

N°13

FILMFESTIVAL FÜR JUNGES PUBLIKUM

27.10. –
9.11.2025

DOXS RUHR



FOR REAL:
FOR REAL

Bochum - Dortmund - Essen - Gelsenkirchen - Herdecke - Moers - Witten

DOXS RUHR – PRESS RELEASE

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Bochum, September 8th, 2025

CROSS-BORDER CARE.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 13TH DOXS RUHR FESTIVAL

DOXS RUHR, the festival for young audiences and documentary film, returns from 27 October to 9 November 2025 with its 13th edition. The Ruhr-wide festival expands to seven cities this year, introducing new venues in Witten and Herdecke. 31 films from around the world will be screened in 12 cinemas on 17 screens with a strong focus on migration, identity, resilience, and belonging.

Festival director Gudrun Sommer:

“National borders blur in our programme just as the city limits of the Ruhr area do. What moves young Europeans is happening in Iran, Ukraine, or on their smartphones. DOXS RUHR brings these stories to the big screen, offering an engaged and empowering counterpoint to the social media feed – with space for critique, humour, and self-care.”

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Opening Film – Essen: THREE ATTEMPTS AT GOYIFICATION (DE 2024 | 48'), Michaela Kobsa-Mark's humorous and serious exploration of cultural attributions and Jewish identity. In cooperation with the Old Synagogue Essen.

BÜRGLKOPF (AT 2025 | 78'): Lisa Polster documents life in an Austrian "return centre" where asylum seekers face isolation and stagnation.

WRITING HAWA (AF/FR/NL/QA 2024 | 84'): Journalist Najiba Noori and co-director Rasul Noori reflect on Afghan women's resistance following the Taliban takeover.

Youth Perspectives: From animated refugee stories (FABULA) to teenage war diaries (TEEN ANGST), to portraits of queer self-discovery (NINXS).

Innovative Children's Cinema: Martijn Blekendaal's THE INVISIBLE ONES (NL 2024 | 78') breaks documentary conventions with a playful essay on visibility, discrimination, and empowerment.

AWARDS & NEW INITIATIVES

The ECFA DOC Award for films aimed at children (6–14) returns, serving as a nomination for the Berlinale.

The new DOCracy Award, decided by a young adult jury, honours documentaries that inspire democratic dialogue.

BEYOND SCREENINGS

Cinema of Care: a two-day professional workshop for educators and mediators, exploring inclusive approaches to screenings and discussions.

International Partnerships: DOXS RUHR collaborates with Berlin's Arsenal cinema ("On Location"), and with IDFA in Amsterdam, launching the first Youth Doc Training for filmmakers from Germany, Belgium, Poland, and the Netherlands.

ACCREDITATION & CONTACT

Online registration and accreditation request: reservierung@doxs-ruhr.de

Full programme (in German only): doxs-ruhr.de/programm

DOXS RUHR is organised by Freund*innen der Realität e.V. and supported by the Ministry of Culture and Science of NRW, the LWL Cultural Foundation, RVR, and numerous partners in Germany and abroad.

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