**Documentary Filmmakers from Around the World Arrive in Užice for Interaction**

*Užice will host around 100 documentary filmmakers who will participate in six different programs*

**Užice, July 24, 2024 – The international production, educational, and programming platform Interaction, dedicated to short documentary films for almost two decades, will gather film academy students, renowned documentary filmmakers, esteemed lecturers from various regions, and the youngest participants – high school students who are just entering the world of film, this August.**

**From August 20 to 27, Užice will host around 100 documentary filmmakers who will participate in one of the 6 Interaction programs. This year, the 19th edition of the Student Film Camp, the 3rd edition of the Short Documentary Film Festival, and the 12th edition of the Doc Workshop will be held. Additionally, the Teen Doc Workshop, which started last year, and a new program, XR Interaction – Co-Creating the Future, will also take place this year.**

**STUDENT FILM CAMP**

This year’s Interaction, like previous years, begins with the arrival of fifteen participants of the [Student Film Camp](https://www.interaction.rs/sr/studentski_kamp/), who will film three short documentaries in Užice, Požega, and Čačak from August 10 to 26, on the topic *Vanishing Footprints*.

The participants will work under the mentorship of Efim Graboy, an Israeli director, and the films will have a pre-premiere screening on August 26 at the official closing of the Interaction Festival in Užice, and traditionally the day after at the Hall of the Cultural Center of Belgrade.

This year’s camp participants – students of directing, camera, editing, sound design, and production, had the opportunity to attend online lectures by award-winning documentary filmmakers from the USA – Jamie Meltzer, a professor at Stanford University, and Chris Filippone, whose documentary Huntsville Station, co-directed with Professor Meltzer, premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival. Additionally, Meghanne Barker, an anthropologist and lecturer at UCL Institute of Education in London, and Uroš Živković, the program director of the Returning Point, shared their experiences on circular migrations with the camp participants.

**DOC WORKSHOP**

[The Doc Workshop](https://www.interaction.rs/sr/radionica-dokumentarnog-filma/), part of Interaction since 2011, is intended for film professionals, film academy students, and anyone who wants to improve their knowledge and skills in the field of creative documentary film or develop their documentary projects with our tutors.

This year, 28 participants were selected for the Workshop, and the [lecturers](https://www.interaction.rs/sr/eksperti-2/) are renowned experts in the field of documentary film – Rada Šešić, a programmer of numerous festivals, lecturer, and award-winning documentary filmmaker, selector of the documentary competition program at the Sarajevo Film Festival, and Chris Filippone, the aforementioned American documentarian.

Five Workshop participants, whose projects were selected for *Doc in Progress*, will develop their projects through individual and group consultations with the tutors. Besides Rada Šešić and Chris Filippone, this year’s tutors include Iva Plemić Divjak, producer and president of the Board of the Association of Documentary Filmmakers of Serbia – DokSrbija, Wouter Jansen, founder of the festival distribution and sales company Square Eyes, and Jamie Meltzer, a documentarian from the USA.

**INTERACTION FESTIVAL**

The third edition of the [Interaction Festival](https://www.interaction.rs/sr/festival-2/), dedicated to short creative documentaries, will be held from August 20 to 26 in Užice, at the Summer garden of the City Cultural Center.

The competition program will feature 15 short documentaries carefully selected by the Festival’s artistic director – director Dejan Petrović and program advisor Andrew Mohsen, an Egyptian film critic and programmer of numerous festivals.

Additionally, in two non-competitive programs – *In Focus* and *Interscreen*, selected short documentary films will be presented. The *In Focus* program is curated by guest selector – Nadica Denić, a film researcher from Amsterdam and long-time advisor to the IDFA festival programmers, while the Interscreen program traditionally presents selected films by Camp and Workshop participants.

Besides the audience in this year’s capital of culture – Užice, audiences in Požega and Čačak will also be able to follow the festival program from August 21 to 25 at the SKC Požega Cinema and the Cultural Center of Čačak.

The award for the best film, provided by the *Sirogojno Company*, will be presented at the official closing on August 26 in Užice, and in addition to the main award, the Youth Jury Award (presented as part of the Swiss government-supported project – Culture for Democracy, implemented by the Heartefact Fund) and the Audience Award will also be given. This year’s Festival program will be announced soon on the Interaction website.

**TEEN DOC WORKSHOP**

Since last year, teenagers from Serbia, the region, and this year also from Italy and Albania, will have the opportunity to learn more about documentary filmmaking and develop their creativity through the production of mini documentaries within the [Teen Doc Workshop](https://www.interaction.rs/sr/teen-doc-2/).

This year’s Teen Doc Workshop gathers 24 participants from 8 countries, who will work with prominent [film professionals](https://www.interaction.rs/en/experts-4/) as mentors – directors Vladimir Perović from Serbia and Hanis Bagashov from North Macedonia. Additionally, teenagers will learn about documentary film production from producer Iva Plemić Divjak, and about media literacy from prominent experts in this field – Darko Soković and Goran Zarić from the *Propulsion* company. This year, too, Teen Doc Workshop participants will form the youth jury of the Interaction Festival, awarding the Youth Jury Award.

**MEET2TALK PROGRAM (M2T)**

[Meet2Talk](https://www.interaction.rs/sr/meet2talk-2/) is an accompanying program of Interaction, designed to allow participants of all programs to meet, get to know each other, and exchange experiences. M2T initiates discussions on topics important for the production and creative aspects of working on documentary projects, the evolution of contemporary documentary film, as well as topics related to the relationship between film and society.

This year’s M2T includes public programmes – one Panel and five Talk sessions with renowned experts from around the world, as well as an internal program – Speed Meetings for participants of all Interaction programs, aimed at providing opportunities for exchanging ideas and potential long-term collaborations through organized expert consultations. The M2T program and the names of the experts will be announced soon on the Interaction website.

**XR INTERACTION**

[Interaction XR – Co-Creating the Future](https://www.interaction.rs/sr/xr-2/) is a new Interaction programme that includes an XR exhibition organized in Užice from August 22 to 25 at the Užice City Cultural Center. The exhibition curator is a prominent XR expert – Georgy Molodtsov, a director and producer, also an alumnus of the Interaction Camp (2007). The exhibition will feature interactive XR works and 360 XR documentaries that push the boundaries of documentary film within the latest technologies. Besides the exhibition, this year’s Interaction will also host distinguished international lecturers at the XR Conference (August 24) who will address the potential of XR technology in documentary film in their presentations.

The XR Interaction – Co-Creating the Future program is supported by the Visegrad Fund. It establishes and nurtures collaboration between different regions through partnerships with the Tofuzi Animation Film Festival from Georgia and other partners from Poland, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and North Macedonia. In addition to the programs that will be held live during Interaction, Interaction XR includes a series of online workshops for which [**applications are open**](https://www.interaction.rs/sr/xr-radionica/) until August 1, inviting young creators (ages 13-21) in the field of documentary films and animation to expand the impact of their filmmaking through the latest XR/VR/AI technologies and immersive storytelling.

Interaction 2024 is organized by the Independent Film Center Filmart, as part of the Užice – Capital of Culture of Serbia 2024 program, in collaboration with the Užice City Cultural Center, and with the support of the Ministry of Culture of Serbia, the Film Center of Serbia, the Ministry of Tourism and Youth, the City of Užice, the City of Čačak, the Municipality of Požega, the US Embassy in Belgrade, support from the Swiss government within the Culture for Democracy project implemented by the Heartefact Fund, the Visegrad Fund, CEI – Central European Initiative, the British Council (through the CC4WBs program), the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Belgrade, Media Desk – Creative Europe Serbia, the Austrian Cultural Forum, Cinnamon Films and Textil Užice companies, the Business Club of Western Serbia, and other partners.

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