**The countdown has begun for the 8th Bozcaada International Ecological Documentary Festival: Finalists announced!**

**15 films will compete in the final of BIFED 2021!**

This year Bozcaada International Ecological Documentary Festival will be 8 years old. The festival, which met its audience online last year due to the Covid-19 crisis, this year will also screen the selected films through an online platform. Movies will be available to watch for free.

BIFED will be held between 13-19 October, and the finalists were announced who will compete for the Fethi Kayaalp Grand Prize. A total of 15 films will be screened at the final of the festival. Two of these films are from Turkey. In the festival 13 of which include a total of 15 films from abroad, and the films which draw attention about the struggles of indigenous peoples as well as the other productions.

**Over 1000 films from 100 countries have applied to BIFED 2021**

In 2021, more than 1000 films from 100 countries applied to the festival, directed by Petra Holzer and coordinated by Ethem Özgüven, which take place with the organization of Bozcaada Municipality. Among the films that have been submitted stand out a wide range of themes such as, climate crisis, organic viticulture, or refugees trapped in Africa.

Films from all over the world, each more impressive than the other, that describe the common questions and problems of nature and humanity in their own language, in their own style, and seek solutions, will compete for the Fethi Kayaalp Grand Prize in 2021. A fourth award, open only to students, will also be included in the festival under the name of the Gaia Student Award. 2 of the 7 films that will compete for the Gaia Student Award are from Turkey.

Along with the films to be screened in the Panorama section, a total of 41 films will meet with the audiences from many parts of the world online during the festival.

Also, this year's special screening section of the festival features Peter Greenaway's Atomic Bombs on Earth, revealing the states responsible for the atomic bombs ever dropped around the world and the devastation they have wreaked. The second film in the special screening category will be the Sand documentary by Petra Holzer, Ethem Özgüven and Selçuk Erzurumlu, also from Turkey. This documentary tells the story of the solidarity struggle against the deadly disease of denim sandblasting workers in Turkey.

**The festival jury has been announced!**

In the jury team, which is dominated by women, there are 6 people, 3 foreign and 3 from Turkey, to choose the film that will win the Fethi Kayaalp Grand Prize.

Aslı Odman, a lecturer and social scientist at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University from Turkey, Nazmi Ulutak, who still teaches documentary and cinema at Anadolu University, Faculty of Communication Sciences, and Mücella Yapıcı, a graduate engineer, architect and urban planner, are on the jury team.

Also on the jury are Márcia Gomes de Oliveira, the founder of the Uranium Film Festival in Brazil, Andrijana Stojkovic, associate professor who teaches documentary courses at the Belgrade Faculty of Dramatic Arts, and Colombian Juliana Paniagua, co-founder of the Barichara Green Film Festival.

**This year's motto of BIFED: Our house is on fire**

 Festival's director Petra Holzer states that one of the main themes is the environmental struggle of small people against large companies. In 2021, while the last year's theme effect "Defence the Defenders' continued, the new motto of BIFED became "Our House is on Fire".

Due to the impact of the climate crisis, heatwaves and forest fires all over the world began to increase this year, especially compared to previous years. Turkey, Greece, Europe and North America, experienced the worst fires in history. After a year spent with the Covid-19 crisis, we see that the effects of the climate crisis are also deepening. Even though the ecosystem of the Amazon Forests in Brazil is very important for the world, the destruction of forests and forest fires are destroying the ecosystem.

Not only forest fires, but also the projects that destroy nature without slowing down, and the fact that there is not a single area on earth where work machines do not enter remains unprotected our lands for even greater disasters.

When struggling against the fires how the environmental organizations, women and men workers, young people and villagers, municipal workers and miners, firefighters, and everyone came together; in the face of all other ecological problems with the concern of “**Our home is on fire**", BIFED is also calling on everyone this year to create a planet where the solidarity is rising to protect our living spaces.

In the festival, where more than 1000 films from 100 countries participated, the films that made it to the finals are as follows:

**International Competition**

1. **Another Paradise**, Olivier Magis, Belgium, 82’, 2019
2. **Arica**, Lars Edman & William Johansson, Sweden / Chile / Belgium / Norway / UK, 97’ 2020
3. **The Flame (Bara)**, Afran Sabran, Indonesia, 76, 2021
4. **The Climate Limbo,** Francesco Ferri & Paolo Caselli & Elena Brunello, Italy, 42’, 2019

1. **Sweet France**, Geoffrey Couanon, France, 96’, 2020
2. **Haenyeo: Wisdom of the Sea**, Lygia Barbosa, South Korea / Brazil, 64’, 2018

1. **Kueka, When the Stones Talk**, Francisco Denis, Venezuela / Bolivia, 96’ 2017

1. **Nothing but the Sun**, Arami Ullón, Paraguay / Switzerland / Argentina, 75’ 2020
2. **Nuclear Forever**, Carsten Rau, Germany, 94’, 2020
3. **The Shamans’ Nightmare**, Natalie Halla, Austria, 72’, 2021
4. **To Calm the Pig Inside**, Joana Vazquez Arong, Philippines, 18’, 2020
5. **Trees Die Standing Tall**, Ronan Kerneur & Fany Fulchiron, Mexico / France, 62’, 2021
6. **What Happened to the Bees?** Adriana Otero Puerto & Robin Canul Suárez, Mexico, 67’ 2019
7. **A Few Ordinary Days,** Pınar Nadide Okan, Turkey,66’, 2020
8. **A Lifetime Anatolia**, Özer Kesemen, Turkey, 30’, 2020

**GAIA Student**

1. **Darling**, Chrissy Liu, UK / Australia, 23’ 2020
2. **Human VS Elephant**, Ahmad Fahmi Nur Khafifi, Endonezya, 25’, 2020
3. **Shifting Sands**, May Thin Kyi, Myanmar / Germany, 15’, 2021
4. **Teuga**, Tatsuki Shirai, Thailand / UK, 46’, 2020
5. **Who Owns My Village?** Christoph Eder, Germany, 96’, 2021
6. **Yardibi,** Çiğdem Akdoğan, Turkey, 6’, 2020
7. **Ash**, Aziz Arga, Turkey, 15’, 2021

**There will be festival-long broadcasts on the BIFED's YouTube channel**

Petra Holzer, the director of BIFED, which will be broadcasting online, said that unfortunately, they are not going to invite anyone this year either. However, she added that during the festival, questions and answers will be held with the directors and the BIFED YouTube channel will actively meet with its audience by panels that will include participants from all over the world.

Holzer, “We will perform several performances, albeit symbolic, for the audience in Bozcaada. We'll make frequent broadcasts from our Youtube channel. But unfortunately, we're not going to invite anyone this year. The current data concerns us for October.'' said.

The director of the festival Holzer, also mentioned that BIFED is beyond entertainment and cultural activity, but is a learning process. This beautiful blue planet has seen damage that it hasn't seen in thousands of years in the last half-century, and all kinds of negativities are breaking new records. What we know quickly loses its value. Terrible facts, such as the fact that the Amazon forests no longer produce oxygen, are not taking place in the media. For this reason, I see our festival as a learning process, beyond entertainment and cultural activity, for people of all ages and all opinions. As a continuation of this educational process, this year there will be panels at the festival not only about films, but also about important problems and solutions. The definite ones, Women Producers and Cooperatives Panel by Ümit Hamlacıbaşı, Local Agriculture Production Distribution Relations Panel by Mustafa Dermanlı, Soil Ethics and Welfare Panel by Lale Çapalov and in commemoration of Ali Fatih İnter and Tahir Çetin, The Ones Who We Lost and Soma Resistance by Berrin Demir, will take place in the festival. There will be live stream Q & A broadcasts with the directors who will participate in the festival.``

Films can be watched online with the instructions on our website. www.bifed.org

[http://www.bifed.org](http://www.bifed.org/)

**Our social media accounts:**

**Instagram:** bifed\_doc
**Twitter:** @bifed\_doc
**Facebook:** / bifeddoc

Beyza Aksoy
**BIFED Press Associate**+90 537 309 11 04
news@bifed.org
ebeyza.aksoy@gmail.com