



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE,
SPORT AND YOUTH



20 January 2020

DOC NIGHTS @ SPEL: DOCUMENTARY NIGHTS (22 – 31 JANUARY 2020)

**Films from the Lemesos International Documentary Festival at the
State Gallery of Contemporary Art – SPEL**

Award-winning documentary films, screened during the Lemesos International Documentary Festival last August, are being presented at the State Gallery of Contemporary Art - SPEL in Nicosia between 22-31 January, through a collaboration between the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth and the organization Brave New Culture.

Consistently focusing on contemporary films that address the most urgent social, political, environmental, and cultural problems in the world today, the selected documentaries attempt to contextualize, question and respond to a broad number of issues which concern each and every one of us. As Yiangos Hadjiyiannis, artistic director of **DOCNIGHTS @ SPEL** describes, the films' subjects deal with the reality of our world, tackling issues such as transparency in information, the management of fake news, the modern face of democracy, the rapid developments on the international political and economic scene, the serious climate change currently taking place, as well as issues concerning the position of women in society. The screenings programme will include presentations and discussions with directors, producers, academics and activists (to be announced).

Documentary Nights will kick off with ***The Ghost of Peter Sellers*** (22/1), by Cypriot producer Paul Iacovou and director Peter Medak, which tells the tale of the ill-fated Hollywood movie shot in Kyrenia in 1973, (*Ghost in the Noonday Sun*). The production resulted in chaos when famous movie star Peter Sellers decided to sabotage it. The film follows director Peter Medak forty years later, in his effort to understand what went so terribly wrong, resulting in a total disaster. The film will be introduced by the producer, Paul Iacovou.

Next up is ***Bellingcat – Truth in a Post-Truth World*** (23/1), a fascinating look at the network of citizen journalists known as Bellingcat, investigating covert cases in an effort to uncover the truth, striving for ethical journalism in the age of fake news.

In the documentary ***Renzo Piano: The Architect of Light*** (24/1), legendary filmmaker Carlos Saura follows the renowned architect Renzo Piano in the construction of one of his most iconic projects, the Centro Botín art gallery in Santander, Spain. The two join forces in order to create a film on the relationship between architecture and film, in the backdrop of an architectural wonder.

Greek director Marianna Economou is behind the humorous and uplifting story of ***When Tomatoes Met Wagner*** (25/1), where two ingenuous Greek cousins and five village grannies, tackle the world market with their organic tomatoes.

In 1961 Dag Hammarskjöld, the United Nations secretary-general, dies tragically in a mysterious plane crash. In ***Cold Case Hammarskjöld*** (26/1), a Danish filmmaker and a private investigator team up to uncover the mystery behind the incident, leading viewers down a wild rabbit hole.

When the Taliban puts a bounty on Afghan director Hassan Fazili's head, he is forced to flee with his wife and two young daughters. Capturing their uncertain journey in his moving documentary ***Midnight Traveler*** (27/1), Fazili shows firsthand the dangers facing refugees seeking asylum and the love shared between a family on the run.

Housing prices are skyrocketing in cities around the world. Incomes are not. ***Push*** (28/1) by director Fredrik Gertten sheds light on a new kind of faceless landlord, our increasingly unlivable cities and an escalating crisis that has an effect on us all.

#Female Pleasure (29/1) by director Barbara Miller is a plea for the liberation of female sexuality in the 21st century. It accompanies five extraordinary women around the globe and shows the successful fight for a self-determined female sexuality.

In ***Kabul, City in the Wind*** (30/1), director Aboozar Amini portrays the city of Kabul through daily details of two kids and a bus driver, set against the background of a city destroyed by political and religious powers.

Featuring a diverse cast, Astra Taylor's film entitled ***What Is Democracy?*** (31/1) connects past and present, emotion and the intellect, the personal and the political, to provoke and inspire. If we want to live in democracy, we must first ask what the word even means.

The Documentary Nights screenings will take place on the 2nd floor of the State Gallery of Contemporary Art – SPEL, between 22–31 January. Entrance is free. All films will be screened with English and Greek subtitles. All films start at 20:30.

For more information: T: 22479600, Facebook / Instagram: spelstategallery

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Coorganisers: Cultural Services, Ministry of Culture, Sport & Youth and Brave New Culture.