

# Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event and PÖFF Shorts join forces for GO LONG!

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.

## PARTICIPANTS

**Sander Joon** has previously directed three films: *Velodrool* (2015), *Moulinet* (2017), and *Sounds Good* (2018), which travelled to festivals such as Annecy, DOK Leipzig, Ottawa, Go Short, Stuttgart, Fredrikstad, Kaboom, Supertoona, Animateka, and GLAS. Besides films, he has animated a music video for Tommy Cash, participated in a popular commercial for Rick and Morty, and has been a VJ to numerous events. Sander also worked as a 2D artist for the multi-awarded film *The Old Man Movie* (2019) and is teaching traditional animation at the Estonian Academy of Arts. Currently, he is working on his short *Sierra*, which is set to premiere in 2022

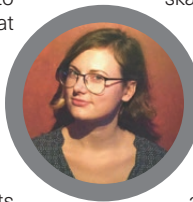


**Barbara Lervig** is an award-winning cinematographer and director, and alumni of the Northern Film School in Leeds, UK. Growing up on the scenic Faroe Islands, surrounded by breaking waves, tall mountains and all manners of natural beauty, Barbara was compelled to start capturing it. What began as an interest in photography quickly shifted into the field of cinematography, where she found her feet in filmmaking, naturally leading her to the scripted short directorial debut of *Where Do We Go?* Barbara's work spans across many different genres including, music videos, dance videos, short scripted films and short documentaries.

Envisioning a life in filmmaking, **Lauri Niemela** enrolled in the Baltic Film, Media and Arts School in Tallinn in 2017. First and foremost interested in concepts people take for granted and drive our life, he's on a quest to define his "film thinking" and praxis. Born in Jämsänkoski, Finland, he has also dabbled in music, literature sciences, and skateboarding for a good chunk of his 30



years of life, essentially enough to know what he enjoys the most.



**Ragne Mandri** is a writer-director from Estonia. In 2009, she graduated from the Baltic Film and Media School as a director, having written and directed several short films. Since then, she has worked in film and television. In 2011-2016, she directed two Estonian prime time television series for the commercial channels TV3 and Kanal 2. In 2014, the first season of the comedy series *Pillow Club* for TV3 won the audience award for the Best TV Series of the Year in Estonia. In 2021, she graduated from the Kino Eyes European Movie Master as a director, having directed three short films. Currently, she is developing her first feature film screenplay.



Born in Saudi Arabia, **Ahmad Saleh** is a Palestinian-Jordanian-German writer and director. His "nomadic" status put him to witness stories of people in traumatic real life situations, which urged him to change his career from electronics engineering into an artist and storyteller. *Night* (2021) is Ahmad's third short film after *House* (2011) and *Ayny* (2016), the film that garnered him an Academy Award. He is now developing his first feature.

## EXPERTS

**Laurence Boyce** started out at the Leeds International Film Festival in the UK to become an award-winning critic for various outlets, including Sight and Sound and Screen International. He currently resides in Tallinn, Estonia, where he is the head of programme for the live action section of PÖFF Shorts, a part of the A-list festival Black Nights. 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 based in Estonia. He 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 (Film Is A Fine Affair) and scholar, writing articles about Ang Lee, Mike Leigh, and other film and animation topics. Vassilis has served as jury member at various international festivals, and he is an Annie Awards voting member. His creative efforts include the short film *Homespital* (2021), now travelling at festivals, plus two short film scripts.

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



**Katriel Schory** studied at the NYU Film School. An active producer from 1973. 1974-1999: Founder and Managing Director of BEL-FILMS. Produced over 150 films and television programmes, including feature films, documentaries, TV dramas, international co-productions. From 1999 and for more than 20 years the Execu-

tive 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 & Bears in Berlin. Katriel Schory was granted the Chevalier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres – France; Berlinale Kamera for Outstanding Contribution to the Film industry; Telluride Film Festival - Special Medallion – for Outstanding achievements; The VARIETY Award for creative impact. The Fiapf – Int'l Federation of Film Producers Association Award; Jerusalem Film Festival – Lifetime achievement award.



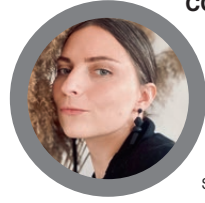
**Guillaume de Seille** (1968) studied civil engineering. After two awarded short films as writer/director, he worked in the cinema department of Canal+ (presales of French and European films) for 10 years, acted as a commissioning editor within the short film department of Canal+, and as an artistic producer for the French public broadcaster France 2. Independent producer since 2000, Guillaume has produced or co-produced more than 50 non-French feature art-house films invited to all the major festivals and theatrically released in France.

1998 EAVE graduate, ScriptEast creative advisor, Arras Days, César & Asian Pacific Screen Academy. Paris-based Arizona Productions is led by Guillaume de Seille to mainly produce and co-produce arthouse feature films directed by non-French emerging talents.

**Anna Zača** is a curator, programmer and project manager in the field of animated and short film. Anna studied Art History and Theory in Latvia and Animation in Estonia. She has been the creative director of 2ANNAS ISFF and one of the founders of Riga International Film Festival. In 2015, she founded SHORT RIGA, a section dedicated to short and artist film within Riga International Film Festival. Since 2016, Anna has been the head of Latvian Animation Association and, since 2018, she is one of the Board Members at European Animation Awards.



## 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.