

INDUSTRY@TALLINN
Q BALTIC EVENT

20-25 NOV 2022

SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE



RAHANDUSMINISTEERIUM



Estonian
Film
Institute



REGIONAALARENGU TOETUSEKS



National Film Centre of Latvia





WARNING!

**PÖFF MAY INCREASE
HUNGER FOR MOVIES.**

If that happens, no worries – in the new Elisa Elamus TV-service you'll find the best of PÖFF to enjoy from all devices and networks.

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קרן
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ISRAEL
FILM
FUND



קרן
רבינוביץ
ISRAEL CINEMA PROJECT
RABINOVICH FOUNDATION

at Tallinn Black Nights
Film Festival 2022

OPENING FILM

My Neighbor Adolph
By Leon Prudovsky

OFFICIAL SELECTION
COMPETITION

Ducks - An Urban Legend
By Shahrar Rozen

FIRST FEATURE
COMPETITION

The Other Widow
By Ma'ayan Rypp

FIRST FEATURE
COMPETITION

Barren
By Mordechai Vardi

CRITIC'S PICK

The Good Person
By Eitan Anner

CLOSING FILM

Karaoke
By Moshe Rosenthal

YOUTH COMPETITION

Virginity
By Maor Zaguri

REBELS WITH A CAUSE

In Bed
By Nitzan Gilady

BEST OF ISRAEL

June Zero
By Jake Paltrow

BEST OF ISRAEL

Valeria is Getting Married
By Michal Vinik

BEST OF ISRAEL

The Taste of Apples is Red
By Ehab Tarabieh





A RESTAURANT EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER!

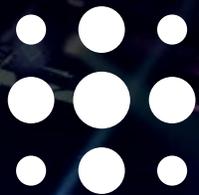
Modern grill restaurant that offers a great selection of grilled dishes - enjoy meat, seafood and vegetables!

Book your table:
+372 630 0818
citygrillhouse@tallink.ee

Tallink City Hotel
A. Laikmaa 5, 10145 | Tallinn, Estonia
www.tallinkhotels.com



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Dear colleagues and friends!

Welcome to the 21st edition of Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event. It has been a rocky year, and the more a reason to stick together. Re-imagining our future becomes an important collective task, and we humbly hope for our part in this process.

This year's programme presents nearly 70 projects in different categories, ranging from films to series. We also opened our doors to the Ukrainian audiovisual professionals who are trying to continue their work despite the ongoing war – not business as usual on the backdrop of a reality none of them chose. Therefore, we are proud to offer the stage to 10 Ukrainian projects across different sections, including two feature films in development, four series projects, and four features in the Works in Progress category. We will also discuss the future of Ukrainian filmmaking in the presence of renowned industry professionals.

Baltic Event Co-Production Market presents 11 projects, Script Pool script competition programme five; International, Baltic Event and Just Film Works in Progress 20 projects. TV Beats presents eight series projects as part of the Co-Financing Market, and we see nine from our partner MIDPOINT Institute's Series Launch. The European Genre Forum's final lab completes the slate with eight projects. Our guests will thus have the happy times of choosing the one(s) to their liking! Connect to the industry.meet.poff.ee platform, or grab a coffee with the project representative after their pitch!

Black Nights Discovery Campus continues to discover and nurture new talents under its Music Meets Film, Black Nights Stars, Script Pool, and Black Room programmes. Most of the masterclasses, lectures, and panel discussions are also open to the other guests for improving their knowledge and skills.

Meet the Expert lunch tables with six renowned professionals to help expand your network while enjoying a short break in your busy day. In addition to the expert, you will connect to six other professionals who share the same interest as you!

Want to take part in future talks? European Film Forum Tallinn under its new name Industry Innovation Forum talks about European film funds in transformation, creating a sustainable virtual production ecosystem in Europe,

exploring and creating the foundations of the next generation European Immersive and Web3 technologies for the audiovisual industry, not forgetting about enabling and growing trusted partnerships with Ukraine and its audiovisual and innovation industries. After attending these sessions, you will not be surprised why our Producers Pitching Versus AI session may help you understand what direction to take in developing your own projects!

As an important step to the sustainable audiovisual production, we are proudly hosting the 2nd Capacity Building Seminar on greening the audiovisual production industry in collaboration with the FIAPF and its partners. From policies to case studies, we will try to understand what holds us back from the real change.

The Near Future Retreat: (Re)Starting the Conversation steps in the same direction from a different angle – how to (re)connect our joint agency, (re)imagine, (re)generate, and nurture new forms and avenues of leadership in the community, and take concrete, decisive, and immediate action for a resilient and sustainable audiovisual landscape of the future.

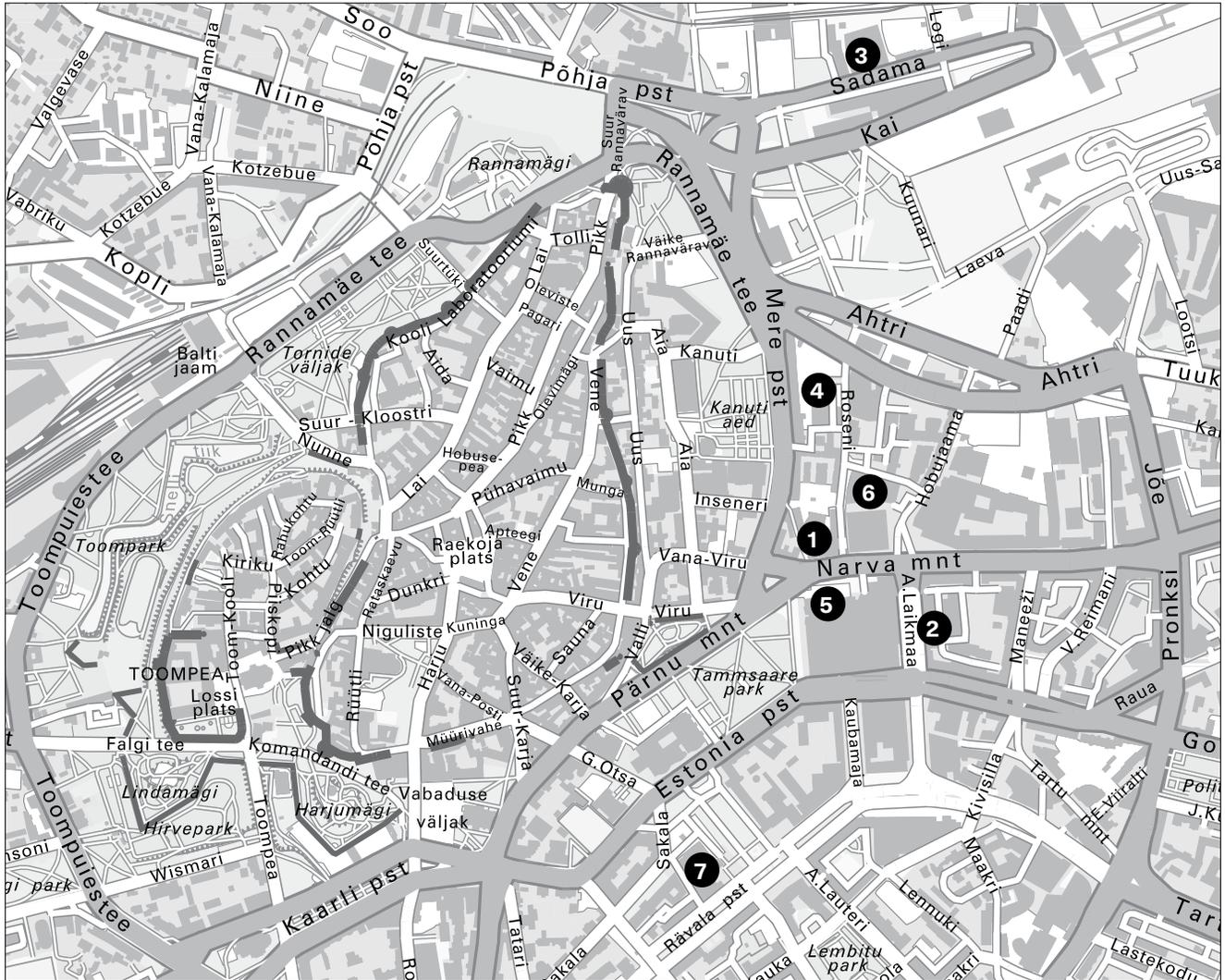
Being concerned about the future, we are not forgetting about today. TV Beats Forum conference discusses how the current political situation has shaken up the series industry, what are the newest trends of collaboration and co-production, and the cleverest hacks to take your drama series to the international arena.

We are truly happy to present the exquisite Israeli Focus at both Black Nights Film festival programme and our industry platform. We are showcasing Israeli projects and discussing their inspiring film landscape through the perspective of Israeli film directors.

While we are all facing the harsh realities and crises – some at home, some at our doorstep – we need to combine our efforts more than ever in pursuit of a fairer future. We hope we can give you some ingenious insights and help you figure out ways to make our industry, but also our world, a safe and sustainable place. Tallinn continues to offer a space for advocating change and creating tight-knit communities.

Yours
Marge Liske





- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>1. Nordic Hotel Forum
Viru väljak 3</p> <p>2. Tallink City Hotel
A. Laikmaa 5</p> <p>3. Tallink Spa & Conference Hotel
Sadama 11a</p> | <p>4. Metropol SPA Hotel
Roseni 13</p> <p>5. Sokos Hotel Viru
Viru väljak 4</p> | <p>6. Coca-Cola Plaza
Hobujaama 5</p> <p>7. Apollo Cinema Solaris and Artis Cinema
Solaris Centre, Estonia pst 9</p> |
|---|---|--|

Practical Information

Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event is held in the conference centre of Nordic Hotel Forum (Viru väljak 3, 2nd floor), and all industry & press screenings in Coca-Cola Plaza (Hobujaama 5) and Artis Cinema (Solaris Centre, Estonia pst. 9). You can find a detailed programme with specified venues on our website industry.poff.ee

GUEST INFORMATION DESKS

The Main Guest Information Desk is located in the lobby of Nordic Hotel Forum.

November 11 - 26 / Opening hours: 09:00-20:00

November 27 / Opening hours: 09:00-17:00

Phone +372 5696 5016

Starting from November 20, you will receive your accreditation badge and other materials from the Industry Guest Information Desk at the Nordic Hotel Forum (Viru väljak 3, 2nd floor).

November 20 / Opening hours: 14:00-18:00

November 21 - 24 / Opening hours: 09:00-18:00

November 25 / Opening hours: 10:00-14:00

Phone +372 5667 1640

ACCREDITATION BADGES

Please always carry your accreditation badge with you. Your Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event badge is the only document that gives you entry to the industry events and press and industry screenings, also evening events (if this applies to your badge category).

With the Industry badge, in order to secure a seat at a festival screening, one free ticket can be taken out beforehand per screening on the day of the screening. You can do this online or at the Guest Information Desk at Nordic Hotel Forum. This ticket is only valid with your badge so always bring your badge to the cinema.

As the tickets are sold/issued on a "first come – first served" basis, a seat to all screenings is not guaranteed. You may also go straight to the screening halls and after checking the availability of seats at the ticket counter in the cinema, you may enter by presenting only your Industry Pro badge not more than 5 minutes before the start of the screening. Please note that in this case the festival volunteers have a priority before any other badge. The badge is personal and should not be misused. If you lose the badge, please immediately inform the Guest Information Desk at Nordic Hotel Forum.

Your badge also gives you access to many discounts around the city, the list of restaurants and cafes offering special guest discounts can be found at the festival website.

FESTIVAL CINEMAS

The film screenings take place in various theatres in the city centre. Everything is within walking distance. You can find a map at the end of this catalogue.

Apollo Cinema Coca-Cola Plaza (Hobujaama 5)

Apollo Cinema Solaris (Solaris Centre, Estonia pst. 9)

Cinema Artis (Solaris Centre, Estonia pst. 9)

From Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event badges, Industry PRO and Student/Talent give you access to Industry screenings and Works in Progress presentations at Coca-Cola Plaza. Press screenings are available with the badge upon availability of seats.

Please be considerate of other cinemagoers and attend screenings in time. Unfortunately, late admissions are not allowed. Similarly, using phones during public screenings is strictly prohibited.

GETTING AROUND IN TALLINN

Most of the festival venues are within walking distance from your hotel but if you need to use public transportation or take a taxi then here are some tips.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

This year we are encouraging our guests to think green and the City of Tallinn is providing free public transport to guests of Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event from November 16 to 26. Please note that your badge has a QR code which is valid as a ticket and you must have it with you! You can find the timetables online: transport.tallinn.ee or download the 'Moovit' app.

TAXI SERVICES

Most rides nowadays are being made through apps and for calling a taxi that is nearby we suggest using the Estonian taxi sharing apps Forus or Bolt, that offer credit card payment via app. Uber is also available in Tallinn. Tallinn is usually safe for visitors but occasionally there might be drivers who try to take advantage of foreigners. Therefore, please discuss the price beforehand or use any of the following reputable companies. The volunteers at the Guest Information Desk can always help you find a taxi.

Forus taxi: +372 612 0000

INTERNET

Wireless internet is available everywhere in Nordic Hotel Forum, Tallink City Hotel, Metropol SPA Hotel; and in most of the cafes and venues around Tallinn.

Prepaid and cheap data cards for smartphones and tablets can be also bought from a variety of kiosks and shops. The biggest phone providers are Telia, Elisa, and Tele2.

PRESS OFFICE

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NOTE

There might be changes in the event and screening schedule, please ask our volunteers at the Guest Information Desks for the most up-to-date information.

EXPLORE TALLINN

If you have some time off, we recommend venturing out of the hotel and cinemas and exploring our beautiful city. Please see a few suggestions below. Please ask the volunteers at the Guest Information Desk to point out these spots on the map or better yet, ask for their favourite place in Tallinn.

Design and fashion shopping in Tallinn, visitestonia.com

If you'd like to adorn your home with the pearls of Estonian design, step in the shops and galleries you stroll past that sell designer creations. There is a wide range to choose from, so everyone is sure to find something to their liking. You can buy clothing and accessories, jewelry, furniture, home textiles, glass items, elements of interior design or even a designer bathtub!

Check the Tallinn Design Map at tallinn.design - it is your guide to the original Estonian design in the public space of Tallinn.

A fantastic way to get a feel for Tallinn is to head to one of the city's many excellent view spots. In fact, there are a lot of creative ways to get sweeping panoramas of the Old Town and city centre, charming views of the mediaeval streets and rooftops, or spectacular glimpses of Tallinn shoreline.

Viewing platforms on Toompea Hill

Kohtuotsa, Patkuli, and Bishops Garden
Toompea hill offers unforgettable views of the medieval neighbourhood and is easily the city's most famous photo spot. From here you can see most of Tallinn's centuries-old spires as well as its newer ones, the highest of which is the TV Tower visible in the distance. Beyond the modern city centre lies the Lasnamäe suburb with its countless Soviet-style block apartment buildings.

St. Olav's Church and Tower

Once upon a time, from 1549 to 1625 to be precise, this Gothic church was the tallest building in the World. However, its gigantic, 159-metre spire, meant as a signpost for approaching ships, also turned out to be a very effective lightning rod. Throughout the church's history lightning has hit the spire repeatedly, completely burning down the structure three times.

Seaplane Harbour, meremuuseum.ee/lennusadam/en/

The Seaplane Harbour accommodates one of Europe's grandest maritime museums. You are invited to see the authentic submarine Lembit from the 1930s, the century-old steam-powered icebreaker Suur Tõll, a Short 184 seaplane, mines, cannons and many other life-sized exhibits. The museum and the Seaplane Hangar have been recognised with a number of awards: Estonia's Most Tourist-Friendly Museum 2012, Europa Nostra Grand Prix 2013, Special Commendation from the European Museum of the Year 2014, and a number of others.

The Seaplane Harbour museum is a memorable experience for the whole family: lots of interesting reading, a voyage around the world in the Yellow Submarine, photos taken in naval uniforms, the big aquarium, the simulators and many more exciting activities.

Estonian Film Museum and Pirita Promenade

A long-time favourite of pedestrians, cyclists and skaters alike, the 2-km paved pathway of Pirita Promenade stretches along the waterfront from Kadriorg to Pirita. It offers by far the most spectacular views of Tallinn's rocky shoreline with the Old Town cityscape in the distance. The newly opened building of the Estonian Film Museum is located halfway from the centre to Pirita, in the Maarjamäe palace complex of the Estonian History Museum. Check out its permanent exhibition Take One and the temporary exhibition Film Posters: Visuals of the Last Century. The Film Museum hosts the reception of the Estonian EU Presidency Audiovisual Conference.

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Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event Programme

ALL SCHEDULE IN EET
TIME ZONE (GMT +2)

November 16-24

PRESS & INDUSTRY SCREENINGS

See the screenings programme in this catalogue page 19

November 17-20

CLOSED SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS, ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

➔ *Nordic Hotel Forum*

MIDPOINT TV Launch

MIDPOINT Smash Cut

November 20

OPEN ACTIVITIES

Whole Day Event: PÖFF 2022 promo-tour to Ida-Viru (the North-East of Estonia). Discover the central part of Ida-Viru to uncover multiple layers of the regional heritage *

* Pre-registered event. **Limited spots available.** Registration and more information online, see our website: industry.poff.ee, under Programme

CLOSED SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS, ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

Black Nights Discovery Campus

15:00 – 19:00 Black Nights Stars - 1:1 meetings with agents and casting directors

➔ *Tallink Lobby, Tallink City Hotel (A. Laikmaa 5)*

19:00 – 22:00 Black Nights Stars - Welcome Dinner

➔ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Kaminasaal*

November 21

OPEN PANELS, PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, SCREENINGS

Black Nights Discovery Campus – Music Meets Film

➔ *Arvo Pärt Centre. Whole day in Laulasmaa!*

- 11:00 – 11:15 Opening of MMF 2022. Michael Pärt
11:15 – 12:00 Opening Panel: Current Trends. Composer Aram Shahbazians, agent & score supervisor Alice Atkinson
Moderated by: Michael Pärt
12:00 – 13:15 MMF Trio Series. Composer Liina Sumera, director Elmo Nüganen, editor - Marion Koppel
Moderated by: Kaarel Kuurmaa
14:15 – 15:15 How To Become a Music Agent ? Music agent and score supervisor Alice Atkinson
Moderated by: music agent and consultant Thea Zaitsev
15:15 – 16:00 Keeping Intellectual Property in Order
Renato Horvath, Hannes Tschürtz, Maarja Nuut
Moderated by: artist manager & entrepreneur Toomas Olljum
16:15 – 17:00 Speed Networking
19:00 – 20:30 Live scoring to film: "Fred Jüssi. The Beauty of Being"
Live scoring by: William Goldstein
20:30 – 21:00 Live scoring to film: "Fred Jüssi. The Beauty of Being"
Q&A with William Goldstein and director Jaan Tootsen

TV Beats Forum

➔ *Capella, Nordic Hotel Forum*

- 10:00 – 10:05 Welcome
10:05 – 10:25 Research Report: Shakeup on the Eastern Front
Lottie Towler (Ampere Analysis)
10:25 – 10:55 Interview: How to Sneak Past the Gatekeepers?
María García-Castrilló (Dopamine content)
Moderated by: Johanna Karppinen
10:55 – 12:00 Co-Financing Market pitches
Moderated by: Marje Tõemäe and Johanna Karppinen
12:45 – 13:05 Presentation: How to Meet Your Match in Co-Production? Lottie Towler (Ampere Analysis)
Introduction by: Marike Muselaers

- 13:05 – 14:35 MIDPOINT TV Series Launch Project Pitchings
Moderated by: Agathe Berman, Gabor Krigler
Introduction by: Johanna Karppinen
- 15:00 – 15:45 Case Study: Rivals Becoming Friends - a New Trend?
Mirela Nastase (ZDF Studios),
Veronika Kovacova (Beta)
Moderated by: Marike Muselaers
- 15:45 – 16:15 Case Study: From Scratch to International Success
Birk Rohelend, Ingrid Eloranta
Moderated by: Johanna Karppinen
- 16:15 – 17:45 Coming from Ukraine pitches
Introduction by: Johanna Karppinen
Moderated by: Anna Machukh

Black Nights Discovery Campus

- 11:00 – 12:00 Black Room - Open Lecture. Character Development:
From Concept Art to Costume Design
Brunella de Cola. Moderated by: Elise Jagomägi
➔ *Arcturus, Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 15:30 – 17:30 Black Nights Stars - Panel: Everything You Always
Wanted to Ask a Casting Director and Agent About
Auditioning: Castings, Self Tapes, What to Do and Not
to Do. Claudia Landsberger, Timka Grin,
Anja Dirhberg, Rie Hedegaard, Alla Samoyleno,
Laura Munsterhjelm, Jantsu Puumalainen, Maria Kiisk
Moderated by: Timka Grin
➔ *Arcturus, Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 20:00 – 22:00 Black Nights Stars - "Monica" screening
➔ *Coca-Cola Plaza, Hall 7*

CLOSED SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS, ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

Baltic Event Co-Production Market

- 10:00 - 19:00 Online 1:1 Meetings
➔ *industrymeet.poff.ee*

Black Nights Discovery Campus

- 11:30 – 13:30 Black Nights Stars - Local actors meeting with agents
and casting directors
➔ *Tallink Lobby, Tallink City Hotel (A. Laikmaa 5)*
- 11:30 – 13:00 Black Nights Stars - BNS Meeting First Directors
Moderated by: Claudia Landsberger
➔ *Kaminasaal, Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 13:00 – 15:00 Black Room – Black Room Case Study
Brunella de Cola
➔ *Wolf, Nordic Hotel Forum*

TV Beats

- 13:00 – 15:00 Jury Meeting Projects
➔ *Altair, Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 13:00 – 18:00 TV Beats Co Financing Market 1:1 meetings
➔ *Sirius, Nordic Hotel Forum*

MIDPOINT Institute

- 15:00 – 18:00 Series Launch. 1:1 meetings
➔ *Sirius, Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 17:00 – 18:30 Smash Cut. Roundtable
➔ *Vega, Nordic Hotel Forum*

November 22

OPEN PANELS, PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, SCREENINGS

TV Beats Forum

- ➔ *Capella, Nordic Hotel Forum*

- 10:05 – 10:25 Key to Series-Writing Success. Dominika Braná
Moderated by: Johanna Karppinen
- 10:25 – 11:00 Case Study: On Attracting and Handling Different Kinds
of Collaboration. Michael Polle (X Film Creative pool)
Moderated by: Marike Muselaers
- 11:00 – 11:45 Discussion Panel: Launching a Lucrative Co-Production
Nebojsa Taraba, Kateryna Vishnevskaya, Anna Rohde,
Olaf Grunert (online). Moderated by: Marike Muselaers
- 11:45 – 12:15 Case Study: Breaking out of Finland
Roope Lehtinen (Firemonkey)
Moderated by: Johanna Karppinen
- 12:15 – 13:00 Spotlight on Ukraine: Financing the Ukrainian
Audiovisual Sector – Possibilities and Perspectives
Artem Koliubaev, Edith Sepp, Anna Machukh
Moderated by: Simona Baumann
- 13:00 – 13:30 TV Beats Award Ceremony

TV Beats

- ➔ *Altair, Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 13:30 – 15:30 Masterclass: How To Make Your Series Serial?
Joachim Friedmann
- 15:30 – 17:30 Masterclass: Financing Your Series
María García-Castrillón
- 17:30 – 19:30 Masterclass: How to Work With the Streamers?
Stage 32: Sara Elizabeth Timmins, Ewan Dunbar

Black Nights Discovery Campus

- 14:00 – 15:30 Music Meets Film - Music Tech Talk
Games composer Aram Shahbazians, film composer
Liina Sumera, composer and Orchestral Tools CEO
Hendrik Schwarzer, music producer Michael Pärt
➔ *Music Estonia, Telliskivi 60a/1*

- 14:00 – 15:30 Black Nights Stars - Selfcast platform presentations.
Maria Christina Riel Jarltof, Mads Korsgaard,
Karina Leps. Moderated by: Claudia Landsberger
➔ *Arcturus, Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 15:30 – 17:00 Music Meets Film - My Greatest Failures
Composer William Goldstein
Agent & score supervisor Alice Atkinson
➔ *Music Estonia, Telliskivi 60a/1*
- 19:00 – 22:00 Music Meets Film - MMF Award and
Happy Composer Hour
➔ *NoHo Restaurant & Bar, Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 20:00 – 23:00 Black Nights Stars - BNS Award Ceremony and
"Bonnie" screening
➔ *Coca-Cola Plaza, Hall 6*

Script Pool in collaboration with International Screen Institute

- 12:00 – 13:30 How to Pick The Right Sales Company?
Julia Short, Beatrice Neumann
➔ *Arcturus, Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 16:00 – 17:30 Sales & Distribution Agreements Top Tips
Julia Short, Beatrice Neumann
➔ *Arcturus, Nordic Hotel Forum*

Script Pool presents:

- 18:00 – 19:30 Deborah Rowland "Don't Sabotage Your Own Film"
➔ *Kaminasaal, Nordic Hotel Forum*

Works In Progress

- 15:00 – 16:30 Just Film Works In Progress
Moderated by: Andrea Reuter
➔ *Coca-Cola Plaza, Hall 6*

Industry Innovation Forum

- ➔ *Capella, Nordic Hotel Forum*

The Industry Innovation Forum returns to Tallinn on 22 November for a half a day executive level forum between policymakers, industry leaders, and innovators to explore debate, and outline new policy and business frameworks and cases.

Curated and moderated by: Sten-Kristian Saluveer

- 15:00 - 15:05 Introduction
15:05 - 15:15 Introduction by the European Commission
15:15 - 16:00 Session 1: European Film Funds in Transformation
From Innovating Talents & Training to Reimagining
Funding
16:00 - 17:00 Session 2: Practical Implications, Production and
Policy Frameworks Regarding Creating a Sustainable
Virtual Production Ecosystem in Europe

- 17:00 - 17:20 Session 3: Enabling and Growing Trusted
Partnerships With Ukraine and Its Audiovisual and
Innovation Industries
17:20 - 18:05 Session 4: Exploring and Creating the Foundations of
the Next Generation European Immersive and Web3
Technologies for the Audiovisual Industry
18:05 - 18:40 Closing Fireside Chat: How Can We Build Industry
Innovation Capacity, Resilience and Business
Viability for Europe?

CLOSED SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS, ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

European Genre Forum

- ➔ *Vega, Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 09:30 – 13:00 Pitching Workshop
14:00 – 15:00 Marketing, Packaging and PR
15:00 – 16:00 What Happened in a Year?
16:30 – 18:00 Working with the Sales Agent

Black Nights Discovery Campus

- 09:30 – 11:30 Black Nights Stars, Script Pool - Black Nights Stars
agents and casting directors meeting with Script Pool
directors to talk about their work and experiences
Moderated by: Claudia Landsberger
➔ *Altair, Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 10:00 – 12:00 Music Meets Film – 1:1 Mentorships. Alice Atkinson,
Hannes Tschürtz, Aram Shahbazians,
William Goldstein
➔ *Music Estonia, Telliskivi 60a/1*
- 11:00 – 14:00 Black Room - Costume Design Workshop
Brunella de Cola
➔ *Wolf, Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 11:30 – 13:30 Black Nights Stars - Local actors meeting
with agents and casting directors
➔ *Tallink City Hotel, Tallink Lobby*

GoLong!

- ➔ *Kaminasaal, Nordic Hotel Forum*

- 15:00 – 17:00 Go Long mentorship session

TV Beats Co-Financing Market and MIDPOINT Series Launch

- ➔ *Sirius, Nordic Hotel Forum*
10:00 – 17:00 1:1 Meetings

November 23

OPEN PANELS, PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, SCREENINGS

Works In Progress

10:00 – 11:30 International Works In Progress Presentation.
Moderated by: Andrea Reuter
➔ *Coca-Cola Plaza, Hall 2*

Script Pool

10:00 – 11:30 Script Pool, Black Nights Stars - Masterclass with Andrea Pallaoro, director of “Monica” and the producer Eleonora Granata – How a European Director Carved Out a Niche for Himself in America.
Moderated by: Claudia Landsberger
➔ *Capella, Nordic Hotel Forum*

12:00 – 13:00 Script Pool Pitching. Moderated by: Andrea Reuter
➔ *Capella, Nordic Hotel Forum*

Panels and Talks

12:00 – 13:30 International Co-Productions in Early Stages: Navigating the Legal Aspects. Hanna Hemila, Guido Hettinger
➔ *Arcturus, Nordic Hotel Forum*

13:00 – 14:00 Meet The... Experts: Denitsa Yordanova, Patrick Fischer, Katharina Suckale*
➔ *Kaminasaal, Nordic Hotel Forum*

14:00 – 15:30 Focus on Israel - The Israel Film Industry Through the Lens of the Director. Esti Shushan, Ma'ayan Rypp, Nitzan Gilady, Mordechai Vardi, Shahar Rozen, Moshe Rosenthal, Maor Zaguri
Moderated by: Osnat Bukofzer
➔ *Capella, Nordic Hotel Forum*

16:00 – 16:20 Innovation - Yamdu: Film Production Meets the Future
➔ *Capella, Nordic Hotel Forum*

16:20 – 18:00 Innovation - Producers Pitching Against AI / w Largo Films.
➔ *Capella, Nordic Hotel Forum*

*Pre-registered event. **Limited spots available.** Registration and more information online, see our website: industry.poff.ee, under Programme.

CLOSED SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS, ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

European Genre Forum

➔ *Vega, Nordic Hotel Forum*

09:30 – 11:00 Genre project markets and Production
11:00 – 11:45 Shooting in Estonia
11:45 – 13:00 VR Technologies and Genre Film
14:00 – 18:00 1:1 Meetings Marketing + Sales

Baltic Event Co-Production Market 1:1 Meetings

➔ *Sirius, Nordic Hotel Forum*
10:00 – 16:00 & 17:30 – 19:00

Black Nights Discovery Campus

➔ *Sirius, Nordic Hotel Forum*

11:00 – 16:00 Black Room - Costume Design Workshop.
Brunella de Cola

Script Pool

➔ *Altair, Nordic Hotel Forum*

14:00 – 18:00 Script Pool Participants Meeting With Decision Makers & Jury

Erich Pommer Institut & Baltic and Nordic Creative Europe Media Offices

18:30 Happy Hour (invitation only)
➔ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Restaurant NoHo*

November 24

OPEN PANELS, PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, SCREENINGS

Panels and Talks

- 09:30 – 18:00 Capacity Building Seminar:
Sustainability in the Audiovisual Industry.*
➔ *Radisson Collection Hotel (Rävala Street 3)*
- 13:00 – 14:00 Meet The...Experts: Katriel Schory, Marcello Paolillo,
Anna Rozalska*
➔ *Kaminasaal, Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 15:30 – 17:00 Chain of Title – How to Make Sure You Acquire All
Rights That You Are Later Required to Transfer
Further? Workshop by: IP experts of Sorainen law firm
Olivia Kranich, Helery Maidlas
➔ *Arcturus, Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 17:00 – 18:00 Feels Like Home: Facing the Displacement
and Building a Film Community in Exile.
Volia Chajkouskaya, Andrei Kutsila, Sasha Kulak,
Marianna Kaat, Alina Koushyk
Moderated by: Ben Dalton
➔ *Capella, Nordic Hotel Forum*

*Pre-registered event. **Limited spots available.** Registration and more information online, see our website: industry.poff.ee, under Programme.

Works In Progress

- 10:00 – 11:30 Baltic Event Works In Progress Presentation.
Moderated by: Andrea Reuter
➔ *Coca-Cola Plaza, Hall 2*

European Genre Forum

- 11:45 – 13:00 EGF Pitching
➔ *Capella, Nordic Hotel Forum*

Script Pool in collaboration with International Screen Institute

- 14:00 – 15:30 Design Your Festival Strategy.
Julia Short, Beatrice Neumann
➔ *Arcturus, Nordic Hotel Forum*

CLOSED SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS, ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

Baltic Event Co-Production Market 1:1 Meetings

- ➔ *Sirius, Nordic Hotel Forum*
10:00 – 18:00

European Genre Forum

- ➔ *Vega, Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 10:00 – 11:00 Pitching Preparations
14:00 – 17:00 1:1 Project Meetings
17:00 – 17:40 EGF Wrap-Up

November 25

OPEN WORKSHOPS, ACTIVITIES

- 11:00 – 15:00 The Near Future Retreat: (Re)Starting
the Conversation.* Moderated by: Valeria Richter,
Helene Granqvist, Sten-Kristian Saluveer
➔ *Kaminasaal, Nordic Hotel Forum*

Whole Day Event: PÖFF 2022 promo-tour to Ida-Viru
(the North-East of Estonia). Travel to the edge of
the European Union and NATO *

* Pre-registered event. Limited spots available. Registration and more information online, see our website: industry.poff.ee, under Programme.

Press & Industry Screenings

The screenings take place in
COCA-COLA PLAZA
 and **KINO ARTIS**
 See legend below

ACCESSIBLE WITH: JURY, GUEST, TEAM, PRESS, INDUSTRY PRO AND INDUSTRY STUDENT/TALENT, VOLUNTEER AND HUNDIPASS+ BADGE

Time Hall Film / Original Title / Director / Country / Programme / Premiere / Length

November 16

10:15	7	Shorts Live-Action Competition 4 / Shorts lühifilmi võistlusprogramm 4 / Shorts Live-Action Competition / 94 min
11:00	9	CONVERSATIONS ON HATRED / Conversaciones sobre el odio / Vera Fogwill, Diego Martínez / Spain, Argentina / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 85 min
11:30	7	Shorts Kids Animation Competition 1 / Shorts lasteanima võistlusprogramm 1 / Shorts Kids Animation Competition / 46 min
11:45	8	STIEKYT / Stiekyt / Etienne Fourie / South-Africa / Official Selection - Competition / IP / 100 min
12:00	S	Shorts Live-Action Competition 5 / Shorts lühifilmi võistlusprogramm 5 / Shorts Live-Action Competition / 83 min
12:25	7	Shorts Kids Animation Competition 2 / Shorts lasteanima võistlusprogramm 2 / Shorts Kids Animation Competition / 41 min
12:45	9	THE POET / Poetas / Giedrius Tamoševičius, Vytautas V. Landsbergis / Lithuania / Baltic Film Competition / WP / 112 min
13:15	7	Shorts Kids Animation Competition 3 / Shorts lasteanima võistlusprogramm 3 / Shorts Kids Animation Competition / 45 min
13:45	8	SANAA / Sanaa / Sudhanshu Saria / India / Official Selection Competition / WP / 120 min
13:45	S	DOUBLE SCREENING: "MELCHIOR THE APOTHECARY" / Topeltlõök: "Apteekeer Melchior" / Baltic Film Competition / 186 min
15:00	9	KALEV / Kalev / Ove Musting / Estonia / Baltic Film Competition / 95 min
16:00	8	THE BOG / Soo / Ergo Kuld / Estonia / Baltic Film Competition / 87 min
17:00	8	MINSK / Minsk / Boris Guts / Estonia / Baltic Film Competition / 81 min

November 17

10:15	S	Shorts New Talents Competition: Animation 2 / Shorts New Talents võistlusprogramm: Anima 2 / PÖFF Shorts 2022 / 68 min
10:30	8	ANN / Ann / Ciaran Creagh / Ireland / Official Selection Competition / WP / 98 min
10:45	9	Shorts New Talents Competition: Live-action 3 / Shorts New Talents võistlusprogramm: lühifilm 3 / PÖFF Shorts 2022 / 106 min
11:30	S	Shorts Animation Competition 5 / Shorts anima võistlusprogramm 5 / Shorts Animation Competition / 71 min
12:30	8	ROXY / Roxy / Dito Tsitsadze / Germany, Georgia, Belgium / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 100 min
12:45	9	Shorts New Talents Competition: Live-action 5 / Shorts New Talents võistlusprogramm: lühifilm 5 / PÖFF Shorts 2022 / 98 min
13:00	S	STORM / Storm / Erika Calmeyer / Norway / First Feature Competition / IP / 83 min
14:30	8	REBELLION / Rebelión / José Luis Rugeles / Colombia, Argentina / Rebels with a Cause Competition / IP / 105 min
14:45	S	UNTIL BRANCHES BEND / Until Branches Bend / Sophie Jarvis / Canada / First Feature Competition / IP / 98 min
15:00	9	THE GOOD PERSON / The Good Person / Eitan Anner / Israel / In Focus: Israel, Critics' Picks Competition / IP / 85 min

November 18

10:15	9	AURORA'S SUNRISE / Aurora's Sunrise / Inna Sahakyan / Armenia, Lithuania, Germany / Baltic Film Competition / BP / 96 min
10:30	S	Shorts National Competition 5 / Shorts Rahvuslik võistlusprogramm 5 / PÖFF Shorts 2022 / 94 min
10:45	8	BUNGALOW / Bungalow / Lawrence Côté-Collins / Canada / Official Selection - Competition / WP / 101 min
12:15	9	JANUARY / Janvāris / Viesturs Kairišs / Latvia, Lithuania, Poland / Baltic Film Competition / EP / 95 min
12:15	S	AMUSIA / Amusia / Marescotti Ruspoli / Italy / First Feature Competition / WP / 91 min
12:45	8	HIT BIG / Hetki lyö / Jukka-Pekka Valkeapää / Finland, Estonia / Official Selection - Competition / WP / 123 min
14:15	9	THE YOUNG ARSONISTS / The Young Arsonists / Sheila Pye / Canada / Critics' Picks Competition / IP / 97 min
14:30	S	THE LAND WITHIN / The Land Within / Fisnik Maxville / Switzerland, Kosovo / First Feature Competition / WP / 119 min
15:00	6	TYPIST ARTIST PIRATE KING / Typist Artist Pirate King / Carol Morley / United Kingdom / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 106 min

LEGEND: 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 – Hall numbers in Coca-Cola Plaza (Hobujaama 5)

S – Hall „A Le Coq Suite” in Coca-Cola Plaza (Hobujaama 5) • **A2** – Hall 2 in Artis Cinema (Solaris Centre, Estonia pst 9)

Time Hall Film / Original Title / Director / Country / Programme / Premiere / Length

November 18

15:15	8	THREE THOUSAND NUMBERED PIECES / Hárromezer számozott darab / Ádám Császi / Hungary / Rebels with a Cause Competition / WP / 97 min
16:15	9	THE BONE BREAKERS / Spaccaossa / Vincenzo Pirrotta / Italy / Critics' Picks Competition / IP / 105 min
16:30	7	SASHENKA / Сашенька / Olexandr Zhovna / Ukraine / Official Selection – Competition / WP / 130 min

November 19

10:15	S	SOLASTALGIA / Solastalgia / Marina Hufnagel / Germany / Rebels with a Cause Competition / IP / 71 min
10:30	8	THE PUNISHMENT / El Castigo / Matías Bize / Chile, Argentina / Official Selection - Competition / IP / 86 min
11:00	9	SUNA / Suna / Çiğdem Sezgin / Turkey, Spain, Bulgaria / Critics' Picks Competition / IP / 102 min
11:45	S	JOB INTERVIEW / Entrevista Laboral / Carlos Osuna / Colombia / Rebels with a Cause Competition / WP / 80 min
12:15	8	LUCKY GIRL / Я, Ніна / Marysia Nikitiuk / Ukraine, Germany / Official Selection – Competition / WP / 100 min
13:00	9	THE UNBALANCED / Zošaliet / Zuzana Piussi / Czech Republic, Slovakia / First Feature Competition / WP / 82 min
13:30	S	A LETTER FROM HELGA / Svar við bréfi Helgu / Ása Helga Hjörleifsdóttir / Iceland, Netherlands, Estonia / Baltic Film Competition / IP / 112 min
14:30	8	DRIVING MUM / Á Ferð með Mömmu / Hilmar Oddsson / Iceland / Official Selection – Competition / WP / 112 min
14:45	9	PELICAN / Pelican / Filip Heraković / Croatia / First Feature Competition / WP / 87 min
15:45	S	KLOKKENLUIDER / Klokkenluider / Neil Maskell / United Kingdom / First Feature Competition / IP / 84 min

November 20

10:15	S	UPON ENTRY / Upon Entry / Alejandro Rojas, Juan Sebastián Vázquez / Spain / First Feature Competition / WP / 74 min
10:30	8	DUCKS – AN URBAN LEGEND / Shahar Rozen / Israel / Official Selection - Competition, In Focus: Israel / WP / 104 min
11:15	6	BLACK KISSES / Besos negros / Alejandro Naranjo / Colombia, Spain / Rebels with a Cause Competition / WP / 72 min
11:45	S	THE HATCHER / Matecznik / Grzegorz Mołda / Poland / First Feature Competition / IP / 80 min
12:30	8	THE FOX / Der Fuchs / Adrian Goiginger / Germany, Austria / Official Selection – Competition / WP / 113 min
12:45	6	THE LIMITS OF CONSENT / Läheduse raamid / Michael Keerdo-Dawson / Estonia / Rebels with a Cause Competition / WP / 100 min
13:30	S	PARADE / Parade / Titas Laucius / Lithuania / First Feature Competition / WP / 97 min
14:00	7	JAILBIRD / Jailbird / Andrea Magnani / Italy, Ukraine / Official Selection – Competition / WP / 88 min
14:45	6	A CHILDLESS VILLAGE / Sonsuz / Reza Jamali / Iran / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 81 min
15:45	S	REMEMBER TO BLINK / Per arti / Austėja Urbaitė / Lithuania / Baltic Film Competition / 109 min

November 21

10:30	S	RIVER OF DESIRE / O Rio Do Desejo / Sérgio Machado / Brazil / Official Selection - Competition, Spotlight: Brazil / WP / 108 min
10:45	8	PENSIVE / Rupintojelis / Jonas Trukanas / Lithuania / Baltic Film Competition / 87 min
12:00	6	EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE LOVED / Alle wollen geliebt werden / Katharina Woll / Germany / First Feature Competition / IP / 80 min
12:30	8	THE TASTE OF WATER / Ūdens garša / Matīss Kaža / Latvia / Baltic Film Competition / IP / 107 min
12:30	S	A CUP OF COFFEE AND NEW SHOES ON / Një filxhan kafe dhe këpucë të reja veshur / Gentian Koçi / Albania, Portugal, Greece, Kosovo / Official Selection - Competition/ WP / 99 min
13:45	6	THE OTHER WIDOW / The Other Widow / Ma'ayan Rypp / Israel, France / First Feature Competition, In Focus: Israel / WP / 85 min
14:30	S	SERVUS PAPA, SEE YOU IN HELL / Servus Papa, See You In Hell / Christopher Roth / Germany / Official Selection – Competition / 116 min
15:30	6	WAKE ME / Zbudi me / Marko Šantić / Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 85 min

LEGEND: 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 – Hall numbers in Coca-Cola Plaza (Hobujaama 5)

S – Hall „A Le Coq Suite” in Coca-Cola Plaza (Hobujaama 5) • **A2** – Hall 2 in Artis Cinema (Solaris Centre, Estonia pst 9)

Time Hall Film / Original Title / Director / Country / Programme / Premiere / Length

November 22

10:15	S	COLD AS MARBLE / Mərmər soyuğu / Asif Rustamov / Azerbaijan, France / Official Selection – Competition / WP / 88 min
10:30	8	PIECE OF MY HEART / Piece of My Heart / Dana Nechushtan / Netherlands, Belgium / Official Selection – Competition / WP / 114 min
11:00	9	THE MAN WITHOUT GUILT / The Man Without Guilt / Ivan Gergolet / Slovenia, Italy, Croatia / First Feature Competition / WP / 112 min
12:00	S	IN BED / Ke'elu En Machar / Nitzan Gilady / Israel / Rebels with a Cause Competition, In Focus: Israel / IP / 90 min
12:45	8	578 MAGNUM / 578: Phát Đạn Cua Ke Diên / Dung Luong Dinh / Vietnam / Official Selection – Competition / IP / 108 min
13:15	9	PUNCH / Punch / Welby Ings / New Zealand / First Feature Competition / IP / 98 min
13:45	S	BARREN / Barren / Mordechai Vardi / Israel / First Feature Out of Competition, In Focus: Israel / IP / 108 min
14:45	7	LOVABLE / Milulis / Staņislavs Tokalovs / Latvia, Estonia / Baltic Film Competition / IP / 112 min
15:00	8	PLASTIC SYMPHONY / Plastic Symphony / Juraj Lehotský / Slovakia, Poland, Czech Republic / Official Selection – Competition / WP / 83 min
15:15	9	IN THE MORNING OF LA PETITE MORT / In the Morning of la Petite Mort / Yu-Lin Wang / Taiwan / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 100 min
15:45	S	AMAR COLONY / Amar Colony / Siddharth Chauhan / India / First Feature Competition / WP / 75 min
16:45	6	THE PARTISAN WITH THE LEICA CAMERA / Ruth Walk / Israel / Market Screening / 54 min

November 23

10:15	S	THE ACCIDENT / O Acidente / Bruno Carboni / Brazil / First Feature Competition, Spotlight: Brazil / IP / 95 min
10:30	9	THE WASTETOWN / Shahre Khamoush / Ahmad Bahrami / Iran / Official Selection – Competition / WP / 98 min
10:45	8	AND YET WE WERE ALL BLIND / Toi non plus tu n'as rien vu / Béatrice Pollet / France / Official Selection – Competition / WP / 94 min
12:00	A2	SEVEN YEARS OF ABSALON / Seven Years Of Absalon / David Ofek, Amit Azaz / Israel / Market Screening / 60 min
12:15	S	THE OTHER CHILD / The Other Child / Kim Jin-young / South Korea / First Feature Competition / IP / 114 min
12:30	9	NIGHT / Natt / Mona J. Hoel / Norway / Official Selection – Competition / WP / 89 min
12:45	8	THE COFFEE TABLE / La mesita del comedor / Caye Casas / Spain / Rebels with a Cause Competition / WP / 91 min
14:15	9	GINJI THE SPECULATOR / Ginji The Speculator / Ryuichi Mino / Japan / Official Selection – Competition / WP / 114 min
14:30	S	PHI 1.618 / Phi 1.618 / Theodore Ushev / Bulgaria, Canada / First Feature Out of Competition / IP / 96 min
14:45	8	21 PARADISE / 21 Paraiso / Néstor Ruiz Medina / Spain / Rebels with a Cause Competition / WP / 97 min
16:15	S	DOUBLE LIFE / Double Life / Enen Yo / Japan, China / First Feature Competition / IP / 103 min

November 24

10:45	8	THE RISE & FALL OF COMRADE ZYLO / Shkelqimi dhe renia e shokut Zylo / Fatmir Koçi / Albania, Kosovo, Ireland / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 119 min
11:00	S	YOUR LOVELY SMILE / Your Lovely Smile / Lim Kah Wai / Japan / Rebels with a Cause Competition / IP / 114 min
13:00	S	TRACES / Tragovi / Dubravka Turić / Croatia, Lithuania, Serbia / Baltic Film Competition / BP / 98 min
13:15	8	THE CHAMBERMAID / Sluzka / Mariana Čengel Solčanská / Slovakia, Czech Republic / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 100 min
13:45	9	ABOUT US BUT NOT ABOUT US / About Us But Not About Us / Jun Robles Lana / Philippines / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 91 min
15:00	S	MY LOVE AFFAIR WITH MARRIAGE / My Love Affair with Marriage / Signe Baumann / Latvia, USA, Luxembourg / Baltic Film Competition / EP / 108 min
15:15	8	LONG TIME NO SLEEP / Hace mucho que no duermo / Agustín Godoy / Argentina / Rebels with a Cause Competition / IP / 88 min
15:30	9	VESPER / Эра выживания / Kristina Buožytė, Bruno Samper / Lithuania, Belgium, France / Baltic Film Competition, Main programme of Kinoff / EP / 114 min

LEGEND: 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 – Hall numbers in Coca-Cola Plaza (Hobujaama 5)

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EXPERIENCE THE INNOVATIVE JOURNEY TO SUCCESS!

Yamdu

Tired of data silos and multiple workflows in co-productions?

Yamdu takes the chaos out of pre-production by enhancing transparency and data accessibility across all your teams. Gain insight into best-practice methods - and take away ideas to streamline your workflow with cloud-based solutions, like Yamdu, to mitigate data chaos in international productions.

What is Yamdu? Yamdu is your single source of truth for all productions. The intuitive software coordinates workflows and consolidates all production data into one cloud-based platform to save precious time, bind teams together, and bring a project to life on the screen. For more details, visit yamdu.com.

Introduction to Yamdu will take place on

November 23

16:00 to 16:20

➔ *Nordic Hotel Forum room Capella.*

Largo.ai

100 Producers Program - Accelerate Film Production with Artificial Intelligence

After the successful 2 editions, Largo.ai continues with the 3rd edition of 100 Producers Program. The program provides a 6-month proof-of-concept duration for 100 producers to apply the artificial intelligence with 85% compensation on the regular costs. With the program, the producers will have the following 3 main benefits:

- **Learning how to apply the AI during the development of your project at the development, pre-production, post-production, and distribution stages**

The film industry is today getting data and technology assistance in many decisions and processes. In this program, Largo.ai account managers and data scientists will support you on how you can utilise the artificial intelligence through Largo.ai tools during a 6-month process.

- **Applying the tools on your ongoing projects**

With the AI tools largo.ai provides, you will be able to do content analysis from script to video; character analysis, casting propositions, and analysis; AI financial forecasts and sales estimates (100+ countries); audience and demographics insights; distribution strategy: release date & release week; comparables analysis; Creative Lab: Access to the analysis of 60K movies, 50K TV Shows, and 500K talents

- **Access to Largo.ai Market; publishing your projects with the AI results for presenting to distributors and financiers for potential financing**

In 2022, Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event supports its Baltic Event Co-Production Market projects, providing them access to the first analysis and 1-month subscription to the above-mentioned program.

The open pitch of projects will take place on

November 23

16:20 to 17:30

➔ *Nordic Hotel Forum room Capella.*

Co-Production Market

BEST PROJECT AWARD – 10 000 Euros

Consisting of: 5000 euros cash and 5000 euros worth of services by Yamdu

The award is given to the project, which successfully combines creative and commercial potential.

Yamdu is an intuitive software that coordinates workflows and consolidates all production data into one cloud-based platform to save time, bind teams together, and bring a project to life on the screen.

BEST PITCH

Coverage throughout the film's life-cycle awarded by Screen International

Screen International is a multimedia film magazine covering the international film business. It is published by EMAP, a British b2b media company. The magazine is primarily aimed at those involved in the global movie business. The weekly magazine in its current form was founded in 1975 with its website, screendaily.com, added in 2001. Screen International also produces daily publications at film festivals and markets in Berlin, Germany; Cannes, France; Toronto, Ontario, Canada; the American Film Market in Santa Monica, California; and Hong Kong.

PRODUCERS NETWORK PRIZE FOR PROMISING YOUNG PRODUCERS

Two free passes to Producers' Network 2023 awarded by Cannes Marché du Film

The Marché du Film is the business counterpart of the Cannes Film Festival and one of the largest film markets in the world. Established in 1959, it is held annually in conjunction with the Festival de Cannes.

The Producers' Network hosts 550 producers from around the world in a series of meetings and events. Created to stimulate international co-production and project financing, this event is specially designed for producers. Events include Breakfast Meetings, gathering some 200 industry professionals and producers for roundtable discussions.

In order to be eligible for the Producers Network award, the producer has to have produced one feature film that has been theatrically released within the past three years. The award cannot be given to the producer who has won the same award with the same project from another international film market.



Jury

Katarina Tomkova, Producer, Kaleidoskope, Slovakia

Margrit Stärk, Director of Feature Films, ZDF Studios, Germany

Sibila Diaz-Plaja, Development Manager, MUBI, United Kingdom

BLINDSIGHT



ORIGINAL TITLE: СЛІПОБАЧЕННЯ

Country: Ukraine

Potential co-production countries: Poland, France, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania

Genre: psychological drama, sport, social issue

Written by: Ruslan Batytskyi

Directed by: Ruslan Batytskyi

Produced by: Olha Beskhamelnytsina, Natalia Libet

Company: 2Brave Productions

Language: Ukrainian

Estimated budget in EUR: 980 000

Financing in place in EUR: 30 000

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, distributors, foreign broadcasters, public funds (national, regional, international), private funds/banks, technical in-kind participation

Short synopsis

A 35-year-old war-veteran's devotion to the goalball team he is coaching for the Paralympic Games is challenged when he learns that his son starts losing sight.

Director's note

The film is built around a visual metaphor – the story of blindsight transferred to the level of human relations. The visual style of the film is a search for blindsight phenomena in all of its possible manifestations: as intuition, as flashes and lights, as warmth and love in human relationships. We look at the world through the eyes of a boy who already knows that he is losing his sight and wants to remember things that are most valuable to him. And we look at the world through the eyes of a father who is afraid of blindness, so he 'blinds' himself even more. We meet people who have accepted their blindness and have been able to overcome it. And those who are still fiercely trying to fight it, knowing that they are not able to. In style and atmosphere, the film reminds of early works by Denis Villeneuve; in tone, it can be reminiscent of *The Specials* by Olivier Nakache and Éric Toledano; in details, mood, and artistic device we are inspired by Michelangelo Antonioni's later films.

Director

Ruslan Batytskyi is an award-winning Ukrainian director, writer, and cinematographer. He received a BA in Cinema and TV directing from the Kyiv National University of Theatre, Cinema, and Television. His short films *Lethargy*, *Reed* and *Ukrainian Lessons* have been presented at international festivals and won numerous awards. In 2016-2018, in collaboration with American neurosurgeon Luke Tomycz, he created a short documentary series *The Least Part of the Work*. In 2013, he directed the documentary *A Rising Fury* (a.k.a. *Bullet Catcher*) supported by several prominent international foundations including Sundance FI, IDFA BerthaFund, Sorfund, Fritt Ord, Brit Doc and premiered at 2022 Tribeca IFF. Currently, Ruslan continues developing his feature narrative debut *Blindsight*.

Producers

Olga Beskhnelytsina is a Ukrainian producer with more than 10 years of experience in film production. She is a co-founder of a women-led 2Brave Productions. Her credits include award-winning movies such as Stop-Zemlia by Kateryna Gornostai (Crystal Bear Generation 14+ at Berlinale 2021), Anna (2019) by Dekel Berenson (Best Short Award at BIFA 2019, BAFTA shortlisted), The Living Fire (Hot Docs winner 2015), Collapse. How the Ukrainians ruined the Empire of Evil (2021 Documentary Series for Ukrainian National Channel). As the full-scale war started in Ukraine, Olga put together a team of filmmakers to document the horrors of the war in the most dangerous places of the country.

Natalia Libet has gained experience in co-production, investment, and finance while working for international companies. Since 2017, she has been operating as a film producer and recently – as a co-owner of a women-led 2Brave Productions in Kyiv, Ukraine. In 2019-2021, she brought First Cut Lab and EAVE in Demand to Ukraine, being responsible for the educational programs at Film Industry Association of Ukraine. She has also joined Bratislava's Febiofest, Wiesbaden's goEast and Plzen's Finale as a jury member. She has had annual audits with Big 4, and obtained an MBA in the U.S. Natalia is a winner of 2000 Edmund Muskie/Freedom Support Act Graduate Fellowship Award, a member of European and Ukrainian Film Academies, an alumna of EURODOC 2021 and Ji.hlava IDFF's Emerging Producers 2022.

Company profile

2Brave Productions, founded by Olha Beskhnelytsina and Natalia Libet, connects the new wave of Ukrainian filmmakers to the global film industry by structuring international co-production with support of traditional and alternative financing. Founders of the company have achieved acclaim for their role in bringing new names to the audiences at home and abroad. Their credits include Stop-Zemlia by Kateryna Gornostai (Youth Jury's Crystal Bear at Berlinale Generation 14+ 2021), Anna by Dekel Berenson (Best Short Award at BIFA 2019) and co-produced Parthenon by Mantas Kvedaravicius (world premiere at the Critics' Week at Venice IFF 2019).

Project representatives

Ruslan Batytskyi, director

Olha Beskhnelytsina, producer

Natalia Libet, producer



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BLUE GIRL



ORIGINAL TITLE: DOKHTARE ABI

Country: Türkiye

Co-production country: Luxembourg

Genre: social issue, women

Written by: Mahmoud Ghaffari

Directed by: Mahmoud Ghaffari

Produced by: Elaheh Nobakht

Co-produced by: Alexander Dumreicher-Ivanceanu

Company: ELI Image

Co-production company: Amour Fou

Luxembourg Sàrl

Languages: Persian, Turkish

Estimated budget in EUR: 887 550

Financing in place in EUR: 230 000

Looking for: co-producers, foreign broadcasters, public funds (national, regional, international)

Short synopsis

Two men enter Istanbul intending to commit the murder of a family member who has escaped from the country of Iran. But when they find the girl after a few days, they realise that a murder would have enormous consequences in Turkey. Therefore, they decide to use the advantage of Iranian legislation, according to which killing a child by their father is not considered a significant crime and would not result in a death penalty. So, they need to take the girl back to Iran, but, for this, they need the girl's mother to accompany them and convince her to come back without any tension. Finally, the girl is persuaded to go with them and the two-day journey towards Iran with the help of a smuggler starts.

The rest of the story revolves around a myriad of things happening between the girl, his mother, father, uncle, and the smuggler, which eventually results in the mother's efforts to save the girl from the disastrous destiny of death.

Director's note

I think that now the whole world knows that life in the Middle East is more difficult than anywhere else and this difficulty is multiplied for the women of this region because they are involved in a multi-layered tyranny whose outer layer is the dictatorial government and inner the family, the backward social traditions, and the educational system. I believe that the new generation of girls are no longer accepting the imposed lifestyle. I decided to present a more realistic picture of this generation, which does not want much more than a normal life and freedom. The one who changes the opinion of her father, who came to Istanbul to kill her, and succeeds in persuading him to support her.

Finally, in the last shot, the father symbolically raises his hands as a sign of submission to his daughter's demands. I think that a new generation has emerged in Iran and there is no image of them in the cinema – those who stay and make great changes in their country as the blue girl does.

Director

Mahmoud Ghaffari was born in Tehran in 1976. He started Cinema with short fiction and documentary films, and has made 15 films. His films have won several awards at different international film festivals. His filmography includes the features *It's a Dream* (Iran 2012), *Hair* (Iran 2016), *No. 17 Soheila* (Iran 2017), *The Apple Day* (Iran 2022).

Producer

Elaheh Nobakht is one of the pioneer women of the Iranian cinema industry. She is the CEO of the International Production and Distribution Film Company, ELI Image. She is the producer of *Beloved*, selected to IDFA, Berlinale, and the audience award winner at HotDocs 2019; co-producer of *Holy Bread*, selected to IDFA mid-length competition in 2020; distributor of *Finding Farideh*, the Iranian official entry to Oscars 2020. Her newest film *The Apple Day* was selected to the 72nd Berlinale International Film Festival 2022.

She is also an active member of the Iranian Producers Association (IPA) and a member of the Iranian Documentary Producers' Association (aoidp), and has acted as a jury member of various international film festivals.

Company profile

Eli Image is an independent film production & distribution company founded in 2018 by Elaheh Nobakht that presents the newest Iranian films including documentaries and features, and also tries to introduce the new generation of Iranian Cinema to the world. Last films produced and distributed by ELI Image are *Beloved*, selected to IDFA 2018, Berlinale 2019, Hot Docs 2019, *Holy Bread*, selected to HotDocs and IDFA. The new feature produced by ELI Image, *The Apple Day*, was selected for the 72th Berlinale International Film Festival. ELI Image is also the international distributor of the documentary film *Finding Farideh*, the Iranian official entries for the Oscars 2020.

Project representatives:

Elaheh Nobakht, producer (online)



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CERTAINLY THE END OF SOMETHING



ORIGINAL TITLE: TO ZAPEWNE JAKIŚ KONIEC

Country: Poland

Genre: black comedy, social issue

Written by: Michał Marczak, Paweł Demirski

Directed by: Michał Marczak

Produced by: Anna Różalska

Company: Match&Spark

Language: Polish

Estimated budget in EUR: 2 100 000

Financing in place in EUR: 241 859

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, distributors, public funds (national, regional, international), private funds/banks, technical in-kind participation

Short synopsis

Matylda, a tough girl from Warsaw's toughest neighbourhood, kidnaps a man associated with the gentrification mafia that is destroying her city and family. Acting without a plan, though under the watchful eye of her best friend Sylwia, a nurse and mother of three, Matylda tries to make her captives feel the pain they caused their victims. But she's confronted by Piotr, a young man from a well-off family, who's fallen in love with her and who just so happens to be the owner of the bar where Matylda and Sylwia are keeping their hostage. Matylda and Piotr have rival views about human nature. He believes that empathy can be instilled with the right approach. Matylda believes that people, especially the bad ones, will never change. As they try to prove each other wrong, they end up kicking the asses of wannabe aristocrats as well as free-market fundamentalists, making the world just a little bit better...

Director's note

My desire is to tell a highly nuanced tale of revenge that plays with the genre by studying the mechanics of what such an act would entail. How do you get someone to change or raise their empathy level? Is it even possible? Matylda is a heroine (or an anti-heroine, if you will) fit for our age – a time of rampant inequality but also of growing awareness of its terrible consequences, and a huge desire to do something about it. This will be a film that does justice to the Gen Zers, which are sick and tired of the old ways of running the world and of change never materialising. The story is set in Warsaw, but with real estate being the safest investment in today's volatile market, it could take place in any other metropolis. The gentrifiers have no shame as they tear away the soul of the city, leaving swathes of land inhabited only by the ultra wealthy. This will be a wild ride of a film that will mix a certain comic-book sensitivity with a serious subject matter.

Director

Marczak's latest feature, *All These Sleepless Nights*, received the award for best director at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival in the

World Cinema – Documentary category, and appeared on many lists of top movies, in publications such as Rolling Stone and IndieWire. It's also been listed among the 100 best films of the century. Marczak's previous film, the documentary feature *Fuck for Forest*, premiered at SXSW. It was distributed theatrically in many countries and heralded by the UK's Dazed and Confused magazine as one of the "top ten most innovative and genre-pushing docs of recent years." Apart from feature projects Marczak also directs music videos. He's worked with such artists as Radiohead (*I Promise*), and Mark Pritchard featuring Thom Yorke (*Beautiful People*).

Project representatives:
Michał Marczak, director
Anna Różalska, producer



Producer

Anna is an experienced film & TV series producer, entrepreneur, lecturer, and strategist. In 2015, she co-founded Match&Spark, a production company and one of the leading talent agencies in Poland. Anna has many years of experience working on international co-productions and TV series (including as Head of Original Productions and Coproductions at Canal+ Poland). With a passion for working with outstanding filmmakers, she excels at combining her entrepreneurial thinking and business skills with the arts.

Company profile

Match&Spark is a talent management, production and packaging company actively involved in audiovisual projects beginning in early development, focusing on bringing Central and Eastern European creativity to global audiences. Recent credits include the documentary *Who Will Write Our History* (dir. Roberta Grossman), co-produced with Nancy Spielberg. In addition to Marczak's next feature, Match&Spark producers are working on the feature *The Great Match* (dir. Filip Syczyński) in pre-production, and the documentary *Support* (dir. Adam Roszkowski) in post-production.

Contact

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CHERRY BLOSSOM



ORIGINAL TITLE: ЦВІТ ВИШНІ

Country: Ukraine

Potential co-production countries: Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia

Genre: war/anti-war, drama

Written by: Marysia Nikitiuk

Directed by: Marysia Nikitiuk

Produced by: Igor Savychenko

Company: Directory Films

Language: Ukrainian

Estimated budget in EUR: 2 317 580

Financing in place in EUR: -

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, public funds, private funds (banks)

Short synopsis

Nastya (12) and Viktor (38) escaped from the territories occupied by Russia. His family was killed by Russian soldiers and Nastya's mother disappeared. They pretend to be a family and get social housing in a city near Kyiv. Nastya starts going to summer school, where due to uncontrolled aggression the girl meets Maya (35), a Bosnian psychologist from UNICEF, who sees herself in Nastya. As a teenager Nastya is burdened by the consequences of the war, she refuses to eat, brings a gun to school with her, and falls in love with Viktor, who sees her as his lost daughter. Victor cannot cope with his pain and with Maya trying to help him rubs her own forgotten wounds. Cherry Blossom tells about people in a post-traumatic state. Heroes who managed to survive during the Russian-Ukrainian war encounter a heroine from Bosnia, who survived the Balkan wars as a child. Against the background of fresh wounds, the old wounds of war begin to bleed anew, showing that war stays with people forever.

Director's note

This is a story about people who lost their world because of the war and are trying to build a new one. But this process of recovery and finding new normality is very difficult. And we see children that build barricades, and look for abandoned weapons in the forest. I want to use a live camera with the effect of presence to convey the internal experiences of the characters, how they react, and how they experience the fear of intimacy. There are also poetic elements in the story, the heroine remembers cherry blossoms in an industrial town, which are covered by artillery explosions, and white flowers dyed the colour of blood. Cherry blossoms are for me an image of a peaceful life that the heroes lost. That is why in the end, the heroine and her class plant small cherries that will someday grow and bloom again. I want to use as much natural light as possible when shooting. I would also like to use real Ukrainian exterior locations to capture and convey the spirit of the times.

Director

Marysia Nikitiuk graduated from Kyiv Karpenko-Karyi National Uni-

versity. She has been writing scripts for films since 2012. Her shorts as a writer have screened at such film festivals as Locarno, Clermont-Ferrand, Cairo IFF, TISFF, Golden Apricot, etc. and were awarded with numerous awards. From 2014, Marysia started to shoot her own films as director and made three short films: *In Trees*, *Mandragora*, and *Rabies*. Her first feature film *When the Trees Fall* premiered at the 68th International Berlin Film Festival in Panorama section in 2018. In 2019, the film *Evge* by Nariman Aliev, which Marysia co-wrote, premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in the Certain Regard section.

Project representatives:
Marysia Nikitiuk, director



Producer

Igor Savychenko began his career in the film industry as a screenwriter but quickly found himself working as a producer. After 16 years, his works include ten full-length features, five full-length documentaries, and more than 30 shorts. Seven of the full-length features have premiered at class A festivals. In total, 24 of Igor's films have screened at class A festivals, winning six awards. A number of the films were box office leaders in Ukraine. Igor was actively involved in developing the screenplays for most of these films. Igor is one of the founders of the #Babylon'13 documentary project that has been cinematically chronicling Ukraine's civil society, from the Maidan to the Russo-Ukrainian war.

Company profile

Directory Films was conceived in 2012 to express our creative talents and focus our efforts in the development of Ukrainian Cinema. Our team is seeking original projects with a strong message that would inspire audiences to believe that words can change the world. Whilst we may be seen as idealists we remain grounded in reality, which is why most of our films were successful at festivals and reached their audiences in the cinema and on television.

Recent filmography: *Day in Ukraine* (documentary, Volodymyr Tykhyy 2022), *Lethal Kittens* (Volodymyr Tykhyy 2020), *The Painted Bird* (Vaclav Marhouf 2019), *The Forgotten* (Onyschenko 2019), *When The Trees Fall* (Marysia Nikitiuk 2018).

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A FLOWER IS NOT A FLOWER



ORIGINAL TITLE: O FLOARE NU E O FLOARE

Country: Romania

Potential co-production countries: Poland, Germany, France, Hungary, Czech Republic

Genre: drama

Written by: Cristian Pascariu

Directed by: Cristian Pascariu

Produced by: Adriana Răcășan

Company: Point Film

Language: Romanian

Estimated budget in EUR: 733 500

Financing in place in EUR: 27 500

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, distributors, foreign broadcasters, public funds (national, regional, international), private funds/banks, technical in-kind participation

Short synopsis

After being abandoned by her aunt in an inhumane communist orphanage, Ana, an 11-year-old girl, must learn to survive in this new bitter reality of Romania's late 80s. Ana's sensibility helps her see the disturbing backdrop with a gentle, innocent twist, but, at the same time, it leads her to seek shelter with the orphanage bully, Costea. Their naive romance is an emotional roller coaster inside a terrible institution. When all hope is lost and unable to endure the system's torture, Ana runs away with Costea. They end up living in the sewers, together with the self-proclaimed Van Damme. For Ana, life underground is terrible, and things escalate when Van Damme attempts to sell her for money without any resistance from Costea. Her only chance of liberty is to run away from the sewers to the seaside. With her trust crushed, she's too afraid to accept help from a seemingly friendly family, and she ends up wandering alone on the beach.

Director's note

After studying the brutal events in Romanian orphanages in the 80s, I've decided to build Ana's story based on the heartbreaking recollections and interviews of that time. Without downplaying the tragic events from these institutions, the innocent perspective of the main character, Ana, adds a layer of humanity to the film. A young child sees the world from a different point of view, and even in the most gruesome moments, she identifies glimmers of hope. I intend to create a claustrophobic camera framing that is close to the main character describing her perception of the institution. Ana is a girl who evolves and overcomes great obstacles, and, in the end, she succeeds in being free from all the toxic people around her. It is a story about empowering oneself and never giving up the fight against appalling circumstances.

Director

Cristian Pascariu (b. 1987) is a film director and screenwriter, passionate about education, art therapy, and the integration of visuals in theatre performances. He graduated from the Faculty of Theater

and Film in Cluj-Napoca, Department of Cinematography, Photography and Media, in 2010. He has an MA from the Department of Art Therapy, within the National University of Theater and Cinematography I.L. Caragiale Bucharest. His short films have circulated in over 70 international film festivals. Now, he is working with various production companies in Bucharest on animation, short and feature film projects, and is preparing his first feature film project, produced by Point Film.

Producer

Adriana Răcășan, 39, producer and shareholder of Point Film company, the Romanian co-producer for the successful title *Servants* (world premiere in the Encounters section, Berlinale 2020). She began her career in cinema 18 years ago as an Assistant Production Designer and then as 2nd AD and 1st AD for feature films such as *Kino Caravan* (Titus Muntean), *Domestic* (Adrian Sitaru), *Of Snails and Men* (Tudor Giurgiu), *America, Here We Come* (Razvan Savescu), *Nelly's Adventures* (Dominik Wessely), *Legacy* (Dorian Boguta), *The Windseeker* (Mihai Sofronea), *Morometii 2* (Stere Gulea). She was Francis Ford Coppola's personal assistant during his Romanian shoot of *Youth without Youth*. Most recently, she has produced several short films and was the executive producer of three features. *Legacy*, 2019, *The Windseeker*, 2022, *Caisa*, 2018, *Moromete Family: On the Edge of Time*, 2018, *Breaking News*, 2017.

Company profile

Point Film aims for discovering new directors and bringing a fresh, new vibe and vision on the Romanian producing scene. Point Film is led by director/producer Tudor Giurgiu, founder and president of the Transilvania IFF, owner of the Transilvania Film distribution company, the Romanian streaming platform TIFF Unlimited, and the well-established production company Libra Film (*The History of Love* by Radu Mihăileanu – FR, CA, RO; *Menocchio* by Alberto Fasulo – IT, RO; *Cannibal* by Manuel Cuenca – SP, RO), and producer Adriana Racasan, a film directing graduate, who has worked on more than 30 films as a production manager and executive producer since 2010. Point Film

also co-produced the second feature of the Slovak director Ivan Ostrochovsky, *Servants* (Berlinale 2020, Encounter).

Project representatives:

Cristian Pascariu, director

Adriana Răcășan, producer



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IMPRESSIONS



ORIGINAL TITLE: NOSPIEDUMI

Country: Latvia

Genre: dramedy

Written by: Alise Zarina

Directed by: Alise Zarina

Produced by: Alise Rogule

Company: Mima Films

Languages: Latvian, English

Estimated budget in EUR: 750 000

Financing in place in EUR: 440 000

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, distributors, foreign broadcasts, public funds

Short synopsis

Ambitious yet insecure set designer Lyv (36) feels that she is ready to settle and to have a baby with her boyish husband Marcis (37). When her father – once a promising artist, now a devoted alcoholic – ends up in a hospital unconscious after a stroke, Lyv's plan starts to slowly fall apart as she loses control of her own life. Lyv's mother believes that only Lyv can keep her father alive, but Marcis, in the meantime, faces his own fears of fading youth and imminent death. All Lyv ever wanted was to distance herself from her always absent father and create her own family, yet the fact of him dying brings her closer to him and she realises how hard it is to let go of something she never had.

Director's note

In Latvia, absent fathers, mostly because of alcohol addiction related issues, for a few last generations are painfully common. A few of my friends have already lost their estranged fathers before reconciliation and I've seen the trauma not only caused by the death of a father, but of a very specific death – the death of a father you've never had. These women have grown up with a legally or factually single mother and an unreliable, rarely seen and often intoxicated father figure. This has had a huge impact on how they form their adult relationships and how they define their own self-worth. Impressions will not be a social drama, I believe that these issues can be looked at with lightness and humour, yet it poses a difficult question – can one ever find fatherly love and acceptance within oneself instead of looking for it in other people?

Director

Alise Zarina graduated from BFM in 2013 and from National Film School of Latvia in 2021. Her first feature film *Nearby* (2019) won the National Film Award for best screenwriting, and her documentary short *Il Lines* (2020) won the best national short film title in Riga International Film Festival. She writes for several Latvian media on the topics of film and social issues – she's an outspoken feminist and LGBTQ+ rights activist and in 2021 she received Latvian PEN award for promoting freedom of expression. Her TV series *The Assistant*,

funded by National Film Centre is a work in progress along with Impressions – her second feature to come, developed in Torino Film Lab Extended. She presented the project Hysterias at Baltic Event in 2021, receiving a Jury special mention.

Producer

With a Bachelor's degree in Arts, **Alise** has produced different projects for more than 11 years. Starting as a producer in a then well-known production company, she gained her experience also in a creative agency and afterwards knowingly decided to work as a freelance producer. In 2016, she established her own company and since then has worked on different scale projects gaining a broad experience. In 2022, Alise was selected as a participant together with 9 European promising producers for the Cannes Film Festival Court Metrage new initiative – New Producers Room and Match Me! program at Locarno Film Festival.

Company profile

Mima Films, which started as a creative production company working with mostly commercials and music videos, became the leaders of the local market. In 2018, they made a huge step and produced their first feature. The film premiered in 2019 and became successful both critically and commercially. Since then they have changed our focus on films and production services so they can work on projects, which they enjoy the most.

Recent filmography: *No Regrets* (short, 2022), *Can't Help Myself* (short, 2022), *First Steps* (short, 2021), *Diva* (short, 2020), *Nearby/Blakus* (feature, 2019).

Project representatives:

Alise Zarina, director

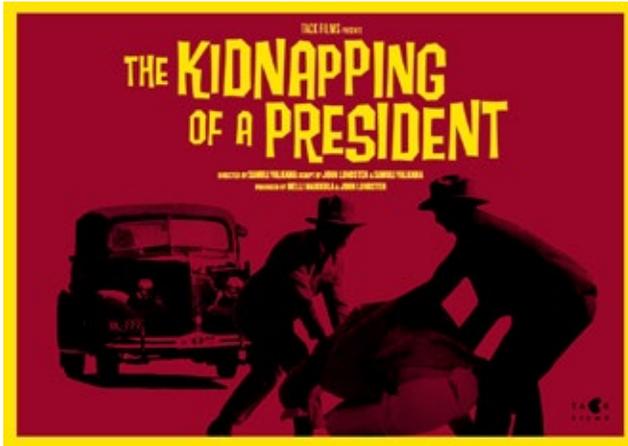
Alise Rogule, producer



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THE KIDNAPPING OF A PRESIDENT



ORIGINAL TITLE: KYDITYS

Country: Finland

Potential co-production countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Netherlands

Genre: black comedy, period/historical

Written by: Samuli Valkama, John Lundsten

Directed by: Samuli Valkama

Produced by: John Lundsten, Melli Maikkula

Company: TACK Films

Language: Finnish

Estimated budget in EUR: 1 950 000

Financing in place in EUR: 340 665

Looking for: co-producers, distributors, public funds (national, regional, international), technical in-kind participation

Short synopsis

Finland, 1930. Extreme far-right ideologies shake the foundations of a country already destabilised by a destructive civil war. The 60-year-old former first lady of Finland, Ester Ståhlberg, observes the country's events from the outskirts of Helsinki. Ester, an advocate of law and order, pressures her husband, the former president KJ Ståhlberg, to stand up to the madness of fascism. Meanwhile, the most influential officer of the Finnish military, Kurt Wallenius, goes on a trip to celebrate the birth of his child with his officer friends, among them Lieutenant Colonel Eero Kuussaari – a psychopathic alcoholic who once tried to blow up Leningrad in a coup. The following morning, Kuussaari comes to in a trashed room in Joensuu. All signs indicate something significant happened the previous night, but what? As the day goes on, a hungover Kuussaari starts to realise that he has in fact started a revolution while blackout drunk.

Director's note

The Kidnapping of a President tells an absurd and comical story based on real events about how in October 1930, a group of Finnish top echelon military officers went drinking and decided to kidnap the first – and already retired – President of Finland, Kaarlo Juho Ståhlberg. The plan went south right at the outset, as the incompetent crew recruited for the task were forced to allow the stubborn wife of the president, Ester Ståhlberg, to come along. This kicked off a bizarre series of events, the absolute and complete truth of which may never be discovered. The story reflects the rising right-wing sentiments of our society and depicts how words suddenly transform into actions. Even though the film deals with dark themes, it does so in a comical fashion. *The Kidnapping of a President* is a dark comedy and a satire – stylistically, I want it to be as if the Coen brothers made a film about Finland in the 1930s.

Director

Samuli Valkama (b. 1974) is a Finnish film director and screenwriter. He has directed three feature films that have been popular with both

audiences and critics: *Love and Other Troubles* (2012), *No Thank You* (2014), and *Unexpected Journey* (2017). Series directed by Valkama include *Threesome*, *Monday*, and most recently *The Man Who Died*. His short films have screened at festivals such as Slamdance, Tampere International Film Festival, and Chicago International Film Festival. Valkama is most known for his dark humour and strong storytelling.

Producer

John Lundsten is a writer, producer and co-founder of the production company TACK Films. He has written several popular comedy series such as *Northern Mishaps* (2015), *Downshifters* (2016), *Kimmo* (2016), *Monday* (2019), *Modern Men* (2019) as well as the feature film *The Hullabaloos!* (2022), which he also co-produced. He has also produced several series such as *Monday* (2019) and *The Hired Hand* (2023) as well as award-winning short films such as *The Ceiling*, which won the special mention at the Cannes Film Festival 2017.

Melli Maikkula is a writer, producer and CEO of the production company TACK Films. She has produced several series such as *Monday* (2019) and *Jönneli the Happy Troll* (2019-2020) as well as the upcoming series *The Hired Hand* (2023) and *Yolo* (2023). Her works also include the family film *The Hullabaloos!* (2022) and several short films such as *The Ceiling*, *The Stick*, and *The Blanket*. She is also a prolific writer known for her many award-winning short films and won the award for screenwriter of the year in 2020.

Company profile

In 2011, two screenwriters decided to start a production company. **TACK Films** was born with the aim of producing well-scripted films and series of high artistic quality. We enjoy both avant-garde art house and more commercial productions, and we have a particular soft spot for comedy. Our philosophy combines a strong work ethic with having fun and we always strive toward bold and imaginative content.

Our projects include the up-coming family film *The Hullabaloos!* (2022), the series *The Hired Hand* (2023), *Monday* (2019) and

Jönneli The Happy Troll (2020), as well as over 10 award-winning short films including *The Ceiling* (2017), which won a Special mention at the Cannes Film Festival 2017.

Project representatives:

Samuli Valkama, director

John Lundsten, producer



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LEVITATING SKIN



ORIGINAL TITLE: HUDEN LETTER

Country: Denmark

Co-production countries: Estonia, Finland

Potential co-production countries: Latvia

Genre: alternative, drama, underground, road movie, cult, women

Written by: Jonas Kærup Hjort

Directed by: Jonas Kærup Hjort

Produced by: Rikke Tambo Andersen

Co-produced by: Pilvi Waltzer, Riina Sildos

Company: Tambo Film ApS

Co-production companies: BUFO, Amrion

Languages: Danish, Estonian

Estimated budget in EUR: 2 405 353

Financing in place in EUR: 60 565

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, distributors, foreign broadcasters, public funds (national, regional, international), private funds/banks

Short synopsis

A mysterious man appears out of nowhere, making a group of women follow him on a surreal journey into madness. During the process, the women mysteriously transform their genders – turning them into men. However, when a woman from the group kills the man and flees, it ultimately leads to the bloodiest gender battle of our time!

Director's note

Levitating Skin is a surrealistic allegory about the consequence of the behavioural influence societal norms have on our lives. Although it has become more common to understand gender as a partly culturally determined phenomenon, which changes as society changes its perception of what it means to be a man, woman or something third, one can still wonder about our constant need to categorise and classify our fellow human beings by gender, in order to 'better understand' and give them 'identity'. Each individual develops its gender identity in a form of interaction with the gender norms in society. So, you are not born to be a man or a woman in a very specific way; instead, one's gender identity develops depending on the society one lives in.

So, what does it take to disrupt this social structure? The allegory is told in a surreal universe where the gender definitions are fluid. Herein lies the core and soul of the film. Playing with the audience's perception of the genders.

Director

Jonas Kærup Hjort (1983) is a director and screenwriter. He graduated as director from the National Film School of Denmark in 2017. Kærup Hjort has a background in theatre as both actor and director. His graduation short *In a Month* won three awards at the Danish Ekko Shortlist Award in 2018. Kærup Hjort made his feature film debut with the black comedy *Den Næstsidste* (*The Penultimate* 2021), which premiered at Tallinn Black Nights.

Producer

Rikke Tambo Andersen is a producer from Copenhagen, Denmark, who has worked in the film industry for more than 10 years. Rikke holds a BA in Film and Media Studies and an MA in Management of Creative Business Processes, and graduated from the Danish film school Super16 as a producer in 2016. Rikke works with both fiction and documentary. In 2018, she became a member of the EAVE Network and, in 2019, was chosen to be part of the Cannes Producers' Network and Berlinale Talents.

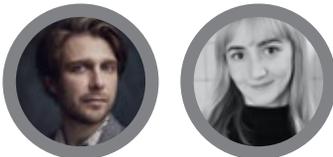
Company profile

Tambo Film has since 2017 been committed to producing fiction, documentary, and hybrid films that challenge convention, genre, method or style. Tambo Film focuses on new talents, nationally and internationally. Recent filmography includes *The Last Human* (feature documentary, Nordic:DOX Winner 2022), *Absolute Beginners* (documentary series, Prix Europa Winner Best European Doc Series 2021), *Loves Me, Loves Me Not* (2021), *The Penultimate* (2021), *The Raven and The Seagull* (feature documentary, Nordic:DOX Winner 2018).

Project representatives:

Jonas Kærup Hjort, director

Rikke Tambo Andersen, producer



Contact

Rikke Tambo Andersen

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OBLIVION



ORIGINAL TITLE: UŽMARŠTIS

Country: Lithuania

Potential co-production countries: Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Sweden, Poland, Croatia, Romania, Denmark

Genre: mystery, drama

Written by: Danielius Minkevičius

Directed by: Danielius Minkevičius

Produced by: Ieva Norvilienė

Company: Tremora

Language: Lithuanian

Estimated budget in EUR: 801 550

Financing in place in EUR: 38 900

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, distributors, foreign broadcasters, public funds (national, regional, international), private funds/banks, technical in-kind participation

Short synopsis

Else was videotaped by a forensic psychologist when she was four years old. During the interview, she claimed to have been sexually abused by her father. After 20 years, all that she said has gone to oblivion. After rewatching the videotapes of the interview, 24-year-old Else's memories and the foundations of her identity are shaken. To remember what really happened that day, Else decides to track down her biological father. The relationship between them takes a surprising turn when Else does not dare to confess to him that she is his daughter. *Oblivion* is a story about an inner journey – the character's presence in contact with infinity, with herself, and with a helpless desire to find the truth.

Director's note

Although memories are liquid, we inevitably have to rely on them to form our identity. In creating this story, I thought: what if our memories were fundamentally questioned? In that case, our identity would be called into question – who we are, what we consider ourselves to be and how we've seen ourselves so far. The same conflict arises while looking at the bigger picture. Public discourse often questions our past – do we have to dive into oblivion, eliminate the symbols of the past and create a new narrative? The defence mechanisms – drowning trauma into oblivion – constantly work in our inner microcosm, protecting against negative experiences and disconnecting us from cognition. These patterns are repeated in all the layers of humanity from history to personal traumas. *Oblivion* covers all the layers by telling the story of personal trauma and exploring the universal process of healing.

Director

Danielius Minkevičius was born on May 15, 1993. After graduation, he started studying screenwriting in Vilnius Academy of Music and Theatre, and after a year switched to cinema directing in the same academy. His film *Crucifixion*, which premiered at International Palm Spring shortest in 2020, was nominated for best Lithuanian student

and best Lithuanian short film in both categories. His latest film *Dance* premiered at Camerimage 2021 and was nominated for Golden Tadpole and Lithuanian national film awards Sidabrinė gervė 2022 for best student film. Danielius is currently developing his debut feature film *Oblivion*.

Producer

Ieva Norvilienė graduated in Management of Audiovisual Art from The Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. During that time, Ieva also participated in international courses offered by such initiatives as Strategics (Luxemburg), European Films Crossing Borders, EP2C, EEFA (East European Film Alliance), and the Producers on the Move program, initiated by European Film Promotion.

Ieva founded her own production and distribution company **Tremora** in 2005. Since then, Tremora has grown to become a successful production company, which actively collaborates with new young nationally and internationally talented filmmakers. The new collaborations have led to several co-productions (with Germany, Hungary, France, Georgia, Croatia, Serbia, Latvia) and a number of new projects in development.

Company profile

Tremora is an independent production company, founded in 2005 by producer Ieva Norvilienė and director Ignas Miškinis, who have professional experience in advertising, short and feature films production and distribution. With international contacts on board, Tremora can effectively collaborate on interesting and original film co-productions. Tremora focuses on full-length feature and short films by young authors and international co-productions.

Project representatives:

Danielius Minkevičius, director
Ieva Norvilienė, producer



Contact

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tremora.com

SERAFIMA & BOGDAN



ORIGINAL TITLE: SERAFIMA & BOGDAN

Country: Estonia

Potential co-production countries: Lithuania, France, Poland, Georgia, Finland, Latvia, Germany

Genre: drama

Written by: Olle Mirme, Veiko Õunpuu

Directed by: Veiko Õunpuu

Produced by: Andreas Kask, Esko Rips

Company: Nafta Films

Languages: Estonian, Russian

Estimated budget in EUR: 2 500 000

Financing in place in EUR: 105 000

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent

Short synopsis

Following the humiliating disintegration of the religious community led by her father, Serafima finds meaning in her life in the ritual killing of her husband Raimond, a Soviet official – an apocalyptic obsession that steers the characters towards inevitable ruin.

Director's note

The sheer volume of the book allows for a certain epic excess. In addition to the central story of Serafima's vengeance, it is enriched by numerous secondary characters whose lives and fates and generational shifts blur the main action and add juiciness. Thus, in addition to being a thriller, the book can be seen as a generalised tragedy about the disappearance of an ancient and diverse culture. Or, why not, a critique of the crimes of communism. Religion here is a kind of anthropological phenomenon, seen from the outside in and tolerated but not understood. This world is not run by a wise and loving God, rather the world is absurd, certainly violent, and the people are ignorant. It seems to me that Serafima has to be a true believer in a world where faith is not only believable, but essential, and on which all of life is based. So that her whole world and her sense of it is sacral. And then this extremely simple and semi-sacred world breaks down.

Director

Veiko Õunpuu has been a worker, a carpet salesman, a university dropout on three different occasions, a backpacker, and a painter. In 2006, he founded the production company Homeless Bob Production. His debut feature *Autumn Ball* premiered at Venice IFF in 2007 and won the Orizzonti Award. He received the European Talent Award for *The Temptation of St. Tony*, which later premiered internationally in Sundance in 2011 and was nominated for the best production design at the European Film Awards. Õunpuu was chosen as one of the 100 most intriguing contemporary film directors in the book *10*10 in Film* by Phaidon Publishing.

Producer

Esko Rips (1981) is one of the founders of the film and TV company Nafta Films. Since its beginning, he has produced the majority of the company's productions that vary from short films, TV series, and commercials. Esko and his team have developed the company into one of the leading high-end filmmaking companies in Estonia.

Company profile

Nafta Films was founded in 2009 and has become one of the largest production companies in the Baltic region, producing audiovisual content of all forms: films, TV productions and commercials. Nafta Films has access to a network of hundreds of creative professionals in Northern Europe and Baltic states that can be employed on a project basis.

In 2020, Nafta came out with two features – a II World War spy thriller *O2 (Dawn of War)* and *Erna at War*, a war drama produced in cooperation with Danish production house Nimbus Film. Nafta's most recent co-production *Conference* premiered at Venice Film Festival in 2020. In April 2022, the first film of the 3-part feature film series *Melchior the Apothecary* premiered theatrically, with the rest of the trilogy following in the same year.

Project representatives:

Andreas Kask, producer



Contact

Andreas Kask
andreas@nafta.ee
+372 5625 5156

HILCHICK



ORIGINAL TITLE: HILCHICK

Country: Israel

Potential co-production countries: Poland, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Austria, Belarus, Romania

Genre: black comedy

Written by: Ofri Prishkolnik Eldad, Yuval Berger, Noa Lazar

Directed by: Adam Sanderson

Produced by: David Mandil

Company: MoviePlus Productions

Languages: Hebrew, Ukrainian

Estimated budget in EUR: 857 143

Financing in place in EUR: 671 429

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

Short synopsis

A black comedy about Hilchick Prishkolnik, an Israeli Holocaust survivor who didn't go through any tragedy in the Holocaust. His survivor friends, who went through the camps, receive much more recognition and respect than he does. And so, he decides to build a monument for those who "ran away on time." As no Israeli institution is willing to finance it, he finds himself back in his small hometown in Europe. There, the mayor is willing to help and build the monument as long as Hilchick poses as a real survivor. Hilchick takes his offer, uses his survivor friends' stories and becomes the town's hero. Everything goes swimmingly until his wife arrives. Now Hilchick has to decide whether to come back to reality or keep living his dream.

Director's note

The film sheds light over a pain that hasn't been seen before in the realm of the Holocaust survivors – the jealousy between survivors. Who suffered more? Who's the greater victim? This is a new angle and the beauty of it is the simple human nature behind it. Even though the people surrounding Hilchick have suffered unimaginably in the Holocaust, the support and appreciations they receive makes Hilchick feel left out and forgotten.

The tone of the film is carried by Hilchick's point of view of the world around him. Hilchick feels like he is an outcast. A fish out of water. For me the goal of the film is to experience the world through Hilchick's eyes. Through the cinematic expression I thrive to walk alongside Hilchick, and discover a unique person. To be moved, and mainly, to laugh as he becomes a hero on his own terms.

Director

Born in Tel Aviv, Israel. **Adam** co-directed *This is Sodom*, a feature film parodying the last days of Sodom. The film became Israel's greatest box office success of the past thirty years. Adam's second film, *Funerat at Noon*, is a period drama, which premiered at the San Sebastian Film Festival. For television, Adam co-created and directed three

seasons of *Sirens*, a thriller series. For his work on it, Adam was nominated for Best Director twice at the Israeli Television Awards. Adam directed three episodes for Amazon's thriller series *Absentia*, which was produced by Sony Pictures.

Company profile

MoviePlus Productions is an independent production company established by David Mandil based in Israel, specialising in full-length feature films, drama series, and documentaries.

Over the years, the company has produced more than 25 full-length feature films. The company's films include: *Footnote* and *Beaufort* that were nominated for Best Foreign Picture at the Oscars; *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, Natalie Portman's directorial debut; *Norman* by Joseph Cedar, starring Richard Gere, Steve Buscemi and Charlotte Gainsbourg; and many other productions. MoviePlus has also produced various drama series that were sold and broadcast worldwide, including *Miguel* (AppleTV, Canal+), two seasons of *VIP* (FX), *Deus*, *Jerusalem Brew*, and more. Recently, MoviePlus produced the drama series *Our Boys* for HBO.

Project representatives:

Ofri Prishkolnik Eldad, screenwriter

Noa Lazar, screenwriter



Contact

Lee Shira

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From: *Taste of Apples is Red*,
directed by Ehab Tarabieh

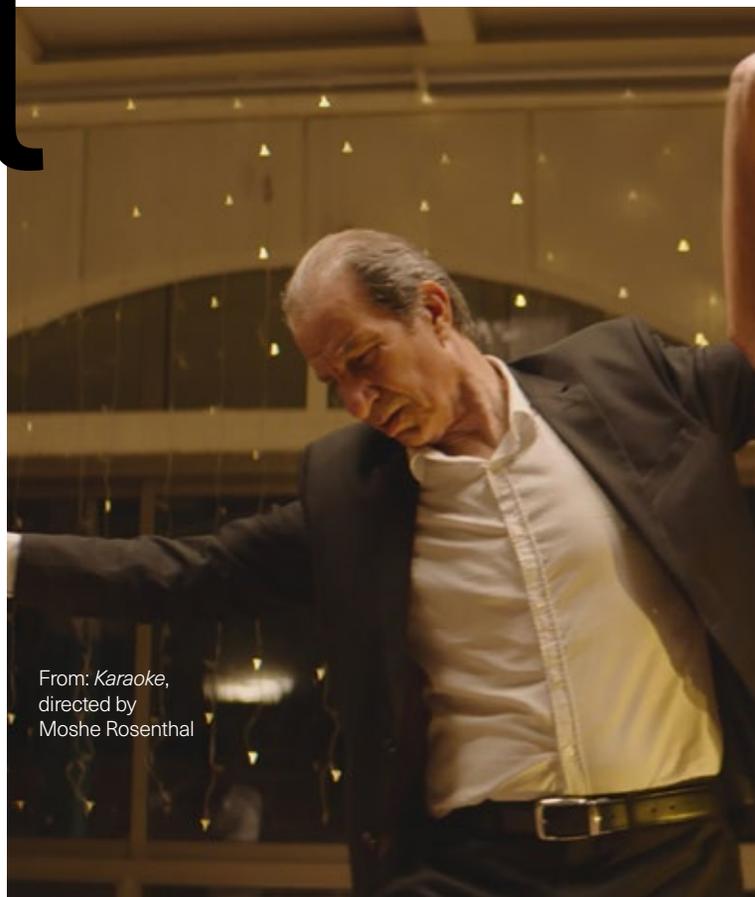
FOCUS ON Israel

The Israeli cinema industry is a great success story by every standard – both local and international. Israeli feature films have managed to make the crossover and touch the hearts and souls of hundreds of thousands of viewers throughout the world. In its cinematic expression of the essence of Israeli society in all its colours, shades and forms, Israeli cinema maintains freedom of art and creativity, and presents unique perspectives into the cultural multiversity of Israeli society, and in many cases, society in general.

From the beginning of the 21st century Israeli cinema has gone through a dramatic period as it regained recognition and acclaim in Israel and throughout the world. Two decades after the legislation of the Cinema Law in 2000, Israeli cinema has established itself as a major and leading art form in Israel dealing with the most relevant, challenging and often controversial issues and stories.

FUNDING AND CO-PRODUCTION

Funding for filmmaking is forwarded exclusively through the film funds, financed by the Ministry of Culture and Sport of the State of Israel, and The Israel Film Council. The Israeli film funds support the production, the completion and the development of film projects, as well as other film related initiatives.



From: *Karaoke*,
directed by
Moshe Rosenthal

Two major funds in Israel support narrative full-length feature films, the **Israel Film Fund** which solely supports feature film production, and **Israel Cinema Project by the Rabinovich Foundation**, which supports the production of full-length feature films, documentaries, and student films. Three other funds work alongside these two funds, the **New Cinema and Television Fund** that supports documentary films and multicultural projects, the **Gesher Multicultural Fund** that supports multicultural projects and short films, and the **Makor Fund** that supports documentary films and short films. Apart from these national funds, there are also seven different regional funds in Israel.

Over the years, Israel has developed a flourishing film industry, acknowledged by the most prestigious international film festivals worldwide. The films created by Israeli filmmakers are innovative, challenging, and fascinating, capturing critics and audiences' attention

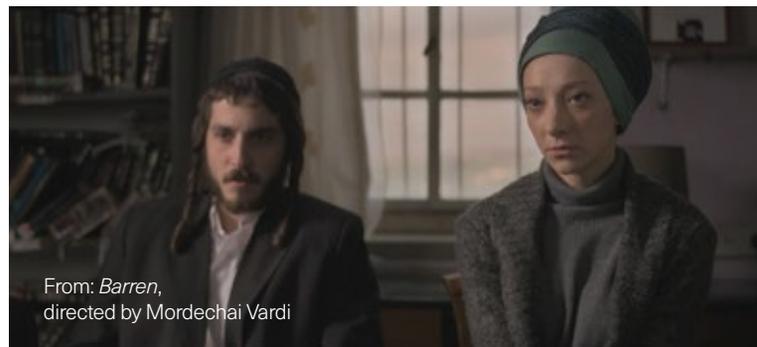


From: *My Neighbor Adolf*, directed by Leon Prudovsky

throughout the world. In addition, film crews in Israel are seasoned professionals, with vast experience working with both European and American productions, in addition to the blooming local industry. Apart from this manpower, Israel is unique in its very diverse climate and location types within the framework of a very small country. From desert to snowy mountains and the seaside, from modern cities to traditional stone villages, everything is within a few hours' drive.

International Co-Production is a mainstay of the Israel film industry, creating creative and financial cooperation and partnerships and mutually beneficial relationships between Israel and varied film industries from around the world.

Israel has signed over 20 Co-Production treaties with European countries. The Israeli funds are highly receptive to co-productions, assisting producers in every way to make co-productions as easy as possible. The funds are open in terms of subject matter and artistic expression and are chosen based on their excellence and the promising filmmakers creating them. The basic demand is that they comply with the relevant regulations of each treaty.



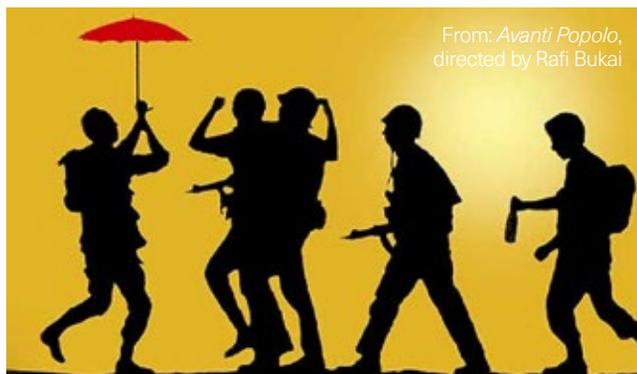
From: *Barren*, directed by Mordechai Vardi



From: *Virginity*, directed by Maor Zaguri

ISRAELI CINEMA TREASURES

The Israel Film Archive, based at the Jerusalem Cinematheque, safeguards the long-term preservation and worldwide access to the visual history of the State of Israel and the Jewish people. With over 32,000 film reels of Israeli and Jewish-themed titles – features, documentaries, student films, and more, many of which are exclusive copies – the Israel Film Archive serves as the national repository of the country's rich audiovisual heritage. In recent years, the Israel Film Archive has set out on an ambitious and comprehensive plan to digitize, digitally preserve, and offer worldwide public access to the Archive's collections.



From: *Avanti Popolo*, directed by Rafi Bukai



From: *In Bed*, directed by Nitzan Gilady

ISRAEL IN TALLINN

ISRAEL CINEMA PROJECT – RABINOVICH FOUNDATION

Yoav Abramovich – Joint Director-General and Artistic Director

Osnat Bukofzer – Director of International Affairs and Co-Production

ISRAEL FILM FUND

Dr. Noa Regev – CEO & Artistic Director

Dana Goren Solomon – Head of International Affairs and Special Projects

Directors Attending: Ehab Tarabieh, Eitan Anner, Esti Shushan, Hadar Morag, Leon Prudovsky, Ma'ayan Rypp, Maor Zaguri, Mordechai Vardi, Moshe Rosenthal, Nitzan Gilady, Or Sinai, Shahar Rozen.

Producers Attending: Adi Bar Yosef, Ayelet Kait, David Silber, Hadar Kostizky, Itay Akirav, Omer Rogovin, Oren Rogovin, Ronen Ben Tal, Shira Hochman, Sivan Cohen, Tomer Mecklberg, Elad Peleg, Liana Mimran Osadon.

Please join our panel at 14:00 on November 23rd

THE ISRAELI FILM INDUSTRY THROUGH THE LENS OF THE DIRECTOR

Israeli directors will discuss the advantages and challenges of working in the Israeli Film industry, as well as the difficulties and opportunities in a field that is constantly evolving, along with their sources of inspiration.

Moderator: **Osnat Bukofzer**

Participants: Esti Shushan, Ma'ayan Rypp, Nitzan Gilady, Mordechai Vardi, Shahar Rozen, Moshe Rosenthal, Maor Zaguri.

Market Screenings



The 7 Years of Absalon

by David Ofek and Amit Azaz
Israel 2022
documentary | 60 min
languages Hebrew, English, French

NOVEMBER 23,
12:00-13:05
Kino Artis Screen 2

The unique story of Meir Eshel, who reinvented himself as an artist named Absalon, quickly rising to art-scene stardom.

Meir Eshel, a 22-year-old beach-boy from Southern Israel, buys a one-way ticket to Paris and re-invents himself as an artist calling himself Absalon. He quickly rises to art-scene stardom, showcased by the most prestigious museums worldwide: Centre Pompidou Paris, Tate Modern Gallery London, the Venice Biennale, Israel Museum. Absalon's success was short-lived – almost 7 years pass since his arrival in Paris until his tragic death, during the peak of his success at the age of 28. More than 25 years later, his younger brother Dani Eshel's first assignment as estate manager – is to sell Absalon's final art piece. Through his journey we learn about the unique life and art of Absalon.



David Ofek



Amit Azaz

Special Jury Award – Docaviv Film Festival 2022

Producers: David Noy, Yoram Ivry, Cinemax Prod
Distribution: Esther van Messel, First Hand Films

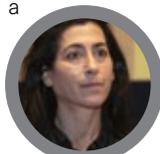
The Partisan with the Leica Camera

by Ruth Walk
Israel 2022 | documentary
54 min | Hebrew, English, Polish

NOVEMBER 22,
16:45-17:45
Coca Cola Plaza Screen 6

A woman's frightened look, from a rare self-portrait of a couple, leads the director to a shocking family story.

Hidden secrets reveal when 65-year-old son, Simon, discovers that his father, the photographer Mundeck Lukawiecki, and his mother, the housewife Hannah Bern, were the commanders of a Polish assassination squad that operated during the Holocaust. The chilling facts are backed by unique photos taken in the forest by Mundeck, the partisan, on his Leica camera.



Ruth Walk

Producer: Yael Perlov
International Sales: Go2Films



Script Pool

Script Pool competition, a part of Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event film market activities and Discovery Campus educational programme, takes place for the sixth time already. Each year it highlights five international projects and the team behind them – director, scriptwriter and producer. The aim is to gather film projects with high distribution value with a final draft in place. Focusing on the script and the overall project presentation, the projects and their teams will be presented to the international industry decision-makers (sales agents, financiers and co-producers) whose contribution will increase their sales and distribution potential.

The Most Promising Project will be awarded 2500 euros.



Jury

Mark Brennan (literary agent, United Agents), United Kingdom

Margot Hervee (Senior Licensing Manager, MUBI), United Kingdom

Louis Balsan (Executive VP, international distribution and acquisitions, Anton), United Kingdom

AND THUS IT WILL GO ON

PROJECT ORIGINAL TITLE: Y ASÍ SEGUIRÁN LAS COSAS

Country: Spain

Genre: youth/teen, coming of age, documentary

Screenwriters: Marina Palacio, Jesús Palacio

Director: Marina Palacio

Producer: Lara Izagirre

Production company: Gariza Films

Language: Spanish

Production budget in EUR: 816 850

Financing in place in EUR: 50 000

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

Synopsis

And Thus It Will Go On is a story that begins with Germán being 12 years old and turning younger as the film goes on, till he is 7 years old. Germán is the only boy left in a village of 29 inhabitants, lost in the centre of an almost empty region of Palencia (Spain) surrounded by endless flat fields. Year by year, the children who once left the village will appear.

Screenwriter

Marina Palacio (San Sebastian, 1996) is a basque film director. Currently, his first feature film, *And Thus It Will Go On*, has been selected in labs such as Noka Mentoring by Tabakalera and Ikusmira Berriak, promoted by the San Sebastian Festival. It has also taken part in the co-production forum of the 69th edition of the Festival.

Director

Marina Palacio (San Sebastian, 1996) is a basque film director who graduated in Fine Arts from the Complutense University of Madrid, and who, in 2018, returned to her hometown to take a postgraduate course in Creation at Elías Querejeta Zine Eskola. It was there that *Ya no duermo* was born, a short film that premiered two years later in the Zabaltegi-Tabakalera section of the San Sebastian International Film Festival.

Production company and producer

Established in 2010, *Gariza Films* is a young, independent production company created by filmmaker Lara Izagirre with the intention of producing basque films that travel through-out Europe, aiming to reach a wider and more varied audience. Indeed, three of the eight projects produced by the company are European co-productions. It also works for equality promoting the role of women in the audiovisual field.



Lara Izagirre



Marina Palacio

Contact

Garazi Elorza / Gariza Films
garazi@garizafilms.com

Synopsis

After 15 years of providing her family from Israel working as a maid, Mila must go back to Ukraine. She is fighting to reunite her family and to win them back at any cost, but slowly realises that for her, there is no way back home.

Screenwriter and director

Or is a graduate of the Jerusalem Sam Spiegel School. Her debut feature *Home* received production funding from the Rabinovich FF in Israel and the Ukrainian FF. Participated in Torino Feature Lab 2021 and won the production award. *Home* was developed in Torino Script Lab 2020, where it won the CNC Award – Special Mention. She has written and directed a few fiction shorts with Anna winning the Cinéfondation Award at Cannes 2016.

Production company and producer

An emerging film and TV production company with a special focus on female-centred character-driven projects that challenge social conventions. Based in Tel-Aviv, the company was founded in 2019 by Adi Bar Yossef, a seasoned producer with 10 years of experience on numerous large scale, award-winning, Israeli productions.



Adi Bar



Or Sinai

PROJECT ORIGINAL TITLE: BAYIT

Countries: Israel, Ukraine

Genre: drama

Screenwriter: Or Sinai

Director: Or Sinai

Producers: Adi Bar Yossef, Vladimir Yatsenko

Production companies: BARYO, Forefilms

Language: Hebrew

Production budget in EUR: 900 000

Financing in place in EUR: 476 330

Looking for : co-producers, sales agent, broadcasters

Contact

Adi Bar Yossef / BARYO

adibaryo@gmail.com

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TALITHA KUMI

Script Pool
ISRAEL, GERMANY

Screenwriter and director

Hadar Morag graduated with honours from Tel-Aviv University's Film Department. Wrote and directed *Silence* (Cinéfondation, Cannes), *Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me* (Orizzonti, Venice), *It's Time You Died Already* (first prize in Haifa IFF, Cinema South FF & Tel Aviv ISFF). Currently working on: *Talitha Kumi* (Jerusalem FilmLab, Berlin 3 Months Residency, Berlinale Script Station); *Tzipora & Rachel Are Not Dead* (won DocAviv's roughcut Lab); *The Metamorphosis* (with guidance of Apichatpong Weerasethakul).

Production company and producer

MINA Films is based in Israel, founded by the film editor Shira Hochman. Produced the Oscar-nominated short *White Eye* by Tomer Shushan, *It's Time You Died Already* by Hadar Morag (Krakow FF 2022, Israeli Oscars nominee 2022, Best Short film in Haifa IFF 2021), *Horst* a short by Miki Polonski (DocAviv 2020: Honorary mention). Associate producer of *Mission to Mars* (FICXión IFF 2022) and co-producing *The Ultimate Babe*, a documentary by Brazilian director Michael Wahrmann (in editing).

PROJECT ORIGINAL TITLE: TALITHA KUMI

Countries: Israel, Germany

Genre: drama

Screenwriter: Hadar Morag

Director: Hadar Morag

Producer: Shira Hochman

Production companies: MINA Films, maze pictures

Language: Hebrew

Production budget in EUR: 1 000 000

Financing in place in EUR: 300 000

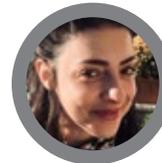
Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, distributors

Synopsis

Smadar (45) cares daily for Shaul, a sick, obese, old man. But although she is the caregiver and he the patient, she is the one in need, and as her treatment of his body slips beyond its course, becoming intimate and sexual, the familiar becomes uncanny and the basic contract of their relationship is violated. Unprocessed, dissociative substances force their way into the room; self-imposing, offensive, and incomprehensible.



Hadar Morag



Shira Hochman

Contact

Shira Hochman / MINA Films
shira.minafilms@gmail.com
+34 722 413 144

TRANSPARENCY OF EVIL

Script Pool
FRANCE, BELGIUM,
LUXEMBOURG

PROJECT ORIGINAL TITLE: TRANSPARENCY OF EVIL

Countries: France, Belgium, Luxembourg

Genre: drama

Screenwriters: Marcio-André de Sousa-Haz, Doruntina Basha

Director: Marcio-André de Sousa-Haz

Producer: Julie Arrue

Production companies: Cristal Films, Saga Film

Language: English

Production budget in EUR: 3 378 294

Financing in place in EUR: 47 294

Looking for: distributors, broadcasters, private funds / banks

Synopsis

Years after having witnessed her father being murdered by a sniper during the siege of Sarajevo, Mila, a Bosnian-Serb refugee, gets a job as the assistant of Dr. Dabic. The man is a popular energy healer and charismatic who helps people with various afflictions. While Mila is very much taken by Dabic's kindness and unique talent, she soon starts suspecting that he is in fact a famous war criminal, the mastermind behind the genocide that claimed, among many others, her father's life.

Screenwriter

Doruntina Basha is a screenwriter and playwright from Prishtina, Kosovo. She studied Playwriting at the Theatre Department of the University of Prishtina. She holds an MA in European Humanities with a focus on gender studies from a consortium of Universities comprising

University of St. Andrews, Università di Bergamo, and Université de Perpignan Via Domitia. She works in her home country as well as internationally in theatre, film, and communication.

Director

Marcio-André de Sousa-Haz is a filmmaker, writer, and visual artist born in Rio de Janeiro and living in Barcelona. He is the winner of the Medina Media Award for Best Director (Festival de Málaga 4K) for his film *Cozy for Two at Kuleshov St.* His short *The First Time I Saw Francis Taylor He Was in Slow Motion* won twelve awards at international festivals, including best director and best movie. As a writer and artist, Sousa Haz's texts have been translated into more than twenty languages.

Production company and producer

Julie Arrue has worked in film production since 2001. For 10 years in the United States (Miramax, PBS), then in France at CinéTévé and Gaumont, she has worked on numerous award-winning feature films. Constantly driven by the need to bring our existential questions and the singularity of our daily lives to light, she created **Cristal Films** in 2018 to defend committed cinema with strong, sustained artistic standards. She surrounds herself with a solid team of women experts.



Julie Arrue



**Marcio-André
de Sousa-Haz**

Contact

Julie Arrue / Cristal Films
julie@cristalfilms.fr
+33 689 558 623

PROJECT ORIGINAL TITLE: VEENUS.ME

Country: Estonia

Genre: experimental, musical, lgbtqi+

Screenwriter: Heinrich Sepp

Directors: Carmel Köster, Rene Köster

Producers: Andreas Kask, Laura Raud

Production company: Nafta Films

Language: English

Production budget in EUR: 400 000

Financing in place in EUR: 200 000

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, gap-financing

Synopsis

In a burning world torn apart by destruction, two isolated teens are lured into a mysterious queer second-life platform that promises to fulfill their every desire.

Screenwriter

Heinrich Sepp (b. 1990) is a Tallinn-based freelance artist from Estonia with a BA degree in Film Directing. Since 2017, he has been writing and performing under the alias Helgi Saldo focusing on intersectional topics related to the LGBTQAI+ community.

Directors

Carmel Köster is a choreographer and director who, for the past 15 years, has worked in the field of dance performance, nightlife, and film. Rene Köster has been an active part of the Estonian dance and cultural scene since the age of 15 (2005) when he started teaching dance classes and became part of the creative direction behind Prodance Dance Centre in Tallinn, Estonia.

Production company and producer

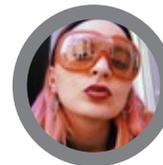
Nafta Films was founded in 2009 and has become one of the largest production companies in the Baltic region, producing audiovisual content of all forms: films, TV productions, and commercials. Nafta is currently in post-production with a 3-part feature film series *Melchior The Apothecary* and a family comedy *Totally Boss*. Nafta's most recent co-production *Conference* premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 2020.



Heinrich Sepp



Andreas Kask



Carmel Köster



Rene Köster

Contact

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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

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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.

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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.

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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

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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

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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.

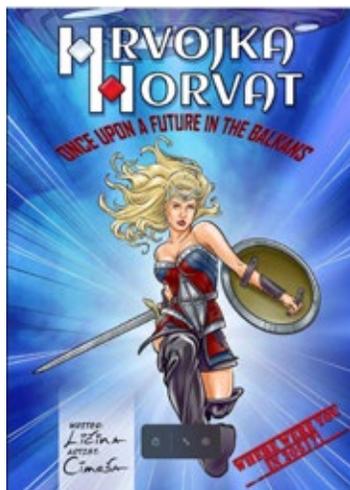
Livia Radulescu graduated in Economics and has a Masters degree from the London School of Economics in 2008. She came into film production in 2016 from a background of ten years of management roles in creative industries, cultural management, and impact entrepreneurship. Since then, she worked as development 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

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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.

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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

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Wishing all participants a wonderful Black Nights Film Festival 2022.

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JUST FILM Works in Progress

Just Film Works in Progress focuses on film projects for children and young people. The Youth and Children's Film Festival Just Film is the biggest sub-festival of Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival.

Just Film Works in Progress Award

The winner of Just Film Works in Progress receives a 1000 EUR monetary prize to help the film gain visibility by covering promotion and publicity costs.



Jury

Jaak Kilmi, Film Director

(*Christmas in the Jungle*, 2020, *Sleeping Beast*, 2022), Estonia

Margreet Cornelius, senior project leader at
the Network Film Education, Netherlands

Nicola Jones, the director of the German Children's
Media Festival Golden Sparrow, Germany

EMPIRE OF THE RABBITS

TÜRKIYE, MEXICO,
LEBANON, FRANCE**ORIGINAL TITLE:** TAVŞAN İMPARATORLUĞU**Countries:** Türkiye, Mexico, Lebanon, France**Runtime (minutes):** 90**Genre:** children, drama**Director:** Seyfettin Tokmak**Writer:** Seyfettin Tokmak**Cinematographer:** Claudia Becerril Bulos**Cast:** Alpay Kara, Sermet Yeşil, Kubilay Tuncer, Perla Palamutçuoğulları**Producer:** Zeynep Koray**Co-producers:** Xavier Rocher (La Fabrica Nocturna), Gabriela Gavica & Carlos Hernandez (MandarinaCine), Lara Abou Saifan (Lara Abou Saifan), Sinisa Juricic (Nukleus Films)**Production company:** ZKF**Completion date:** January 2023**Estimated budget in EUR:** 408 000**Financing in place in EUR:** 308 000**Project status:** post-production**Looking for:** gap financing, distributors, sales agents, co-producers

a salary from the state. Musa obeys desperately and finds himself in a classroom full of disabled and fake disabled children. The only thing that Musa is interested in at the school is Nergis, the cleaner girl who teaches children how to act disabled. One day, when the inspectors are at school, Musa reveals everything. Musa and Nergis benefit from the chaos to escape with the rabbits and sail to build the empire of the rabbits.

Director

Seyfettin Tokmak graduated from Bilgi University Cinema and Television Faculty, and continued his studies in London University with a PhD degree on Cinematographical and Symbolic Representation of Children in Cinema. His first feature *Broken Mussels* premiered at Sarajevo Film Festival in 2011 and travelled around the world. His second feature *Empire of the Rabbits* is in post-production now after travelling around various platforms. He recently directed a documentary series on photography, *İzler & Suretler*, at TRT2 and *The Story of Arabesque Music in Turkey*, produced by Zeynep Koray for AJ Documentary.

Production company

ZKF is an Istanbul and Ankara based production company focusing on arthouse fiction and documentary films highlighting women and children issues. ZKF also takes part in international co-productions as the Turkish minority co-producer.

Synopsis

Musa lives in a very unhappy home environment with his father who provides rabbits to the greyhound races in their village. Musa, who collects the rabbits after the races, carries them to an abandoned mine. He buries the dead ones, he heals the injured ones. One day, his father forces Musa to learn how to act like a disabled child, because he wants Musa to go to a school for disabled children, so he can get

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GOVERNMENT OF CHILDREN

ROMANIA



ORIGINAL TITLE: GOVERNMENT OF CHILDREN

Country: Romania

Runtime (minutes): 90

Genre: children, sci-fi, youth/teen

Director: Ioana Mischie

Writer: Ioana Mischie

Cinematographer: Tudor Lucaciu

Cast: Gabriel Butnariu, Shardul Raste

Producer: Irina Petrescu

Production company: Studioset Production

Completion date: March 2022

Estimated budget in EUR: 300 000

Financing in place in EUR: 180 000

Project status: production

Looking for: gap financing, distributors, festivals, co-producers, cinema markets

Synopsis

Government of Children is an aspirational and social awareness-driven pioneering global documentary franchise. Our core intention is to facilitate and document a playground for children, in which they would have the power to reshape the political and social reality we and they will live in. We aim to empower children from diverse categories to see themselves as leaders and to imagine a future, in which they would feel comfortable to exist. Their visions would be discussed and archived in a visionary documentary film, addressed to young generations (but also secretly aiming to reach adulthood). In the short term,

our goal is to empower children to design their societal future. In the long term, we would ideally love to follow up on the visions of the children (to reiterate the project in 5, 10, 20 years) and to expand the project in numerous other communities internationally. We believe that by continuing to do this, we could reach holistic versions of our societies.

Director

Ioana Mischie is a Romanian-born transmedia artist (screenwriter/director) and futurist, awarded for filmmaking, cinematic virtual reality, and innovative concepts. Fulbright Grantee Alumna of USC School of Cinematic Arts (collaborating with the Civic Imagination Lab / Mixed Reality Lab / JoVRnalism / Worldbuilding Lab), and Alumna of UNATC, advanced the transmedia storytelling field as part of her doctoral study thesis completed with Summa Cum Laude. After graduating from UNATC, her cinematic projects as writer/director have travelled to more than 200 festivals worldwide (Palm Springs ISFF, Hamptons IFF, Thessaloniki IFF) and were developed in top-notch international programs (Berlinale Talents – Script Station, Sundance Workshop – Capalbio, Cannes International Screenwriters Pavilion, MIDPOINT and many more). Her interactive works were awarded by international playgrounds such as The Webby Awards, Golden Drums, South by Southwest Hackathon, The Steamer Salon.

Production company

Formed back in 2007 by a group of like-minded creatives, **Studioset** has finally come of age. Like any good wine, the taste has become full-bodied and boasts a sophisticated bouquet, the studio becoming one of Bucharest's leading production houses today. But any experienced sommelier talks about good old bottles, rather than good old vintages. Because it's the bottle that counts – the environment in which the wine is matured.

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JONJA



ORIGINAL TITLE: JONJA

Country: Germany

Runtime (minutes): 90

Genre: drama, family, LGBTQ+, women, youth/teen

Director: Anika Mätzke

Writer : Anika Mätzke

Cinematographer: Smina Bluth

Cast: Eline Doenst, Ted Trube, Katharina Behrens, Sven Schelker, Katarina Schröter, Asad Schwarz, Oskar Reim

Producers: Norman Bernien, Christoph Holthof, Daniel Reich

Production company: kurhaus production

Completion date: December 2022

Estimated budget in EUR: 1 060 000

Financing in place in EUR: 1 060 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: distributors, sales agents, festivals, streamers

Synopsis

13-year-old Jonja does not feel at home anymore, especially since her mother has a new boyfriend. When a well-intentioned birthday surprise goes wrong, Jonja has had enough. She decides to go on vacation with her best friend Paul and his well-off family – without telling her mother. The summer days by the lake are fun-filled and exciting. Jonja falls in love for the first time and her friendship with Paul intensifies. But Paul and his family do not know that Jonja is a runaway. When her lie is exposed, she and Paul separate in tears and recriminations. It is up to Jonja to fix the bond with her mother and save her friendship with Paul.

Director

Anika Mätzke is a director born in Stuttgart. She studied Media and Art Design at Bauhaus University Weimar and graduated in 2020. She wrote and directed award-winning short films and is an alumni of TP2 Talentpool. Anika Mätzke lives and works in Leipzig. Jonja is her first feature film.

Production company

kurhaus production is an independent film production company in Baden-Baden, founded in 2007 by Christoph Holthof and Daniel Reich. With twelve feature films and the production of various documentaries and docu-series under its belt, kurhaus has made its mark on the German TV and cinema market. Their excellent cooperation with SWR and MFG Film Fund Baden-Württemberg has gone from strength to strength over the years and new partnerships have been forged with ARTE, ARD Degeto, KIKA & ZDF.

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KISSING BUG



ORIGINAL TITLE: VINCHUCA

Countries: Argentina, Brazil

Runtime (minutes): 122

Genre: drama

Director: Luis Zorraquin

Writers: Luis Zorraquin, Laura Avila

Cinematographer: Eduardo Goldberg Rabin

Cast: Marcelo Savignone, Fernando Vergara

Producers: Esteban Lucangioli, Bruno Autran

Production companies: Pelicano Cine (Argentina), Labuta Filmes (Brazil)

Completion date: March 2023

Estimated budget in EUR: 260 000

Financing in place in EUR: 220 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: gap financing, distributors, sales agents, festivals, streamers

Synopsis

Nelson is a 15-year-old boy who gets entangled in an anti-drug bust and is forced to travel to the neighbouring city to work undercover for the police. His mission is to assist at a private school and befriend the daughters of the suspected boss of the drug cartel. He lives with Gustavo, a military man, who suspects that Nelson had an affair with his wife. During the "operation Kissing bug," both men are caught in

the oppressive climate of the pandemic and are forced to solve their differences in a world of lies and treason.

Director

Luis Zorraquin is a film director and screenwriter born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1980. He studied at the University of Cinema (FUC) and made his professional career in advertising. He has also worked as an Assistant Director. In 2016, he premiered his debut film *Guarani*, winner of European Vision with its first cut at Ventana Sur, to later premiere in official competition at the Estonian Black Nights Film Festival, was awarded as best debut film at FILMAR Suiza, and was in official competition at the Santa Barbara Film Festival USA among others. Today, his next film, *Vinchuca*, is in post-production stage.

Production company

Pelicano Cine is a film production company based in Argentina. Our objective is focused on the search of new talents and content with strong themes and a unique voice and style that would transcend the commercial circuits. We have vast experience in the film industry individually and together we forged alliances with production companies from countries like Brazil, Philippines, Colombia, Uruguay, France, Paraguay, and the Netherlands to name a few. We continue on that path collecting the fruits of almost ten years of adventures, joy and effort put in every single one of our projects.

Last films: *Three Brothers* (2021), *Charlotte Fiction* (2021), *Window Boy Would Also Like To Have A Submarine* (2020), *The Retirement* (2019), *Don't Cry For Me England* (2018), *Lua Em Sagitario* (2016), *Guarani Fic* (2015).

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RAW MATERIAL



ORIGINAL TITLE: NYERSANYAG

Country: Hungary

Runtime (minutes): 90

Genre: drama, youth/teen

Director: Martin Boross

Writers: Fanni Szántó, Martin Boross

Cinematographers: Kristóf Becsey, Dániel Bálint

Cast: Zsolt Dér, Blanka Mészáros

Producer: Gábor Osváth

Production company: Filmfabriq

Completion date: March 2023

Estimated budget in EUR: 150 000

Financing in place in EUR: 128 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: gap financing, sales agents, festivals

Synopsis

Tamás is a young film director who has been invited to teach community filmmaking classes in a modest, up-and-coming Hungarian village. He arrives with a cameraman and his girlfriend Chloé, who is a drama teacher. After overcoming a few initial setbacks, they throw themselves into rewarding and entertaining work with the local youth, and document it in a behind-the-scenes film. The feedback is positive from the mayor, a progressive, caring man.

A boy named Palika starts missing sessions, which worries the team, since he was the most enthusiastic participant. As they try to find out

what happened to him, they discover the mayor uses physical violence to get his way, and that he lends money out of his shop at killer interest rates. The corrupt lending scheme is linked to Palika's disappearance: he has been forced to work a job to pay his mother's debt to the mayor. Tamás, an outsider with a radically different set of values from the locals, starts his quest to expose the mayor.

Director

Martin Boross is a theatre director, writer, performer, and emerging film director. He is the artistic director of Stereo Akt, the Budapest-based contemporary theatre collective, and earned his diploma in Dramaturgy in 2013 at Budapest's University of Theatre and Film Arts. Since 2011, he has directed 20 theatre shows, and his work has been presented by theatres in 36 cities in 11 countries. In 2016, he received the Junior Prima award, the most prestigious recognition artists can receive in Hungary. Martin started filmmaking in 2015. Since then, he has directed 2 short films: *Promenade* (2021), and *Date an Eastern European* (2020); a community documentary with the Roma youth of a rural town (*Remake_Bodony* 2017); and an ad for an LGBTQ movement (*Face to Face* 2015).

Production company

Filmfabriq Kft. was founded in 2012 by Gábor Osváth and Dorottya Ócsai. The company has since produced five feature-length fiction films, several documentaries, dozens of award-winning shorts, an animation series and numerous commercials. Some of the most recent projects include *On the Quiet* (Zoltán Nagy 2019, Black Nights FF) and *Captives* (2019), directed by Academy Award-winner Kristóf Deák, which won nine awards at the Hungarian Film Week, including Best TV Film and Best Director. Filmfabriq's latest feature, *Christmas Flame* by Dániel Tiszeker became the highest grossing Hungarian film of 2021.

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SNOT AND SPLASH



ORIGINAL TITLE: RÄKÄ JA ROISKIS

Country: Finland

Runtime (minutes): 85

Genre: action, adventure, children, drama, family

Director: Teemu Nikki

Writer: Ilja Rautsi

Cinematographer: Tuomo Hutri

Cast: Pekka Strang, Sampo Sarkola, Kati Outinen, Elina Knihtilä, Urho Kuokkanen, Hugo Komaro, Marja Packalén, Petteri Pennilä, Matti Onnismaa

Producers: Jani Pösö, Ari Matikainen

Production companies: It's Alive Films, Kinocompany

Completion date: June 2023

Estimated budget in EUR: 2 385 000

Financing in place in EUR: 2 185 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: distributors, sales agents, festivals, streamers

Synopsis

In a fantasy comedy for all ages, brothers Snot and Splash try to catch a thief who's stealing fishing holes from the ice, only to end up saving the town and the entire world from being sucked into a collapsing waste disposal system. When they manage to save the earth from the black hole, they also free the little town's citizens from the dental coating hypnosis. The power of imagination wins over adults' shortsightedness, and it is again allowed to play and have fun. The neigh-

boring town is cleaned up of waste, and both Snot and Splash have learned a lesson – even your closest friends have characteristics you don't like – and so do you.

Director

Teemu Nikki is an experienced, prolific and award-winning filmmaker from Sysmä, Finland. His best known feature film, *The Blind Man Who Did Not Want To See Titanic*, won the Orizzonti Extra – Audience award at the 78th Venice International Film festival. Nikki's style is best described as a good-willed yet unapologetic political satire of humanity. Other features include *Nimby* (2020), *Euthanizer* (2017), as well as the 2021 TV series *Mister8*. Nikki is also working on *Death is a Problem for the Living*, which is currently in post-production.

Production company

It's Alive Films is a Helsinki-based production company founded by director Teemu Nikki and producer Jani Pösö. All productions are entertaining takes on deadly serious subjects. In addition to *The Blind Man Who Did Not Want To See Titanic*, our best-known works are *Euthanizer*, Finland's Oscar candidate in 2018, *Mental* a multi-remade black comedy about mental problems among young people and Canneseries winner *Mister8*. It's Alive has produced 17 short films, 5 feature films and 3 TV series.

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Works in Progress

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High Voltage, a leading film equipment rental in the Baltics, presents the Best Project Award to the jury's choice of best project in the Baltic Event or International Works in Progress sections.

The award consists of a 2500€ cash prize to be used for the post-production or distribution of the winning project, as well as 5000€ worth of services from High Voltage, which can be used for the winner's upcoming project.



Jury

Ariane Buhl, independent consultant in festivals strategy and implementation, France

Thorsten Ritter, world sales and co-financing, Beta Cinema, Germany

Andrei Tanasescu, programmer for Giornate degli Autori (Venice Days), Bildrausch (Filmfest Basel) and One World (Romania), Romania

IN THE BELLY OF A TIGER

International Works in Progress

INDIA, CHINA,
UNITED STATES, FRANCE, TAIWAN



ORIGINAL TITLE: IN THE BELLY OF A TIGER

Countries: India, China, United States, France, Taiwan

Runtime (minutes): 91

Genre: drama

Director: Siddhartha Jatla

Writers: Siddhartha Jatla, Amanda Mooney

Cinematographer: Siddhartha Jatla

Cast: Lawrence Francis

Producers: Bhavana Goparaju, Patrick Mau Huang

Co-producers: Esther Lee (Wonder Pictures), Sarada Uma

Production companies: Jeevi Films, Flash Forward Entertainment, Jatla Pictures LLP

Completion date: February 2023

Production budget in EUR: 550 000

Financing in place in EUR: 400 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: gap financing, distributors, sales agents, festivals, streamers, co-producers, cinema markets

Synopsis

Inspired by a true incident, a 55-year-old woman suspected of killing herself at the hands of a tiger to save her family from their debts. It was suspected that the village was sending its old people to be killed by a tiger in the village's reserve to collect compensation from the government to survive. Bhagole and Prabhata are farmers without land. They cannot survive in their village, but cannot survive in the city either.

Their son works in a brick factory built on the ashes of human sacrifice and their two small grandchildren work as labour to earn for the family. One night, they find themselves in the middle of a forest, the village tiger reserve. Alone, they must decide who will surrender their life to the tiger to claim government compensation to save their family. The entire forest holds their memories of 40 years together and transforms into a supernatural, surreal final night.

Director

Jatla Siddhartha, cinematography graduate of FTII. His first feature film, *Love and Shukla*, premiered at Busan, Shanghai, Tallinn Black Nights, Palm Springs and 40+ festivals around the world, won the prestigious NETPAC award, spotlighting exceptional films and discovering new talents, and opened Black Movie Festival in Switzerland.

In the Belly of a Tiger is Siddhartha Jatla's second feature, and the only Indian fiction feature awarded Busan's script development funding in 2018. It was selected by Hong Kong HAF, Black Nights Script Pool Tallinn, Le Groupe Ouest's LIM residency, was developed at the Government of India's NFDC Script Lab and featured at NFDC Film Bazaar.

Producer and production company

Jeevi Films is a global film boutique founded by filmmaker **Bhavana Goparaju** with the sole vision to tell stories beyond boundaries with love. With a diverse experienced team, nationally and globally, we produce, market, and distribute narrative features, documentaries, televised broadcasts, theatrical and OTT media. Jeevi Script Fund and Crowd Investment Program are two initiatives Jeevi Films is working on to go live in 2023.

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RUTH



ORIGINAL TITLE: HESHBONOT SHAMAYIM

Country: Israel

Runtime (minutes): 90

Genre: drama, family, women

Director: Esty Shushan

Writer: Esty Shushan

Cinematographer: David Stragmeister

Cast: Meshi Kleinstein, Uri Levy

Producers: David Silber, Sivan Cohen

Production company: Metro Communications

Completion date: May 2023

Production budget in EUR: 1 100 000

Financing in place in EUR: 850 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: gap financing, distributors, sales agents, streamers, co-producers:

Synopsis

Ruth, a 22-year-old ultra-orthodox Jewish mother, sees her life shattered to pieces one morning. Her husband Shmuel, a prodigious student marked for greatness, makes a fatal mistake that causes the death of their only child Srulik, a sweet toddler eagerly awaiting his first ceremonial haircut on his third birthday. The shattered dreams and unimaginable pain lead Ruth to question and actively undermine her place in society for the first time in her life. While Shmuel tries to atone in tradi-

tional ways, she chooses practical means and subversive expressions of independence within the limitations of her religious community.

Director

Esty is an ultra-orthodox mother of four, entrepreneur, and social activist, dedicated to the promotion of justice, representation and equality for women within the ultra-orthodox society. Founder of Nivcharot movement, cultivating women to social and political activity that produced a generation of leaders dedicated to a variety of issues in the orthodox community such as sexual assault, labour conditions, health and welfare, special needs, and more. Esty is also a poet, an artist, and a filmmaker. Avenues, which allow her to shine a spotlight on otherwise silenced issues and stories of orthodox women and the orthodox world to mainstream culture, unfiltered. Her short film *Barren* dealt with families with many children and the challenges they bring to the elder siblings (mainly female), which are inevitably involved with raising the smaller kids. *Ruth* is another step in Esty's quest to break the walls of silence and concealment, and dealing with important current social issues head on.

Producer and production company

David Silber is a graduate of Hebrew University Jerusalem in Jewish Philosophy and Kabala, and of Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design Fine Arts department. Together with Micky Rabinovitz, they created **Cinema Pardes**, and in 1999, founded Metro Communications specialising in international co-productions of full-length feature films with Moshe and Leon Ederly. Both companies produced feature films, television drama series, and documentaries, and became among the leading production companies in Israel. Metro's main titles include the Oscar-nominated *Beaufort*, Golden Lion winner *Lebanon*, Israeli academy awards Best Film winners *Baba Joon* and *Incitement*, critically acclaimed *The Matchmaker*, and Jake Paltrow's *June Zero*.

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THE BALLAD OF A HUSTLER

International Works in Progress
UNITED STATES, BRAZIL



ORIGINAL TITLE: THE BALLAD OF A HUSTLER

Countries: United States, Brazil

Runtime (minutes): 110

Genre: drama

Director: Heitor Dhalia

Writer: Bernardo Barreto

Cinematographer: Pepe Mendes

Cast: Bernardo Barreto, Robbie Johns, Emeraude Toubia, Andréa Beltrão, Frank Rodriguez, Drew Moerlein, Analisa Velez, Patricia Black, Brendan Dooling, Carme Boixadera, Robin Lord Taylor, Natalia Rodriguez, Dean Vasquez, Gino Vento

Producer: Bernardo Barreto

Production company: Berny Films

Completion date: March 2023

Production budget in EUR: 1 000 000

Financing in place in EUR: 850 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: gap financing, distributors, sales agents, festivals, streamers

Synopsis

America is a fleeting dream for immigrants, with or without papers. After 7 years in prison, Jonathan wants to get his life back. But instead of

his family, friends and fiancée, he finds betrayal, mistrust, and a 6-year-old kid left alone after his illegal-immigrant mother vanishes.

Director

Nina (2004) earned **Heitor Dhalia** a special mention by the critics at the Moscow Film Festival. In 2006, he directed *O Cheiro do Ralo*, which won the Special Jury Award at the Sundance Film Festival. *A Deriva Heitor* was selected to the Un Certain Regard sidebar in Cannes 2009. In 2011, Heitor directed the Hollywood production *Gone*, starring Amanda Seyfried. In 2014, he wrote and directed *Serra Pelada*, collaborating with actor and co-producer Wagner Moura. Heitor has won over 13 awards and been nominated in over 16 renowned festivals around the world.

Producer and production company

Bernardo Barreto is an award-winning Brazilian actor, writer, producer, and director. He conceived the film *Artificial Paradises* in 2011, produced by José Padilha (*Narcos & Tropa de Elite*); in 2013, he co-produced the award-winning documentary *City of God Ten Years Later*; in 2019, he produced and directed his first feature film *The Seeker*, which won the jury award at the acclaimed Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival. Recently, Bernardo wrote and produced the feature *The Ballad of a Hustler*, a co-production with the USA, directed by Heitor Dhalia, to be released in 2023, and wrote/directed the horror feature film *Epitaph*, also a 2023 release.

Bernardo Barreto founded **Berny Films** in 2011. The company's main production credits include the drama series *Meus Dias de Rock* on Globo Play, the documentary *City of God Ten Years Later*, directed by Cavi Borges and Luciano Vidigal, and Bernardo's own feature drama *The Seeker*, winner of the Jury Prize at Tallinn Black Night Film festival.

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THE FISHERMAN'S DAUGHTER

International Works in Progress
PUERTO RICO, COLOMBIA,
BRAZIL, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



ORIGINAL TITLE: LA ESTRATEGIA DEL MERO

Countries: Puerto Rico, Colombia, Brazil, Dominican Republic

Runtime (minutes): 91

Genre: drama, LGBTQ+

Director: Edgar De Luque Jácome

Writer: Edgar De Luque Jácome

Cinematographer: Rafael González

Cast: Roamir Pineda, Nathalia Rincón, Modesto Lacén, Jesús Romero, Roosevelt González, Henry Barrios

Producer: Annabelle Mullen Pacheco

Co-producers: Jorge Botero (Septima Films), Tatiana Leite (Bubbles Project), Elsa Turull de Alma (Larimar Films), Rodrigo Letier (Kromaki Films)

Production company: Belle Films

Completion date: March 2023

Production budget in EUR: 250 000

Financing in place in EUR: 200 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: gap financing, distributors, sales agents, festivals, streamers, cinema markets

Synopsis

Samuel, the last freediving grouper fisherman, lives isolated on an island. One day, he receives an unexpected visit from his son, now a transgender prostitute called Priscilla. She is looking for a place to hide. Samuel initially rejects Priscilla, but allows her to stay. After suf-

fering an accident, Samuel has to accept the care of his daughter and this brings them closer together. The fishermen of the area watch everything with strangeness and one of them extorts Priscilla, because he knows why she is hiding. When they try to apprehend her, Samuel defends Priscilla from the fishermen. When the fishermen leave in search of the police, father and daughter take the opportunity to dive together in the sea like groupers, which can change sex when they reach maturity.

Director

Edgar De Luque Jácome is a writer-director from Santa Marta. There, he studied Film at Universidad del Magdalena. As a student, he excelled in directing shorts and documentaries that were awarded in various university festivals. He has also worked as Assistant Director in films such as Roberto Flores' *Ruido Rosa* and Libia S. Gómez's *Libia*. As screenwriter, he has written four screenplays, one of which won a National Script Award. *The Fisherman's Daughter* is his first feature film.

Producer and production company

A lawyer by profession, and a producer by vocation, since 2009, Annabelle **Mullen Pacheco** has produced fiction and documentary films. Under her company, **Belle Films** (Puerto Rico & Spain), she develops content in an artisanal way by women, about women or for women. Her most recent projects include short documentaries such as *Anatomía dunha Serea* (Galicia 2022), *Desempacando (Unpacking)* (Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Spain 2019) (which she also directed), shorts such as *O Son da balea* (Galicia 2021) and fiction films such as *El Hombre que Cuida (Watchman)* (Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Brazil 2017) and *El Chata (The Sparring Partner)* (Puerto Rico 2018). Based in San Juan, Puerto Rico, it is dedicated to the development and production of handcrafted films, both fiction and documentary.

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WALTZING MATILDA

International Works in Progress

CZECH REPUBLIC,
SLOVAKIA



ORIGINAL TITLE: TANCUJ MATYLDO

Countries: Czech Republic, Slovakia

Runtime (minutes): 85

Genre: comedy, drama, family

Director: Petr Slavík

Writers: Nataša Slavíková, Petr Slavík

Cinematographer: Martin Štrba

Cast: Karel Roden, Regina Rázlová, Zuzana Kánocz

Producers: Nataša Slavíková, Vít Janeček

Production companies: Phoenix Production, VIRUSfilm

Completion date: July 2023

Production budget in EUR: 1 112 000

Financing in place in EUR: 998 000

Project status: production

Looking for: gap financing, distributors, sales agents, festivals, co-producers, cinema markets

Synopsis

The film tells the story of bailiff Karel Jaroš, his mother, former choir singer Matilda, and Karel's teenage son Pavel. The withdrawn, emotionally torn Karel does not get along with his extroverted and bohemian mother and only thanks to a strong sense of duty does he visit her regularly. Pavel, on the other hand, who comes across as an irresponsible flunky, despises his father's profession and cannot forget that he abandoned his family as a child. The relationship of all three is disturbed, but an unexpected life situation brings them together. Mat-

ilda develops Alzheimer's disease, loses her apartment, and Karel has to take her in. However, he is unable to take care of her and in a deadlocked situation, it turns out that the only solution is for Pavel to take care of his sick grandmother. However, the illness progresses rapidly... The tragicomic story inevitably ends with the question of whether and how our heroes will stand up to this test of life.

Director

Petr Slavík (1956) is a Czech screenwriter, renowned documentary and theatre director and author of TV dramas. He has been teaching directing at the Film Academy of Miroslav Ondříček in Písek for the past two decades. *Waltzing Matilda* (2022) is his feature-length fiction debut. Selected filmography: *Unwanted Holidays* (Best European TV Film Award, 2009 La Rochelle TV Fiction Festival), *Strangeloves* (2009, Grand Prize for the best TV comedy, Novoměstský hrnec festival), *Alternative Culture* (1998, E. Schorm Award, Academia Film Olomouc, Fites Trilobit Award), *Velvet Revolution* (1990, Grand Prize, Academia Film Olomouc).

Producer and production company

Phoenix Film is an artistic production platform run by Nataša Slavíková. She has produced over 350 films or programs for TV. These include: 60 episodes of environmentally themed competition show Green Game for youngsters, 30 episodes of Medicine for the 21st Century that maps recent developments in medicine, 13 episodes Beyond the Mirror examining esoteric knowledge in the light of science, etc. *Waltzing Matilda* is her full-length debut as a producer.

VIRUSfilm is a boutique film production located in Bratislava, Slovakia, founded and run by Vít Janeček and Zuzana Piusi. They focus mostly on authorial cinema with strong topical content oriented on society and politics.

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20,000 SPECIES OF BEES

International Works in Progress
SPAIN



ORIGINAL TITLE: 20.000 ESPECIES DE ABEJAS

Country: Spain

Runtime (minutes): 120

Genre: family, LGBTQ+

Director: Estibaliz Urresola

Writer: Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren

Cinematographer: Gina Ferrer

Cast: Patricia López Arnaiz, Sofia Otero, Ane Gabarain, Itziar Lazkano

Producers: Lara Izagirre, Valérie Delpierre

Production companies: Gariza Films, Inicia Films

Completion date: February 2023

Production budget in EUR: 1 700 000

Financing in place in EUR: 1 700 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: distributors, sales agents

Synopsis

Lucia, 6, knows that something inside her doesn't fit the others' expectations but she doesn't know what it is. In the midst of the family's breakdown, Ane uses a cousin's baptism as an excuse to take her three children to her hometown. This journey seems to be a breath of fresh air in the face but quickly becomes a suffocating reality for Ane who is confronted to the weight of the environment and family values. In the meanwhile, the nature that surrounds the family home her mother grew up in fascinates Lucia; particularly the land that has been used for beekeeping and honey production. Lucia immediately

connects with Lourdes; an unpolished woman who not only keeps the old family tradition of beekeeping alive but who also has a mysterious relationship with the bees and their hives. At the same time, Lucia learns for the first time the true value of friendship with Niko; a girl of her own age who doesn't care about the fact Lucia has a penis.

Director

Estibaliz Urresola is a graduate of Audiovisual Communication (University of the Basque Country); Editing and Editing Theory (EICTV Cuba); Masters in Film Direction (ESCAC Barcelona). She produced, wrote, and directed the feature-length documentary *Paper Voices* that was presented in San Sebastian Festival. Her latest short film *Chords* had its world premiere at the Semaine de la Critique in Cannes and its national premiere at the San Sebastian International Film Festival. Short fiction *Ashes and Dust* (2020), produced by Sirimiri Films Production, won Best Script Award ZINEBI 62 and Grand Award Best Basque Short Film ZINEBI 62.

Producer and production company

Established in 2010, **Gariza Films** is a young independent production company created by filmmaker **Lara Izagirre** with the intention of producing basque films that travel through Europe to reach a wider audience. The commitment to new talent is another brand identity which supports new creators. It also works for equality promoting the role of women in the audiovisual field.

Created in 2006, **Inicia Films** is an independent production company based in Barcelona, focused on international coproductions and the development of new talent. Inicia Films is dedicated to the production of documentaries, shortfalls and fiction feature films. Their films have been selected and awarded at numerous festivals.

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8 VIEWS OF LAKE BIWA

Baltic Event Works in Progress
ESTONIA, FINLAND



ORIGINAL TITLE: BIWA JÄRVE 8 NÄGU

Countries: Estonia, Finland

Runtime (minutes): 110

Genre: drama, romance, war

Director: Marko Raat

Writer: Marko Raat

Cinematographer: Sten Johan Lill

Cast: Elina Masing, Tiina Tauraitte, Hendrik Toompere, Meelis Rämmeld, Kärt Kokkoto, Simeoni Sundja, Jarmo Reha, Maarja Jakobson, Toomas Saarepera, Jan Uuspõld, Jüri Vlassov, Peeter Tammearu, Tommi Korpela

Producers: Ivo Felt, Dora Nedeczky

Co-producers: Misha Jaari, Mark Lwoff

Production companies: Allfilm (Estonia), Bufo (Finland)

Completion date: March 2023

Production budget in EUR: 1 300 000

Financing in place in EUR: 1 300 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: distributors, sales agents, festivals

Synopsis

The film portrays intertwined tragic love stories between the people of a single rural fishing village. Everybody knows everyone else and each story's protagonists are supporting characters in the other stories. All ballads are interrupted, only to continue in the next stories.

A devastating accident pushes the surviving inhabitants into a cascade of tragic consequences. Even in a community self-isolating from modern progress, their art and magic are fading. Christian and ani-

mistic faith are neglected and rituals harnessed for selfish purposes. Archetypal characters fluidly change roles between the views, but the teenage girl, Hanake is ever-present: she embodies the central theme of innocence lost and everything abandoned along with it. While we explore playfulness and intimacy across generations, it is crushing grief, ambition and a dogged fatalism that drive events toward a final reckoning with nature itself.

Director

Marko Raat is an award-winning Estonian writer-director, curator and academic, active in the fields of both arthouse fiction film and documentaries since 1999. He has a vast background in theatre directing, TV productions and in fine art. His latest feature length documentary *Funeral Diaries* (2019) after premiering at Dok.Fest Munich and opening DocPoint Tallinn, is still travelling the festival circuit. His most recent short film *A Chairman's Tale* (2015) had its debut at the International Art Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia. His last feature length fiction film *The Snow Queen* (2010) had been developed at Sources2 and premiered at the Montreal World Film Festival, then was screened at Cairo and Mumbai among many acclaimed festivals.

Producer and production company

Founded in 1995, Tallinn based **Allfilm's** productions include Zaza Urushadze's *Tangerines* (2013) nominated for the Academy Award and Golden Globe as well as Klaus Härö's *The Fencer* (2015) nominated for Golden Globe. Debut feature *Truth and Justice* (2019) directed by Tanel Toom broke box office records locally, won a Satellite Award and was shortlisted for an Academy Award. Their latest production, *Kalev* (2022) premiered in Warsaw and is Estonia's official entry to the Academy Awards.

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ANNA LOL



ORIGINAL TITLE: ANNA LOL

Country: Latvia

Runtime (minutes): 100

Genre: drama

Director: Ivars Tontegode

Writers: Marta Sofija Trence, Ruuda Silman

Cinematographer: Martins Jurevics

Cast: Enija Selecka

Producer: Guna Stahovska

Production company: Mojo Raiser Production

Completion date: March 2023

Production budget in EUR: 154 241

Financing in place in EUR: 110 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: gap financing, distributors, sales agents, festivals, streamers

Synopsis

Anna, a 19-year-old girl, still in school, has just lost a close friend, her first real romantic experience. After this loss she undergoes her own depressive and suicidal thoughts to the point where she loses any touch with reality. And, when her mother leaves, Anna is kicked out of home by her emotionally abusive father. Being so alienated from the

people around her, Anna gets into a lot of trouble – raping, overdoses of friends and problems with drug sellers, drowning in her fantasies about death and memories of happier days, trying to deal with her own sexuality, hate all people and becoming apathetic to her own life. It leads her to try suicide herself. She fails just by luck. After talks with a psychotherapist it seems that everything comes to a good end, but is it so?

Director

Ivars Tontegode is widely known for his urge to experiment and depict the inner struggle and evolution of strong personalities in a highly creative and modern manner. Based on the awarded short he directed a full-length feature *The Mushroomers* (2013, Best Director, Audience Award in Warsaw IFF). In 2017, he finished his full-length documentary *Knutifiction*.

Producer and production company

Mojo Raiser Production was established by producer Guna Stahovska at the end of 2011. She graduated from the Latvian University (Master of Economics) and Culture Academy of Latvia (film critics), and, before establishing her own company, worked as development producer since 2004 on different projects such as: *Defenders of Riga* (2007) and *Rudolf's Gold* (2010). She is the producer of director's Rolands Kalnins feature *Bitter Wine* (2007) in Platforma; producer of Egils Mednis' short *Maschinima*, animation *The Ship* (Svešas Tehnoloģijas, 2006); director's Roberts Rubins' documentary *How Are You Doing, Rudolf Ming?* (2010, Juris Podnieks Studio). Films produced under Mojo Raiser: *The Lesson* (2014, dir Andris Gauja, co-producer), *Knutifiction*, documentary (2017, dir Ivars Tontegode, producer), *Jesus Shows You the Way to the Highway* (2019, dir. Miguel Llanso, co-producer).

Contact

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BLACK VELVET



ORIGINAL TITLE: MELNAIS SAMTS

Countries: Latvia, Lithuania

Runtime (minutes): 95

Genre: comedy, drama, women

Director: Liene Linde

Writer: Liene Linde

Cinematographer: Dāvids Smiltiņš

Cast: Inga Tropa

Producer: Guntis Trekteris

Production companies: Ego Media (Latvia), Tremora (Lithuania)

Completion date: April 2023

Production budget in EUR: 750 000

Financing in place in EUR: 680 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: gap financing, distributors, festivals

Synopsis

Marta, once an emerging film director, is now in her 30s and given up on her film dreams. She spends her days working at a job she hates, taking care of her chronically ill cat, fighting with her stoner boyfriend and lying to friends that she will "soon" start working on her new script. While trying to handle her functional depression, Marta keeps dreaming about making films, drawn to the healing power of storytelling, but

not having the courage to act on these dreams. Through the course of this dark comedy Marta learns there is an unavoidable question that at some point every filmmaker needs to answer: if you really want to direct films, can you first direct yourself out of depression?

Director

Liene Linde (1986) is a Latvian film director, screenwriter, essayist, film critic, and educator. Received Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Film Directing from the Latvian Academy of Culture. Her short films *Fake Me A Happy New Year* (2012) and *Seven Awkward Sex Scenes* (2016) earned international acclaim and were awarded Latvian National Film Award Lielais Kristaps. In 2020, her debut documentary feature *Mothers and Others* came out (co-directed with Armands Začs) that received Lielais Kristaps for the Best Documentary Directing. Linde is currently working on her fiction feature. She is also an active essayist and film critic and is also teaching film directing and analysis at the National Film School of the Latvian Academy of Culture.

Producer and production company

Since 1995, **Guntis Trekteris** has produced and co-produced over 15 fiction and more than 30 documentary films. The recent selected titles include the local box office hit *City on the River* by Viestur Kairish, animated documentary *My Favorite War* by Ilze Burkovska-Jakobsen – the winner of Annecy Contrechamp award in 2020, as well as documentaries *D is for Division* by Davis Simanis, *Rodnye - Close Relations* by Vitaly Mansky and *Beyond the Fear* by the late Herz Frank and Maria Kravchenko. Most of the films have been made in co-production with other countries as well as distributed widely all over the world.

Contact

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DEATH IS A PROBLEM FOR THE LIVING (WORKING TITLE)

Baltic Event Works in Progress
FINLAND, ITALY



ORIGINAL TITLE: KUOLEMA ON ELÄVIEN ONGELMA

Countries: Finland, Italy

Runtime (minutes): 95

Genre: comedy, drama, thriller

Director: Teemu Nikki

Writer: Teemu Nikki

Cinematographers: Jyrki Arnikari, Sari Aaltonen

Cast: Pekka Strang, Jari Virman, Elina Knihtilä

Producer: Jani Pösö

Co-producer: Andrea Romeo

Production company: It's Alive Films

Completion date: April 2023

Production budget in EUR: 955 000

Financing in place in EUR: 780 000

Project status: production

Looking for: distributors, sales agents, festivals

Synopsis

The cheapest drivers in the hearse business, gambling addict Risto Kivi and his friend, the 85% brainless man, Arto Niska, have found themselves in a situation where everything has gone wrong, and they are in need of a fresh start. Ultimately, Arto, the man without a brain, and Risto, the man without a heart, are forced to gamble with their

own lives. It is a film about addiction, friendship, and carrying dead bodies. Stylistically, it is a genre-bending It's Alive trip that will both entertain and shock the audience, helping them understand life's absurdities in even its ugliest shades.

Director

Teemu Nikki is a prolific self-educated, award-winning filmmaker and son of a pig farmer from Sysmä, Finland. His latest feature, *The Blind Man Who Did Not Want to See Titanic* won the Audience Award at Venice Film Festival. Nikki has also directed numerous short films, which have gained recognition at film festivals around the world, and popular TV series. Nikki's style is best described as a good-willed yet unapologetic political satire of humanity.

Producer and production company

Jani Pösö, the CEO of **It's Alive Films**, is a producer and screenwriter. He wrote and produced his first theatre play in 1996, first short film in 2006, first feature in 2011, and first book in 2018. He is also behind It's Alive Films's multi-remade TV format *Mental*. Jani has produced music, theatre and events, and established two advertising agencies and overseen a fashion brand.

It's Alive Films is a Helsinki-based production company founded by director Teemu Nikki and producer Jani Pösö. All their productions are entertaining takes on deadly serious subjects. In addition to *The Blind Man Who Did Not Want To See Titanic*, their best-known works are *Euthanizer*, Finland's Oscar candidate in 2018, *Mental*, a multi-remade black comedy about mental problems among young people, and Cannes-series winner *Mister8*. It's Alive has produced 17 short films, five feature films and three TV series, all of them internationally acclaimed.

Contact

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FREE MONEY



ORIGINAL TITLE: FREE MONEY

Country: Estonia

Runtime (minutes): 90

Genre: comedy, drama

Director: Rain Rannu

Writer: Rain Rannu

Cinematographer: Ants Tammik

Cast: Miklos Banyai, Priit Pius, Ivo Uukkivi, Steffi Pähn, Einar Kuusk, Amanda Hermiine Künnapas

Producer: Tõnu Hiilaid

Production company: Tallifornia

Completion date: April 2023

Production budget in EUR: 350 000

Financing in place in EUR: 300 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: distributors, sales agents, festivals, streamers, festivals, cinema markets

Synopsis

Free Money tells three loosely interconnected stories about money, crypto, and the investment culture of the last few years when investing has become a form of entertainment and every taxi driver is trading in stocks and coins.

It's an ensemble movie that follows three men — a brash crypto entrepreneur (Miklós Banyai), a straightforward programmer (Märt Pius), and a conservative banker (Ivo Uukkivi) — and their relationship with money.

Director

Rain Rannu is an Estonian film director, producer, and tech investor. Rain has written and directed the road-movie *Chasing Ponies* (2016), the narrative virtual reality short *Beqaa VR* (2018), and the critically acclaimed start-up comedy *Chasing Unicorns* (Black Nights FF 2019). His third feature, the sci-fi adventure *Child Machine*, will premiere at Just Film 2022. Together with producer Tõnu Hiilaid, Rain is the founder of indie movie production company Tallifornia, helping Estonian filmmakers reach further.

Producer and production company

Tõnu Hiilaid is a co-founder and producer of **Tallifornia** – indie production company focusing exclusively on author-driven narrative features. Tallifornia's first production *Chasing Unicorns* (Black Nights FF 2019) became a box-office hit in Estonia. *Kratt*, directed by Rasmus Merivoo, (2020) has been well received internationally (Fantasia, BI-FAN, Cottbus FF, Leeds IFF). His third production *Tree of Eternal Love*, directed by Meel Paliale, premiered at Just Film FF 2021. Currently, Tallifornia has five other feature films at different stages of production.

Contact

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INFINITE SUMMER



ORIGINAL TITLE: INFINITE SUMMER

Country: Estonia

Runtime (minutes): 90

Genre: sci-fi, thriller

Director: Miguel Llansó

Writer: Miguel Llansó

Cinematographer: Israel Seoane

Cast: Teele Kaljuvee-O'Brock, Johanna-Aurelia Rosin, Hannah Gross, Katariina Unt

Producer: Tõnu Hiie laid

Production company: Tallifornia

Completion date: August 2023

Production budget in EUR: 350 000

Financing in place in EUR: 250 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: gap financing, distributors, sales agents, festivals, co-producers

Synopsis

While spending the summer together at a beach house, Grete, Sarah, and Mia meet a guy who calls himself Dr. Mindfulness and sells his own meditation app. Although Dr. Mindfulness speaks and performs like a complete charlatan, his app and devices deliver a surprisingly mind-bending experience.

Detectives Jack (Interpol) and Katrin (local police) arrive on the scene to confirm that Dr. Mindfulness is a fraud and bigger, darker forces are behind the app. It is somehow connected to the operating system of

the Tallinn Zoo run by AI that can turn a human body into something between pollen and cosmic dust. The detectives race desperately to solve the case, not knowing whether they are trying to stop a cyber-crime or prevent a large-scale biological weapons attack.

Mia searches for Grete and Sarah to see what has become of her old friends, only to grapple with the choice to save them (from what) or join them (for what). It's been a long summer and it may just go on forever.

Director

Based in Tallinn since 2017, **Miguel Llansó** studied philosophy and cinema before embarking on his many adventures. A big fan of experimental-punk-weird music and films, his international recognition came when he started filming in Ethiopia. Sundance, Rotterdam, Locarno, Hamburg, Milano, Buenos Aires, Brussels, Tampere, Rio de Janeiro, Odense, and many other film festivals have shown selections of his works. His films have received positive reviews from *Variety*, *Screen Anarchy*, the *New York Times*, *Hollywood Reporter*, and *Film-maker Magazine*, among others.

Producer and production company

Tõnu Hiie laid is a co-founder and producer of **Tallifornia** – indie production company focusing exclusively on author-driven narrative features. Tallifornia's first production *Chasing Unicorns* (Black Nights FF 2019) became a box-office hit in Estonia. *Kratt*, directed by Rasmus Merivoo, (2020) has been well received internationally (Fantasia, BIFAN, Cottbus FF, Leeds IFF). His third production *Tree of Eternal Love*, directed by Meel Paliale, premiered at Just Film FF 2021. Currently, Tallifornia has five other feature films at different stages of production.

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LIFE INTERRUPTED



ORIGINAL TITLE: DŽĪVE PĀRTRAUKTA

Countries: Latvia, Lithuania

Runtime (minutes): 100

Genre: drama

Director: Ilze Kunga-Melgaile

Writers: Anna Kalniņa, Inga Rozentāle

Cinematographer: Maksim Efros

Cast: Ērika Eglija-Grāvele, Darius Meškauskas, Gints Grāvelis, Ilze Ķuzule-Skrastiņa, Sandra Kļaviņa

Producers: Aija Bērziņa, Marija Razgute

Production companies: Tasse Film, M-Films

Completion date: November 2023

Production budget in EUR: 1 079 163

Financing in place in EUR: 933 552

Project status: production

Looking for: distributors, sales agents, festivals

Synopsis

Alicija (33), a Polish-born liberal free-thinker, joins the Awakening movement. Her newlywed husband Ilgvars (53), a man with the experience of another generation, calls her to be more careful and cautious. With the support of a close friend, the poet Normunds (40), Alicija soon comes to the forefront of the Singing Revolution. However, alongside the first success, difficulties appear – Alicija receives an anonymous letter accusing Ilgvars of being a former KGB informant. His ambiguous answer leads to her wanting to find out the truth.

Realising that her husband's actions in the KGB have affected the fate of her close friend, Alicija faces an unenviable choice. Torn by internal contradictions, she continues her work to restore the country's independence, unable to find courage to resolve the situation. Alicija buries herself in her work and the emotional connection with her husband gradually fades away. The regime she is fighting so fervently has suddenly touched her so personally.

Director

Ilze Kunga-Melgaile is a first-time Latvian director. After graduating from the St. Petersburg State University of Cinema in 2004, Ilze has directed various short films, such as *Rendez-Vous* (2005), *Pine Tree Children* (2005), *Spiral* (2007), and *The Signs Of Light* (2010). The latter won the main prize in the section New Baltic Cinema at Scanorama/European Film Forum. *Life Interrupted* will be her first feature.

Producer and production company

Aija Berzina is the owner and producer at **Tasse Film**. She has been active in the film industry since 2003 and has worked with many national and international crews as first assistant director and later – production manager and line producer. Since 2011, she has been active as a film producer and in 2012 she produced the feature documentary *Documentarian*, which premiered at DOK Leipzig and received the Best Film Award in Latvia. In 2011, she established her own company Tasse Film. Since 2013, Aija has headed the Producers Association of Latvia and in 2015, was elected as the chairman of the Film Council at the Ministry of Culture. In 2014, Aija established the Riga International Film Festival. Aija is a graduate of EAVE Producers' Workshop 2015 and Producers on the Move 2018.

Contact

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ORIGINAL TITLE: LOTUS

Countries: Latvia, Lithuania

Runtime (minutes): 110

Genre: comedy, history

Director: Signe Birkova

Writer: Signe Birkova

Cast: Severija Janušauskaite, Vilis Daudziņš, Rēzija Kalniņa, Baiba Broka

Producers: Dominiks Jarmakovičs, Roberts Vinovskis

Production companies: Studio Locomotive

Completion date: September 2023

Production budget in EUR: 890 000

Financing in place in EUR: 850 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: gap financing, distributors, sales agents, festivals

Synopsis

Baltic German Alice von Trotta returns to her father's manor in Latvia in 1919. During her stay, she meets some local labourers who demonstrate hostility. Moreover, Alice discovers that she has been lured into a trap, organised by the demonic lawyer Emil Keyserling, the decadent organisation Viva la Mort, and its necrophile leader. While trying to escape the clutches of her decadent "friends," Alice meets cinema enthusiasts who have been working on their own silent film. She learns to edit films and starts to work on her own experimental film. Alice uses filmmaking as a tool for self-discovery and a weapon for confronting her enemies.

Director

Signe Birkova is a filmmaker from Riga and has studied Philosophy, Journalism, and Film. Since then, she has directed short fiction films, experimental films, documentaries, TV programmes as well as analogue film performances. She makes experimental films using 16mm and Super 8 film stock, and different animation techniques. Her short fiction film *Upon Return I'll Be a Flaming Rose* received a special FIPRESCI award in Latvia in 2014. Signe is a member of the Baltic Analog Lab artist collective.

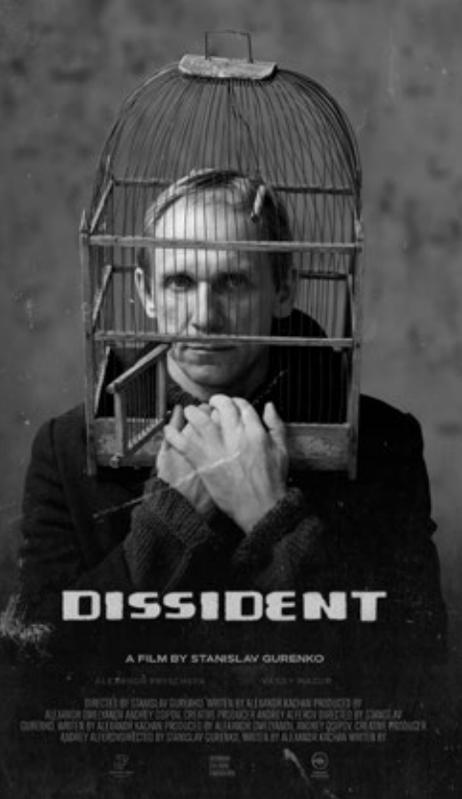
Producer and production company

Dominiks Jarmakovcs holds a degree in Audiovisual Arts and a MBA. Having different managerial experience in projects across the creative industry – festivals, music concerts, contemporary art events, dance performances, for the past seven years, he has focused on the compelling nature of audiovisual arts. Even though the first self-produced feature *Despair* (Karlis Lesins, 2020) was released just recently, Dominiks' work is associated with many projects, such as *Invisible* (Ignas Jonynas, 2019), *Christmas in the Jungle* (Jaak Kilmi, 2020), *The Year Before the War* (Davis Simanis, 2021) and others, where he acted as Associate Producer, Co-Producer, Production Manager or Line Producer.

Roberts Vinovskis is the producer, director and founder of **Studio Locomotive**, which produces fiction, creative documentaries, and animation. Founded in 1995, it has become one of the fastest growing film studios in the Baltic countries. Nearly all films produced and co-produced by Studio Locomotive have been premiered at the most influential international film festivals such as San Sebastian IFF, Karlovy Vary IFF, Moscow IFF, Warsaw IFF, and others.

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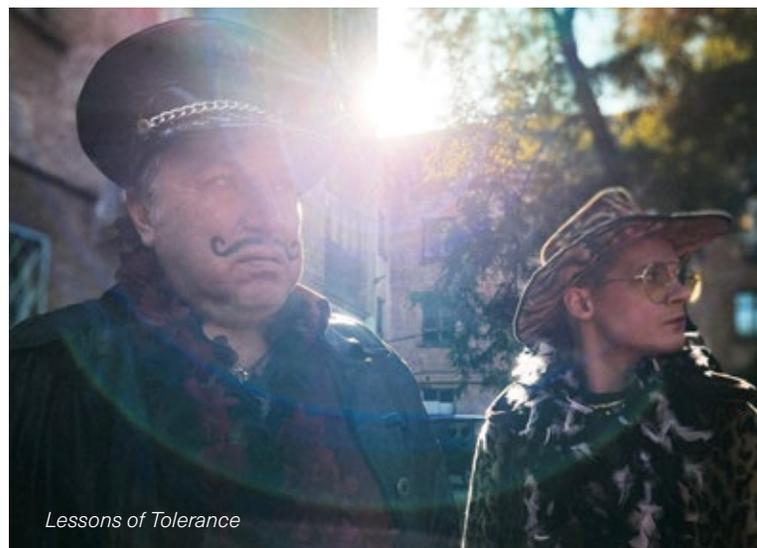


UKRAINIAN AUDIOVISUAL SECTOR possibilities & perspectives

The war in Ukraine has turned all the cards on the table and the lives of millions of people upside down, not only at the human, but also at the professional levels. Ukrainian productions and co-productions, shooting locations, servicing - nothing hardly exists any more in the country. Yet the profession has to survive, and even more, develop and produce their projects

Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event presents a string of events highlighting Ukrainian audiovisual industry: a discussion panel, pitching of series projects in development, and presentation of Works in Progress projects. The events are co-organised and supported by the Ukrainian Film Academy, Goethe Institute, and Odessa International Film Festival.

Odessa International Film Festival is the main festival of Ukrainian cinema, hosting the premieres of the most anticipated national films as well as the debuts of young talents. OIFF is also a festival of premieres, giving the audience the exclusive opportunity of watching international festival hits in the non-competitive Festivals Festival and art hits in the Gala Premieres section. OIFF is dedicated in programming the so-called art-mainstream films – the ones with high artistic quality, yet accessible to a wider audience.



November 21

16:15-17:45 **Coming from Ukraine**

Four feature film projects in progress (in production or post-production) and four series projects, selected by the Odessa International Film Festival based on the actuality of their topic, artistic vision, and, in case of the latter, the pilot script, will be showcased within the TV Beats Forum programme. All the projects are available for one-on-one meetings, looking for international partners, sales, and/or festival programming.

November 22

12:15 - 13:00

Panel Discussion: Financing the Ukrainian Audiovisual Sector – Possibilities and Perspectives

What are the possibilities of co-production with Ukraine? What are the challenges the film professionals face on this journey? Hidden talents in Ukraine – how to integrate Ukrainian filmmakers in a European context?

Simone Baumann, Managing Director of German Films, together with representatives of the European film funds, will discuss the future of European filmmaking, taking into account the challenges caused by the war.

Moderator: **Simone Baumann**, Managing Director of German Films

Speakers

Artem Koliubaev, Head of Council for State Support of Cinematography, Ukraine

Edith Sepp, CEO of the Estonian Film Institute, Vice-President of EFADs, the association of European Film Agencies directors, Estonia

Anna Machukh, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Ukrainian Film Academy, Managing Director of Odessa International Film Festival, Ukraine



In the quest of supporting Ukrainian talent, the Estonian Association of Audiovisual Authors (EAAL) is giving out scholarships to seven Ukrainian directors presenting the feature films in development at the co-production market, and feature films in production or post-production stages (Works in Progress).

The scholarship consists of 1000 euros per film director and is meant to support their personal career development.

The seven directors are

Marysia Nikitiuk, director of the co-production market project Cherry Blossoms

Ruslan Batytskyi, director of the co-production market project Blind-sight

Denys Tarasov, director of the Works in Progress project Diagnosis: Dissident

Stanislav Gurenko and **Andriy Alferov**, directors of the Works in Progress project Dissident

Arkadii Nepyaliuk, director of the Works in Progress project Lessons of Tolerance

Artur Lerman, director of the Works in Progress project Region of Heroes

The Estonian Association of Audiovisual Authors (EAAL) is a collective management organisation of the economic rights of authors of audiovisual works and their successors.

EAAL works closely with the Estonian Authors' Society (EAÜ), collecting and paying remunerations. In addition to Estonian authors, EAAL also represents audiovisual authors from foreign associations.



Coming from Ukraine
Works In Progress

DIAGNOSIS: DISSIDENT



ORIGINAL TITLE: БОЖЕВІЛЬНИ

Country: Ukraine

Runtime (minutes): 119

Genre: drama, history, youth/teen

Director: Denis Tarasov

Writer: Ksenia Zastavskaya

Cinematographer: Eugene Kirey

Cast: Konstantin Tymlyak, Irma Vytovskaya, Sergey Kollontai, Vitalii Saliy, Natalya Babenko

Producers: Artem Koliubaiev, Taras Bosak, Valeria Ivanenko

Production companies: Joint Victory, FILM.UA Distribution

Completion date: December 2022

Estimated budget in EUR: 680 000

Financing in place in EUR: 680 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: gap financing, distributors, festivals, cinema markets
cinema markets

Synopsis

The film *Diagnosis: Dissident* takes the viewer back to the previous century. Its topic, raised for the first time in feature films, opens one of the most shameful and terrifying pages in the history of the USSR - the so-called "punitive psychiatry" used by the KGB in the fight against political and religious dissidents. The film's protagonist is a young man who wants to feel free in his country - free to listen to rock music or

wear long hair. However, his longing for freedom comes up against the cruelty of the system in a country where the KGB uses the most shameful methods to control people like him.

Director

Denys Tarasov is a Ukrainian director and producer. He received his directing education at the Kyiv National University of Theater, Film and Television named after I. K. Karpenko-Kary. From 2004 to 2016, he worked as a director of television projects. In 2021, he became a member of the Ukrainian Film Academy and an expert of the commission under the Council of State Support of Film Production of Ukraine. The film *Diagnosis: Dissident* is his debut feature.

Producers

Artem Kolyubaev is a famous Ukrainian producer. Since 2017, he has been working on major films. Most often, he works with action, documentary, drama, and comedy genres. Among the successful films are the historical drama *Kruty 1918*, the black comedy *I Work at the Cemetery*, the historical film *Schedrik* and others. Since 2021, he has acted as the head of the Council for State Support of Cinematography.

Taras Bosak is the executive producer of many Ukrainian films, including *I Work at the Cemetery*, *Salt from Bonneville*, *Kruty 1918*, and *History of the Winter Garden*.

Valeriya Volodymyrivna Ivanenko is a media manager, TV and film producer. General Director of the production agency Joint Victory Production.

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DISSIDENT



ORIGINAL TITLE: ДИСИДЕНТ

Countries: Ukraine, Czech Republic

Runtime (minutes): 102

Genre: drama, history

Directors: Stanislav Gurenko, Andriy Alferov

Writers: Oleksandr Kachan, Andriy Alferov, Vladislav Mytsovskiy

Cinematographer: Sasha Bojko

Cast: Oleksandr Prischepa, Viktoriya Romashko

Producers: Oleksandr Omelyanov, Andriy Osipov

Co-producer: Julietta Sichel, 8Heads Production

Production company: Joyfilms

Completion date: April 2023

Estimated budget in EUR: 940 000

Financing in place in EUR: 798 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: gap financing, distributors, sales agents, co-producers, festivals

Synopsis

Returning from a Soviet prison camp, Oleg tries to live an ordinary life. Struggling to find work, he quickly befriends many former political prisoners and dissidents, attends secret meetings and starts self-publishing. After meeting a prominent Ukrainian writer, Oleg confesses his secret plan to write a novel about the Ukrainian Resistance Army, escape to the West and publish it there. The Prague Spring, events in the West and the Cold War threatening the USSR, Oleg regains hope for victory. Unfortunately the writer appears to be a secret KGB agent. Many of Oleg's friends are arrested and his wife tries to warn him

about dangerous connections with dissidents. Oleg has grown tired of the struggle, deciding to organise the last protest of his life.

Directors

Stanislav Gurenko is an award-winning director, who has made hundreds of promotional and music videos. His 2015 full-length documentary road movie *Dustards* received several awards, including International Independent Film Awards – Platinum Award, London Independent Film Awards – Best Documentary, Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival – Remi winner.

Andriy Alferov is a Ukrainian producer, director, script doctor, curator, and film critic, member of the FIPRESCI (International Federation of Film Critics) and National Film Academy of Ukraine.

Producers

Oleksandr Omelyanov worked as a producer at 1+1 Media for 10 years, founded Joyfilms in 2019.

Andriy Osipov is an award-winning producer, Head of the Odesa Film Studio. Member of the National Union of Cinematographers of Ukraine.

Company profile

Joyfilms was founded in 2019 by Oleksandr Omelyanov and became a trusted partner of the main film funds in Ukraine, which have supported several of its projects. The mission of Joyfilms is to give life to great stories through the synergy of creativity and experience of our company and the creators with whom we create them.

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Coming from Ukraine

Works In Progress

LESSONS OF TOLERANCE



ORIGINAL TITLE: УРОКИ ТОЛЕРАНТНОСТІ

Country: Ukraine

Runtime (minutes): 109

Genre: comedy, drama, LGBTQ+

Director: Arkadii Nepyaliuk

Writers: Arkadii Nepyaliuk, Igor Bilyts, Liudmyla Kharchenko

Cinematographer: Sergiy Krutko

Cast: Oleksandr Yarema, Akmal Gurezov, Olena Uzliuk, Karolyina Mruga, Oleksandr Piskunov

Producer: Serhiy Lavrenyuk

Production company: Solar Media Entertainment LLC

Completion date: December 2022

Estimated budget in EUR: 150 000

Financing in place in EUR: 120 000

Project status: post-production

Looking for: gap financing, distributors, sales agents, festivals, streamers, co-producers, cinema markets

Synopsis

A provincial school teacher wants to save her financially struggling family from falling apart by convincing her husband and children to register for Lessons of Tolerance, an EU-funded integration program. The family decides to participate, motivated by financial gain. According to the program's conditions, a gay LGBTQ activist moves into their home for a certain time. The activist is not intimidated by the situation: his goal is to help people accept and understand others, especially gay people. The story could've had a happy ending, if not for an old retired family friend worrying about the presence of a 'sexual deviant'

at his friends' home. Imagining them being sexually assaulted, he decides to kill the gay man. The family, who has by now grown close to the activist, hurries to save him.

Director

Arkadii Nepyaliuk graduated from Kyiv National University of Theatre, Cinema and Television I. Karpenko-Kary. Selected filmography: *Blood Sausage*, short (2016): 46th Kyiv IFF Molodist – Scythian Deer for the best film of national competition, Ukrainian National Film Academy – Golden Dzyga for the best Ukrainian short competition, 11th Vukovar FF, 10th Lviv ISFF Wiz-Art, 27th Cottbus FF, Tour (the best worldwide short films of the year) from The Académie des Césars. *Strayed* (2017): 8th Odesa IFF – special jury diploma, best director at the 17th IF of Red Cross and Health Films, Varna. Int. *Kitchen. Night*, short (2018): 12th Lviv ISFF Wiz-Art, 28th Cottbus FF.

Producer

Serhiy Lavrenyuk is a Cinema, TV, and theatre producer, Executive Producer at Solar Media Entertainment, co-owner of the Sonce TV channel, Ukraine. Member of the European Film Academy, from 2017 representative of the Board of the Ukrainian Film Academy.

Company profile

Solar Media Entertainment LLC's selected filmography includes: 2022 *Egregor*, feature, director Stanislav Kapralov
2019 *Morshyns 11*, feature, director Arkadiy Nepyaliuk
2018 *A Woman at War*, feature, director Benedikt Erlingsson (Ukrainian co-producer)
2018 *When the Trees Fall*, feature, director Marysia Nikitiuk
2017 *A Gentle Creature*, feature, director Sergei Loznitsa

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Coming from Ukraine
Works In Progress

REGION OF HEROES



ORIGINAL TITLE: ОБЛАСТЬ ГЕРОЇВ

Country: Ukraine

Runtime (minutes): 77

Genre: war

Director: Artur Lerman

Writers: Artur Lerman, Oleksii Komarovskii

Cinematographer: Yevhenii Usanov

Cast: Ukrainian volunteers

Producer: Aleks Komarovskii

Production company: IdeaFilms

Completion date: December 2022

Project status: post-production

Looking for: distributors, sales agents, festivals, cinema markets

Synopsis

A film reconstruction of the real heroic deeds of Ukrainian civilians who, risking their own lives, saved thousands of people from the hell of the Russian occupation during the war that is still ongoing. On February 24, 2022, Russia launched an invasive war against Ukraine, bringing death and suffering to the Ukrainian civilians in the occupied territories. But the invaders' plans were destroyed thanks to the efforts of the Ukrainian army and the heroism of Ukrainians. The documentary reconstructed four real stories about such ordinary Ukrainians. The uniqueness of this film is that it is a film without actors. At the

centre of each story is a character who personally reproduces himself in the lead role. Complete strangers united by one goal: saving lives in the tragic cities known throughout the world: Bucha, Gostomel, Irpin.

Director

Artur Lerman is a Ukrainian film director, screenwriter, and documentary director. Directed the series of documentary films titled *Great Dictators* in 2021, created the documentary project *East Now* by order of the UN in 2020, directed various series of different genres in 2019-2020, including *Adults as Children* and *On the Verge*. Lead writer of the feature-length comedy for international distribution *The Big Walk 2*, 2021, and screenwriter of the full-length comedy for international distribution *The Big Walk*, 2021.

Producer

Aleks Komarovskii is a Ukrainian film producer, actor, film director, screenwriter. Producer and director of *Dangerous Game*, a political drama based on real events, producer of the fantasy film *Game of Ninth Heaven*, shot in 3D for Amazon Video, producer and co-writer of the *Crisis Manager*, which won screenplay awards at two US contests – LA: HCF Screenplay Competition 2019 and Screenplay Festival 2018, and producer of family comedies *Naughty Kids 1* and *Naughty Kids 2*.

Company profile

IdeaFilms was founded in 2013 and has produced four movies: family comedies *Naughty Kids 1* and *Naughty Kids 2*, which became the highest grossing films in Georgia, 3D fantasy adventure movie *Game of Ninth Heaven* and *Region of Heroes*, which is currently in post-production.

Contact

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BOYARKA



ORIGINAL TITLE: БОЯРКА

Country: Ukraine

Genre: biographical, crime, psychological drama, thriller

Screenwriter and producer: Olga Gibelinda

Co-producer: Ivanna Khitsinska

Production company: Malanka Studios

Co-production company: Quatros Group

Number of episodes: 8

Episode duration in minutes: 50

Estimated budget in EUR: 1 300 000

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, distributors, foreign broadcasters, public funds (national, regional, international), private funds/banks, technical in-kind participation

TAGLINE: WHEN THOSE WHO SHOULD PROTECT US LET CRIMES RUN FREE.

Synopsis

2007. In the vicinity of the small town of Boyarka, several women of different ages and appearances are found dead. Local corrupt law enforcement officers do not investigate the murders, rumours about which reach the capital and cause a stir. The case is entrusted to the extraordinary investigator Andrii. The experienced hunter gathers his own group of the best Kyiv operatives.

The community is hostile to foreigners, and the reason is quickly re-

vealed – over 50 people were killed in the Boyarka-Vasylkiv-Korchi triangle in a year, and the number of missing is unknown. All this time, the boyar militiamen hid the remains of the victims in order to avoid responsibility for negligence, and are now deliberately obstructing the investigation, falsifying the results of forensic examinations, and playing on the side of the murderer. The investigation is looking for witnesses and female survivors. The group is joined by the ambiguous young local operative Oleksandr, who becomes Andrii's closest assistant. A portrait of a serial killer appears, violating all standards and approaches to the investigation of serial crimes. The criminal, realising he is being hunted, starts playing with the investigators. They will have to look for a new approach to the search for the maniac, because they have encountered an evil that is difficult to fathom.

On the side of the criminal – corrupt police, lack of technical capabilities, indifference, and silence of local residents, on the side of the investigation – only the desire to learn the truth.

Screenwriter and producer

Olga Gibelinda's selected filmography includes: *Territory* (short, 2022), *Kyiv. Quarantine* (documentary series, 2021, as producer and director), *Yesterday I Will Be Seventeen* (2014, as director, producer, screenwriter).

Company profile

Malanka Studios has produced, among other works, the film anthologies *In Love with Kyiv and Something* (Ukraine 2010), *Yesterday I Will Be Seventeen* (2014), *Kyiv. Quarantine* (documentary series, 2021), and *Sky Motors* (documentary).

The project will be presented by **Ivanna Khitsinska** and **Olga Gibelinda**.

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MY HEART IS STEEL



ORIGINAL TITLE: МОЄ СЕРЦЕ - СТАЛЬ

Country: Ukraine

Genre: drama

Screenwriter: Alina Semeriakova

Producer: Nataliia Strybuk

Production company: Tele Pro

Number of episodes: 6

Episode duration in minutes: 45

Estimated budget in EUR: 60 000 per episode

Looking for: public funds (national, regional, international)

TAGLINE: LIFE IS LIKE STEEL. YOU POUR IT OUT, AND IT INSTANTLY HARDENS IN THE SHAPE YOU GIVE IT. THEREFORE, THE QUALITY OF THIS METAL IS SO IMPORTANT. WHAT IS YOUR FOUNDATION? A FOUNDATION THAT WILL STAND, EVEN IF EVERYTHING YOU AROUND IS DESTROYED. A BASE IS AS STRONG AS STEEL.

Synopsis

The series *My Heart is Steel* is the story of the peaceful people of Mariupol, who gave their whole lives to Azovstal, and spent the most terrible first months of the war there. The personification of this resistance, the main character of the series, will be one great labour dynasty – the Sirenki family. From grandfather to grandson. We will show how the family lived and changed from 2014 to 2022. All the series' characters will have actual prototypes – people from the Museum of Civilian Voices project. The series aims to make the voices of peaceful Mariupol

residents louder, tell the whole world about them, explain why Ukraine did not surrender, why the war, despite the forecasts of international experts, did not end in three days, and why Mariupol became a world symbol of heroic resistance.

Screenwriter

Alina Semeriakova is a Ukrainian screenwriter of cinema and TV (Ukraine, Poland, Russia). Her shows have received numerous awards in Ukraine, Korea, and Singapore. She is the author of 22 TV series scripts and three full-length films. Alina is a member of the Union of Journalists of Ukraine and the Guild of Playwrights of Ukraine, Her plays were published in the collections Modern Ukrainian Playwrights and she is also the creator and director of the historical program *In Pursion of the Truth*.

Producer

Nataliia Strybuk worked as the host of a morning show at Prosto Radio in 1996-2006, as the chief editor of Afisha Odessa in 2002-2007, as creative producer at Odesa Film Studio in 2007-2009 and 1+1 Production in 2009-2014. Since 2014, she acts as the chief producer of the film and TV series department of the Ukraine TV channel.

Company profile

Olena Kanishevska graduated from the Kyiv National University of Economics and has been working in television since 1993. She is currently the director of **Tele Pro Llc** and the director of the Production Department of the Ukraine TV channel. Her filmography includes various TV shows, series and documentaries.

The project will be presented by **Nataliia Strybuk**.

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NO NAME PROJECT



ORIGINAL TITLE: NO NAME PROJECT

Country: Ukraine

Genre: drama, thriller, action

Screenwriter: Dmytro Kitsay

Producers: Egor Olesov, Pavel Cherepin

Production company: Heroes Films

Number of episodes: 8

Episode duration in minutes: 52

Estimated budget in EUR: 12 000 000

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, distributors, foreign broadcasters, public funds (national, regional, international), private funds/banks

TAGLINE: OBSESSIVELY PROTECTING THE WORLD FROM TYRANTS, IT'S EASY TO BECOME THE MOST POWERFUL OF THEM.

Synopsis

Emotionless Ukrainian IT-billionaire Victor, who lost his family in the shelling of Kharkiv, decides to change the world's security system. Victor is secretly gathering an international team to develop and deliver stealth nuclear weapons to every country in the world.

Screenwriter

Dmytro Kitsay has acted as the head of original series production at

Oll.tv (2021-2022) and is the co-author of the drama series *Silence*. In 2019-2021, he worked as the head of TV series development department at Starlightmedia and produced the drama series *Mama* and *Mama 2*. As a showrunner and producer at Starlightfilm in 2017-2019, he created the comedy series *When We Are Home* and drama series *To Catch Kaidash*.

Producers

Egor Olesov is an award-winning Ukrainian producer, writer, director, music composer, and media manager. He has more than 20 years of experience in the media and content production business. He is also a member of European Film Academy, Ukrainian Film Academy, Visual Effects Society, and International Game Developer Association and Ukrainian Television Academy. He has twice been nominated for the VES Awards and won the Teletriumph award.

His filmography includes *Mr. Jones* (Agnieszka Holland), *The Battle for Sevastopol*, *Pulse*, *The Stronghold*, animated feature *Mavka. The Forest Song* and other projects.

Pavel Cherepin is an award-winning Ukrainian producer, director and non-scripted formats creator, co-founder of Heroes Films. Known for sports and current affairs documentaries, action reality shows and interactive edutainment films. Former professional sportsman, world rally vice-champion in WRC2 class.

The project will be presented by **Egor Olesov**.

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UNSPOKEN



ORIGINAL TITLE: UNSPOKEN

Countries: Ukraine, Poland

Genre: thriller, drama

Screenwriters: Zhanna Ozirna, Filip Syczynski

Producers: Anna Rozalska, Natalia Libet, Dmytro Sukhnov

Production company: Match and Spark

Number of episodes: 6

Episode duration in minutes: 25

Estimated budget in EUR: 2 000 000

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

TAGLINE: THERE ARE NO LIMITS WHEN IT COMES TO SAVING YOUR FAMILY.

Synopsis

Unspoken is a thriller series based on current events in Ukraine. The story takes place over the course of six days during a heart-rending journey of one man to save his family. Eugeniy, 42, travels from Poland to Ukraine where he tries to reconnect with his wife and three daughters who are in grave danger from the Russian invasion.

Screenwriters

Zhanna (1986) is a Ukrainian director and screenwriter. Her projects have been recognised at various pitching platforms. She has made award-winning shorts *Bond* and *The Adult* and participated in Berli-

nale Talents as a director in 2020. *Ground Zero*, her feature debut, has been supported by the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation and taken part in several co-production events.

Filip is a Polish director and screenwriter, whose films have screened at world-renowned film festivals, such as Sundance and Cannes. He was a showrunner for the Canal+'s TV series *A Small Death*. Filip is also working on his debut film, *The Great Match*, which received the Eurimages Co-Production Development Award at the Baltic Event Co-production Market in Tallinn.

Producers

Anna is an experienced film & TV series producer, entrepreneur, lecturer, and strategist. In 2015, she co-founded Match and Spark, a production company and one of the leading talent agencies in Poland.

Natalia Libet gained experience while working for international companies and has, since 2017, been operating as a film producer. She is a co-owner of women-led 2Brave Productions in Kyiv, Ukraine. Natalia is a member of European and Ukrainian Film Academies.

Dmytro started his career in the film industry in 1995. In 2003, he became a co-founder and EP at Toy Pictures.

Company profile

Match and Spark is a talent management, production, and packaging company based in Warsaw established by Anna Rozalska and Tarik Hachoud. Their recent credits include: *In the Name of Honor*, alongside *RatPac*, and the feature documentary *Who Will Write Our History*, directed by Roberta Grossman and produced alongside EP Nancy Spielberg.

The project will be presented by **Natalia Libet, Anna Rozalska**

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TV BEATS Co-Financing Market

TV Beats Co-Financing Market, held at Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event since 2021, is dedicated to presenting high-quality drama series projects in advanced stages of development. The eight projects, selected for their international distribution potential, are pitched to potential partners, financiers, and broadcasters, and will have an opportunity to hold one-on-one meetings following the public presentation.

The Most Promising Project will be awarded 3000 euros by Elisa Estonia.

Having started original programming three years ago, Elisa's productions have already been nominated and awarded at the Estonian Film and Television Awards. In 2022, the company brought out five original productions.

A Special Award, selection to the Hypewriter TV Series Pitch Forum, Budapest.

Paprika Studios, in collaboration with RTL Hungary, launched Hypewriter in 2018 and have a vivid collaboration with BNFF since 2019. Hypewriter is a popular meeting place for TV show business professionals ranging from showrunners, producers, and broadcasters in CEE. The winner of Hypewriter receives a prize of 10 000 euros and the concept will be developed into a professionally produced pilot episode that could eventually lead to a full television series.



Jury

Richard Pommérat, development, sales, and marketing, N9ne Studio, France

Morgane Bruna, international sales, Wild Bunch TV, France

Joachim Friedman, screenwriter, Germany

Hypewriter
paprika & BNFF TV SERIES PITCH FORUM

COSMIC GIRL



ORIGINAL TITLE: COSMICA

Countries: Italy, France

Genre: climate-fiction, youth/teen, action, thriller

Screenwriters: Daniela De Francesco, Adama Grevoz

Producer: Claudio Esposito

Co-producer: Patrice Nezan

Production companies: The Piranesi Experience, Les Contes Modernes (support of MEDIA, CNC, MIC, Apulia FC)

Number of episodes: 6

Episode duration in minutes: 42

Estimated budget in EUR: 1 900 000 (below-the-line)

Looking for: co-producers, distributors

TAGLINE: THERE IS A PLAN(ET) B. BUT, SORRY,
IT'S NOT FOR EVERYONE.

Synopsis

Bianca's summer is disrupted when she discovers that her childhood love Ivan and his friends have developed astounding physical abilities, which they claim to only use to counter the violent behaviour of individuals altered by climate change. As a series of grisly murders is alarming the entire community, when her own life is put in jeopardy, Bianca begins to dig deeper into the information she receives from her friends. What if her involvement had never been accidental?

Screenwriter

Born and raised in an Italian-Venezuelan family, **Daniela De Francesco**

works as a director and scriptwriter. In 2018, she published her debut novel *Cosmica*, presented at Lucca Comics and Games. After writing a few fiction and architecture short films in 2021, she co-wrote her first feature film *Paula* (2022, dir. Florencia Wehbe, 90'), an Argentine-Italian co-production. The film was selected and awarded (First prize @ JUST Film WiP) in Tallinn and screened at in BAFICI, Giffoni, Sarajevo, and Moscow. Daniela is currently developing her first feature film *Dreamcatchers* (MFI Script2Film and Biennale Cinema College Italia), and *Cosmic Girl*, a fiction series based on her novel *Cosmica*.

Born in 1985 in Mali, Adama Grevoz is a screenwriter and editor. He is a member of the association L'Accroche-Scénaristes and consultant for the Valence Festival of screenplay since 2013.

Producer

Claudio Esposito is the founder of The Piranesi Experience, an independent Italian production company founded in 2014. Among his last productions are the feature documentary *Baikonur. Earth* (dir. Andrea Sorini, premiered at VIFF and released on Netflix in 2021) and *Paula* (dir. Florencia Wehbe, awarded at BAFICI 2022 and selected to Giffoni, Sarajevo, Moscow, La Huelva, and Tallinn). Claudio was selected for ACE Mentoring Programme EU 2022.

Company profile

The Piranesi Experience (IT) is an independent Italian production company founded in 2014 by former students of Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia. The Piranesi Experience has been working with key players in the film industry receiving support from international institutions for developing and producing their films and series.

The project will be presented by

Daniela De Francesco.

Contact

Claudio Esposito

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EMBASSY



ORIGINAL TITLE: AMBASÁDA

Countries: Czech Republic, Germany

Genre: drama

Screenwriter: Ondřej Gabriel

Producers: Kateřina Ondřejková, Gabriele M. Walther

Production companies: Česká televize (Czech TV), Caligari Films

Number of episodes: 4

Episode duration in minutes: 60

Estimated budget in EUR: 6 000 000

Partners attached: Česká televize (Czech TV)

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, foreign broadcasters

TAGLINE: THE STORY OF SEVERAL REFUGEES HALFWAY BETWEEN THEIR OLD HOMES AND THEIR NEW ONE, STUCK IN A FOREIGN AND UNFRIENDLY LAND.

Synopsis

1989. The situation in East Germany is getting worse. The only gateway to freedom is the West German embassy in Prague since Czechoslovakia does not require visas. Our heroes set out on the journey. Kalle, a dark-skinned footballer with Bundesliga dreams; Kateřina, a wife of a domineering dissident; Lothar, a father with a young son on the run from the repercussions of his actions; Wolfgang and Emma, a middle-aged couple planning a new beginning. As the number of refugees grows, Czechoslovakia closes its borders. Refugees are trapped on the embassy's ground in a muddy tent camp. Hygienic conditions

deteriorate, the weather gets harsher, and there are rumours about secret agents among the refugees. Conflicts are frequent. The West German diplomat Annelore does her best to solve the situation, not knowing the Czechoslovak secret service has dragged her into a game, which cannot end well for her. A thrilling story of people in a hopeless situation trying to keep their dreams alive.

Screenwrite

Ondřej Gabriel (1979) studied political science at Charles University in Prague. As a playwright, he co-authored a number of successful plays, which garnered several awards and were also broadcast (Czech Television). He is the sole author of the original HBO spy miniseries *The Sleepers*, which received warm critical acclaim (Toronto International Film Festival Official Selection, Czech Lion Awards nominee etc.). He also co-wrote the upcoming family drama TV series *The Wagners* (Czech Television).

Producer

Kateřina is a creative producer responsible for multi-genre production in Czech Television. She has participated in television series in the genres of music, entertainment, fiction, documentary as well as in theatrical films. She is a member of the Czech Film and Television Academy. Since 2020, she has been leading a workshop at the Master's Degree in Production at FAMU. Her projects have won Czech Lion Awards, Prix CIRCUM Regional Award, Al Jazeera Balkans awards, etc., and were screened at festivals such as Karlovy Vary IFF, Cannes IFF, IDFA Amsterdam.

The project will be presented by

Kateřina Ondřejková
and **Ondřej Gabriel**.

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FINISTERRA



ORIGINAL TITLE: FINISTERRA

Country: Portugal

Genre: drama, history, fantasy

Screenwriters: Guilherme Branquinho, Leone Niel, Gabriela Giffoni

Producer: Frederico Serra

Production company: Take It Easy

Number of episodes: 7

Episode duration in minutes: 45

Estimated budget in EUR: 1 795 000

Partners attached: RTP

Looking for: co-producers, distributors, foreign broadcasters

Synopsis

Set against the backdrop of World War II, this coming-of-age tale follows Celeste – a young orphan accused of being a witch. While Portugal declares neutrality in the war, the isolated town of Aljezur bears witness to German air raids over British ships along the coast. The authorities do nothing to calm the peasantry, anxious with the likelihood of a war, and they turn to superstition blaming Celeste for cursing their land. Truth will triumph over myth as Celeste uncovers the man responsible for the growing Nazi presence in the south of Portugal, the real story behind her parents' deaths, and her true identity.

Screenwriters

Guilherme, director-screenwriter, studied Film Production at the University of Westminster and earned a Master's degree in Film Philoso-

phy at King's College London. He co-wrote three series and edited *Sara* that won Best Series at the Portuguese Academy Awards. His film *Vortex* won best Portuguese short film at MOTELX.

Leone, director-photographer, graduated from the Lisbon National Film Conservatory. He directs commercials and together with Guilherme won a Netflix national screenwriting competition.

Gabriela, a screenwriter with more than nine years of experience, graduated from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in Audiovisual, worked on more than five series, including Emmy-nominated *The Mean*.

Producers

Frederico Serra was born in Lisbon, 1964, and is one of the founders of Take It Easy. He was also the president of the Portuguese Producers' Association from 2019 to 2021.

Andreia Nunes works in development, financing, executive production and post-production coordination at Take It Easy since 2010. Currently, she is also an academic film production professor at Universidade Lusófona.

Company Profile

Based in Lisbon, **Take It Easy** is a Portuguese independent production company working since 2001. We are passionate about stories with a multi-layered spectrum, in either film, television, commercials or animation. For us the world has no barriers and we're always open for new partnerships to develop innovative and challenging projects.

The project will be presented by **Guilherme Branquinho, Leone Niel, Andreia Nunes, Frederico Serra**.

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MINDS OF THE MANY



ORIGINAL TITLE: MINDS OF THE MANY

Country: Germany

Genre: sci-fi, thriller, action

Screenwriter: Adrian Daniel Botnariu

Number of episodes: 10

Episode duration in minutes: 60

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, distributors, foreign broadcasters, public funds (national, regional, international), private funds/banks, technical in-kind participation

TAGLINE: A FIERCE DRUG DIVER STRUGGLES TO KEEP HER TWIN BROTHER ON THE RIGHT PATH, WHEN A NEURO-ENHANCER DRILLS INTO HIS BRAIN AND DRAWS THE ATTENTION OF BOTH, THE CHECHEN MOB AND THE CHIP'S VISIONARY CREATOR.

Synopsis

Joe must rescue her chaotic brother Sam after the prototype of a Neuro-Enhancer drills into his brain during a failed drug dive, which sparks the interests of the Chechen mob as well as the unscrupulous Asura Corporation. In dramatic twists and turns, she must play the two sides against each other and is forced to insert a second Neuro-Enhancer into her own brain, to synchronize with Sam's mind and finally accept him for who he is. If Joe cannot free Sam from his physical pain, the chip will take his life and thus destroy the only family she still has. Minds of the Many closely follows its characters and with its science fiction element poses the question – Can our species evolve into something better and still remain human?

Screenwriter

Adrian Daniel Botnariu was born and raised in Germany by political refugees. His love for cinema was first ignited by his father, who used to work as a stunt coordinator on international film productions back in Romania. After having experimented with the medium in his youth, Adrian was soon invited to study film at the renowned ENS Louis Lumière in Paris. In that time, his DP work gained him a lot of success in the short film festival circuit, followed by many awards for his directing work as well. After participating as a director in the atelier portion of the Clermont Ferrand short film festival, he decided to move to Berlin, where he would focus more on his writing. As an alumni of the 2021 writers' lab at Kitzbühel film festival in Austria, Adrian is now in preparation for his feature debut as a director. What sets him apart from his peers is a clear vision and the ability for transparent communication, due to his strong technical and artistic training.

The project will be presented by **Adrian Daniel Botnariu**.

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MINERVAS



ORIGINAL TITLE: MINERVE

Country: Slovenia

Genre: drama, comedy

Screenwriter: Suzana Kokalj

Number of episodes: 8

Episode duration in minutes: 45

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, distributors, foreign broadcasters, public funds (national, regional, international), private funds/banks

TAGLINE: ARE SPECIAL FORCE POLICE SKILLS ENOUGH TO LIVE IN A SMALL TOWN?

Synopsis

Živa and Voranc are in their mid-thirties. They used to work as special police force officers, but after they got married, they decided to retire from the dangerous work. They move to a small town and open a self-defence school for women called Minerva. Živa and Voranc soon learn that being a stranger in a small town is not an easy life to lead, but eventually they manage to establish a small group of trainees. They are unique individuals who bring their own challenges to the group, but nevertheless, they become inseparable.

Screenwriter

Suzana Kokalj was born in 1987. She studied art history and video production. She worked as a film production assistant and manager on various projects, and as an art gallery curator. The stepping stone of her screenwriting journey was a 2018 screenwriters' workshop Scenarnica. Since 2022 she is a part of a writers' room on the Slovenian television POP TV.

The project will be presented by **Suzana Kokalj**.

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RENT



ORIGINAL TITLE: RENT

Country: Estonia

Genre: drama

Screenwriters: Rein Pakk, Leana Jalukse

Producer: Karl Kermes

Production company: POINT Productions

Number of episodes: 6

Episode duration in minutes: 45

Partners attached: Elisa Estonia

Estimated budget in EUR: 600 000

Looking for: co-producers, distributors, foreign broadcasters

TAGLINE: HAPPINESS FOR HIRE.

Synopsis

Madeline, a desperate but resourceful single mother solves her teenage daughter Cheryl's daddy issues by hiring an actor to play one and is inspired to build a profitable but risky relationship rental business as a result. This enterprise will eventually crumble the carefully constructed universe of her matriarch mother Margit, have her best friend Jürgen, a blue-eyed banker, embarking on a real relationship while still paying rent, open her own eyes to the potential benefits of having a partner, and test the nerves of Olaf, the psychologist who tries to reign in the sheer lunacy of it all.

Screenwriters

Actor, director, playwright and writer **Rein Pakk** has been active in the Estonian drama landscape since obtaining a bachelor's degree as a film director with the first class of the national film school. All 10 of his plays have reached the stage with some gathering more than 16,000 viewers. He has also written successful dramatisations and is known as a novelist (*AjaTeenistus* 2018, *AbiElu* 2019). As an actor, Rein has appeared on big theatre stages and feature films, including the Venice Film Festival success *Autumn Ball* (2007). His work in television includes acting and directing for various drama and comedy series as well as hosting shows. Rein is also known as a cartoonist, an interior designer, a marketing and branding consultant.

Leana Jalukse's debut film *Mother* premiered in competition at Tribeca, USA, won Best Feature in Kitzbühel, Austria, Best Estonian Feature at Tallinn Black Nights, Estonia, was selected Estonia's national entry for the Oscars, and nominated for Best Screenplay at Estonian Film and TV awards. *Fire Lily* was released in 2018, and *Deserted* (as co-writer) premiered in Busan in 2021. At the moment, she is co-directing a feature documentary and working on a number of drama series.

Production company and producer

Producer and author **Karl Kermes** has been active in the Estonian theatre and television landscape since 2009. In cooperation with top Estonian actors, he has staged more than 25 mono and stand-up productions during the last 12 years, resulting in numerous box office hits. He is the creator and producer of the comedy series *Alo*, and the author of the idea and producer of the short film *ULF or Do I Exist?*, and the author of the idea, creator, producer, director of TV show *Pöördes* with Elisa Estonia in fall 2022.

The project will be presented by **Karl Kermes, Rein Pakk,** and **Leana Jalukse.**

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REVOLUTION SCHOOL



ORIGINAL TITLE: REVOLUTION SCHOOL

Country: United Kingdom

Genre: adventure, fantasy, youth/teen

Screenwriters: Paula Alvarez Vaccaro, Aaron Brookner

Producer: Sophie Venner

Co-producer: Philipp Kreuzer

Production company: Taletime Pictures

Number of episodes: 8

Episode duration in minutes: 50

Estimated budget in EUR: 16 981 000

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

TAGLINE: AN 11-YEAR-OLD BURSARY STUDENT AT AN EXCLUSIVE PREP SCHOOL ENLISTS THE HELP OF HIS IMAGINARY FRIEND, JOSEPH STALIN, TO STAGE A SUCCESSFUL REVOLUTION AGAINST HIS RICH AND POWERFUL BULLIES.

Synopsis

William Conroy is an 11-year-old bursary student who wants to succeed at Coverdale, an exclusive prep school. Bullied by the upper class kids, he enlists the help of an imaginary Joseph Stalin. Mirroring the Russian revolution, Conroy and his outcast dorm-mates set out to dismantle the centuries-old power structure to rid themselves of their bullies. But Stalin has no intention of stopping his climb to power and Conroy must choose between his mentor or his friends and teachers, if they can still trust each other.

Screenwriters

Paula Alvarez-Vaccaro and **Aaron Brookner** are a team of award winning writers/producers with over three decades of combined experience in film and TV. They have produced and/or written award-winning features, series, and shorts with 70+ awards to date including three Lions at Venice Film Festival for *Listen* (2020) and *On the Milky Road* (2016). Previous series include: *The life and times of Tina Modotti* (starring Monica Bellucci for AG Studios/Braven Films); *Singles* (Best webseries Marseille Fest), and *Na mlečnom putu*, directed by Emir Kusturica.

Producer

BAFTA-winning, ACE alumna **Sophie Venner** has been an independent producer for over 20 years working across a range of genres incl. high-end television, films, and commercials filming extensively with international co-producers around the globe. Prior to producing, Sophie was at Avalon Management, assisting in the management of high-profile clients such as Frank Skinner and the Mighty Boosh. Her films have earned nominations and prizes at 60+ festivals including Cannes, Berlinale, Telluride, TIFF, and London.

Company profiles

Taletime Pictures is an independent British company focusing on developing and producing brave and authentic cross-platform films and series for global audiences with exciting talent, both established and new.

The project will be presented by **Sophie Venner** and **Paula Alvarez-Vaccaro**.

Contact

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sophie@taletimepictures.com

SAM WYLDE: BODYGUARD



ORIGINAL TITLE: SAM WYLDE: BODYGUARD

Country: Finland

Genre: thriller

Screenwriter: Matti Laine

Producer: Mikko Tenhunen

Production company: MJÖLK Movies

Number of episodes: 6

Episode duration in minutes: 55

Estimated budget in EUR: 16 000 000

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, distributors, foreign broadcasters

TAGLINE: BODYGUARD SAMANTHA "SAM" WYLDE IS HIRED TO PROTECT A BILLIONAIRE WHO HAS HAD SAM'S HUSBAND KILLED ONE YEAR EARLIER.

Synopsis

London-based bodyguard Samantha "Sam" Wylde wants to find out who murdered her husband. She is shocked to learn that the murderer is her current client, a wealthy businessman Omar Serikov, who wants to defect from Russia's bloc under the protection of the West's security services. Sam Wylde finds herself in a dangerous crossfire when the Russians, MI6, and the CIA are clashing to get her client, dead or alive. And Sam has to choose her side in this deadly spy game. Based on the Sam Wylde novel *Safe from Harm* by RJ Bailey, published by Simon & Schuster.

Screenwriter

Matti Laine is a prolific screenwriter, author, and actor, who lives in Helsinki, Finland. He is one of the writers of the Netflix series *Border-*

town, and the head writer on the YLE/MediaPro co-production *Kosta/The Paradise*. Matti is also a successful author and has nine well-received crime novels under his belt, including the Elias Vitikka Series.

Producer

Mikko Tenhunen's feature films include *Unknown Soldier*, *Helene*, *FC Venus*, *Body of Water*, *2 Nights till Morning*, and *The Violin Player*. The feature films produced have premiered at the festivals in Karlovy Vary, Shanghai, Beijing, Moscow, Tallinn, Montreal, and Göteborg and have sold over 2 million tickets in cinemas. The action TV series *Omerta 6/12* was sold worldwide as well as the TV series version of *The Unknown Soldier*. Tenhunen was selected for the Producers on the Move 2015 and he is an EAVE graduate 2008.

Company profile

MJÖLK Movies started in 2015 by producing award-winning feature films and short films. *Distractions* by director Aleksi Salmenperä premiered at Tallinn International Film Festival, *2 Nights till Morning* by Mikko Kuparinen won the best director award at the Montreal International Film Festival. *The Violin Player* (2018) by Paavo Westerberg premiered in main competition at the Göteborg International Film Festival. Several other feature length films and television series are in development including *The Best Mothers and Daughters* by Lenka Hellstedt, and feature films *Year of The Hare* and *Someday Jennifer* in development. *Sam Wylde: Bodyguard* is a six-episode thriller series based on the explosive novel series by RJ Bailey.

The project will be presented by **Mikko Tenhunen**.

Contact

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MIDPOINT
INSTITUTE

We are paving the way for success in the European film and TV industry

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consultants, development executives
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& IMPROVE SKILLS

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IN PRAGUE

MIDPOINT Series Launch 2022

MIDPOINT Series Launch (previously known as TV Launch), an "idea-to-market" drama series project development program, is the only existing residential, project-based training targeting and tailoring its content for the creative teams of emerging professionals coming from the Central and Eastern European region and the only program of this kind working with both limited and ongoing series. Spanning over eight months, it also offers a training for junior/aspiring development executives.

Collaborating with a wide spectrum of tutors from both Western and Eastern Europe, who bring their expertise in the fields of writing, directing, producing, financing, marketing, pitching and distribution, the program offers a thorough and effective development process. It also helps the projects to be built in a "bottom-up" manner: from a very early development stage, the creative teams of writers and producers are led to defining their series concept and theme and outlining their pilot scripts, to creating their season arc and season outlines, as well as pitching documents and a financing strategy, to marketing and pitching their project and expanding their network.

The entire development process is used as a platform to train the at-

tending development executive participants, who are being prepared for their future role of commissioning editors and development producers on real, existing series projects, acquiring skills needed for developing a diverse range of projects.

Projects developed within MIDPOINT Series Launch are presented at the most established professional industry platforms, accepted to the leading international TV markets and festival, commissioned, and developed by significant European broadcasters and financiers and its graduates have proven to become an important element in both their local and the international audiovisual ecosystem.

MIDPOINT Series Launch 2022 is realized with the support of the Creative Europe – MEDIA Programme of the European Union, the Ministry of Culture Czech Republic, the Slovak Audiovisual Fund, and the Czech Film Fund. It runs in partnership with Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event, CHARACTER - Film Development Association, HBO Europe, Czech Audiovisual Producers' Association, Series Mania, Art Department Masterclass, Sofia Meetings, New Europe Market, C21 Media, and Serial Eyes. MIDPOINT Institute operates under the auspices of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague.

Tutors



Gabor Krigler
Head of Studies,
Group Leader



Katrin Merkel
Group Leader



Tatjana Samopjan
Group Leader



Steve Matthews
Development
Executive Mentor



Marike Muselaers
Financing Tutor



Nebojsa Taraba
Producer Tutor



Agathe Berman
Pitching Tutor



Harald Hamrell
Director Tutor



Rudolf Leska
Legal Tutor



Benjamin Harris
Guest Tutor



Ben Morris
Guest Tutor



Maggie Murphy
Guest Tutor



Cyril Tysz
Guest Tutor

BABEL

MIDPOINT Series Launch 2022
GREECE, UK, FRANCE



Project original title: Babel
Countries: Greece, UK, France
Genre: drama, crime drama
Screenwriter: Simon Coss
Director: Georgis Grigorakis
Producer: Jack Thomas-O'Brien
Production companies: Sixteen Films (UK), Blonde Productions (Greece)
Languages: Greek, French, English
Production budget per season (in EUR): 6 000 000
Type: ongoing series
Number of episodes: 4
Duration of episode (in minutes): 60
Looking for: sales agent, public funds (national, regional, international), broadcasters

Logline

When a body is discovered in an Athens squat in an abandoned hotel earmarked for redevelopment by a huge multinational building firm, its status as a safe-haven for refugees, the homeless and the dispossessed is thrown into chaos.

Synopsis

The story unfolds in and around the abandoned Hotel Olympia, a self-governed squat in a run-down Athens neighbourhood, home to anarchists, refugees, unemployed Greeks, artists: a veritable tower of babel of the dispossessed. The Hotel is under constant threat of eviction by

Orion, a multinational construction company that is trying to redevelop the neighbourhood. When a dead body is discovered during a party, Tina persuades Yanis and Samira to cover up the incident, convinced the authorities would shut the squat immediately if they found out. Her decision sparks a chain of events none of them could have predicted and throws the very existence of the Olympia and all it stands for into chaos.

Screenwriter

Simon Coss is a Franco-British filmmaker and screenwriter. Aside from *Babel: Hotel Olympia*, he is currently developing two feature film projects. He also works as a documentary director and his films have been broadcast on ARTE and France Télévisions.

Director

Georgis is a director of films, documentaries, and promo videos with a background in social psychology and a Master's in Directing from Britain's NFTS. He has directed short films that have garnered international attention and received awards at over a hundred film festivals. His debut feature film, *DIGGER*, was produced by Athina Rachel Tsangari's Haos Film in co-production with Le Bureau in France. It premiered at the 70th Berlinale.

Producer

Jack works as a producer at Ken Loach's company Sixteen Films. He was assistant producer on Ken Loach's last feature film as well as working on *I, Daniel Blake*. Jack oversees the slate at Sixteen Films which in the last eighteen months has expanded into a diverse range of projects.

Contact

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Simon Coss



**Georgis
Grigorakis**



Jack Thomas-O'Brien

CHILDOCRACY



Project original title: Bērņokrātija
Countries: Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania
Genre: drama, comedy
Screenwriters: Andris Gauja, Elza Gauja
Directors: Andris Gauja, Elza Gauja
Producers: Andris Gauja, Elza Gauja
Production companies: Riverbed (Latvia), Film Tower (Estonia), Artbox (Lithuania)
Languages: Latvian, English, Estonian, Lithuanian
Production budget per season (in EUR): 180 000
Type: limited series
Number of episodes: 6
Duration of episode (in minutes): 45
Looking for: sales agent, foreign broadcasters, co-producers

Logline

Hoping to save face of a hypocritical ecovillage, its adults agree to grant their kids equal rights with the parents. The kids make the village bloom again, but the parents find themselves under the thumb of their kids.

Synopsis

Childocracy series is developing as a European co-production, welcoming other co-producers, distributors, sales and broadcasters to get on board. In an ecovillage on the brink of bankruptcy, children accuse their parents of being hypocritical, so they demand the adults to

become real progressive and share their power with the kids. At first, parents agree to conduct an equal rights experiment. As kids have a lot of fresh ideas, the experiment helps the village to attract new customers after a while. Many adults see the advantage of their kids now not only earning income but also making the washed out ecovillage bloom again. However, as the kids get the taste of power, they start to want more, so they gradually manage to get the majority in the village council and introduce rules which go in contradiction to what parents want. Now adults decide to cut short the experiment, but it seems to be too late — kids have now moved to their forest camp. When the conflict seems to have reached its utter dead end, the majority of adults decide they should surrender to kids to get them back.

Screenwriters

Elza Gauja, an alumnus of MFI Script 2 Film and Ex Oriente, has written and directed her feature documentary debut as well as two narrative films. **Andris Gauja** has written and directed several documentaries, including the award-winning *Family Instinct* as well as two narrative films. Andris has also consulted several narrative scripts and is teaching film directing at the Riseba University.

Producers

Andris Gauja has produced four narrative films and two documentaries, he has taken part at the MFI Script 2 Film, Kids Kino.Lab, Ex Oriente and other labs. **Elza Gauja**, alumnus of the MFI Script 2 Film and Ex Oriente, has produced two fiction films and a full length documentary. Both Elza and Andris are running Riverbed, an independent film production company based in Riga, Latvia.

Contact

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Elza Gauja



Andris Gauja

GRAY DIVORCE



Project original title: Gray Divorce
Country: Serbia
Genre: dramedy
Screenwriters: Lea Stanković, Ivan Knežević
Producer: Ivan Knežević
Language: Serbian
Production budget per season (in EUR): 10 000 000
Type: ongoing series
Number of episodes: 8
Duration of episode (in minutes): 30
Looking for: co-producers, foreign broadcasters, streamers

Logline

After finally retiring from their family company at the end of their sixties, Angelina and Zoran realise that they have radically different ideas on how they should spend the rest of their lives. When there's no more work or family to take care of, what is left of them?

Synopsis

Angelina and Zoran Kovach live a comfortable upper-middle-class life. In their late sixties, running a successful real estate business. Finally fed up with their control-freaking, their daughter Sofija throws them a retirement party. At first horrified, Angelina and Zoran agree: it's time for retirement.

The previously outgoing and adventurous Zoran sees retirement as peace. Relaxation. Boredom. A country house. A little vegetable gar-

den. Walks through the countryside. And every year, the same Mediterranean cruise.

The previously unassuming and quiet Angelina imagined retirement as adventure. Travel. Food. Skiing. Rollercoasters. Seeing places she didn't have time to see. Having experiences she always longed for, but never could.

Angelina and Zoran desperately search for a solution that will work for both of them. Because they're only sure of one thing: they love each other. Or is it just a habit that kept them together?

Screenwriter

Born in 1985 in Belgrade, **Lea** has 12 years experience of working in advertising, which she has recently decided to expand upon by delving into the world of screenwriting.

As part of Masters programme TV Series – Creative process, under the mentorship of Dragan Bjelogrić and Vuk Ršumović, she developed the miniseries *Good Intentions*.

Producer

Ivan Knežević was born 1984 in Novi Sad, Serbia. Works as a screenwriter, editor and producer. Graduate of the 2017/2018 SerialEyes program at the dffb in Berlin. Finalist of the 2020 Netflix + Imagine Impact pitch competition. Has projects in development with HBO Max, Netflix, Disney+, UFA Fiction, Odeon Fiction GmbH and Firefly Productions.

Contact

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direktors@gmail.com



Lea Stanković



Ivan Knežević

I'M M

MIDPOINT Series Launch 2022
POLAND



Project original title: I'M M
Country: Poland
Genre: dramedy
Screenwriter: Monika Franczak
Producer: Anna Różalska
Production company: Match&Spark Sp. z o.o.
Language: Polish
Production budget per season (in EUR): 1 900 000
Type: limited series
Number of episodes: 6
Duration of episode (in minutes): 30
Looking for: streamers, broadcasters, co-producers

Logline

Maja 42, pretends to be 36, visionary scientist, loses control over her private and professional life and has to learn why other people's health and happiness can't be more important than her own needs. A touching dramedy about womanhood in contemporary Poland.

Synopsis

Maja Roj, an overachiever of Polish science and a startup business dreams big of saving the world with her innovations. While being almost constantly on the move, Maya just can't keep friends around. She engages in casual love affairs, yet no one can access her inner

life. In the space of a few days, Maja's world gets shaken to the ground. The main business angel, who has been securing the financial condition of Maja's company for years, puts all the stability at risk while retiring and presenting his completely inexperienced daughter as his replacement. At the same time, doctors inform Maja that she has just entered the stage of early menopause. If she wants to become a mother (or not), it's the last moment for a conscious decision. As they say - crisis is the point of true beginning. Maja has to embark on the challenging trip to herself when finding her real-life purpose will mix with the attempts of regaining control and establishing genuine relationships with people she least expected.

Screenwriter

Monika cooperates with various Polish and foreign film production companies writing and consulting TV series, fiction movies, documentary projects and animations. She is a member of the Polish Screenwriters Guild and vice-chairperson of the board of B2B Doc - Baltic to Black Sea Documentary Network, with which she regularly cooperates as a storytelling tutor.

Producer

Anna is an experienced film & TV series producer, entrepreneur, lecturer, and strategist. In 2015, she co-founded Match and Spark, a production company and one of the leading talent agencies in Poland. Anna has worked as Head of Original Productions and Co-productions at CANAL+ Poland. Prior to that, she co-produced the documentary *In The Name Of Honor* and served as an Executive Producer on *Who Will Write Our History* produced alongside Nancy Spielberg. While working in Alvernia Studios Anna co-produced *Arbitrage*, starring Richard Gere and *Vamps*, starring Sigourney Weaver. Her new co-production *Norwegian Dream* is awaiting its premiere in 2023.



Anna Różalska



Monika Franczak

Contact

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KANUN



Project original title: Kanun
Countries: Italy, Albania
Genre: crime
Screenwriter: Giulio Rizzo
Producer: Ariens Damsi
Production company: ElioFilm
Languages: Italian, Albanian
Production budget per season (in EUR): 4 800 000
Type: ongoing series
Number of episodes: 6
Duration of episode (in minutes): 50
Looking for: co-producers, broadcasters, distributors

Logline

After his dad dies, Arion (23), who led a quiet life in Italy, discovers he is heir to an Albanian clan of marijuana farmers. But his uncle Ervin (26), a sworn virgin, challenges his succession.

Synopsis

Arion (23) has always led a quiet life in Italy. Ervin (27), a sworn virgin, has always been a right-hand man to his older brother Elion, heir to the Sinanaj family and one of the most powerful marijuana growers in Albania. After Elion's murder, Arion's existence as the man's bastard son is revealed to the rest of the family: so Arion is dragged against his will

into their internal power plays, ousting Ervin in the line of succession... Just as a blood feud is about to begin. For better or worse, the two of them represent the younger generation of the Sinanaj family and will have to forge their own fate.

Screenwriter

Born in Genoa, during the academic year 2009-10 he took part in an exchange program and lived with a host family in Germany. He speaks and writes fluently in Italian, English, and German. Always attracted by audiovisual storytelling, he moved to Rome to graduate in screenwriting at the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in 2014. In Rome, he's been working as a screenwriter and assistant director on various short films and collaborates on the writing of stage plays. In 2018-19, he attended the master's programme for TV series writers Serial Eyes, at the DFFB school in Berlin. He has worked as author for, among others, Lailaps Films (DE); Beauvoir Film (CH); Fabula Pictures, Cross Productions, Sergio Bonelli Editore (IT). As development consultant, he supervised all ElioFilm projects in 2020; he then moved to EndemolShineItaly in 2021. He wrote *Body Odyssey*, currently in post-production. The film is an Italian-Swiss co-production shot in English, with Julian Sands and Jay Fuchs.

Producer

Ariens is a producer developing bold stories with strong universal values, aiming to resonate with global audiences. Creative and curious, he loves movies' capability of bringing people into fragments of lives that they would never experience otherwise. Obsessed by music, details, worship scripts like a cult. Believe it or not, he's also kind and fun.



Giulio Rizzo



Ariens Damsi

Contact

Ariens Damsi
ariens@eliofilm.com

NINO @ ILIKO



Project original title: ნინო და ილიკო
Country: Georgia
Genre: historical drama, music film, romance
Screenwriters: Maka Kukulava, Uta Beria
Producer: Nino Chichua
Production company: 1991 Productions
Language: Georgian
Production budget per season (in EUR): 3 000 000
Type: limited series
Number of episodes: 4
Duration of episode (in minutes): 50
Looking for: broadcasters, co-producers, streamers

Logline

Two dancers in love define a nation.

Synopsis

In the newly Sovietised Georgia, where fear and surveillance reigns and people are executed at night, two young dancers Nino and Iliko meet each other on the stage of Tbilisi Opera & Ballet Theatre. Love is born together with the goal to start a dance company inspired by the national folklore which will later change the course of Georgian culture.

Nino & Iliko is set in the period between 1925 and 1957. While telling the love story of two talented dancers, intertwined with beautiful cho-

reography, the series focuses on the couple's inner and outer struggles on the way of creating the "Sukhishvili National Ballet".

Screenwriters

Screenwriter and playwright **Maka Kukulava** (Georgia) holds a BA and MA in Screenwriting. In 2011, she received an award for the best feature screenplay. Maka has worked as a film and art critic and served as the guest editor for Georgian film magazine *Film Print*. She worked as a jury member at Georgian National Film Center funding competitions. Her plays have been performed at theaters in Georgia.

Director and screenwriter **Uta Beria** (Georgia) holds a BA in Film and TV Directing and MFA in Screenwriting. In 2019, Uta wrote and directed his first feature *Negative Numbers*, which screened at international festivals, receiving the EU Human Rights in Cinema Award. In 2022, Uta won production funding from GNFC & CNC for his second feature *Tear Gas*.

Producer

Nino Chichua is the founder of 1991 Productions, a Tbilisi-based film production and service company. She develops, finances and produces talented directors' fiction and documentary films through European co-productions. Her most recent work is director Levan Akin's new feature currently in production, produced by French Quarter Film (SE) and co-produced by 1991 Productions among others. Her documentary *Glory to the Queen*, 2020 (GE, AT, SRB) was funded by Eurimages and screened over 25 festivals, winning the Best Documentary award in Georgia in 2021. Nino graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, with a BA in Film & TV Production.



Nino Chichua



**Maka Kukulava
Uta Beria**

Contact

Nino Chichua
nino@1991productions.com

OTHER WHITE



Project original title: Other White
Countries: Slovakia, Czech Republic, UK
Genre: comedy-drama
Screenwriter: Matus Krajnak
Director: Matus Krajnak
Producers: Matej Sotnik, Lucia Brutovska
Production company: GUČA Films
Languages: English
Production budget per season (in EUR): 1 900 000
Type: ongoing series
Number of episodes: 10
Duration of episode (in minutes): 30
Looking for: streamers, broadcasters, co-producers

Logline

A comedy-drama about the struggles of four young professionals from Eastern Europe chasing dreams, ambitions and love in London.

Synopsis

Every year, thousands of European newcomers arrive in London hoping for a bright future. Soon they have to learn to live in rough conditions where nobody cares about their dreams, where a great romance is not on the menu, and where new immigrant friends seem just as miserable and lonely. *Other White* is a half-hour show about how difficult it is to be a young immigrant chasing professional and romantic

dreams in contemporary London. It's a series about outsiders who desperately want to be included in a new society but cannot find the way in.

The term Other White is a classification of ethnicity in the United Kingdom to describe white persons who are not of the English, Welsh, Scottish, Romani or Irish ethnic groupings.

Screenwriter

Matus Krajnak is a Slovak born, London based director, writer and performer graduated from the German Film & TV Academy Berlin DFFB. He is a Berlinale Talents alumnus and a Directors UK member. His queer comedy web series *Sexfluencing* just won Serien-camp Award and London Web Fest Award, and his *Sex Commercial* was previously shortlisted for Young Director Award in Cannes. www.matus-krajnak.com

Producers

Matej Sotnik is a creative director of Film Expanded Distribution Company and producer in GUČA Films. Currently, he is producing 5 feature-length international co-productions, set all around the world. As a distributor he worked with a number of films from Berlinale, Cannes, Locarno IFF or IFF Rotterdam.

Lucia Brutovska is a London based producer from Slovakia. She has been working in UK TV production since 2018, working on multiple projects in development, coordinating international productions from smaller TV series to big budget productions.



Matus Krajnak



Matej Sotnik



Lucia Brutovska

Contact

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A REMARKABLE WOMAN



Project original title: A Remarkable Woman
Countries: France, UK, Ukraine
Genre: costume drama, comedy, coming of age
Screenwriter: Anastasiia Starova
Producer: Cristian Nicolescu
Language: English, some French
Production budget per season (in EUR): TBD
Type: ongoing series
Number of episodes: 8
Duration of episode (in minutes): 45
Looking for: co-producers, broadcasters, streamers

Logline

In 1880s Paris, a vain mademoiselle of minor nobility receives some unfortunate news: her lung health is poor, and she's going to die. To outwit death, she vows to get famous ASAP. Whatever it takes.

Synopsis

In 1880s Europe, Marie (18), an ambitious Mademoiselle of minor Ukrainian nobility, is full of life. After travelling through Europe and charming high society with her beautiful opera voice, Marie finally arrives in Paris to fulfil a childhood prophecy. She was born to be a star! Within days, Marie convinces the most celebrated singing master in the city to make her his student. But a dark twist follows: a longtime

illness turns terminal, Marie's left lung collapses, her beautiful voice perishes, and her hearing starts to fade. In a quest to outsmart destiny, Marie vows to become famous before she dies. Fighting against a storm of antagonising forces – her fading health, her dysfunctional family, and social prejudice – Marie pushes the limitations of her body and her era to reach for fame. Based on the remarkable diaries of Ukrainian artist Marie Bashkirtseff that went viral after her death and are considered one of the earliest attempts by a woman to curate a personal brand.

Screenwriter

Anastasiia Starova is a Ukrainian writer/filmmaker based in Montreal. A Remarkable Woman is her first series project, and she is now developing a portfolio of scripted pilots. Her writing is female-centric, darkly humorous and explores themes of identity, immigration, and memory. Anastasiia works as a project manager in visual effects production. Her credits include Guillermo del Toro's *The Shape of Water*, Universal's *F9: The Fast Saga*, and John Logan's *Penny Dreadful*. She is a member of the Producers' Guild of America.

Producer

Cristian Nicolescu is an Oscar and BAFTA-nominated film producer/co-producer and the co-founder of Digital Cube and Avanpost – one of Eastern Europe's most significant post-production hubs. He has over 15 years of experience in post-production for films, and he was a film editor and post-production supervisor for more than 50 titles. He has recently moved countries, selling his post-production business, and he now focuses on development, financing and building a new slate of projects. He is now based in London.

Contact

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**Anastasiia
Starova**



**Cristian
Nicolescu**

SPLASHING AROUND



Project original title: Potapljanje Lune Tjulen
Country: Slovenia
Genre: coming of age, comedy, drama
Screenwriter: Hanna Szentpéteri
Director: Hanna Szentpéteri
Producer: Zala Opara
Production company: Vertigo Ljubljana
Languages: Slovenian, Croatian, English
Production budget per season (in EUR): 1 300 000
Type: ongoing series
Number of episodes: 10
Duration of episode (in minutes): 30
Looking for: broadcasters, co-producers, sales agent

Logline

When Luna's irresponsible parents get a job in her high school dorm building, she goes from having to parent her parents to parenting a whole building of teens, all while struggling to become a professional swimmer and attempting to retain a semblance of her adolescence.

Synopsis

After burning their house down, Luna's hippie parents get a job in her student dorm, at which point Luna goes from having to parent her parents to parenting a whole building of teens. When Luna's parents run out of money, they put their burnt house on the market, to no avail. To help, Luna starts a business in the dorms.

Luna struggles with her romantic feelings towards her roommate and finds out her classmate and swim team captain, Žaži, is actually her half brother. This secret eventually separates Luna's parents. Overwhelmed, Luna goes to seek guidance from her mentor, Uroš, who is inappropriate with her.

Luna's parents reunite over their fight with the school board, insisting Uroš be fired. The Tjulen family then find out they finally have a buyer for their family hostel, who is willing to let them keep running it, in exchange for them joining his cult.

Screenwriter

Hanna Szentpéteri is currently developing her first feature film, Thursday is the New Friday, and her first TV series titled *Splashing Around*. Both are in development with Vertigo Ljubljana, Slovenia based film production company. Her TV series is currently in development at the MIDPOINT Series Launch and will be pitched at the Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event. After completing her Bachelor's degree in Film Studies and her Masters in Film directing, Hanna made five short films, three of which people actually watched. When she's not screenwriting or directing, she teaches film workshops to young adults.

Producer

Zala earned a BA in Film at Falmouth Uni (UK), continuing her studies in MA in Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology (SI, ESP), financed by the Slovenian Ministry of Culture. Before joining Vertigo she gained international working experience on narrow budget films with independent production companies in the UK and NL. She's an alumna of Sarajevo Talents and MIDPOINT. She is a member of the international jury for the Sarajevo Film Festival Drama Series Awards.

Contact

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Hanna Szentpéteri



Zala Opara

MIDPOINT Series Launch 2022 Development Executives

Name: Nada Lapčević
Country: Serbia / UK
Languages: Serbian, English
Focus: socially-engaged storytelling
Looking for: public funds (national / regional / international), co-producers, broadcasters, streamers, gap financing, private funds



Biography

Nada Lapčević is an independent producer from Serbia. She graduated from The Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade in Film and Television production. Nada began working as line producer on the feature documentary film *Celestial Theme*, directed by Mladen Matičević. For the last 10 years, she has been working with Filmart in Serbia, organising Interaction. Awarded an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship, Nada graduated in 2021 from the Kino Eyes Movie Masters. She has gone on to become an alumni of LiM | Less is More and is currently attending MIDPOINT Series Launch as a DE trainee. Based in Edinburgh, she is producing *Thorntree*, a feature documentary, while developing two fiction projects and working as a production manager and line producer on multiple documentaries, including *I am Irvine Welsh* produced by LS Films and Martin Scorsese on Powell and Pressburger produced by Ten Thousand 86.

Contact

Nada Lapčević
nadja@varda.pictures
+44 0 734292 4654 / +381 61 153 6593

Name: Dagmar Sedláčková
Country: Czech Republic
Languages: Czech, English
Focus: comedy / drama, fiction and docu series, authentic voices from new generation



Biography

Dagmar Sedláčková (1987) graduated from the Department of Film Studies at Charles University in Prague and from the Department of Production at FAMU. In 2014, she joined the independent production company MasterFilm as a producer and partner. She works mainly with young talents; her goal is to foster a conducive environment, allowing projects to be brought to fruition with the minimum of creative compromise. Films she produced competed in Cannes (Cinéfondation), Locarno (Pardo di Domani) or Annecy (Shorts film in Competition). As associated producer she worked on documentary film *Brotherhood* (dir. Francesco Montagner), which won Pardo d'Oro at IFF Locarno 2021. She co-produced Maks Makonechnyi's debut film *Butterfly Vision*, which was premiered in *Un Certain Regard* at Cannes 2022. As creative producer, she developed and produced the documentary true crime podcast *Girl Missing*, which premiered in spring 2020 and was awarded by several radio prizes. She is a co-founder of the Girls in film platform in Prague, which represents, champions and connects the new generation of female-identified creatives in the film industry.

Contact

Dagmar Sedláčková
dagmar@masterfilm.cz
+420 733 579 107

Name: Oleksandrina Vyshnevskya
Country: Ukraine
Languages: English, Ukrainian, Russian
Focus: scripted drama,
comedy, feature film
Looking for: co-producers, co-
development partners, broadcasters,
platforms



Biography

Oleksandrina started her career as an International Activities Manager at FILM.UA Group, where she was responsible for coordinating FILM.UA's development strategy and promotion of company projects in international markets. In 2019 Oleksandrina rejoined FILM.UA Group as a Development and Co-production Manager and was responsible for strategic direction and development efforts of FILM.UA Group across multiple genres. Currently she's working as a Development Executive at Gingers Media (part of the Organization of Ukrainian Producers). She evaluates, develops and facilitates the production of documentary and scripted drama projects with a focus on international markets. Oleksandrina is a regular attendant of major film and television events, markets and seminars and is being invited as a juror or an expert for local film and TV events as well as international ones, like Rocky Awards at BANFF World Media Festival, Seoul Drama Awards.

Contact

Oleksandrina Vyshnevskya
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+393 773 122 124

MIDPOINT Smash Cut 2022

MIDPOINT Smash Cut is a project-based program designed for creators of short-form series (up to 20 mins per episode) coming from the Central and Eastern European region.

The program is designed to help the participants define their series concept, outline their pilot script and season as well as explain the specifics of short-form series and the difference to long-form series in storytelling. It is led by established series creator Sullivan Le Postec (Woke). Several guest tutors also join the program, covering various aspects of short-form series creation and offering the participants in-depth individual consultations.

Le Postec explains the title of the program: "A smash cut is an editing technique where one scene abruptly cuts to another. You could say it has become the normal cut of the YouTube generation. It's one of the techniques short-form series can use to achieve high efficiency. But more importantly, I felt it was a name evocative of their high, youthful energy: short-form series often have big ambitions."

MIDPOINT Smash Cut 2022 is realized with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and the Czech Film Fund. It runs in partnership with Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event. MIDPOINT Institute operates under the auspices of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague.



Sullivan Le Postec
Group Leader



Kirsten Loose
Guest Tutor



Hyppe Salmi
Guest Tutor



Tim Wagendorp
Guest Tutor

BUDGET AIRLINE



Project original title: Budget Airline
Countries: Latvia, Canada
Genre: comedy, dramedy
Screenwriter: Zane MacDonald
Language: English
Type: ongoing series
Number of episodes: 8
Duration of episode (in minutes): 20

Synopsis

Richard Pinus, a naive yet ambitious dreamer on the wrong side of 35, has zero aviation or business training. But that won't stop him from buying a bankrupt airline on an online auction in one last bid to put his life on the fast-track and maybe even revolutionising the next generation of budget flying.

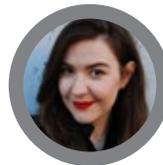
Richard's lofty ambitions puts him in constant conflict with a team who couldn't care less. He's passionate about providing a high-end experience for his passengers but almost always overshoots the airline's financial and professional capabilities. While Richard believes in free luggage, ample legroom and bottomless snacks, business is business.

Richard seems to be the least likely guy for the job, but his passion and courage to follow his dreams ultimately proves contagious and slowly he wins people over. Sure, he can't tell the difference between turnover and revenue and it is way more exciting to sample cured meats for their ham & cheese Panini. But he's learning, okay?

Screenwriter

Zane MacDonald is a Latvian filmmaker, residing in Riga, Latvia. In 2011, she graduated with a BA in Media from Tallinn University's Baltic Film and Media School (Estonia) and, in 2014, she earned an MA in Screenwriting from Edinburgh Napier University, Screen Academy Scotland (UK).

For over a decade she has worked on international films, commercials, and music videos as a producer and production manager. She is a firm believer in the power of good storytelling and she is always open to new creative collaborations. Currently, Zane is focusing on Budget Airline series development together with writer/director Christian MacDonald. And she's got a few other pitches up her sleeve. Email her. No, but really.



Zane MacDonald

Contact

Zane MacDonald
Strangefolk Films
zaneamacd@gmail.com

SLOPPY



Project original title: Lohakas
Country: Estonia
Genre: coming of age, dramedy
Screenwriter: Vivian Säde
Director: Vivian Säde
Language: Estonian
Type: ongoing series
Number of episodes: 6
Duration of episode (in minutes): 20

Logline

Estonian small-town girl Manna's world is rocked when her boyfriend breaks up with her on the same day as her long-divorced parents announce their re-engagement. It also happens to be her 18th birthday...

Synopsis

In the small Estonian island of Saaremaa, Manna, a blue-eyed yet strong-willed 18-year-old with a nervous disposition, gets broken up with by her childhood sweetheart Georg, 19, a slimy professional ice-skater, on the morning of her birthday. Just after this occurs, her mother Jane and father Leo let her know that they've chosen to get remarried after seven years of being divorced. Unable to process both of those things happening at once, Manna bolts to Tallinn in her scrap of

a car, finding her way to the hipster neighborhood of Kalamaja, as well as her cousin Olli, 21, who made her way into the big city a year before due to her mother's conservative views on her homosexuality. The two wreak havoc on "big city" nightlife, including breaking into an ice rink to get revenge on Georg, dating apps and dodgy parties. Manna meets Uku, a not-so-nice guy and also Arno, an-actually-nice-guy, but neither one gives her what she really needs - the courage to be able to face her „big feelings.“

Screenwriter

Vivian Säde is a screenwriter and director from Tallinn, Estonia. Säde graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Audiovisual Media from Tallinn University's Baltic Film and Media School as a writer-director in 2020 and from Edinburgh Napier University (Screen Academy Scotland) with a Master's degree in Screenwriting in 2021. It's About a Wedding, a comedy-drama short film written and directed by Säde, premiered in the National Competition programme of Black Nights Film Festival's PÖFF Shorts 2020 film festival to critical acclaim. Säde is also the owner of production company Moondustfilms (est. 2018), with which she co-produced and directed a music video titled *Never Forget Who You Are* from *Singing Revolution*, a musical from the USA, which premiered in Los Angeles in 2022. Säde is also a member of the Estonian Filmmakers Association.



Vivian Säde

Contact

Vivian Säde
 moondustfilms
 vivian@vivianfilms.com

SNOWFLAKES



Project original title: Snowflakes
Country: Czech Republic
Genre: youth/teen, comedy
Screenwriters: Hana Neničková, Věra Starečková
Producer: Daniel Bleha
Production company: Film Kolektiv
Language: Czech
Type: limited series
Number of episodes: 10
Duration of episode (in minutes): 15

Logline

One cabin, ten classmates, eleven different stories.

Synopsis

Snowflakes is a series about ten high school classmates who are trapped in a cabin's attic during a heavy snowstorm. The electricity stops working and out of boredom, they decide to narrate short stories. Through this idea, each of them has the chance to reflect on their specific life experiences. Each episode mirrors our characters' personalities by focusing on a different topic, theme, and genre. For example, the narration and style of a love story helps one of the students to come out to his classmates whereas notorious slasher genre conventions are used to show a bullied student's fear to stand up for himself. This approach offers us a chance to make each episode play-

ful and distinctive. The more light-hearted episodes inspired by musicals or cooking shows are mixed with darker episodes that explore the topics of toxic masculinity or first drug experiences.

Screenwriters

Hana Neničková has obtained a bachelor's degree in Scriptwriting and Dramaturgy from Prague's FAMU where she is currently finishing her master's. She directed a short movie called *Unrelated Son* which was co-produced by Czech Television and finished second movie, *The Other Side of the Farmland* inspired by a Moravian folklore. Currently she is developing several TV shows. She is mostly focused on opening up feminist issues and experimenting with genres.

Věra Starečková is currently finishing her master's degree in Scriptwriting and Dramaturgy Prague's FAMU. She is a co-writer of short films *Dance Like a Gypsy*, *Father's Hands*, and *Misophonía Orchestra*. Her short *The Butterfly Attack* was shot this August. Meanwhile, she is a part of a writers' room in the Prague based production company Bionaut where she is developing a detective series.

Producer

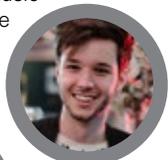
Daniel is finishing his master's degree at the Department of Production at FAMU in Prague. During his studies, he participated in the production of several short fiction films and documentaries, the organisation of festivals, and co-founded the VOD platform Famu Films. He collaborated on several film and television projects and music videos for the production company Film Kolektiv, where he has been working since 2021. He is presently engaged in the development of mainly TV series projects.



Hana Neničková



Věra Starečková



Daniel Bleha

Contact

Daniel Bleha
Film Kolektiv
dan@filmkolektiv.cz

EUROPE IN FOCUS

Industry Innovation Forum Tallinn 2022: Resilience and Foresight for Europe

November 22

15:00-18:30 ➔ *Capella, Nordic Hotel Forum*
Onsite and live streaming at industry.poff.ee

With the continuous cooling of the economic environment, the energy crisis, the Ukraine war as well as the ripple effect of the COVID pandemic, the European film and content industries will be facing a challenging year ahead. Increasing subscription cutting, a peaking competition for screen and attention time, the volatility of the acquisitions market, and the fragility of the value chain are pointing to a potentially drastic reconfiguration of the European audiovisual industry, especially for small and medium-sized players. The ecosystem's fragility is also influenced by the fact that member states and industry funding institutions, in the state of complex geopolitical affairs, are facing a complex road ahead with limits on available support schemes and industry boosting measures to deploy.

Yet paradoxically, it is a critical time for the European audiovisual industry to sustain itself and step up and explore and learn from the lessons of the previous crisis a decade ago. European content is critical in maintaining and promoting European values and democratic principles at a time when those are increasingly contested; European content offerings - whether in festivals and markets, theatrical or digital are called in societies under pressure, the transformation of the industry towards innovation, out of the box business models and the greening is becoming vital in the environment of energy challenges. The European approach and upskilling are critical in shaping the transformation to exponential technologies such as Virtual Production, Metaverse, and Web3 that will significantly transform the indus-

try operational model in the forthcoming years - whether in values, core technologies, talents, and data spaces. And last but not least, the industry needs to maintain solidarity with Ukraine - in strategy and action, so that the voices from the front lines protecting the European way will be seen and heard.

Co-financed by the European Commission and organized in partnership with the Black Nights Film Festival and its Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event Platform, The Industry Innovation Forum returns to Tallinn on 22 November for a half a day executive level forum between policymakers, industry leaders, and innovators to explore debate, and outline new policy and business frameworks and cases in the following areas:

- European Film Funds in transformation. From innovating talents & training to reimagining funding.
- Practical implications, production, and policy frameworks regarding creating a sustainable Virtual Production ecosystem in Europe.
- Enabling and growing trusted partnerships with Ukraine and its audiovisual and innovation industries.
- Exploring and creating the foundations of the next generation European Immersive and Web3 technologies for the audiovisual industry.

The Industry Forum is curated and moderated by **Sten-Kristian Saluveer**, media, technology and innovation strategist and the Founder & CEO of Storytek Innovation & Venture Studio, and Advisor to Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event.

GO LONG!

Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event, PÖFF Shorts, and T-Port join forces

T / P Q R T

PÖFF Shorts is a sub-festival of the Black Nights Film Festival, dedicated to showcasing the very best fiction, animation, and documentary shorts from across the world. With five competitions – which are Academy Award qualifying, BAFTA qualifying, and European Film Award qualifying – as well as a large selection of side programmes and retrospectives, PÖFF Shorts is an anticipated event on the festival circuit not only for the breadth and diversity of its programme but also for the talent it showcases.

Celebrating the art of the short film in and of itself and being there to champion the unique nature of the medium, we also recognise that short films are the beginning of a cinematic journey that will lead to feature films for many young filmmakers. With the world of short films filled with bright and exciting young talents, many filmmakers who are currently making a mark on the world of short films will soon be stepping into the world of features.

Go Long aims to nurture a select number of filmmakers whose shorts have screened in competition at PÖFF Shorts. Taking filmmakers who are at the very beginning of their journey into the world of feature films, Go Long will offer the participants advice on their ideas via informal networking from a panel of industry professionals. The participants will then be able to better negotiate the feature film world with invaluable tips and feedback to their feature proposals.

Experts

Laurence Boyce started out at the Leeds IFF in the UK to become an award-winning critic for various outlets, including Sight and Sound and Screen International. He is the head of programme for the live action section of PÖFF Shorts. He is a member of BAFTA, FIPRESCI, the European Film Academy, London Critics' Circle, and is on the board of the Short Film Conference.



Vassilis Kroustallis is a Greek film and animation professional, who currently serves as Animation Programme director at PÖFF Shorts, and animation programmer for PÖFF festival. Since 2011, he runs an online animation news journal Zippy Frames. He is also a film critic and scholar, and has served

as jury member at various festivals, and is an Annie Awards voting member.



Rickard Olsson is a Swedish freelance producer and film industry consultant operating out of Turin, Italy, with over 25 years of experience in various positions for companies, funds, and institutions in the audiovisual sector across Europe.

Amos Geva is a co-founder the head of industry at T-Port, the online platform for emerging filmmakers. Holds a BA in Film & Television from Tel-Aviv University. Leaping into European production following the Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris, and since been based in Berlin. Geva has been awarded at numerous renowned international film festivals both as director and producer. A member of the European Film Academy.



Ben Vandendaele is a producer, sales agent, and distributor. Founder of the production company Bekke Films and Radiator IP Sales, with which he represents, distributes, and sells a total of 200 short films and several feature films. The films have been selected and awarded at multiple international film festivals. Member of European Film Academy and Berlinale Talents alumni.



Marcin Luczaj is a graduate of the University of Lodz, the University of Warsaw, EAVE Puentes, and TFL's ScriptLab. He is currently overseeing acquisitions at the Warsaw-based New Europe Film Sales. Marcin has several years of experience as a programmer for Warsaw Film Festival and ZabrOFFka International ShortFilm Festival, and as a guest curator for various international film festivals.



Consultant

Grete Nellis has a background in Theatre and Literature Studies and Cultural Management. She has worked as a producer for theatre, film, and art festivals and as an independent creative producer for theatre and dance productions. She is the current head of Black Nights Film Festival short film and animation sub-festival PÖFF Shorts.



MEET THE...

November 23-24

13:00-14:00 ➔ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Kaminasaal*

Is the new networking and matchmaking corner of Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Six renowned professionals, six lunch tables at which you can enjoy a side dish of invaluable advice from experienced and established mentors: producers, financiers, executive directors, etc. Intended for professionals seeking expert advice and contact, but open for all the attending guests wishing to enlarge their professional networks. Don't miss your chance – limited places available! Registration online: industry.poff.ee under Programme.

Mentors on November 23

Denitsa Yordanova is the head of UK Global Screen Fund, a £7 million p.a. initiative of the UK government and the BFI. Denitsa has over 10 years of experience in the media and entertainment industry, most recently in independent TV production at All3Media and Endemol Shine. Prior to this, she was responsible for business development and investment initiatives at Guardian Media Group, and helped spearhead its venture investment strategy and manage an investment fund of over £1 billion.



Patrick Fischer is a financier and creative entrepreneur. Having started as a producer he found a passion for building companies as well as telling stories on screen. He has helped finance over forty films and series with budgets in excess of \$100m and has provided post-production and co-production services to over 100 films and television productions. Voted one of the Top 100 "individuals who have brought the most influence, innovation and inspiration to the British Creative and Media Industries" by Screen and TimeOut.



Katharina Suckale is the founder and a producer at BBFP, founded 12 years ago with the aim to tell stories that resonate internationally. With offices based out of Mumbai and Berlin, the company has produced, co-produced and co-developed features films and series, plus provided Executive/Line Production services to channels like ZDF, ARD, Discovery, etc. The company is presently developing web series for two reputed platforms and two in-house feature film projects.



Mentors on November 24

Katriel Schory studied at the NYU Film School. An active producer from 1973. 1974-1999: Founder and Managing Director of Belfilms. Produced over 150 titles. For more than 20 years since 1999 the Executive Director of the Israel Film Fund. Authorised the support and promotion of more than 300 full-length narrative feature films in Israel and worldwide, of which more than 80 were international co-productions, mainly with Europe. Among the films he authorised, many won prestigious awards, including four Oscar nominations for the American Academy, Golden & Silver Lions in Venice, and Bears in Berlin.



Anna Różalska is a film & TV series producer, entrepreneur, lecturer, and strategist. In 2015 co-founded Match and Spark, a production company and one of the leading talent agencies in Poland. She has almost twenty years of experience working on international co-productions and TV series. As an experienced executive who used to run production departments at Alvernia Studios and PLATIGE IMAGE, she teaches how to prepare a successful pitch and approach cooperation with platforms. During her time at Alvernia Studios, she co-produced Arbitrage, starring Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon and Tim Roth.



Marcello Paolillo is a senior Film Executive with a strong background in distribution, production, acquisition, international sales, and film festivals organisation and programming, he has worked for companies such as Kimmel International, Nexo Digital, Eagle Pictures, Mikado Film, the Rome Film Festival, the Doha Film Institute, and the Locarno Festival. In 2018, he founded the production company Art of Panic with Lucia Nicolai.



INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTIONS IN EARLY STAGES

Navigating the Legal Aspects

The session is organised by **Baltic and Nordic Creative Europe MEDIA Desks in collaboration with the Erich Pommer Institut.**

November 23rd

12-13:30 📍 *Nordic Hotel Forum, 2nd floor,
conference room Arcturus*
On site and online at industry.poff.ee

In 2021, Creative Europe MEDIA introduced a new scheme for producers – co-development, a modification of earlier Single Development. At the time when international co-productions are common and even natural, the early phase of collaboration – co-development – is still rather new. The session will concentrate on the legal aspects of co-development, proposing the best practices and agreements producers should conclude or avoid during that stage. The topic is elaborated by internationally experienced audiovisual lawyer Guido Hettinger, followed by more practical input by Hanna Hemila, experienced Finnish producer from Handle Production, which received funding from the first round of MEDIA co-development call. The discussion between Hanna and Guido is driven by their own experiences, attempting to cover various aspects and practical matters of early co-productions.

Guido Hettinger

is a lawyer and founding partner of the German law firm Brehm & v. Moers (since 1997). At the Frankfurt office, he is responsible for copyright and media law. Guido advises producers of well-known TV programmes and series as well as producers of theatrical films on financing and legal structuring of their productions and on rights clearing and distribution. Guido is an honorary board member of the Freunde und Förderer des deutschen Filmerbes e.V. (Friends and Sponsors of German Film Heritage) and of two film political interest groups in the State of Hesse. He regularly gives lectures on legal issues of film and computer game production and is a lecturer at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences and at the RheinMain University of Applied Sciences.

Hanna Hemila

Finnish film producer and director Hanna Hemila's career spans from the winner of the International Critics Award at the 64th Cannes Film Festival, *Le Havre* directed by Aki Kaurismäki, to multi-award winning family feature *Pelicanman* (Berlinale/Kinderfilmfest 2005), several documentaries, animations, and multinational co-productions.

Hanna made her directorial debut with the Finnish-American documentary feature about the butler of Ingrid Bergman, *Paavo, a Life in Five Courses* (opening film of the 2012 Eurodok film festival, Norway). In 2015, she produced, co-wrote and co-directed *Moomins on the Riviera*, an animated feature based on the iconic Moomin characters by Tove Jansson.

Hanna received the Art Award of the Finnish State in 2001 and was nominated for the national film award Jussi with *Pelicanman* in 2005.

The Erich Pommer Institut (EPI)

is one of the leading providers of professional training in the German and European media landscape and an independent Industry think-tank. Founded in 1998, their mission is to quickly identify current developments in the audiovisual industry as well as challenges in the digital world, and offer programmes that meet these challenges as well as accompany media professionals in their next career steps. Their programs focus on media business, media law and technologies and are supported and funded by strong national and international partners.



CHAIN OF TITLE

How to Make Sure You Acquire All the Rights that You Are Later Required to Transfer Further?

November 24th

15:30-17:00

Workshop by: IP experts of Sorainen law firm

➔ *Nordic Hotel Forum, room Arcuturs*

From an inbound perspective, we will talk about the assignment and licensing of copyrights (both economic and moral) and related rights. From an outbound perspective, we will look into differentiating primary, secondary and ancillary rights.

The discussion will therefore involve the rights of various contributors to the film (screenwriters, actors, crew members) on the one hand and the rights of the production company on the other.

Helery Maidlas

Sorainen's Competition and Regulatory team member Helery Maidlas handles various telecommunications, technology, media, and IP-related questions. Helery specialises in supporting clients from the creative sector – she is most passionate about mat-



ters connected to trademarks and copyrights. Helery also applies her professional knowledge outside of her daily work by supporting different projects that she believes in, i.e. contributing to the organisation of the international movie festival PÖFF.

Olivia Kranich

Olivia Kranich focuses on advising clients in the fields of Intellectual Property (IP). Dealing additionally with commercial contracts gives her a clear advantage in drafting related agreements. Olivia has also extensive experience in the film industry. She has advised local production service providers in relation to many international feature film and TV-series projects, including with regard to the Film Estonia cash rebate system.



FEELS LIKE HOME

Facing Displacement and Building a Film Community in Exile

Joint panel discussion organised by
the Northern Lights Nordic Baltic Film Festival
in Belarus and the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival

November 24th

17:00-18:00 ➔ Nordic Hotel Forum, room Capella
On site and online at industry.poff.ee

After the 2020 revolution and subsequent severe repressions in Belarus, thousands of people were forced to flee their homes and start life anew. Now, independent Belarusian filmmakers reside all over the world but are unable to travel back to their homeland and film there. The risk of being imprisoned and subjected to torture is way too high to take it. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, little has changed in the Belarusian film industry. Even with international funding, independent filmmaking has been barely surviving since then. In 2020, the hope for development and change was pushed even further back, and now independent Belarusian cinema has to find ways to survive and thrive in exile. How do we solidify the community in exile and find resources and mechanisms to move on in life and filmmaking? We explore Belarusian, Estonian, and international experiences.

Speakers

Andrei Kutsila is a filmmaker with over ten documentaries to his name. In 2018, he won the IDFA Award for *Suma*. In 2019, he was awarded for the best documentary at the Kraków Film Festival. His film *When Flowers Are Not Silent* won the Best Feature Documentary Award at the Warsaw FF. In 2021, Andrei left Belarus, and since then he has lived and worked in Poland.



Sasha Kulak is a director, DOP, and photographer. Together with commissioned fashion, music, and identity-building projects for brands, Sasha's portfolio includes a variety of independent cultural projects. The film *Mara* (2022) premiered at the International Film Festival

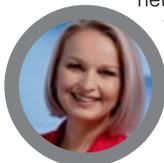


tival Rotterdam. It is a hybrid documentary video essay about Belarusian protests in the summer of 2020.

Volia Chajkouskaya is the founder and program director of the Northern Lights Nordic Baltic Film Festival and a producer and film director from Belarus, currently living in Estonia. She launched Volia Films production company in 2016. In 2019, Volia joined Allfilm production company as a producer and director.



Alina Koushyk is the Representative of the United Transitional Cabinet for National Revival. For the past 15 years, she has worked at Belsat TV as a journalist, TV host, and producer. Alina co-founded the Centre for Belarusian Solidarity in Warsaw and InBelKult 2.0, as well as Belarusian's Women Club in Warsaw. She masterminded the Belarusian business map www.bymapka.me.



Marianna Kaat is an Estonian director and producer. Her professional interest remains in the production of non-fiction films with a focus on Eastern European subjects. As a producer, she worked with the famous Belarusian director Yuri Khashchavatski on *Ploshcha* (2008) and *Lobotomy* (2010).



Moderator

Ben Dalton is an international reporter at Screen International. He attends and reports from major international festivals and markets including Cannes, Venice and Berlin; and covers the whole film chain, from development, production, sales and distribution, through festivals, markets, awards and exhibitions. He regularly writes on key industry topics around diversity and representation, training, production regulations and new forms of exhibition; and hosts panels and discussions for Screen.



GREEN PRODUCTION

Capacity Building Seminar

We all talk about it, but what does it take to actually be green? We have green production plans that we are not able to put into practice, or that don't reach their full potential. Where is the system failing, or rather – where is the gap between the needs, the offer, and the demand?

The event is free of charge and open to everyone working or interested in environmental sustainability in the film and TV industry. For organizational reasons, registration is mandatory. Registration is open until Friday 18th of November subject to availability of places. Registration online: industry.poff.ee under Conferences & Talks

November 24th

9:30-17:30

➔ *Tallinn, Radisson Collection Hotel, Rävåla Puiestee 3*

9:30-10:00 Opening
Welcoming Speech by **Piret Hartman**,
Estonian Minister of Culture
Project presentation and partners' statement

10:00-10:45 Making the Film Industry More Sustainable
Resources, successful stories
and the GreenFilmShooting project
Birgit Heidsiek, CEO of European Centre
for Sustainability in the Media World

10:00-11:00 How to Organise a Green Production
Julia Tordai, GreenEye Production

Break

11:15-11:45 Presentation of the Finnish
Green Production Guide Ekosetti
Anne Puolanne, Sustainability Manager at
the Audiovisual Producers Finland (APFI)
and co-author of Ekosetti guide

11:45-12:15 Presentation of the initiative to make the first sustainable production guide for Stop Motion films
Paulina Zacharek, Founder of Momakin Studio

12:15-12:45 Case Study. Green Film Production in Estonia
Elina Litvinova, Producer, Three Brothers

12:45-14:15 Networking Lunch
➔ *Tallink City Hotel*

14:45-15:15 Presentation and Demo of Eureka Carbon Calculator
Zuzana Bieliková, Film Commissioner, Audiovizuálny
Fond/Slovak Film Fund, Slovak Film Commission

15:15-15:45 Presentation of GreenFilm Ranking System
Luca Ferrario, Director of Trentino Film Commission

15:45-17:00 One-to-one meetings with experts

Participants can book 15 minutes one-to-one meeting with the speakers

- **Luca Ferrario**, Director of Trentino Film Commission (GreenFilm Ranking)
- **Zuzana Bieliková**, Film Commissioner, Audiovizuálny Fond/Slovak Film Fund, Slovak Film Commission (Eureka Carbon Calculator)
- **Anna Poulanne**, Audiovisual Producers Finland, co-author of Ekosetti guide (Ekosetti)
- **Paulina Zacharek**, Founder of Momakin Studio (Stop-Motion Green Guide)
- **Birgit Heidsiek** (GreenFilmShooting)
- **Elina Litvinova**, Three Brothers
- **Julia Tordai**, GreenEye Production

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THE NEAR FUTURE RETREAT

(Re)Starting the Conversation

The Near Future Retreat: (Re)Starting the Conversation is organised by Industry@Tallinn Baltic Event & New Nordic Narratives – Helene Granqvist, Valeria Richter, Sten-Kristian Saluveer

This is a pre-registered event. Limited places available.
Apply at <https://tally.so/r/3lae8o> or industry.poff.ee under Programme
Deadline: Nov. 18th

November 25th

11:00-15:00 ➔ *Kaminasaal, Nordic Hotel Forum*

Business, as usual, is gone. We are stuck between what isn't working without knowing how to move forward.

Broken business models and value chains. Creative stagnation. Shrinking audiences. Collaboration, access, and financing structures that are unrepresentative of the diversity and abundance of voices and stories in the world. A heavy carbon footprint. A lack of responsibility.

A fear of technology for the future. All of these are well-defined, talked about ills and worries in the film and TV landscape in Europe and globally.

Now, highlighted across the backdrop of a global political, energy, and environmental crisis, it is time to (re)start the conversation. To (re)connect our joint agency, (re)imagine, (re)generate and nurture new forms and avenues of leadership in the community, and take concrete, decisive, and immediate action.

The Near Future Retreat: (Re)Starting the Conversation is a half-day, invite-only, Chatham house rules-based* thought retreat for the film and TV landscape's current and future leaders, creators, professionals, and shapers. We promise a safe space for truthful exchanges in a confidential environment, inspirational moments for visionaries from the world's top experts from other disciplines, aimed towards taking action for a resilient and sustainable film and TV landscape of the future.

*) Under the Chatham House Rule, anyone who comes to a meeting is free to use information from the discussion but is not allowed to reveal who made any particular comment. It is designed to increase the openness of discussion.

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