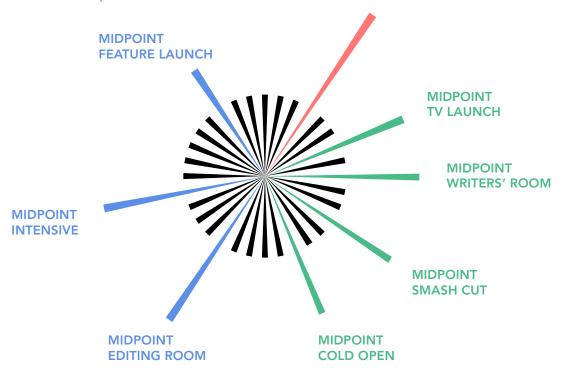


MIDPOINT Institute is an international audiovisual training and networking institution organizing a wide range of programs focused on script and project development, post-production and the education of aspiring script consultants and development executives.



# DISC VERING ST RIES T GETHER

For more information about the programs and their deadlines, please visit: www.midpoint-institute.eu.

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# MIDPOINT TV Launch 2021

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 attending development executive participants, who are being pre-

pared 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 TV 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 TV Launch is realized with the support of the Creative Europe – MEDIA Programme of the European Union, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, and the Czech Film Fund. It runs in partnership with HBO Europe, Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event, Series Mania, Czech Audiovisual Producers' Association, Meeting Point Vilnius, New Europe Market, C21 Media, Serial Eyes, MediaXchange and Seriencamp. MIDPOINT Institute operates under the auspices of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague.

#### TV Launch 2021 Tutors



**Gabor Krigler** Head of Studies, Group Leader



**Ben Morris** Group Leader



**Cyril Tysz** Group Leader



Steve Matthews Guest Tutor



**Ben Harris** Guest Tutor



Maggie Murphy Guest Tutor



Harald Hamrell Director Tutor



**Rudolf Leska** Legal Tutor



**Nebojsa Taraba** Producer Tutor



Marike Muselaers Financing Tutor



**Michaela Sabo** Pitching Tutor



Jeff Bell Guest Tutor

### MIDPOINT TV Launch 2021 Hungary, India

# AMRITA



Countries: Hungary, India Genre: period drama Type: limited series Format: 6x60'

Screenwriter: Kristina Jilly Producer: Zita Kisgergely

**Production company**: Flatpack Films **Languages**: English, Hungarian, French

Production budget in EUR (per season): 5.1 million

### Synopsis

Indian-Hungarian painter Amrita Sher-Gil (India's Frida Kahlo) arrives in Paris in 1929 to attend art college and discovers her secret power: no one can resist her magnetic charm. Against the backdrop of rising fascism in Europe and Gandhi's independence movement in India, Amrita explores sexual and cultural boundaries to fuel her artistic ambitions.

Bold and unconventional, she nevertheless agrees to wed her understanding Hungarian first cousin - the only way she can retain her personal independence. The problematic union, however, causes irrevocable tension with her family.

Back in India, Amrita navigates her dual cultural identity and fights for acceptance, disrupting the status quo of established artistic circles. She reconciles her western and eastern influences on the canvas by depicting the invisible working-class women of the country, with the aim of becoming one of India's greatest modern painters. But she only

achieves the immortality she's destined for after her sudden death at 28, most probably from a botched abortion performed by her doctor husband.

#### Screenwriter

A Hungarian-Australian writer, **Kristina Jilly** has written drama series for various companies in Europe and the U.K. She's had extensive experience in writer's rooms working on her own original material as well as on TV drama shows *Altar Girls*, *Among Friends* and *Love Me Now*. Kristina has projects in development in the crime, thriller and historical drama genres and is represented by Fiona Grant at Dench Arnold.

#### Producer

Having started her career in production, **Zita Kisgergely** soon became MD and executive producer of a prestigious company that services the production of international ads and films in Hungary, Flatpack Films. Continuously striving for high quality results with budget friendly solutions, the company has extensive experience creating auteur drama with leading Hungarian directors with the support of the Hungarian National Film Fund.







Zita Kisgergely

#### Contact

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### MIDPOINT TV Launch 2021 Lithuania

# **'C' FOR CANCEL**



Country: Lithuania Genre: urban drama Type: limited series Format: 6x40'

Screenwriter: Lina Lužytė, Dagnė Vildžiūnaitė

Director: Lina Lužytė

**Producer**: Dagnė Vildžiūnaitė **Production company**: Just a moment

Language: Lithuanian

Production budget in EUR (per season): 1 350 000 Eur

### Synopsis

Cancelled for defence of a suicidal woman, Elena looses her TV career which equaled her life. She fights to get it back but angry mobs ignore her arguments and only need a scapegoat to vent out their frustrations. Now subject to hate speeches, endless trashing and even life threats, Elena holds onto her troublemaker son and her girlfriend, but the pressure is enormous and Elena witnesses how her son sinks in alcoholism and her girlfriend breaks up with her. Seeing no prospects, Elena flees to the countryside house but then the social worker who started Elena's cancellation, insists she returned and defended the suicidal woman in court. According to her, after all the negative attention Elena has brought to the woman, her case is not against her anymore but against Elena. Elena hires a lawyer, who wins the case, what becomes Elena's big victory and a promise for a change in the society.

### Screenwriter

Born in 1985, in Vilnius, Lithuania, in 2011 **Lina Lužytė** completed her Film Directing studies with her graduation short film *It Would Be Splendid, Yet...*, which was awarded in many film festivals. Later, Lina went to Belarus to shoot IGRUSHKI, a documentary about toy makers, that won The Best Documentary Film Award at International Documentary Film Festival CineDOC Tbilisi. In 2016 Lina shot her first feature *Together For Ever* that premiered in Karlovy Vary Film Festival and in 2020 she's completed her second feature *The Castle*.

### Producer

**Dagne Vildziunaite** (b.1981, Vilnius) has been working in TV and film industry for more than 15 years. In 2007, she established the independent production company Just A Moment that already produced over 20 films - both shorts and features, documentary, and fiction. Her recent titles include *In the Mirror* (Black Nights FF, 2020), *Breathing Into Marble* (Karlovy Vary IFF 2018), *Core of the World* (San Sebastian IFF 2018, Toronto IFF 2018), *Nijole* (DOK Leipzig 2018, The Cartagena de Indias IFF (FICCI) 2019).







Dagnė Vildžiūnaitė

#### Contact

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### MIDPOINT TV Launch 2021 Hungary

# **ELEPHANT**



Country: Hungary

Genre: drama with black humor

Type: ongoing series

Format: 8x35'
Screenwriter:

Screenwriter: Dávid Csicskár Director: Dávid Csicskár Producer: Balázs Zachar

Production company: Proton Cinema

Language: Hungarian

Production budget in EUR (per season): 1,700,000 EUR

### Synopsis

Anna dedicates her life for her perfect family. She keeps everything under control and in return she provides a convenient life for her husband and their three kids. However Anna is a functioning alcoholic who secretly sips the bottle every day. The balance of the family life is shaken overnight when Anna causes a car accident that almost kills her loved ones. Police checkup shows that Anna was drunk, but most of the family members insist on her innocence and try to trivialize the problem. It's only their adolescent daughter, Sonja who speaks up and says it's time to stop living in denial: Mom is an alcoholic. Anna decides to quit drinking and the family helps her out in the housework. Everyone hates their new role though, that flips over their peaceful life. In addition, Anna becomes a different person without alcohol: charmless, nonchalant

and inefficient. The family slowly sinks into chaos. They miss their high functioning mother, even an alcoholic one, so they want their old life back. Except Anna. First time in her life she dares put her own happiness before others'. It is going to be her 'perfect' family who pays the price of sobering up

#### Screenwriter

**David Csicskár** (1987) graduated in film studies at ELTE University Budapest. He started his television career with soap opera writing for the national TV2, then he wrote series for RTL, HBO Hungary. His short film *Uchebnik* was selected by various festivals and was nominated for the Hungarian Film Award in 2017. He was writer-director of the black comedy series *Tóth János* for the national public broadcaster. Recently he directs comedy for TV2 and Viasat3.

### Producer

**Balázs Zachar** (1973) has a law degree and graduate of EAVE Producers' Workshop. From 2018 he produced several short films with Proton Cinema, among which *Break* (*Szünet*), directed by Levente Kölcsey, was selected by Locarno IFF in 2020. His first feature, *Wild Roots* (*Külön Falka*), directed by Haini Kis, premiered in Karlovy Vary IFF in 2021.







Balázs Zachar

#### Contact

Balázs Zachar +36306416770 balazs.zachar@gmail.com

### MIDPOINT TV Launch 2021 Slovakia

# KILLSWITCH



Country: Slovakia Genre: conspiracy thriller Type: ongoing series Format: 6x55'

Screenwriter: Anastasia Hoppanova

Directors: Lukas Teren, Anastasia Hoppanova

Producer: Lukas Teren Production company: TBC Languages: Slovak, English

Production budget in EUR (per season): 2 523 060

# Synopsis

Lea is a cyber security expert on her way to a sabbatical. Nina is a rising star of investigative journalism with a grudge against her colleague Peter. When Peter is found dead and Lea's only friend and colleague Sebastian is kidnapped, the two women are brought together to find out what happened to their loved ones, using their unique skillsets and annoying the hell out of one another in the process. Their joint efforts put them on a path to uncover a dark scheme behind the upcoming parliamentary elections that threatens to take over the country's internet and with it, the freedom of speech.

### Screenwriter

**Anastasia Hoppanova** has been working in the advertisement industry for the past 7 years and producing/writing/directing short films whenever she got a chance. She has completed 4 short films. All of her projects are a bright mix of cultures and have been produced in France as well as Slovakia, in either English, French or Slovak languages. In 2019 she began working on her debut feature film, *Into Dust*, which is set to premiere in the spring of 2022 in Slovakia.

### Producer

**Lukas Teren** was Born in Czechoslovakia to a family of two artists. He followed in his mother's footsteps and studied photography, but later on decided he needed an upgrade. Moving pictures seemed like a natural choice. After graduating from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, he went on to work as a camera operator, learning from some of the best DPs in our country. Eager to be the best version of himself, he sought additional knowledge at masterclasses abroad, especially in L.A. The hard work paid off and he got his first big gig on a feature film as a DP. It was a very formative experience, and led him to experiment with the role of a director and producer. He has tried this role on several short projects and he's currently working on a feature documentary called *Space Cowboy*.





Anastasia Hoppanova

**Lukas Teren** 

### Contact

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### MIDPOINT TV Launch 2021 Lithuania, UK

# **NON-CITIZENS**



Countries: Lithuania, UK Genre: dramedy Type: ongoing series Format: 8x25'

Screenwriter: Aiste Ptakauske

Director: TBD

Producers: Margarita Veberaite. Aiste Ptakauske

Production companies: Shakehaus (UK), The Ethnic Kitchen Pro-

ductions (LT)

Languages: English, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Scots Production budget in EUR (per season): 2,500,000.00

### **Synopsis**

The plans of four flatmates from Lithuania, Poland, and Romania to build better futures for them-selves in Glasgow turn into a hot mess when one of their mothers unexpectedly shows up on their doorstep with a secret mission to return her offspring to the only place on Earth where, to her mind, he can possibly be happy – his motherland. In an already overcrowded flat share, the mother's pro-longed visit brings up all sorts of underlying problems and makes all flatmates reconsider why they immigrated to Scotland in the first place, what they want to accomplish there, and where they feel truly at home.

### Screenwriter

**Aiste Ptakauske** is an award-winning content creator who successfully works across media and con-tinents. She authored a collection of short stories and two best-selling novels for young adults, made two documentaries, and worked on almost 300 episodes of TV and web series in the capacity of a screenwriter, supervising producer, head writer or creator. *Ethnic Kitchen*, her documentary about immigrant women in post-Soviet independent Lithuania, was included into curricula of several uni-versities across the globe. For her web series *Little Incidents*, she received the Best Creator award from Seoul Webfest 2019.

### Producer

Margarita Veberaite is a creative producer with over 10 years of physical production record which comprises more than 13K hours of managing TV and film sets. Since becoming an independent producer in 2014, she produced a number of short films, music videos, commercials, and a TV comedy sketch show special. In 2016, Margarita co-founded Shakehaus – a Glasgow-based company that aims to shake things up in the film and TV industry. In 2021, she took part in the very first career en-hancement program for female producers in the European drama series industry Series' Women.







Margarita Veberaite

#### Contact

Margarita Veberaite +44 7949 405185 margarita@shakehaus.com

### MIDPOINT TV Launch 2021 Slovenia, Croatia

# **OFFSIDE**



Countries: Slovenia, Croatia

**Genre**: crime drama **Type**: ongoing series **Format**: 6x55'

Screenwriters: Juš Premrov, Nejc Pohar

**Director**: Nejc Pohar **Producer**: Andraž Jerič

**Production company**: Temporama

Languages: Slovenian, Croatian, German, English Production budget in EUR (per season): TBD

# Synopsis

Sasha, a young football betting kingpin, runs an impressive illegal gambling and match-fixing empire. But his Hamburg-based operation is growing too big to handle and he finds himself assailed from all sides. Seeking a different way forward, he returns to his home country of Slovenia and reluctantly joins forces with his two siblings - Lena, a ruthless businesswoman with plenty of issues of her own, and Mario, a self-absorbed former football star, now struggling club manager. Together they stumble upon an incredible opportunity involving the construction of the country's largest stadium and a potential joint EURO 2028 host bid. But there are many forces standing in their way: powerful competition from Croatia, Sasha's mounting problems with his East-Asian partners and an Interpol investigation, Mario's insecurity and incompetence, and, crucially, a mistrust and cutthroat relationship between the three siblings themselves.

### Screenwriters

**Juš Premrov** wrote and directed several independent short films and was a co-writer on the first two seasons of the acclaimed comedy series *Paired Up*, the first season of which he also directed. He works as an assistant director on films, TV, and commercials, but has been spending the last few years mostly developing scripts for several shorts, TV shows, and his debut feature.

**Nejc Pohar** finished the studies at University of Ljubljana and continued to study film directing at FAMU, Prague. He wrote and directed his first short film for the Slovenian national broadcaster in 2002 and soon after began directing TV commercials as well. In 2012 he directed all episodes of the Slovenian adaptation of the highly acclaimed TV series *In Treatment*.

#### Producer

**Andraž Jerič** is one of the founding members of Temporama where he works as a producer and head of development since 2013. After a series of short films, experimental and documentary films, music videos, and a season of a short-form comedy series, he produced his first feature film *Consequences* which premiered at Toronto IFF in 2018 and garnered significant international success.



Juš Premrov



**Nejc Pohar** 



Andraž Jerič

### Contact

Andraž Jerič +386 40 888 421 andraz@temporama.si

### MIDPOINT TV Launch 2021 Serbia

# **SABRE**



Country: Serbia Genre: political thriller Type: limited series Format: 8x52'

Screenwriters: Goran Stankovic, Vladimir Tagic Directors: Goran Stankovic, Vladimir Tagic Producer: Snezana van Houwelingen

**Production company**: This and That Productions

Languages: Serbian, English

Production budget in EUR (per season): 2,2 mil EUR

### **Synopsis**

Sabre is based on real events that happened in Serbia in 2003, when the Serbian Prime Minister, Zoran Djindjic, was assassinated in front of the government building in broad daylight. While in the eyes of the public it seems very clear who the assassins are, Danica Mandic (33), a young reporter on the rise, tries to investigate the real story behind the assassination. Her search for truth takes her to the deepest pores of the corrupted state apparatus. Boris (45), a police inspector in charge of the investigation slowly uncovers faults in the case that lead him to the highest ranks of the Secret Service. While a young criminal Uros (20), slowly becomes more and more involved in the activities of a criminal Clan that will prove to be behind the Prime Minister's assassination.

### Screenwriters

**Goran Stankovic** graduated film directing at AFI in Los Angeles. His short film *Way In Rye* was nominated for the Student Academy Award. He is the creator and director of *Morning Changes Everything*, drama series for the Serbian National Broadcaster. Most recently he directed 5 episodes of the Serbian period drama *Bad Blood*.

**Vladimir Tagic** graduated directing at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade. His short film *Emergency* premiered at the Clermont Ferrand Festival in France and was shown in Cannes 2017. Vladimir is the creator and director of the drama series *Morning Changes Everything*. He also directed episodes of the TV series *Mom and Dad are Playing War* and *Children of Evil* 

### Producer

**Snežana van Houwelingen** graduted Producing at the Academy of Arts in Belgrade. She is a member of the European Film Academy, EAVE graduate and producer of more than 30 high-profile international projects. Snežana produced 40 episodes of the TV series *Morning Changes Everything*. She is currently in post-production of the film *Darkling*, supported by Eurimages and Media Creative Europe. Her latest film and TV series is a Serbian period drama *Bad Blood* (2021).







Vladimir Tagic



Snežana van Houwelingen

#### Contact

Snezana van Houwelingen +381 11 4034290 office@thisandthat.rs

# MIDPOINT TV Launch 2021 Slovakia

# THE LAST BARONESS



Country: Slovakia Genre: historical drama Type: limited series Format: 6x50'

Screenwriter: Diana Kacarová Director: Jonáš Karásek

Producers: Katarína Krnáčová, Nataša Ďuričová

Production company: Silverart, s.r.o.

Languages: Slovak, Hungarian, German, French Production budget in EUR (per season): 3 mil.

### Synopsis

Young, free-spirited Babu seeks freedom and independence from her constricted life as a baroness. While the monarchy is collapsing, totalitarian Communists try to wipe off the aristocracy from the map of Central Europe. She is forced to take over the family estate and protect her community.

### Screenwriter

**Diana Kacarová** writes for radio, theater and television. With Slovak National TV she has worked on many documentary series, fiction series, TV documentary films and animation films. Her recent works

include animated series about the decorum for kids *Chochmesovci* (55 episodes, writing and script editing) and children fiction series *Mami, Kup Mi Psa* directed by Bohdan Slama (10 episodes, writing). Currently, she works on several television projects with independent producers as well as television broadcasters.

### **Producers**

**Katarína Krnáčová** is an EAVE graduate and Producers on the Move participant. She produced *Little Harbour*, the Berlinale Crystal Bear winner, and is currently producing *Flood* by Martin Gonda (previous film premiered at Cinefondation). Next to her latest Slovak-German co-production *Summer Rebels* and Czech co-production *Saving The One Who Was Dead* by V. Kadrnka (premiered at Karlovy Vary IFF), her current slate includes a road-movie *Stand Up* (the first Slovak film shot green), a Serbian co-production children film *How I Learned to Fly* and a Czech co-production thriller Calm in the Canopy.

**Nataša Ďuričová** is a publisher of the original novel *The Last Baroness* which our series is inspired by. Besides running her publishing house Dixit, her experience includes also producing a political thriller *Amnesty*. Currently, she is in production of a black comedy Invalid and a documentary feature film *Happy Man*.







Katarína Krnáčová



Nataša Ďuričová

#### Contact

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### MIDPOINT TV Launch 2021 Romania

# THE MARCELOTS



Country: Romania Genre: mystery-drama Type: limited series Format: 6x50'

Screenwriters: Ema Stere, Adrian Sitaru

Director: Adrian Sitaru

**Producers**: Ada Solomon, Diana Caravia **Production company**: microFILM

Language: Romanian

Production budget in EUR (per season): 2,4 million EUR

## Synopsis

When her mom kills herself and she finds out she might have a twin sister, Eva (32) becomes the unassuming guru of a community made up of her newly discovered brothers and sisters. Caught in between the interests of her siblings and those of the Secret Services, she has to choose what she will save – her freedom or her ideals?

### Screenwriters

**Ema Stere** is a Romanian writer, journalist, book editor and translator. Her debut novel *Marcel's Children* received several literary prizes. She is the host of a daily radio show on the public cultural radio. She wrote and published several short stories and multiple radio drama adaptations and original stage plays. *The Marcelots* is her first work in TV.

Adrian Sitaru's latest feature, *The Fixer* (2016) premiered in Toronto IFF and Tokyo IFF. *Illegitimate* (2016) won the C.I.C.A.E Award in Berlinale Forum, *Domestic* (2012) was selected in Mar del Plata IFF, BEST *Inten*-

tions (2011) is the winner of two Silver Leopards, while his first feature, Hooked (2008), was selected for Venice Days, Toronto IFF, BFI London. Sitaru directed several episodes of the Romanian adaptation of the HBO series In Treatment and other local TV series.

### **Producers**

**Ada Solomon** has produced over 60 titles such as: *Bad Luck Banging Or Loony Porn* (Radu Jude, 2021, Golden Bear), *Aferim!* (Radu Jude, 2015, Silver Bear Berlin), *Child's Pose* (Calin Peter Netzer, 2013, Golden Bear Berlin) & executive produced Maren Ade's *Toni Erdmann*. Ada is EFA Deputy Chairwoman, the Executive President of EWA Network, the EAVE RO coordinator, an ACE board member, a founding member of Alliance of Film Producers Romania and winner of Prix Eurimages 2013.

**Diana Caravia** is a young producer developing films by Romanian directors such as Radu Jude, Alexandru Solomon & Ivana Mladenovic. She was the executive producer for *Platic Semiotic* by Radu Jude (Venice IFF) and was involved in the production of the 2021 Berlinale Golden Bear winner – *Bad Luck Banging Or Loony Porn* by Radu Jude.



Ema Stere



Adrian Sitaru



Ada Solomon

### Contact

Ada Solomon, Diana Caravia Phone: +40 723 200 640, +40 722 542 383 ada.solomon@gmail.com, dianacaravia10@gmail.com



Diana Caravia

# MIDPOINT TV Launch 2021 Development Executives

NAME: MARA MARTELOCK Countries: Germany

and Croatia

**Focus**: comedy/dramady – female themes, authors and

voices

**Languages**: English, German, Croatian



**Country**: Czech Republic **Focus**: projects based on true events

NAME: I FNKA SZÁNTÓ

Languages: Czech,

English



### Biography

Mara Martelock was born in Germany in 1991 and grew up in Croatia, where she studied Screenwriting and Producing at the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Zagreb. She has written diaries, series, short films, theater plays, commercials and (bad) poetry. Now she is living her dream writing and developing comedies and dramedies, for and with women, in her own development company Drama Queen Studio in Munich. #girlpower

#### Contact

+49 176 72425937 mara@dramaqueen.studio

## Biography

Experienced writer and script editor based in Prague, CZ, currently working for main Czech TV broadcaster TV Nova, its main tv channel as well as S-VoD platform VOYO. Supervising a wide variety of tv products in all development stages: comedy, mystery, true crime, inspired by true events projects, action thriller, romantic drama. With a deep knowledge of all the specifics of true stories development (Lenka wrote a script for two part tv movie Metanol, later nominated for Czech Lion Award 2018) she tends to specialize on this genre although she has a history in developing comedies as well (eg: Národní Házená, currently in postproduction as VOYO Original.)

#### Contact

+420606926155 lenka.szanto@gmail.com NAME: OLGA ZHURZHENKO

Country: Ukraine Focus: drama and comedy series Languages: English, Russian, Ukrainian



# Biography

Olga Zhurzhenko is a professional film producer from Ukraine. In 2014, her first feature *The Trumpeter* was released, it is a musical comedy, first of the genre produced in Ukrainian language, labeled "Hollywood quality" by the press. Since then, it has been distributed both in nationwide in Ukraine as well as worldwide and can be found on iTunes. Starting 2016 she created and participated in successful promo-campaigns for an Oscar submissions. Other projects behind her back include a number of TV films, documentaries and shorts.

Olga is a member of Producer's Guild of America and European and Ukrainian Film Academies. At the moment, her company's slate includes screen adaptation of well known Ukrainian book *Fieldwork in Ukrainian Sex*, a feature dramedy "Average life", as well as a series about one of the most notorious and bloody inmate appraisals in GULAG concentration camps history.

Olga aims to create content which will easily travel the world, entertain and inspire for positive changes. Olga aims to keep on propelling filmmaker's access to the world through her knowledge of different territories, languages, market strategies, distribution tactics and outsourcing opportunities.

#### Contact

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# MIDPOINT Smash Cut 2021

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. Three promising projects from Cyprus, Slovenia and Romania are taking part in the 2021 edition.

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 indepth 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 is realized with the support of the Creative Europe – MEDIA Programme of the European Union and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. 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



Michaela Sabo Guest Tutor



**Hyppe Salmi**Guest Tutor

### MIDPOINT Smash Cut 2021 Cyprus

# ATAXIA



Country: Cyprus Genre: dramedy, thriller Type: ongoing series Format: 10 x 20 mins

Screenwriters: Christina Tryphonos, Andreas Sheittanis, Andreas

Phylactou

**Director**: Christina Tryphonos **Producer**: Andreas Phylactou

Production company: Black Lemon Projects

Language: Cypriot

### Synopsis

There is a city on the island of Cyprus, festering with crime and corruption. Zoe, Makis and Phivos, lost souls in their mid 30's, meet while performing a random act of kindness. The rewarding feeling and the adrenaline rush of their actions, bring them together to try and save their city from its decay. As they begin on a journey that none of them are equipped to take, their vigilantism is purely driven by their generations' need to make a difference. They have no resources, no clear goal, no way to know where to start and how; as they move forward, some will want to help them and others will want to squash them.

### Screenwriters

**Christina Tryphonos** was born on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. She is an avid reader of all types of literature and an avid watcher

of films and tv series. She has been part of the film and TV industry in Cyprus for 12 years now, mostly as a director and 1st AD, but has also ventured into script writing when allowed. Christina aspires to write and direct compelling character driven stories like the ones she has spent so much time consuming.

**Andreas Sheittanis** was born in 1991 in Nicosia. He studied Film Production & Cinematography. In the seven years since his graduation, he has managed to explore various sectors of the industry and has worked on television, commercials, music videos and films. He has mainly taken responsibilities as a Director or an Assistant Director, but he has also worked as a Cinematographer.

### Producer

**Andreas Phylactou** is a professional actor, who after experiencing the environment of production, realised that the TV industry in Cyprus was not hospitable to the creators that wished to create original and innovative content. He founded Black Lemon TV with the intention of giving a platform to those creatives that sought to express their art freely.







**Christina Tryphonos** 

**Andreas Sheittanis** 

**Andreas Phylactou** 

#### Contact

Andreas Phylactou +357 99323397 andreas@blacklemon.tv

### MIDPOINT Smash Cut 2021 Slovenia

# BREAK A LEG



Country: Slovenia Genre: comedy Type: limited series Format: 8 x 15 min

Screenwriters: Miha Šubic, Maia Zupanc

**Director**: Miha Šubic **Producer**: Maja Zupanc

**Production companies**: Invida, Film Factory **Languages**: Slovenian, Italian, English

### Synopsis

Lenart (30) is a shy, introverted, not so young anymore filmmaker, who is unhappy with his current success and recognition in the film industry. Because nobody is taking him seriously, he develops an alter-ego, a new persona, who is everything he is not. His alter-ego is overconfident, cocky and full of big words.

Lenart enrols back in film school to finish his studies after a long break. He gets a young and already very successful classmate, student academy award nominee, 21-year-old girl Veronica. This makes him look even more unsuccessful for his age. Although he uses his alter-ego on a regular basis, still nobody is taking him seriously. At the end, he reaches the point when he doesn't know what is his actual personality and what is fake.

### Screenwriter

**Miha Šubic** is the guy who doesn't drink coffee – the passion for film and storytelling keeps him awake since the age of 10, when he first started to tell stories through primitive PowerPoint animations. He believes every story should dictate the choice of technique and not vice versa. That is why Miha as a filmmaker works in the field of live-action, animation and documentary films. Miha has worked as director, writer, editor or animator on various short films, TV series and commissioned films. He is a member of Slovenian animated film association D'SAF and a founder of film production Film Factory based in Maribor. He participated in numerous networking platforms, including Sarajevo Talents, European Short Pitch and Less is More.

### Producer

**Maja Zupanc** is foremost an avid movie goer, she thinks, speaks and lives movies. She started a career in independent film, first as a director of documentary films and then as a producer of few low budget feature film productions. Since 2017 she works in a production company Invida, making animated short films and TV series. She supports interesting subjects in film that represent a different point of view on society today. Maja is a member of Slovenian animated film association D'SAF and Slovenian producers association FPS. She is a cofounder of Film Flow, a podcast about film critique



Miha Šubic



Maja Zupanc

### Contact

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### MIDPOINT Smash Cut 2021 Romania

# **DEADLINES**



Country: Romania

Genre: comedy, dramedy, romantic

**Type**: limited series **Format**: 10 x 20 mins

Screenwriter: Razvan Dutchevici

Language: Romanian

### Synopsis

Sergiu is a 40-year-old graphic designer living in Bucharest. He is a pretty good graphic designer, but doesn't understand anymore the seemingly pointless competition of surviving from one deadline to another in a jungle where everything you do is forgotten in the next second. One night, in a bar, he meets a young advertiser, who comes from a small Romanian town and makes fun of the advertising level in his hometown. He says that the things are done like in the 90s there. While talking, Sergiu starts building a little fantasy in his head about moving there and succeeding. And he does that. He moves there and in short time he becomes guite a star. He makes new friends and gets involved

with a divorced woman, mother of a teenage girl. Unfortunately, the ex-husband wants his family back. Even more, at some point, another gifted graphic designer appears. A young local boy, who wants to be a star there. But there can't be two stars in a small town.

### Screenwriter

Razvan Dutchevici is a screenwriter-director from Bucharest, Romania. He finished Screenwriting & Film Studies at the National University of Theatre & Film "I.L. Caragiale", where he also got his MA degree in Screenwriting. Currently, Razvan is PhD student in Cinema & Media at the same university. As part of the PhD program, he activates as a Teaching Assistant in the Screenwriting classes. He wrote and directed several shorts, and worked as a co-writer on both short and feature film projects. In 2018, he was part of the Script Station at Talents Sarajevo. Presently he works on his writer-director debut feature film (a comedy-fantasy titled *Past Perfect*), which entered two script-development workshops this year. In parallel, Razvan works duced Maren Ade's *Toni Erdmann*. Ada is EFA Deputy Chairwoman, the Executive President of EWA Network, the EAVE RO coordinator, an ACE board member, a founding member of Alliance of Film Producers Romania and winner of Prix Eurimages at the EFA Awards 2013.



Razvan Dutchevici

### Contact

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