



Jul 28  
to Aug 3

28 films national premieres in competition

## **MDOC Melgaço with 33 films from 23 countries in competition**

The MDOC – International Documentary Film Festival will, once again, take a look at the world from Melgaço, where the major issues of our time intersect with the cinematic perspective of reality. Thirty-three films compete for the Jean-Loup Passek and Don Quixote (FICC) awards, and, for the first time, the FIPRESCI Prize, awarded by the International Federation of Film Critics. Not in competition, we highlight the national premiere of the tribute film to Jean-Loup Passek, "The Man of Cinema," by José Vieira, and the films resulting from the 2024 Frontal Shot film residency.

For one week, the 11th edition of the MDOC Melgaço will screen **33 documentaries from 23 countries**, crossing geographies, histories, and current themes that invite reflection on who we are, where we come from, and how we face the present.

Of the more than **800 films submitted, 16 short and medium-length films and 17 feature films** were selected. All international films in competition are Portuguese premieres. Competing are documentaries from Spain, the United States, China, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Syria, the Netherlands, Lebanon, Ukraine, Denmark, Ireland, Germany, Iran, Sweden, Lesotho, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Poland, Georgia, and Iraq (in addition to Portugal).

The cross-sectional theme—**Identity, Memory, and Border**—pervades all of the films in competition, taking on a particularly timely and diverse expression. From the echoes of the Holocaust in Kinga Michalska's "[Bedrock](#)" (screening July 29); to the lifeblood of a woman resisting war in Adelina Borets's "[Flowers of Ukraine](#)" (August 01); from the

Lazarim's Shrovetide traditions in Diogo Varela Silva's "[The Shrovetide Devil](#)" (July 30); to the "visual elegy" that explores the intersection of reality between the memory of the past and the present of the city of Homs, Syria, in Anas Zawahri's "[My memory is full of ghosts](#)" (July 31); from the traumas and past experiences that define who we are in the present in Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese's "[Ancestral Visions of the Future](#)" (August 2); to the refugee women in Portugal, who carry their identities in their bodies and words, rebuilding their lives in a new territory in "[Kora](#)" (August 3), by Cláudia Varejão; or "[Afterwar](#)" (August 1), by Birgitte Stærmose, filmed over 15 years, which follows children growing up under the trauma of war; to "[Holding Liat](#)" (July 30, by Brandon Kramer, about a family divided by a kidnapping during the Israel-Palestine conflict; or "[Cutting Through Rocks](#)" (August 2), by Sara Khaki, on the first elected councilwoman in an Iranian village, who dared to break with ancient patriarchal traditions and gender and social boundaries.

For the first time, the MDOC will award the **FIPRESCI Prize**, from the International Federation of Film Critics, joining the already prestigious Jean-Loup Passet Prize and the Don Quixote Prize (FICC).

### **An Intense and Diverse Program Out of Competition**

The **Frontal Shot – Film and Photographic Residencies** section (July 25–August 3), led by **Pedro Sena Nunes**, opens the festival with the premiere of films directed during the 2024 residency.

On August 3, we have the film premiere of "**The Man of Cinema**", by **José Vieira**, paying tribute to the life and cinephile legacy of **Jean-Loup Passet**, the founder of the Melgaço Film Museum, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. The world premiere took place at FEMA – La Rochelle Cinéma Festival on July 1.

Another new feature of this edition is the [VIVODOC Festival Meeting](#) (August 2), a network of European festivals (of which MDOC is a member) that promotes cross-border collaboration in documentary filmmaking. Majordocs (Mallorca, Spain), Escales Documentaires (La Rochelle, France), Frontdoc (Aosta, Italy), and One World Romania (Bucharest, Romania) will be represented at this meeting.

MDOC once again asserts itself as a meeting place for cinema, research and critical thinking, promoting workshops and *masterclasses* with directors **Margarida Cardoso** ("[Perdidos e Achados](#)", July 28 to 31) and **Sandra Ruesga** ("[Self-Referential Cinema and Identity](#)", August 1) and will welcome back [X-RAYDOC](#) (August 3) with **Jorge Campos**, dedicated to the historical perspective and debate on classic films by Chris Marker and Joris Ivens.

The **Off Screen** Summer Course (coordinated by **José da Silva Ribeiro** of the Federal University of Pernambuco and AO NORTE and **Alfonso Palazón Meseguer** of the Rey Juan Carlos University (URJC), as a space for presentation, debate, and development of research and creative practices, features this year's renowned participants such as **Amália Córdova** (Smithsonian Institution, United States), **Luiz Joaquim** (Film Coordinator at FUNDAJ, Brazil), **Renato Athias** (coordinator of the Center for Studies and Research on Ethnicity (NEPE) at the Federal University of Pernambuco), **Raúl**

**Alaejos** (filmmaker and visual artist, Spain), among other collaborators. Off Screen integrates themes associated with "Cinema and Territory" from multiple perspectives and is based on a broad program of activities that begins on July 28th and ends on August 3rd.

The MDOC also includes the [Project Who Are We Here?](#) coordinated by geographer **Álvaro Domingues** and anthropologist and AO NORTE team member **Daniel Maciel**. The project will focus on **the parish of Alvaredo** and will be visible through audiovisual recordings—Spoken Photographs—the collection and digitization of photographs from family albums of Alvaredo residents, a photography exhibition, and the publication of a book about the work carried out.

The exhibition "**Iron Tears**," on display at the Jean-Loup Passek Film Museum, rounds out the program, bringing together war images from Eastern Europe as a testament to resistance through cinema.

On August 2nd and 3rd, the **Hop to Melgaço** initiative offers an intensive and condensed program for those who choose to visit the festival on the last weekend of the MDOC, with film screenings, guided tours, and conversations with directors.

MDOC – from Melgaço to the World, a place of listening, reflection, meeting, and resistance.

**MDOC is a festival organized by [AO NORTE](#) and the Melgaço Municipality.**

**All information MDOC:** <https://mdocfestival.pt/pt>  
**Social Media** | [Facebook](#) - [Instagram](#)  
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