The idea to create an event known under its present title – Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival – was conceived in the minds of a group of Jihlava high school students in 1997. The Jihlava IDFF brought together thousands of viewers, directors, producers, film critics, journalists, friends and family of documentary cinema, who spent several days "thinking through film". Festival of creative documentary cinema is now recognised as the largest event of its kind in Central and Eastern Europe. Each edition of the festival introduced new and additional projects and features expanding on the documentary reflections and experiences of festival-goers, filmmakers, and producers alike.

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