



Jul 28
to Aug 3

MDOC Melgaço - July 28 to August 3

**From Melgaço to the World | Summer brings Documentary Cinema and
New Perspectives on a border territory**

The 11th edition of MDOC - Melgaço International Documentary Festival returns with a program that reaffirms its unique identity: a festival that crosses authorial perspectives; promotes critical reflections on the contemporary world; and contributes to the collective memory of the territory. This year it will once again incorporate a competitive section and will focus on artistic residencies. There will also be room for a film workshop with Margarida Cardoso; a masterclass with Sandra Ruesga; the X-RAY DOC with Jorge Campos about two essential works by Chris Marker and Joris Ivens, among other activities.

For a week, between July 28th and August 3rd, the MDOC – Melgaço International Documentary Festival will bring together a vast program with over **thirty films in competition** (to be revealed soon) and will also propose **new perspectives and reflections on the territory**, inviting filmmakers, researchers, students and the general public for a unique experience of memory and identity in the heart of Alto Minho.

There is a lot to see and also several sections that call for creation, such as **OFF SCREEN / Summer Course**, a space for participation and ‘interference’ that involves cultural agents, researchers, artists and filmmakers. The central theme is “Cinema and Territory”, with different approaches to the world in constant transformation. This year it has the collaboration of DOCMA, *the Spanish Documentary Film Association*, represented by directors such as **Sandra Ruesga, Raúl Alaejos and Alfonso Palazón**. The program includes approaches to indigenous cinema / local cinema; Caravanas Farkas - collective

identity of the northeast on the centenary of Thomaz Farkas (renowned Brazilian photographer and filmmaker); Pirenópolis, the guardian of the waters, among other themes. The general coordination is by José da Silva Ribeiro (Federal University of Pernambuco / AO-NORTE) and Alfonso Palazón Meseguer (Rey Juan Carlos University - URJC). **Registration is open until July 11th and is available here.**

Some of the most relevant sections of the MDOC are the **FRONTAL SHOT Residencies, led by Pedro Sena Nunes**. The new **Film Residency** for young directors, graduates and final-year students in Higher Education in the fields of Cinema, Audiovisual and Communication takes place between July 25th and August 3rd. This residency represents a unique opportunity for young filmmakers to develop a documentary project in a real context. Four teams, made up of three members each, will be challenged to make documentaries on local themes, contributing to Melgaço's audiovisual archive and to the appreciation of the region's intangible heritage. Registration is open for teams of three members until all vacancies are filled.

The Photography Residency proposes to three young people the development of a photographic project over ten days in an immersive context, with the support of a dedicated team and direct involvement in the territory. **Each selected photographer will benefit from an individual grant of €2,000. Registration until June 30th online here.**

The 11th edition of MDOC will once again feature a **Cinema Workshop**, from July 28th to 31st. The guest director is **Margarida Cardoso** who will share methods and experiences between documentary and fiction. This is a space for learning, listening and practical experimentation, where participants will be invited to develop film ideas based on creative exercises and visual and literary references. **Registration is open until July 15th and can be done here.**

On August 1st, Casa da Cultura of Melgaço welcomes **Sandra Ruesga** for a **masterclass**, "*Exploring the Self: Self-referential Cinema and Identity in the Work of Sandra Ruesga*". The Spanish filmmaker proposes a deep immersion into her creative universe, whose work stands out for the fusion between the personal and the political, the intimate and the collective.

In the same location, on August 3rd, there will be another **X-RAYDOC** session, a space for reflection and analysis of essential films to the History of Documentary. **Coordinated by Jorge Campos**, this session proposes the screening and discussion of two classics of documentary cinema: *Lettre de Sibérie* (France, 1957, 67') by **Chris Marker**; and *...À Valparaíso* (Chile/France, 1963, 27') by **Joris Ivens**. **Entry is free, subject to availability.**

It is worth mentioning that MDOC is a member of the European festival collective **VIVODOC**, which promotes the circulation and exhibition of European documentaries. In the 2025 edition, MDOC will host for the first time a meeting with representatives of documentary film festivals, with the intention of discussing future directions. This network includes Majordocs (Mallorca, Spain), Escales Documentaires (La Rochelle, France), Frontdoc (Aosta, Italy), One World Romania (Bucharest, Romania) and MDOC (Melgaço, Portugal).

The AO NORTE Association, in collaboration with a multidisciplinary team, will present in 2025 the project “**Who are we here?**”, focusing on the parish of **Alvaredo**, municipality of **Melgaço**. This project invites you to listen and look closely at the stories of those who live, have lived or feel Alvaredo as part of their lives through audiovisual recording; collecting and digitizing photos from family albums; photographic exhibition and publication of the work.

This work is **produced by the AO NORTE Association**, organized by **Álvaro Domingues and Daniel Maciel**, **scientific guidance by Albertino Gonçalves**, **executive production by Rui Ramos** and **collaboration by João Gigante**.

MDOC is a festival organized by AO NORTE and the Melgaço Municipality.

All information about MDOC: <https://mdocfestival.pt/pt>
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