



PRESS RELEASE 4

Ljubljana, 30 March 2021

23rd Documentary Film Festival – DFF
24–31 March 2021
This year on www.fdf.si

The 23rd Documentary Film Festival (DFF)ž, organized by Cankarjev dom for the 23rd consecutive year, has recorded c. 1500 views.

Twenty full-length and four short films were accessible via the Cinesquare.net platform as a video-on-demand service for the Slovenian area (Slovenian IP address).

All 23rd DFF films are still available on demand until midnight 31 March 2021.

Due to popular demand the films *The Case You* and *Petite fille*, winner of the 23rd DFF's Best Human Rights Film Award, will screen after the festival on Cankarjev dom's website, direct access from CD's online shop vstopnice.cd-cc.si. The films will be accessible on demand between 00.01 April 1 and 23.59 April 4. Price of a film access code: EUR 6.50

Please note: Access to films will be available directly from Cankarjev dom's website (direct access from CD's online shop vstopnice.cd-cc.si) and not on Cinesquare.net.

23rd Documentary Film Festival Awards Ceremony

WED, 31 March, at 19.30

The 23rd Documentary Film Festival – DFF – is concluding on Wednesday, 31 March. At the 23rd DFF's virtual closing ceremony an international jury consisting of Nataša Bučar, Dragan Barbutovski and Nivyabandi Ketty will present the Amnesty International Slovenia Best Human Rights Film Award.

The closing ceremony **will stream on www.fdf.si, DFF's Facebook page and [Cankarjev dom's YouTube Channel](#).**

Winner of the Amnesty International Slovenia Award

The international jury consisting of Nataša Bučar, Dragan Barbutovski and Ketty Nivyabandi bestowed the Amnesty International Slovenia Award to *Petite fille* by Sébastien Lifshitz.

Petite fille

By: Sébastien Lifshitz

France, Denmark, 2020

Jury statement

The documentary by Sébastien Lifshitz is a sensitive and in-depth study of the distress of a transgender person struggling with a sense of conflict between her biological sex and the gender she identifies with. The distress is all the more frightful because of the fact that the person in question is an eight-year-old child, a little girl dealing with violent social rejection in order for her otherness to be accepted. Fortunately, the girl has the support of her family, primarily her fighter mother – who overcomes her own doubts to put her daughter's happiness first. Featuring excellent photography, the film paints a very moving portrait of a little girl; fully utilizing the camera's sensitivity to observe her playing children's games and in dance classes, while giving voice to her mother who slowly reveals the everyday realities associated with whether or not her child has the right to be happy.

The film has deeply touched us, its strong message has pierced our hearts. It thus merits recognition as the winner of this year's Amnesty International Best Human Rights Film Award.

Special Mention

The Special Mention goes to ***The Case You*** by Alison Kuhn.

The Case You

By: Alison Kuhn

Germany, 2020

Jury statement

The film focuses on five actresses at the beginning of their careers sharing their experience of abuse and manipulation suffered during the auditions for the film. Young German director Alison Kuhn places them in the safe setting of a theatre stage where the telling of their personal stories and experiences mixes with anger and a determination to break through the toxic environment of film, theatre and television castings where many things are permitted under the guise of art. It is an important cinematic work that takes a behind-the-scenes look at filmmaking, a world that is often far from romantic and professional.

The jury awards the Special Mention not only to the film, but also to all the Slovenian actresses who have recently bravely spoken about their experience of abuse in the vulnerable milieu of artistic creation.

Talk with the director: <https://www.fdf.si/index.php/sl/program/filmi-a-z>

International jury

Amnesty International Slovenia Best Human Rights Film Award (Competition Section)

Nataša Bučar has been Director of the Slovenian Film Centre (SFC) since 2016. She has extensive experience in the film industry and has been working in this area for over 20 years. She began her career in the industry as project manager of the Ljubljana International Film Festival, Slovenia's largest international film festival. While working for the cultural and congress centre Cankarjev dom for a decade, she was involved in film distribution and the organization and implementation of the Documentary Film Festival. In 2008, she obtained a Young Film Manager licence within the framework of the international association CICAÉ. She gained experience in film also as the Director of the Slovenian Film Festival, Assistant Director of the Slovenian Film Fund and as Director General of the Media Directorate at the Ministry of Culture. Later, as a film marketing expert, she collaborated with the arthouse cinema Kinodvor in Ljubljana. In 2016 she was appointed Director of the Slovenian Film Centre, the country's central film institution. As the director of SFC, she helps set and lead the policies in the field of film development and film culture in Slovenia. Since 2017, she has been a member of EFAD, the Association of Directors of European Film Agencies, and has participated in two expert groups of the European Commission for the audio-visual fields, namely in the areas of European film circulation and European co-productions.

Dragan Barbutovski currently embodies two key characteristics relevant to this year's Documentary Film Festival: he is one of the first members of Amnesty International Slovenia and the Director of the British Council in Slovenia.

A political science student in the early 90s, he joined the first AI group in the so-called East which has left an indelible mark on him. An activist with a focus on values and justice, he tackles all his professional projects in a similar manner. For more than three decades, he has been an active member of the society, an activist, journalist, editor, spokesman, communicator, political consultant, analyst and founder of think tanks and start-ups. He has been active in Slovenia, the United Kingdom, Brussels, Kosovo and Georgia.

Dragan is a big fan of stories. Sometimes he becomes a storyteller himself, performing the role of a communicator, sometimes as a spectator he merely monitors, analyses and thinks about other people's stories. His thoughts always spring from the 'big-picture' point of view. While living and working in Kosovo, he became a big fan of documentaries – at the Dokufest in Prizren, within the space of four years, he saw dozens of outstanding documentaries from around the world.

Ketty Nivyabandi joined Amnesty International Canada (English Section) as Secretary General in October 2020. She is the primary spokesperson for the Branch, is responsible for the development and delivery of Amnesty International's human rights work in Canada and shares senior leadership with the Executive Director. A global human rights activist and advocate, Ketty holds in-depth and lived expertise on refugee issues and the intersections of gender, race, democracy, and human rights. Prior to seeking asylum in Canada in 2015, she faced police violence as a leading organizer of women's peaceful protests for democratic change in her country, Burundi. In her previous roles, Ketty has led research and advocacy to support global women peace activists in several conflict and post conflict countries, including Syria, Yemen, South Sudan, Myanmar and Guatemala. As a communications strategist, she has extensive experience working with activists to amplify their voices through international media and shape public policy. Her work is rooted in peoplepower, public accountability, and a feminist, decolonial approach to human rights. Ketty studied International Relations, is a former journalist and a published poet.

Founder and main co-funder of Cankarjev dom's Arts & Culture programme



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The DFF press kit, including film stills and jury photos, is available [here](#).

Additional information Janina Pintar T (01) 2417 146 E janina.pintar@cd-cc.si