

Press Release 1.12.2020

### **A glimpse into DocPoint's 20th anniversary edition's festival programme**

**After starting the year with record breaking visitor numbers, DocPoint -Helsinki's documentary film festival is gearing up for its next edition on 29.1-7.2.2021, whilst strictly adhering to Corona safety regulations. The preparations for Finland's one and only documentary festival's anniversary edition are well underway. In addition to national and international competitions series, new features include online screenings, which will enable viewers from all over Finland to take part and watch a film or two. The online screening will also make watching documentaries a possibility during any and all potential Corona restrictions.**

Having grown into a ten-day event, the festival's programme will include the most talked-about and praised documentary films, as well as a few rarer gems too. One of the main themes of the 2021 festival is diversity. The anniversary edition will see both cinema screening, whilst strictly adhering to corona safety regulations, alongside a wide selection of online offerings. Director interviews and additional festival snippets will also be made available on the DocPoint festival website.

DocPoint's international programme contains several thematic ensembles. For example Africa is spotlighted through five new African films which let us glimpse the continent through the lenses of African filmmakers. In addition to the Finnish and international competition series, and other topical documentaries, DocPoint will also host a selection of the creative directors' all time favourite films, as well as thematic discussions and masterclass events. The programme will be released in its entirety on 7.1.2021, but below are a few sneak peeks of what's in store among DocPoint's international offerings.

*Gorbachev. Heaven* is a unique look into the life and thoughts of the Soviet Union's last president, Mikhail Gorbachev. Having forged a long career behind him and won numerous awards, Russian documentarian Vitaly Mansky's *Gorbachev. Heaven* is based on conversations with the now 89-year old Gorbachev, who delves into both his own past as well as his nation's history. The film is an intimate and melancholy look into the loneliness of a once great leader. Mansky filmed his documentary in both Gorbachev's own home and a state-run hospital, where Gorbachev resided after his health took a turn. *Gorbachev. Heaven* is a film fresh off the press, as filming for the documentary continued right up until a New Year's Eve party in 2020. Watch the trailer [here](#).

Ukrainian director Iryna Tsilyk's *The Earth is Blue as an Orange* is another film which has reaped festival awards, including one for Best Directing at Sundance earlier this year. The beautifully filmed documentary chronicles the story of a single mother and her four children as they go about their life in an embattled Ukraine. The documentary blends the everyday life of the family in the midst of bombings, with scenes set up by the family's eldest daughter who dreams of becoming a director. You can watch the trailer [here](#).

In a collaboration with Docventures, DocPoint is hosting the Finnish premiere of *I Am Greta*, a profound look into the life of climate activist Greta Thunberg. For almost two years, Swedish documentarian Nathan Grossman closely followed Greta's life, and put to film the exceptionally brave young woman's fight for climate change, her encounters with world leaders, and her own stories in between. Following the film's world premiere at Venice's film festival earlier this year, DocPoint and Yle will present the film simultaneously during DocPoint's festival. Watch the film's trailer [here](#).

The DocPoint festival's cinemas are Bio Rex, Kinopalatsi, Kino Regina, Cinema Orion, and the Savoy Theatre. The festival programme will be announced, and ticket sales will begin on 7.1.2021.

The traditional printed festival magazine will be replaced with an online Festarilehti-named publication which will be published on 1.12.2020. Festarilehti will dive into the programme and building of the festival through interviews with folks behind the festival scenes. Fan-favourite Christmas gift tickets will go on sale in December. The DocPoint festival will be safely organised in accordance with the corona regulations at the time of the festival, and we will update any and all corona-related instructions on our webpages.

**Media images:** <https://bit.ly/2VaQBsx>

**For more information, images, or interview requests:**

Publicist Nora Norrlin, [press@docpoint.info](mailto:press@docpoint.info)

puh. 040 846 0116 docpointfestival.fi #docpoint2021

[www.docpointfestival.fi](http://www.docpointfestival.fi)