

14TH VERZIO

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

This is the **14th edition of the Verzio International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival**, which takes place November 14th-19th in Budapest. In this year's program, **100 documentaries from 44 countries** have been chosen by the selection committee that strive to make a difference by confronting us with the human dimension of contemporary political, social, economic, and environmental crises, and by exploring the new types of solidarity that have emerged in response.

This year the films are competing in three categories. The members of the **international jury** will decide the winner of the ZOOM IN student film category. The student jury will choose the winner of the international program, and the audience's favorite will be honored with the **audience award**.

The main pillars of our program — **International Panorama, Hungarian Panorama, and Student Competition** — feature a rich palette of films that demonstrate state-of-the-art documentary film production. With the support of the Visegrad Fund, Verzio FF joins forces with Cine-Doc Tbilisi, Watch Docs Poland, One World Prague, and DocuDays UA to explore the impact of documentary films through masterclasses and roundtable discussions on best practices of film as a tool for raising awareness and inspiring change.

"War and Peace 2.0: The Refugees' Perspectives", prepared with **UNHCR support** and accompanied by debates organized in cooperation with the **Hungarian Helsinki Committee**, provides insight on the lived experience of war and its aftermath in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Congo, and other parts of the world.

"Your Own City" explores the many faces of the housing problem — an issue of relevance for everyone. Our **retrospective** this year is organized in cooperation with the Riga Film Museum (Latvia) and features a selection of rarely-seen films from the **Riga Poetic Documentary School** of the 1960-70s. Another thematic program, **"Photofilm: Sampling the Archive"**, is an investigation of the complex relationship between the still and moving image.

This year's program has been prepared in cooperation with numerous partner organizations – festivals, advocacy agencies, human rights NGOs, and educational institutions. This cooperation, our most expansive yet, has allowed us to put together Verzio's largest program to date; the 100 films in our program testify to the solidarity of people and organizations from 44 countries who believe that documentary film can open eyes and hearts, and enhance our critical thinking.

In the spirit of critical thought and freedom of opinion, **Student Verzio** (Diák Verzió) invites high school students to free film screenings and discussions. This year there are seven contemporary documentaries to choose from with themes of: child laborers who want nothing more than to attend school; a refugee teen who wants a secure future for her family; a boy with the heart of a girl; the emotional life of teens with Down syndrome; the public media of community tourism; food waste in Europe; and the future of crime prevention.

Screenings are followed by **Q&As** with directors, human rights activists and experts. At the festival headquarters, Toldi Mozi, the last screenings are followed by **concerts and DJ sets**.

Spectrum of Communism, a conference, will be held at Blinken OSA Archive November 16-17.

The Verzio Program has been organized by Blinken OSA Archive and the non-profit Verzio Film Foundation since 2004.

The venues of this year's festival include the Toldi, Művész and Kino Café movie theaters, as well as the Blinken OSA Archive and CEU. This year also marks a new partnership with Trafó, which is providing a space for the festival's masterclasses. The [Apolló Theater](#) in **Pécs** and the [Grand Café Mozi Theater](#) in **Szeged** will also screen a selection of the program.

The [full program](#) of the festival and more [information](#) about the [tickets](#) and festival passes are online at the [website](#).

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Budapest / **November 14-19, 2017**

Toldi, Művész, Kino Café, Blinken OSA Archive, CEU, Trafó

Pécs, Szeged / **November 23-25, 2017**

Press officer: **Orsolya Parádi**

Email: orsolya.paradi@verzio.org