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In 2017, the Ji.hlava IDFF presents two new industry programmes: the first is the Ji.hlava Film Fund, which focuses primarily on postproduction, and the second is the Ji.hlava Academy for young but experienced filmmakers. As with Emerging Producers, the objective of these new projects is to create a reliable platform that will bring together and support filmmakers whose work goes against the expectations (or often entirely outside of the expectations) of influential commercial players.

As in the past, this year we will again discuss important questions related to the future of film at Ji.hlava's Lighthouse. This archetypal object on Jihlava's main square, which in the past guided sailors on their journeys, will help documentary and experimental filmmakers find their way towards financing and distributing their works. Today it may be easier to shoot a film, but it is all the more difficult to successfully find an audience.

Of all cinema, documentary film is the closest to the trends that have influenced the music scene. Digitalization has made it freer and more diverse than ever before, but also more difficult to navigate and paradoxically more local — not in terms of geography but in terms of narrower target groups. Unlike music, however, film is much more tied to language, cultural context, a country's cinematic tradition and traditional forms of distribution. For these reasons, it is important to ask what influence the strong pressures of American investors such as Netflix will have on European art film. And not just on film, but also on traditional distribution channels and on audience habits.

Even today, we can see in which direction we are headed — but our actual future depends on each and every one of us.

*Thank you for your interest!*

Marek Hovorka  
*Director of Ji.hlava IDFF*