

European Genre Forum

European Genre Forum is an European training programme organised by Imagine Film Festival in Amsterdam, the biggest festival for fantastic film in the Netherlands, Fantastic Zagreb Film Festival, the largest genre festival in the SEE region, and Black Nights Film Festival in Tallinn.

The main goal of this international project is to connect, educate, and support young and upcoming, as well as already established European film talents beginning their career in the genre industry. The EGF annual cycle in 2022 includes three labs. Screenwriting and Directing Lab took place in Zagreb in August and Production Lab in Amsterdam earlier in November. The final Sales and Marketing Lab in Tallinn concludes the EGF in 2022.

The participants can receive full-range feedback from mentors, acquire skills and find contacts of established professionals in the global genre industry. The labs help to step the projects up and prepare for financing, participation in co-production markets, and for starting the production. The Sales and Marketing Lab will take place from the 22nd to 24th of November. Special sessions focus on topics connected to the sales and marketing, to genre project markets and on case studies. As at the end of every EGF year, at the heart of the Lab will be the long-awaited final Pitch of the 8 exciting projects from the participants. The young fantastic genre cinema is waiting to be discovered.

ABSENCE



PROJECT ORIGINAL TITLE: ABSENCE

Country: United Kingdom

Genre: horror, drama, LGBTQI+

Director: Dima Barch

Producer: Vladislav Severtsev

Production company: Undisclosed Majority Ltd

Language: English

Production budget (in EUR): 2 500 000

Financing in place (in EUR): 300 000

Looking for: co-producers, private funds / banks, sales agent

Synopsis

After the death of a classmate, four ex-friends receive a message from him to meet in Absence. That's what the characters called the place under the city bridge, where they often skipped school together. Each of these ex-friends has a negative experience with the school, some of it - even tragic. Unfortunately, they were themselves the cause of all the tragedies of the past. And five years after parting with childhood, our characters will meet vengeance.

So I Know What You Did Last Summer meets Mike Flanagan's *The Haunting*.

Director

Dima Barch was born in 1998 (Moscow). He graduated from MSU as a journalist and almost finished HSE as a filmmaker. Dima had been working as a film journalist and film critic for more than nine years. His essays were published in GQ, Esquire, Forbes, Iskusstvo Kino.

A lifelong genre-film lover, he wrote and directed his short film debut called *Dead End*. Its North American Premier took place at Beyond Fest. Also, this short film was selected by more than ten international film festivals. *Absence* would become his feature debut.

Production company and producer

Vladislav Severtsev has extensive experience in the TV and film production industry. He has produced numerous top TV shows and series for Russian TV as well as feature films which have been distributed internationally.

His 2017 release *The Bride* still holds the record for the highest grossing Russian horror movie in the domestic box office. It was also the first Russian genre feature film ever acquired for a wide theatrical release internationally and opened at #3 in theaters in Mexico and was eventually sold to Netflix and Amazon. US based studios Lionsgate in 2018 and Young N Free Films in 2021 optioned the rights for *The Bride* for US and India remakes, consequently.

In 2021, Vladislav Severtsev joined a UK based company **Undisclosed Majority Ltd** in order to further expand his professional activities internationally. Undisclosed Majority Ltd is a member of PACT UK (Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television) and a signatory to WGA (Writers Guild of America).

Contact

Vladislav Severtsev
vsevertsev@fmpgroup.ru
+420601371796 | +447385170417

THE BRAID



PROJECT ORIGINAL TITLE: FLÄTAN

Country: Sweden, Norway, TBD

Genre: psychological horror

Director: Angelika Abramovitch

Producers: Annika Hellström, Erika Malmgren

Production companies: Cinenic Film, Hummelfilm

Language: Swedish

Production budget (in EUR): 2 700 000

Financing in place (in EUR): 270 000

Looking for: sales agent, streamers, co-producers, private funds, post-production services

Synopsis

Eleven-year-old Isa has a close connection to her mother Karin, a woman with a dark past and untreated anxieties. When a relative dies, the family must travel to Karin's childhood home in the deep forests of Dalarna, Northern Sweden – a superstitious place where folklore myths and the old tradition of weaving human hair still live on. At the house, buried traumas start to take possession of Karin, who becomes obsessed with hair, lice and the dreaded creature "the Mare". Isa must now defeat the evil from her mother's past to survive.

Director

Angelika Abramovitch was born in 1989 in the former Soviet Union and came to Sweden as a three-year-old. Angelika began her film

career in London in 2012, doing short films, music videos and art projects and working at the media company VICE & i-D. In 2021 Angelika graduated as a director from Stockholm University of The Arts. In 2022 Angelika's short *Catcave Hysteria* premiered in international competition at Clermont-Ferrand and she was picked for both Future Frames/Karlovy Vary and Talent Village/Les Arcs emerging director's programmes. *The Braid* will be Angelika's debut feature.

Production company and producer

Cinenic Film is a Swedish production company established in 2008, and with headquarters in Göteborg. We produce mainly feature films and documentaries and collaborate with some of the most interesting creative talents across Scandinavia. Among the over 20 titles produced and co-produced so far are award-winning features such as *Flocking* (Crystal Bear, Berlinale 2015), *And Breathe Normally* (Best director, Sundance 2018), *Children of the Enemy* (CPH:DOX 2021) and *So Damn Easy Going* (opening film GIFF 2022). The company is led by producers Annika Hellström and Erika Malmgren, both with long standing careers in the industry.

Contact

Annika Hellström
annika@cinenicfilm.se
+46 707 866 416

THE BURDEN OF FANGS



PROJECT ORIGINAL TITLE: ZUBI NA GRBAČI

Country: Serbia

Genre: comedy, fantasy, horror

Director: Damir Romanov

Producers: Dušan Sindić, Ivana Mitrović

Production company: Samo Sekund

Language: Serbo-Croatian

Production budget (in EUR): 1 100 000

Financing in place (in EUR): 20 000

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, public funds (national, regional, international)

Synopsis

Serbia, Zarožje village, 18th century. The daughter of the famous Serbian vampire Sava Savanovic, vampiress Martha, gets into major conflict with family's paterfamilias Sava and makes a decision to leave her bloodthirsty family together with her young son Vuk. Two centuries later we find Marta and Vuk living in contemporary Belgrade pretty well-fitted among human. But trouble starts when monstrous murders start to happen and all traces lead to our heroes.

Director

Damir Romanov was born in Pancevo, Yugoslavia. He is a scholar of the Republic Foundation for the Development of Scientific and Artistic Youth in Serbia. In 2011, he graduated in Film and TV directing from the Faculty for Dramatic Arts in Belgrade. In 2015, he began his PhD studies – Doctoral art studies in drama and audiovisual arts in the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade. His short film *Pulse* won the best screenplay award at the Festival of Serbian Fantastic Film 2011. His film *Graveyard Stories* won the best film award at the Festival of Serbian Fantastic Film 2011 and the best Serbian film award at the Hrizantema Horror & Fantasy Film Festival 2013.

Production company and producer

The founders of **Samo Sekund** wish to contribute to the development and promotion of film art in through various activities - film production, co-production, organising events with topics in the field of cinematography. Samo Sekund brings together filmmakers who have over time established themselves as permanent collaborators, recognised for their energy, aspirations, and vision for the domestic cinema. The long-term goal is to give a new look at socially relevant topics by producing high-quality domestic film and series programs.

Dušan Sindić was born in Pancevo in 1992. He participated in the organisation of a large number of short films, theatre performances, festivals, and events. He has worked within the Pancevo Film Festival, Mikser House, and, since 2018, for Serbian production companies Vision Team, This and That, Contrast Studio, Cobra Film, Balkanic Media, and Firefly Production.

Contact

Dušan Sindić | Damir Romanov
sindjicdusan@gmail.com | damir.romanov@gmail.com
+381 638 554 333

DOG OF GOD



PROJECT ORIGINAL TITLE: DIEVA SUNS

Country: Latvia

Genre: historical, adventure, cartoon, supernatural

Directors: Raitis Abele, Lauris Abele

Producers: Kristele Pudane, Raitis Abele

Production company: Tritone Studio

Languages: German, Latvian, Swedish

Production budget (in EUR): 530 000

Financing in place (in EUR): 380 000

Looking for: sales agent, broadcasters, festivals

Synopsis

17th-century Swedish Livonia. The Livonian Christian relic is stolen from the church. Priest Buckholz, 54 accuses a young woman - Neze, 24 of being a witch as he saw her in his dream the previous night. During the day trial is held, but during the night Buckholz tortures Neze to get a confession. When Neze's death seems imminent by burning at stake, she decides to go along – and plays the game of being a witch. She shouts out loud for the help of the werewolves. An elderly man named Thiess, 82, enters the trial stating he knows where the Christian relic is - it is located deep down in hell. Thiess claims that he is a werewolf – a dog of god – and is the only one who can venture down to the underworld and bring the sacred relic back. The story is based on true events and an actual werewolf trial.

Directors

Brothers **Lauris Abele** and **Raitis Abele** are Latvian filmmakers. Lauris obtained a Master's degree in Audio-Visual Arts (film directing) at the Latvian Academy of Culture. Raitis Abele is a Ph.D. psychology student but studied film art at New York Film Academy. Mostly they work together with their third brother Marcis Abele (director of photography) on films, shorts, music videos, and various surrealistic art projects. Their first international success came when the short film *Castratus the Boar* won the Grand Prix at Tampere Short Film Festival in 2015. After that brothers co-directed the docudrama *Baltic Tribes | Last Pagans of Europe* and their first feature film *Troubled Minds*. Apart from that they play and compose music in two rock and post-metal bands - Soundarcade and Sonntags Legion.

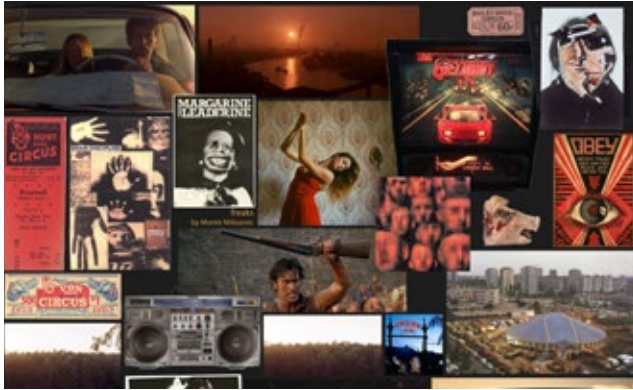
Production company and producer

Tritone Studio was started in 2009 as a boutique artist's collective but soon was joined by other creative and responsible minds. Visual experiments with music videos and a couple of successful shorts eventually led to producing feature films and co-producing internationally. Studio's most recent feature films are the docudrama *Baltic Tribes | Last Pagans of Europe* (2018), a feature film *Troubled Minds* (2021) co-directed by Lauris Abele and Raitis Abele, and the film *Revolution*, 2022 directed by Mārcis Lācis.

Contact

Kristele Pudane
kristele.pudane@inbox.lv
+371 29 262 777

FREAKS



PROJECT ORIGINAL TITLE: NAKAZE

Country: Serbia

Genre: drama, horror

Director: Momir Milosevic

Producer: Milan Todorovic

Production company: Talking Wolf Productions

Language: Serbian

Production budget (in EUR): 950 000

Financing in place (in EUR): 0

Looking for: co-producers, public funds (national, regional, international), sales agent

Synopsis

Najdan (28), a grown-up child of the war-torn 1990s who used to find escapism in amusement park culture faces up to his pathological need to help those in trouble when he re-encounters his first love, now exploited as part of an illegally established freak show.

Director

Momir Milosevic was born in October 1989 in Belgrade. In 2011, he graduated from the London Film Academy. He has since written and directed numerous short films through which he experimented with

genre conventions, while his debut feature film *Open Wound* (2016), a dislocated horror drama, got acclaim with critics and festival audiences. His short film *Tonight You'll See* (2019) inspired the teenage horror miniseries *Block 27* (2022), which Momir also directed, produced by Firefly Productions from Serbia. He was nominated for best directing for the final episode of the series at this year's Sarajevo Film Festival.

Production company and producer

Milan Todorovic was born in 1981 in Pancevo. He graduated from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade. In 2005, he founded **Talking Wolf Productions** and has since produced and directed a number of genre films in Serbia. Talking Wolf Productions made their first feature - *Zone of the Dead* in 2009, it starred Ken Foree and had worldwide release. In 2014, TWP produced *Nymph* starring the legendary Franco Nero, the 2nd most popular non-American horror film on Netflix at the time of release. TWP also co-produced genre features such as *The Quantum Devil* (2022), *Slotherhouse* (post-production) and *Isolation* (post-production). The company CV is strengthened by Todorovic's experience as one of the directors on American TV series - *The Outpost*, *Almost Paradise* and *The Ark*, and the 2nd season of the highly acclaimed Serbian crime drama series - *Besa*. Milan Todorovic is the program director of the Dead Lake Horror and Wine Festival, and a professor at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade.

Contact

Milan Todorovic
tokivud@gmail.com

MONARCH



PROJECT ORIGINAL TITLE: MONARH

Country: Romania

Genre: fiction, science fiction, comedy

Director: Dan Radu Mihai

Producer: Livia Radulescu

Production companies: Dash Film, Redwood

Language: Romanian

Production budget (in EUR): 600 000

Financing in place (in EUR): 80 000

Looking for: co-producers, private funds / banks, public funds (national, regional, international)

Synopsis

Bogdan is a 35-year-old man who has known since childhood that he has a heart disease and that he has to always remain calm in order to stay alive. Soon it becomes apparent that his intense emotional states may have another effect. As peculiar events involving electricity disturbances and mysterious encounters grow in Bogdan's life, he decides to go back to his childhood town.

On the road home, Bogdan meets all kinds of new characters who take him on this journey, either by helping him, like the truck driver who buys him the pills he takes daily and that had been stolen, or by facing him with realities he can't explain, like the priest who flies a utility

airplane in a wild animal vaccination program. Like in a modern fairy tale, each character takes Bogdan closer to home.

At the end of his journey, Bogdan realises that almost everyone in his life was there with the mission to protect him from his own superhuman power, achieved in emotional states: to cut off electricity.

Director

After 10 years spent in advertising and publishing, **Radu** took a leap of faith and became a film director. Since then he has directed several short films and commercials. His three short films were selected to more than 20 international festivals, including Clermont-Ferrand, Vila do Conde, Busan, Vilnius, Cairo and others. Now he is developing his first feature film.

Production company and producer

Dash Film is a film production company established in 2010, with a mission to create a strong bond between the passion for cinema and the stories that burst in reality.

Livia Radulescu graduated in Economics and has a Masters degree from the London School of Economics in 2008. She came into film production in 2016 from a background of ten years of management roles in creative industries, cultural management, and impact entrepreneurship. Since then, she worked as development producer and executive producer for successful features and shorts selected in festivals like Locarno, PÖFF, Sarajevo, Thessaloniki and others. She also co-founded FILM+, a regional workshop aimed at emerging filmmakers, and she collaborates with a variety of cultural and artistic projects or festivals. She enjoys experimenting across disciplines. She is in development with feature film *Monarch* as producer alongside Dash Film, and in various stages with two feature documentaries and three cultural projects.

Contact

Livia Radulescu
livia@redwood.ro

ONCE UPON A FUTURE IN THE BALKANS

European Genre Forum
CROATIA



PROJECT ORIGINAL TITLE: HRVOJKINA HORVAT:
BILO JEDNOM U BUDUĆNOSTI
Country: Croatia
Genre: sci-fi, comedy, satire
Director: Predrag Ličina
Producer: Vanja Sremac
Production company: Terminal 3
Language: Croatian
Production budget (in EUR): 1 400 000
Financing in place (in EUR): 34 500
Looking for: co-producers, streamers, sales agent

Synopsis

Once Upon a Future in the Balkans is a science fiction comedy with a superheroine named Hrvojkina Horvat who has the ability to time travel. This political satire is set in the future, in 2061, when the Western Balkan countries are integrated into a puppet state called The Great Montenegro. The protagonist Hrvojkina Horvat is using her superpowers to travel back to the past in order to save her country and change the present, that is the future.

Director

Predrag Ličina was born in 1972 in Zagreb. He studied film and TV directing at the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Zagreb. In the early 1990s he wrote film reviews for newspapers, and then went on to direct several documentaries for Croatian Radiotelevision, as well as numerous music videos and commercials. In 2012, he created the TV series *Sunday Morning, Saturday Evening*. Together with Jelena Paljan he wrote screenplays for 15 episodes, which he also directed. The show was widely praised by critics and accepted by younger audiences. In 2013, he completed the short film *Zovko Teleport*. The same year he received the Grand Prix and the Audience Award at the Multimedial Festival in Majdanpek. In 2018, he wrote and directed his first feature film, the zombie comedy *The Last Serb in Croatia* that was a local blockbuster.

Production company and producer

Terminal 3 is a Croatian production company based in Zagreb, founded in 2017. It's a female-led company managed by producer **Vanja Sremac** who, before founding her own company, was working as a freelance producer for different production companies. Vanja still acts as an expert in cultural policies for the audiovisual sector following many years of experience in cultural management by working for the Croatian Audiovisual Centre, the main film agency in Croatia.

Terminal 3 is an author-driven company whose credits consist of a short experimental film *Every Artist by Themselves, Never Quite Together* by Jelena Blagović and a debut feature *Kick and Scream* by Nina Viočić, followed by two minority co-productions: a feature film by Dušan Kovačević *It's Not Bad Being a Human* and a feature film *The Happiest Man in the World* by Macedonian director Teona Strugar Mitevska that had its premiere at the Venezia 79 and later on at Toronto Film Festival.

Contact

Vanja Sremac
vanja@terminal3.eu
+385 917 912 588

THE TRUE STORY OF EARTH AND SKY

European Genre Forum
GERMANY



PROJECT ORIGINAL TITLE: THE TRUE STORY OF EARTH AND SKY

Country: Germany

Genre: sci-fi, thriller

Director: Tomas Vengris

Producer: Sebastian Weyland

Production company: Heimathafen Film & Media GmbH

Language: English

Production budget (in EUR): 4 500 000

Financing in place (in EUR): 10 000

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, post-production services

Synopsis

A lyrical allegory set in the not-too-distant future, *The True Story of Earth and Sky* follows Jonas a low-level sewer technician working in the Central Baltic power hub, who dreams of some intangible “more.” Jonas grew up in a world where a united mankind has been fending off an alien invasion outside the Earth’s atmosphere for twenty years. Life his hard, but everyone does their part to support the war effort – except for fringe radicals who claim that the invasion is a hoax to control the masses.

His life turns upside down when he is taken hostage by a fringe terrorist while trying to protect his would-be fiancé. His captivity in the archaic forest bunkers turns his world upside down. He suddenly feels exposed to the contradictions and “lies” of his society.

Director

Tomas Vengris is a Lithuanian/American filmmaker. He received his BA from Columbia University and completed his M.F.A. in directing at the American Film Institute in LA, CA. His directorial debut *Motherland* won the European Audience Award in the ArteKino Film Festival, Best Film in the Baltic Competition at the PÖFF Black Nights Film Festival and was selected in the Narrative Category for the 2020 European Film Awards. His short film, *Kalifornija*, was a national finalist in the Student Academy Awards and his subsequent short, *Squirrel*, premiered in the Berlin International Film Festival followed by a US premiere at SXSW. Tomas has worked as an editor under many internationally acclaimed filmmakers including Terrence Malick, Kelly Reichardt, Lena Dunham, Malcolm Venville, Macon Blair.

Production company and producer

Sebastian Weyland studied Applied Languages in Cologne and Bordeaux. After graduating he shifted his professional activities into film business, working at several Berlin based production companies. 2007/2008, he did a Master degree in TV and Film Production in Austria. In 2012, he attended the International Filmschule Köln (IFS) further application program International Producing. From 04/14 to 12/2019, he ran **Heimathafen Film** together with Knut Jäger. Since 2020, he manages the company together with his new partner Manfred Giesecke.

His recent filmography includes:

2020 *German Lessons* | Director: Pavel G. Vesnakov

2019 *Motherland* | Director: Tomas Vengris

2017 *Strange Birds* | Director: Eike Weinreich

2015 *Family Commitments* | Director: Hanno Olderdissen

2015 *Zeus Short* | Director: Pavel G. Vesnakov

2014 *Teenland Short* | Director: Marie Grahto Sorensen

Contact

Sebastian Weyland
sw@heimathafenfilm.de
+49 163 333 5519