

## PRESS RELEASE

The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL LUGANO is going to take place from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2022

**First announced films:**

**The MYANMAR DIARIES** Swiss premiere, by The Myanmar Film Collective and **KLONDIKE**, by Ukrainian director Maryna El Gorbach.

**Among the news, a project in collaboration with ADER/S (Association for the Development of Renewable Energy Solutions, Sahara/Solar/Solidarity): a movie will be created by bringing together two film academies, CISA (International Academy of Audiovisual Sciences) and Escuela de Formación Audiovisual Abidin Kaid Saleh**

Five days of festival, more than 20 films and in-depth discussions with local and international guests, foundations, NGOs, witnesses and authors in order to engage and raise awareness about the violation and regaining of Human Rights.

**This will be the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Human Rights Film Festival and it will take place in Lugano from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October.**

**Thanks to the artistic strength of the movies and the intense debates**, the Human Rights Film Festival Lugano (FFDUL) **confirms once again its role as a privileged place for reflection, exchange and discussion on human rights**, particularly in light of what happens in the world, where violations and disparities are increasingly present.

The festival will take place once again in the very heart of Lugano: for the most part in the historical movie theatre **Cinema Corso**, whilst **Cinema Iride** will be used as an additional screening room.

Over the years, the involvement of **students** and young people has proven to be one of the most meaningful and intense aspects of our festival. As such, it remains one of our main goals, with film screenings organised especially for the schools of Canton Ticino.

### **The themes**

There are many themes discussed in this new edition of the FFDUL. As a festival, it also aims to shed light upon little-known or sadly forgotten realities, but also upon those human rights which are violated in our daily lives, even if perhaps in a less obvious manner.

For years, the festival has been following the situation in the former Soviet Union area, the conflict in east Ukraine and also the authoritarian tendencies of those governments under Russian influence. In this year's edition, the FFDUL will pay particular attention to this region and to the war in **Ukraine** through the work of many directors who, in recent years, have been narrating these territories and the events which have led to the situation we are living in today.

Among the news of this 9<sup>th</sup> edition, we're pleased to announce that through our consolidated collaboration with **ADER/S** (Association for the Development of Renewable Energy Solutions, Sahara/Solar/Solidarity) a new project will involve **CISA** (International Academy of Audiovisual Sciences, based in Locarno), the **Escuela de Formación Audiovisual Abidin Kaid Saleh** based in the Saharawi refugee camps of Tindouff (Algeria) and the **Festival internacional de cine Sahara** located in Madrid (FISAHARA).

The **project will allow the exchange of ideas between students**, whilst also bringing closer two different realities in terms of life and history. **The creation of a film for a student from CISA as a graduation project will be one of the outcomes of this project. The movie, which will be shot in refugee camps**, will also involve students from the Saharawi school in Ticino.

This project is also supported by the **Swiss Committees for the Support of the Western Sahara Population** and by the **Geneva Support Group for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Western Sahara**.

### First announced films

Amongst the first films on the FFDUL 2022 programme we announce:

- the **Swiss premiere** of the important documentary **MYANMAR DIARIES** (by The Myanmar Film Collective | Myanmar, Netherlands, Norway | 2022), a movie made by a collective of young Burmese directors which won the award for best documentary at the Berlinale this year. An urgent film in a time when Myanmar has almost disappeared from the news headlines around the world.
- **KLONDIKE**, a movie by Ukraine film director Maryna El Gorbach (Ukraine, Turkey | 2022). A Film which narrates the story of a family in the Donetsk region. It has received many important awards including the World Dramatic Directing Award at the Sundance Film Festival and the second prize of the Panorama Audience Award at the Berlinale 2022.

(the synopses of both movies are attached to this press release)

### The Festival and its collaborations

The festival 2022 will be once again directed by **Antonio Prata** and presided by **Roberto Pomari**. Whilst being strongly supported by the Human Rights Foundation of Lugano, the FFDUL also renews its collaborations with associations and NGOs including **Amnesty International** and **Doctors Without Borders**.

Moreover, the Human Rights Film Festival Lugano constituted in 2015 the **national network of Film Festivals and Forum on Human Rights**, together with the Geneva FIFDH and the Human Rights Film Festival Zurich. Abroad, the FFDUL collaborates with the Human Rights Festival Milan.

### How to support the Festival

The Human Rights Film Festival Lugano is a **non-profit** cultural event and to see the light, its production has to be wielded by a strong will due the increasing costs. We strongly believe in the value of this project and we **sincerely thank** every contribution that the audience will choose to offer. Every donation is fundamental for the realisation of the festival.

All information at: [www.festivaldirittiumani.ch/sostienici](http://www.festivaldirittiumani.ch/sostienici)

Lugano, 10th August 2022

**PHOTO Archive of the Human Rights Film Festival Lugano [www.festivaldirittiumani.ch/galleria](http://www.festivaldirittiumani.ch/galleria)**

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Film Festival Diritti Umani Lugano

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**SYNOPSIS ANNOUNCED IN THIS PRESS RELEASE**

**MYANMAR DIARIES**

**The Myanmar Film Collective | Documentary | Myanmar, Netherlands, Norway | 2022 | 70 minutes**

MYANMAR DIARIES is built up of short films by ten young anonymous Burmese filmmakers, combined with emotionally harrowing citizen journalism documenting the junta's brutality, as well as courageous resistance to it.

The film shows how Myanmar goes from the military coup to nation-wide protests and civil

disobedience, to barbaric repression where thousands of peaceful protesters are imprisoned and murdered, to a growing popular armed revolt against this monstrous military junta.

Moving organically back and forth between documentary and fiction, the film offers a seamless flow in which the filmmakers find innovative creative ways to keep their protagonists anonymous.

Best documentary at the Berlinale 2022 and awarded by numerous other festivals like the Human Rights Watch Film Festival London

## **KLONDIKE**

**By Maryna Er Gorbach | drama | Ukraine, Turkey | 2022 | 100 minutes**

July 2014. Expectant parents Irka and Tolik live in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine near the Russian border, disputed territory in the early days of the Donbas war. Their nervous anticipation of their first child's birth is violently disrupted as the vicinal crash of flight MH17 elevates the forbidding tension enveloping their village. The looming wreckage of the downed airliner and an incoming parade of mourners emphasize the surreal trauma of the moment.

Winner of World Dramatic award at the Sundance Film Festival, Klondike was also awarded at the Berlinale and at the Festival International de Films Fribourg.