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## PRESS RELEASE

### II NEW HOLLAND ISLAND INTERNATIONAL DEBUT FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES THE PROGRAM AND THE JURY MEMBERS

From October 6 to 13, St. Petersburg will be host to the *New Holland Island International Debut Film Festival*. The new *Assembly Hall* in *House 12* at New Holland Island, the historic halls of the *Rodina* cinema centre, as well as the *Dom Kino* cinema hall will become the main venues for the Festival.

This year's programme of the New Holland Island International Debut Film Festival consists of seven parts. The feature and short films competitions will be judged by an international jury. Five other programmes will be shown out of competition. The non-competition programmes include documentaries (*How Do We Live Together*), films by Russian directors (*Made in Russia*), *slow burner* horror films (Films from the *Uncanny Valley*), Jury Selection, and *Spotlight* special programme made up of premieres and festival hits. The international jury of the Festival this year will include directors, film critics, and other film industry professionals from France, Germany, Kazakhstan, and Russia.

The Festival will be opened by the Russian premiere of *Futura*, **directors Pietro Marcello, Francesco Munzi, Alice Rohrwacher**. The Festival's competition and special programmes will be holding Russian and St. Petersburg premieres of the works by laureates and participants of film festivals in Cannes, Venice, *Berlinale*, *Sundance* and other screenings. Among them: *Bloodsuckers* (**directed by Julian Radlmaier**; Encounters Award at *Berlinale* 2021 and special jury prize at MIFF 2021), *City Hall* (**directed by Frederick Wiseman** ; Fair Play Cinema Award - Special Mention at the Venice Film Festival 2020), *Cryptozoo* (**directed by Dash Shaw**; Special Mention of the Generation 14 plus International Jury at *Berlinale* 2021; NEXT Innovator Award at *Sundance* 2021), *The Girl and the Spider* (**directors Ramon Zürcher, Silvan Zürcher**; Best Director Encounters Award and FIPRESCI Prize at *Berlinale* 2021), *What do we see when we look at the sky?* (**directed by Alexandre Koberidze**; FIPRESCI Prize *Berlinale* 2021) and others, as well as the most notable films by emerging Russian directors from the programmes of the Venice Film Festival (*Mom, I'm at Home* by **Vladimir Bitokov**, *Bypass Routes* by **Ekaterina Selenkina**), and the most important European festivals of experimental and documentary films *Sheffield / Doc* (*Summer*, directed by **Vadim Kostrov**) and *Fid Marseille* (*Ilyazd*, directed by **Stanislav Doroshenkov**).



*“The might of the debut film lies in the boldness of searching. Searching for new solutions, for the artists’ unique intonation, for an updated film language. Meeting these criteria remains a key selection principle for us. The programme this year has turned out to be very diverse. The winners of the Sundance, Berlinale, Rotterdam, and Venice film festivals are on equal terms with less visible, however, not less significant films. Our festival is organized according to the communicating vessels principle – the most diverse lines of cinematography are woven together to mutually enrich each other,”* says **Alexey Artamonov, the Programme Director of the Festival.**

This year's short film competition programme, curated by film critic **Andrei Kartashov**, includes 22 films. The audience can expect to see student works side by side with the films of experienced directors. For instance, **Laurinas Bareisa**, the author of *Dummy*, received the main prize of the *Horizons* programme at the Venice Film Festival this year for his feature debut *Pilgrims* while preparing for the festival. The programme also showcases works by the winners of short film contests at the Berlinale (*My Uncle Tudor*, **directed by Olga Lucovnicova**), Rotterdam (*Maat Means Land*, **directed by Fox Maxy**) and by participants in Cannes, Venice, Oberhausen, and other film festivals.

*“In this programme, we tried to showcase a range of methods – from drama and observational documentary to photography and collage cinema. The geographical diversity is also quite wide, and in the year of half-closed borders, these films also turn out to be a window into the story of the Diola people in Senegal, the nightlife of Colombian Medellin, and the life of a Zhukovsky town near Moscow,”* says **Andrey Kartashov, the curator of the International Short Film Competition.**

The screenings schedule of the II New Holland Island International Debut Film Festival is available on the website [nhifilmfest.com](http://nhifilmfest.com).

Festival President – **Alexander Rodnyansky**  
Program Director – **Alexey Artamonov**  
Short film competition curator – **Andrey Kartashov**

The Festival is organized by the New Holland: Cultural Urbanization project team.

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## JURY

This year, the jury panel of the Festival was joined by **Barbara Wurm**, a film critic, member of the *Berlinale*, *DOK Leipzig* and the *goEast* festival selection committees; **Adilkhan Yerzhanov**, a director and screenwriter, participant of Venice and Cannes film festivals, winner of the *Asia Pacific Screen Award*; and **Zara Abdullaeva**, an art and film critic, deputy editor-in-chief of the *Art* cinema magazine.

The films in the short film competition will be judged by **Vasily Koretsky**, a film critic, chief editor of the *Cinema* section at *Colta.ru*, senior editor of *KinoPoisk*; **Maya Schweitzer**, a director and video artist, participant of numerous international exhibitions and film festivals, and **Masha Godovannaya**, experimental director, artist and humanities researcher. The retrospectives of the works of abovementioned directors will be also screened at the Festival.

The Russian films in the competition programme will be judged by a national jury that includes **Dmitry Frolov**, a film researcher and curator of the Moscow International Experimental Film Festival (MIEFF); **Maria Ignatenko**, a screenwriter and director; and **Sergey Kornikhin**, a deputy general director and general producer of the *ivi.ru* online cinema.

## FESTIVAL AWARDS

### FEATURE FILM COMPETITION

Grand Prix – 15,000 €

Jury Prize — 10,000 €

### SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Three equivalent prizes of 5,000 €

## SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

Like last year, the Festival's special programmes put a special **emphasis on contemporary** Russian cinema, where the filmmakers are exploring new methods in art. These works can be seen in both competition and non-competition programmes. The Festival will show the following films: *The Farewell* by director **Genrikh Ignatov**, *Letters about the end of the world* by **Dina Karaman**, *27a* by director **Daria Likhovoi**, a retrospective of works by video artists **Anna Tsirlina** and **Sid Yandovka** will be held.

There is also a separate section devoted to documentary films that dissect the key problems of the global world. This year the section is built around the question "How do we live together?" The programme will present the following films: *Bottled Songs 1-4*, directed by **Chloe Galibert-Laine** and **Kevin B. Lee**, *The Great Empty*, directed by **Sebastian Metz**, *All Light, Everywhere*, directed by **Theo Anthony**, *City Hall* by **Frederick Wiseman**, *Who We Were* directed by **Marc Bauder**, *The Filmmaker's House* by **Marc Isaacs**, *Oeconomia* directed by **Carmen Losmann**.



A great deal of attention is paid to the most relevant genre of our time – horror.

The *Films from the Sinister Valley* special programme was put together by film critics **Maxim Seleznev** and **Marat Shabaev**. The programme will introduce viewers to the horror films of recent years. Among them you will see: *Tin Can*, **directed by Seth A. Smith**, *The Scary of Sixty-First*, **directed by Dasha Nekrasova**, *We're all Going to the World's Fair*, **directed by Jane Schoenbrun**, *Sleep has her House*, **directed by Scott Barley**; and *Murder Death Koreatown* by an unknown director.

*“Over the past decade, cinematic horror has experienced an incredible heyday. Horror, as a genre that is most sensitive to the manifestations of human anxiety, could not but respond to the new signals of the time, equally restless for political, social, and personal life. We have compiled a programme of the horror films of recent years that shoot for the bottom of our time. Some of the films from this programme were previously shown at festivals in Sitges, Berlin, Sundance, and some of them were surprisingly missed by the cinematic radars. These artworks tell about anxiety of sensing your own body, the disruption to the usual pace of life, the Internet’s darkest corners and swarming conspiracy theories,” say Maxim Seleznev and Marat Shabaev.*

## FESTIVAL VENUES

### **ASSEMBLY HALL AT HOUSE 12**

New Holland Island, entrance across from Admiralteysky Canal Embankment, 7

### **RODINA CINEMA CENTRE**

Karavannaya, 12