



**DOC
NOMADS**
JOINT MASTERS

DIRECTING IN THE FIELD II.

DocNomads-12 2023-2025/ 2nd semester (Budapest)

Mentors

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2ND SEMESTER (BUDAPEST)

Course Description

The course takes place in Kazincbarcika in the Hungarian countryside in an 8-day-long intensive fieldwork. The most important part of the assignment is to practice teamwork. Teams of three DocNomads directing students and one Hungarian DokMa directing student will work together on the field to create documentaries with the guidance of the supervisors. The footage will be edited after returning to Budapest.

During the research period, students have to take care of their group dynamics and find a commonly agreed subject to make a film within only a few days. For this, the teams should build relations with the city and its inhabitants, and search for motifs of past or present events, changing circumstances, and foreseeable dramatic consequences.

After 2 days of intensive research, the crews present 2 possible film ideas/concepts in the form of a pitch. The concepts need to contain humorous elements. During the shooting process, the students need to approach their subjects in an observational/situational or participatory way of filmmaking. The films cannot be based on voice-over & interviews entirely.

Goals of the exercise

During the fieldwork, students need to collaborate on the production processes and make consensual decisions inside the group of 5 directors. Students learn to cooperate and understand each other's intentions and make compromises for the film project.

This intensive fieldwork exercise creates extreme circumstances because of the limited timeframe and the foreign environment so it should be considered playful where the process itself is more important than the outcome. Another skill tested is the quick decision-making of the students who need to negotiate unexpected situations and will have to learn how to trust their instincts and to expressively, and professionally communicate with each other.

Course schedule

April 14th Sunday

- Travelling to Kazincbarcika by train, settling down in Hotel Lukács.
- Meeting with the Hungarian Documentary Master Students of SZFE (DOKMA)
- Introduction of the city and its historical and sociological aspects.
- Announcing the guidelines of the Fieldwork exercise: each group needs to research 2 possible subjects, both with humorous elements.
- Preparatory classes about the Fieldwork exercise, viewing of examples and excerpts from films of past editions, introducing the different aspects of humor in filmmaking,

forming mixed groups of 5 (4 DocNomads and 1 DOKMA student/group), discussing the dynamic of teamwork and the shared roles.

April 15th-16th Monday- Tuesday

- Starting the day with a guided group session, in preparation for the scouting.
- Researching, scouting in teams, taking pictures.
- Daily presentations in the evening by each group about the ongoing project's development, discussing concepts and approaches.
- Film screening.

April 17th Wednesday evening

- First round of pitching the possible subjects with photos, discussing the potential of the projects

April 18th Thursday evening

- Second round of pitching the possible subjects with photos, discussing the potential of the projects

April 19th-23rd Thursday - Sunday

- Shooting
- Daily presentations in the evening by each group about the on-going production process, watching footage, analyzing possible shooting situations and dramaturgical/structural questions

April 22nd Monday

- Returning to Budapest

April 23rd -April 29th Tuesday - Monday

- Editing and sound mixing in Budapest under the supervision of the tutors.

April 30th Monday

Exam screening

10.00-15.00

Location: Screening room of SZFE

- Exam screening of the group films with Attila Kékesi, Asia Dér, Bálint Bíró, Dorottya Zurbó

Directing in the Field Exercise delivery deadline: 29th of April Tuesday

Export an MP4 or MOV file no bigger than 2 GB in HD 1920x1080 using H.264 codec

Name the file in the following format: DN12-2_Group1_Names_Title_Date

Requirement

Students are assigned to make a 9-minute-long film (plus and minus 1 minute) developed and produced in Kazincbarcika in crews of 4. Students in the group get identical marks so it is important to cooperate and collaborate. If someone is not equally involved in the creation process of the film, she/he won't be eligible for the same mark that the group gets. The heart of the exercise is that the team members have to collaborate and communicate closely together, solving problems, and overcoming obstacles as a team throughout the entire production process. Teams are not allowed to split up. In case a team member repeatedly shows unwilling, inadequate, uncompromising behavior to cooperate, the mentors may decide to remove the person in question from the group and consider his/her exercise unfulfilled.

Evaluation criteria

- Artistic quality of the films made in groups.
 - Clear definition of a point of view and a concept for the film.
 - Coherence of the film's narrative structure.
 - Execution of participatory and observational/situational filmmaking.
 - Efficiency is shown in teamwork: the ability to plan and execute the tasks amidst the group for the preparation, shooting, and editing of the film's projects.
 - Depth and accuracy of the research.
 - Dramaturgical potential of the scenes developed and shot by each team.
 - Achievement in the group dynamics: quality of group discussion; ability to reach consensual decisions and plan complementary tasks amidst the group; flexibility to adjust ideas and procedures in view to solve problems and improve results.
 - Quality of the film's cinematic approach.
 - Individual contribution of each student to the common project; ability to perform complementary tasks; level of interaction with the group and openness to help the team part.
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