

Department of Economic and Social Affairs







2021 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL EVENT

SDGS IN ACTION FILM FESTIVAL

MOBILIZING GRASS-ROOT FILMMAKERS AROUND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

5 - 12 JULY 2021

PROGRAMME



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth - all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.





High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

Bringing together thousands of representatives from governments, the UN system, business, youth, and civil society organizations, the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is the United Nations' central platform for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is held every four years under the auspices of the General Assembly and every year under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).



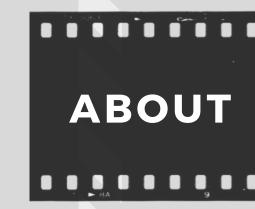


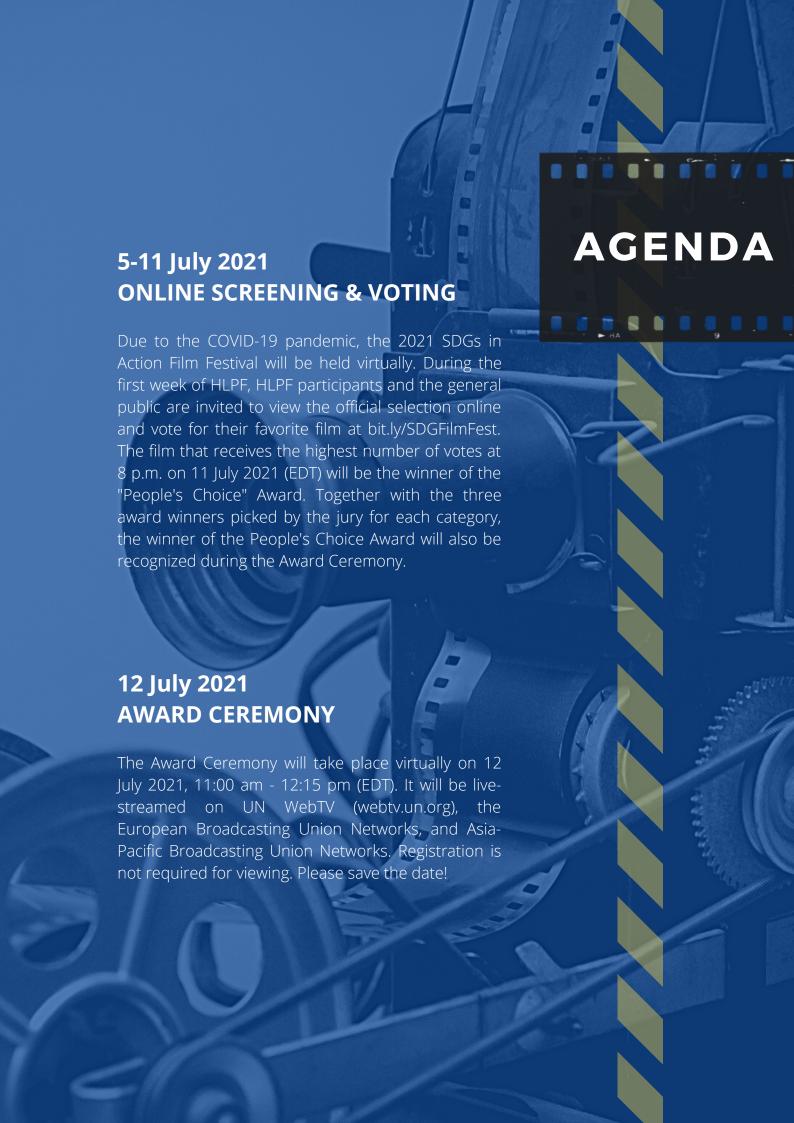
SDGs in Action Film Festival

The SDGs in Action Film Festival, coordinated by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, is an initiative launched in 2018 to mobilize the creative community around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is convened as a Special Event in connection with the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the United Nations' central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Festival offers grass-root filmmakers around the globe the chance to submit animated or live-action films up to 20 minutes long that showcase a person or project working on tangible solutions to the world's biggest threats and making the Global Goals our reality.

The 2021 edition of the SDGs in Action Film Festival accepted entries in three categories: *Rebuilding communities from COVID-19; Protecting our planet;* and *Advancing gender equality.* It has received over 1000 submissions from 90+ countries around the world. All submissions have been carefully considered by the jury and six films have been selected to be included in the 2021 official selection.





The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) is pleased to present **the official selection** of the 2021 SDGs in Action Film Festival at **https://bit.ly/SDGFilmFest**

5-11 JULY 2021 ONLINE SCREENING

ASHA: STORIES OF LEPROSY AND HOPE

BY ALBERTO PLA MONFORT, SPAIN

Advancing gender equality

AURORA

BY EMILIO JOSÉ ÁLVAREZ GARCÍA, MEXICO

Protecting our planet

LIMIT

BY DEBASISH MAZUMDER, BANGLADESH

Rebuilding communities from COVID-19

INVISIBLE HELPERS

BY ANNA MARRY, ELLIE SUTTLE,
UNITED KINGDOM

Advancing gender equality

SAUDADE

BY SANDRA DUARTE CARDOSO, TIAGO IÚRI, PORTUGAL

Protecting our planet

TO SURVIVE

BY NAZZINDA RUTH, UGANDA

Rebuilding communities from COVID-19















ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY



Alberto Pla Monfort (Spain, 1985) graduated in psychology and journalism.

Since 2010, he has been developing photography and audiovisual productions worldwide in places like India, Haití, Mozambique, El Salvador, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, with the purpose of giving face to all the injustices that are happening everyday.

Alberto always adopts a positive and hopeful point of view, with which he sends a message of hope. He wants change makers to know that positive changes, once achieved, are always shown.

ASHA:Stories of Leprosy and Hope

Women are particularly affected by the disease leprosy, which is currently curable and which, together with its stigma, prevents women from living with dignity.

With the voice of actress Iris Lezcano who have suffered from leprosy, ASHA collects the testimonies of various women with leprosy in India and presents the prevention, treatment, support, and socio-labor insertion work carried out by Fontilles in India. These leading women show that with effort and will, leprosy can be defeated.



FOLLOW THE DIRECTOR:



AlbertoPlaPhotographer



albertopla



agenciaalbertopla

WATCH THE FILM AT:



ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY



Anna Marry (United Kingdom) is Global Communications Manager at Brooke (thebrooke.org). She has worked in communications for development for nearly 20 years, including at the World Bank and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She holds an MSc in Media, Communications and Development from the London School of Economics. A dual Polish-French citizen, Anna lives and works in London and enjoys travelling, in particular in West Africa.



Ellie Suttle (United Kingdom) has extensive experience in communications in the nonprofit sector, having previously worked on a wide range of issues including women's unemployment, animal welfare and community empowerment. Since graduating with a first in journalism and English, she has been passionate about storytelling and giving agency communities who don't have a platform to have their voices heard.

Invisible Helpers

In this animation, Mwende, a mother of four living in Kenya, tells the story of how her donkey Nuru helps her carry water, earn an income, send her children to school, and become more empowered.

She illustrates the link between her invisible helper and the Sustainable Development Goals, how working horses, donkeys, and mules support women across the world every day, giving women an increased social status by providing water, food, and income, helping to keep children in school.



FOLLOW THE DIRECTORS:



WATCH THE FILM AT:



PROTECTING OUR PLANET



Emilio José Álvarez García (Spain, 1975) is a graduate in Art History with a postgraduate degree in the history and aesthetics of cinematography. He has worked in the Spanish audiovisual industry for companies such as Renault, Michelin, or Cadbury. In Mexico, he has been a founding partner and creative director of the company Bichostudio, directing projects for Cirque Du Soleil, AM Resorts, Catalonia Hotels or Grupo Xcaret, among others.

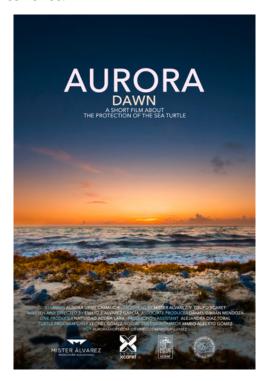
In 2016 he wrote and directed the documentary Scarlett Macaw: Flying Home, the short version of which won several awards at the Boston College 2017 Corporate Citizenship Film Festival. The documentary was a finalist at the 2018 Sony Picture This Festival for the Planet.

As a documentary filmmaker, he believes it is necessary to get involved with the community and become a speaker for those projects that care about our environment and our traditions. That is why since 2020, his project, Mister Álvarez, has produced documentary content of a sustainable nature.

Aurora

Out of every 1000 small sea turtles that hatch, only one will reach adulthood.

Aurora is a short film about the experience of a young volunteer in a marine turtle conservation program in the Mexican Caribbean. Through their eyes, we will get to know the work carried out by the Xcacel Sea Turtle Camp, in the state of Quintana Roo, Mexico, and the efforts of the entire team to protect and care for, every day, the nests of this species to ensure that their newborns can reach the sea. It is a story of love for life, learning, and resilience.



FOLLOW THE DIRECTOR:



FloraFaunaCultu

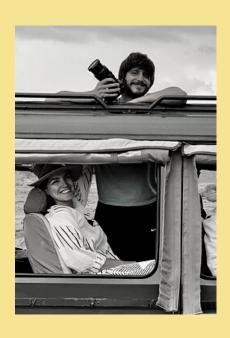


https://bit.ly/SDGFilmFest

WATCH THE FILM AT:



PROTECTING OUR PLANET



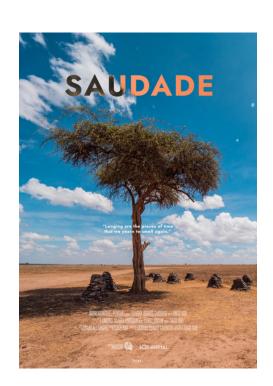
Sandra Duarte Cardoso (Portugal) is an activist, mother of a human and 8 non-humans, President of SOS Animal - Portugal, CEO of Imprescindível Pensar, TV presenter - SIC Chanel, Medical Vet -DVM MCs, Phd Student. She was the producer of the successful television project "À Descoberta Com".

Tiago lúri (Portugal, 1994) studied "Image and Sound" at the Higher School of Arts and Design (ESAD) of the Polytechnic Institute of Leiria, in Caldas da Rainha. Currently, he is a director and editor at the production company Imprescindível Pensar in partnership with SOS Animal, with the successful television project "À Descoberta Com", also working on a freelance basis at the production company Black Crystal.

Saudade

Saudade is a Portuguese word that doesn't have a particular translation, but roughly means 'to miss something'.

This film tells the story of Sandra's meeting with the last two white rhinocerontes from the north of the planet, Najin, Fatu, and their protectors.



FOLLOW THE DIRECTORS:



@sandraduartecardoso @tiagoiurifernandes @sosanimalportugal



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WATCH THE FILM AT:



REBUILDING COMMUNITIES FROM COVID-19



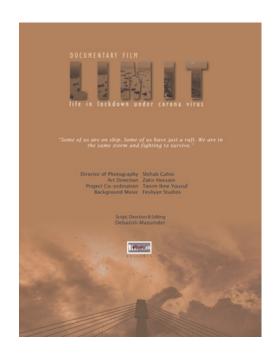
Debasish Mazumder (Bangladesh, 1975). In the early 90s, I joined Chittagong Film Center along with some of my friends. We were learning from regular discussions with seniors. Activities like projecting films in the theater hall, selling tickets, sticking the posters on the city walls were really priceless. People may laugh if they know that the most interesting thing for me was working as a light-man in the cinema, taking the visitors through dark corridors and putting them in their seats. At that time, like many other people around the world, I started dreaming, yes, one day I will make a movie. The desire is getting stronger and stronger.

And it suddenly seemed like time needs to be held during the COVID lock-down. I discussed with my team and the documentary film "LIMIT" was born. I must thank them for making my dream come true with their huge support.

I believe the spread of cinema is infinite. Its potential fascinates me. I watch a lot of movies. Movies make me think, a lot. I am amazed by the limitless application technique.

LIMIT

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced millions of people to live under strict lockdown conditions, but the psychology of human behavior predicts they will find it harder to stick to the rules the longer the situation continues. The psychological factors that motivate us to stay in our bubbles are a mix of individual, group, and societal considerations. This film tries to capture the psychology of the urban people of Bangladesh during the pandemic lockdown.



WATCH THE FILM AT:

https://bit.ly/SDGFilmFest

FOLLOW THE DIRECTOR:





REBUILDING COMMUNITIES FROM COVID-19



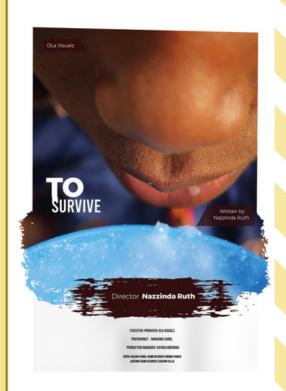
Nazzinda Ruth (Uganda) is an Award-winning Ugandan female filmmaker and a professional journalist who has worked with Galaxy Fm for four years. She studied filmmaking at the University of Cape Town, South Africa and is a member of the Rotaract club of Mmengo.

Ruth is currently working with OLa Visualz /OLa Film Foundation Uganda as a volunteer film tutor/filmmaker. She has worked on different film projects throughout the years, such as D.O.P beyond career film documentary, director Frida the Cleaner in South Africa 2018, director/writer Out from the She has gained documentary 2019. recognition from various film festivals such as the African Film Festival, TAFF 2019 Dallas Texas USA, Serenity screening UK 2021, and FlickFare 2020.

In 2020, Ruth directed/wrote *To survive*, a documentary and hunger-reduction lockdown film, which was the Award Winner in TAFF 2021, officially selected in the Serenity Screening UK 2021, Sheffield Short UK 2021, Village Art & Film Festival 2020 Nigeria, the Award Winner and Best Directors Award at the 2021 London International Tourism Film Festival - Africa 2021, Vinilonga 2020, and Nominee at the Monthly Film Festival 2021 UK, Zambia Short Film Festival 2021, and Durban FilmMart South Africa 2021.

To Survive

This film is based on a true story about a young lady who is the youngest chairperson in the history of women in politics in Uganda. She is the chairperson in one of Uganda's slum ghetto areas, Kabalagala-Kampala, which has a population of over 2000 lowincome earners. She decided to prepare porridge in response to the lockdown and quarantine during Covid-19 to reduce hunger among her community members.



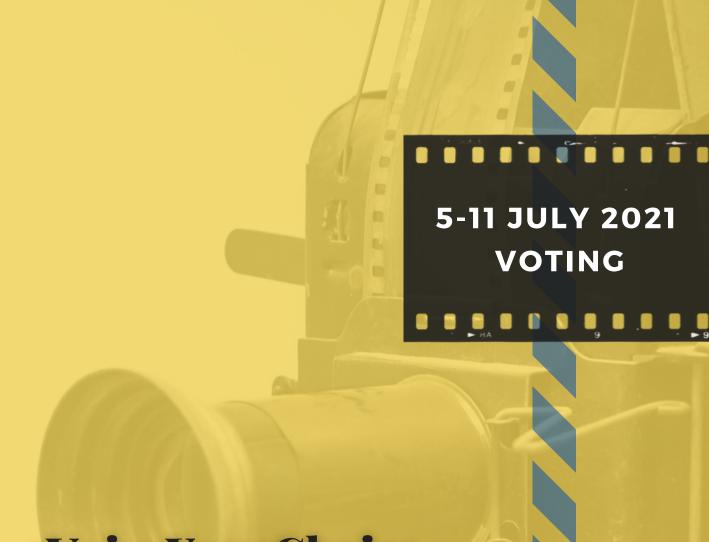
FOLLOW THE DIRECTOR:



@ruthnazzinda @zzindaa



WATCH THE FILM AT:



#VoiceYourChoice

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE SDG ACTION FILM

HLPF participants and the general public are invited to watch all six films in the official selection and vote for their favorite by 8:00 p.m., 11 July 2021 (EDT) at bit.ly/SDGFilmFest

The winner of the "People's Choice" category will be revealed at the virtual award ceremony on 12 July!

12 JULY 2021 AWARD CEREMONY

LIVESTREAMING ON

webtv.un.org

12 JULY 2021 | 11:00 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

JOIN OUR GUEST
PRESENTERS TO RECOGNIZE
THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE
AWARD WINNERS IN THE
FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- PROTECTING OUR PLANET
- ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY
- REBUILDING COMMUNITIES
 FROM COVID-19
- PEOPLE'S CHOICE

The award ceremony will also be live-streamed across European and Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union Networks





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