

## ***Workshop for female documentary filmmakers***

***Trainers: Karin Ekberg and Johanna Bernhardson (Sweden)***

***Workshop period: 19 -20 October, 2015***

Swedish filmmakers Karin Ekberg and Johanna Bernhardson and Sakdoc Film, with the support of The Swedish Institute, organize a workshop for female documentary filmmakers from Caucasus. The workshop aims to empower female filmmakers in the beginning of their career and give them skills and confidence to reach an international level. The workshop also aims to raise an awareness of gender equality behind and in front of the camera, and a longterm change of attitudes.

The workshop will be help in the frame of Tbilisi International Documentary Film Festival (**Cinedoc**) and is open for semiprofessional female directors and producers from Caucasus with a documentary film project on development stage.

Working language of the workshop is English. All participants must be able to communicate in English and visuals for the application need English subtitles.

### **Participation Fee:**

Participation is free of charge. Organizers will cover accommodation, coffee breaks and lunches of selected participants.

*Please submit the following documents:*

- 1) Synopsis of your documentary film project**
- 2) Treatment of your documentary film project**
- 3) Director's note of your documentary film project**
- 5) Bio/filmography of the director/producer**
- 6) Visual materials (research photos/research film material/trailer). Please note that some visual materials, at least research photos MUST be included.**

**Documentary storytelling with a personal voice**  
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All the requested information should be saved as ONE single PDF file and attached with your application form, also saved as a PDF and e-mailed to the following address:

**docstorytelling@gmail.com**, together with links and passwords of visual (subtitled) material on vimeo or youtube.

**The deadline is September 25, 2015.**

**Important note!**

**Only applications that include filled application form and all the annexes will be considered.**

***Below you can find additional information about the workshop.***

*For more detailed information on the SAKDOC FILM activities please visit [www.sakdoc.ge](http://www.sakdoc.ge)*

## **Documentary storytelling with a personal voice**

*A workshop for female directors and producers of documentary film*

By including your own voice as a filmmaker, whether directly or indirectly, your unique perspective gives the viewer a stronger contact with the subject matter. This way a personal story can become universal and reach an international audience.

In a small group we will watch, analyze and discuss films which are interesting from an artistic perspective. Inspired by these participants will get the chance to try new methods practically through an exercise.

The role of the director as a leader, and someone responsible for both artistic quality and the contact with the portrayed characters, will be discussed deeply. We will also talk about the importance of being supported by a strong network of colleagues, when breaking new ground, looking at successful examples from other countries.

Other topics we will cover are ethics, distribution, documentary as a tool for social change and benefits of filming over a longer period of time.

Equality and gender awareness is present throughout the whole workshop and participants will also learn useful feedback models, how to create an atmosphere of trust and how to build a strong and confident pitch.

After the workshop a follow up coaching session with the tutors through Skype will be offered.

## Documentary storytelling with a personal voice

OCTOBER 19-20, 2015

Tutors are the Swedish directors and producers Johanna Bernhardson and Karin Ekberg. They both have a long background in personal documentary filmmaking, including time at master studies, international pitching forums, workshops and courses. We have a good network and have been active on the board of Women in film in television (WIFT Sweden) as well as on the board of Independent filmmakers Sweden (OFF).



**KARIN EKBERG** is a director and producer of documentary and short fiction. She has a BA in fine arts and photography from the Netherlands, a master in journalism from Stockholm University and a master in film from Gothenburg University. Her feature length debut "A Separation" has been on Swedish TV and cinema, international festivals from Thessaloniki, Krakow and Copenhagen to Dhaka, Beijing and Montevideo.

She is one of the initiators of Eksjö short film festival and is part of the core team behind Pure Fiction, a successful one year workshop for Swedish female fiction directors, now running on it's third edition. She has six years experience of working with talent development and communication from the organizations Filmbasen and BoostHbg. She is currently vice president of The Independent filmmakers Sweden (OFF) and is producing and directing two feature length documentaries as well

as producing a fiction film. Karin has a trans-medial approach and also works with exhibitions and audience interactivity.

For more info check out [www.aseparation.se](http://www.aseparation.se)

**JOHANNA BERNHARDSON** is a director and producer of documentary and experimental films. She has a Master in fine Arts in Set-design from HDK - School of Design and Crafts. She also has a Master in Film from Gothenburg University.

She has worked as set-designer and prop-master on the film Songs from the Second Floor by Roy Andersson 1996-2000. Johanna Bernhardson's films take place close to herself and her family and are very personal, yet she touches upon universal themes. Her films have been screened at Swedish TV and at national and international filmfestivals. In 2012 Uppsala International Short Film Festival made a retrospective with all her films.

She also has a lot of teaching experience, working with both adults and children.

She is the initiator of the workshop "A Part of Myself" held at women prisons in Sweden. This workshop aims to help these women to communicate and express themselves. With basic storytelling they are able to formulate their worries, fears and hopes. Website (in Swedish) [www.subjektobjekt.se](http://www.subjektobjekt.se)



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**Working with gender equality in the film industry**

Sweden has long a history of working with diversity and gender perspective to wider the expressions and to let new stories reach an audience. The Swedish Film institute, under the lead of Anna Serner, has through strong efforts and continues work managed to reach a number of 40 percent female directors and producers within documentary. Among the younger generation, receiving support from regional resource centers the figures are now at 50/50. Workshops don't only strengthen participants and their projects, they also serve the purpose of creating new networks and new structures.

This work takes time but is also very rewarding as the audience eventually will learn to ask for more. Because the stories of and by women are often stories that makes us, both men and women, understand our grandmothers, mothers, sisters, colleagues, friends and neighbors.