

POWR Baltic Stories Exchange 2020

POWR PITCH PRESENTATION!

Presenting six new voices and stories from the Baltics, the Nordics and this year's country of focus at Baltic Event 2020, Russia. POWR welcomes producers, funders, sales agents and all industry guests to join this year's pitch presentations. POWR is a great opportunity for producers to connect with a project at an early stage or to find a writer, co-writer, director, or script consultant for your own project. The 6 feature film projects are presented online as part of the 100% online Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event this year.

POWR is an intensive group-based workshop that focuses on being a pitch platform and early market introduction for mainly scriptwriters without a producer. The participants receive coaching on how to pitch, and thereby develop their ideas through feedback on each other's projects. The workshop is led by experienced tutors **Valeria Richter** and **Helene Granqvist**. Following the pitch presentation, the

participants will have speed-meetings with invited industry guests. POWR is part of the Baltic Event Co-production Market.

We invite new voices and projects that cover a spectre of genres. This year, you can meet two survivors living with the consequences an alien invasion; a modern day Little Red Riding Hood rebelling against the world; a Lithuanian coast guardsman who encounters a strange seaside hermit; a spiteful granddad visited by his daughter and a message; a brother and a sister struggling with the idea of home; and three flatmates staying up in late night Berlin. Do check out the projects and their storytellers on the next pages. We look forward to seeing you!

On behalf of the POWR-team
Valeria Richter
Head of Studies

THE GLEAM

POWR
JOSEPH VALENTINO PALAU
DENMARK

Logline

After surviving an alien invasion, two grieving individuals discover a means to change their past - but not without dire consequences.

Synopsis

Several years after an alien invasion, two strangers find themselves living in a nature park. They are drawn to each other by their mutual feelings of having lost loved ones. Life has become a hopeless state of limbo, that is, until they discover an object of alien technology that may provide a doorway to the past or to their worst memory. Even though they disagree about the purpose of the object, devastating truths are discovered that will change the course of their lives.

Bio

Joseph Valentino Palau holds a Masters degree in Film & Media, Copenhagen University, a bachelor from Full Sail University in Entertain-



ment business, and in film production from New York Film Academy. Joseph has gone on to write, direct and produce 22 episodes of a Danish web series and several short films; including a festival award winning quarantine short, *Immun: Prologen*. This short inspired him to develop and write *The Gleam*. In an effort to help bridge the gap between diverse talent, aspiring storytellers, and industry professionals; Joseph founded Copenhagen Web Fest with Regina Mosch. He wrote an opinion piece in the Danish Politiken newspaper about his experiences with racism, hoping to create dialogue towards change.

LITTLE RED HELMET

POWR
KEREN KLIMOVSKY
SWEDEN

Logline

Little Red Helmet is a modern reinterpretation of Little Red Riding Hood – a story about an 11-year old girl who decides not to grow up and goes on a hunger strike in an attempt to rebel against the world of grown ups.

Synopsis

Who the hell came up with the idea that childhood is the happiest time of your life? Bullshit! Not if you're a girl who's just turned 11 and your parents moved to the middle of nowhere. Not if your dad is depressive, and your mum is in denial. Not if your new classmates hate you and the only person who understands you is your sick grandma. Not if your life's dream is to become a firewoman, and your only friend is an imaginary wolf. Did we already mention that grown ups suck? Well, if you're that girl, your only option might be to go on a hunger strike to avoid growing up and becoming one of them...



Bio

Keren Klimovsky is a young multilingual and multicultural writer, who now resides in Sweden. *Rehearsals* (2013), the first film she co-authored won festival awards and was shown on Russian national TV. Klimovsky is the co-author of the short dramedy series, *Natural Selection*, about coming out on the Russian internet in November

2020. *Little Red Helmet* is originally a play for adolescents, written for the stage. It won 2 awards in play competitions and is staged in both Russia and Ukraine.

THE MAN WHO DESALINATED THE SEA

POWR
ZURAB DZHIDZHILAVA
LATVIA / GEORGIA

Logline

Due to his unique claimed ability to see in the dark (not yet proven), a coast guard from Lithuania accidentally encounters a savage "Robinson" figure in the dunes on a neutral strip of land, the Curonian Spit – right between the Russian and Lithuanian border.

Synopsis

When a coast guard from Lithuania accidentally encounters a savage "Robinson" figure in the dunes on a neutral strip of land named the Curonian Spit – between the Russian and Lithuanian border - speculations arise. The man, Timur, states that he is a Georgian native, who started living as a hermit back in the middle of the 20th century. Timur, who looks no older than 40, states that he was born in 1928 and arrived at the Spit right after the end of WWII.



Bio

Zurab Dzhidzhilava is an author and director; born into a Georgian-Russian family in Moscow. Graduated director from VGIK (All Russian State University of Cinematography). In 2010 he moved to Latvia. Film and commercials director; Cannes Advertising Festival nominee. Winner of the "Potential" Pitching (RUS), Moscow International Film Festival Pitching, Baltic Pitching Forum (LT). Shortlisted by FEST (Portugal), Lendoc (RUS). Filmography: *Wings* (feature short, 2018), *Allegro Moderato* (novel from a feature *Happiness is...*, *Walt Disney Russia* 2019), *Redemption*, mini-series (in dev.).

WAY TO HOME

POWR
AVE GORŠIČ
ESTONIA

Logline

A young woman returns from treatment at a psychiatric hospital and has to tackle the prejudice of her family, especially one of her brothers, to find herself at home in her own home.

Synopsis

Heleene (25) returns home from treatment for depression, only to find her antagonist brother Madis (35) has come home after a bitter divorce. Heleene's dream of making herself feel at home again is crushed. The eldest brother, Jaan (39) and his wife Marietta (44), seem powerless in the battle between Heleene and Madis, while dodging the painful subject of their own – childlessness. Madis accuses Heleene of causing the car accident that killed their parents years ago, until things by chance are revealed in a different light.



Bio

Ave Goršič, born 1979, has a PhD from Tartu University in Folkloristics (2009) and has worked at the Estonian Folklore Archives of the Estonian Literary Museum in Tartu, Estonia since 2008. Her main research topic is history of folkloristics and folk belief. Since 2018, she has attended screenwriting courses by Leana Jalukse and

Margit Keerdo-Dawson (EST), in addition to masterclasses with Ian Long (UK), Jon Vorhaus (USA) and Chris Soth (USA) and a screenwriting workshop during the Finno-Ugric Film Festival (2019) by Dániel Erdélyi (HUN). She has finished three shorts and two feature films and works on a new short.

NOT THE END OF THE WORLD

POWR
MARIANN SOFIASDÓTTIR
DENMARK / FAROE ISLANDS

Logline

To ease her guilty mind, a woman sets out to deliver a message from her deceased mother to her estranged grandfather. But his spiteful nature makes it hard for her to do so.

Synopsis

Erratic and headstrong Laura (44) hasn't reconciled with her dying mother before it was too late and sets out to ease her guilty conscience by bringing a message from her mother to her spiteful and estranged grandfather in her native Faroe Islands. This becomes a difficult journey filled with fall outs and misunderstandings, but ends up being her way to inner peace, closeness with her grandfather and an encounter with the biological father she never knew about.



Bio

Danish/Faroese screenwriter. Works include *Hard Shoulder* (short film 2018), *Vitello meets God* (short film 2108), *Vitello* (co-writer 2018), *Når trolle flyver* (book 2015), *Liv* (short film 2013), *Harmonie* (short film 2012).

WEIRD FISHES

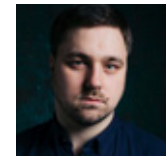
POWR
VASILY ZORKIY
RUSSIA

Logline

Three people in a typical Berlin apartment, who - throughout a long, late night conversation - will grow up, discover unexpected details of their own lives, and try to understand who they are in the modern world.

Synopsis

The event organiser, Philip, goes to Berlin with his best friend right after his father dies. At night, in the city where he last lived with his father as a child, the two of them find themselves in the flat of their friend Anna, who has been living in Germany with her husband for 15 years. All night they discuss, fight and reconcile, learning new and sometimes scary details of their friends and about their own lives. They raise the kind of questions that occur to all modern people at some point and discuss some of the more painful topics in the history



of Germany, the USSR, and modern Russia. Faced with the knowledge that he needs to grow up very quickly, Philip tries to understand who he is, what his place is in the world, how he should navigate in this new reality, and formulate new principles for his life.

Bio

Born 1984 in Moscow. In 1990 my family moved to Germany, and for 2 years we lived in Cologne. After the break of the USSR we came back and I started to study at theatre school. After turning 20, I started working as creative producer in the event business, i.e. film festivals and events for the biggest companies around the world. Turning 30, I made a theatre play about it in the Gogol-centre, the theatre that famous director Kirill Serebrennikov wrote. During the pandemic and lockdown I turned my life around and started to realise my biggest childhood dream - working as a scriptwriter and director. And here I am today.