

Sharpen your perspective – The 16th Verzio Film Festival is coming soon

Between November 12th and 17th, Verzio Film Festival invites you on an amazing trip around the world via the finest human rights documentaries, which will be shown in Budapest, Debrecen, Kecskemét, Pécs, Szeged, and Szombathely. The festival offers three thematic sections that put the state of media, the life of young people, and the Anthropocene age in the limelight.

Sections

In addition to the **Human Rights Competition, Student and Debut Competition,** and **Hungarian Panorama,** the 16th Verzio brings three new topics into focus.

The hottest topic of our time is how human industrial and agricultural activity has transformed the surface of earth—an issue closely interwoven with the climate crisis. While vast areas are increasingly turned into bleak landscapes, a global movement of civilians, along with a handful of locals, are striving to stop the havoc and perpetuation of monoculture while confronting corporations with their poisonous activities. The **Anthropocene** section is designed to display not only devastation, but also sustainable and chemical-free farming, as well as fair trade companies running on the free market.

The **Media the 4th Power** section examines the limits of the freedom of the press, the work of investigative journalists, alongside the reality of corruption and fake news. We take a glance at (in)famous newspaper offices: Novaya Gazeta, mourning their journalists who were murdered on political grounds; the tabloid Ekstra Blade; and the international online collective, Bellingcat. At times the investigative quest for truth does not fall short of the thrills of an action movie as the fierce battle to seduce and acquire more readers raises ethical questions.

The **Growing Up** section looks at the points of view of children and teenagers, and examines what influences them. We get to know a 7-year-old Siberian boy with a particularly inquisitive mind, an African teen raised Buddhist, and neglected Moldavian, Georgian and American youth under ever-growing political, religious, parental, and not least of all, social media pressures.

The 16th Verzio Human Rights Documentary Film Festival also presents its first **VR section**. Within **VR Vector**, several virtual reality productions will be shown to the public, enhanced with 360-degree videos, interactive documentaries, and even artistic or site-specific experiences.

The **Hommage** section pays tribute to the life achievements of Agnès Varda and Jonas Mekas. A long-lost but recently restored montage film by the pioneer Dziga Vertov will be presented for the very first time in Hungary. And the **Lithuanian lyrical documentaries** movement of the 1960s to 1990s will be unveiled in a selection of ten films.

In cooperation with the CEU Visual Studies Platform, **Verzio DocLab**, an intensive, four-day long workshop, will help beginners as well as experienced filmmakers further

develop their human rights' films with an international team of professionals. Furthermore, **Student Verzio** aims at providing free, pre-organized screenings and discussions for secondary school students on weekday mornings.

Venues

As in previous years, the 16th Verzio will take place at Toldi Cinema, Művész Cinema, Kino Café Cinema, Blinken OSA Archives, Central European University, the Empathy Café, and last but not least, Trafó House of Contemporary Arts, where the festival opens. Screenings are followed by discussions with directors, human rights' activists and experts.

16th VERZIO HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL.

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www.verzio.org

Budapest – November 12–17

Debrecen, Kecskemét, Pécs, Szeged, Szombathely – November 21–24

The 16th Verzio Human Rights Documentary Film Festival is supported by the Creative Europe Program of the European Union.