



PROJECT SUMMARY

Labyrinths of Justice festival programme is conceptualised as a response to the emerging global challenges of the international law and justice with its tendency for broadening in scope, deepening in content and embracing a focus on individuals.

According to the programme concept, we have selected five films that explore the labyrinths of justice: from its fundamental application in the aftermath of armed conflict to the unprecedented court room triumphs of gender equality, from its glorious breakthroughs in protection of human rights to its everyday routine of revealing the darkest recesses of humanity; but also in the historical and modern settings where the justice seems to be a concept far too remote and idealistic - like in the society dominated by the rule of total authority, and in the context where trials are sometimes intended to be a spectacle weaponized for an entirely different purpose.

The programme examines the diverse routes of law in panel discussions involving filmmakers and film protagonists, eminent experts in international law, prosecution of war crimes, and human and civil rights. Additionally, the students of the University in Belgrade Faculty of Law and wider public will have the unique opportunity to attend a master class on the international justice held by the special guest of the festival, the prosecutor for International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and protagonist of *The Trial of Ratko Mladić* documentary Peter McCloskey.

PROJECT GOALS

The *Labyrinths of Justice* programme experiments with ways to combine the usual festival programme and impact activities, and finally, evaluates the valuable knowledge on the forms of impact a documentary can have on the audience. *Labyrinths of Justice* explore the latest visual investigations into the state of our complex and distressed world where establishing respect for the rule of law is fundamental to achieving a durable peace in the aftermath of conflict, to the effective protection of human rights, and to sustained economic progress and development.

The films in our program, and the discussions we invite to join, aim at engaging audiences with these questions, and encourage an examination of the multiple ways that complex screen versions of reality can be grasped and bring lasting difference to our post-truth world. Our goal is to reach out to new audiences and have a better chance to contribute to social change and agenda setting.

While these films are traces of the past and present, they are also directed towards the future. This year's festival program thus constitutes an intangible imprint; if we engage with the films and the questions they address, the course of the future might also change.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Beldocs cares about how films can change the world for the better. We believe that together with offering a powerful cinematic experience and information, documentaries can inspire people to take action in the struggle for effective judicial system, healthy civic society and a more engaged citizenry. We feel this is especially needed in Serbia in light of Chapter 23 of the EU negotiation process that covers judiciary and fundamental rights, and in light of recent political developments.

As a documentary film festival, we consider ourselves as an important distribution channel and as an instrument for raising awareness and reaching out to audiences. As a festival we are especially mindful of the impact of our activities, which can affect a single individual, but it can also influence society as a whole, for example, in the form of a legislative or institutional change, or a shift in discourse.

In the core of the programme are the screenings of the following **five documentary films** and **Q&A sessions** with filmmakers after screenings:

1. **The Trial of Ratko Mladić**, Robert Miller, Henry Singer, UK, Norway, 2018, 99 min

A hard-hitting documentary on when the man behind some of the worst crimes of history finally was put on trial in 2012. That was 20 years after Ratko Mladic, the leader of the Bosnian Serb Army, gave the order to the siege of Sarajevo and the genocide in Srebrenica, with the ultimate goal to remove all non-Serbs. The trial in the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia is an opportunity for final reconciliation, and the documentary follows the five year long trial, from both sides. It is an upsetting portrait of his crimes, but also a breathlessly fascinating meeting with the defenders, witnesses and family of Mladic.

2. **The Trial: The State of Russia vs Oleg Sentsov**, Askold Kurov, Estonia, Poland, Czech Republic, Russia, Ukraine, 2017, 75 min

In August 2015, Ukrainian film director and Maidan activist Oleg Sentsov was sentenced to 20 years in prison in Siberia for terrorism. He was charged with leading an anti-Russian terrorist movement and planning attacks on bridges, power lines and a monument of Lenin. Sentsov defends himself courageously and responds to the verdict with an emphatic denial of the crimes and instead accuses the accusers themselves. In his documentary, Askold Kurov investigates the truth behind this political show-trial and documents the solidarity shown to Sentsov by filmmaking colleagues and the European Film Academy, which is beginning its 30th anniversary with this screening to campaign for Sentsov's release.

3. **RBG**, Betsy West, Julie Cohen, USA, 2018, 97 min

At the age of 85, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has developed a lengthy legal legacy while becoming an unexpected pop culture icon. Ginsburg spent a considerable part of her legal career as an advocate for the advancement of gender equality and women's rights, winning multiple victories arguing before the Supreme Court. But the unique personal journey of her rise to the nation's highest court has been largely unknown, even to some of her biggest fans – until now. RBG explores Ginsburg's life and career.

4. **The Trial**, Sergei Loznitsa, the Netherlands, 2018, 125 min

In 1930 in Moscow, USSR the Soviet government puts a group of top rank economists and engineers on trial, accusing them of plotting a coup d'état. The charges are fabricated and the punishment, if convicted, is death. Sergei Loznitsa returns with this archival chronicle of one of the infamous Moscow Trials — at the time, an operatic affair serving to legitimize Stalin's government, now a timely reminder of the consequences of total authority.

1. **So Help Me God**, Jean Libon, Yves Hinant, France, Belgium, 2017, 99 min

The everyday work of Brussels judge Anne Gruwez ranges from questioning suspects to visiting crime scenes and directing DNA tests in consultation with detectives. *So Help Me God* observes the events unfolding in the judge's chambers and beyond, without interviews, commentary or music. The power of this documentary lies in its rawness, as well as in freedom of speech and the uncensored storytelling style. Truth sometimes proves to be far more shocking than fiction.

The following major activities are envisioned to be an integral part of the program (**two panel discussions and a master class**):

PANEL 1

What kind of justice can a trial achieve 20 years later? What is it like to defend and prosecute a man who has committed genocide? What can we learn from what happened in Bosnia in today's world, where polarisation and politics of division is again on the rise? What are the repercussions of the trial in Serbia?

Panelists:

Peter McCloskey, the prosecutor for International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), protagonist of *The Trial of Ratko Mladić* documentary

Branko Lukic, Ratko Mladic's defense lawyer in the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), protagonist of *The Trial of Ratko Mladić* documentary

Henry Singer and **Rob Miller**, the filmmakers of *The Trial of Ratko Mladić*

Moderator:

A reputable journalist, historian and human rights expert with substantial expertise in armed conflicts of 1990s - *to be determined*

PANEL 2

"Show trial and global solidarity – the case of Oleg Sentsov". When it comes to Sentsov and others' cases, what are the institutional actions by the global community would be helpful in de-escalating the situation? How can the civil society's engagement make change? The festival be joining and taking active part in the #FreeSentsov movement.

Panelists:

Askold Kurov, the filmmaker of *The Trial: The State of Russia vs Oleg Sentsov*

Representatives of human rights advocacy communities and local activists, professors of law and political sciences - *to be determined*

Moderator:

A reputable journalist or human rights expert - *to be determined*

MASTER CLASS: PETER McCLOSKEY

“International justice and prosecution of war crimes”. Peter McCloskey, senior trial attorney at the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), will deliver a public lecture on the prosecution of the Bosnian genocide talking about his experience of investigating and building cases for the war crimes committed in Srebrenica. Peter McCloskey has worked on Srebrenica related cases since 1996, including the prosecution of 20 individuals, among which Slobodan Milošević, Radovan Karadžić and General Ratko Mladić.

Venue:

University in Belgrade Faculty of Law

Audience:

Students of law and wider public

Additional activities: *to be determined*.

PROJECT DATES

The twelfth edition of International Documentary Film Festival Beldocs will be held from 8 to 15 May 2019 in Belgrade.

ORGANISATIONAL BACKGROUND

International Documentary Film Festival Beldocs was founded in 2008 and based on the idea that the documentary form has a special power to inspire people to think, create, and believe in change. The main goals of Beldocs are to develop, support, promote, network, and educate in the field of international documentary film.

Association Beldocs IDFF has been organizing International Documentary Film Festival Beldocs in Belgrade since 2008, Beldocs Echo Festival tour since 2011 which presents documentaries to audiences in smaller cities and villages in Serbia, Beldocs Market since 2013, Beldocs Academy since 2016, Mini Doc Workshop since 2016, Beldocs in Progress since 2018, Documentaries for Kids and Youth since 2018, and Beldocs Reading Room since 2018. In 2017 Beldocs joined two European projects as a partner #europeanfilmchallenge and AVA Doc. Beldocs is oriented towards artistically and socially-relevant cinema and selects the most remarkable European and World documentaries of the year, also bringing the producers and directors to Belgrade for discussions, master classes, and networking. In previous years Beldocs hosted one of the greatest world documentary filmmakers, i.e. Abel Ferrara, Ulrich Seidl, Ruth Beckermann, João Pedro Rodrigues, Ada Ushpiz, etc.

Beldocs IDFF is supported by the European Union through the programme Creative Europe, sub-programme Media, Ministry of Culture and Information of Republic of Serbia, Secretariat for Culture of City of Belgrade, Film Centre of Serbia, MEDIA desk Serbia, Embassies of Israel, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Brazil, Austrian Culture Forum, Goethe Institute, Italian Institute for Culture, and number of media in Serbia and region.

In the previous eleventh editions, Beldocs Festival has become known to the public as a festival that presents the best documentaries of the recent production from around the world, films of high visual culture that stimulate thinking and leave no one indifferent. The richness of thematic, stylistic, cultural and geographical diversity is manifested every year in the program of the festival. In 2018 Beldocs had audience number 15.694, 102 creative documentaries had been screened with 138 screenings and 50 Q&A`s. Beldocs hosted 129 international guests, organized 6 master classes, 2 educational workshops, 14 documentary projects had been presented to the international film professionals, and number of media coverage was 1.250. International and national professional public have recognized Beldocs as the fastest growing festival in the region with sophisticated film curating, explosive and high quality programming.

This year's twelfth edition of the Beldocs International Documentary Film Festival will be held from 8th to 15th of May 2019 in Belgrade and will feature 107 films in 16 programme units at 12 representative movie theatres. The festival will host more than 150 guests and organize rich program dedicated to film professionals. The Beldocs festival will be held at the following venues: Sava Center, Belgrade Youth Center, Belgrade Cultural Center, Kombank Cinema, Yugoslav Film Archive, Museum of Yugoslav Film Archive, Museum of Contemporary Art Belgrade, Fontana Cinema, Cinema Roda, Art Cinema Kolarac, Culture Center "Vlada Divljan", Cineplexx Usce.

Vest o raspisivanju konkursa i formular za onlajn prijavu smo podelili na našem sajtu:

<http://beldocs.rs/volontiraj-i-postani-deo-tima-beldocsa/>