In 2015 Verzio DocLab will be focusing on the refugee crisis in Europe. Every single face has a name and a story but in the current flow of refugees they are often lost. We want DocLab participants to reveal these individual faces, voices, stories, and to show people escaping war and destruction as fellow human beings. The workshop participants will make short films about one person or one family. The film can also be about a place, a situation or attitudes represented by the citizens in European countries. These portraits and short videos are imagined as personal statements calling for understanding and action. There is no restriction on form, the stories however should be well researched and based on real stories. The work can be experimental but should foreground individual personalities and aim for impact. The workshop participants should arrive with footage shot prior to the workshop and will get tutoring in editing and narrative structure. The resulting works (or extracts from work in progress) will be screened at the festival and circulated on-line. We aim at raising awareness and calling for a change in attitudes towards refugees.

The workshop is free and open to filmmakers and students interested in documentary and human rights. Basic filming experience is required. To apply send a project description and CV to info@verzio.org with the title DocLab Application until October 25.

TUTORS

Moniek Wester Keegstra is an independent documentary (web)filmmaker, editor, interview trainer and filmcoach. She worked with NGOs Doctors Without Borders, Oxfam Novib and Amnesty International. Her Gaza, Gabbers, Graffity co-produced by Amnesty International was nominated for the Prix d’Europe. Moniek was involved as filmmaker and creator of the online platform 26.000 Faces with short film portraits about asylum seekers in the Netherlands. She is co-creator of the online Lifeboat Project.

Zsuzsanna Gellér-Varga studied filmmaking at UC Berkeley (USA) as a Fulbright scholar. Her Screw Your Courage (2000) won awards at several US film festivals and was broadcast on public TV. She worked for the New York Times Television as a video-journalist and later directed documentaries Once They Were Neighbours, (2005), Synagogue For Sale (2007), and Mr. Mom (2009), which were screened internationally and broadcast on public TV. Currently she is D.L.A. candidate at the University of Theater and Film Arts in Budapest and teaching documentary ethics at the DocNomads program.

Ursula Ambach is filmmaker and editor. She studied communications design at the University of Applied Sciences in Würzburg and the Bond University Film Department in Australia. She has a diploma in directing/project development at the ZeLIG school for documentary in Bolzano, Italy. As an editor and author she works for the public broadcaster Bayerischer Rundfunk in Munich and in the ARD/BR foreign studios in Rome, Vatikan, Athens and Tel Aviv. She teaches dramaturgy and editing in Göttingen, Würzburg and Munich.

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