community atmosphere but a great opportunity for filmmakers and creatives to network and build connections for the future. Gala screenings took place of award-winning documentaries *Mavis!* and *I Believe in Miracles*, about legendary soul singer Mavis Staples and the European Cup triumphs of Nottingham Forest respectively. In competition, *The Roots Remain* took Best Feature, whilst *Taklif* took best short and *Mining Poems and Odes* won Best Cinematography. Delegates from 17 nations took part in the festival, making it a truly international affair.



The Films

This year, we are proud to present 10 feature films, all of them premiering in the UK at WIDF 2017. Alongside them will be a number of shorts, student films, and microdocs.



Two Worlds, Maciej Adamek,
Poland, [trailer](#).



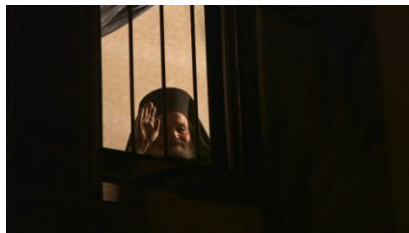
An Eye for an Eye, Ilan Ziv,
Israel/Canada, [trailer](#).



Let Women Choose, Xiana Yago
Ecuador/Spain, [trailer](#).



Atlantic, Risteard O'Domhnaill,
Ireland, [trailer](#).



The Patriarch's Room, Danae Elon,
Israel/Canada, [trailer](#).



Hoda's Story, Johan Eriksson
Finland/Palestine, [trailer](#).



The King and Dai, David Barnes,
UK, trailer tbc.



Why Dragan Gathered His Band,
Nikola Spasić, Serbia, [trailer](#).



FC Roma, Tomáš Bojar and Rozálie
Kohoutová, Czech Republic, [trailer](#).



Swim Team, Lara Stolman,
USA, [trailer](#).

The People:

Dave Evans – Artistic Director

Dave is an experienced film and TV director who has also worked on stage. His credits include Daddy's Girl, BAFTA Wales best film 2007, Crash (BBC), Mind to Kill (Channel 5/S4C) the award winning series Y Pris (S4C – best regional drama Prix d'Europe 2008) and feature drama Tir, nominated for best drama Celtic Media Festival 2014.

Cai Howells – Festival Co-ordinator

Cai has worked extensively as a freelance camera operator and director for ITV Wales, BBC Wales & Channel 4 and has recently begun production on his first feature-doc. He has also produced several corporate videos for high profile clients including Centrica UK and the Welsh Assembly Government.

Aleksandra Nikolajev-Jones – Head of Development & Fundraising

Producer, choreographer, actress and educator. Now based in the UK, Aleksandra is a product of the Yugoslavian Drama Theatre. She has been producing since 2008 in Wales and the UK and is focusing on developing creative platforms for the best of UK and European talent. She is leading on a number of co-productions that the company has in development and is also working on training and workshop delivery.

Sandra Spighel – Communications, Marketing & Guest Services

Sandra has spent the past 5 years freelancing in the film industry, taking on varied roles in film production, distribution and film festivals (amongst which are London Film Festival, Edinburgh International Film Festival and Transilvania International Film Festival). She is passionate about documentary film and event management.

Rachel Van Koningsveld – Event & Sponsorship Co-ordinator

Rachel is a freelance Producer / Media Consultant with over 20 years' experience of working in the creative industry.

She initially trained as a Production Accountant with HTV (now ITV Wales) before becoming a Unit Manager at S4C, where she negotiated budgets and contracts with Independent Production Companies. She later became the head of the Interactive Department at S4C and won 3 Bafta Cymru New Media Awards.

Contacts and useful links

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WIDF2017/>

All other enquiries: contact@widf.info

Website: <http://www.widf.info/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WIDF2017>

Trailer: <https://www.facebook.com/WIDF2017/videos>

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