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Documentary Festival Brings the Real Russia to the Big Screen

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Why do some Russians still revere Stalin? How do others preserve the memory of those he killed?
Courtesy of Zeppers Film & TV

For ten▣years the ArtDocFest has been showcasing documentary films shot in Russia, in▣Russian (or other languages of the former Soviet Union), and by Russians. They▣are short, long, funny, terrifying, moving, and sometimes amazing. But they are▣almost certainly not what you see on the small screen — and not just in Russia,▣but anywhere in the world.

This year's▣festival, held at the theaters of the Oktyabr movie complex, begins on Wednesday▣in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Yekaterinburg and runs through next Tuesday. It▣will screen 136 films from 30 countries in a competition program and six other▣programs.

All the▣competition films are shown with English subtitles (look for films in Theater▣8).

The Gala▣Opening films will include a new documentary by Jon Alpert called Cuba and the▣Cameraman (in English and Spanish). On Thursday at 8 p.m. the festival will▣hold the

Russian premiere of “Red Soul,” a documentary about Russians and their relationship with the legacy of Josef Stalin by Dutch director Jessica Gorter. It will be shown again on Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

For more information, tickets, schedule and other news, see the festival site (largely in Russian with some English).

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