



## Minister Kaag opens 31<sup>st</sup> IDFA in Carré

Amsterdam, Wednesday, November 14 2018

The 31st International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) has officially been opened tonight by Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Sigrid Kaag in Koninklijk Theater Carré with Aboozar Amini's film *Kabul, City in the Wind*.

This is the first festival under new artistic director Orwa Nyrabia, who in his opening speech referred to the inestimable importance of artistic authenticity, pluralism and dialogue.

The festival, which takes place at several venues around Amsterdam, runs until 25 November. The winners of the various competitions will be announced on Wednesday, 21 November.

### Opening speeches by Minister Kaag and Orwa Nyrabia

Ahead of the screening of the opening film, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Sigrid Kaag gave a speech in which she spoke about the importance of filmmakers and film programmers who are able to transmit and depict the ideas, images and emotions of others. Creative documentaries can make us reflect, see and experience in such a way that we, as audiences, are prepared to stand up for others and build better societies with more democracy, more openness and more humanity.

Orwa Nyrabia, who has taken over as artistic director for IDFA 2018, then talked in his opening speech about the focus devoted to inclusivity within the festival. According to Nyrabia, this is something that lies at the heart of IDFA: a deeply rooted belief in the value of artistic freedom, in pluralism, and the importance of pluralism in our everyday lives, both locally and in the wider world. A film festival is a place for dialogue, for questions, for curiosity and for discoveries. Nyrabia expressed the view that artistic authenticity is the antidote to lies and manipulation.

Nyrabia also announced a new cooperation between the Netherlands Film Fund with the IDFA Bertha Fund to stimulate international co-production between Dutch producers and filmmakers from non-Western countries.

### Opening film IDFA 2018: *Kabul, City in the Wind*

*Kabul, City in the Wind* by Aboozar Amini, the opening film of IDFA 2018, throws a sobering, intimate light on everyday life in Kabul between suicide bombings. Director Aboozar Amini (Bamiyan, Afghanistan, 1985) came to the Netherlands as a teenager and graduated from the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in 2010 before returning to Afghanistan.

*Kabul, City in the Wind* is a co-production between Afghanistan, Japan and the Netherlands and received financial support from the IDFA Bertha Fund.

The film is competing for IDFA's Award for Best First Appearance, the festival's competition dedicated to debut feature-length documentaries.

IDFA awards ceremony will take place on the evening of Wednesday, 21 November in Amsterdam's Stadsschouwburg, when the winners in the various competition categories will be announced. IDFA 2018 runs until Sunday, 25 November.

## Editors' Notes

### Press

For more information, please visit [www.idfa.nl/en/info/press](http://www.idfa.nl/en/info/press) or contact our press office:

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### About IDFA

IDFA (International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam) offers an independent and inspiring meeting place for audiences and professionals to see a diverse and 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 in audiences for high-quality films that delve deep and urge us to reflect. Since 2007, the festival's New Media program IDFA DocLab showcases the best interactive non-fiction storytelling and explores 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 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 programs for up-and-coming doc talents.

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