

Documentary Masterclass Proposal

“HOMEMADE DOCUMENTARY STORYTELLING”

Every documentary is, could or should be different than all the others - in content, but also in form. Against budget restraints and saturated markets, our best resource remains creative dramaturgy, one that combines bold authentic stories with stylistic innovation and empathic universality required by ever more demanding audiences. This lecture advocates an individualistic, homemade approach to storytelling.

Presented by Boris Mitić, a Serbian documentary filmmaker who previously worked for 5 years for Agence France-Presse (AFP), writing and selling Balkan stories to 10,000 media outlets worldwide. His 3 documentaries received 18 awards at 150+ festivals around the world, with broadcasts on over 20 TV channels.

Recommendations: Viktor Kossakovsky, Michael Glawogger, Jani Thiltges (EAVE), Mikael Opstrup (European Documentary Network), Peter Wintonick (IDFA Academy), Martichka Bozhilova (Balkan Documentary Center), Hana Rezkova (Institute of Documentary Film), Matthijs Woulters Knol (Berlinale Talent Campus), Asja Makarević (Sarajevo Talent Campus), Abir Hashem (Docudays Beirut), Chung Lixin (Taipei Film School), Diana Ingraham (Silverdocs Conference), Anna Gudkova (New Moscow Film School), Peteris Krilovs (Riga Film Academy), Yair Lev (Greenhouse/Sam Spiegel Film School), Stefano Tealdi (Documentary in Europe), Leena Pasanen (Finnagora), Noe Mendelle (Scottish Documentary Institute), Nick Higgins (University of Edinburgh), Christian Carmosino (University Roma 3), Aida Vallejo (University of Bilbao)

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Suggested outline:

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IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WAS THE WORD - Why quality writing leads to better, shorter, cheaper and smarter documentary filmmaking.

THE ROLES OF THE DOCUMENTARY WRITER – The multiple benefits of involving the writer in every single stage of production.

TOMORROW WAS YESTERDAY - An overview of outdated and overexploited documentary forms & ideas. New ways to innovatively match content and style. Historical, cultural, commercial and political analysis of recent successful documentaries.

SUFFER LOCALLY, SELL GLOBALLY – Advice on fine-tuning story angles and dramaturgy to make local films more internationally appealing, without compromising on authenticity.

LOCALLY UNIVERSAL vs GLOBALLY POPULISTIC - Tips on testing the relevance and marketability of local stories.

ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS - Mastering genre conventions and audience expectations in order to create new ones.

CATCH YOURSELF WHEN YOU FALL - Anticipating the unpredictable by devising flexible story structures capable of withstanding any reality twist.

(R) FOR RADICAL - How radical dramaturgical tests can lead to great creative achievements.

TOP 10 DOCUMENTARY BRAVOS – What makes quality documentaries stand out.

TOP 30 DOCUMENTARY PITFALLS – A checklist of docmaking criticisms to avoid.

BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL - Beyond political correctness, towards individualistic, post-ideological filmmaking.

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