



Creative documentary workshop



ICE AND
FIRE
DOCS

Ice and Fire Docs is a documentary workshop for Estonian and Finnish documentary filmmakers with international ambitions. Throughout the three-part workshop, the participants will work with different aspects of developing, producing, financing and distributing a feature-length documentary film. Estonian and Finnish filmmakers are welcome to apply with a film project that is in development or in production. The film project must have a producer and production company attached, but does not need to have secured any funding yet, although it is considered as an advantage in the selection process.




FOCUS:

- ▶ to develop the director's artistic vision, clearly recognisable visual language, and style
- ▶ to discuss the different techniques in telling a story and analyse character development, narrative structure, rhythm and editing
- ▶ to prepare the teams for presenting their film ideas and give advice on finding international co-producers
- ▶ to formulate a possible marketing and distribution strategy for an international audience

TIMELINE:

- January 17, 2025:**
Announcing the call for projects.
- February 10, 2025:**
Submission deadline for the projects.
- February 17, 2025:**
Announcing the selected projects.
- March 12–14, 2025: [Session 1 / 3 days.](#)**
Focus: storytelling, narrative, dramaturgy.
- May 14–16, 2025: [Session 2 / 3 days.](#)**
Focus: visual language, cinematography.
- September 2025: [Session 3 / 2 days.](#)**
Focus: distribution, marketing, packaging.

*The organiser has the right to change the dates upon need.



FORMAT:

The workshop includes group sessions, one-on-one meetings, private consultations and lectures for selected participants, and masterclasses that are open to the public (for film industry and students). The workshop is for feature-length documentaries and does not include documentary series. The working language of the workshop is English.

PARTICIPANTS:

6-7 project teams from Estonia and Finland, each consisting of 2-3 persons. **The director and producer must participate in all three sessions.** They can be accompanied by co-author, screenwriter, editor, or cinematographer (depending on the topic of the session).

OBSERVERS:

2 observers from Estonia and 2 from Finland can be part of the workshop without a film project.

TUTORS:

The workshop's creative director is the acclaimed tutor **Mikael Opstrup**. He will be accompanied by director and producer **Diana El Jeiroudi**, editor **Anne Fabini**, director and producer **Salomé Jashi**, director and cinematographer **Wojciech Staroń**.

LOCATIONS:

Sessions 1 and 3 of the workshop will take place in locations near Tallinn, Estonia. Session 2 will take place in Finland, outside the metropolitan region.

PARTICIPATION COSTS:

Participation fee, accommodation and catering are covered by the organisers. Participants and observers cover their travelling and transportation costs to the workshop locations in Estonia and Finland. Please note, for the time being, it is not possible to apply for support from AVEK or the Finnish Film Foundation for travel costs for the Finnish participants.

ORGANISERS:

Ice and Fire Docs took place for the first time in 2019. It was initiated by the Estonian Documentary Guild and the Estonian Film Institute, and is now being organised in close cooperation with the Finnish Documentary Guild. The workshop is funded by the Estonian Film Institute, Cultural Endowment of Estonia, the Promotion Centre for Audiovisual Culture in Finland (AVEK) and Finnish Film Foundation.

Heilika Pikkov

Estonian Documentary Guild
heilika@silmviburlane.ee

Kristiina Iilane

Estonian Documentary Guild
iafd@dokfilm.ee

Sanna Kultanen

Finnish Documentary Guild
info@dokumenttikilta.fi

Viola Salu

Documentary Film Commissioner
Estonian Film Institute
viola@filmi.ee

APPLY:

To apply for the workshop, please send the following materials by **February 10, 2025** to iafd@dokfilm.ee

PARTICIPANTS:

- ▶ **General data of the film** (title, length, genre etc)
- ▶ **Stage of the project and expected date of release**
- ▶ **Logline**
- ▶ **Synopsis** (½ page)
- ▶ **Treatment** (2 pages)
- ▶ **Short biography/filmography of the director and producer**
- ▶ **Motivation letter** (1 page):
 - Why would you like to take part in the workshop?*
 - What kind of support do you need for the project in its current stage?*
 - Have you attended or are planning to attend any other documentary workshop with this film project?*
 - How will you benefit from participating in Ice and Fire Docs?*
- ▶ **List of film team members** who are committed to attend all three sessions of the workshop
- ▶ **Visual material** (trailer or selected scenes up to 10 minutes)
- ▶ **Total sum of the budget and financing plan** (incl. financing that is confirmed and that has to be applied for)

OBSERVERS:

- ▶ **Short biography/filmography**
- ▶ **Motivation letter** (1 page):
 - Why would you like to take part in the workshop?*
 - How will you benefit from participating in Ice and Fire Docs?*

PLEASE SEND THE MATERIALS AS A SINGLE PDF FILE, IN ENGLISH.

CONTACT:

iafd@dokfilm.ee

FB: Ice and Fire Docs

dokfilm.ee/ice-and-fire-docs-est

dokumenttikilta.fi/fi/ice-and-fire-docs

ICE AND
FIRE
DOCS

TESTIMONIALS:

Hard to Break

2024, Polygraf, Finland

Screened at CPH:DOX, IDFA and Nordisk Panorama

Directors: Anna-Maija Heinonen and Krista Moisio

Producer: Oskar Forstén



Participating in the Ice and Fire Docs workshop was one of the defining moments in our film development process. It encouraged us to focus on the intimate emotions of our characters rather than be seduced by the chaotic and sometimes bizarre environment they inhabited in their real lives and on social media. That simple shift in focus helped us uncover the deeper story beneath all the noise. As first-time filmmakers, we deeply valued the support and insight from the group, Mikael Opstrup and Jesper Osmund, the tutors of Ice and Fire Docs, as well as Gitte Hansen's invaluable guidance on effectively communicating our vision to financiers.



Torn

2024, Missing Pictures - Rühm Pluss Null, Estonia

Screened at Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival

Director: Kullar Viimne

Producer: Erik Norkroos



When participating in the Ice and Fire Docs workshop, both the tutors and the other participants were equally helpful in developing the project. The most valuable were the well-directed questions. Finding answers to these questions certainly accelerated the process of making the film. The international dimension of the workshop was no less important. It was good to test spontaneous ideas and get valuable feedback on them right away. It was very interesting and necessary to hear how film people from neighbouring countries see each other's projects. What is noticed, what is understood and how, what is considered important and what is unimportant. After all, we make films for the viewer! In addition, the workshop helped the film to be noticed by industry at a very early stage.