

# 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



**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

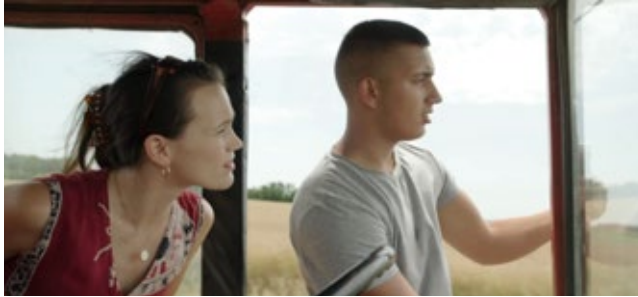
**Pelicano Cine** is a film production company based in Argentina. Our objective is focused on the search of new talents and content with strong themes and a unique voice and style that would transcend the commercial circuits. We have vast experience in the film industry individually and together we 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).

## Contact

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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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