

## AG DOK MENTORING PROGRAM

### **One year of professional support – ten up-and-coming documentary filmmakers meet ten experienced mentors**

Fewer cinema audiences, a crisis in public broadcasting, budget cuts and rapid technological innovations. In view of the many transformations to which documentary production processes are currently exposed, not only have the conditions under which documentary films are produced changed significantly - the entry into the profession for young filmmakers is also more challenging than ever.

**For this reason, AG DOK and its futurDOK young talent group want to support ten up-and-coming documentary filmmakers from various disciplines (directing, production, editing, camera) from fall 2024. For a period of one year, the ten mentees will receive professional support from an experienced filmmaker.**

The continuous 1:1 mentoring over a period of twelve months is intended to support mentees in implementing a current project (for example during development, filming or post-production). However, it is also possible to apply without a specific project already planned (e.g. for cinematographers or producers).

The ten experienced mentors who accompany the mentees are selected by the board of the AG DOK in cooperation with futurDOK. All applications received are submitted to these mentors, who then decide for themselves which mentee they would like to work with.

On 28.10.2024 there will be a public event to kick off the program as part of the DOK Leipzig Festival. We would be delighted if all mentors and mentees could be there to get to know each other personally. The event will also be an opportunity to discuss the current conditions for starting a career in the documentary film industry with experts.

Following this, there will be regular (online) meetings between mentor and mentee for a year. The meetings should take place approximately once a month, but will of course be arranged individually between the mentor and mentee.

We look forward to receiving your applications by email to [buero@agdok.de](mailto:buero@agdok.de) by 15.09.2024. Please summarize the following content in a PDF document with a maximum file size of 5 MB:

- Fully completed application form
- Motivation to participate in the program (max. 1 page)
- Biography/filmography (max. 2 pages)
- Project description (max. 2 pages), or alternatively: an overview/outline of the topics and issues to be addressed in the mentoring program

## **FAQ:**

### **Who can apply?**

All people who see themselves as up-and-coming documentary filmmakers can apply for the mentoring program. The program is open to the following fields: Directing, production, editing, camera. We particularly welcome applications from FLINTA and POC. The language of the mentoring program is German. In exceptional cases, English is also possible as a working language.

You can apply with a specific project or a more general request for career advice. It is possible to apply at different stages of a project:

- Research
- Project development/financing
- Filming/production
- Editing/dramaturgy

### **What should be included in the application?**

A fully completed PDF application form is required. And please send this together with the following content – if possible in a PDF document with a maximum file size of 5 MB: Motivation for participating in the program (max. 1 page), biography/filmography (max. 2 pages), project description (max. 2 pages), or alternatively: an overview/outline of the topics and issues to be addressed in the mentoring program

### **Who are the mentors?**

We are not yet able to publish the names of the mentors. But we can already tell you that we have selected very experienced filmmakers for you. All mentors have many years of professional experience and are renowned in their field. Of course, when matching, we make sure that there is a suitable mentor for every trade in the applications we receive.

### **How does the program proceed?**

We will accept applications by email to [buero@agdok.de](mailto:buero@agdok.de) until 15.09.2024. On Monday, October 28, 2024, the kick-off event with all mentors and mentees will take place at the DOK.Leipzig festival.

Following this, there should be a personal (online) meeting between mentor and mentee at least once a month for a year. At the beginning, you and your mentor will define the goals, content and form of the collaboration. For all questions, requests and challenges during this year, we at the AG DOK office are of course always available to advise you. If the projects funded within the mentoring program are realized, AG DOK Mentoring Program should be mentioned as a partner in the credits of the film.

### **Does it cost anything?**

Participation in the AG DOK mentoring program is free of charge for the mentees. In addition, the travel costs to the kick-off event at the end of October 2024 at the DOK.Leipzig Festival (2nd class rail travel) will be covered. And if required, an overnight stay in a hotel can also be paid for. Unfortunately, no travel costs can be covered for the monthly mentor-mentee meetings. You can discuss with the mentors whether you would like to organize these online or in person.

### **Who is behind the mentoring program?**

The AG DOK mentoring program is the result of an initiative of the AG DOK young talent group futurDOK. The aim is to facilitate entry into the film industry, especially for less privileged filmmakers. The program is also intended to promote networking within the association and the transfer of knowledge.

### **If you have any questions:**

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