



St. Petersburg  
August 10, 2020

**PRESS RELEASE  
NEW HOLLAND ISLAND INTERNATIONAL DEBUT FILM FESTIVAL  
August 14–28, 2020**

The first New Holland Island International Debut Film Festival will take place on August 14–28, 2020. Due to the current epidemiological situation and a number of restrictions on holding mass events, as well as the temporary closure of St. Petersburg cinemas, all films of the competition programme, works of the jury members and some out of competition films will be shown online on the [Nonfiction.film](https://nonfiction.film) platform.

Short and feature competitions will be shown in full; the international jury will judge the programmes remotely, winners will be announced online and will receive the stated prizes.

All money raised from online screenings will be donated to the *Nochlezhka* charitable organisation that supports homeless people.

From the team:

*The New Holland Island International Debut Film Festival was conceived as a landmark event for our 2020 programme. Last summer, we put together a team in a short space of time and gave a taste of what was to come with this year's first fully-fledged event. The 2020 festival was supposed to be a great gathering of cinema lovers and international film industry professionals that would show and tell our Island's diverse audience about alternative, new and marginal cinema. But life made corrections to our script too.*

*Cancelling events is not the way of the creators and dreamers of New Holland Island. This is why we took the decision that the festival would nonetheless go ahead. It will take place in a format that is unfamiliar to us, but will go some way to fulfilling its original objective: giving people the chance to see films that are rarely picked up by major distributors. We hope that these films will find their audience and, in the meantime, we will be starting preparations for the next festival.*

*Yours New Holland Island Team*

New Holland International Debut Film Festival is a platform for new and daring cinema, whose mission is to support original and distinctive creative statements and inscribe new names into the international context. The festival was launched in 2019 and was marked by a large-scale three-day preview, which was attended by more than 55,000 people.

The festival team: Alexander Rodnyansky (president), Alexey Artamonov (programme director), Andrey Kartashov (curator of the short meter programme). The festival is organised by the team of the *New Holland: Cultural Urbanization* project.

On August 17–22, the main stage of the Island will host several special free screenings. The schedule will be announced later.

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## JURY

This year's feature programme jury includes directors Philip Gröening (Germany), Bakur Bakuradze (Russia) and Isabella Eklöf (Sweden), film producer Thanassis Karathanos (Germany), director of the *Sheffield Doc/Fest* festival Cíntia Gil (Portugal). The short film programme will be judged by film director Andrés Duque (Spain), film critic Carmen Gray (Germany), video artist Polina Kanis (Russia) and theater director Dmitry Volkostrelov (Russia). The international jury will judge the competition remotely.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

As part of the feature and short competition, premiere screenings of films participating in major international festivals, such as *Sundance*, *Locarno*, *Rotterdam*, *Berlin*, *Clermont-Ferrand* and others will be held together with two world premieres: Sasha Voronov's debut feature *Mom, I Befriended ghosts* produced by *Stereotactic* studio and Valentina Beck's documentary short *News from the Other World* dedicated to the writer Yuri Mamleev and his wife Maria Mamleeva. Nine films from China, Colombia, Eastern and Western Europe, Russia, Canada and the United States are participating in the feature competition, including a film shot by a native American in the Chinuk Wawa language. There are 24 films in the short competition, including documentaries, experimental and feature films. For more information about all films of the programme, please check the supplement to the press release.

In the out-of-competition programme presented online, the world premiere of a feature debut of the theater director and playwright Andrei Stadnikov *Danton's Death* and the festival premiere of the work by a collective of artists from Moscow and St. Petersburg *Zhitiye Goreslava Chuzhdozemnogo*.

## FESTIVAL PRIZES

### FEATURE COMPETITION

Grand Prix – € 15,000

Jury Prize – € 10,000

### SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Three equivalent prizes of € 5,000

Films of jury members will only be available to watch on [Nonfiction.film](https://nonfiction.film) platform on August 14–28

*Ayka* (2018), dir. Sergey Dvortsevov, producer Thanassis Karathanos

*Brother Dejan* (2015), dir. Bakur Bakuradze

*Into Great Silence* (2005), dir. Philip Gröening

*Karelia: International with Monument* (2019), dir. Andrés Duque

*The Shift* (2016), dir. Polina Kanis

*The Soldier* (2011), dir. Dmitry Volkostrelov

By clicking Buy on [Nonfiction.film](https://nonfiction.film) website, you rent a film for 48 hours and can watch it at any time during that period. Minimum rental price for one film is 100 rub. You can pay any amount, it will be automatically donated to *Nochlezhka* charity. While watching a film, you can start it an unlimited number of times on different devices.





*The programme is subject to change.*

### **NEW HOLLAND: CULTURAL URBANIZATION**

In 2010, *New Holland Development*, an affiliate of Roman Abramovich's company *Millhouse, LLC*, won the tender for the restoration and renovation of New Holland Island, with the goal of creating a mixed-use complex that will serve as one of the epicenters of cultural life not only for St. Petersburg, but for Russia as a whole. To help determine the concept and creative direction of the island's development, Millhouse turned to the Iris Foundation, a non-commercial initiative for the support and advancement of contemporary culture and art, launched by Daria Zhukova and Roman Abramovich. This collaboration resulted in *New Holland: Cultural Urbanization*, a fresh approach to the restructuring and modernization of the territory, a monument of cultural and national historical significance. Following the success of the seasonal programs of 2011–2013, the project investors decided not to proceed with the original plan to clear the territory to construct a new building. Instead, they chose to organize a full-fledged city park, complete with a modern and convenient infrastructure, which each and every person could find his or her place. The island continues to host cultural programs as well as grand-scale civic initiatives. Future plans for the development of the territory include not only commercial enterprises, but also cultural and educational institutions, and exhibition spaces, whose programming will be overseen by emerging specialists. *New Holland: Cultural Urbanization* helps recruit a team of architects, designers, and urban planners, as well as provide the cultural content for the island's programming and participate in the selection of partners and operators for the project. In August 2016, the first phase of the project came to completion, with the launch of New Holland's park zone, and the island begin to operate all year long. As of now, three historical buildings have been restored: the Foundry, the Commandant's House and the *Bottle House*. In 2020, *House 12*, which is located on the embankment of Kryukov Canal, was restored and the area around it was landscaped. An additional park territory near the northern side of the Basin was also put into operation.

### **NONFICTION.FILM**

Online-cinema for the curious and sophisticated audience, a streaming platform that collects iconic documentaries, Academy Award winners and nominees, winners of Cannes, Berlin, Venice and other international festivals. [Nonfiction.film](#) is an easy-to-use platform where watching a movie will not be interrupted by advertising.

The online cinema collection currently has more than 560 films and 29 thematic selections and programmes. Over the last year, more than 365,000 people have visited the platform, with 45,000 visits in the last month only.

[Nonfiction.film](#) — is the only online cinema in Russia specialising in documentary filmmaking. With the support of Nonfiction, such films as *Sorokin Trip*, *Anna Frank*, *Parallel Stories*, *Russian Georgians*. *The first film* were released.

### **INTERREGIONAL CHARITABLE PUBLIC ORGANISATION NOCHLEZHKA**

*Nochlezhka* has been operating for over 30 years in St. Petersburg and for two years in Moscow. Its specialists support people without home or registered address by providing food, shelter, helping with disability documents and employment, benefits, schooling, finding relatives and returning home, with challenging illegal real estate transactions and protecting their rights in general. *Nozhlezhka* has 55 members of staff, hundreds of volunteers and thousands of people who have been helped.

