



St. Petersburg,  
March 1, 2021

## **NEW HOLLAND ISLAND INTERNATIONAL DEBUT FILM FESTIVAL BEGINS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

The second New Holland Island International Debut Film Festival begins to accept applications for participation in its competition programmes which will be judged by an international jury. You can submit applications from March 1 to May 10, 2021. The prize pool of the festival is 40,000 euros.

### **FEATURE FILM COMPETITION**

Grand Prix – 15,000 euros

The jury prize – 10,000 euros

### **SHORT FILM COMPETITION**

Three equivalent prizes of 5,000 euros

The main competition accepts the first and second feature films from 45 minutes in length, completed in 2020 and 2021. Documentary, experimental and fiction films of up to 45 minutes, completed in 2020 and 2021 by directors who have not yet made their feature debuts, are accepted for the short film competition.

Applications are subject to a fee and can be submitted through *FilmFreeway* platform. More information can be found on the festival's website [nhifilmfest.com](http://nhifilmfest.com)

New Holland Island International Debut Film Festival aims to become the main platform of the debut cinema in Russia, supporting the original creative statements from authors who are not afraid of experimenting. The festival was launched in 2019 and was marked by a large-scale three-day preview during which more than 55,000 people visited the Island. The first programme of the festival with an international competition was supposed to be one of the largest cinematic events in St. Petersburg in 2020 but due to the pandemic took place in a condensed format, retaining the online competition programme and part of the offline screenings on New Holland Island. An echo of the festival that featured winning films and some of the premier films was held at Moscow's *Garage Museum of Contemporary Art*.

Jury of the festival 2020: Thanassis Karathanos, directors Bakur Bakuradze, Philip Gröning, Isabella Eklöf, programme director of *Sheffield Doc/Fest* Cíntia Gil, theatre director Dmitry Volkostrelov, film critic Carmen Grey, video artist Polina Kanis.

The festival's team: Alexander Rodnyansky (president), Alexey Artamonov (programme director), Andrey Kartashov (curator of short film competition).

The festival is organised by the team of the *New Holland: Cultural Urbanization* project.



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#### **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. 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, 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, research laboratories, 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. 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.