

DOXS RUHR



REALITIES

Bochum - Dortmund - Essen - Gelsenkirchen - Moers



DOXS RUHR – Press Release Bochum, August 23, 2024

Festival Preview | October 28 – November 10, 2024

Resisting the Status Quo: Empowerment and Passion at DOXS RUHR N°12

The 12th edition of DOXS RUHR embraces rebellion and examines shifting realities. "With documentary creativity," says Festival Director Gudrun Sommer, "the festival counters the monotony and predictability of mainstream media. It explores dynamics of discrimination and socio-political upheavals, gives space to emancipatory utopias, and celebrates cinema beyond the mainstream."

The main program for students features films that delve into personal stories and global contexts, addressing issues of transnationalism, diversity, and the climate crisis. The evening program is once again curated by the young curators' network, kino.for you. Online offerings, the presentation of two film awards, and a think tank on children's documentary films in Europe are additional highlights.

The festival will showcase a total of 35 films across five venues in the Ruhr area, including two world premieres, seven German premieres, and two German festival premieres.

[Narratives Between Hope and Despair](#)

This year's opening film, *EVERYTHING IS TEMPORARY*, unexpectedly captures Swiss director Juliette Klink as a witness to dramatic events in Myanmar. During a visit to her partner in August 2020, she befriends 17-year-old Zu Zu, just before two extraordinary events radically change both of their lives. Following the pandemic and a military coup, nothing in Myanmar remains the same.

Dortmund, Schauburg

October 29, 2024 | 8:30 AM (German Premiere) & 9:10 AM

Escape from undemocratic conditions is the focus of *THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE FOREST* by director Szymon Ruczyński. This documentary animation portrays the harrowing situation at the Polish-Belarusian border. An intense entry in the new intergenerational competition, 'Grand Prix Ruhr.'

Bochum, Metropolis Filmtheater

October 31, 2024 | 5:30 PM (German Festival Premiere)

Self-Determination vs. Discrimination

This year, the kino.for.you network, which originated from the festival, expands its scope. RuhrTalente scholars will present a jointly curated program at the Schauburg Filmpalast in Gelsenkirchen. The new project *Mind The Gaps** highlights intergenerational debates and the Grand Prix Ruhr competition.

The event *Does The Dog Die?* in Gelsenkirchen focuses on intersectional representation critique and the film *HUNDEFREUND*. Experiences of discrimination among young BIPoCs and the LGBTQIA+ community in the Ruhr area will be discussed with New York-based director Maissa Lihedheb, who will join the film discussion with the Gelsenkirchen audience via Zoom.

Gelsenkirchen, Hier Ist Nicht Da

November 8, 2024 | 7:00 PM

Theo Montoya's documentary *ANHELL69* portrays the queer life of young adults in Colombia in the late 2010s. For the protagonists and the director's friends, the present is all that matters—there's little hope and even fewer certainties. The film's production itself reflects this harsh reality: the sudden death of the lead actor shattered plans for a feature film, resulting instead in a disturbing documentary of survival. A discussion with guests will follow the screening.

Bochum, Metropolis Filmtheater

October 29, 2024 | 7:00 PM

Transnational Relationships

While Europe struggles with democratic diversity, young people and families live and experience diversity daily—raising questions and conflicts that are reflected in the festival's films.

Nouf Aljowaysir's film *ANA MIN WEIN? | WHERE AM I FROM?* plays with the multiple realities of her identity. "Where are you from?" asks an AI voiceover. "I don't know," replies Nouf. Growing up in Saudi Arabia before emigrating to the U.S. at 13, she now uses AI to search for images of her past life, facing both visible and invisible obstacles.

Dortmund, Schauburg

October 29, 2024 | 10:30 AM (German Festival Premiere)

In *A MOVE*, Elahe Esmaili returns to Mashhad, Iran, to help her parents move. Unlike in England, where she now lives, women in her old homeland are expected to wear a hijab—even in her family. Can she resist without endangering herself or others? This autobiographical film tells the story of the courage to confront sensitive conflicts.

Bochum, Metropolis Filmtheater

October 31, 2024 | 5:30 PM

Films for Future

The climate crisis and the overuse of nature are central themes in the children's program.

PAULA UND DIE KÜHE (directed by Jörg Haaßengier, Jürgen Brügger, Tanja Reinhard) follows 13-year-old Paula as she works on her family's farm. While she finds respite from the dull city school life among the animals, the climate crisis looms even in the countryside.

Freddy from Hamburg also finds solace in nature, especially by the sea. *FREDDY – ICH TAUCHE NACH GEISTERNETZEN* by Bernadette Hauke follows his search for "ghost nets" in the Baltic Sea, in which fish and seals often get fatally trapped.

Dortmund, Schauburg

October 29, 2024 | 10:30 AM (,PAULA UND DIE KÜHE' World Premiere) & 1:15 PM

ECFA DOC Award & Grand Prix Ruhr

On October 31, the ECFA Documentary Award will be presented in Bochum for the third time. An international jury will select the winner from eight European films aimed at audiences aged 6 to 14. This award at DOXS RUHR also serves as a nomination for the ECFA DOC Award at the 2025 Berlinale. For the first time, the 'Grand Prix Ruhr' competition will honor documentaries that address socio-political debates. Supported by the Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation, the award includes a €500 prize and the option of being acquired for streaming distribution.

Press Contact

Gudrun Sommer, Stefan Schröer

kontakt@doxs-ruhr.de | kommunikation@doxs-ruhr.de

+49 234 966 42423