



IDFA Bertha Fund announces renewed partnership with Bertha Foundation through 2021

Amsterdam, Thursday, November 8 2018

The IDFA Bertha Fund is delighted to announce that its partnership with the Bertha Foundation has been renewed for a period of three years: 2019-2021. The IDFA Bertha Fund and Bertha Foundation have collaborated on creating a more inclusive documentary industry since 2013. Together, these two organizations support the creation of documentary films and projects in regions where artistic freedom is at stake. To date, this partnership has resulted in numerous award-winning documentary films. Bertha will be investing 1.2 million Euros into the fund over the next three years.

Since the launch of the IDFA Bertha Fund in 2013, documentary films supported by the Fund have regularly picked up international awards. *Last Men in Aleppo* won the World Documentary Grand Jury Prize at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival and was nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the 90th Academy Awards; *Sonita* received the VPRO Audience Award at IDFA 2016 and the World Documentary Grand Jury Prize at Sundance in 2016; *Return to Homs* opened IDFA in 2013 and won the World Documentary Grand Jury Prize at Sundance in 2014. The internationally acclaimed films supported by the IDFA Bertha Fund also include *Amal*; *The Grown-Ups*; *Machines*; *Of Fathers and Sons* and *Plastic China*.

During the coming three-year period, the IDFA Bertha Fund will continue to support filmmakers and projects in regions where the protection of artistic expression is paramount. The Fund's area of operational focus continues to be countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and parts of Eastern Europe.

Rebecca Lichtenfeld, Director of Social Impact Media at the Bertha Foundation, states:

It is an honor to announce that, after six years of partnership, Bertha Foundation is recommitting its support to the IDFA Bertha Fund through 2021, continuing its work creating a more inclusive documentary industry.

The Bertha Foundation sees the enormous opportunity in offering perspectives outside of mainstream media, stimulating the growth of local documentary industries and telling universal stories that can be used to understand the world around us.

Since the start of the partnership between IDFA and Bertha Foundation in 2013, Bertha has helped fund 166 documentary projects from 80 countries, 74 of which have been completed.

10 films realized with support from the IDFA Bertha Fund made it into the official festival selection of IDFA 2018, which takes place from November 14 to 25 in Amsterdam. Of these, five were realized with support from IBF Europe, including IDFA 2018's opening film *Kabul, City in the Wind*. The full IDFA Bertha Fund Harvest 2018 can be seen [online](#).

IDFA Bertha Fund is supported by Bertha Foundation and Creative Europe Media.

– End press release –

Editors' Notes

Press

For more information, please visit www.idfa.nl/en/info/press or contact our press office:

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About IDFA Bertha Fund

The IDFA Bertha Fund is designed to stimulate and empower the creative documentary sector in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East and parts of Eastern Europe by supporting innovative documentary projects by talented filmmakers from these regions. The Fund provides development, production and distribution grants through two funding schemes. Filmmakers from and living in the abovementioned regions can apply for IBF Classic funding. European co-producers of documentaries from these regions can apply for the IBF Europe – International Co-production grant, a grant launched in 2015 during the first five-year period of collaboration between the IDFA Bertha Fund and the Bertha Foundation.

In addition to financing, the Fund offers filmmakers tailor-made consultancies and training programs to support them in their creative and production processes. Additionally, filmmakers are invited to participate in the different industry events IDFA has to offer and broaden their international networks and knowledge of the documentary industry.

About Bertha Foundation

Bertha Foundation fights for a more just world. We support activists, storytellers and lawyers who are working to bring about social and economic justice and human rights for all.

www.berthafoundation.org

About IDFA

IDFA (International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam) offers an independent, inspiring meeting place where audiences and professionals can see a diverse, high-quality program. The diverse nature of the event applies to the form and content of the films as well as to the cultural backgrounds of the filmmakers. IDFA offers an alternative to mass entertainment and uniformity, confirming that there is an increasing need among audiences for high-quality films that delve deep and urge us to reflect. Since 2007, the festival's New Media program IDFA DocLab has been showcasing the best interactive non-fiction storytelling and exploring how the digital revolution is reshaping documentary art.

In addition to the festival, IDFA has developed several professional activities, contributing to the development of filmmakers and their films at all stages. At the co-financing and co-production market IDFA Forum, filmmakers and producers pitch their plans to financiers; at Docs for Sale new documentaries are on offer to programmers and distributors; the IDFA Bertha Fund supports filmmakers and documentary projects in developing countries and the IDFAcademy offers an international training program for up-and-coming documentary talent.

IDFA 2018 takes place November 14-25 in various locations in Amsterdam.