



GOOD PITCH EUROPE 2015 PROJECT LINE UP ANNOUNCED

Seven documentaries selected to pitch at Good Pitch Europe at Oslo's Opera House on March 25th

This March, after a year out of Europe, Good Pitch will be hosted by the Nordic countries for the very first time, taking place at the Opera House in Oslo, Norway on 25th March 2015.

Good Pitch connects the world's best social justice films with new allies and partners. It's an invitation-only event where, after months of careful preparation and strategising, seven filmmaking teams pitch their feature documentary and its associated audience engagement campaign in front of a live audience of funders and changemakers. Good Pitch brings together independent documentary films with organisations that have innovation and social change at their heart.

The European line up of filmmakers, who will be traveling from the Netherlands, Turkey, Sweden, UK, and Norway to participate in the live event include **Ilse & Femke van Velzen** (*A Haunting History*), **Burcu Melekoglu & Vuslat Karan** (*Blue ID*), **Dylan Williams & Erik Pauser** (*The Borneo Case*), **Mike Day** (*The Island and the Whales*), **Peter Middleton & James Spinney** (*Notes on Blindness*), **Kari Anne Moe** (*Rebels!*), and **Henry Singer & Rob Miller** (*The Trial of Ratko Mladic*).

The independent documentary film projects will be pitched to an invited group of leading European foundations, NGOs, campaigners, philanthropists, policymakers, brands and media with the aim of creating unique coalitions around each film to maximise its social or environmental impact.

Good Pitch is made by BRITDOC – a nonprofit foundation based in London – in partnership with the **Ford Foundation** and **Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program**. The European edition is made possible by the generous support of **Fritt Ord Foundation**, **Creative Europe**, **Cultural Foundation of the Swedish Postcode Lottery**, **Stichting Democratie & Media** and **Kone Foundation**, and our colleagues at the **Norwegian Film Institute**, **Nordisk Film & TV Fund** and the **Finnish Film Foundation**.

The seven selected film projects feature stories from across the globe. These documentaries take a closer look at: the challenge of building the new rule of law in South Sudan; the experience of a transgender man in Turkey undergoing transition in the glare of public scrutiny; illegal logging and money laundering in Borneo; whale hunting and ocean pollution in the Faroe Islands; the intimate experience of one man losing his sight; school dropouts in Norway and the inspiring programme set up to reintegrate them into society; the trial of former Bosnian Serb military leader Ratko Mladic as he faces charges of crimes against humanity, raising profound questions about the very role of the international court.

Good Pitch Europe is the first Good Pitch of 2015, with more events taking place around the globe this year including Argentina (13th April), Chicago (5th May), Australia (16th September) and New York (20th October). For more information on Good Pitch events in 2015, see www.goodpitch.org.

Since 2008, 249 filmmakers pitching at Good Pitch have triggered €13.8 million in new production and outreach funding. In that time more than 2600 organisations from across civil society have attended Good Pitch to learn about the films and to think about how they could partner with those projects. There are over 1020 active partnerships which have come directly out of Good Pitch events, connecting filmmakers with new partners from the NGO, governmental, foundation and philanthropic

sectors. Currently there are 87 Good Pitch films being used at the heart of national or international social justice campaigns.

For more information about Good Pitch, contact Elise McCave at BRITDOC Foundation: elise@britdoc.org or on +44 (0)207 534 9628.

More about the selected film projects:

A Haunting History

Dir. Ilse & Femke van Velzen

Lawyer Anuol Deng (30), who studied in England returns to his homeland in South Sudan with a dream to help build his nation. A new country where everyone will have the right to justice. While building up his law-firm and resettling into daily life, he suddenly has to flee the same bullets that chased him as a little boy as a new bloody civil war breaks out . It's a painful and frustrating journey, as Anuol wrestles with the reality and challenge of building a new rule of law.

Blue ID

Dir. Burcu Melekoglu & Vuslat Karan

A transgender man struggles with self-realization and acceptance in traditional society of Turkey. Constrained by identification cards color-coded for gender, will he finally be considered for a Blue ID?

The Borneo Case

Dir. Dylan Williams & Erik Pauser

The Borneo Case tells the compelling story of the destruction of the Borneo rainforest and of the hunt for the billions of dollars that have been filtered away into secret bank accounts and property portfolios around the world. This modern day thriller follows an unlikely cast of investigators as they uncover a global network of timber mafia moguls and international banks.

The Island and the Whales

Dir. Mike Day

The pilot whale hunters of the Faroe Islands believe that hunting is vital to their way of life, but when a local doctor makes a grim discovery about the effects of marine pollution, environmental changes threaten to end the controversial tradition and change the community forever.

Notes on Blindness

Dir. Peter Middleton & James Spinney

In 1983 writer and theologian John Hull lost his sight. To help him make sense of the upheaval in his life he began keeping a diary on audiocassette, a unique testimony of loss, rebirth and renewal, excavating the interior world of blindness. NOTES ON BLINDNESS is a multi-platform project encompassing a feature length documentary, interactive project and outreach campaign.

Rebels!

Dir. Kari Anne Moe

European statistics show that in the EU, one in six people aged 18-24 drop out before completing high school. In Scandinavia the numbers are even worse, in Norway one in three drop out. On their way into an existence without a job, living on welfare, a group of drop-outs gets a chance to turn their lives around.

The Trial of Ratko Mladic

Dir. Rob Miller & Henry Singer

This film tells the riveting story of the trial of Ratko Mladic, following the drama inside the courtroom and in the offices of the prosecutors and defense lawyers. Will the trial bring closure to the individuals and communities who've put faith in its process? Can it begin to unite a bitterly divided region and peoples?

You can get invited to Good Pitch Europe 2015 and find more information on the film projects here: <https://goodpitch.org/events/gpeu2015>