



CROSSING BORDERS 2017: LIST OF SELECTED PARTICIPANTS AND PROJECTS

Company	Name	Country	Title of Project
Till Passow & Co	Till Passow	Germany	Father's Skin
Spot Productions	Andras Takacs, Eszter Cseke, Viktoria Szabo	Hungary	<p>Generation War</p> <p>From poverty to conflict, natural disasters to disease, too many children start their lives in desperate circumstances. Last year, more than 16 million babies were born in conflict and catastrophe zones. That's 1 in 8 of all births in 2015 alone.</p> <p>Generation War is a new series by acclaimed filmmakers Eszter Cseke and Andras Takacs that looks beyond the statistics to capture intimate stories on the ground, up close and personal. From the conflict in Gaza and the refugee crisis in Syria to the typhoon hit Philippines the series delves into the lives of mothers and their families struggling to survive the horrors of war and natural disasters. By respecting and adhering to strict cultural customs, the filmmakers gained rare and exclusive access to the most religious and conservative communities.</p>
Looking Forward	Frederik Sølberg	Denmark	<p>HANAWON – A Place for One People</p> <p>Every year more than 2000 North Koreans escape to South Korea. They run an extremely high risk and have to leave their families behind. In South Korea they are being welcomed as refugees and send to Hanawon – the name of the educational centres where they spent the first months. At Hanawon they learn about democracy, human rights, and local customs. They learn how to adapt to modern life in South Korea.</p> <p>But how do you teach someone that? How do you prepare a person to live in a free society? And how does it feel to be a North Korean in South Korea?</p> <p>"HANAWON – A PLACE FOR ONE PEOPLE" tries to explore that. The film follows a North Korean woman from her arrival, her time at Hanawon, and to her life in her new home country. We are with her the first time she uses a computer, the subway, a credit card. We are with her when she is being introduced to freedom of speech and human rights, with her when the longing for her family in North Korea takes over, and with her when she is left all alone in her new life.</p>
Cinieri Lombroso	Leonardo Cinieri Lombroso, Désirée Marianini	Italy	<p>I Record China</p> <p>Chinese independent directors are not just dissidents, facing the danger of being arrested, most of them are in danger of being ignored, sharing frustration and joy of their colleagues around the globe. I RECORD CHINA depicts the history of Chinese Independent Cinema, from its birth until now, through different generations of directors: six ways to shoot and look at the world, six fragments of China today. From the internationally renowned Jia Zhangke, we will get to the new promises of Chinese Independent Cinema. Different approaches to ordinary life, similar creative impulse, while China's dynamism doesn't hesitate to slow down and opportunity means also capitalism at its highest peak. But I RECORD CHINA is also a poetic investigation searching for an answer: what is pushing us to tell stories after all?</p>



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Springroll Media	Brindusa Ioana Nastasa, Annabella Stieren, Jialu Zhang	The Netherlands	<u>Mao's Ice Cream</u> Zaili Zeng, a retired Chinese woman and Communist Party member discovers most of her beliefs are based on lies when her political views are put to test by the closest people to her- her best friend Luo, her husband Ji and her daughter Jialu. The film provides unique insight into the life of a retired Chinese woman and party member. 'It is the Time that is fooling us around' says a famous Chinese proverb often used in the context of the Cultural Revolution. It means the time is to blame for what happened, not the people. The protagonists' daughter and producer of the film - Jialu Zhang, has never understood, how everyone around her has this mentality of silence, why there is no critical thinking, and why everyone blames the times but not the people, nor the system. The protagonists daughter and producer of the film - Jialu Zhang, has never understood,how everyone around her has this mentality of silence, why there is no critical thinking, and why everyone blames the times but not the people, nor the system.
Making Movies Oy	Donagh Coleman, Kaarle Aho	Finland	<u>Tukdam</u> This feature documentary looks at where we draw the line between life and death, through the focal point of a phenomenon that blurs this boundary to an unprecedented degree. In the Tibetan Buddhist tradition called tukdam, meditators die in a consciously controlled manner in meditation. Though dead according to our biomedical and legal standards, they stay sitting upright in meditation; remarkably, their bodies remain fresh and lifelike, without any signs of decay for days, sometimes weeks after clinical death. At the heart of the film will be the intimate death stories of a few meditators and their near ones. The film will try to unravel the mystery of this paradoxical dead-yet-alive state by looking at these cases both from a traditional Tibetan and modern medical point of view, and broadens out into a study on the nature of life and death.
Nocturnes Productions & Phish Communications	Raphaël Millet, Olivier Bohler, Shirlene Noordin	France	<u>Walter Spies of Bali – A German Artist in the Tropics</u> In the 1930s, when scientists, anthropologists, ethnomusicologists and even celebrities like Chaplin himself came to Bali, they were most of the time directed to a mysterious German artist named Walter Spies who had made Bali his home and had acquired an incredible wealth of knowledge about the Balinese and their culture. Spies' own talents extended far beyond painting (for which he was particularly famous and sought-after), as he also performed both Western and Indonesian musical styles, choreographed dances, scripted film shot on the island of Bali, co-wrote a pioneering study of Balinese dance, and stimulated new developments in Balinese art, by generously helping aspiring Balinese artists. Spies, just by being himself, was also a source of inspiration to many, and the values that he stood for are still relevant today, perhaps more than ever.



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Hidden Asia Media	Arlene Tan Grace Cho	Malaysia	<u>Nowhere to go</u> A Rohingya refugee and activist navigating the uncertainties of life in Malaysia. His family fled from Burma due to ethnic violence, but he is stuck in Malaysia without an identity and citizenship, and uncertain of his future of getting a refugee status in developed countries. He faced daily harassment and discrimination from the workplace, society, health care and even the police. Even in the face of such uncertainties, he shares a glimpse of hope and faith to survive.
Code Computer Design Sdn Bhd	Gerard Benedict	Malaysia	<u>HO CHI MINH: The Man Who Saved Vietnam</u> He was half-Gandhi, half-Lenin to historians. To his people he was simply "Uncle Ho" the revolutionist, humanist, but most of all, saviour of Vietnam. This 3-part docudrama series traces Ho Chi Minh's 60-year struggle for Vietnamese independence. Based largely on now declassified documents, the story is unraveled through archival footage, interviews with renowned international historians, and re-enactment of historic moments and backstage drama, using actors in key roles, and extras. While focusing on pivotal points in his life and career as a diplomat, revolutionary and strategist, his relentless pursuit for Vietnam's freedom and his "Confusion-style" dealings with the French and at least six US Presidents, the film sheds new light on how Vietnam's 100-year struggle for independence, is inextricably linked to the unrelinquishing resolve of the Vietnamese people to defeat forces far mightier than them.
Novista	Harun Rahman, Lara Ariffin	Malaysia	<u>Tiger Tales with Michelle Yeoh</u> The enigmatic tiger has been wiped out from most of Asia. In Malaysia, a recent survey has indicated there are less than 250 left in the wild - they are now critically endangered. Passionate about the animals of her homeland, Michelle Yeoh, global superstar and Asian icon, returns to her home country to discover the challenges faced by the Malayan tiger and meet the people who are dedicating their lives to ensure their survival. Michelle also travels to Sumatra, Indonesia to see how successful tiger conservation can be achieved and to China where tiger products are in high demand. While in Malaysia, Michelle sets up camera traps, patrols the jungles, face ex- poachers, reintroduce tiger prey and meet two royal families to discover their personal efforts in the fight to save the Malayan tiger.
Fisheye Vision	Chew Han Tah, Chew Li Pahn	Malaysia	<u>Yan Can Cook</u> This is a "HOT, HOT, HOT" story about a world-renowned celebrity Chef, he is no other than Martin Yan. The celebrated host of over 3,000 cooking shows, broadcast worldwide, Martin Yan enjoys distinction as a certified Master Chef, a highly respected food consultant, a cooking instructor, and a prolific author. In 1978, he pioneered a daily TV Chinese cooking show: the now classic Yan Can Cook. Infusing lessons with his characteristic warmth, humor and vitality, he quickly won a devoted following. He has the longest running TV cooking show in the world bringing the fine art of Asian cooking to billions of people in over 60 countries around the world..



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BOK Media	Bok Jinoh, Sona JO	South Korea	<p><u>LOGBOOK – A Diary from the Sea</u> Logbook is a documentary film about industrial divers that participated in the rescue operation of the South Korea’s biggest disaster, 2014 Sewol ferry sinking. Following divers’ daily lives, the film depicts their trauma and efforts to live normal.</p>
Little Odyssey Ltd	Morgan Ommer, Linh Phan	China	<p><u>Madame Ching, Lady Pirate</u> The untold story of a 19th Century Chinese woman, who commanded the greatest armada of pirates in history, was a feminist before Feminism existed, and undefeated, negotiated her retirement from piracy and was allowed to keep her loot. The incredible story of Ching Shih. Shot entirely in cinemagraphs.</p>
Tuk Tuk Films	Hemant Gaba	India	<p><u>Stepwells and Victoria</u> Stepwells were made when deep trenches were dug in to the earth for ground water. The walls of these trenches were lined with stones sans any mortar. Then stairs were created to lead down to the water. The stepwells subvert our expectation of architecture. Who looks down to see a building? But that’s how to access the stepwells, by looking down into them, walking down into them, and penetrating the earth. There are a total of 800 documented stepwells across the planet, of which 90% are found in India. These stepwells have withstood the tirade of time; their sturdy shoulders have taken earthquakes and other natural calamities in to their stride. And today they stand before our eyes decaying in to oblivion. Their intricately ornamented walls crumbling one by one. This film is first and foremost an attempt to create a comprehensive document that encapsulates the historical and archeological importance of the stepwells. Alternatively the film also intends to suggest the several ways in which we can bring to life the currently documented stepwells. Restoring the ones that we can and re-imagining the rest as spaces for musical concerts, arts and theatrical platforms can do that.</p>