

Caspar Sonnen honoured with The EDN Award 2015



Thessaloniki, March 20, 2015

The 11th EDN Award is presented to Caspar Sonnen. He receives the award for his pioneering commitment to interactive documentary work and through this creating an outstanding contribution to the development of the European documentary culture.

As new media coordinator for the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, IDFA, and curator of the festival's IDFA DocLab Caspar Sonnen has for many been a guide into the interactive world of documentary storytelling. Through his work he has made it possible for many documentary makers, coming from the classic linear way of telling documentary stories, to understand the interactive possibilities and opportunities now at our hands.

Upon the presentation of the EDN Award, EDN Film Consultant Ove Rishøj Jensen states: *We are honouring Caspar Sonnen because he for many has been and will continue to be, a pioneer in showing us the first steps into the world of interactive documentary. Curating interactive works, consulting interactive storytellers and on numerous occasions bridging documentary storytelling to art, activism, publishing, music and journalism into cutting edge inspirational events. Caspar has created a large number of eye-opening moments for many in the documentary sector.*

In 2005, Caspar Sonnen joined IDFA, developing several new digital festival initiatives, ranging from online documentary storytelling experiments to the festival's online documentary channel IDFA TV. He launched the IDFA DocLab in 2008, to showcase projects that use digital technology to expand traditional forms of documentary storytelling. The program quickly grew into an international platform for interactive webdocs and other new formats where digital technology and documentary storytelling converge. Since 2010, IDFA DocLab has also included an official competition program for digital documentary storytelling. In addition to IDFA DocLab, Sonnen also organizes guest programs at other festivals, such as the Berlinale and SXSW Film & Interactive. Sonnen has a background in new media and film studies at Utrecht University. He has worked for film and media art festivals, as a freelance film journalist, and as a cinema programmer.

The award recipient is announced at The EDN Award ceremony on March 20th during the EDN workshop Docs in Thessaloniki. The workshop is held in the framework of the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival – Images of the 21st Century.

About The EDN Award

The EDN Award is presented annually during Docs in Thessaloniki to an institution, group or private person for outstanding contribution to the development of the European documentary culture. Previously The EDN Award has been presented to:
2014 – Tue Steen Müller for a lifelong commitment to the documentary genre
2013 – Stefano Tealdi and Joan Gonzales for initiating and running Documentary in Europe and DocsBarcelona; respectively.

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2012 - Diana El Jeiroudi, Orwa Nyrabia and The DOX BOX Team for initiating the DOX BOX festival in Syria.

2011 - Dimitri Eipides: Director of the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival

2010 - IRDFA - Iranian Documentary Filmmakers Association: Directors' guild in Iran focusing on documentary filmmakers

2009 - Nenad Puhovski and Zagreb Dox For initiating Zagreb Dox in Croatia.

2008 - IDF – Institute of Documentary Film: Prague based institute promoting documentary films from East- and Central Europe

2007 - Svetlana and Zoran Popovic: For initiating and running Magnificent 7 in Belgrade, Serbia

2006 - The Jan Vrijman Fund: Dutch film fund supporting filmmakers and festivals in developing countries.

2005 - YLE Documentary: The documentary department of YLE, the national public service broadcaster in Finland.

EDN - European Documentary Network is a member-based organisation for professionals working with documentary film and television. The organization has over 1000 members from more than 60 countries. More about EDN - www.edn.dk

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For editors:

Pictures from the award ceremony are available for download at the EDN web site here - <http://www.edn.dk/edn/press/>

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