

INDUSTRY@TALLINN
& BALTIC EVENT

13 - 17 NOV 2023

industry.poff.ee

INDUSTRY@TALLINN & BALTIC EVENT SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe **MEDIA** Programme
of the European Union



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE



RAHANDUSMINISTERIUM



Estonian
Film
Institute



CULTURAL ENDOWMENT OF ESTONIA

REGIONAALARENGU TOETUSEKS



Croatian
Audiovisual
Centre
Hrvatski audiovizualni centar



FILM CENTRE
OF MONTENEGRO
FILMSKI CENTAR
CRNE GORE



 Nordic Hotel Forum

PÖFF27
BLACK NIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL
TALLINN 3. - 19. NOV 2023



FESTIVAL SCOPE MIDPOINT
INSTITUTE



LEAVE
PRODUCERS
WORKSHOP



VARIETY

SCREEN
INTERNATIONAL



SERIENCAMP
CONFERENCE



DISCOVERY CAMPUS SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS



T / P Q R T



Estonian Society of Cinematographers
Eesti Filminäitlejate Liit



DIT TOOLS



ORCHESTRAL TOOLS



MUSIC
ESTONIA^[EU]



SOUND
TRACK
COLOGNE
2024 ²¹



 e-TALENTA

If PÖFF didn't exist, you'd have to
choose between 1 iffy comedy and
4 superheroes at the cinema.

But PÖFF exists. We make sure it does.

And by the way – when the festival ends, find
more quality content in Elisa Huub.

elisa | the main sponsor of PÖFF

DO NOT MISS!

Focus: Serbia and SEE* Neighbours

* CROATIA,
MONTENEGRO,
NORTH MACEDONIA,
AND SLOVENIA



Opening Film: Guardians of the Formula / uvari formule



Forever Hold Your Peace / Živi i zdravi



Working Class Goes to Hell / Radnika klasa ide u pakao



FILM
CENTER
SERBIA



Croatian
Audiovisual
Centre
Hrvatski audiovizualni centar



FILMSKI CENTAR
CRNE GORE
THE CENTER
OF MONTENEGRO



SLOVENSKI
AUDIOVIZUALNI
CENTRE
SLOVENSKO
AUDIOVIZUALNI
SLOVENSKO
AUDIOVIZUALNI
CENTRE



North Macedonia Film Agency

FILM IN LITHUANIA

TAX INCENTIVE UP TO 30%
MINORITY COPRODUCTION SCHEME
UNIQUE LOCATIONS



LITHUANIAN
FILM
CENTRE



FIND MORE AT WWW.LKC.LT/EN



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Dear friends!

We are delighted to welcome you to our 22nd edition of Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event 2023. This marks a momentous occasion for us—a time to reflect on the past year, embrace the present, and envision the future.

Describing this year as challenging is true, but there have been remarkable moments worth celebrating. In 2023, many of our previous projects achieved international recognition with releases and premieres at renowned festivals. To highlight just a few, *20,000 Species of Bees* by Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren, a Script Pool and International Works in Progress project, earned the Silver Bear at the Berlinale. *Forever-Forever*, a Baltic Event Co-production Market endeavour by Anna Buryachkova, premiered in the Orizzonti Extra programme at Venice. Tinatin Kajrishi's *Citizen Saint*, also a Baltic Event Co-production Market project, clinched the Ecumenical Jury Prize at Karlovy Vary.

Bringing our projects back to Tallinn, we proudly announce the selection of 7 films across various competition programmes at PÖFF. They include *Dark Paradise* by Triin Ruumet, *Five and a Half Love Stories in an Apartment in Vilnius* by Tomas Vengris, Horia by Ana-Maria Comănescu, *Lessons of Tolerance* by Arkadii Nepytaliuk, *Light Light* by Inari Niemi, *Snot & Splash* by Teemu Nikki, and *Stairway to Heaven* by Mart Kivastik.

Our industry showcases a diverse array of 64 projects across different categories, from film projects to series. There are 15 projects in the Baltic Event Co-Production Market selection, 5 in the Script Pool, 19 in the International, Baltic Event, and Just Film Works in Progress, 8 series projects in TV Beats Co-Financing Market, and 9 projects from our partner, MIDPOINT Institute's Series Launch. The European Genre Forum's final lab contributes 8 projects, creating a vibrant tapestry of future successes. Our Focus Countries – Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Slovenia – are represented by 10 projects across all categories.

There have been many discussions and debates about whether filmmaking and viewing are in crisis. Seeing the number of films and projects submitted to us, we can agree that they are not; it's just a different landscape. With no 'business as usual' in our current reality, we must embrace extreme flexibility and versatility; and listen to future audiences and filmmakers, especially the younger generation. Whether it's exciting or daunting, we must collaborate with and create content for diverse audiences and platforms; seize every opportunity and utilize all the means at our disposal to continue our work.

Future audiences are formed today, which is why we are proud to introduce our inaugural JUST Film Industry Days programme, tailored to children and youth filmmakers, festival programmers, platforms, teachers, and young people themselves. Additionally, the Black Nights Discovery Campus presents a revamped programme, uniting Black Night Stars, Black Room, Script Pool, Music Meets Film, and the newest addition, Frame Within a Frame, to empower up-and-coming professionals. ProdNest: Breaking Into the Industry and Launchpad reunite young producers and professionals in sales, distribution, festivals, and promotion, while GoLong! once again mentors young short filmmakers. We also extend our platform to present regional film funds by FAM Tours to South and East of Estonia, and initiatives to nurture film skills within below-the-line professionals.

The future may bring uncertainties, but embracing change and innovation is key. We recognise the importance of AI as a tool to enhance creativity, and we're committed to exploring its role through our conferences and workshops. *Industry Innovation Forum 2023 - The European Entertainment Landscape Redefined+*: Exploring Film, Gaming & Industry at the Boom of AI is your must-have guide to the future.

Moreover, we remain steadfast in our commitment to social and environmental responsibility and sustainability, as these areas continue to shape the industry. We also assemble leading figures from Europe and Ukraine's audiovisual industry in order to reflect on 631 days of conflict and the inception of collaborations, financial instruments, and innovative business models that have been birthed as a result.

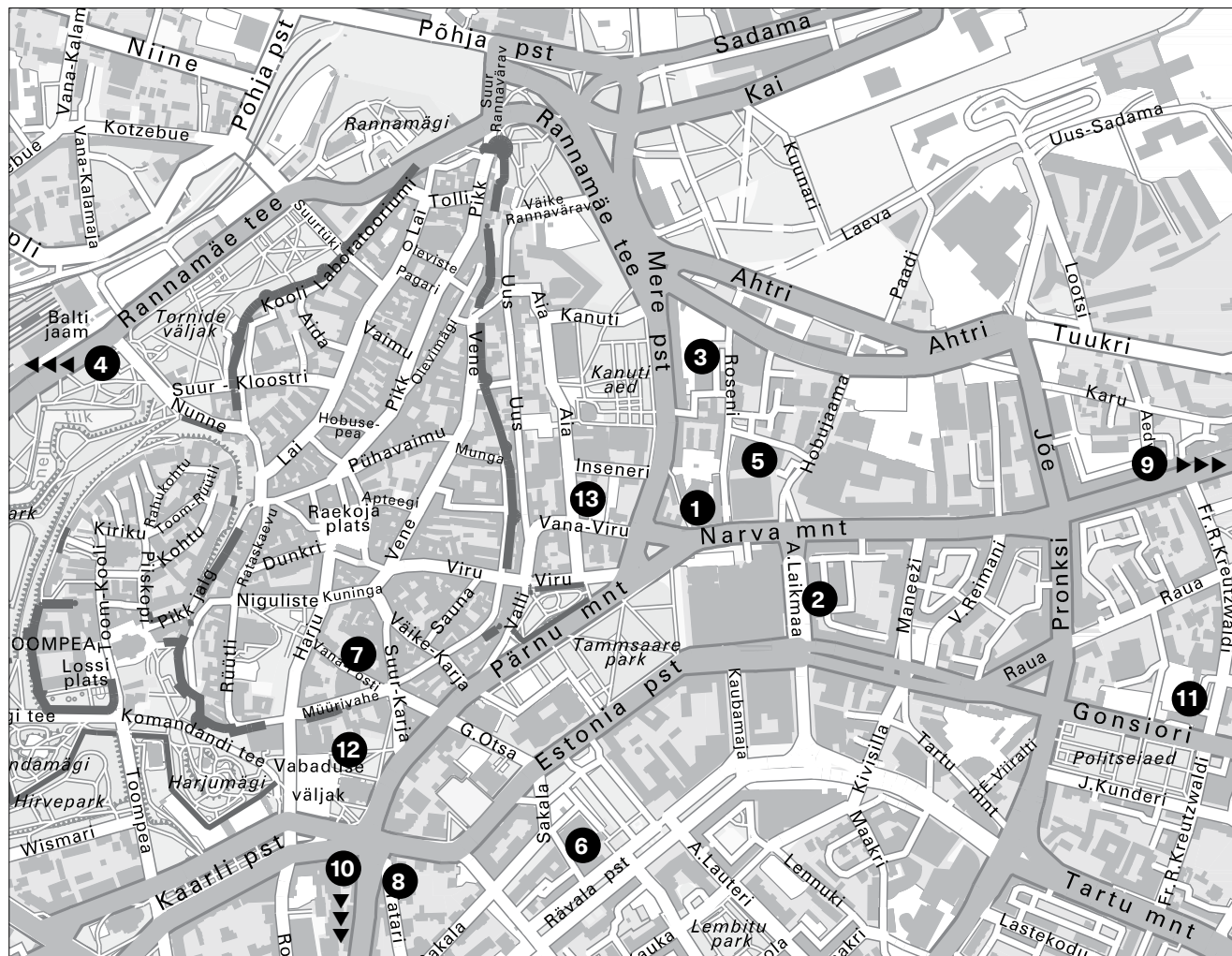
To inspire all attendees, we are honoured to host two distinguished US executives in Tallinn for two intimate conversations. Gale Anne Hurd, the legendary US writer and producer behind iconic works such as *Armageddon*, *Terminator*, and *The Walking Dead*, will provide an in-depth look at her exceptional career. Ari Tan, a former Vice President at Paramount, will share insights on content and strategy.

As we continue to tackle all of the above and much more in 100+ different talks, panels and discussions, we also invite our seasoned professionals to be generous in sharing their knowledge and wisdom with their younger counterparts. Please accept their meeting requests, engage in conversations, and serve as mentors so that the next generation can learn from the best. Sharing isn't just caring; it's the high-five of the filmmaking world!

We hope that everyone who joins us this year will go home with meaningful new connections, a fresh perspective, and actionable strategies to enhance their work and businesses. Let's make it a joyous journey to a more sustainable film industry!

Warm regards, **Marge Liske**





- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Nordic Hotel Forum
Viru väljak 3 | 5. Apollo Cinema Coca-Cola Plaza
Hobujaama 5 | 10. MUBA
Pärnu mnt. 59 |
| 2. Tallink City Hotel
A. Laikmaa 5 | 6. Apollo Cinema Solaris and Artis Cinema
Solaris Centre, Estonia pst 9 | 11. Estonian Public Broadcasting
F. R. Kreutzwaldi 14 |
| 3. Metropol SPA Hotel Roseni
Roseni 13 | 7. Sõprus Cinema
Vana-Posti 8 | 12. Philly Joe's Jazz Club
Vabaduse väljak 10 |
| 4. ITBE Evening Zone - Roheline saal
Telliskivi 60a/5 | 8. Advokaadibüroo PwC Legal
Tatari 1 | 13. Butterfly Lounge
Vana-Viru 13 |
| | 9. BFM
Narva mnt 27 | |

Practical Information

Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event is mainly held in the conference centre of Nordic Hotel Forum (Viru väljak 3, 2nd floor). Check out the programme, as some events for the Discovery campus take place at BFM, MuBa, ERR, and other places. All industry & press screenings are held in Apollo Cinema Coca-Cola Plaza (Hobujaama 5). You can find a detailed programme with specified venues on our website industry.poff.ee

GUEST INFORMATION DESKS

The PÖFF Guest Information Desk

is located in **the lobby of Nordic Hotel Forum.**

November 03 - 18 / Opening hours: 09:00-20:00

November 19 / Opening hours: 09:00-17:00

Phone +372 5622 5972

INDUSTRY Guest Information Desk

Starting from November 12, 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 12 / Opening hours: 13:00-18:00

November 13 - 17 / Opening hours: 09:00-18:00

Phone +372 5628 0521

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 (max 4 tickets per day). 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 on page 9.

Apollo Cinema Coca-Cola Plaza (Hobujaama 5)

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

Cinema Artis (Solaris Centre, Estonia pst. 9)

Cinema Sõprus (Vana-Posti 8)

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 9 to 19. 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.

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.

PRESS OFFICE

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NOTE

There might be changes in the event and screening schedule, please check our website or 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.

Rotermann Quarter, located just next to Nordic Hotel Forum, Metropol Hotel and Apollo Cinema Coca-Cola Plaza, is a neighbourhood full of modern architecture. As well as just walking around and taking in all the beautiful buildings, you can also find a range of shops, cafés and restaurants there.

Tallinn's Old Town, included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, is probably the most famous sight in Tallinn. With its well-preserved medieval architecture, it is a good place to have a walk on the old cobbled streets and visit some interesting churches, museums and courtyards. In the centre of Old Town, there is also the Town Hall and the Town Hall Square, which in December is the site of one of Europe's best Christmas markets.

Telliskivi Creative City is a former factory site that is now home to numerous restaurants, bars, design shops, and cultural institutions, such as Fotografiska Tallinn, a photographic art centre and satellite-gallery of the photography museum founded in Stockholm, or The Juhan Kuus Documentary Photo Centre. In 2023, the Green Hall (Roheline Saal) in Telliskivi will be place to ITBE's Evening Zone.

Noblessner seafont quarter, a former submarine factory, is now a place for art galleries, such as Kai Art Center, and many great restaurants. A good place to visit is the Proto Invention Factory, where you can experience Jules Verne era inventions through virtual reality and hands-on technology. You can also take a walk by the marina or have a sauna and a dip in the sea in Iglupark. 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.

Estonian Film Museum and Piritä Promenade

A long-time favourite of pedestrians, cyclists and skaters alike, the 2-km paved pathway of Piritä Promenade stretches along the waterfront from Kadriorg to Piritä. It offers by far the most spectacular views of Tallinn's rocky shoreline with the Old Town cityscape in the distance. The Estonian Film Museum is located halfway from the centre to Piritä, in the Maarjamäe palace complex of the Estonian History Museum.

Check out more at visitestonia.com

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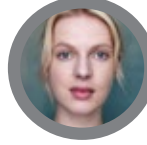
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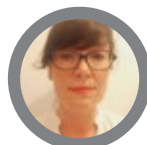
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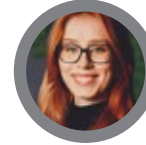
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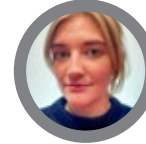
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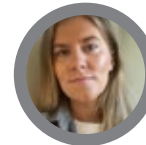
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Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event Programme 2023

ALL SCHEDULE IN
EET TIME ZONE
(GMT +2)

November 12

CLOSED SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS, ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS

16:00-18:00 TV Beats Co-Financing Market SEAN Pitching Training
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

EVENING EVENTS

18:30-23:00 Mix & Mingle: The Big Bar Pitching Game & SEAN Pitch Circus Tallinn 2023. By invitation only
▶ *Butterfly Lounge*

November 13

OPEN PANELS, PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, SCREENINGS

12:00-16:00 Location Session Tartu - Discover Tartu FAM Tour*
▶ *Tartu Centre for Creative Industries*

TV Beats Forum

▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

- 10:00-10:20 Introduction to TV Beats Forum.
Johanna Karppinen, Marike Muselaers
- 10:20-10:40 K7 Media: Diversity and Inclusivity as a Superpower.
Richard O'Meara
- 10:40-11:00 Serial Killer Present: Exploring CEE Co-Productions.
Dominika Braná. Moderated by Johanna Karppinen
- 11:00-11:30 Laughter, Drama and a Touch of Lithuanian Charm
Hinting Baltic New Wave. Gabija Siurbyte
- 11:30-12:10 A Beginner's Guide to Hot Co-Productions with
the CEE countries. Aleksandra Kaźmieruk, Jan Maxa,
Toomas Luhats. Moderated by Marike Muselaers
- 12:30-13:30 Project Pitching: TV Beats Co-Financing Market
- 14:30-15:00 Behind the Curtain: The Success Story of Liaison
and its Mastermind, Gub Neal from Ringside Studios.
Moderated by Johanna Karppinen
- 15:00-15:45 Script Quality of TV Series and New or "Few"
Opportunities in a Post-Bubble World. Anna Rohde,
Gub Neal, Gabor Krigler.
Moderated by Marike Muselaers.

- 15:45-16:30 Storytelling Evolution and the Industry's Embrace of
Social Responsibility. Joachim Friedmann, Jani Pösö,
Justinas Docka. Moderated by Johanna Karppinen
- 16:30-17:00 Showcase: New Stories, New Opportunities,
New strategies - First Glimpse to Elisa Viihde and Elisa
Estonia Renewed Roadmaps
- 17:00-18:30 Social Responsibility as a Key to Successful
Commissioning. Joachim Friedmann

CLOSED SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS, ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS

ProdNest: Hatching Film Futures

- 10:00-13:00 Breaking into the Industry: Mentorship Opportunity for
Aspiring Producers, Session 1. Katriel Schory*
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Vega*
- 15:00-17:30 Breaking into the Industry: Mentorship Opportunity for
Aspiring Producers, Session 2. Katriel Schory*
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Vega*

MIDPOINT Series Launch, TV Beats Co-Financing Market

- 10:00-18:00 MIDPOINT Series Launch, TV Beats Co-Financing
Market one-to-one meetings Day 1
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Sirius*

TV Beats Co-Financing Market

- 14:30-16:30 TV Beats one-to-one meetings with Jury
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Altair*

November 14

OPEN PANELS, PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, SCREENINGS

- 11:00-16:00 Location Session Tartu - Unlocking Success
in Location-Based Productions.
Nele Paves, EJ Richards, Jurate Pazikaite.
Moderated by Kristofer Piir*
▶ *Tartu Centre for Creative Industries*

*Pre-registered event. Limited spots available.

Registration and more information online, see our website: industry.poff.ee, under Programme.

TV Beats Forum

► *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

- 09:30-10:05 Unlikely Cooperation Forged by Cataclysm: Volcano that Bonds and Transforms Cross-Cultural Storytelling. Nebojša Taraba, Hörður Rúnarsson. Moderated by Marike Muselaers
- 10:05-11:35 Project Pitching: MIDPOINT Series Launch 2023 – Season Finale
- 12:00-12:20 Battle-Tested - Use of AI in the Audio-Visual Field by FILM.UA
- 12:20-13:20 Generative AI Unplugged: From Fears to Cheers in the Film Industry. Tatjana Samopjan
- 13:30-14:05 Awards Ceremony

Just Film Industry Days

- 14:30-16:00 KIDS Regio presents - From Script to Screen. Agata Darlasi, Julie Skaufel, Viola Gabrielli. Moderated by Anne Schultka
- *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*
- 16:15-18:00 Impact of AI on Culture, Creativity, Education
- *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

Discovery Campus

- 21:00-22:30 Frame Within a Frame - Film Screening: OCEANS
- *BFM, Super Nova Cinema*

CLOSED SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS, ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS

European Genre Forum

- 09:00-18:00 European Genre Forum Closed Workshop Day 1
- *Nordic Hotel Forum, Vega*

MIDPOINT Series Launch, TV Beats Co-Financing Market

- 10:00-18:00 MIDPOINT Series Launch, TV Beats Co-Financing Market one-to-one meetings Day 2
- *Nordic Hotel Forum, Sirius*

Go Long!

- 10:00-11:30 Go Long! Participants' films screening
- *Apollo Kino Coca-Cola Plaza, 4. Lukssaal*
- 12:00-18:00 Go Long! Roundtables and one-to-one meetings
- *Nordic Hotel Forum, Altair*

Innovation

- 10:00-17:30 CRESCINE Theory & Evidence training by Niall O'Leary*
- *Nordic Hotel Forum, Wolf*

Just Film Industry Days

- 10:15-12:30 Sharing Film Literacy Experiences and Good Practices Using European Film Factory in Class. Anamaria Ghiban. Margareta Đorđić. Moderated by Chiara Zappalà
- *Apollo Kino Coca-Cola Plaza, A. Le Coq Sviit*
- 13:30-14:30 AI for Teachers - How to Usher or Unleash Kratt? A Crash Course on Leveraging the Potential and Avoiding the Pitfalls of AI in Creativity, Learning and Education. Sten Saluveer
- *Apollo Kino Coca-Cola Plaza, A. Le Coq Sviit*
- 14:30-17:30 A Film Screening of *El Camino* by Ana Mariscal & a Masterclass with David Garcia, film restorer, and Ana Mariscal's son. Moderated by Chiara Zappalà
- *Apollo Kino Coca-Cola Plaza, 6. Saal*

ProdNest: Hatching Film Futures

- 10:30-12:30 Breaking into the Industry: Mentorship Opportunity for Aspiring Producers, Session 3. Katriel Schory*
- *Nordic Hotel Forum, Kaminasaal*
- 15:30-18:00 Breaking into the Industry: Mentorship Opportunity for Aspiring Producers, Session 4. Katriel Schory*
- *Nordic Hotel Forum, Kaminasaal*

TV Beats Forum

- 15:00-19:00 TV Beats - I'm Your Staff Writer by Taç Romey and Markus Walsch*
- *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*

Discovery Campus

- 16:00-17:30 Discovery Campus opening panel: Creators, Copyright, and AI: A Deep Dive into the Potential of AI, as well as Issues and Opportunities in Creators' Rights. With Boaz Yakin, moderated by Sten-Kristian Saluveer
- *Advokaadibüroo PwC Legal*
- 17:30-19:00 Mix and mingle
- *Advokaadibüroo PwC Legal*
- 19:00-20:00 Speed dating among participants 1
- *Advokaadibüroo PwC Legal*

November 15

OPEN PANELS, PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, SCREENINGS

Script Pool

- 09:00-10:30 IS!: What Does a Sales Company Do and Why Might You Want One? by Julia Short
- *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*
- 13:30-15:00 IS!: How Does Film Distribution Actually Work? by Julia Short
- *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*

Just Film Industry Days

- 09:30-11:00 The Deepness of Filmmaking - Do Modern Day Kids Question What's behind the Film? Sa-Ra Zwarteveen, Jon Gill. Moderated by Alasdair Satchel
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*
- 11:30-13:00 Brilliant Films that Find No Audience - From the Distributor's Perspective. Tania Pinto Da Cunha, Xiaojuan Zhou, Nils Andersson. Moderated by Alasdair Satchel
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

Panels and Talks

- 11:00-13:00 Innovation / European Genre Forum - Navigating Narratives: A Screenwriter's Guide to the Game World. Workshop with Märten Rattasepp and Jaagup Irv
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Sirius*
- 14:00-17:00 FilmSkills: Projecting Forward: Crafting the Next Scene in Baltic Filmmaking & Education. Birgit Vilgats, Vejune Zemaityte, Dāvis Šimanis, Romanas Matulis, Rimante Daugelaite, Birgit Rosenberg. Moderated by Vytautas Dambrauskas
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*
- 16:00-17:00 Creating the Best: The Gale Anne Hurd Story in Film and TV. Moderated by Paul Thiltges
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*
- 17:30-18:30 The Role of Strategy in Content Creation & Distribution. Ari Tan, moderated by Ben Dalton
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*
- 17:15-18:45 CRESCINE Presentation. Manuel Damásio, Indrek Ibrus, Jakob Isak Nielsen, Sten-Kristian Saluveer, Romanas Matulis, Heritiana Ranoivoson. Moderated by Sten-Kristian Saluveer
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

Discovery Campus

- 13:00-14:30 Music Meets Film - John Altman. Creation of an Emmy Winning Score
▶ *Tallinn School of Music and Ballet MUBA, Big Chamber Hall*
- 14:00-16:00 Black Night Stars - E-Talenta Presentation. Sophia Tamaro. Moderated by Claudia Landsberger
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Altair*
- 16:30-18:00 Black Nights Stars - Panel Talk: Agents. Raakel Huikuri, Robin Hudson. Moderated by Claudia Landsberger
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Altair*
- 19:30-21:30 Frame Within a Frame - Oceans, Q&A and Presentation. Philippe Ros
▶ *BFM, Super Nova Cinema*

Works in Progress

- 16:15-17:45 Project Pitching: Just Film Works in Progress. Moderated by Andrea Reuter
▶ *Apollo Kino Coca-Cola Plaza, 6. Saal*

CLOSED SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS, ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS

European Genre Forum

- 09:00-18:00 European Genre Forum Closed Workshop Day 2
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Vega*

Discovery Campus

- 09:00-12:00 Black Nights Stars one-to-one meetings
▶ *Tallink City Hotel, lobby*
- 09:00-11:00 Frame Within a Frame - Workshop (CWC) Lighting Practical: Day 1 Session 1
▶ *BFM, Film Studio*
- 10:00-11:00 Black Room Introductory Session
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Wolf*
- 11:30-13:00 Know Your Rights: from Classical Copyright Myths to Computer-Generated Works. Priit Lätt, PWC
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*
- 13:30-14:30 Black Room - Production Design Case Study by Kave Quinn
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Wolf*
- 14:00-18:00 Frame Within a Frame - Workshop (CWC) Lighting Practical: Day 1 Session 2
▶ *BFM, Film Studio*
- 15:00-17:00 Black Room - Production Design of *Pistol*. Black Room Workshop 1. Kave Quinn
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Wolf*
- 19:00-20:00 Discovery Campus - Speed-dating among participants 2
▶ *Tallink City Hotel, lobby*
- 20:00-00:00 Music Meets Film Meets for Drinks
▶ *Philly Joe's Tallinn*

The Near Future Retreat

- 09:30-13:30 The Near Future Retreat by Helene Granqvist and Valeria Richter
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Altair*

ProdNest: Hatching Film Futures

- 10:30-12:30 Breaking into the Industry: Mentorship Opportunity for Aspiring Producers, Session 5. Katriel Schory*
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Kaminasaal*
- 15:30-17:30 Breaking into the Industry: Mentorship Opportunity for Aspiring Producers, Session 6. Katriel Schory*
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Kaminasaal*

EVENING EVENTS

- 20:00 Welcome by the Finnish Film Foundation.
Entrance with the badge!
▶ *Roheline Saal, Telliskivi Creative City*

November 16

OPEN PANELS, PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, SCREENINGS

Works In Progress

- 10:00-12:00 Project Pitching: Baltic Event Works in Progress
▶ *Apollo Kino Coca-Cola Plaza, 2. Saal*

Discovery Campus

- 11:00-12:00 Black Room - The Big Thing about the Little Things' by
Production Designer Kave Quinn
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*
- 16:30-18:00 Music Meets Film - From Discomfort to Normality:
Authors' and Performers' Rights and Remuneration.
Priit Lätt. Moderated by Jonas Tarm
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Altair*
- 17:00-18:30 Frame Within a Frame - Creative Triangle: Actor,
Director, Cinematographer. Illango Ram, Ivar Taim,
Shahar Rozen, Dhanushka Gunathilake.
Moderated by Philippe Ros
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

European Genre Forum

- 12:00-13:00 Project Pitching: European Genre Forum
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

Innovation

- 13:30-16:30 AI for Marketing & Content Creation.
Marju Sokman, Erman Küplü
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*
- 14:00-14:15 YAMDU Software Presentation: Tired of Data Silos and
Multiple Workflows in Co-Productions?
by Florian Reimann and Petar Cuk
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

Script Pool

- 14:15-15:15 Project Pitching: Script Pool
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

Panels and Talks

- 15:30-16:30 Focus Countries Presentation -
Concordance des Temps
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

- 16:30-17:00 Coffee break hosted by Creative Europe MEDIA Desks
from Croatia, North Macedonia,
Nordic and Baltic countries
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, 2nd floor atrium*
- 17:00-18:30 Bridging the Gap: From Exile to Creation of Belarusian
Independent Film Academy. A panel discussion on
different practices of Belarusian independent
filmmakers to keep the film industry alive.
Moderated by Davide Abbatescianni
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*

CLOSED SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS, ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS

Discovery Campus

- 09:00-16:00 Frame Within a Frame - Workshop (CWC) Lighting
Practical: Day 2
▶ *BFM, Film Studio*
- 10:00-11:30 Meeting with Black Nights Stars
agents and casting directors
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Altair*
- 13:00-15:30 Black Room - Production Design of *Pistol*.
Black Room Workshop, pt. 2 Kave Quinn
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Wolf*
- 14:00-16:00 Black Nights Stars - Workshop with Shahar Rozen
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Altair*
- 16:00-17:00 Black Room Concluding Session
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Wolf*
- 17:30-22:00 Black Nights Stars Awards Night
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Kaminasaal*

Co-Production Market

- 10:00-18:00 Co-Production Market one-to-one meetings Day 1
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Sirius*

European Genre Forum

- 14:00-19:00 European Genre Forum one-to-one meetings
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Vega*

Script Pool

- 16:00-18:30 Script Pool one-to-one meetings with Julia Short Day 1
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Suite*
- 16:00 Script Pool one-to-one meetings with the Jury
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Sirius*

EVENING EVENTS

- 20:00 Industry Focus Countries Mingle.
Entrance with the badge!
▶ *Roheline saal, Telliskivi Creative City*

November 17

OPEN PANELS, PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, SCREENINGS

Works In Progress

- 10:00-11:30 International Works In Progress Project Pitching
▶ *Apollo Kino Coca-Cola Plaza, 2. Saal*

Discovery Campus

- 10:00-11:30 Music Meets Film - The Art of Translation: Communication between Director and Composer. Ann Reimann, Tanel Toom. Moderated by Nis Bøgvad
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*
- 14:00-16:00 Frame Within a Frame - Everything You Want to Know about LED!
▶ *BFM, Super Nova Cinema*
- 15:00 -17:00 Black Nights Stars - Actors workshop with Shahar Rozen
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Altair*

Panels and Talks

- 11:30-12:30 Italian-Baltic Development Award presentation. Edith Sepp, Dita Rietuma, Laimonas Ubavičius
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

Industry Innovation Forum Tallinn

- 13:00-15:00 From Words to Action: Europe and Ukraine's Solidarity in Film & Industry 631 Days Later
- 15:30-18:30 The European Entertainment Landscape Redefined: Exploring Film, Gaming & Industry at the Boom of AI. Curated and moderated by Sten-Kristian Saluveer
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

Script Pool

- 14:00-15:30 Design your Festival Strategy. Teresa Cavina
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*

Innovation

- 15:00-18:00 The Art of Digital: Marketing & Analytics for Cultural Enterprises. Erman Küplü
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Vega*

CLOSED SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS, ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS

Discovery Campus

- 09:00-13:30 Frame Within a Frame - Workshop (CWC) Colour Grading
▶ *BFM, Colour Grading Room*
- 11:00-14:00 Local actors one-to-one meetings with Black Nights Stars agents and casting directors*
▶ *Tallink City Hotel, lobby*
- 12:00-13:30 Black Nights Stars - Meetings with First Time Directors
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Altair*
- 18:00-19:30 Music Meets Film - Rescoring Corrida from Black Nights Film Festival
▶ *Estonian Public Broadcasting's Radio Studio 1*

Script Pool

- 09:00-12:40 Script Pool one-to-one meetings with Julia Short Day 2
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Suite*

Co-Production Market

- 10:00-18:00 Co-Production Market one-to-one meetings Day 2
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Sirius*

EVENING EVENTS

- 20:00 Industry Awards Ceremony powered by Nafta Films. Entrance with the badge!
▶ *Roheline Saal, Telliskivi Creative City*

November 19

Open Panels, Presentations, Workshops, Screenings

- 09:00-22:00 Travel to the Edge of the European Union and NATO - FAM Tour by bus to Ida-Viru region*
▶ *Loomeinkubaator Objekt, Narva*

CREATIVE GATE

Creative Gate is a development centre for creative industries aiming to enhance the entrepreneurial and export potential of the Estonian audiovisual industry. It offers comprehensive supportive services for film industry companies and related sectors, while promoting the growth of new creative economy enterprises.

Additionally, the development centre aims to serve as a continuing education centre for the audiovisual sector, attracting new individuals with an opportunity to learn new skills and knowledge to enrich the field and thus alleviate the challenges in the changing job market. The continuing education activities will develop and improve the professionalism of film industry partners' network while contributing to establishing new creative economy enterprises.

3 CREATIVE GATE KEY AREAS

Professionals/Talents - professionals working in the audiovisual sector have a chance to introduce themselves at the international level

Locations - an overview of different film locations and databases, showcasing Estonian locations, relevant to international projects in the audiovisual sector.

Service Presentation - a database of service companies relevant to the audiovisual sector (e.g. accommodation services, catering, equipment rental, etc.).

In 2023, as part of Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event, Creative Gate will open a platform that introduces actors. In 2024, sections for showcasing locations and services will be launched.

Press & Industry Screenings

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 8

10:30	8	Shorts Live-Action Competition 4 / Shorts Live-Action Competition / 96 min
11:00	S	Shorts Kids Animation Competition 2 / Shorts Kids Animation Competition / 44 min
11:45	S	Shorts Kids Animation Competition 3 / Shorts Kids Animation Competition / 42 min
12:15	8	Shorts Live-Action Competition 5 / Shorts Live-Action Competition / 88 min
15:30	S	Eyeballs on Shorts: Getting Audience to Experience the Diverse World of Short Film / 60 min

November 19

10:15	S	MY FREEDOM / Mana Brīvība / Ilze Kunga-Melgaile / Latvia / Baltic Film Competition / IP / 98 min
10:30	9	VERA AND THE PLEASURE OF OTHERS / Vera y el placer de los otros / Romina Tamburello, Federico Actis / Argentina / First Feature Competition / WP / 104 min
11:00	8	PATIENT#1 / Rezo Gigineishvili / Georgia / Official Selection - Competition / WP / 114 min
12:00	S	Shorts New Talents Competition: Live-action 3 / Shorts New Talents Competition: Live-action / 102 min
12:30	9	MO MAMMA / Eeva Mägi / Estonia / First Feature Competition / WP / 70 min
13:00	8	OXYGEN STATION / Kysneva Stantsiia / Ivan Tymchenko / Ukraine, Czechia, Sweden, Slovakia / Official Selection - Competition / WP / 106 min
13:45	S	Shorts New Talents Competition: Animation 2 / Shorts New Talents Competition: Animation / 69 min
15:00	S	Shorts Animation Competition 5 / Shorts Animation Competition / 72 min

November 10

10:00	8	OCTOBER METAFICTION / Haneulyeondal Seumunal / Kyujun Cho / South Korea / Official Selection - Competition / WP / 86 min
10:15	9	THE QUIET MAID / Calladita / Miguel Faus / Spain / First Feature Competition / WP / 90 min
10:30	S	GREAT SERTÃO / Grande Sertão / Guel Arraes, Flávia Lacerda / Brazil Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 114 min
11:30	8	ANDREA'S LOVE / El amor de Andrea / Manuel Martín Cuenca / Spain / Official Selection - Competition / IP / 101 min
12:00	9	UNMOORED / Caroline Ingvarsson / United Kingdom / First Feature Competition / IP / 93 min
12:30	S	LESSONS OF TOLERANCE / Arkadiy Nepytyaliuk / Ukraine / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 95 min
13:15	8	THE MAN FROM ROME / De Man uit Rome / Jaap van Heusden / Netherlands, Germany / Official Selection - Competition / IP / 107 min
13:45	9	THE GHOSTS CULT AND BIG BROTHER: MAD ON THE FINAL BLACK NIGHT / Green Geng / South Korea, Albania, Kosovo / Rebels with a Cause Competition / WP / 120 min

LEGEND: 2, 4, 6, 8, 9 – Hall numbers in Coca-Cola Plaza (Hobujaama 5)

S – Hall A Le Coq Suite in Coca-Cola Plaza (Hobujaama 5) • **B** – BFM cinema Nova (Narva mnt 27)

Time	Hall	Film / Original title / Director / Country / Programme / Premiere / Length
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November 10

14:15	S	KALMAN'S DAY / Szabolcs Hajdu / Hungary, Slovakia, USA / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 72 min
15:30	S	THE TEST / Ramūnas Cicėnas / Lithuania / Baltic Film Competition / IP / 92 min

November 11

10:00	8	THE G / Karl R. Hearne / Canada / Official Selection - Competition / WP / 106 min
10:15	S	HER BODY / Její telo / Natálie Císařovská / Czechia, Slovakia / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 105 min
10:30	9	FALLING INTO PLACE / Aylín Tezel / Germany / First Feature Competition / IP / 113 min
12:00	8	TERESA / Paula Ortiz / Spain / Official Selection - Competition / IP / 102 min
12:15	S	PELIKAN BLUE / László Csáki / Hungary / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 79 min
12:30	9	THE MOON IS UPSIDE DOWN / Loren Taylor / New Zealand / First Feature Competition / WP / 100 min
13:45	S	EVERYTHING, EVERYWHERE / Kah Wai Lim / Japan / Rebels with a Cause Competition / WP / 88 min
13:45	8	MISERICORDIA / Emma Dante / Italy / Official Selection - Competition / IP / 95
14:15	9	SPIT IN MY FACE / Manfred Vainokivi / Estonia / Baltic Film Competition / WP / 60 min
15:30	S	THE WAVES, THE SAND, AND TWO LOVERS IN THE MIDDLE OF... / Jiyeong Hong / South Korea / Rebels with a Cause Competition / IP / 87 min

November 12

10:15	S	THE BRAZEN / Bezkaunīgie / Aik Karapetian / Latvia / Baltic Film Competition / IP / 78 min
10:30	8	FOREVER HOLD YOUR PEACE / Živi i zdravi / Ivan Marinović / Montenegro, Serbia, Czechia, Croatia, North Macedonia, Slovenia / WP / 96 min
11:45	S	LIFE'S A BITCH / Chiennes De Vie / Xavier Seron / Belgium / Rebels with a Cause Competition / WP / 92 min
12:15	8	FAMILIAR / Călin Peter Netzer / Romania, France, Taiwan / Official Selection - Competition / WP / 106 min
13:30	S	MR. AND MRS. STODOLA / Petr Hátle / Czechia, Slovakia / First Feature Competition / WP / 108 min
14:15	8	BAD ACTOR / Un actor malo / Jorge Cuchi / Mexico / Official Selection - Competition / WP / 129 min
15:30	S	ALL, OR NOTHING AT ALL / Suo You You Shang De Nian Qing Ren / Jiajun 'Oscar' Zhang / China / First Feature Competition / WP / 124 min

LEGEND: 2, 4, 6, 8, 9 – Hall numbers in Coca-Cola Plaza (Hobujaama 5)

S – Hall A Le Coq Suite in Coca-Cola Plaza (Hobujaama 5) • **B** – BFM cinema Nova (Narva mnt 27)

Time Hall Film / Original Title / Director / Country / Programme / Premiere / Length
November 13

10:15	S	THE MILKY WAY / Halav / Maya Kenig / Israel, France / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 98 min
10:30	8	NATASHA'S DANCE / De Dans van Natasja / Jos Stelling / Netherlands / Official Selection - Competition / IP / 101 min
10:45	9	THE WRITER / Rašytojas / Romas Zabarauskas / Lithuania, Germany, USA / Baltic Film Competition / WP / 87 min
12:00	S	NOBODY LEAVES ALIVE / Ninguém Sai Vivo Daqui / André Ristum / Brazil / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 86 min
12:15	8	CONSENT / Le consentement / Vanessa Filho / France / Official Selection - Competition / IP / 120 min
12:30	9	INPAINTINGS / Ozan Yoleri / Turkey / First Feature Competition / WP / 90 min
13:30	S	THE END (ARTIFICIAL FRAGMENTS OF HUMANKIND) / Aurélien Héraud, Olivier Héraud / France / Rebels with a Cause Competition / IP / 104 min
14:15	9	DILLI DARK DIBAKAR DAS ROY / India / First Feature Competition / IP / 100 min
14:30	8	TAURINS SENIOR / Alexander Hahn / Latvia, United Kingdom / Baltic Film Competition / WP / 100 min
15:30	S	FIVE AND A HALF LOVE STORIES IN AN APARTMENT IN VILNIUS, LITHUANIA / Penkios su puse meilės istorijos, nutikusios viename Vilniaus bute / Tomas Vengris / Lithuania, Ireland, Latvia / Rebels with a Cause Competition / WP / 112 min
16:15	8	TWITTERING SOUL 3D / Čiulbanti siela 3D / Deimantas Narkevičius / Lithuania / Baltic Film Competition / BP / 70 min

November 14

10:00	4	Go Long / 90 min
10:15	S	Just Film Industry EFA / 135 min
10:30	8	THE MAGNET MAN / De magneet man / Gust Van den Berghe / Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands / Official Selection - Competition / WP / 90 min
10:45	9	TENTIGO / Nelum Kuluna / Ilango Ram / Sri Lanka, India / First Feature Competition / WP / 103 min
12:15	8	INVISIBLE WINDOWS / Dr. Biju / India / Official Selection - Competition / WP / 126 min
12:45	9	BODY ODYSSEY / Grazia Tricarico / Italy, Switzerland / First Feature Competition / WP / 106 min
13:30	S	Just Film Industry AI / 60 min
14:30	8	I DON'T EXPECT ANYONE TO BELIEVE ME / No Voy A Pedirle A Nadie Que Me Crea / Fernando Frias / Mexico, Spain / Rebels with a Cause - Out of Competition / EP / 118 min
14:30	6	Just Film Industry Film Factory / 180 min
14:45	9	LIGHT FALLS / Phedon Papamichael / Georgia, Albania, Greece, Germany / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 90 min
15:00	S	OBSERVING / Opazovanje / Janez Burger / Slovenia, Italy, Croatia, North Macedonia / IP / 83 min
21:00	B	OCEANS / 90 min

November 15

10:15	S	TRUST YOU / Agustín Toscano / Argentina / Rebels with a Cause Competition / WP / 83 min
10:30	8	BEN-JOE / Akira Iwamatsu / Japan / Official Selection - Competition / WP / 136 min
10:45	9	THE FISHERMAN'S DAUGHTER / La estrategia del mero / Edgar de Luque Jácome / Colombia, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Dominican Republic / First Feature Competition / WP / 80 min
11:45	S	KING KHAT / Uri Marantz / Israel, Portugal / Rebels with a Cause Competition / IP / 73 min

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

November 15

12:15	9	ENDLESS SUMMER SYNDROME / Le syndrome de l'été sans fin / Kaveh Daneshmand / Czechia, France / First Feature Competition / WP / 98 min
13:00	8	TEN MONTHS / Idan Hubel / Israel / Official Selection - Competition / WP / 80 min
13:15	S	MRS. / Arati Kadav / India / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 111 min
14:00	9	THE ICE THAT STILL SUPPORTS US / Jäätee veerel / Arko Okk / Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Czechia / Baltic Film Competition / WP / 63 min
14:30	8	ONCE AGAIN (FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME) / Boaz Yakin / USA / Official Selection - Competition / WP / 107 min
15:15	S	FEZ SUMMER '55 / Abdelhaï Laraki / Morocco / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 114 min
16:15	6	Just Film Works In Progress 80 min

November 16

10:00	2	Baltic Event Works In Progress / 120 min
10:15	S	THE LAND WHERE WINDS STOOD STILL / Zhel toqtaghan zher / Ardak Amirkulov / Kazakhstan / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 108 min
10:30	8	AMAL / Jawad Rhalib / Belgium, France / Official Selection - Competition / IP / 112 min
10:45	9	GIANT'S KETTLE / Hiidenkirnu / Markku Hakala, Mari Käki / Finland / First Feature Competition / IP / 71 min
12:00	9	CAT CALL / Cicaverzum / Rozália Szeleczi / Hungary / First Feature Competition / IP / 92 min
12:15	S	THE OLD MAN AND THE LAND / Nick Parish / United Kingdom / Critics' Picks Competition / WP / 93 min
12:30	8	WHITE FLAG / Batbayar Chogsom / Mongolia, Switzerland, Japan / Official Selection - Competition / WP / 96 min
13:45	9	EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT / Viss būs labi! / Stanislavs Tokalovs / Latvia / Baltic Film Competition / IP / 96 min
14:00	S	SUPERMARKET / Nemanja Becanovic / Montenegro / WP / 75 min
14:15	8	GOOD SAVAGE SANTIAGO MOHAR VOLKOW / Mexico / Rebels with a Cause Competition / WP / 107 min
15:30	S	WINTER HOWL / Aullido De Invierno / Matías Rojas Valencia / Chile, Colombia, Argentina / Rebels with a Cause Competition / WP / 98 min
15:30	9	LIFE AND DEATH OF A CHRISTMAS TREE / Kalėdų eglutės gyvenimas ir mirtis / Artūras Jevdokimovas / Lithuania, Georgia, Denmark / Balti filmi võistlusprogramm Kinoffi Põhiprogramm / WP / 86 min

November 17

10:00	2	International Works In Progress / 120 min
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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)

FILM PRODUCTION MEETS THE FUTURE



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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 2024
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

Jarod Neece, Senior Programmer, Tribeca Festival, United States
Frederik Hemmingsen, Sales Manager, Trust Nordisk, Denmark
Marija Razgute, Founder & Film Producer, M-Films, Lithuania



THE BOG



Original title: Klajumā aiz mega

Country: Latvia

Genre: crime, drama

Written by: Reinis Kalviņš

Directed by: Reinis Kalviņš

Produced by: Gints Grūbe

Production company: Mistrus Media

Language: Latvian

Estimated budget in EUR: 995 000

Financing in place in EUR: 600 000

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

Logline

As the body of a boy is discovered in the peat field, Broze, a local police man is forced to reopen a missing persons case from 30 years ago and the past never truly stays buried.

Synopsis

The body of a 12-year-old boy is found buried in a peat bog near a small town in Latvia, and local deadbeat Adamson confesses to the murder. Adamson also indicates that local policeman Broze was present on the day when a game played by boys turned tragic. During the identification, Brože recognises the body of his childhood friend Mickey, who disappeared more than 25 years ago and was never found. After Adamson sobers up, his confession falls apart at the seams and Brože has to release him. The people of an otherwise sleepy town are set on revenge and are not concerned about any evidence. Brože's inability to show quick results threatens his authority and he gets bogged down with keeping order in the town. He also tries to recall events of the day Mickey disappeared - a day he can't remember or forget. Seems that the bog holds more than one secret and time starts to play tricks on Broze's mind.

Director's note

The idea originated when I heard about the phenomenon of the bog bodies - in Northern Europe, mummified bodies are discovered in bogs that look like they were buried yesterday but can be thousands of years old. The film will not be a traditional police procedural. I am interested in the metamorphosis of this genre in world cinema. Directors such as Ceylan and Dumont (films *Once Upon a Time in Anatolia*, *L'humanité*) have proven that it is possible to utilise some of the genre convictions, but at the same time focus on the atmosphere and the setting of the story.

The central theme of the film is guilt and the subjectivity of memories. As the title suggests, our main character is on a shifting ground. He starts to question his own memory, which leads him to a sort of

paranoid state and the rumours in town about his involvement in the crime don't help either. The setting of the film holds a strong symbolic meaning, as in bogs the past is never dead and maybe time is not as linear as we are used to thinking.

Director

Today working as a director, Reinis studied filmmaking under the mentorship of Bela Tarr (MA programme at Film Factory Sarajevo). **Reinis Kalviņš** first feature-length film, crime drama *The Shift* debuted in 2021, and his filmography also includes short films *He Took the Bottle but Left the Girl* (2014), *Blackout* (2015), *Coffee and Cigarettes* (2016). Reinis is an alumni of Torino Film Lab and Locarno Match Me programme.

Producer

Gints Grūbe holds degrees in philosophy and political science. He has diverse work experience in the field of media. Since founding Mistrus Media, one of the leading film companies in Latvia, he has been involved in producing films including *Escaping Riga* (directed by Dāvis Simanis jr.), *Chronicles of Melani* (directed by Viesturs Kairiņš), *To Be Continued* (directed by Ivars Seleckis), *The Mover* (directed by Dāvis Simanis jr.), *January* (directed by Viesturs Kairiņš), *Samuel's Travels* (directed by Aiks Karapetjans), and co-produced the movies *Tsoy* (directed by Alexei Uchitel) and *In The Dusk* (directed by Sharunas Bartas). He co-directed *World Sounds* and *My Father The Spy*.

Company profile

Mistrus Media, established in 2000, is one of the most experienced Latvian film production companies with strong reflections on historical and current social political themes. In recent years, the film studio has cooperated with a number of countries, working both on complex joint productions of international films and providing professional services to foreign companies shooting their films in Latvia. In 2022, in honour

of Cannes' 75th anniversary, Screen International selected Mistrus Media as one of the 75 independent European production companies actively engaged in 2022 in the origination, development and production of feature films, working with other co-production partners to create works for arthouse audiences and the global festival circuit.

Representative in Tallinn:

Gints Grūbe, producer

Reinis Kalviņš, writer-director

Anete Ruperte, assistant producer



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CHECKPOINTS



Original title: Maavarim

Country: Israel

Genre: drama

Written by: Rita Borodiyanski

Directed by: Rita Borodiyanski

Produced by: Osnat Saraga

Production company: Ananey Studios

Languages: Spanish, Hebrew, Arabic, Russian

Estimated budget in EUR: 795 872

Financing in place EUR: 18 000

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

Logline

A portrait of a young woman from a struggling household, who serves as a soldier in the IDF checkpoint unit.

Synopsis

Checkpoints is a portrait of a young Israeli woman, daughter of first-generation immigrants, who grew in a poor neighbourhood and decides to complete her army service in the Tulkarm checkpoints in order to qualify for the bonus release grant - with which she could both support her parents and fulfil her boyfriend's dream of starting a new life in Miami. But somehow, against all odds, it is in the hellish reality of the West bank checkpoints that she is exposed to an alternate life, and begins to follow her own dreams.

Director's note

I grew up in a poor neighbourhood, hung out with a bad crowd, and was in an extremely toxic relationship. My immigrant parents, who didn't have the tools or knowledge to help me, asked me to enlist in the army - in hopes that my service would be a ticket out of the neighbourhood. Soon enough, I found myself serving in the Tulkarm checkpoints. I was given the impression that my service would entail the duties of a mall security guard, more or less. My incentive, of course, was qualifying for the increased release grant combatants were entitled to. Terms such as "the occupation," "apartheid," and even "Palestinian" meant little to nothing to me, much like the vast majority of soldiers serving the checkpoints. Most of us came from poor neighbourhoods and difficult backgrounds; no one asked us if we wanted to be there. The only thing we cared about was our own survival. Morals were the luxury of elitist rich kids, and those were never recruited to the checkpoints.

Director

Rita Borodiyanski is the author of *Time Out* (2023), a short film which won the prestigious Hollyshorts Festival award for best action film and was nominated for Ophir. She is currently developing her debut feature *Checkpoints*, which participated in the Pitch Point Competitions at Sam Spiegel lab and 4.dot.on.the.map Industry Days Cyprus, Wifti International, and Haifa Film Festival, and won the Promising Creator Award.

Producer

Osnat Saraga, the SVP of Development & Production at Ananey Studios since 2010 (fka Nutz Productions), is one of Israel's most experienced and beloved TV & film producers. During her exquisite 30-year career, Osnat has won 13 Israeli TV Academy Awards. She is well known for her high-end on-location shoots as well as her over-the-top production value and sophisticated personal touch. She has put Ananey on the map as an innovator and elevating the company's reputation in the local and international scenes as the go-to quality content producer.

Company profile

Ananey Studios is an award-winning Tel Aviv-based studio that develops and produces inventive content spanning a variety of genres and target demos from live-action preschool shows to high-concept dramas, kids' and teens' must-watch TV shows, sitcoms, animation, documentaries, and lifestyle.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Osnat Saraga, producer

Rita Borodiyanski, writer-director



Contact

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DAWN CHORUS



Original title: Rankovy Khor
Country: Ukraine, Poland, France, Estonia, Lithuania
Genre: drama, road movie, adventure
Written by: Mykola Zasioiev, Illia Volynets-Trifonov
Directed by: Mykola Zasioiev
Produced by: Vitalii Sheremetiev, Natalia Libet, Oleksii Zgonik
Co-produced by: Jakub Kosmo, Victor Ede, Marija Razgutè
Production company: DGTL RLG N
Co-production company: Serce Sp. Z O.O., Cinephage Productions, M-Films, Esse House Ou
Language: Ukrainian
Estimated budget in EUR: 1 314 000
Financing in place in EUR: 169 000
Looking for: sales agent, distributors, foreign broadcasters, public funds (national, regional, international), private funds/banks, technical in-kind participation

Logline

World War III has been going on for 70 years. The Soloist, a lonely traumatised military service man with a supernatural gift to reproduce the past with sound, goes on a journey together with the Teacher, who asks him to create a memory that never existed – her dead son's return from war.

Synopsis

World War III has been going on for 70 years. The Soloist (35), a lonely traumatised military serviceman with a supernatural gift to recognise and reproduce people's memories with sound, goes on a journey together with the Teacher (55), a woman from a village, who asks him to create a memory that never existed – her dead son's return from war. Her persistence blends with his desperate desire to recollect his own memories. Together, they embark on a journey to fulfil their needs while overcoming the obstacles of the war-torn world.

Director's note

Dawn Chorus depicts the consequences of what we all fear now – World War III. With the help of the dystopian setting, it is possible to convey ideas that are balanced for both Ukraine and the entire world. Ideas of family restoration, preservation of memory, mutual assistance, importance of an individual in history. It is about how one can find courage to stop being a prisoner of the past and start living here and now.

Dawn Chorus is a dystopian black-and-white survival drama wrapped in road movie form. The journey of a man and a woman makes them confront the cruel war-torn world. The story has a parable form and builds with chapters. That's how we bring *Dawn Chorus* closer to a myth. That's why the main characters do not have names, but are referred to according to their social role: the Soloist, the Teacher, and so on. The same with locations. This form gives us an understanding that such a story can happen anywhere and with anyone.

Writer-director

Mykola Zasioiev graduated from Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts (Filmmaking) in 2017. While still a student, he started working with prominent Ukrainian TV and film production studios as a script writer, 1st AD, and acting coach. He has also made several student works released at the local film festivals. *Phase*, his short fiction debut, premiered at Molodist IFF in Kyiv in May 2021, and since, has been in numerous film festivals. *Dawn Chorus* is his upcoming feature debut.

Producers

Vitalii Sheremetiev (1973) was born in Kyiv. Gained solid experience in producing ads and movies during more than 25 years. Started his career in service production with Bates Saatchi & Saatchi in 1993. Joined ESSE Production House as an Executive Producer in 1998 and became the CEO in 2006. Has produced 23 feature films and documentaries since 2010.

Natalia Libet has gained experience in co-production, investment, and finance while working for international companies. Natalia has had annual audits with Big 4, obtained an MBA in the U.S. She 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.

Oleksii Zgonik was born in Dnipro city, Ukraine. Producer with more than 15 years of experience in film production. Graduated from Kyiv International University, Master in International Law (2005).

Company profile

DGTL RLG N company was founded in 2012. Its main specialisation is the production of feature films, documentaries, and television programs. Additionally, the company operates as a full-service production company for the film and television industry.

Representatives in Tallinn:
Vitalii Sheremetiev, producer
Oleksii Zgonik, producer



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DIRT IN YOUR FACE



Original title: Musta pori näkku
Country: Estonia, Latvia, Finland
Genre: biographical, drama, period/historical, road movie, youth/teen, music
Written by: Martin Algus
Directed by: Jaak Kilmi
Produced by: Kristian Taska
Co-produced by: Ilkka Matila, Janis Kalejs, Tanel Tatter, Veiko Esken, Adeele Tähemaa
Production company: Taska Film
Co-production companies: Apollo Film Productions, Film Angels Productions, MRP Matila Röhr Productions
Language: Estonian
Estimated budget in EUR: 2 000 000
Financing in place EUR: 600 000
Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, distributors, technical in-kind participation

Logline

17-year-old Mihkel and his band go on a journey full of alcohol, protest and music to impress a foreign producer from the West visiting a rock festival in 1980s Soviet Estonia. In their struggle to keep their band together, they help split the Soviet Union.

Synopsis

In the summer of 1987, Estonia languishes under Soviet rule, stifling free expression. 17-year-old Mihkel, a rebellious musician, and his rival Hendrik learn of a Finnish talent scout visiting Estonia. To impress him, they must journey to a distant rock festival on the other side of the country. They assemble a group, including Mihkel's secret love Liisa. Amid rivalry and chaos, they navigate challenges, discovering their true selves along the way. Through adversity, friendship, music, and love take on new meaning.

The youth film *Dirt in Your Face* with biographical elements takes place in one of the most interesting and controversial periods in the history of Estonian music. It's an inside view of the musical subcultures of Eastern Europe that were under the yoke of the Soviet Union, it's an inside view of a society that longed for freedom and finally sang itself free. The film is inspired by the best-selling novel *Musta pori näkku* written by Mihkel Raud in 2008.

Director's note

Our characters are at that tender age when bravado masks inner insecurities, dreams can bury reality, and love can complicate an already fragile inner constitution. Despite the confrontations between friends, they are still fighting on the same side of the frontline against the rigid Soviet system. To bring out the essence of youth and the potential fireworks hidden within a stagnant society, we aim to cast very young actors aged 17-21, who are yet to make a name for themselves. Our characters are diverse and colourful, with some being pure comic characters and others having dramatic potential. Our goal is to create a period piece filled with music, relationships,

comedy, tragedy, and exciting action. The film will be loaded with hits from the time period. Music will be an integral part of the main characters' lives, surrounding them from above, below, and all around.

Director

Jaak Kilmi (1973) graduated from Tallinn University, majoring in film directing. He has (co-)directed and produced a string of successful short films; a number of documentary films and five feature films. His films have been awarded internationally and have enjoyed successful theatre runs in Estonia.

Producer

The main producer in Taska Film is the owner and founder of the company **Kristian Taska**. Before the establishment of Taska Film, he was the advertising manager (1992-1997) and then general manager and chairman (1998-2000) of the TV station Kanal 2. He was also the general manager and member of the board of Estonian Drama Theatre (Eesti Draamateater) in 2005-2006. Kristian Taska is a member of ACE producers' network and is an alumnus of European Film Promotion.

Company profile

Taska Film has produced the majority of Estonia's top box office hits. The company's editorial preference has been to produce period piece films.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Kristian Taska, producer
Adeele Tähemaa, producer
Martin Algus, writer



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DOG OWNERS



Original title: Šeiminkai

Country: Lithuania

Genre: comedy, drama

Written by: Dovilė Šarutytė

Directed by: Dovilė Šarutytė

Produced by: Uljana Kim

Production company: Studio Uljana Kim

Language: Lithuanian

Estimated budget in EUR: 1 320 000

Financing in place in EUR: 44 000

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

Logline

A vignette film weaves together encounters between dog owners, where conversations about their beloved pets unveil deeper truths about themselves. Intertwined stories explore love, transformation, and human connection.

Synopsis

An omnibus film featuring short stories of dog owner encounters. In talking about their pets, they are really talking about themselves. The dogs become intermediaries for human communication. The situations do not involve big dramatic events; akin to a voyeur, the camera lands in a park, on a street, or rides by in a car, providing us snippets of stories that make us realise between the lines: a couple we're seeing are ex-lovers; the relationship between a mother and her daughter is transforming with the arrival of dogs; a girl finds a new friend on the way to school, only to lose him hours later, etc. The stories are tied together by the figure of a lost dog, who keeps popping up here and there as a secondary character, as well as its owners, pacing the streets of Vilnius in their car, trying to find it.

Director's note

The main idea is to make a film about people through dogs. The film would consist of several different short stories featuring the encounters between dog owners. The overarching themes are: loneliness, the search for connection, the divergences of people and time, the wish / the inability to express oneself, the personification of dogs. The storytelling method is observational, devoid of major dramatic events, focusing on the poetry of everyday life.

Director

Dovilė Šarutytė (born 1986) graduated with a degree in film directing from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre in 2009. *I Know You*, one of her first works as a director, was voted the Best Lithuanian

Short Film at the Lithuanian Film Academy Awards Silver Crane 2010. In 2011, she won a second Silver Crane award for *Not Lucky Today*. Her first feature, *Feature Film about Life*, premiered in 2021 at Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival.

Producer

Uljana Kim graduated from the Institute of Cinematography in Moscow (VGIK) in 1993 and is a film critic by education. She began her career in the cinema being the executive producer of the documentary *Spring* by Valdas Navasaitis, which won the best short film prize in Cinema du Reel 1997 Paris and the main prize in Oberhausen 1998. She founded Studio Uljana Kim in 1997 and has since then produced thirty three feature and documentary films.

Company profile

Studio Uljana Kim is a leading company in Lithuania for producing full length features. Since its foundation in 1997 twenty one feature films and twelve documentaries have been produced and co-produced by the company

Representatives in Tallinn:

Uljana Kim, producer

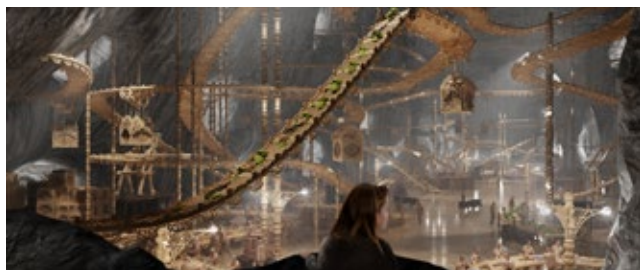
Dovilė Šarutytė, writer-director



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THE ELF



Original title: Tonttu
Country: Finland, Norway, Belgium
Genre: family
Written by: Hannes Vartiainen, Joonas Berghäll
Directed by: Hannes Vartiainen, Joonas Berghäll
Produced by: Joonas Berghäll
Co-produced by: Mathis Ståle Mathisen
Production company: Oktober Oy
Co-Production company: Rein Film
Language: English
Estimated budget in EUR: 3 500 000
Financing in place in EUR: 2 389 000
Looking for: sales agent, distributors, foreign broadcasters, public funds (national, regional, international), private funds/banks

Logline

An adventure film for children and families in the world of Elves, set in Lapland during Christmas time.

Synopsis

We arrive at the scene of a car crash. Flashing lights, ambulance, police and a helicopter. Two years later, Lumi and Ivalo, 9-year-old twin sisters, live in an orphanage in Lapland. Ivalo gets adopted and Lumi is left alone in the world. She escapes and ends up in the underground world of elves - a magical place where all Christmas presents for all the kids in the world are crafted. As she seeks to be reunited with her sister, she embarks on an exciting adventure through the world of elves.

Director's note

We have a strong desire to make a film that works for both children and adults. *The Elf* is a Christmas adventure about two siblings for children. It is a story of a child surviving from a trauma for adults. We set the film in the magical world of the Elves. The film is inspired by films such as *Spirited Away* and *Howl's Moving Castle*. These masterpieces deal with heavy themes, which open differently for viewers of different ages. At the heart of the film is the feeling of being alone, an outsider. Lumi is isolated in a completely new environment. She is forced to learn the customs and lifestyle of a new world. Her being the imaginary friend of Ivalo means that this adventure brings Ivalo back to life from the trauma of losing her parents. She learns to live with the past and start a new life in the loving new family. *The Elf* is a film about the power of imagination.

Director

Hannes Vartiainen graduated as a fiction director in 2004 and has since worked in the film industry as a director, producer and production manager. His previous films combine documentary, fiction

and animated narrative. The films have toured the world widely in prestigious festivals such as Venice, and have won several major awards both domestically and internationally. Combined, the nature films made for the Planetarium have attracted hundreds of thousands of viewers.

Director-producer

Joonas Berghäll was born in Kemi, Finland, in 1977. He studied film producing (2000–2005) at the Tampere University of Applied Sciences, School of Art and Media. He has been involved in film making since 1998. Today he works as a writer, director and producer in his own production company Oktober.

His latest films as a director, *The Red Ring* (2021), *Mother's Wish* (2015), and *Steam of Life* (2010), have had wide international success. *Steam of Life* was nominated for the European Film award in 2010.

Company profile

Oktober is a Finnish production company, which was established in 2004 by Joonas Berghäll. During the 19 years of its existence, Oktober has gained a reputation as a creative production house producing quality documentary and fiction films focusing on cutting edge social issues that evoke both strong feelings and deep thoughts.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Joonas Berghäll, writer-director-producer

Hannes Vartiainen, writer-director



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FLIGHT FROM KABUL



Original title: Flight from Kabul
Country: Slovakia, Italy
Genre: drama
Written by: Sahraa Karimi
Directed by: Sahraa Karimi
Produced by: Wanda Adamik Hrycova
Co-produced by: Domenico Procacci
Production company: Wandal Production, s.r.o.
Co-production company: Fandango
Language: Persian, English, Slovak
Estimated budget in EUR: 2 000 000
Financing in place in EUR: 600 000
Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, distributors, foreign broadcasters, public funds (national, regional, international)

Synopsis

Zibaa (30), a successful Afghan filmmaker and head of Afghan Film, recently got engaged to Samir (29), the love of her life. With the wedding scheduled for August 20 and the Taliban's unexpected seizure of Kabul on August 15, 2021, Zibaa faces a life-changing decision. Zibaa's safety is in jeopardy because she works for the government and her famous activism against the Taliban. While Samir suggests relocating to the south for her safety, Zibaa's sister-in-law begs her to leave the country for the sake of her daughter's future. Caught between her love for Samir and her niece's future, Zibaa has only one hour to make a decision. Amid chaos and fear, she struggles with the possible loss of everything she holds dear, including Samir.

Director's note

Flight from Kabul, my second feature film, is a cinematic testimony to the collapse of Afghan women's dreams and the erosion of democratic values by the resurgence of the Taliban. From a woman's perspective, it shows the multi-layered aspects of urban life in Kabul in two parallel narratives about the present and the past that have been less reflected in the world's media. By combining the love story of Zibaa and Samir with the force for departure and wandering to find a way out of darkness, I attempt to tell a realistic yet metaphorical story about the solid spirit of the Afghan people and their constant displacement due to Afghanistan's geopolitical situation and position. Although real events and my personal experiences inspire my film, it does not have a documentary style or structure. The cinematic language and style are evident through the perfectly calculated mise-en-scène and audiovisual composition.

Director

Sahraa Karimi is a film director and screenwriter from Afghanistan. Despite facing numerous obstacles, she has become a leading figure in the Afghan film industry and has won numerous international awards for her work. At the age of 17, Sahraa immigrated to the Slovak Republic, where she eventually earned her PhD in Cinema Performing

Arts, Film and TV Faculty in Bratislava. During her studies from 2002 to 2012, she made around 30 short fiction and documentary films, many of which were successful internationally and broadcasted through ARTE France, BBC, and other European TV channels. In 2012, Sahraa returned to Kabul and established her own film production company, Kapila Multimedia House, to support Afghan.

Producer

Wanda Adamik Hrycova graduated from VSMU in 2001, majoring in TV and Film Production. Between 2001-2006, she worked as a General Director at Nova Scena Theatre, the biggest musical theatre in Slovakia. In 2008, she produced the musical *The Producers* as a private producer under her label Wandal Production. The show was seen by almost 25.000 viewers. Between 2010-2012, she worked as a General Director in MediaPro Entertainment Slovakia, a production company that was producing the entire local content for TV Markiza. From TV she left to give birth to her three sons and during her maternity leave she produced two films – a World War II drama, *Colette* (CZ/SK, directed by Milan Cieslar), and the crime thriller *The Line* (SK/UA, directed by Peter Bebjak).

Company profile

Wandal Production was established in 2007, focuses mainly on feature film and TV production, and also participates as minority co-producer in strongly appealing international projects. It co-produced the World War II drama *Colette* by Milan Cieslar, and produced the crime thriller *The Line* by Peter Bebjak, which became the most successful Slovak film ever with over 330.000 admissions domestically. In 2021, the company premiered the historical TV series *The Slavs*, a Slovak-Ukrainian co-production, for TV JOJ. In 2021, it released the film *Perfect Strangers*. This film became the largest box office Slovak title in Slovak cinemas in 2021. Currently, WP is developing the historical drama *Ice Down*, set in the arena of ice-hockey, and the historical TV mini-series based on the book of the same name, *Three Banks of Danube*. In 2018, Wanda was elected the president of the Slovak Film and TV Academy.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Wanda Adamik Hrycova, producer



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LA MANCHE



Original title: La Manche

Country: Poland

Genre: drama, psychological drama

Written by: Damian Kocur

Directed by: Damian Kocur

Produced by: Anna Gawlita, Marta Szymanowska

Production company: Kijora Film

Language: Polish

Estimated budget in EUR: 700 000

Financing in place in EUR: 65 000

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

Logline

During an illegal hunt, Tomasz (33) accidentally shoots a man who turns out to be a refugee. Fearing the consequences of illegal weapon possession, he hides the man in his shed. Tomasz is put under pressure when the refugee starts making demands.

Synopsis

Tomasz (33) lives in a small village near the Belarusian border. As an active member of the local volunteer fire brigade, he is well-liked and respected in his community. He also hunts and owns a small farm. At the beginning of the summer, Tomasz's wife and daughter go on holiday to visit family. Tomasz remains at home alone. He works on a construction site, but this job is not the only source of his income: Together with his friend Krzysztof (32), Tomasz takes advantage of the loneliness of old people living in the deserted border villages. They take care of sick people on their deathbeds, hoping that by building a bond, they will convince the elderly folk to list them as their sole heirs. One day, after they are unsuccessful at selling one such "inherited" house, Tomasz and Krzysztof go hunting at night. They separate, Tomasz fires a shot. It turns out that he has accidentally injured a man, a refugee who had illegally crossed the Polish-Belarusian border. Tomasz hides this fact from Krzysztof. Yet, after the hunt is over, he drives back to the forest, takes the wounded man to a shed next to his home and looks after him.

Tomasz is aware that notifying the authorities would mean sending the refugee back to his country. At the same time, Tomasz could face serious legal consequences for illegal gun possession and shooting a man. A bond forms between Tomasz and the immigrant who introduces himself as Seyyed (35). Seyyed shares his life story and talks about his family and risky journey to Poland, inspiring empathy in Tomasz. Tomasz agrees to help Seyyed reach Germany, but an attempt to smuggle him over the border goes wrong and they are nearly detected by border control.

Tomasz's family is about to return from their holidays. The pressure on Tomasz increases when Seyyed begins to blackmail him, threatening

to tell authorities that he shot him as he seems to have given up on helping him to get abroad. Seyyed now also refuses to hide in the shed. Finally, in order to get rid of the problem of an already “non-existent” man, Tomasz kills Seyyed in his sleep and burns the body. A village festival begins, Tomasz’s family has returned.

Director’s note

Every day, hundreds of people try to flee to Europe from persecution in their home countries. When they reach the Polish-Belarusian border, they are usually denied asylum. *La Manche* is a story about collective and individual responsibility for the situation of those trying to find shelter in our “homeland.” It’s about how the refugee crisis stares directly into our eyes, becoming an authentic experience of meeting the “other.” Guilt is a state of insecurity and social responsibility for one’s actions. The questions I ask in the film are about our conscience. In the face of the looming climate change-related refugee crisis our attitude towards those seeking help and shelter will be put to the test again. How should we act, as a society and as individuals?

I would like to work only with non-professional actors – residents of the shooting locations. I will combine fictional stories with real stories and the lives of the people who appear in the film.

Writer-director

Damian Kocur is a director, screenwriter and cinematographer. His debut feature *Bread and Salt* celebrated its world premiere in the Venice Film Festival’s 2022 Orizzonti section, winning the Special Jury Prize. Among over twenty other awards, the film won Best Debut at the Cairo FF and Polish Eagle Award for Discovery of the Year. The short film *Beyond is the Day* received the Best European Film Award at Clermont-Ferrand 2021. Damian’s latest short *As It Was* was selected for official competition at Cannes 2023.

Producers

Anna Gawlita is a leading producer, co-owner, and chairwoman at Kijora Film. She has over 16 years of experience as a producer, co-producer, and production manager. Awarded as the best producer at Era New Horizons IFF 2008 and Krakow Film Festival 2017. ACE Mentoring participant 2022. Alumni of Berlinale Talents, Emerging Producers Programme at Ji.hlava and EKRA+ at Wajda School, Producers To Watch MIPCOM/ DOC/TV and Ph.D. student at the Lodz Film School. A member of the Polish Award Academy and EFA.

Marta Szymanowska is an emerging leading producer in Kijora Film. Regular freelance collaborator with sales agency The Match Factory. Alumna of Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris 2022. She has gained international experience working on co-productions i.a. as line producer for *Roving Woman* dir. by Michal Chmielewski (PL-USA production, premiere at Tribeca IFF 2022, EP by Wim Wenders, starring John Hawkes and Lena Gora). Graduate of law and Interdisciplinary Humanistic Studies.

Company profile

Kijora Film was launched in 2007. The company produces documentaries and fiction with a strong focus on scripts about social, ethical issues of contemporary relevance and intimate, local stories. Kijora’s productions have been selected i.a. for the Berlinale, Busan, Visions du Réel, IDFA, Slamdance.

Project representatives:

Anna Gawlita, producer

Marta Szymanowska, producer



Contact

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RAHMA



Original title: Rahma

Country: Türkiye, Bulgaria

Genre: drama, children, magical realism, human rights, adult

Written by: Faysal Soysal

Directed by: Faysal Soysal

Produced by: Faysal Soysal

Co-produced by: Ivan Tonev

Production company: Balkon Film Production

Co-production company: Ars Digital

Language: Turkish, Arabic, English

Estimated budget in EUR: 903 000

Financing in place in EUR: 455 000

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

Logline

A nurse who has tried everything to have a genetic child despite her illness, travels to Georgia for surrogacy as a last resort and finds herself in a new adventure with an orphaned refugee girl disguised as a boy.

Synopsis

Kenan, who runs a restaurant in Urfa, and Merve, a nurse, are married for nine years and couldn't have children due to health problems. After six failed IVF attempts, Kenan, who thinks in more traditional ways, seeks alternative medicine. Merve, who thinks scientifically and rationally, wants to have a genetic child through surrogacy in Georgia as a last resort. Since she was raised by a stepmother, she does not agree with Kenan's idea of adoption. One day, a fight breaks out in the bazaar and Kenan is forced to help a Syrian refugee boy Rahim, aged 9. When he realises that Rahim is sick and staying in a shack, he takes him in and gives him a job and a place to sleep at the restaurant. When Merve and Kenan travel to Mardin for Eid al-Adha, they have to take Rahim with them too. Rahim, who is constantly holding his stomach, asks Merve for help to take a shower. At first Merve finds this request strange, but as she helps him take a shower, she realises that Rahim isn't a boy but a girl.

Director's note

I have been working on this project since 2019. Kenan and Merve's story is similar to my personal journey of having children with my wife. We were able to have our twins only after nine years and there was no way we didn't try. In addition, the misery of unprotected and orphaned children I encountered during the filming in Africa and Syria led me to think about the ordeal of coming to the world from a mother's womb and the adventure of endless migration from one homeland to another and to create a film on this. The title Rahma originally comes from the womb of a mother and at the same time the mercy of God. In the region, we live in and in different parts of the world, unfortunately, women and children are the most injured in wars and conflicts. The

main message I want to say in this film is that: the salvation of our own child is in fact subtly tied to the salvation of someone else's child. In other words, the mercy and love we will show to the weak and helpless others will bring a new hope.

Director-producer

Born in 1979 in Batman, **Faysal Soysal** dropped out of the Faculty of Medicine in 2000 to become more interested in poetry and cinema. Between 2003-2007, he did his master's degree in Tehran on cinema and in the same years in Van on literature. He directed four short films in Iran. In 2008, Soysal received a scholarship to attend the New York Film Academy, where he directed additional short films. He was selected for the Talent Campus of the Sarajevo Film Festival in 2009. Soysal's first feature film, *Crossroads*, was filmed in Turkey and Bosnia in 2013 and won 13 awards at various film festivals. He has also directed documentaries for Al Jazeera and TRT TV. He completed his second feature film, *Silenced Tree*, in 2020 as a Turkey/Iran co-production and got 23 awards from international film festivals.

Co-producer

Ivan Tonev graduated in cinematography and directing from Krastyo Sarafov National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts (1989). In 1999, he created his own production company ARS Digital Studio. He has been working as a producer since 2005. He has been Chairman of the Association of the Bulgarian Cinematographers since 2006, and in the period 2008-2015, he was Vice President of the European Federation of Cinematographers (IMAGO). He has been a member of the National Cinema Council since 2012. He participated in the creation and realisation of over 15 feature, 37 documentary, and 45 television films.

Company profile

Balkon Film was founded in 2009 by Faysal Soysal, with the aim of creating short, documentary, and feature films that showcase artistic

potential. The company places a strong emphasis on poetic and arthouse imagery, with a particular focus on exploring social-cultural issues through the medium of film. While the company does not prioritise political messaging in its productions, it remains committed to creating thought-provoking content that challenges prevailing narratives and stimulates meaningful dialogue.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Faysal Soysal, writer-director-producer



Contact

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WE WON'T GET OLD TOGETHER



Original title: Nu vom îmbătrâni împreună

Country: Romania

Genre: drama, art, LGBTQ+

Written by: Marius Olteanu

Directed by: Marius Olteanu

Produced by: Oana Giurgiu

Production company: Point Films

Language: Romanian

Estimated budget in EUR: 1 102 607

Financing in place in EUR: 150 000

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

Logline

Caught in between two relationships and suspect of a terminal condition, an architect is forced to arrange the burial of a young man he has never met, only to understand that his own life needs to be rebuilt from the ground up.

Synopsis

Minhea (40) leaves the hospital to meet Gabi, a man of the same age, his boyfriend. They barely talk about the medical results and about Minhea not having a job. Later, Minhea heads for the apartment of a younger and fitter man, Alex (35). They have sex and, in the middle of the night, they are woken up by a call - Adi, Alex's best friend, has died of AIDS. They rush to Adi's apartment. The place is full of policemen and paramedics and Adi's body lies on the floor. Under the pressure of time, heat, suspicions, and a legal void, Minhea deals with the authorities, in order to receive the permission to bury Adi. He later confronts Alex about his cheating and Gabi, on his contentment with being stuck in the wrong country and in the wrong life. Arriving home and fearing the worst about his medical tests, Minhea imagines Adi's funeral as a disco resurrection, in a sort of payback for reality never being what he hoped for. He then decides to abandon everything and rush to the airport.

Director's note

This film and its subject have their starting point in a time during which reality seemed to be a construction on the edge of collapse and a problem with no foreseeable solution. If I would have to summarise this endeavour in the most succinct way, I would probably say *We Won't Get Old Together* is a 24-hour-long goodbye letter prompted by death and fear, condensed in two hours of cinema, a goodbye that also includes the desperate need to search and find a reason for which to stay. The action takes place during the outbreak of Covid-19, in summer of 2020, a time when the world got smaller and turned into a scarier place. Why the need to tell this story? Because it deals with growing up, confronting the end, redefining values, having to escape

reality in order to understand it better. It is a story about compromises and dealing with unfulfilled dreams. Searching for the profound logic of the characters goes hand in hand with discovering new visual ways of expressing their journey.

Writer-director

Marius Olteanu (1979) is a writer-director born in Bucharest. His feature debut *Monsters* premiered in Berlinale Forum 2019, where it won The Tagesspiegel Audience Award, after which it was showcased in more than 50 international festivals (Best Film at Sofia IFF, Best Debut at Goa IFF, Best Romanian Debut at TIFF). His interest lies in exploring what happens beyond the perfect surface of things and finding new cinematic ways to convey the struggle with one's own limits. He is also a published photographer and an advertising director, with more than 300 commercials to his credit.

Producer

With a TV documentary background **Oana Giurgiu's** first film experience was Cristi Puiu's 2005 Cannes Un certain regard winner, *The Death of Mr Lăzărescu* and Kornél Mundruczó's 2008 Cannes FIPRESCI winner, *Delta*. She produced Tudor Giurgiu's: *Love Sick* - Berlinale 2006, Panorama, *Of Snails and Men* - Warsaw IFF 2012, *Why Me?* - Berlinale 2015, Panorama and *Freedom (2023)*; Peter Strickland's *Katalin Varga* - Silver Bear 2009, European Discovery at EFA Awards, Cristi Puiu's *Sieranevada* - Cannes 2016, and co-produced *Eden*, dir. Agnes Kocsis-Rotterdam IFF 2020, *Spiral* - Jury award Warsaw 2020, dir. Cecilia Felmeri; *The Servants*, dir. Ivan Ostrochovsky-Berlinale 2020, *Encounters*, *Between Two Dawns*, dir. Selman Nacar - San Sebastian 2021.

Company profile

Point Films's aim is to discover new directors and bring a fresh vision to the Romanian producing scene. Point Films is led by 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. Point Film also co-produced the second feature by Ivan Ostrochovsky, *Servants*, which was presented in a world premiere at the Berlinale's Encounter section in 2020..

Project representatives:

Oana Giurgiu, producer

Marius Olteanu, writer-director



Contact

Oana Giurgiu

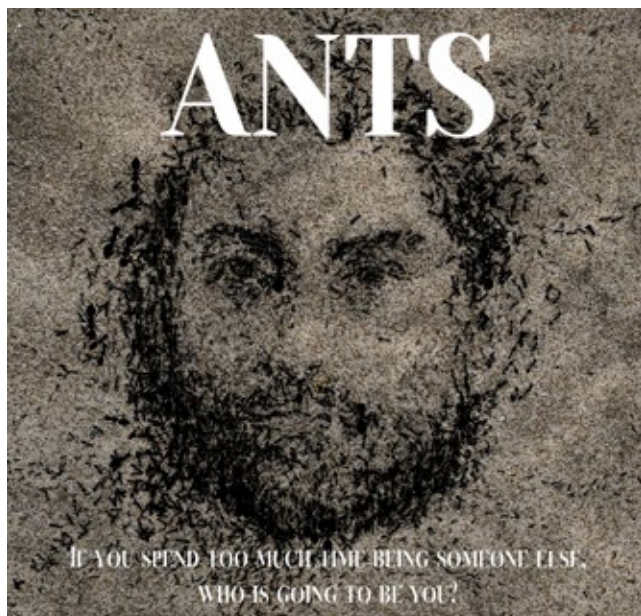
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ANTS



Original title: Mravki
Country: North Macedonia
Genre: comedy, drama, thriller
Written by: Nikola Kuzelov
Directed by: Marjan Gavrilovski
Produced by: Romir Jakupi
Production company: Time Lapse
Language: Macedonian
Estimated budget in EUR: 345 520
Financing in place in EUR: 283 903
Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, distributors, technical in-kind participation

Logline

After a homophobic police detective and a trans woman team up to investigate a murder, they dig into their deepest secrets and life regrets.

Synopsis

Zvonko, a homophobic policeman living in a semi-rural neighbourhood, is determined to solve his last murder case before he retires. Since the victim is a trans-woman, he starts to investigate gay-friendly clubs and finds the victim's best friend - Damjana, another trans-woman. He teams up with her in order to find the killer, so they start following the leads and questioning all the suspects. They struggle with their relationship along the way, but as they learn more about themselves and their personal lives, they become friends. When he opens up and reveals that he had a gay son, who committed suicide, they create a special bond. In the end, when the killer is found, another problem occurs. Zvonko becomes unwanted in his neighbourhood and the bullies beat him up. He ends up in a wheelchair and Damjana moves into his son's room to take care of him.

Director's note

Ants criticises those who hide behind their fears and incompetence, dictating how others should live and making decisions because of their societal positions.

Ants is not just a story, but a problem and a solution packed in a screenplay that should be transformed into a moving picture as an imitation of our illogical reality. The movie would be colourful and saturated to represent the story's vibrance and the characters' mannerisms. The comedy would be filmed in static, medium close-ups, which will help to accent the acting as the primary tool for building a character.

The set design and the costumes will be colourful, in many layers, so they can support the comedy that slowly fades during the story. Along with that fade, the colour intensity will also fade toward the end.

The whole atmosphere will be supported by cheerfulness as an ironic contrast to the absurdity that is going on. The edit will be dynamic, with few slowing down during the scenes where the story unfolds at its emotional peak.

Director

Marjan Gavrilovski was born on October 9, 1983 in Skopje, Macedonia. After attending film school in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 2016, he made his first independent feature *Horse Riders*, which saw great festival success. *Horse Riders* was officially selected to 40+ film festivals in Europe, the United States, Africa, and Asia. The film won its first best feature award at the Fam Fest International Film Festival in North Carolina, USA. *Horse Riders* was also awarded.

Producer

Romir Jakupi is a film producer, who graduated from the Faculty of Drama Arts in Skopje, North Macedonia. He has worked as a producer from 2002 and through his film company has been awarded with several film projects. His films include *Tradition* (2019) and *Nezo* (2020). He is currently engaged as a producer of the feature film *Ants*, directed by Marjan Gavrilovski, and *Only Old People Live Here*, directed by Mirsad Abazi.

Company profile

Time Lapse is a film production company founded by the contemporary filmmaker Romir Jakupi. Time Lapse contributes to the world cinema with interesting films and film ideas created by original authors for original filmmakers. It is a company settled in North Macedonia that has had several film project awards from the North Macedonian Film Agency. Time Lapse is focused on interesting, non-repeating stories both in the world of documentary films and feature films. It supports young talents, but also the work of experienced filmmakers from North Macedonia and the region.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Romir Jakupi, producer

Marjan Gavrilovski, director



Contact

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FOUR FUNERALS AND A WEDDING



Original title: Četiri sahrane i vjenčanje

Country: Montenegro

Genre: drama, family

Written by: Nikola Mijović

Directed by: Nikola Mijović

Produced by: Maja Kecojević

Production company: Parangal Film

Language: Montenegrin

Estimated budget in EUR: 774 750

Financing in place in EUR: 100 750

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

Logline

Four Funerals and a Wedding is a feature film about a Montenegrin funeral mourning artist and his daughter, who is trying to establish herself as a pop singer by participating in a TV talent show.

Synopsis

A father and daughter live in the remote countryside in Montenegro. Veselin is a teacher, widower, and a renowned mourning artist. His dramatic performances at funerals are juxtaposed with his 18 year old daughter's Sveltana's singing and dancing videos, which she posts on social media. She successfully auditions for a talent show, where she meets one of the contestants, Barbara, who grew up in an immigrant family in Austria, but has returned to the region after a lot of trouble at home. The two of them will try out as a rap act and spend a happy summer together back in the countryside, while Veselin is up in the mountains with his goats. As the autumn approaches, the two young women drift apart, and Veselin's illness draws Sveltana closer to her father, who comes face to face with his own mortality.

Director's note

This is a story about one world dying out and another coming in its place. The project deals with four central themes: death (specifically the cult of death in Montenegro), familial inter-generational and gender-related tensions, contemporary aspirational media culture, and the environmental crisis. Drawing on the rich ethnography of the region, my aim is to enable the world and the language of this film to grow organically from its peculiar and picturesque local setting. This approach also has a political dimension, as an attempt to provide a platform for the voice and vision 'from below', i.e. for the grassroots cultures and marginalised social groups. The originality of this film is based on the playful blend of various aspects of these 'folk' cultures with the language of 'arthouse' cinema in the form of an 'anthropological musical'. My unprejudiced love and affection for the main characters should be a guarantee that the audience will relate to them in a warm and emotional way.

Director

Nikola Mijović was born in Podgorica and studied at Central Saint Martins (London) and Konstfack (Stockholm). His short film *777* was acquired by the FMA Foundation (São Paulo) for their museum collection. Nikola's first feature, *Borders, Raindrops*, screened at over twenty international festivals, including Sarajevo, Montreal, Gothenburg, Cottbus and Bergamo, winning a number of awards. His scholarly research, focusing on trans/national and post/Yugoslav cinema, film, fashion, consumption and digital media, has been published widely. He works as a Senior Lecturer at University of the Arts London.

Representatives in Tallinn:
Nikola Mijović, writer-director



Producer

Maja Kecojevic was born in 1990. She studied film production in Montenegro and was a member of the team who represented the Montenegrin film industry at the Cannes Film Festival, as part of SEE Pavilion in 2013 and 2014. After attending Sarajevo Talent Campus, her short film *Peloid* premiered at Sarajevo Film Festival in 2018. Maja completed her masters in Belgrade and continued to work and live in Serbia. Since then, she has been engaged as the unit/location manager on a number of projects (films: *Real Story*, *Darkling*; TV series: *Mom and Dad are Playing War*, *Clan*, *Bad Blood*). She is also involved as a co-producer in the development of the film *Frost* by Pavle Vučković, with whom she was awarded the Eurimages Co-production Development Award at the co-production market Transilvania Pitch Stop.

Company profile

Parangal Film was created with the idea of bringing together film professionals and film lovers in the creation of art house films. Since the company was founded in mid-2019, it is currently developing two feature films and producing one animated short film.

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MONTE ZOMBIE



Original title: Monte Zombie
Country: Serbia, Montenegro
Genre: comedy, coming of age, horror
Written by: Danilo Bećković
Directed by: Danilo Bećković
Produced by: Marko Paljić, Danilo Beckovic
Production company: Mali Budo, Gargantua Films
Language: Serbian, Finnish, English
Estimated budget in EUR: 1 272 754
Financing in place in EUR: 212 754
Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, distributors, public funds (national, regional, international), private funds/banks

Logline

Through the story of a global apocalypse and the attempt of a Finnish family to find shelter among the Eastern European highlanders, *Monte Zombie* explores what it really means to grow up and become a man in a world of ridiculously inflated machoism.

Synopsis

Zombie outbreak hits the world. Lydia is evacuating her teenage sons Budo and Nino from Finland to Montenegro, the place her husband, who died in the apocalypse, came from. Upon arrival at a lonely mountain village in Montenegro, they meet the family of the late father. As it happens, they are in a centennial war between their relatives and another family of highlanders and brutes. Both brothers are forced to join the war, but while Budo is appalled by the brute relatives, Nino seems amused by the machoism and overly interested in all sorts of weapons at his disposal. Their urban worldview is slowly crushed by the violent nature of their highlander cousins. The zombie virus eventually reaches the village, but instead of killing zombified cousins, both families use them as biological weapons against each other, so the zombies soon start taking over. The body count rises and the remaining members of both families must unite and make the final push together and fight for their lives.

Director's note

Zombie genre was always more than just horror. From the beginnings and George Romero's exploring of capitalism's core problems to Jim Jarmusch's intelligent comedy approach, it was always a fertile soil for analysis of the deepest social issues. As personal identity becomes the most important question of our days, zombie film proves itself once more as a great platform to ask some questions about the current time and society. And combined with comedy, it allows us to tackle the subject even more brutally and honestly. We cannot escape the constraints of society, but how can we survive them? What is the moment when the „ancient“ rules need to change to fit the needs of modern times? Is it possible to stay true to yourself or does it always

come with the risk of being isolated and ultimately destroyed? Monte Zombie will be scary and it will be funny, but not for the usual reasons.

Director

Danilo Bečković is a director, writer and producer based in Belgrade, Serbia, whose fiction and documentary films have been screened at such festivals as Bucheon IFFF, Cairo IFF, Fantasia Montreal, Sitges, Cottbus, Karlovy Vary, Beldocs, and many other. These titles include blockbusters *The Samurai in Autumn* (Best Serbian Film at SOFEST 2017) and *Little Buddha*, both among the top 15 most watched Serbian films of the decade. In addition to this, Danilo wrote and/or directed a number of episodes for some of the most successful and prestigious Serbian high-budget TV series, such as *The South Wind*, *The Black Sun* and *The Branded in the Paint*. Danilo is an EAVE TTB alumni and a professor of film directing at the Belgrade Academy of Arts.

Producer

Marko Paljić worked as a head of production and distribution for major Serbian film houses Cobra Film and Blue Pen Production. For the latter, he produced *Tears for Sale* in 2008, one of the biggest Serbian productions in history, co-produced and distributed worldwide (sold to over 30 countries) by Luc Besson's EuropaCorp and premiered at the Toronto FF. Through Gargantua Films, a company he founded in 2007, Marko produced some of the biggest Balkan blockbusters of the last decade, such as *Little Buddha* (over 400.000 admissions against the market of 9 million people) and *The Samurai in Autumn* (200 000 admissions). Marko was a member of the Board of Film Producers Association Serbia and one of the founders of Film in Serbia (Serbian Film Commission).

Company profile

Gargantua Films: After working for several years as a head of production for major Serbian film houses such as Cobra Film and Blue Pen Production (*Charleston and Vendetta*, co-produced by Luc

Besson's Europacorp), Marko Paljić founded Gargantua Films in 2007. Gargantua quickly established itself as a regional powerhouse, producing such super hits as the dark comedy *Little Buddha* and the first Serbian martial-art film in history *The Samurai in Autumn*, and an award-winning sports docudrama *Ginger*.

Mali Budo produced two regional super-hits *Little Buddha* (2014) and *The Samurai in Autumn* (Cairo IFF, Best Serbian Film at SOFEST 2017). The short film *The Little One*, starring the Finnish prodigy Onni Tommila, premiered in the official competition selection of the Bucheon IFFF 2019, followed by screenings in Sitges, Fantasia, Cottbus, etc. We also produced a critically acclaimed documentary *Tsernianski* (Beldocs 2015). We are developing a Serbian-South Korean thriller *The Trials of Chul* and a documentary *One Dying Star*, while the Serbian-Greek-Estonian short animation *Man Wanted* is in post-production

Representatives in Tallinn:

Marko Paljić, producer

Danilo Bečković, writer-director-producer



Contact

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POGANA



Original title: Pogana

Country: Croatia

Genre: drama, women, magical realism

Written by: David Kapac, Andrija Mardešić

Directed by: David Kapac

Produced by: Rea Rajčić

Production company: Eclectica

Language: Croatian

Estimated budget in EUR: 1 672 010

Financing in place in EUR: 37 500

Looking for: co-producers, sales agent, public funds (national, regional, international)

Logline

1920s on a remote Dalmatian island. A woman, Pogana, is sold as wife and mother to a Sailor and his five daughters. When her unlikely husband is lost at sea, Pogana is left at the mercy of villagers and cruel customs. She decides to marry the Sailor's mortal remains, his bones she fishes out of the sea.

Synopsis

Year 1922 on a remote island in the Mediterranean. Pogana, a beautiful tortured woman, is sold by her father to a recently widowed Sailor. She will serve as his wife and mother to his five daughters and infant boy. After the tragic death of his only male child, Sailor is lost at sea. Pogana is left at the mercy of villagers and cruel customs. They never married so the village sees her as an intruder. Torn between survival, raising hellish children and battling intolerance, Pogana finds an unlikely ally in the local Lightkeeper, an embittered war veteran. The two rejected people find consolation and understanding in each other. One day, Pogana finds a human bone in the fishing net! Day after day, human bones mysteriously appear in the net she pulls out of the sea. She believes that the sea is returning the remains of her unlikely husband. Pogana has no choice, she refers to the old folk custom, the black wedding. Once she puts the whole skeleton together, she will finally marry her husband's bones.

Director's note

Pogana mixes realistic and harsh historical drama with motifs of poetic and even magical realism. Moments of great drama as in a Greek tragedy are intertwined with everyday human stories. It is a film with a strong atmosphere and stinging words. The film's structure is fragmented, mosaic, anecdotal with thematic chapters mirroring the emotional states of the main character. Brutal daily island life is shown in an almost documentary style with wounds of WWI and the Spanish flu still fresh. It's a life of isolation and outsiders hardly fit in. Conceived in a technique of black and white photography, the details of the world in the background are lost with the absence of colour and the attention

shifts to the characters and their emotional state. The content of this film is a powder keg but not without a laugh. It's a film about a woman who seemingly has no purpose or role in this world but that doesn't mean she doesn't deserve life. She deserves a place in the world and she will fight for it.

Director

David Kapac is a Croatian screenwriter, director and creative producer. He started his career with student short films, all regularly screened at festivals in Croatia and abroad, including his graduation film, medium-length horror film *Zagorje Specialty*, co-produced with the national broadcaster HRT and premiered at the Pula Film Festival in 2011. After graduating, David focused on working in television, achieving seven-figures viewership in Croatia and the Region for the shows he ran either as director or creative producer. In 2017, he returned to film, co-writing the screenplay for a short film *Party*, which represented Croatia in 2018 as part of the project Drama for Children of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). His debut feature *The Uncle* premiered at Karlovy Vary IFF 2022.

Producer

Rea Rajčić got her master's degree in film production at the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Zagreb. She worked as marketing manager for the 2i Film distribution company and as the head of the Cinema Exhibition Department project of Croatian Audiovisual Centre. She is currently working on new multimedia, film and TV projects at her production company Eclectica and as a professor at the Production Department at the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Zagreb. She is the winner of the Young Producer award at Sofia International Film Festival 2016, and awarded for best pitching at European Short Pitch 2018, Connecting Cottbus 2020 and CineMart IFFR 2022. In 2020, she participated in the Emerging Producers programme and Rotterdam Lab, and in the Producer's Room of Cannes SFC.

Company profile

Eclectica is a film & TV production company from Croatia focused on producing films and high-quality television content. Since 2015, Eclectica has produced a dozen International short films, a documentary TV series *The Age of Untruth* and two feature films, *The Uncle* and *Celebration*.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Rea Rajčić, producer

David Kapac, writer-director

Andrija Mardešić, writer



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UNCOMFORTABLE BEINGS



Original title: Zverine

Country: Slovenia, Croatia

Genre: drama, family

Written by: Maja Križnik

Directed by: Maja Križnik

Produced by: Lija Pogačnik

Production company: December

Language: Slovenian

Estimated budget in EUR: 1 090 000

Financing in place in EUR: 584 000

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

Logline

After the death of their father, three sisters realise it's time to become a family.

Synopsis

Emma (36) is in charge of selling the family house after her father's death. While struggling to agree on their childhood memories, Emma and her two older sisters face a devastating blow when the middle sister, a mother of three, gets a cancer scare. Emma takes on the responsibility of taking care of her nephews and grows close to her sister's husband. Meanwhile, her longtime partner wants her to reconsider their mutual decision not to have kids. Emma is questioning her whole life and feeling violently guilty, but she learns that real comfort only comes when you let it go.

Director's note

A few years ago, I received a call that a friend my age had been diagnosed with breast cancer. My coordinate system, then built around newfound motherhood, was instantly shaken – while the whole world was telling me to enjoy the most beautiful period of my life, a thought had entered my world – in all statistical probability of life expectancy, from this moment on, I will receive more and more calls about illnesses, deaths, and divorces and less and less messages about new jobs, new children, new homes. In 2020, I began writing a film about a generation that is expected to have mastered life, but in fact has no idea about it. The script is now at its 5th draft and has, during rewriting and developing, significantly focused on becoming an intimate film about family and the individual's place inside it.

Director

After graduating in Comparative Literature and Philosophy, **Maja Križnik** graduated from the Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film and Television in Ljubljana; majoring in Film and Television Directing.

For her graduation film *Little Fish* (2016), she received the Vesna Award for Best Study Film at the 19th Festival of Slovenian Film. She occasionally leads screenwriting workshops for children and youth and works as an assistant director. As a co-writer, she participated in the animated project *Unwanted Things: Yesterday's Newspaper*, which is a Slovenian-Czech-Slovak-French co-production and is currently in production. The project received the Eurimages Support and Award in 2019.

Producer

After graduating in Translation and Interpreting from the Faculty of Arts, **Lija Pogačnik** worked on the translations and adaptations of screenplays, children's books and contemporary theatre plays. While gaining first experience on film sets and in film production, she was also employed as the music program manager and assistant CEO at a theatre company. In 2013, she co-founded the film production company **December** with producer Vlado Bulajić that has since produced three shorts, two features and two documentaries.

Company profile

The production company **December** was founded in 2013 by the producers Vlado Bulajić and Lija Pogačnik. In 2021, they were joined by Ira Cecić, who until the end of 2020 had worked as a producer in Croatia. Upon its foundation, December's main goal was to produce fiction and documentary films and work with younger and innovative filmmakers and screenwriters with a recognisable style.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Vlado Bulajić, producer

Lija Pogačnik, producer

Maja Križnik, writer-director



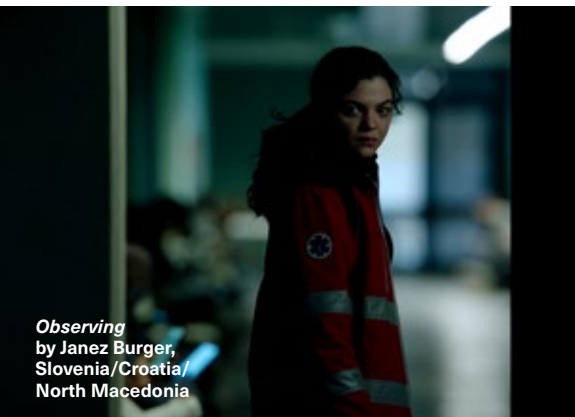
Contact

Lija Pogačnik

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www.december.si



Observing
by Janez Burger,
Slovenia/Croatia/
North Macedonia



Forever Hold Your Peace by Ivan Marinović, Montenegro/
Serbia/Czech Republic/Croatia/North Macedonia/Slovenia



FOCUS COUNTRIES

SERBIA ● CROATIA ● MONTENEGRO
NORTH MACEDONIA ● SLOVENIA

November 16

15:30-16:30 **High Fidelity - Frequent and High-Quality Co-Productions between Serbia and its Southeastern Neighbours**
► *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

Focus on Serbia and its SEE neighbours showcases ten projects in various categories of the Tallinn Film Festival's Industry Programme, five short films, thirteen contemporary feature films and eight significant works created in the 1970s that represent the Black Wave - an informal but important aesthetic-political wave of Yugoslav cinema.


The flywheel and the motivation for Tallinn's gaze to be focused on South-Eastern Europe is the detected effort of film centres of ex-Yugoslav countries to harmonise their rules, synchronise their calendar and establish a balance and reciprocity in supporting projects in the field of minority co-productions supported at competitions. The history of co-productions - sometimes between ex-Yugoslav republics and with foreign partners - is rich and varied. The Film Funds and Agencies, plus leading professionals from Focus Countries will talk about this exciting region and its creative potential today.



Even Pigs Go to Heaven
by Goran Dukić, Croatia/Macedonia

Participants:

SERBIA: **Vera Bakajić**, International Relations, Film Center Serbia
Nedeljko Bajić, producer, *Heroes of Halliard*
Milan Todorović, producer, EGF project *The Beast from Below*
Danilo Bečković, director, Co-Production Market project *Monte Zombie*
CROATIA: **Maja Vukić**, Deputy CEO, Croatian Audiovisual Centre
Rea Rajčić, producer, Co-Production Market project *Pogana*
MONTENEGRO: **Marko Eraković**, International Promotion Advisor, Film Centre of Montenegro
Nikola Vukčević, director, Works in Progress project *The Tower of Strength*
NORTH MACEDONIA: **Bojan Lazarevski**, CEO, North Macedonia Film Agency
SLOVENIA: **Lia Pogačnik**, Co-production Market project *Uncomfortable Beings*



Heroes of Halyard
by Radoš Bajić, Serbia

Serbia

The invitation for Serbia to be in the Focus naturally extended to its cinematographic friends and reliable partners – Slovenia, Croatia, North Macedonia, and Montenegro, now individual states once constituting the former republics of Yugoslavia.

In February of this year, Angela Schanelek's film *Music*, produced in co-production with Serbia, was showcased and honoured in Berlin. At this year's Cannes Festival, the only film from Eastern Europe in any competitive selection was *Lost Country* by Vladimir Perišić, a co-production involving Serbia, Croatia, France, and Luxembourg. *Guardians of the Formula* by Dragan Bjelogrić, a co-production with contributions from Serbia, Slovenia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and France, graced the screen at Piazza Grande in Locarno and also serves as the opening film of the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival.

Co-production activities in the region did not emerge post the dissolution of the joint country, just as the arrival of the first foreign producers did not commence during that time either.

Out of the 930 feature films created during the SFRY period from 1945 to 1991, 54 co-productions with foreign partners and 134 "internal" co-productions between producers from the Yugoslav republics were



Guardians of the Formula
by Dragan Bjelogrić,
Serbia/Slovenia/
Montenegro/
North Macedonia

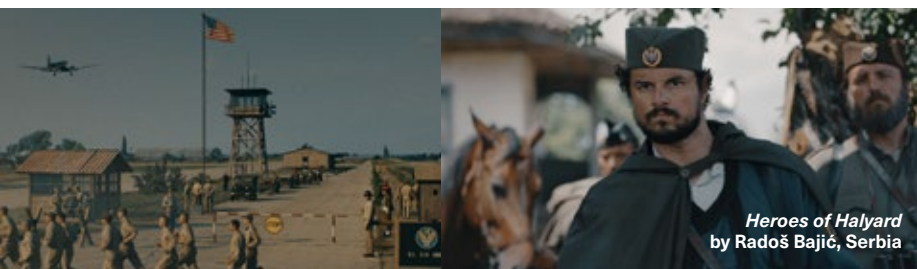
produced. Even during the breakup of Yugoslavia, collaboration and communication persisted among producers, transcending political antagonism and nationalism.

Presently, Serbia produces around thirty feature-length films and documentaries annually. The budget allocated to Film Center Serbia stands at 10 million euros. Viewers have access to 139 cinema screens in 88 locations. The proportion of domestic films in the cinema repertoire is approximately 20% (7.57% during the Covid pandemic of 2020, rising to 39.09% a year later, when the domestic hits *Toma* and *South Wind 2* graced theatres).

Film Center Serbia organises 29 competitions annually to support various cinematic activities. The majority of funds are invested in the production of domestic films (1/3 of the budget), with close to 10% allotted for supporting minority co-productions. In the 2017-2022 period, the largest portion of awarded funds in competitions for supporting minority co-productions went to projects from Croatia (29), Slovenia (15), Montenegro (11), and North Macedonia (10). Among other European countries, Romania (6) leads, while Greece and Germany follow closely with (5) projects each.

A plethora of feature films and several short films in various programme segments of the Festival in Tallinn, along with eight projects from five countries, form a vibrant landscape and offer a more than adequate representation of cinematography in Serbia and the neighbouring countries of Southeast Europe.

Ivan Karl
Acting Director Film Center Serbia



Heroes of Halyard
by Radoš Bajić, Serbia



Holy Family
by Vlatka Voprkapić, Croatia



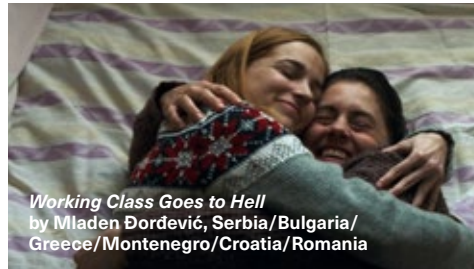
Between Revolutions by Vlad Petri,
documentary, Romania/Croatia/Qatar/Iran

Croatia

The Croatian Audiovisual Centre stands as the Government-backed strategic agency for Croatia's audiovisual sector. Its broad scope includes supporting development, production, distribution, exhibition, marketing, and promotion, as well as professional training and bolstering the national film archive through public subsidies. In 2022, HRK 69,228,761.00 (€9,188,235.58) were allocated for program activities supported by HAVC.

In 2022, the Croatian Audiovisual Centre co-financed nine feature-length fiction films, with an additional 18 feature minority co-productions receiving support. The total number of feature-length documentary films benefiting from HAVC production subsidies (including minority co-productions) in 2022 was 13. The Centre consistently champions the production of short fiction, feature-length and short animated, documentary, and experimental films. In 2022, a total of 58 diverse projects received subsidies. HAVC also places special emphasis on minority co-productions, supporting the production of five feature-length documentary co-productions, two short fiction, and two short animated films in this category in 2022.

During 2022, 32 feature-length titles (11 more compared to the previous year), including eight minority co-productions, had domestic theatrical releases. Additionally, 25 films had their premiere screenings, comprising 17 fiction feature films and eight documentaries, with a record number of debut films. Domestic film admissions increased from 174,409 tickets sold in 2021 to 220,776, continuing the growth trend. Consequently, 2022



Working Class Goes to Hell
by Mladen Đorđević, Serbia/Bulgaria/
Greece/Montenegro/Croatia/Romania

As of 2022, there are 109 cinemas in Croatia, boasting a total of 210 screens. Out of these, 102 cinemas are digitised, and 18 cinemas are members of the Europa Cinemas network.

In February, the feature-length documentary film *Between Revolutions* premiered at the 73rd edition of the Berlinale, a co-production with Croatian producer Restart. At the Annecy International Animated Film Festival, four Croatian films were showcased: *Dress for the Finale*, *Eeva*, *11*, and *Remember How I Rode a White Horse*. Two Croatian films had their world premieres at the Cannes Critics' Week: *The Real Truth about the Fight* by Andrea Slaviček, a short fiction film produced by Croatian Antitalent, and *Lost Country* by Vladimir Perišić, a feature-length fiction film co-produced with France, Serbia, Luxembourg, and Croatia through Kinorama. At the Locarno Film Festival, the film *Don't Expect Too Much from the End of the World* by Radu Jude, a co-production involving Luxembourg, France, Kinorama, and Romania, had its world premiere, as did the film *Excursion* by Una Gunjak, a co-production of six countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, France, Norway, and Qatar. The short documentary film *1001 Nights* by Ree Rajčić premiered at the 48th International Film Festival in Toronto, along with *Working Class Goes to Hell* by Mladen Đorđević, a co-production involving Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Croatia, and Romania.



Hotel Pula
by Andrej Korovljew,
Croatia



The Tower Of Strength
by Nikola Vukcevic,
Montenegro

Montenegro

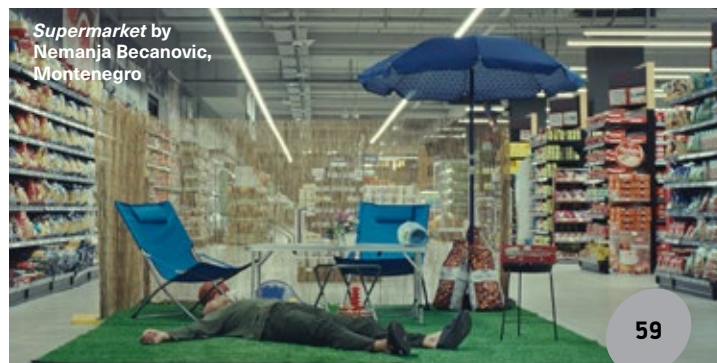
The Film Centre of Montenegro, established in 2017 as a public institution, is entrusted with nurturing and advancing the Montenegrin film industry. Its principal objectives include overseeing the national Film Fund, co-financing domestic film production, promoting Montenegrin films and filmmakers globally, managing the filming incentives program, enhancing the legislative framework to support domestic film production, and implementing film education initiatives and skills development programmes.

The primary aim of the Film Centre is to manage the national film fund and co-finance the production of films across all genres and categories: short and feature films, short and feature documentaries, animated short films, and minority co-productions. Through annual open calls, the Centre distributes an average of 1 million euros per year to projects in various stages of development and production.

Since the establishment of the film fund, the Film Centre has co-financed 19 domestic feature films and 33 co-productions with a minority Montenegrin stake, amounting to a total investment of 5,000,000 EUR in the Montenegrin film sector.

In 2018, the Film Centre of Montenegro introduced its filming incentives program, now promoted at all major film festivals and markets in Europe under the brand "Film in Montenegro." The 25% cash rebate supports feature films, documentaries, and productions for television and TV series, with the latter benefiting significantly since the programme's inception in 2020.

From its inception, the Film Centre of Montenegro has prioritised international cooperation and proudly participates in major European film networks such as the Eurimages, European Audiovisual Observatory, EFAD, Creative Europe MEDIA, European Film Promotion, EUFCN – European Film Commissions Network, SEE Cinema Network, and Film New Europe Initiative. This commitment reflects an ongoing effort to exchange knowledge and best practices with European partners.



Supermarket
by Nemanja Becanovic,
Montenegro



Honeyland by Tamara Kotevska and Ljubomir Stefanov, North Macedonia



North Macedonia

The primary goal of the North Macedonia Film Agency is to stimulate and support the growth of the Macedonian film industry.

To achieve this, the Agency is committed to providing ongoing support for the production of films of national interest, fostering international filming co-productions, promoting the expert and professional education of film industry professionals, encouraging the creation of national screenplays, showcasing Macedonian cinematography at renowned international film festivals and events, and attracting foreign producers by offering favourable conditions. This, in turn, promotes the Republic of North Macedonia as an attractive filming location.

Despite facing challenges in recent years, Macedonian cinematography has successfully reached a broader audience, regularly taking center stage at major and prestigious film festivals such as Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Sundance, to name a few. It has garnered numerous recognitions and awards, with the dual Oscar nomination of *Honeyland* (for Best Documentary and Best Foreign Film) being a groundbreaking achievement for a documentary film in Oscar history and a historic moment for Macedonian cinematography.

In recent years, the North Macedonia Film Agency has placed special emphasis on nurturing women directors and encouraging new female directors to conceive and initiate original and innovative films.



Housekeeping for Beginners by Goran Stolevski, North Macedonia/Kosovo/Poland/Croatia/Serbia

Simultaneously, the Agency is providing increased openness and logistical support for foreign producers interested in filming at attractive locations in North Macedonia, facilitated by the Production Incentive Programme. Notably, the Agency has focused on enhancing the country's film production tax incentive, elevating it from 20% to 30%, as an effective measure to bring significant benefits to the national film industry and the economy. Among various support schemes is a minority co-production initiative that allocates funding for projects outside North Macedonia but with Macedonian participation.

Innovation is a top priority in the Agency's strategy, to be achieved by promoting new film professionals, fostering new ideas and talents, and engaging in activities to enhance the quality of Macedonian cinematography. Investment in new methods and models of promotion is essential. In addition to deepening existing partnerships, the Agency will explore new forms of cooperation that complement mutual efforts, contributing to the attainment of new and greater successes.

The Agency is steadfastly committed to providing continuous support for the film industry and contributing to its further development, leading to a positive transformation that will position North Macedonia on the map of countries renowned for producing original and high-quality films.

Observing
by Janez Burger,
Slovenia/Croatia/
North Macedonia



Others Remained Silent
by Matic Štamcar, Slovenia

Slovenia

Established in 2011, the Slovenian Film Centre (SFC) is the legal successor of the Slovenian Film Fund (1995), the first institution of its kind in new (Eastern) Europe. The SFC holds a significant cultural heritage with production rights for over 800 films produced during the socialist period.

The SFC's financial support spans development (scripts, projects), production (across all lengths, genres, and styles), first-time feature films, minority co-productions, student films, audiovisual works for broadcasting, promotion and distribution of funded films, film festivals, professional associations, film education, and audience building, as well as the digitisation of arthouse cinemas.

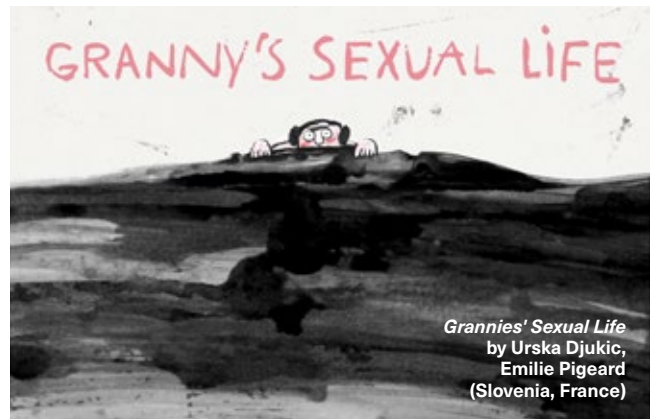
Producers of cinematographic works have the privilege of utilising free services at the state-owned film studio Viba Film, which includes free equipment rental (camera, light, grip), free use of the sound stage studio, and free post-production services for both picture and sound. These services are treated as state aid.

The budget allocated for minority co-productions amounts to 600,000 €, with two open calls annually. Primary co-production partners include Croatia, Serbia, North Macedonia, and in recent years, Montenegro. Italy is the first partner on the western side.

Serving as the main institution, the SFC extends its support to film commission activities, including the promotion of film locations. Since

2017, the SFC has also implemented a 25% cash rebate scheme to encourage shooting in Slovenia, further enhancing the country's appeal as a preferred filming destination.

The years 2022 and 2023 were particularly noteworthy, marking a historic moment as the Slovenian short film *Grannies' Sexual Life* by Urška Djukić & Émilie Pigéard received both the EFA Award for Best Short Film and the César Award for Best Animation.



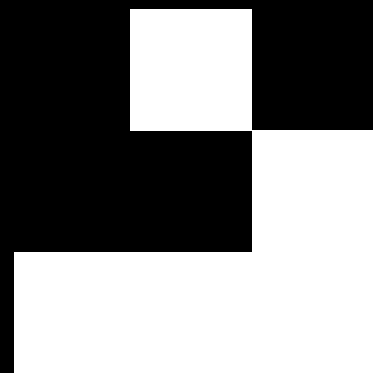
Grannies' Sexual Life
by Urška Djukić,
Émilie Pigéard
(Slovenia, France)



We are happy to be a supporter and exclusive legal advisor of PÖFF 2023!

Priit Lätt, partner and attorney-at-law at PwC Legal is offering legal training for producers, directors, screenwriters and other motion picture industry professionals.

Discover more: pwclegal.ee





Script Pool

Script Pool competition, a part of Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event film market activities and Discovery Campus educational programme. 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 5000 euros given by PwC Legal Estonia.



Jury

Sam Taylor, FAME, United Kingdom

Aleksandr Fomin, Hype Studios, France

Teresa Cavina, Festival programmer and Script Analyst, Italy

CASA DE FIERAS

Original title: Casa de Fieras
Country: Spain
Genre: drama
Written by: Eva Saiz, Alejandro Renedo
Directed by: Eva Saiz
Produced by: Raquel Pedreira
Production company: Almaina
Language: Spanish
Estimated budget in EUR: 1 791 000
Looking for: co-producers, distributors, festivals, gap-financing, public funds (national, regional, international), private funds / banks, sales agent

Synopsis

Pablo (8) meets Lucas at a difficult time in his life. In the neighborhood, he has no friends, and at home, his parents spend more time arguing than spending time with him. But thanks to Lucas, Pablo has someone to play with and avoid loneliness. There is only one problem: Lucas is not real, he is an imaginary friend. As Pablo withdraws into himself, his environment makes him see that Lucas is not a solution, but the opposite. Because Pablo is no longer a child and now it's time to grow up...

Writer-director

Eva Saiz is a graduate in screenwriting from the ECAM. She currently combines her work in the development of projects for new platforms with writing fiction podcasts. In parallel, she has co-written two feature films with Alejandro Renedo; *Casa de Fieras*, selected in the IV edition of the Incubator** and *Solo los muertos se quedan* selected in the current edition of the Spanish Film Academy Residencies Programme.

Writer

Alejandro Renedo holds a degree in stage direction and dramaturgy from the ESADCyL and a diploma in directing from the ECAM, where he works as a teacher. In 2021 he began writing *Casa de fieras*, together with Eva Saiz. He is currently in the development phase of his opera prima *Sólo los muertos se quedan*, with Eva Saiz (co-scriptwrit-

er), a project that began its development in the SAGE's opera prima laboratory and is currently part of the Spanish Film Academy Residencies Programme.

Producers

Raquel Pedreira is a Locarno Match Me!, Rotterdam Lab, The Incubator (ECAM), and Eave MKW graduate. Originally from Galicia, she's developed her studies and career in Madrid & Leuven, working in different companies and roles: from financing to distribution, including post production and everything in between, while producing short films that have screened at NYFF, FFM Montréal, Warsaw, Molodist, Foyle, Cinequest, and Sitges, amongst others. 160+ awards. Developing various features while on the search for new talent.

Originally from Galicia, Raquel Pedreira developed her studies and career in Madrid & Leuven, working in different companies and roles: from financing to distribution, including post-production and everything in between, while producing short films as an independent. She founded ALMAINA with David Moreno to use their experience in the mainstream industry and tell stories from other points of view, supporting new voices that have not yet had the opportunity to show themselves in that arena.

Company profile

Almaina is an independent Spanish production company. Grounded in characters and playful with genre, we focus on the fine print to tell stories with capital letters, supporting new and powerful local voices with international potential.

Representatives in Tallinn:
Eva Saiz, director
Raquel Pedreira, producer

Contact

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MIRROR OF NIGHTINGALES

Script Pool
CROATIA
ROMANIA
SERBIA

Original title: Ogledalo za slavuja
Country: Croatia, Romania, Serbia
Genre: drama, black Comedy, magical realism
Written by: Karla Lulić
Directed by: Karla Lulić
Produced by: Jelena Mađarić, Karla Lulić
Production company: Dobar film
Language: Croatian
Estimated budget in EUR: 1 289 561
Financing in place in EUR: 226 946
Looking for: streamers, distributors, foreign broadcasters, public funds (national, regional, international), sales agent

Synopsis

In a remote village somewhere in the Balkans, lives Dora, a young professional mourner; she is known as the best in the village; when she cries, even the dead weep, the villagers would say. One day, Dora comes late and cries on the wrong grave. Her business is now dead, her reputation ruined. In a desperate search for crying gigs, Dora meets Dunda, a man in desperate attempt to end his life, as he is known as the man who cannot die. Dora grows fascination with this man between life and death.

Writer-director

Karla has a master's degree in film and TV production from the Sorbonne University in Paris. She is the founder of the Croatian production company Dobar Film. She has produced and directed three award-winning short films *In the Name of Strawberry*, *Chocolate and the Holy Spirit* (2018), *Following...* (2020), and *Split Ends* (2023). She is currently developing her first feature film *Mirror of Nightingales*, and two TV series: *Dear Insects and Other Creepy Stories* and *Chasing the Clouds*.

Producer

Jelena completed her undergraduate studies in public relations at Verni, and master's degree in communications at Croatian Studies in Zagreb. As a screenwriter, she is currently working on a TV series

for young audience, *Chasing the Clouds*. Currently, she works as a producer on the debut feature film *Mirror for a Nightingale* directed by Karla Lulić. She is also working on the TV series *Dear Insects and Other Creepy Stories*.

Company profile

Founded in 2014 by its producer and director Karla Lulic, **Dobar film** (i.e. good film) is focused on creating good films slightly flirting with genres. Dobar film is producing films, commercials, and music videos. The previous short films *In the Name of the Strawberry*, *The Chocolate and the Holy Spirit*, and *Following...* screened at 30+ festivals around the world. *Mirror of Nightingales*, a debut feature film is supported in development by MEDIA co-development fund and Croatian audiovisual centre.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Karla Lulić, writer-director-producer

Jelena Mađarić, producer



Contact

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dobarfilm.hr/

RISE OF THE WATER FOX

Original title: Vesirebane astub võitlusse

Country: Estonia

Genre: comedy, coming of age, adventure

Written by: Elisabeth Kužovnik

Directed by: Carlos E. Lesmes

Produced by: Johanna Maria Paulson

Production company: Stellar Film

Language: Estonian

Estimated budget in EUR: 1 213 500

Looking for: co-producers distributors, gap-financing, public funds (national, regional, international), technical participation, festivals, sales agent

Synopsis

Agnes, a teenager whose turbulent emotions pile up after her parents' complicated divorce, her grandfather's car accident, and problems at school, is sent out of sight to spend her school break in her grandfather's retirement home. There Agnes meets a local hero Harriet, who introduces the girl to the exciting world of martial arts. Agnes soon realises she is not to blame for the problems of all the people around her and can only be responsible for her own balance and inner peace.

Writer

Elisabeth Kužovnik is a screenwriter based in Tallinn, Estonia. She finished her film studies at Baltic Film and Media School in 2022. Her short film *The King* won PÖFF's national competition in 2021. Currently, she is developing two feature films - the autobiographical *The Bicycle Thief* and *Rise of the Water Fox*. Both of these projects secured the government's script development funding. She is drawn to coming-of-age stories and enjoys social criticism through the lens of absurd comedy.

Director

Carlos E. Lesmes (1987) is a Colombian film director currently living and working in Estonia. Since graduating from the MA in Baltic Film and Arts School in 2014, Carlos has been an active member of the Estonian film community. Currently, Carlos is pursuing a PHD degree at TLU and developing his first fiction feature film. Carlos is interested in people,

comic books and particle physics, but mostly in how to tie it all to try and tell stories about the experience of being a human.

Producer

Johanna Maria Paulson is co-running Stellar Film, an acknowledged production company based in Estonia. Her experience includes working on shorts, documentaries, TV series, and international co-productions, many of which have received recognition at A-class festivals. Her most recent works include the award-winning kids' thriller *The Sleeping Beast* by Jaak Kilmi and the experimental short *Dear Passengers* by Madli Lääne, which won the best short film at Estonian Film and Television Awards.

Company profile

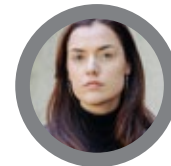
Stellar Film is one of the leading production companies in Estonia, run by Evelin Penttilä and Johanna Maria Paulson. We like working with dynamic original ideas with artistic and commercial core, mixing genres and delivery platforms in order to bring our films to European and world audiences.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Elisabeth Kužovnik, writer

Carlos E. Lesmes, director

Johanna Maria Paulson, producer



Contact

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www.stellar.ee/

THIS IS IT, THE APOCALYPSE

Original title: İşte Bu Kıyamet

Country: Turkey

Genre: drama, comedy, sci-fi

Written by: Balahan Gürel

Directed by: Balahan Gürel

Produced by: Okan Üzey

Co-produced by: Aysun Karaman

Production company: Kalavara Film

Co-production company: Rename Project

Language: Turkish, English

Estimated budget in EUR: 479 383

Financing in place in EUR: 180 000

Project status: in development

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

Synopsis

As the world comes to an end, an alienated ex-con encounters a Turkish-American woman in the Aegean town of Izmir. When she asks for his help to return home, the two strangers catapult into an odyssey to the end of the world where they must redefine the very existence of time, universe and what it means to be a human.

Writer-director

Balahan Gürel graduated with distinction from Toronto Film School's Writing for Film & TV programme. His shorts screened at more than 40 festivals, including Oscar® qualifying festivals, and were nominated for many awards. He is a fellow of 2022 Meetings on the Bridge, the Istanbul Film Festival's industry platform. He won The Playwright of the Year award at the 2022 Direklearası Awards. Works as the Artistic Director of the Turkish production company Federal Yapım, developing and producing films within the company.

Producers

Aysun Karaman graduated from the Department of International Relations at Ege University in 2017. Her career started working with actress Belcim Bilgin. After three years of graduation, she decided to

become an independent producer and started to develop herself in filmmaking. Until today, she has experienced working with producers Kirstine Barfod, Zeynep Atakan, Soner Alper, and Baran Seyhan. She launched her company Rename Media in September, 2022.

Okan Üzey graduated from the Film department at Kadir Has University. Worked in the marketing and programming department at M3 Film. Served from founding until November 2016 as the general coordinator of Başka Sinema, an important distribution model for the international independent film industry. He was then the managing administrator of PAZ Film Agency, which launched as "exclusively working for the film and culture-arts fields"; a first in Turkey. He founded Kalavara Film in 2017.

Company profile

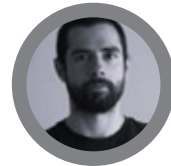
Kalavara Film has produced several features, shorts and participated in project development platforms and markets many times with the projects it has developed. It has been providing services to organizations such as National Geographic, İKSV, Eczacıbaşı Holding, Channel One, Gain Medya etc.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Balahan Gürel, writer-director

Aysun Karaman, producer

Okan Üzey, producer



Contact

Okan Üzey

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okan@kalavarafilm.com

www.kalavarafilm.com

WHAT REMAINS

Original title: Ce qui reste

Country: Switzerland

Genre: drama, thriller, coming of age

Written by: Léon Yersin, Loïs de Goumoëns

Directed by: Léon Yersin

Produced by: David Fonjallaz

Production company: Lomotion AG

Language: French, English

Estimated budget in EUR: 1 855 000

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

Synopsis

One day, Pierre, a local newspaper photographer, doesn't come home. His wife Clara, a UN interpreter, soon realises that he has disappeared voluntarily, taking his mystery with him. She chooses to face this impossible grief alone, while shielding their young son Justin from the painful reality.

11 years later, Justin, now a young man of 18 in search of identity, suddenly sees the past resurface, forcing him to overcome his own denial and grief in order to break free from his missing father.

Writer-director

Léon Yersin was born in Lausanne in 1990. After studying Arts at the University of Lausanne, Léon Yersin completed a Bachelor's degree in cinema at HEAD-Geneva. His diploma short *Fair Divers (Miscellaneous)* had its world premiere at the Locarno Film Festival in 2018. He is currently developing his first feature film, *Ce Qui Reste (What Remains)*.

Co-writer

Born in 1988, **Loïs de Goumoëns** is a screenwriter and festival director from Lausanne, Switzerland. He has worked on some shorts and TV skits. He is currently a Master student in Screenwriting at ECAL (School of Arts of Lausanne) and is co-writing *Ce qui reste*. Besides his writing activities he is the co-founder and co-director of the VIFFF - Vevey International Funny Film Festival.

Producer

Born 1980 in Lausanne, Switzerland. In 2001, **David Fonjallaz** co-founded the production company Lomotion together with Louis Mataré. He has been working full-time as a producer since 2013, after having previously worked mostly as director and editor. With this background, he is supervising the content development at Lomotion. He has since produced nine documentaries and three fiction feature films for cinema, which have been screened among others in Venice, Locarno, San Sebastian, and IDFA.

Company profile

Lomotion is an independent film production company based in Berne, Switzerland. We produce films for cinema and television with a strong commitment to content and form. Until 2014, we produced over 400 commissioned works, mostly in the fields of advertisement and corporate film. Since 2015, we have produced nine feature-length documentaries and three feature-length fictions for cinema, among others the Italian co-production *Spira Mirabilis*, which premiered in Venice in 2016.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Léon Yersin, director, writer

Loïs de Goumoëns, co-writer

David Fonjallaz, producer



Contact

David Fonjallaz

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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.

Mentors



Helene Granqvist



Valeria Richter



Joanna Solecka



Petri Kempainen

TALLINN LAB SCHEDULE

Tuesday, November 14

- 9:30-13:00 Pitching preparation 1:1 meetings
Helene Granqvist, Valeria Richter
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Vega*
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 14:00-15:30 Digital marketing and genre
Joanna Solecka, Alpha Panda
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Vega*
- 15:45-16:45 Marketing 1:1 meetings
Joanna Solecka, Alpha Panda
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Vega*
- 16:45-18:15 Development 1:1 meetings
Petri Kempainen, P1 Kempainen
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Vega*

Wednesday, November 15

- 9:30-11:00 Designing the development strategy
Petri Kempainen, P1 Kempainen
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Vega*
- 11:00-13:00 Navigating Narratives:
A Screenwriter's Guide to the Game World
Märten Rattasepp, Jaagup Irv
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Sirius*
- 13:00 Lunch
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 13:45-15:15 Marketing and development 1:1 parallel meetings
Petri Kempainen, Joanna Solecka
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum/Tallink City*
- 15:15-18:00 Pitching preparations group work
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Vega*

Thursday, November 16

- 12:00-13:00 European Genre Forum public pitching
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 14:00-17:00 Projects 1:1 meetings
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Vega*
- 17:00 EGF Wrap
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Vega*

THE BEAST FROM BELOW



Original title: Zver iz Podruma

Country: Serbia

Genre: horror

Written by: Milan Konjević

Directed by: Milan Konjević

Produced by: Milan Todorović & Anabela Lacko

Production company: Talking Wolf Productions

Language: Serbian

Estimated budget in EUR: 1 093 911

Runtime: 90

Looking for: streamers, co-producers, distributors, public funds (national, regional, international), sales agent

Synopsis

Daniel Zack (38) is a celebrated American independent comic book author of the very popular comic *The Saw*, which follows the adventures of the dark avenger *Saw*, a man with giant chainsaws instead of fists. It seems as if the comic book is starting to separate from its author, as if it is coming to life, changing uncontrollably. At the center of the mystery that begins to threaten his sanity there is something in the building itself, hidden in the legendary atomic shelter underground.

Director

Milan Konjević was born in 1970 in Belgrade. In 1997, he graduated from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade in Film and TV directing, with his short thriller *Waiting for Death* as his graduation film. In the past 15 years, he has become one of the best-known Serbian screenwriters and directors in television and has to date directed over 500 episodes of local drama shows, several feature films (including *Zone of the Dead*, *Killer Mermaid*, *The Rift*, and *Nightworld*) and US TV series.

Producer and production company

Anabela Lacko was born in 1998 in Pancevo, Serbia. Graduated film production studies. Worked on several projects in different production positions, such as: *Bullets Over Marseille* (2021), *The Quantum Devil* (2023), *Izolacija* (2023), *Budi Bog S Nama* (2023), several commercials, as well as a producer and PR of FEFAstival 2022, a festival of student films. Since 2021, she's part of Talking Wolf Productions team. *The Beast From Below* is her first project as a producer.

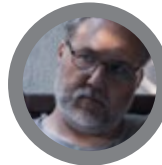
The production company was founded back in 2005 in order to produce genre films in Serbia. **Talking Wolf Productions'** first feature film *Zone of the Dead* (2009). TWP has produced more feature films including *The Rift* (2016), *The Quantum Devil* (2023), and *Slotherhouse* (2023).

Representatives in Tallinn:

Milan Konjevic, writer-director

Anabela Lacko, producer

Milan Todorovic, producer



Contact

Anabela Lacko
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THE GIRL WITH THE GREEN EYES

European Genre Forum
NETHERLANDS



Original title: Het Meisje met de Groene Ogen

Country: Netherlands

Genre: drama, fantasy film

Written by: Yfke van Berckelaer

Directed by: Yfke van Berckelaer

Produced by: Monique van Kessel

Production company: Make Way Film

Language: Dutch

Estimated budget in EUR: 1 900 000

Financing in place in EUR: 43 125

Runtime: 90

Looking for: broadcasters, streamers, co-producers, distributors, festivals, post-production services, gap-financing, foreign broadcasters, public funds (national, regional, international), private funds / banks, sales agent, technical participation

Synopsis

One day Mara (8) discovers a mysterious young woman in the lake by their house. She is convinced the woman is the Boezehappert, a mythical Dutch water spirit, who has come to save her and her siblings from the terrifying monster that lives in their house. When a tragic loss causes Mara to lose faith in all things magical, she discovers what the monster hiding behind the door truly is and realises that in order to save her siblings she has to let the magic back in, no matter the consequences.

Writer-director

Born and raised in the Netherlands, Yfke grew up wanting to be a magical princess. Disappointed by the lack of magic in the world, she became a writer/director instead, so she could create her own fairy tales. She has a BA and MA in Film History and Theory from the University of Amsterdam and an MFA in Film Directing from the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). Yfke has directed award-winning genre films like *Zombie Love*, the documentary *Xangadix Lives!* and the #metoo horror *Lili*.

Producer and production company

Monique van Kessel (1983) has been passionate about genre films since childhood. In late 2019, she founded **Make Way Film**, dedicating herself to the production of innovative 'fantastic films' in the genres sci-fi, horror, and fantasy. Her portfolio includes short films such as *Shiny New World* (2021), *Meat Me* (2022), and *Leaf* (2023), as well as feature films like *The Revelation* (2022) and *Exhibit #8* (2022). In early 2024, her folk horror feature *Witte Wieven* will be released.

Make Way Film is a Rotterdam-based film production company specialised in fantastic genre film: horror, sci-fi & fantasy.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Monique van Kessel, producer

Yfke van Berckelaer, writer-director



Contact

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www.makewayfilm.com

IMMORTAL



Original title: Besmrtnik

Country: Croatia

Genre: action, thriller, film noir, fantasy film, traditional animation

Written by: Renato Grgić & Kristijan Petrović

Directed by: Renato Grgić & Kristijan Petrović

Produced by: Vanja Vascarac

Production company: Narrativium design d.o.o.

Language: English

Estimated budget in EUR: 1 500 000

Financing in place in EUR: 25 000

Runtime: 120

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

Synopsis

Paul and Emma, twin hitmen for hire, survived through the ages thanks to a mysterious elixir that is all but gone. Worse still, they have to chase down solar eclipses as a penance for their sins. During one such race in Ephesus, Paul loses Emma to unknown assailants. Desperate to find her before the next one, he must face survivors of their ominous Family and a maze of corrupt cops and clergy in 1970s New York. And remember that he was once Apollo – God of Light, Music and Healing.

Writer-directors

Kristijan Petrovic and **Renato Grgic** are an award-winning team with well over 20 years of experience in creating, directing, and producing advertising campaigns, broadcast design, 2D and 3D animation, show and film opens for Microsoft, AMPAS, MTV, NBA, NFL, ABC, Toyota, Allianz, etc.

Producer and production company

Vanja Vascarac is a Croatian producer and director with a BFA in Film and Television at Savannah College of Art and Design (USA). He directed a number of short films: *Insomniac* (2002, Cannes Film Festival/ Director's Fortnight), *Wayking* (2003), *Carver is Dead* (2012, Zagreb Film Festival) and *Lora Wears Black* (2019, Zagreb Film Festival). Vanja's got massive experience in producing and directing TV commercials (T-Mobile, Vodafone, Sony Asia Pacific). Now, he is developing a number of features.

Narrativium design is a creative studio, production & post production company based in Zagreb, Croatia focusing on developing and producing film, animation, advertising and interactive content.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Vanja Vascarac, producer

Renato Grgić, writer-director



Contact

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385 91 1518 911

LIGHT YEARS



Original title: Lysår
Country: Norway
Genre: drama, science fiction
Written by: Anna Lian, Vegard Dahle, Didrik Morits Hallstrøm
Directed by: Vegard Dahle
Produced by: Bente Maalen, Håvard Wettland Gossé
Production company: Blaane film AS
Language: Norwegian
Estimated budget in EUR: 1 530 000
Financing in place in EUR: 101 000
Runtime: 95
Looking for: co-producers, distributors, festivals, public funds (national, regional, international), sales agent

Synopsis

The defiant astronaut Norway (31) is the only awake passenger on a spaceship searching for a new home for mankind. His memories from life on Earth have been erased to make the life-long journey bearable. Everything changes when he discovers a way to restore his memories. The memories reunite Norway with the daughter he didn't know he had and the life they had together as they tried to survive while hiding from desperate climate refugees and lethal solar storms.

Director, writer

Vegard Dahle has a bachelor degree in Film and Digital Media from Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia. He worked as a director

at Spætt Film for six years before he in 2022 started freelancing as a director and screenwriter and is currently working on several series at NRK. He has previously directed the short documentary *Off the Grid* (2019) about sustainable living and the dystopian short fiction film *Penthouse* (2022).

Producer and production company

Bente Maalen is a Film Producer and the owner of Blaane Film. She has a background as a festival producer at Kosmorama Trondheim International Film Festival. She has produced and co-producers several short films and tv-series.

Håvard Wettland Gossé was from 2010 the CEO in Spætt Film and produced several short- and documentary films. In 2023 he released his first feature film, *Norwegian Dream*, which was nominated for the Norwegian Emmys (Amanda).

Blaane film is an independent production company located on the coast of Central Norway which produces features, tv-series and shorts. Its focus is on diversity and new talents, and to participate in developing the film industry in the Trøndelag region of Norway.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Bente Maalen, producer
Vegard Dahle, writer-director



Contact

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www.blaanefilm.no

THE LONG WAY DOWN



Original title: La Lunga Discesa

Country: Italy, Slovenia, Croatia

Genre: psychological drama, horror film

Directed by: Giacomo Talamini

Produced by: Siniša Juričić

Production company: Levante Produzioni

Language: Italian

Estimated budget in EUR: 1 500 000

Financing in place in EUR: 393 000

Runtime: 95

Looking for: broadcasters, streamers, distributors, festivals, gap-financing, foreign broadcasters, private funds / banks, sales agent

Synopsis

Four teenagers, escorted by a strict therapist, descend into the abandoned mine of Cave del Predil for a speleotherapy session, when a series of earthquakes block their way back out. The kids put their trust in their guide, who however drags them deeper into the darkness of the mine, where traumas and monsters from their pasts are resurrected.

Director

Giacomo Talamini was born in Treviso in 1982, Giacomo has dedicated his career to independent cinema. In 2009 he wrote and directed web film *MGS: Philanthropy*, an Italian sci-fi project inspired by the video game saga *Metal Gear Solid*. Since 2010 he has directed several commercials for brands and agencies. In 2012 he co-founded and

became CEO of production company and VFX studio Hive Division, which specialises in highly technological and experimental productions.

Producer and production company

Siniša Juričić founded Nukleus Film in 2009, and NF Slovenia in 2012. Since 2013, established Jaako Dobra Produkcija (JDP) as a production company focused only on co-productions and production services. The films he produced have been awarded and funded in and outside the country, with the most acclaimed awards being France 4 Visionary Award for Ilian Metev's *Last Ambulance* in Sofia, screened in 51st Cannes Film Festival Criticism Week, and the Grand Prix for the same film at the festival in Karlovy Vary.

Levante Produzioni was established in 2020 in Trieste (Italy) as a joint venture company by experienced producers Boštjan Virč and Siniša Juričić. The vision of the company is to work with local talents in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region and to open co-productions with Slovenia and Croatia.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Siniša Juričić, producer

Giacomo Talamini, director



Contact

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MAYA



Original title: Maya
Country: Cyprus
Genre: mystery, thriller, drama, fantasy film
Written by: Andreas Kyriakou
Directed by: Tonia Mishiali
Produced by: Tonia Mishiali
Production company: Bark Like A Cat Films
Language: Greek
Estimated budget in EUR: 1 927 000
Financing in place in EUR: 38 500
Runtime: 100
Looking for: broadcasters, streamers, co-producers, distributors, festivals, post-production services, public funds (national, regional, international), private funds / banks, sales agent, technical participation

Synopsis

Rebellious psychiatrist Maya visits her parents' isolated mountain village for the first time, to inherit the family house, only to enter a patriarchal microcosm complete with superstitions, fears and fables of goblins in the woods. She is soon led to big discoveries about the myths, her parents, but also about herself.

Writer

Andreas Kyriakou is developing the international mini series *The Midnight Shift*, developed via Midpoint TV Launch and awarded the HBO Award at Sarajevo Film Festival 2017. In 2018 he was selected at Canneseries Institute. He also took part in the UGC Writers Campus 2019 organised by Series Mania Festival.

Director-producer

Tonia Mishiali is a director/producer, member of the Hellenic and European Film Academies and Berlinale Talents alumna. Her films have been awarded and selected at prestigious film festivals (Locarno, Karlovy Vary, Cairo, Palm Springs, Clermont-Ferrand, Santa Barbara) and major markets (TFL, Coco, Crossroads, Sofia meetings, MIB). Her feature *Pause* was listed 1 of 20 most daring films of 2019 by Rotten Tomatoes. It was awarded the Fipresci among others, received rave reviews and distributed worldwide.

Company profile

Bark Like A Cat Films has produced a couple of multi-awarded short films, selected for many prestigious film festivals (incl. Clermont-Ferrand and Cinemed). It is now developing several films and received funding from MEDIA mini-slate and the Cyprus Deputy Ministry of Culture.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Tonia Mishiali,
director-producer
Frixos Masouras,
delegate



Contact

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www.barklikeecat.com

NERIUM PARK



Original title: Nerium Park
Country: Spain
Genre: mystery, psychological drama, adaptation, horror film, thriller
Written by: Carles Velat, Belén López
Directed by: Pol Rodríguez
Produced by: Mayca Sanz
Production company: Supernova Films
Language: Catalan, English
Estimated budget in EUR: 2 000 000
Runtime: 100
Looking for: co-producers, gap-financing, public funds (national, regional, international), sales agent

Synopsis

Marta and Gerard are the first to buy a flat in Nerium Park, a new development on the outskirts of the city, with green areas and a communal swimming pool. The tranquillity of being the only tenants ends with the arrival of Sergi, an intruder who moves into a storage room for the bicycles. Little by little, his presence torments the couple to the point of questioning who they really are.

Director

Pol's first fiction feature, *Quatretondeta* won two Biznagas at the

Malaga Film Festival. He's also directed different episodes of the comedy series *Debts*. He has filmed documentary series such as *Match Day* for Netflix, and *Year Zero*, which premiered in Tribeca and was produced by Oscar winner Kathryn Bigelow. He has just finished shooting his second feature film *Saturn returns* – a rock band movie. Pol is in pre-production on *Ravalear*, a fiction series of 8 episodes created by himself.

Producer and production company

Producer and line producer **Mayca Sanz** has been nominated for the Gaudí Awards three times: for *Suro* (Mikel Gurrea), *Los días que vendrán*, and *10,000Km*, by Carlos Marqués-Marcet. *10,000Km* won the Gaudí Award for Best Non-Catalan Language Film, *Ardara* closed the In-Edit festival. Mayca is currently producing *Merixell Colell's Lejos de los árboles*, with Ibermedia, chosen by the Ikumira laboratory Berriak of the San Sebastián festival and competing in the Project of Mercado Ventana Sur.

Supernova is a young production company, which in a short time has already produced the documentary series *Year Zero*, with Kathryn Bigelow as an ep. They are currently co-producing together with Arcadia Motion Pictures the series *Ravalejar* – a social thriller set in the centre of Barcelona.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Pol Rodríguez, director
Mayca Sanz, producer



Contact

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PAWS



Original title: Paws
Country: Germany
Genre: horror film
Written by: Lukas Rinker
Directed by: Lukas Rinker
Produced by: Tonio Kellner
Production company: Neopol Film
Language: English
Estimated budget in EUR: 4 000 000
Financing in place in EUR: 200 000
Runtime: 90
Looking for: broadcasters, co-producers, distributors, festivals, foreign broadcasters

Synopsis

When their ship crashes in the Arctic ice, climate researcher Tessa and her team are stranded. Searching for help inside a ghost-shipwreck, they stumble upon a starved polar bear and her cub, looking to feed on the survivors. To make matters worse, her team betrays Tessa's cause and greedily probes the deep-sea for potential oil-fields – making Nook an expendable threat to their scheme. Now her only chance for survival and protection of this ecosystem - is an uneasy alliance with mother bear.

Director, writer

Lukas Rinker started his director-for-hire-career on small-time commercials in 2016, Lukas has always chipped away at getting his first feature movie off the ground. Now that his debut *Holy Shit!*, a film about a guy trapped in a portable toilet, has sold to 20+ territories, all bets are off. Leaving behind the soulless world of advertising, Lukas now enjoys full-time-writing on his upcoming projects. Among them: *Paws* - the creature-horror-project of his dreams.

Production company and producer

Tonio Kellner is co-founder, co-CEO of Neopol Film. He is a member of the Atelier Ludwigsburg- Paris Network and of the Intl. Co-production Accelerator Program of the CMPA. He is co-heading the Young Producers Section of the German Independent Producers Association Produzentenverband. He is one of the 2023 Producers to take part in the ACE Mentoring Program EU. He holds a Master degree in Film History, Sociology and Roman languages.

Neopol Film is a production company based in Frankfurt. Our vision is to shed a spotlight on society's normalities and weirdnesses. We tell compelling stories that make you laugh and cry. We develop our projects in close collaboration with European and International partners.

Representatives in Tallinn:
Lukas Rinker, writer-director
Tonio Kellner, producer



Contact

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JUST FILM INDUSTRY DAYS

JUST FILM Works in Progress

Just Film Works in Progress focuses on film projects for children, young people and families. 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 recipient of the Just Film Works in Progress Award will receive a **1000 EUR monetary prize**, aimed at enhancing the film's visibility by providing support for marketing and promotional expenses.



Jury

Markéta Pášmová, artistic director@Zlín Film Festival,
head of Zlín Industry Days, Czech Republic

Gert Hermans, consultant, sales agent@Attraction Distribution,
European Children's Film Association, JEF, Belgium

Josep Arbiol, founder and director@Festival MICE, Spain

HIGHLY INFLAMMABLE



Original title: Highly Inflammable
Country: United Kingdom, Spain
Genre: coming of age, cult, independent, women, youth/teen, music
Written by: Cheryl White
Directed by: Cheryl White
Produced by: Rose Kowalski
Production companies: Lost for Words, Horizontal Films
Language: English
Estimated budget in EUR: 490 000
Financing in place in EUR: 252 000
Project status: production
Runtime: 90
Looking for: distributors, festivals, co-producers, sales agent, technical participation, private funds / banks, broadcasters, public funds (national, regional, international), gap-financing

Synopsis

In tumultuous 1970s Britain, teenagers Jenny and Sophia form an unbreakable bond. Their friendship is a patchwork of contrasts: Jenny, the fiery punk yearning to shatter the status quo; Sophia, the dreamy romantic, content in the world of boys and the glossy pages of Jackie magazine. As the call of a punk lifestyle grows louder for Jenny and the allure of Sophia's racist, skinhead boyfriend, they drift apart. When Sophia faces the traumatic loss of her mother, Jenny is too busy with her new band. This causes a dramatic rift that would haunt Jenny for decades. Now, 40 years later, Sophia wants to meet up. Jenny and Sophia must untangle the threads of a friendship that defined their

youth. As they tentatively reach for reconciliation in a new Europe, fate intercedes in the cruellest of ways. Sophia's life is cut short by cancer, leaving Jenny distraught and full of regret. All that remains are the gifts Sophia prepared for her, tokens of a friendship unfulfilled.

Director

A multi-award winning writer/director **Cheryl White's** films have screened around the world. *Highly Inflammable* is her first feature. Her short *In Which Loneliness Suffers a Loss* won the Best Short, South Coast ff (2022); Audience Award, Hastings Rocks 2022, and two gold awards as part of the One Earth festival (2022). She also won the Fan Award 2018 at the White Whale festival (USA), and Best Sussex Short 2017, Crossing the Screen (UK) for her part-animated film, *A Light-house in Breaking Waves*.

Producer and production companies

Rose Kowalski is a British filmmaker and producer specialising in independent, creative storytelling based in Catalonia, Spain. Year of the Artist award winner (Arts Council of England), Best Iberoamerican Documentary, DOCSDF winner for El Club (Director) and Bancoco (Producer) won Best Writer Quetzalcoatl Indigenous IFF; Best Director Geneve Awards; and Best Documentary London Independent Film Awards. Horizontal Films is her newly constituted production company.

Lost for Words, a UK production company run by Cheryl White, produces short and feature films, radio series, theatre productions and creative projects for corporate clients.

Representatives in Tallinn:
Cheryl White, writer-director
Rose Kowalski, producer

Contact

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 www.horizontalfilms.cat



TARTINI'S KEY



Original title: Tartinijev ključ

Country: Slovenia

Genre: Children Live Action, Children, Crime

Written by: Vinci Vogue Anžlovar

Directed by: Vinci Vogue Anžlovar

Produced by: Zoran Dževerdanović

Production company: Blade production

Language: Slovenian, Italian

Estimated budget in EUR: 980 000

Financing in place in EUR: 930 000

Project status: Post-production

Runtime: 101

Looking for: distributors, festivals, gap-financing, sales agent, broadcasters

Synopsis

An accidental SMS entwines the lives of three children: Barbara, Mario, and Robert, leading them on a medieval puzzle-laden adventure in picturesque Piran. As they unravel each mystery, they uncover historical tales and finally a treasure. Despite the initial awkwardness, the children form a true friendship, and a spark of love jumps between Barbara and Robert.

Director

Vinci Vogue Anžlovar (1963) is a multifaceted creative artist who

writes music and scripts as well as directs films and TV series. His first artistic endeavors consisted of putting together several bands. He studied film directing at the AGRFT, University in Ljubljana. One of his screenplays won an international competition held by a Japanese company Lakuna while he was still a student. He used the monetary award to shoot one of the most successful Slovenian films of all time: *Grandma Goes South*.

Producer and production company

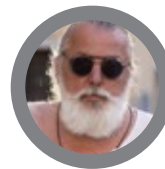
Zoran Dževerdanović is a producer and founder of Blade Production from Ljubljana. He graduated in chemical engineering from the University in Ljubljana and spent many years working as an investment manager in a chemical company in Slovenia but his passion for film and art projects led him to found his own production company 10 years ago.

Blade is a production house founded in 2012 in Ljubljana. Blade films have been awarded internationally at many prestigious festivals such as Berlinale, Oberhausen, Sarajevo, Chicago, Aspen, and many others. The short film *Into the Blue* was an Academy Award Finalist and Oscar nominee.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Vinci Vogue Anžlovar, writer-director

Zoran Dževerdanović, producer



Contact

Zoran Dževerdanović

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dzeverdanovic@gmail.com

www.bladeproduction.com

THE INFERNO OF THE LIVING

ARGENTINA



Original title: El infierno de los vivos
Country: Argentina
Genre: drama
Written by: Alberto Leonidas Gieco
Directed by: Alberto Gieco
Produced by: Azul Sioli
Executive producer: Agustin Falco
Production company: Muchasiesta Coop. Audiovisual
Language: Spanish
Estimated budget in EUR: 125 000
Financing in place in EUR: 100 000
Project status: post-production
Runtime: 70
Looking for: post-production services, broadcasters, distributors, festivals, co-producers, foreign broadcasters, sales agent

Synopsis

Mariana (15) is abused by her stepfather, Chano, a renowned folklorist. Her mother Estela (42) denies the incident and protects Chano. Mariana escapes her mother's home, files a police report against Chano, and strives to reconnect with her estranged father Juan to gain custody of herself and her sister, Magui. Despite returning home with the assurance that Chano is gone, Mariana is ensnared in her room, and her mother resurfaces, coercing her to retract her complaint. Mariana escapes once more, being discovered by the police and temporarily placed in a convent home. There, she meets Sergio, Juan's cousin, who pledges to assist her in reuniting with her father.

Mariana embarks on a journey to locate him and eventually reconnects with the struggling man. She encourages him to confront their circumstances. But finally, Mariana sets off alone, finding the strength to confront the future.

Director

Alberto Gieco, the audiovisual director and theatre artist, was born in the province of Santa Fe and currently resides in Santa Clara de Buena Vista, Santa Fe, with work periods in Los Angeles, California. Additionally, he has made significant contributions to the film industry, working as a script supervisor and assistant director in over 30 feature films. He has also been involved in advertising film and production services for various institutions. Furthermore, he was a member of the artist collective Circo de Poesía from 2008 to 2013 and has shared his expertise by teaching cinematography and literature at institutions like the University of California, Occidental College, and Cortines Visual and Performing Arts.

Producer and production company

Azul Sioli is a young producer, a member of **Muchasiesta**, an audiovisual cooperative founded upon an intentional associative choice rooted in strong values, harnessing the audiovisual language to create content of thematic, technical, and aesthetic excellence. Their commitment extends to generating productions that align with their cultural identity, promoting cooperation among their members, strengthening the audiovisual sector through networking and collaborations, offering professional and efficient services.

Representative in Tallinn:
Alberto Gieco, director

Contact

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 cooperativa.muchasiesta@gmail.com
 www.muchasiesta.com.ar



TWO OF ME



Original title: Mind on kaks

Country: Estonia

Genre: coming of age

Written by: Raul Esko, Romet Esko

Directed by: Raul Esko, Romet Esko

Produced by: Rain Rannu, Tõnu Hiie laid, Kirill Volkov

Production company: Tallifornia

Language: Estonian

Estimated budget in EUR: 600 000

Financing in place in EUR: 350 000

Project status: post-production

Runtime: 90

Looking for: broadcasters, distributors, festivals, foreign broadcasters, private funds / banks, sales agent

Synopsis

Twin brother filmmakers Raul and Romet live with an obsession of becoming world famous directors. The seemingly comedic coming of age story is a mixture of memories inspired by real life experiences by the directors. After constant struggles to prove themselves in film school, the brothers set a goal of secretly directing a highly authentic feature film about twins. The brothers start crafting a film that depicts their whole life experience from birth till death. An idea that initially seems clear turns out to be much more complicated than expected and takes the brothers' vision of life into question. After Raul falls for a girl at a nightclub, each staged scene becomes more and more complex. Raul and Romet keep arguing about the scenes until the whole production falls apart. Only after the most difficult film adventure do they understand that they don't have to agree on everything, and their greatest strength lies in cooperation.

Directors

Born in 1999, the **Esko twins** were forged by Cartoon Network and 90s action movies. When the brothers turned ten they got hold of their first MacBook with a video app Photo Booth. They have been filming everything ever since. The EskoBros have a signature that cannot be missed. A next generation visual voice that ridicules everything in hopes of creating a new way. "We will one day make a film that would change the world".

Producers and production companies

Rain Rannu is an Estonian screenwriter, movie director, investor and entrepreneur. In 2016, he released his first movie *Chasing Unicorns*, which became a box-office hit in Estonia.

Tõnu Hiie laid has produced five features and has another five at different stages of production: *Chasing Unicorns* (2019), *Kratt* (2020, Fantasia, BIFAN, Cottbus FF, Leeds IFF), *Tree of Eternal Love* (2021), *Child Machine* (2022, Just Film FF, Cottbus FF), *Free Money* (2023).

Kirill Volkov focuses on PR & Communications with his studies, and has produced countless ads and music videos. This is his first full-length feature film in production.

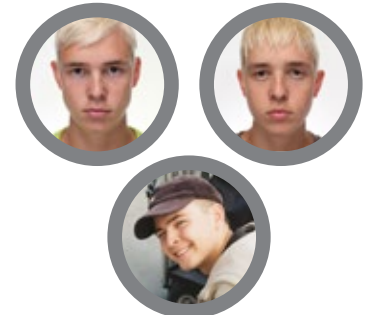
Tallifornia is a production company that focuses on fast-paced, fun and author-driven feature films for a global audience. In 2021, Tallifornia set up a first private film fund in Estonia that invests into edgy film projects from all over the world.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Raul Esko, writer-director

Romet Esko, writer-director

Kirill Volkov, producer



Contact

Rain Rannu

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tallifornia.com

VIOLENT BUTTERFLIES

Original title:

Violentas Mariposas

Country: Mexico

Genre: drama

Written by:

Adolfo Dávila García

Directed by:

Adolfo Dávila García

Produced by: Gabriela Gavica Marrufo, Adolfo Dávila García

Production companies:

Mandarina Cine, Neural

Language: Spanish

Estimated budget in EUR:

1 304 303

Financing in place in EUR:

1 188 779

Project status:

post-production

Runtime: 101

Looking for: gap-financing, distributors, festivals, technical participation, public funds (national, regional, international), post-production services, private funds / banks, sales agent


compelling feature films, evocative short films, thought-provoking documentaries, visually captivating music videos, and impactful commercials. Adolfo ignites imaginations and sets the standard in disruptive cinema.

Producer

Gabriela Gavica Marrufo studied film production at the CCC. In 2016, she produced *Ayer Maravilla Fui*, winner of Mexico Primero. *Marioneta* (2019) premiered at Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival and won the FIPRESCI award at FICG. She is a co-founder of Mandarin Cine and has produced nine feature films. Last year, she produced the short *El Grillo* by Carlos Hernandez, nominated for the Ariel Award 2023.

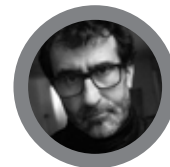
Company profile

Mandarina Cine produces both fiction and non-fiction by fresh and upcoming talents. Their projects have participated in national and international festivals and markets and won awards at Visions Du Reel (Switzerland), Biarritz Film Festival (France), Festival de la Riviera Maya (Mexico), FICM (Mexico), FIPRESCI International Federation of Film Critics Award in Los Cabos (Mexico), etc.

Neural is dedicated to the creation of films, advertising, and music videos since 2000. In 2009, Neural ventured into the production of content with an emphasis on the development of films, producing shorts such as: *Double Day*, *Los Dos Pérez*, and *El Refugio*. Neural is currently producing *Violent Butterflies* and developing *Tzu Kgosni / Niño Volador* by director Adolfo Dávila.

Representative in Tallinn:

Adolfo Dávila García, writer-director



Contact

Gabriela Gavica Marrufo

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mandarinacine.com

Synopsis

A graffiti artist and a punk band singer meet in a context of crisis and social discontent. Their idealistic and revolutionary minds yearn for a fairer world, and they are willing to fight for it. Music and street art unite them and serve as their weapons. Naive and innocent, they demand justice until they become victims of an assault by three corrupt police officers who awaken in them the unimaginable rage of those who have nothing left to lose.

Writer-director

Adolfo Dávila is an accomplished filmmaker and visionary storyteller; a true creative dynamo. As the driving force behind the production company Neural he has masterminded a diverse portfolio, including

beep SOUND POSTPRODUCTION



20+

Years in Business

9

Sound Studios

100+

Feature Films

500+

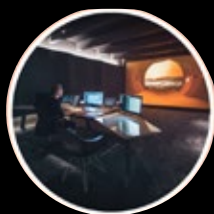
TV Episodes

1000+

Commercial



Sound Editing



Mix



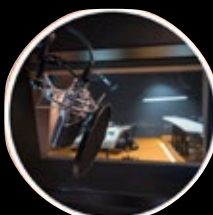
Foley Recording



ADR Recording



Location Recording



Voice Casting



Localization



Music Composition

Works in Progress

Best Project Award – 7000 € presented by Studio Beep

Studio Beep, a well-established full-service sound post-production house based in Prague, presents the Best Project Award to the jury's choice of the best project in the Baltic Event and the International Works in Progress sections.

The award consists of 6000 euros worth of services by Studio Beep together with 1000 euros travel allowance



Jury

Yohann Comte, CEO, Charades, France

Nadine Rothschild, Head of Sales, Coproduction Office, France

TJ Smith, Content Acquisitions, Tubi, USA

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES



Original title: Truth or Consequences

Country: France

Genre: road movie

Written by: Philippe Prouff

Directed by: Philippe Prouff

Produced by: Xavier Arias

Production company: Walter Films

Language: French

Estimated budget in EUR: 500 000

Financing in place in EUR: 200 000

Project status: post-production

Runtime: 100

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

Synopsis

What on earth am I doing here? This is the question Nicolas, a friendly, whimsical, and disillusioned French author in his thirties, asks himself when he lands in the town of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. At first, all he wanted was to answer, without quite believing in it, an unexpected call for help sent out by an old man from his retirement home, whom he knew nothing about. Nicolas believed it would feed his dormant imagination, but this impersonation soon proved well to be a threat.

Truth or Consequences is an indoor road-movie that tells the story of a fraud unfolding all over New Mexico, encompassing the town from which the film derives its name. Named after a contest to host a TV

game show by the same title, this truly existing town is the setting for the character's quest to find his author, in an attempt to free himself. A quest for truth that may well have serious consequences.

Director

Philippe Prouff is a traveler-filmmaker based in Paris. He draws the material for his films from his discovery of remote places. His poetic handling of images is expressed in different creative worlds, from fashion to music, documentaries to fiction. *Truth or Consequences* is his first feature film.

Producer and production company

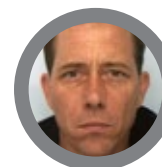
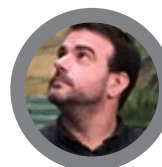
Xavier Arias co-founded Walter Films in 2007. The company has been initiating and producing films driven by a director's writing choices, their aesthetic and artistic intent. From fashion films to fiction, from the cinema of reality to the visualisation of music, Walter Films is the signature of a desire for exacting standards and care in the making and accompaniment of works.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Mateo Monteiro, head of development

Philippe Prouff, director-writer

Xavier Arias, producer



Contact

Walter Films
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 walterfilms.com

THE PLATFORM

International Works in Progress
BULGARIA



Original title: Платформата

Country: Bulgaria

Genre: drama

Written by: Nikolay Mutafchiev, Bogdan Rusev

Directed by: Nikolay Moutafchiev

Produced by: Mira Boyadzhieva, Lubomira Stoyanova

Co-produced by: Nikolay Mutafchiev

Production companies: Samsara, PREMIERstudio Plus

Estimated budget in EUR: 350 000

Financing in place in EUR: 350 000

Project status: post-production

Runtime: 93

Looking for: distributors, broadcasters, sales agent, foreign broadcasters, festivals

Synopsis

Stan (40) is a refugee and his citizenship has been taken away. He tries to keep on living, but this turns out to be impossible without any documents. In a refugee prison, he becomes close with Starly (24), Ahmed (32) and Option (45) and together they decide to establish their own country on an abandoned platform in the sea. There they find out that Joanna (34) lives there. The four of them decide to divide the platform and to establish the most democratic country, living next to "the locals" who do not agree neither with their decision nor with their actions. Hunted down by their different pasts, their beliefs for freedom and democracy start to flow on the surface. In his willingness to save democracy, Stan totally kills it by becoming a dictator of the whole state.

In front of the five citizens of the newly established state raises the dilemma to destroy themselves or to destroy the platform.

Writer-director

Nikolay Mutafchiev (1974) has a BA in Acting, and an MA in film directing from the National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts. He made his directorial debut with the short drama *Two on the Bridge* (2006), and won a UN subsidy for his project *You Are It* in 2007. Both films have screened at various international festivals. In 2009, he started producing artistic quality films by emerging directors, which have been supported of the National Film Centre Bulgaria, some co-produced with other EU countries.

Producers and production companies

Mira Veselinova Boyadjieva (1986) is the owner of the production and distribution company Samsara, which selects projects of artistic value or based on cultural and historical events and facts. Her filmography includes *The Island of the Blue Birds*, *Red Carpet*, and *Rangel Forever*.

Lubomira Stoyanova has acted as a casting director for more than 250 episodes of TV series and more than 100 commercials. She joined Samsara in 2018.

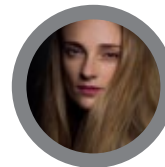
PREMIERstudio plus is a Bulgarian production company established in 2009, which produces high quality films for the global market. For the last five years, the company has turned its focus on international co-productions.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Nikolay Mutafchiev,

writer-director

Lubomira Stoyanova, producer



Contact

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MAMÍFERA

International Works in Progress
SPAIN



Original title: Mamífera
Country: Spain
Genre: dramedy
Written by: Liliانا Torres
Directed by: Liliانا Torres
Produced by: Carla Sopedra Salvadó, Miriam Porté
Production company: Edna Cinema, Distinto Films
Language: Catalan, Spanish
Estimated budget in EUR: 1 700 000
Financing in place in EUR: 1 610 000
Project status: post-production
Runtime: 94
Looking for: sales agent, gap-financing, broadcasters

Synopsis

Lola (40) is happy with her life. After years of economic hardship, she is finally achieving financial stability and even professional acknowledgment in the field of the arts. She shares a home with her partner Bruno (39) and enjoys a healthy and lovely relationship. But Lola's bliss comes to a crashing halt the day she realises that she is pregnant. Lola doesn't want to have children. It's something she has never desired, and at this point in her life even less than ever. She has no interest in being a part of what she calls the "it-doesn't-matter-with-who-or-how-but-I-want-to-have-a-child" race that is so prevalent all around her. This accidental pregnancy obliges Lola and Bruno to wait for the so-called "three days of reflection" stipulated by the Spanish Government to be able to have an abortion. During those three days, Lola's life gets turned upside down. She feels like she is on the receiving end of society's contradictory messages, prejudices, and dominant view of motherhood.

Writer-director

Liliana Torres premiered her first feature *Family Tour* at the San Sebastian IFF and was in the Official Selection of the Warsaw IFF and the Busan IFF. Among other festivals, *What went wrong?*, her second feature film, premiered in the Official Selection of the Seville FF and at PÖFF.

Producers and production companies

Carla Sopedra Salvadó is producer based in Barcelona. In 2021, she created **Edna Cinema** with the aim of producing auteur films in the field of fiction and documentary. Its goal is to discover, accompany and creatively produce emerging female filmmakers. Her filmography includes *What went wrong?* by Liliana Torres (SIFF, PÖFF), *Correspondences* by Carla Simón and Dominga Sotomayor (Zabaltegi, Visions du Reel, New York FF), *The Yellow Ceiling* by Isabel Coixet (SSIFF, IDFA, Hot Docs, winner of a Gaudi award). She also collaborated in *Alcarràs* by Carla Simón (Golden Bear 2022).

Miriam Porté is a founder of **Distinto Films**. She has produced successes such as *The Odd-Job Men* by Neus Ballús (Official Selection at the Locarno IFF), *The Wild Ones* by Patricia Ferreira (best film in Malaga FF and three Goya nominee) or *Yo* by Rafa Cortés (FIPRESCI Award at the Rotterdam IFF). She has also supported new talented authors producing their first short films like *Watermelon Juice* by Irene Moray (Best short film Goya Awards and premiered at Berlinale Competition) or *Foreigner* by Lucía Aleñar.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Liliana Torres, director
Carla Sopedra Salvadó, producer



Contact

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THE TOWER OF STRENGTH

International Works in Progress

MONTENEGRO
SERBIA
GERMANY



Original title: Obraz

Country: Montenegro, Serbia, Germany

Genre: drama, history

Written by: Melina Pota Koljevic, Ana Vujadinovic

Directed by: Nikola Vukcevic

Produced by: Milorad Radenovic

Co-produced by: Nevena Savic, Ivica Vidanovic, Christoph Thoke

Associate producer: Dario Domitrovic

Production company: Galileo Production

Co-production: Embrio Production, Croatia

Estimated budget in EUR: 600 000

Financing in place in EUR: 570 000

Project status: post-production

Runtime: 95

Looking for: broadcasters, distributors, festivals, foreign broadcasters, co-producers, post-production services, private funds / banks, gap-financing, sales agent, streamers, technical participation

Synopsis

In the midst of WWII, a boy finds shelter in the home of the legendary Albanian war hero Nur Doka after fleeing from fascist persecutors, who killed his parents and burned down his village. However, when the same paramilitary unit demands the boy's execution, Nur must choose between his own honour and the lives of his family. Nur, a Muslim and an Albanian, opened his home to a child of the Christian faith during a time when one's name and nationality were matters of life and death in the Balkans. When Nur runs out of options, he is faced with a choice that will challenge his principles and define his legacy. The question is: what will Nur do? The film re-examines the value of an individual human sacrifice as the issue of collective vs. personal interest, through the prism of two different worlds: the world of honour and the world of war.

Director

Nikola Vukcevic is film director, university professor of Film directing, Head of dept. Film and Media at the National University of Montenegro; National Delegate of the Assembly of Assoc. of European Film Directors (FERA), President of the Council of Montenegro Int. Film Festival, Member of the Film Committee of the Montenegrin Academy of Arts and Sc. (CANU), Ph.D. in Filmology, and Alumni of the prestigious Fulbright Program IVLP US Dept. Of State. Vukcevic has a parallel career as a prominent theatre director.

Producer

Milorad Radenovic manages the production sector in Galileo Production MNE as an executive producer and is responsible for the executive production of more than 30 projects (feature films - including international co-productions, documentaries, promo films, TV commercials, and music videos - including regional and international co-productions), many of which were rewarded on regional and international festivals.

Company profile

Galileo Production Doo is an independent Film and TV production house, since 2003. We provide complete production of feature films (including international co-productions and production service in Montenegro), promotional films, and TV commercials – with a wide international audience.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Nikola Vukcevic, director
Milorad Radenovic, producer
Nevena Savic, co-producer



Contact

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galileoproduction.com

AFTER THE FOG

International Works in Progress
CHILE, UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE



Original title: Después de la niebla
Countries: Chile, United Kingdom, France
Genre: drama
Written by: Miriam Heard
Directed by: Miriam Heard
Produced by: Miriam Heard, Dominique Rammsy, Stephanie Douet, Anna Holburn
Production company: Echo Art Films
Language: Spanish
Estimated budget in EUR: 210 000
Financing in place in EUR: 160 000
Project status: post-production
Runtime: 96
Looking for: festivals, distributors, post-production services, sales agent

Synopsis

1988. After years of Pinochet's dictatorship, Chile holds a plebiscite. María (8) boards at a school where she's fascinated by Tante Ruth, the German headmistress whose strict kindness gives her stability. At weekends, at the family home by a lake, her parents' marriage is falling apart and María's even lonelier. When friends visit from Santiago the parties drag on into the night. The adults play poker and talk politics – they all support Pinochet. María steals a bottle of whisky and goes to the lake where, unnoticed, she floats away. After the guests leave María watches her parents argue and then make love. At school María dresses up in the clothes she finds in Tante Ruth's drawers. She faints and Tante Ruth tucks her into bed. Back at home, her mother tells her that they're returning to Santiago. María goes to the lake, saying goodbye to a life she loves. Her mother promises they'll go anywhere she wants to. María takes her hand and believes her. But the future feels uncertain.

Writer-director

With English and German parents, **Miriam Heard** was born in Wales. She studied English Literature at Oxford University before training as an actress at Rada (London) and the Conservatoire Nationale d'Arts Dramatiques in Paris. She worked as an actress and a screenwriter with directors such as Raúl Ruiz and Valeria Sarmiento before studying filmmaking at NYU-SCPS. Miriam is represented by Jessica Cooper at Curtis Brown, London. Since 2017, Miriam has been on the committee of the artistic direction of the Arica Nativa Film Festival, Chile.

Producers and production company

A French-Chilean producer, **Dominique Rammsy**, has been working in film since childhood, involved in productions of all scales and at every level. Her most recent work is *Rapanui*, a documentary about a French diver's legacy in Chile.

Founder of Echo Art Films UK with Miriam Heard, since 2011, **Anna Holburn** has been working in film financing alongside her other work in bridge and cross financing. She did an Intensive Filmmaking Course at NYU-SCPS, New York, in 2015.

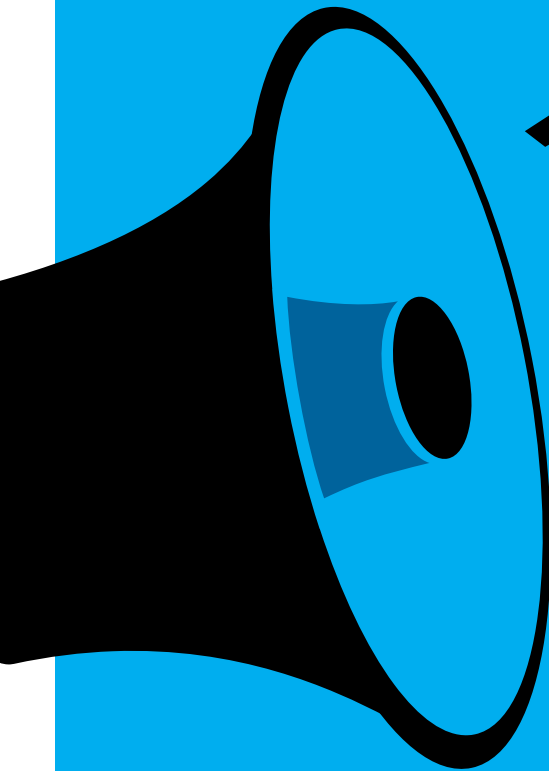
Echo Art Films, UK was founded in 2010 by Miriam Heard and Anna Holburn.

Representative in Tallinn:
Anna Holburn, producer



Contact

Miriam Heard
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echoartfilms.com



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CUT YOUR BUDGET

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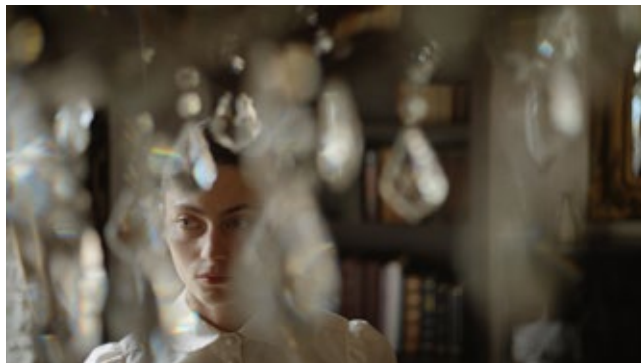
Shoot in Estonia!

MORE INFORMATION
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AURORA

Baltic Event Works in Progress
ESTONIA



Original title: Aurora
Country: Estonia
Genre: dramedy
Written by: Rain Tolk, Andres Maimik
Directed by: Rain Tolk, Andres Maimik
Produced by: Madis Tüür
Production company: Kuukulgur Film
Language: Estonian
Estimated budget in EUR: 950 000
Financing in place in EUR: 876 000
Project status: Post-production
Runtime: 100
Looking for: festivals, broadcasters, sales agent, streamers, foreign broadcasters, public funds (national, regional, international)

Synopsis

Aurora, the daughter of a religious leader, travels with her husband Joonas to celebrate their wedding anniversary with their parents. At the same time, her ex-lover Lenny tries to contact her, which doesn't go unnoticed by his husband. The anniversary celebrations turn into a spectacle celebrating family values, with which Aurora's father Valdek wants to create an image of the ideal family model for his followers. In parallel, a second timeline is set in motion - the love story of Aurora and Lenny, which took place a year ago, in which Lenny draws Aurora into his twisted world.

Writers-directors

Actor, screenwriter and director **Rain Tolk** was born in 1977 in Tallinn. In 2007, he starred in *Autumn Ball*, directed by Veiko Õunpuu, which won the main prize in the Orizzonti programme of the Venice Film Festival. Together with Andres Maimik, Tolk has directed three feature-length feature films (*Jan Uuspõld goes to Tartu*, *Cormorants*, *Umbkotid*).

Andres Maimik (1970) is a documentary, feature and commercial film director, screenwriter and essayist. He is a partner at Kuukulgur Film. Maimik has taught documentary filmmaking at the Estonian Academy of Arts and Tallinn University. In his works the comedy mixed with the tragedy of the contemporary human condition has attracted younger audiences to his works both documentaries and feature films.

Producer and production company

Madis Tüür is a freelance film producer, who has led numerous marketing campaigns for films, including *Tangerines* (2013 by Zaza Urushadze nominated for the 87th Academy Award) and *The Fencer* (2015 by Klaus Härö). Madis also co-produced *Truth and Justice* (2019 by Tanel Toom), which made the domestic all-time box-office record and was shortlisted for the Academy Award in the Best International Film category.

Kuukulgur Film has been creating audiovisual content in Estonia since 2003. We provide support for all stages of the creative process – from inception to logistical support on location.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Rain Tolk, writer-director

Andres Maimik,
writer-director

Madis Tüür, producer



Contact

Madis Tüür
madis@kuukulgur.ee
+372 569 112 24

THE BLACK HOLE



Original title: Must Auk
Countries: Estonia, Finland
Genre: black comedy
Written by: Moonika Siimets
Directed by: Moonika Siimets
Produced by: Riina Sildos
Production companies: Amrion, Aamu Film Company
Language: Estonian
Estimated budget in EUR: 1 718 199
Financing in place in EUR: 1 718 199
Project status: post-production
Runtime: 100 min
Looking for: gap-financing

Synopsis

A black hole appears mysteriously in a lilac bush of a tower block district. A sinister-looking comet shines in the sky, and certain events start to unfold, calling the inhabitants' dreams of a better life into question. Especially when facing aliens, a giant spider and an Austrian in breeches. Three comically absurd tales interweave in "The Black Hole", making a point about the essence of modern life when people are in moral decline and have lost the ability to connect with each other.

Writer-director

Moonika Siimets is a talented Estonian female director and script-writer. She graduated from Tallinn University Baltic Film and Media School and attended Judith Weston's scriptwriting and directing master classes in LA. Her filmography includes short films *Is It You?* (2013 Stockholm FF), *The Last Romeo* (2013 Tel Aviv ISFF), the feature film *The Little Comrade* (2018, Busan IFF - Busan Bank Award, Camerimage, BNFF, Palm Springs) and the documentary *Two Hours to Happiness* (2022, DocPoint).

Producer and production company

Amrion was established in 2003 by **Riina Sildos**, the former head of the Estonian Film Foundation, member of ACE, EFA and EAVE to produce high quality feature films and documentaries for local and international cinema and TV markets. The main aim is to make international co-productions with young promising talents and already acclaimed directors. What all the projects have in common is filmmakers' personal vision, both with regard to subject matter as well as visual aspects.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Moonika Siimets, writer-director
Riina Sildos, producer



Contact

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ESCAPE NET



Original title: Tiklā. TTT leģendas dzimšana
Country: Latvia
Genre: drama, sport, biographical, period/historical, political, women
Written by: Dzintars Dreiberģis, Clara Royer, Ligita Lukstraupē
Directed by: Dzintars Dreiberģis
Produced by: Inga Pranevska, Marta Romanova-Jekabsone, Arta Giga, Dzintars Dreiberģis
Production company: Kultfilma
Language: Latvian, Russian, miscellaneous
Estimated budget in EUR: 2 128 590
Financing in place in EUR: 1 400 000
Project status: production
Runtime: 90
Looking for: broadcasters, distributors, festivals, foreign broadcasters, gap-financing, post-production services, private funds / banks, sales agent, streamers, technical participation

Synopsis

Set in Soviet-era Riga, Dzidra, an impoverished teenager, takes up basketball to reunite with her brother, who fled abroad after WWII. Despite the odds, she becomes the first Latvian woman on the USSR national team. Before an overseas match, the KGB intervenes. Undeterred, she captains TTT Riga, gaining recognition. They reach the Euroleague final in Paris, where Dzidra discovers her brother's presence, forcing a tough decision: escape with him or remain loyal to Latvia.

Writer-director

With a master's degree in economics and several years' stable career in international business, **Dzintars Dreiberģis** decided to follow his heart and become a filmmaker. Dzintars completed his film education at the Baltic Film and Media School in Tallinn, Estonia. Dreiberģis made his feature directorial debut with *Blizzard of Souls* (2019), domestic box office record holder in Latvia, distributed to 50+ countries, Oscars Short-listed as Best Score, and Variety TOP 25 as Best International Film.

Producers and production company

Producer **Inga Pranevska's** fiction feature producer debut, *Blizzard of Souls* (2019), is the domestic box office record holder in Latvia, distributed to 50+ countries, Oscar short-listed for Best Score, and listed in Variety's TOP 25 as Best International Film. *Escape Net* will be her second fiction feature film as producer.

Marta Romanova-Jekabsone's debut film is the award-winning family drama *Bille* (2018), co-produced with the Czech Republic and Lithuania. Marta's latest project is the female-led drama *Soviet Milk* (2023), co-produced with Belgium and based on a bestselling book.

Producer **Arta Giga** has been active in the industry since 2007. In 2015, she started producing quality series, including *House by the Lake*, *Red Forest*, and *Crime Solving for Beginners*. Arta is a board member of the Latvian Producers Association and a member of the Latvian Cinematographers Union.

Kultfilma is an emerging company from Latvia looking to develop international co-production projects, including *Brothers' War* and *Escape Net*.

Representative in Tallinn:
Marta Romanova-Jekabsone, producer

Contact

Marta Romanova-Jekabsone
 info@kultfilma.lv
 kultfilma.lv



IMPRESSIONS



Original title: Nospiedumi

Country: Latvia

Genre: Dramedy

Written by: Alise Zarina

Directed by: Alise Rogule

Produced by: Alise Rogule

Production company: Mima Films

Estimated budget in EUR: 700 000

Financing in place in EUR: 440 000

Project status: production

Runtime: 96

Looking for: distributors, gap-financing, co-producers, sales agent, streamers, festivals, post-production services

Synopsis

"When one has not had a good father, one must create one." - Nietzsche

Liv is an insecure perfectionist in her early thirties and she really wants to have her life together. She has put to rest her dreams to become an artist, she's found her man - a trustworthy, easy going IT guy, she's trying hard to have adult hobbies and adult aspirations. Maybe even a baby. However, when her estranged alcoholic father ends up in a hospital unconscious, suddenly she has to deal with her own inner child.

Writer-director

Alise Zarina is a film director, writer, freelance creative and activist. Impressions is her second feature film. Her first feature *Nearby* was awarded the National Film Award for best screenplay, her short *Il lines* won best national short film title in Riga IFF. Her other works include shorts, music videos, advertisements, and an upcoming TV series.

Producer and production company

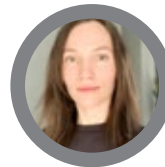
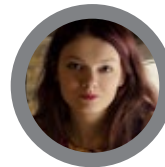
With a bachelor's degree in Visual Communication, **Alise Rogule** has produced different projects for more than 11 years. In 2022, Alise was selected as a participant together with 9 European promising producers for Cannes Film Festival Court Metrage new initiative - New Producers Room and Match Me! Programme at Locarno Film Festival. This year, she was a participant of the Visitors programme at EFM and currently in ACE EU Mentoring programme.

Mima Films is a production studio with a profoundly thorough never-say-die attitude and a high sense of responsibility. We find a solution to each of our challenges. Latvia is our base, and the Baltics are our home turf.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Alise Zarina, writer-director

Alise Rogule, producer



Contact

Alise Rogule
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mimafilms.lv/

LIFE AND LOVE



Original title: Elu ja armastus
Country: Estonia
Genre: drama
Written by: Martin Algus
Directed by: Helen Takkin
Produced by: Kristian Taska, Adeele Tähemaa
Co-produced by: Tanel Tatter, Veiko Esken
Production company: Taska Film
Co-production company: Apollo Film Productions
Estimated budget in EUR: 750 000
Financing in place in EUR: 600 000
Project status: post-production
Runtime: 118
Looking for: distributors, festivals, sales agent, streamers

Synopsis

In 1933, a young woman leaves her rural home to chase her dream of becoming a writer in the city. She takes a job as a maid for a middle-aged printing house owner who quickly starts pursuing her romantically. They marry, but his passionate declarations of love soon turn cold. As political tensions rise in the country, their love story unfolds in a divided society, revealing toxic behaviours and power games that start innocently but lead to dire consequences.

Director

Helen Takkin is an established short format director from Estonia. She's worked with top commercial clients worldwide, won awards,

and embraces diverse genres to craft meaningful heartwarming stories. *Life and Love* is her first full-length feature film.

Producers and production companies

The main producer in **Taska Film** is the owner and founder of the company **Kristian Taska**. Before the establishment of Taska Film, he was the advertising manager (1992-1997) and then general manager and chairman (1998-2000) of the TV station Kanal 2. He was also the general manager and member of the board of Estonian Drama Theatre (Eesti Draamateater) in 2005-2006. Kristian Taska is a member of ACE producers' network and is an alumnus of European Film Promotion.

Producer **Adeele Tähemaa** has been involved with projects like the mediaeval crime thriller *Melchior the Apothecary* and international co-productions like *The Eternal Road* (2016) and TV series *All the Sins* (2019-2022) at Taska Film over the years. In 2023, she is in production with three projects: *Life and Love* (Helen Takkin), *The Shadow* (Jaak Kilmi), and a Finnish-Estonian-Swedish-Austrian-German co-production *Never Alone* (Klaus Härö).

Taska Film, established in 2000, has produced the majority of Estonia's top box office hits. The company's editorial preference has been to produce period piece films.

Apollo Film Production is a creative team focusing on theatre and film production. The company features two producers - Tanel Tatter and Veiko Esken.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Helen Takkin, director
Martin Algus, writer
Adeele Tähemaa, producer
Kristian Taska, producer



Contact

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taska.ee
film@taska.ee



MARIA'S SILENCE



Original title: Marijas klusums
Country: Latvia, Lithuania
Genre: drama
Written by: Dāvis Šimanis, Magali Negroni
Directed by: Dāvis Šimanis
Produced by: Gints Grūbe
Co-produced by: Juste Michailinaite, Kestutis Drazdauskas
Production company: Mistrus Media
Co-production company: Broom Films
Estimated budget in EUR: 899 100
Financing in place in EUR: 899 100
Project status: post-production
Runtime: 100
Looking for: festivals, sales agent, distributors

Synopsis

It is 1935. The former silent cinema and theatre star in Germany Marija Leiko goes to the Soviet Union to take care of her granddaughter. The way back to Latvia leads through Moscow where her former friends talk her into staying in Moscow for one season to perform with the Latvian theatre Skatuve. Leiko is ready to once again experience the working atmosphere of the theatre, yet soon enough she becomes aware of the violent character of the regime under its "new life" façade. A year later, as the NKVD-organised "national operation" begins, her friend Zakovskis is put in charge of it. Should the famous actress admit to anti-Soviet activities, it would be proof positive to Latvian disloyalty to the regime. Albeit in the dark about the fate of her granddaughter, who has been kidnapped by the NKVD, Leiko cannot admit to "crimes" she has not committed. She is forced to play her life's most tragic role – an innocent victim destroyed along with thousands of other Latvians in Soviet Russia.

Writer-director

Davis Šimanis, PhD Arts, is a Latvian filmmaker and theorist. He has directed historical feature films, a number of poetic documentary films as well as cross-genre features that have participated in various major festivals. His docu-fiction *Escaping Riga* (2014) premiered internationally at IDFA 2014 and is still screened at documentary film festivals worldwide. Previously received the Award for the Best Debut (*Version. LNO*, 2006) and FIPRESCI Award (*Valkyrie Limited*, 2009) at the Latvian National Film Festival Lielais Kristaps and Grand Prix Award at the Vilnius Documentary Film Festival (*The Chronicles of the Last Temple*, 2013), historical drama *The Mover*, 2018 WP in Moscow IFF and Palm Springs IFF, *The Year Before the War*, WP IFF Rotterdam 2021.

Producer and production company

Gints Grūbe holds degrees in philosophy and political science. He has diverse work experience in the field of media. He has been involved in producing films including *Escaping Riga*, *Chronicles of Melani*, *To Be Continued*, *The Mover*, *January*, *Samuel's Travels*, and co-produced movies *Tsoy*, and *In The Dusk*. He co-directed *World Sounds* and *My Father The Spy*.

Mistrus Media, established in 2000, has strong reflections on historical and current social political themes. In recent years, the film studio has cooperated with a number of countries, working both on complex joint productions of international films and providing professional services to foreign companies shooting their films in Latvia.

Representative in Tallinn:

Dāvis Šimanis, director
Gints Grūbe, producer



Contact

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www.mistrusmedia.lv

ROLLING PAPERS



Original title: Pikad paberid
Country: Estonia
Genre: coming of age
Written by: Meel Paliale, Urmet Piiling
Directed by: Meel Paliale
Produced by: Tõnu Hiie laid, Rain Rannu, Urmet Piiling
Production company: Tallifornia
Language: Estonian
Estimated budget in EUR: 500 000
Financing in place in EUR: 400 000
Project status: post-production
Runtime: 90
Looking for: sales agent, festivals, streamers

Synopsis

In a suburban store, Sebastian's day goes downhill until he meets Silo who sparks a daring cash register heist to fund their weed business. As they navigate the drug trade and dream of a new life in Brazil, Sebastian falls for Nora. After a narrow escape from the law, he finds solace in Nora's embrace. But when their romance strains, he seeks comfort in Silo. They consider reviving their plan, leaving Sebastian torn between choosing Brazil with Silo or reconciling with Nora.

Writer-director

Meel Paliale comes from Tallinn, Estonia. He has been making short

films with his long-time collaborator Urmet Piiling for a decade. His first feature *Tree of Eternal Love* (2022) was invited to Just Film FF, Cottbus, Helsinki IFF, and many others. *Rolling Papers* is Meel's second feature film.

Producer and production company

Tõnu Hiie laid is a co-founder and producer of Tallifornia. He has produced five features and has another five at different stages of production.

Rain Rannu is an Estonian film director, entrepreneur, and investor. Rain has written and directed four feature films including critically acclaimed start-up comedy *Chasing Unicorns* (Black Nights FF, 2019).

Urmet Piiling stumbled into filmmaking by creating Lego stop motion animations when he was 11 years old and has been making short films with his long-time collaborator Meel Paliale for over a decade.

Tallifornia is a leading Estonian indie-production company founded that focuses on fast-paced, fun and author-driven feature films for a global audience. In 2021, Tallifornia also set up a first private film fund in Estonia that looks at projects from all over the world.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Meel Paliale, writer-director

Tõnu Hiie laid, producer

Rain Rannu, producer

Urmet Piiling,
writer-producer



Contact

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SOUTHERN CHRONICLES



Original title: Pietinia Kronikas
Country: Lithuania, Estonia
Genre: comedy
Written by: Egle Vertelyte
Directed by: Ignas Miškinis
Produced by: Lukas Trimonis
Co-produced by: Esko Rips
Production company: In Script
Co-production company: Nafta Films
Language: Lithuanian
Estimated budget in EUR: 1 100 000
Financing in place in EUR: 1 050 000
Project status: post-production
Runtime: 110
Looking for: sales agent, broadcasters, distributors, festivals, streamers

Synopsis

In a working-class neighbourhood of the Lithuanian city of Siauliai, a few years after the restoration of the country's independence, lives brawny 17-year-old Rimants. More interested in playing rugby, listening to bands and dealing on the black market with his friend Minde than studying at school - much to the disapproval of his parents - Rimants is certain that physical strength and money are the essentials for success in a changing, competitive society. But when he meets and falls in love with the beautiful, middle class Monika, Rimants is introduced to a new world of literature, culture and alternative possibilities, which he explores with guarded enthusiasm. However, frustrated by the

difficult, fickle nature of young love and the ever-present obstacles of class, Rimants eventually casts aside the expectations of others and begins to contemplate a future on his own terms.

Director

Ignas Miškinis was born in 1978. In 2003, he obtained a master's degree in TV directing at Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. In the same year, he made the debut short *Easily and Sweetly*. In 2006, he wrote and directed his first feature *Diringas*. In 2009, he created his second feature *Low Lights*. The film was made in co-production with Germany and released in both countries. Third feature film *Kings' Shift* was presented in 2016. Currently, he is working on the new movie *Southern Chronicles* (in 2024) while teaching at LMTA.

Producer and production company

Lukas Trimonis is a co-founder and a MD of the Film and TV production company In Script. He is a graduate of BFM in Estonia and NFTS in the UK. Lukas has a wide and diverse portfolio of produced films consisting of short and feature-length narrative films, docs and series. From 25 films he produced over the course of 10 years, the vast majority of his projects are international co-productions recognised nationally and internationally.

Located in Vilnius, Lithuania, **In Script** is an award-winning film and TV production company. We create and produce films, engage in international co-productions and offer professional production services.

Representative in Tallinn:
Lukas Trimonis, producer

Contact

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YOUTH ETERNAL

Baltic Event Works in Progress
LATVIA



Original title: Mūžīgi jauni

Country: Latvia

Genre: drama, coming of age

Written by: Armands Zacs

Directed by: Armands Zacs

Produced by: Alise Gelze

Production company: White Picture

Estimated budget in EUR: 701 316

Financing in place in EUR: 701 316

Project status: post-production

Runtime: 100

Looking for: festivals, broadcasters, foreign broadcasters, sales agent, streamers

Synopsis

In the midst of an orgiastic, psychedelic music festival, a group of millennials find themselves on a wild journey of self-discovery. Meanwhile, their close friends Ieva and Alex have just entered the world of parenthood. Kitija grapples with depression, feeling increasingly isolated from her friends. Anna, seeking better mental health, decides to quit using weed, but this choice strains her relationship with Kaspars, who cultivates it at home. As they struggle to influence Martin's self-destructive behavior, Dainis begins documenting it on video, inadvertently creating a reality show. Together, they embark on a new reality of responsibility for themselves and those they care about.

Writer-director

Armands Zacs is an emerging director, with *Youth Eternal* marking his first feature film. Known within the industry as an award-winning editor, he has also directed several short films and documentaries. One of his notable works is *Mothers and Others*, which he co-directed with Liene Linde. This film received acclaim, winning the Latvian National Award Lielais Kristaps and earning him the Best Documentary Director FIPRESCI Award in 2017. Additionally, in 2021, we completed shooting his short film *Resistance Is Futile*, which is set to premiere at the Riga International Film Festival later this year.

Producer and production company

Alise Gelze has been active as a film producer since 2006 and has produced both features and short films. Her most successful productions include *Oleg* (2019), directed by Juris Kursietis, which had its world premiere at Quinzaine des Réalisateurs; *Mother I Love You* (2013), directed by Janis Nords, which has garnered over 15 international and national awards, including the Berlinale – Generation KPlus International Jury prize for the Best Film; and *Mellow Mud* (2016), directed by Renars Vimba, which received the Crystal Bear at Berlinale – Generation 14Plus. Her latest co-production, *The Invisible Fight* (2023), directed by Rainer Sarnet, premiered at the Locarno Film Festival.

White Picture, was founded in 2020 and is currently in pre-production of Juris Kursietis' *Blue Blood* and collaborating with Homeless Bob Productions for Rainer Sarnet's *The Invisible Fight*. White Picture has co-produced *The Book of Everything* by Ineke Houtman and is working on several debut films. Notable ones include Armands Zacs' *Youth Eternal* and Anna Anson's *Summer Blues*.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Armands Zacs, writer-director

Alise Gelze, producer



Contact

Alise Gelze

alise@white-picture.lv

+371 261 563 56 / white-picture.lv

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 winner of The Most Promising Project will receive a 3000 euro monetary prize.

No Problemo Music award winner will receive a free, non-exclusive music license for tracks from the Audio Network library for her/his TV production/series and its promotional materials without time, territory, and use restrictions. No Problemo Music is the Polish sub-publisher, representing Audio Network in territories of Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, and Ukraine, and the award will be given to a producer from this area.

Starting this year, TV Beats Co-Financing market has joined forces with SerienCamp Conference, meaning that one of the participants will join the competition straight from SerienCamp Story Exchange! One of the finalists of TV Beats Co-Financing market 2023 will be awarded an opportunity to participate in the next SerienCamp Story Exchange.

Jury

Anna Rohde,

Content Editor, Beta Film Group, Germany

Emmanuel Eckert,

Deputy Acquisitions Director, Mediawan, France

Isabelle Hulten,

Executive Producer, Sweden



BABYTHON



Original title: Babython

Country: Greece

Genre: dramedy

Written by: Georgia Fotou

Produced by: Mary Kolonia

Executive Producer: Pandelis Mitropoulos

Production company: Piece of Cake

Language: Greek, English, German

Number of episodes: 10

Duration of episode (in minutes): 40

Looking for: co-producers, broadcasters, streamers, gap-financing, public funds (national, regional, international)

Synopsis

Gabriella (40) is considered a “miracle doctor.” Working for GenetiX, a luxurious IVF and obstetrics resort-clinic, she has solved the most inexplicable infertility cases and delivered hundreds of babies for infertile couples from all over the world. Yearning for a baby for more than 2 years with her husband Aris, a male nurse at the same clinic, they have tried everything. When she finally gets a positive result that soon turns out to be false, she can't find the courage to tell the truth. To make things worse, GenetiX has a new German director, who's sun-intolerant and performance driven. “Who would go to a dentist with rotten teeth, Gabriella?” He pushes her to become a mother as patients seem to prefer parent-doctors more. Fake it till you make it, isn't that what they say? Gabriella, trapped, has to stay calm and keep lying. She'll need morning sickness, mood swings, and a fake belly. Through this inconceivable journey she'll be forced to deliver the truth – or a real baby.

Writer

Georgia Fotou worked in advertising for 10 years before trying her hand at stories longer than 30 seconds. When her short-film, *Moments of Wisdom*, won a national contest, she decided to study screenwriting at the American College of Greece. She wrote *Paris and Helen*, a 12-episode dark comedy, and co-wrote six remakes of int'l series for all the major Greek TV networks. She was the head writer of a 75-episode family soap that aired in Alpha TV in 2021. She's a 2020 Serial Eyes scholarship winner.

Producers

Mary Kolonia has educated herself in various disciplines in Greece, United Kingdom, and the US. She is an alumna of NYFA and Sundance Institute and has been further trained in seminars by Robert McKee. She currently works as Creative Producer at the independent outfit Piece of Cake in Athens, Greece.

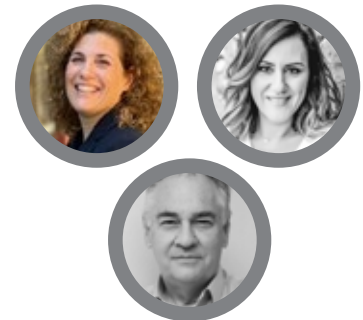
Pandelis Mitropoulos studied economics in Greece and Sociology of Organizations in France. In 1987, Pandelis founded Piece of Cake as part of Prooptiki's Film Distribution Group of Companies. PoC has financed, developed, and produced Greek box-office hits for more than 25 years, becoming one of its leading production and marketing agencies. Pandelis has also acted as MD of the Greek Film Center (2020-2021), and is an EFA and Hellenic FA Member.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Mary Kolonia, producer

Georgia Fotou, writer

Pandelis Mitropoulos, executive producer



Contact

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BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN



Original title: Behind the Iron Curtain
Country: Estonia
Genre: drama, musical, comedy
Written by: Leana Jalukse
Produced by: Helen Lõhmus, Rene Ezra
Production company: Oree Films, Stikling Film
Language: English
Number of episodes: 6
Duration of episode (in minutes): 45
Looking for: broadcasters, co-producers, distributors, post-production services, streamers, public funds (national, regional, international)

Synopsis

Leaving her child with the parents who disowned her is the only way Marilyn can join an international singing contest and make her way towards stardom and independence through newly-formed friendships and painful letdowns, dazzling successes and destructive excesses, in various republics of the Soviet Union and its dangers of censorship and treacherous culture of complaint.

Writer

Leana Jalukse is an award-winning screenwriter, whose debut feature *Mother* (2016) premiered at Tribeca and became the national Oscar entry. After three successful features and two shorts, she is now completing a documentary and developing a slate of drama series as a writer-producer. Leana also teaches and acts as an expert for international funds.

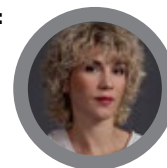
Producers and production company

Helen Lõhmus is Estonian producer and director serving both for domestic and international productions. Starting out her career in television, she moved to film production after acting as production and costume designer for Russian Walt Disney Company's *After School* in 2012. Lõhmus produced the Oscar-nominated Lao-Estonian-French co-production *Dearest Sister* by Mattie Do (2017). She is currently completing her debut feature as a director, *Kelly: Someone Else's Dream*, a documentary about the dark sides of youth sports.

René Ezra is a Danish producer who graduated from The National Film School of Denmark in 2003. Afterwards he was employed at Nordisk Film, where he produced a wide range of feature films and tv-series. In 2022 he founded the production company Stikling Film.

Oree Films is a production company with an innovation and consulting wing that pursues building bridges between Europe, North America and Asia with offices in Tallinn, Estonia and Tokyo, Japan.

Representatives in Tallinn:
Helen Lõhmus, producer
Leana Jalukse, writer



Contact

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 www.oreefilms.com

COLD



Original title: Šaltis
Country: Lithuania
Genre: thriller, drama
Written by: Birute Kapustinskaite, Arturas Voinicius
Directed by: Tiago Guedes, Domas Petronis
Produced by: Aurimas Pukevičius
Co-produced by: Matthias Greving
Production company: Magic Film
Co-production company: Kinescope Film
Language: Lithuanian, German, Russian
Number of episodes: 5
Duration of episode (in minutes): 50
Looking for: streamers, foreign broadcasters, technical participation, post-production services

Synopsis

Set in 1991 Lithuania during its struggle for independence, *Cold* follows five lives entangled by fate. A rogue KGB group seeks to secure vital documents, while Lithuanian nationalists face a final battle against Soviet forces. Colonel Popov, part of the covert KGB team, must retrieve the documents but faces a mysterious disappearance. He recruits local mafia boss Vytautas for help, setting off a three-day spiral of chaos. In a parallel timeline, Daiva Hoffmann arrives in Lithuania to ransom her son, Jan, an American journalist. Her path crosses with Vytautas, leading to unforeseen consequences. Vytautas, entangled in deals with Soviet authorities, learns of Jan's possession of the stolen documents, launching a perilous hunt with Daiva as bait. The story unfolds, revealing the Colonel's daughter Jelena's secret romance with Jan and the theft's intricate circumstances. The series culminates with Jan's perspective, uncovering life altering truths as all threads converge in a gripping climax.

Writers

Birutė Kapustinskaitė works as a screenwriter and playwright for cinema, theatre, and audio projects. In 2018, she received the National Golden Cross Award as the best playwright. Her filmography includes *Sasha Was Here* (dir. E. Jankauskas, est Screenplay Award at the Aubagne FF), *I am Fine, Thanks* (dir. E. Jankauskas), *People We Know Are Confused* (dir. T. Smulkis).

Artūras Voiničius graduated with a degree in film dramaturgy from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. His true passion is the inner complexity of a character's personality in the context of genre cinema. Artūras currently participates in the development of several full-length features, and is a co-author of several comedy TV series..

Producers and production company

Aurimas Pukevičius established **Magic Film Company** with his partner Ramojus Petrauskas and went on to win the Cannes Lion Grand Prix in Film Craft in 2022. Their first short *Woods* won the Lithuanian Silver Crane as the best animation of 2015, and their first feature *Invisible* (dir. Ignas Jonynas, 2019) opened the San Sebastian Festival and received numerous nominations on the European festival circuit.

Matthias Greving is the creative head, founder and managing director of Kinescope Film. He is the author, director, and editor as well as producer and executive producer for national and international productions in cross-media formats, daily news coverage, theatrical features and documentaries, show, magazine and cultural formats, fictional and non-fictional series.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Aurimas Pukevičius, producer
Greta Akcijaite, producer
Domas Petronis, director
Stjepan Klein, showrunner

Contact

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THE ELITE

TV Beats
HUNGARY



Original title: The Elite
Country: Hungary
Genre: drama, fantasy, thriller
Written by: Attila Veres
Produced by: Esther Turan, Renáta Fükő
Production company: Moviebar Films Ltd
Language: English
Number of episodes: 10
Duration of episode (in minutes): 55
Looking for: public funds (national, regional, international), co-producers, sales agent, streamers

Synopsis

Behind every successful man stands a strong woman - but what if that woman was more powerful than anyone could ever imagine? Five women find true power; a power that is singularly their own. It does not come from their social status, it does not come from money. It is pure witchcraft; magic. They mean to use it only for good; but power has a way to corrupt even the best of intentions. At first the women use this power to help their husbands succeed; in the treacherous and ever-changing landscape of EU politics the men need all the help they can get to survive and move up the career ladder. But the more the women exercise their power the more they question their traditional roles. Imagine a series with the political intrigue of House of Cards, the carefully constructed dread of Rosemary's Baby and the satirical bite of Desperate Housewives. That's The Elite. The Elite is a show about control, desire, its main antagonism is between integrity and corruption.

Writer

Attila Veres is an award-winning writer and scriptwriter. He started his professional career in Norway and has since contributed to

numerous international productions as a skilled scriptwriter. In October, his third book *The Black Maybe*, a collection of short stories, was published, which coincided with his American debut. This remarkable achievement has garnered attention, as the book was nominated recently for the prestigious Bram Stoker Award.

Producers and production company

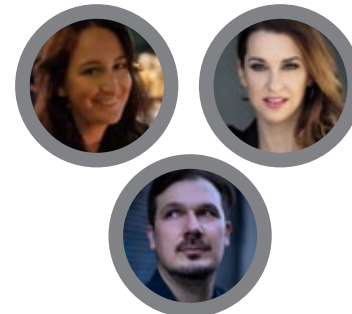
Esther Turan is a distinguished filmmaker and a founding member of Moviebar Productions. With a background in directing and a notable alumni of SZFE (the University of Theatre and Film Arts, Budapest), Esther plays a pivotal role in the creative process of all Moviebar projects. Her extensive producing experience encompasses a diverse range of American and European feature films, TV series, and documentaries. She has been a member at the prestigious European Producers Club since May, 2023.

Renáta Fükő is a fresh face in the international film market. She comes from the world of theatre, commercials and actor management, but she is already experienced, with a vision for her slate of projects.

Moviebar Films is a distinguished film production company established in 2004, renowned for its international accomplishments in the industry. It holds a significant position in the industry due to its rising influence as an upcoming, dynamic, and progressive female-owned company, founded by two ambitious women, Esther Turan and Viktória Trepper.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Renáta Fükő, producer
Esther Turan, producer
Attila Veres, writer



Contact

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FRONTWARDS

TV Beats
SLOVAKIA, CZECH REPUBLIC



Original title: Postup
Country: Slovakia, Czech Republic
Genre: family, crime, mystery, deconstruction, post modern
Written by: Lukáš Sigmund
Directed by: Michal Kollár
Produced by: Jana Kluková
Co-produced by: Jirina Budikova
Production company: KFS production
Language: Czech, Slovak, No Dialogue
Number of episodes: 6
Duration of episode (in minutes): 52
Looking for: broadcasters, co-producers, streamers, public funds (national, regional, international)

Synopsis

A rational homicide detective Kamila keeps finding the body of the same person over and over again – a young man named Richard. Only Kamila sees the repetition and the more she's finding out who Richard is, the more connections between Richard and her family resurface. In order to protect her loved ones and her sanity, Kamila must dwell deeper into the mystery. Against her will, the series of uncanny murders become an investigation into Kamila's own consciousness, own memory and her own soul.

Writer

Lukáš Sigmund was born in 1983 in Bratislava. DFFB Serial Eyes and EWC alumni, vice president of Slovak screenwriters' association ASSA. In 2008 he Graduated from Academy of Performing Arts Bratislava, receiving Master's degree from Screenwriting and dramaturgy. He co-wrote the screenplay for comedy feature film *Villa Lucia* (2023) and co-wrote miniseries *Ultimatum* (2022). Currently he is working on true crime miniseries *Neuer*.

Producer and production company

Jana Kluková studied English and French languages along with their culture and history. Has been involved with film and television since 2012. Worked for the company Tigrion, Fog'n'Desire Films and Sokol Kollár. She is a producer of the films *The Red Sider* and *Home Care*, co-producer of the film *Moments*. She has been a producer and executive of the KFS production company since 2017.

KFS is an independent production company with the aim to produce interesting genre-oriented quality films and TV series that regard the „glocal“ (global and yet local) story aspect.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Michal Kollár, director
Lukáš Sigmund, writer



Contact

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www.kfsproduction.com

PRIDE IS NOT AVAILABLE IN YOUR REGION

TV Beats
UKRAINE



Original title: Прайд Недоступний У Вашому Регіоні

Country: Ukraine

Genre: lgbtq+, drama, war/anti-war, youth/teen

Written by: Ljosh Chashchyn

Directed by: Yuriy Dvizhon

Produced by: Yuriy Dvizhon

Language: Ukrainian

Number of episodes: 6

Duration of episode (in minutes): 60

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

Synopsis

Kyiv, Ukraine, February 2022. In the first days of Russian massive invasion a group of young ravers find shelter in one of the capital's legendary techno clubs. The youngsters make a risky decision to stay in the city under attack and turn the club into an anti-raid shelter and a volunteer hub. The group turns into a polyamorous family connected by vital yet so multi-vectored romantic ties – a fragile construction that can be shattered both by missile strikes and their own menacing secrets.

Writer

Ljosh Chashchyn is a screenwriter with a decade experience at the leading national broadcaster of Ukraine as creator and story editor of more than three dozen primetime drama series. He is the curator of Ukraine's first queer film program and awarded Sunny Bunny at Kyiv International Film Festival Molodist, the leading LGBTQ cultural event of Ukraine. He relocated to Spain in 2022 in order to create TV projects for both Ukraine and internationally.

Producer

Yuriy Dvizhon is a LGBTQ+ activist and filmmaker with over 40 music videos and award winning fashion films. Director and producer of LGBTQ+ documentary films *Ne Khovai Ochei/Don't Hide Your Eyes* (2018) and *Ne Khovai Ochei 2* (2019).

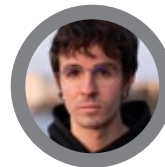
He was acclaimed the 30 Under 30 Award for contribution to the development of Ukrainian society.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Yuriy Dvizhon, producer

Ljosh Chashchyn, writer

Nadiia Zaiionchkovska, delegate



Contact

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WAR'S A BITCH



Original title: Válka je mrcha
Country: Czech Republic
Genre: drama, satire
Written by: Jakub Volák
Produced by: Dana Voláková, Michaela Bastien Flenerová
Production company: Fénix Film
Language: Czech, German
Number of episodes: 7
Duration of episode (in minutes): 60
Looking for: co-producers, public funds (national, regional, international), private funds / banks, foreign broadcasters, sales agent

Synopsis

Anna stubbornly wants to become the first female secretary of the male-dominated Ministry of Education. Little does she know her desperate need to be recognized will shortly lead her to become part of the resistance movement. Božena loves to be a history teacher. Her job brings her the much needed relief from her abusive husband. And it's her job where she secretly falls in love with her female coworker Vera. Marlina is the only German in the group. As she is constantly pushed by her mother into racially appropriate relationships, she falls in love with a Jew. Jarmila wants more from life than being an average actress. She just met this handsome German officer that can provide her with appealing roles. But she is asked to cut ties with her only family and start snitching on her colleagues. With the arrival of the German protector and his new measures, they slowly have to find the answer: What is the price of their comfort?

Writer

Jakub Volák is an alumni of TorinoFilmLab Next and Eureka Series by Series Mania programs. In his own words he describes himself as follows: "I have worked on several Czech projects, which you will certainly not know. I am not afraid of emotions as I love a good cry. I am also not afraid to rewrite (a lot). Thanks to my relentless lifelong efforts, I think I have finally made it to the bottom."

Producers and production company

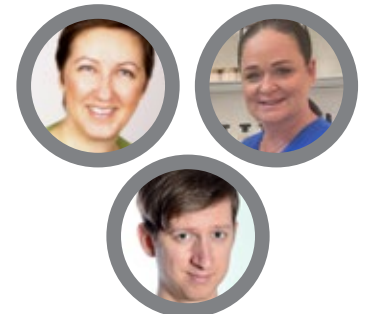
Dana Voláková is a producer, marketing and PR specialist. Over the last 23 years, Dana has provided PR service and helped to produce almost thirty Czech films. In 2012, Dana founded production company Fénix Film with her colleague Michaela Bastien Flenerová. Since then, they produced 10 feature films and co-produced another 4 feature films.

Michaela Bastien Flenerová is a producer and talent agent. Michaela has produced dozens of Czech and foreign feature films, commercials, music videos and documentaries in 30 years of her experience in the industry.

Fénix Film is a film production company founded by two women and friends - Dana Voláková and Michaela Bastien Flenerová. They like humor and satire in the films, but also they are not afraid to address sensitive topics. They love when they can explore these themes with respect and ease at the same time..

Representatives in Tallinn:

Dana Voláková, producer
Michaela Bastien Flenerová, producer
Jakub Volák, writer



Contact

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 fenixfilm.cz

YIN & YIN



Original title: Yin & Yin

Country: Germany

Genre: sci-fi, drama, political, social issue

Written by: Helena Lucas

Produced by: Andi Wecker

Production company: Network Movie Film

Language: German, English

Number of episodes: 6

Duration of episode (in minutes): 60

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

Synopsis

After scientists succeeded in breeding healthy mice-offspring from female egg cells and bone marrow-sperm (fact, not fiction), the Yin&Yin technology is available for humans in 2025. Finally, lesbian women can have biological children with each other – but only girls, as women don't have a Y chromosome to pass on. But as it turns out, this technique leads to some drastic societal changes no one anticipated. From a single, heterosexual woman who is fed up running after men and decides to have a baby with her best (female) friend. To a teenage girl in 2048, who has trouble finding a boyfriend because there aren't that many boys anymore. To an angry man in 2060, who founded a terror cell to fight a men-discriminating system. And finally, 100 years later, to a little girl that asks inconvenient questions about why men

are extinct – and decides the last chapter hasn't been written yet. This series depicts the escalating consequences of a technology that is not as sci-fi as you might think.

Writer

Helena Lucas 1991, based in Cologne, Germany, studied psychology, film directing and serial storytelling. She has worked as a storyliner for the successful German Daily Soap *Unter Uns*. As part of a Comedy Writers' Room she's written two sitcoms, *Start The Fck Up* (2021) and *Vierwändeplus* (2022). Apart from comedy, Helena has a strong inclination for high-concept ideas. She wants to puzzle her audience with subversive stories that challenge the status quo.

Producer and production company

Andi Wecker is a German producer, director, writer, and showrunner. His projects include the comedy series *Start The Fck Up* (showrunner, director, writer, producer), two seasons of the international co-production *The Team* (showrunner, writer, producer), the Berlinale-contribution *Lollipop Monster* (producer), and the TV series *Im Knast* (writer). Andi is an alumni of the European Young Leaders programme by Friends of Europe and a graduate of the Academy of Media Arts in Cologne.

Network Movie produces movies and series for ZDF, its holding company, and other German broadcasters and for cinema, and has been involved in international co-productions such as *The Killing*, *The Eagle*, *The Protectors*, *The Team*, *West Of Liberty* and *The Gymnasts*.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Andi Wecker, producer

Helena Lucas, writer



Contact

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MIDPOINT
INSTITUTE

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MIDPOINT Series Launch 2023

MIDPOINT Series Launch, an "idea-to-market" drama series project development program, is a 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 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 2023 is realized with the support of the Creative Europe – MEDIA Programme of the European Union, the Ministry of Culture Czech Republic, and the Czech Film Fund. It runs in partnership with Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event, Series Mania, MIA Market, Sofia Meetings, TIFF AGORA Series, TV Drama Vision, Czech Audiovisual Producers' Association, 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



Steve Matthews
Group Leader



Tatjana Samopjan
Group Leader



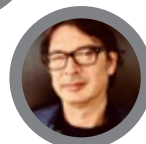
Christopher Haug
Development
Executive Mentor



Agathe Berman
Pitching Tutor



Marike Muselaers
Financing Tutor



Nebojsa Taraba
Producer Tutor



Benjamin Harris
Guest Tutor



Ben Morris
Guest Tutor



David Kavanagh
Guest Tutor



Maggie Murphy
Guest Tutor



Cyril Tysz
Guest Tutor



Tim Wagendorp
Guest Tutor

ARIZONA JOE



Original title: Arizonas Džo
Country: Latvia
Genre: drama, comedy
Written by: Matīss Kaža
Directed by: Matīss Kaža
Produced by: Dace Siatkovska
Production company: Trickster Pictures
Language: Latvian, Russian, English
Production budget per season (in EUR): 3 000 000
Type: limited series
Number of episodes: 6
Duration of episode (in minutes): 45
Looking for: broadcasters, streamers, co-producers

Logline

Arizona Joe takes us behind the scenes in a Soviet Latvian film studio where the crew is tasked with the near-impossible challenge of recreating a believable America on the other side of the iron curtain.

Synopsis

A young man in search of his lost father. An actress willing to do anything to become a movie star. A director in the making of his final film. They meet under the roof of a Soviet-era film studio in the 1980s, where the latest blockbuster called Arizona Joe enters production. As the crew attempts to create an on-screen America on the other side of the iron curtain, our characters make choices between creativity and conformity, attempting to fulfill their dreams amidst a totalitarian regime.

Writer, Director

Matīss Kaža (1995) is a writer, director and producer who grew up in Riga, Latvia and got his BFA in Film & TV from Tisch School of the Arts in New York. He debuted with the documentary *One Ticket Please* (2017) which screened in Krakow, Tempo, Beldocs, Goteborg and other festivals around the world. In 2022, Matīss directed *Neon Spring* (2022) which was screened in Edinburgh, IFFI Goa and multiple other festivals around the world. *Arizona Joe* will be his first TV series project.

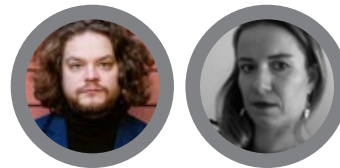
Producer

Dace Siatkovska (1980) is a producer with more than ten years of experience working as a film and commercial producer, producing documentary and fiction films. Her films include *Baltic Tribes* (2018) by Raitis and Lauris Ābele, *Neon Spring* (2022) by Matīss Kaža. Most recently, she produced *Sisters* (2022) by Linda Olte which won 2 awards at the Warsaw Film Festival and multiple awards at other international film festivals. *Arizona Joe* will be her first TV series as a producer.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Matīss Kaža, director-writer

Dace Siatkovska, producer



Contact

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BEHIND THE WALL



Title: Behind the Wall
Country: Czech Republic
Genre: dramedy
Written by: Lia Berger
Directed by: Vasco Viana
Produced by: Iuliia Mamaeva
Language: Czech
Production budget per season (in EUR): 2 560 000
Type: limited series
Number of Episodes: 8
Duration of Episode (in minutes): 45
Looking for: broadcasters, streamers, co-producers

Logline

Chaos unfurls in a historic Prague apartment complex as Czech-American Triska (35) returns from the United States to inherit her father's building. Over the six months, the power games between Triska and the tenants grow increasingly devious, as the fight for their way of life takes center stage.

Synopsis

Before he dies, apartment complex owner wants to see his estranged daughter. Triska Rose abides, flying to Prague for the first time since leaving for the states as a teenager. But he dies while she's on the flight, leaving building-wide confusion in his wake. It's at his wake that Triska discovers what's really going on here: a war has erupted for the

building's new ownership. In the six months, Triska and the tenants forge alliances, backstab one another, and even launch political campaigns.

Writer

Lia Berger is a creative writing graduate who has developed screenplays for a variety of production companies based in Los Angeles. Her extensive screenwriting experience has garnered her attention in multiple competitions. She currently lives in Prague, where she is continuing to pursue her dream of writing for television.

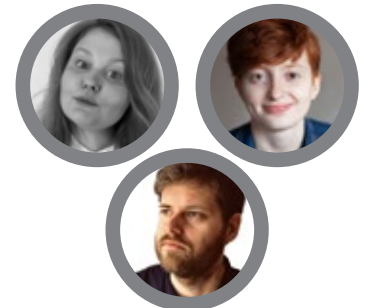
Director

Vasco Maria Basto Viana is a Portuguese writer and director. He has a Masters in Contemporary Art from FBAUP, a Masters in Film Directing from FAMU. From 2018 to 2023 he has directed over fifteen award nominated short films, music videos and theater plays, and is completing his first feature.

Producer

Iuliia Mamaeva is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Production at FAMU, bringing valuable experience from her time at Radio Free Europe and her involvement in various film and series productions. Her primary goal is to support storytellers in creating socially relevant and entertaining films and series.

Representatives in Tallinn:
Iuliia Mamaeva, producer
Lia Berger, writer
Vasco Viana, director



Contact

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+420 792 530 617

BRAIN DRAIN



Original title: Odliv mozga
Country: Serbia
Genre: dark comedy
Written by: Matija Dragojevic, Ljubica Lukovic
Produced by: Maja Popovic Milojevic
Production company: Sense Production
Language: Serbian, English
Production budget per season (in EUR): 2 960 000
Type: ongoing series
Number of episodes: 8
Duration of episode (in minutes): 45
Looking for: broadcasters, streamers, co-producers

Logline

In near-future Serbia, where body renting is a booming business, an ambitious saleswoman rises the corporate ranks but descends morally when she starts renting out peoples' lives as well.

Synopsis

It's 2023 and Serbia is becoming a luxury travel destination thanks to Playground, popularly dubbed "AirBnB for bodies". Wealthy tourists are pouring in for short term accommodations in the bodies of hot, young locals. But Nina (30), an aspiring saleswoman, envisions a greater purpose when she starts renting lives as well. The demand for Nina's offers skyrockets, propelling her up the corporate ladder. The higher she climbs, the more she uncovers disastrous ethical implications of the business.

Writers

Matija Dragojevic has an MA in TV writing at ifs film school in Köln. He is a laureate of Canneseries Writer's Residency and returned with *Awake* (Audience Award) - the first Eastern European series in the competition program. Matija also worked for Sundance Labs and Berlinale Series Market.

Ljubica Lukovic has a bachelors in dramaturgy and an MA from ifs Köln. Her series, *Awake*, premiered at Canneseries 2021 and her debut feature *How I Learned to Fly*, was a box office hit with over 230.000 admissions. She also wrote for the series *Blok 27*, and *Absolute 100*.

Producer

Maja Popovic Milojevic is a producer with 20 years of experience and founder of **Sense Production**. She produced the hit *How I Learned to Fly* (2022) that had over 230.000 admissions and received over 20 awards. She is a graduate of the EAVE Producers and Marketing Workshop and EWA Mentoring program.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Maja Popovic Milojevic, producer

Matija Dragojevic, writer

Ljubica Lukovic, writer



Contact

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www.senseproduction.rs

KILWATER



Original title: Kilwater
Country: Poland, Sweden
Genre: thriller, drama
Written by: Malgorzata Pilacinska
Produced by: Kaja Jalocho
Production company: Shipsboy
Language: Polish, English, Swedish
Production budget per season (in EUR): 6 800 000
Type: limited series
Number of Episodes: 6
Duration of Episode (in minutes): 45
Looking for: broadcasters, streamers, co-producers

Logline

When a Swedish yacht mysteriously sinks, Marta, a rational and disciplined Polish Sea and Rescue captain, teams up with Zora, an impulsive and uncompromising Swedish prosecutor of Bosnian descent, to uncover a political scandal that triggers a massive environmental disaster in the Baltic Sea.

Synopsis

During one of the first rescue missions under Marta command, a Swedish yacht mysteriously goes missing. This incident hooks the attention of Zora, Swedish prosecutor. The women join forces to uncover the truth. As a result of a twist-filled investigation, they find out about a crazy plan by two politicians to poison the waters of the Baltic Sea. In the end, Marta must finally trust her intuition to save her home from complete disaster.

Writer

Malgorzata Pilacinska is a journalist and screenwriter. Graduate of the Faculty of Journalism at the University of Warsaw. Participant of the UGC Writers Campus Seriesmania Festival in 2019 and the Script Atelier Workshop. Her debut script *I Miss You* was in the final of the 7th edition of ScriptTeast. For her mini-series project *Smokey Eyes* she received a special award at the 2018 Odessa IFF and for her second feature script, *Sara's Bungalow*, she received the main prize in the 2021 Script Wars Competition.

Producer

Kaja Jalocho is a development executive in Shipsboy. Graduate of the Lodz Film School's, participant of a number of workshops including Script Atelier, Kids Kino Lab, MIDPOINT Cold Open. She previously worked on projects such as: *Sneakesville*, *The King of Warsaw*, *Leave No Traces*.

Shipsboy is a Warsaw based production company working in features and series storytelling. Founded in 2013 the company's main focus is on discovering and nurturing new talents, on a local and international level.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Malgorzata Pilacinska, writer

Kaja Jalocho, producer



Contact

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LOVE IS A PITCH



Original title: Love is a pitch
Country: Slovakia
Genre: comedy
Written by: Michaela Klanicova, Hana Hancinova
Produced by: Lukas Teren
Production company: Teren Limited
Language: Slovak
Production budget per season (in EUR): 1 600 000
Type: ongoing series
Number of Episodes: 10
Duration of Episode (in minutes): 30
Looking for: broadcasters, streamers, co-producers, distributors, post-production services, foreign broadcasters

Logline

A bunch of girls going through their 30-something crisis decide to embark on a doomed to fail enterprise, joining the second football league championship. Beating one catastrophe after another, they tackle their personal crises and try to survive as a team.

Synopsis

A group of quirky, dubiously skilled women in their 30s joins a second league football championship. Just as the reality of muddy pitches and experienced opponents sobers them up, they realize that the price to give up is just €10.000 too high. Their unconventional damage control, from recruiting players on Tinder to stalking their nemesis's

new girlfriend, shakes up their personal lives. Through it all, they learn that their newfound community is the victory they didn't achieve in the game.

Writers

Michaela Klanicova studied marketing, but was drawn to bigger stories. She switched to film at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava and embarked on a career as a cinematographer and shot award-winning short films that screened at places like the Trieste Film Festival or Cinequest, US. As a writer, she enjoys putting a little fun into the misery of her characters just to escape the everyday gray.

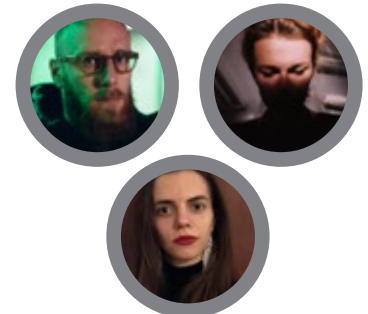
Hana Hančinová has recently graduated in cinema directing from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, having previously obtained a Master's degree in Theoretical Mathematics from Lille. She is an artist who blends logic with visuals, quirkiness with structure.

Producer

Lukas Teren is a seasoned cinematographer, director and producer. He sharpened his skills at the ASC Masterclass, LA. President of the Association of Slovak Cinematographers since '18, he promotes budding talent. Now leads **Teren Limited**, producing impactful TV series.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Lukas Teren, producer
Michaela Klanicova, writer
Hana Hancinova, writer



Contact

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RAINBOW GRAVITY



Original title: Gravitacija duge

Country: Serbia

Genre: crime, thriller, drama, noir, comedy

Written by: Sara Sarić

Directed by: Sara Sarić

Produced by: Andjela Lazić

Production company: Varda Pictures

Language: Serbian

Production budget per season (in EUR): 1 100 000

Type: ongoing series

Number of Episodes: 7

Duration of Episode (in minutes): 25

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

Logline

After stealing illegal hormones in a panda sex toy, Ash, a gay drug dealer, his lesbian pal Lily, and their LGBTQ+ allies in Belgrade, rush to sell them. But when Ash's hitman brother and a ruthless politician, whose sex tape is in Lily's hands, hunt them, they fearlessly unite against danger.

Synopsis

One night, after stealing an illegal stash of hormones hidden in a panda sex toy, Ash, a gay drug dealer, and his lesbian friend Lily, along with their

LGBTQ+ acquaintances in Belgrade, rush to sell them fast. Things spiral as Ash's hitman brother and a ruthless politician, whose compromising sex tape accidentally ends in Lily's hands, hunt them. Their battle for survival slowly reignites an old rivalry between two crime organizations forcing them to endure the most dangerous night of their lives.

Writer, Director

Sara Sarić is a published author (*No one goes to heaven no more*). Screenwriter (short film *Solskin* 2021). Co-founder and a coordinator for culture and arts in NGO Wave TIGV. Author of photo exhibitions (*Masterpiece Body* - Belgrade EuroPride 2022 and *Shine a Life* - Podgorica Parliament, Montenegro pride 2023).

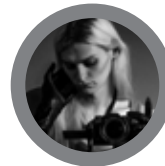
Producer

Andjela is a Serbian independent producer. Graduated from FDU in Belgrade and with a master's from KEM, she freelances for productions while being a part of **Varda Pictures**, a company focused on development and production of independent films and drama series with daring and socially relevant topics.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Sara Sarić, writer-director

Andela Lazić, producer



Contact

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THE FASSBINDS



Original title: The Fassbinds
Country: Switzerland, Czech Republic
Genre: family, tragicomedy
Written by: Fiona Ziegler, Luka Djikanovic
Directed by: Fiona Ziegler
Language: Swiss German, German, English, French, Russian, Czech
Production budget per season (in EUR): 5 000 000
Type: limited series
Number of Episodes: 4
Duration of Episode (in minutes): 45
Looking for: broadcasters, streamers, co-producers

Logline

Fassbind Junior, a kleptomaniac but generous bigger-than-life character fights for his family's distillery and Grand Hotel in the Swiss Alps, driven by his calling to keep the Fassbind's business alive during the unpredictable times in between two World Wars.

Synopsis

Two brothers from the eccentric Fassbind family inherit the distillery and Grand Hotel. As genius businessmen, Siegfried invents the first distillery on rails, while Junior fights for the maintenance of the hotel in the turbulent times of a pandemic, the rise of fascism and economic

crisis. The early death of his brother makes Junior Fassbind the family's only heir while challenging him with major tasks to which he reacts in the most original and unpredictable ways. Get ready for the Fassbinds!

Writer

Luka Djikanovic was born in Podgorica, Montenegro. He finished his MA at Charles University in International Economics and Political Studies, before enrolling into FAMU – Film Academy in Prague. He studied editing and graduated in directing with his Student LA Award-winning short fiction *Boiling* (2023).

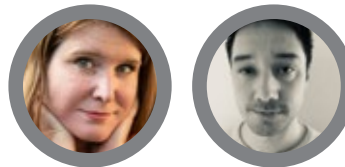
Writer, Director

Fiona Ziegler was born in Switzerland. She finished her MA in International Studies, before studying directing at the Prague Film Academy (FAMU). Her debut fiction *Lost in Paradise* (2021) is a tragic-comedy, taking place in Switzerland and Czech Republic. She lives in Prague and Bern.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Fiona Ziegler, writer-director

Luka Djikanovic, writer



Contact

Fiona Ziegler
fiona.gelsomina@gmail.com
0041 78 657 30 63

VERTEBRAE



Original title: Vertebrae
Country: Romania
Genre: supernatural, crime
Written by: Andrei Epure
Produced by: Ioana Lascar
Production company: deFilm
Language: Romanian
Production budget per season (in EUR): 3 000 000
Type: ongoing series
Number of Episodes: 6
Duration of Episode (in minutes): 50
Looking for: broadcasters, co-producers, sales agent

Logline

While chasing down a killer creature in a seaside village, a local police woman uncovers something even more sinister.

Synopsis

In a quiet village by the Black Sea, local police officer Cosmina assists in investigating the suspicious death of a construction worker. The homicide unit quickly closes the case just as she connects the victim to a missing girl from a foster home. Haunted by her own sister's disappearance years ago, Cosmina decides to rebel against protocol and solve this case on her own. As more bodies appear, she is the only one who believes there's a mysterious humanoid creature lurking in the water.

Writer

Andrei Epure is a Romanian filmmaker whose work reflects on identity, language and community with an approach of a spectral reality, questioning the interpretation of images. His short *Interfon 15* premiered in *Semaine de la Critique - Cannes*, 2021. Currently, he is developing his debut *Don't Let Me Die* and his first series project.

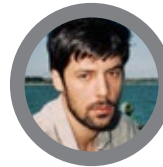
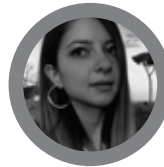
Producer

Ioana is an alumna of EAVE & CEE Animation, with studies in cinematography & film production. She's been producing at **deFilm** since 2014, having a portfolio of features, documentaries and animations presented and awarded in festivals like Venice, Locarno, Karlovy Vary, San Sebastian.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Ioana Lascar, producer

Andrei Epure, writer



Contact

Ioana Lascar
ioana@defilm.ro
+407 401 260 54
www.defilm.ro

WELCOME, KINDER!



Original title: Welcome, Kinder!
Country: Germany
Genre: historical drama
Written by: Romina Ecker, Gabriele Simon
Producer: Gabriele Simon
Production company: Flare Film GmbH
Language: English, German
Production budget per season: 15 000 000
Type: ongoing series
Number of episodes: 6
Duration of episode: 45
Looking for: broadcasters, streamers, co-producers, sales agent

Logline

On a cold December night in 1938, a train with 500 Jewish children leaves Berlin for Great Britain. Among them are Ruth, Iris, Jona, Henri and Elisa - five Kinder, children of the "Kindertransport scheme". Sent abroad by their parents, to save them from the terrors of the Nazi regime.

Synopsis

Berlin, 1938. Life became unbearably difficult for Jewish citizens, peaking in the November pogroms. While an outrage goes through the world, Great Britain is the only country to take action. They change

their immigration laws and take in unaccompanied children in one of the biggest rescue efforts in European history, the "Kindertransport scheme". We follow five children between 6 and 16 from different social backgrounds on their way to find new homes, new lives, and new hope.

Writers

Romina Ecker is an alumna of HFF Munich, was part of the writers' room and an episode writer for the teen crime series *Echos* (Joyn) and wrote episodes of the series *Fett & Fett* (ZDF) and *Breaking Even* (ZDF Neo). In 2022 she was head writer for the comedy series *I don't Work Here* (ZDF Neo). She is currently developing various series and movies.

Gabriele Simon is a writer and producer based in Berlin. Her script for the feature *Stambul Garden* directed by Ilker Çatak won the Thomas Strittmatter Award. Next to producing she is developing several projects as a writer for TV and cinema.

Producer

Gabriele Simon is a producer and head of development for **Flare Film**, Berlin. Flare Film has been producing feature films, series and documentaries for the national and international market since 2008. Titles include *Ein Leben lang*, nominated for best tv film at the German TV Awards, the high-end series *Funeral for a Dog* (Sky) or the documentaries *Forget Me Not* and *Walchensee Forever*. Currently in production is the series *Moresnet*, in co-production with Belgium and The Netherlands.

Representatives in Tallinn:

Gabriele Simon,
writer-producer
Romina Ecker, writer



Contact

Gabriele Simon
simon@flare-film.com
+491 727 349 782
www.flare-film.com

MIDPOINT Series Launch 2023 Development Executives

Name: Klára Follová**Country:** Czech Republic**Languages:** Czech, English, Slovak, German**Focus:** scripted fiction, socially-engaged storytelling with a reach to a wide commercial audience**Looking for:** co-producers, co-development, broadcasters, streamers, partners, platforms, public funds (national/regional/international), gap financing, private funds

Biography

Prague-based TV and film producer and owner of the production company Follow Film Prague with 20 years of experience. Currently, she is a producer for the most substantial Czech TV group – Nova, responsible for fiction series. Now in production with a long-running historical series and two true story miniseries. She produced several #1 TV shows of various genres during her career. In 2014 and 2015, she was based in Romania and in charge of local production within PRO TV – a local #1 TV company.

Contact

Klára Follová

klara@klarafollova.com / +420 725586869

Name: Elif Ozsut**Country:** Turkey**Languages:** English, Turkish**Focus:** fiction and docu series, character oriented storytelling, youth drama**Looking for:** broadcasters, streamers, co-producers, festivals, foreign broadcasters

Biography

Elif has been working for prominent television series as a screenwriter and story developer, with a focus on comedy/drama series and documentaries for 15 years. Her work has been part of numerous successful projects, earning critical acclaim throughout Turkey, Europe, and South America. She was chosen as a finalist for the Netflix Series Lab creative writing program (2022). Aside from her commissioned projects, she is working as a mentor in the Short Form Series Workshop of Netflix Turkey.

Contact

Elif Ozsut

elifzst@gmail.com / +90 5337228010

Name: Jon Gojani**Country:** Kosovo**Languages:** Albanian, English**Focus:** feature films, comedy and drama series**Looking for:** co-producers, distributors, public funds (national, regional, international), sales agent

Biography

Jon, a screenwriter and producer from Kosovo, is an Erasmus Mundus Masters graduate from the Kino Eyes European Movie Masters in Film Production and has produced short films in Kosovo, Portugal, and Estonia. Currently, Jon is co-writing and producing Vestige, a feature film that has been supported through a development fund from the Kosovo Cinematography Center, and he is a Development Executive trainee at MIDPOINT Series Launch 2023.

Contact

Jon Gojani

ceo@kotproductions.com

+372 58314319



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Creative
Europe
MEDIA

Discovery Campus

The Black Nights Discovery Campus is an international continuing education programme organised by Black Nights Film Festival and Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event (I@T&BE), in collaboration with a variety of prestigious international partners that allows young film professionals to pursue, complement, and integrate their studies in filmmaking. At the campus, they can discover the new skills needed to improve, upgrade, and update their knowledge in their field of work and meet new mentors, contacts, and fellow talents.

Discovery Campus unites the already established talent programmes Script Pool script competition, Black Nights Stars, Music Meets Film, and Black Room, alongside the new and refreshed Frame within a Frame. Each programme will present new talents for the industry to keep an eye on.

Script Pool

Highlighting 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 program could not be done without our partners International Screen Institute and T-Port Online Platform for Student & Short Films.

MEET THE TALENTS OF SCRIPT POOL 2023

Mirror of Nightingales (Croatia, Romania, Serbia)

Karla Lulić (director)
Jelena Mađarić (producer)



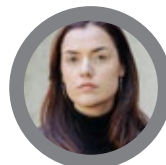
This Is It, The Apocalypse (Turkey)

Balahan Gürel (director)
Aysun Karaman (producer)
Okan Üzey (producer)



Rise of the Water Fox (Estonia)

Carlos E. Lesmes (director)
Elisabeth Kužovnik (screenwriter)
Johanna Maria Paulson (producer)



Casa de fieras (Spain)

Eva Saiz (director)
Raquel Pedreira (producer)



What Remains (Switzerland)

Léon Yersin (director)
David Fonjallaz (producer)
Lois de Goumoens (co-writer)



Black Nights Stars

Black Nights Stars is a program launched by the Black Nights Film Festival in 2017, designed to help young actors from the Baltic Sea region - Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Finland - to gain international visibility and promote themselves inside and outside their home territories. The program facilitates connections with international film professionals and training in practical skills needed in their future international careers.

The event is inspired by the European Shooting Stars program organised by European Film Promotion since 1998. European Shooting Stars takes place annually at the Berlin International Film Festival and introduces the ten best up-and-coming acting talents from throughout Europe to industry, the press, and the public.

The eight young talents from the Baltic Sea Region were selected by the international jury, consists of Casting Directors and members of the International Casting Directors Association: Cassandra Han from Germany, Tanja Grunwald from Denmark, 3-time Emmy nominee Frank Moissele from the UK/Ireland and Kristina Kolytė from Lithuania. The jury also included Talent Agent Malou T. Schultzberg from Sweden, Oscar nominated Director Tanel Toom from Estonia and Philippe Ros, a Cinematographer from France.

MEET THE ACTORS OF BLACK NIGHTS STARS 2023



Karmel Naudre
(Estonia)



Maris Nõlvak
(Estonia)



Karolina Rzepa
(Poland)



Tuulia Eloranta
(Finland)



Balder Ljunggren
(Sweden)



Ritvars Logins
(Latvia)



**Saulius
Ambrozaitis**
(Lithuania)



Langston Uibel
(Germany)

Music Meets Film

Music Meets Film (MMF) returns with its 11th edition and is welcoming a new focus on young talent while continuing to provide the possibility of a meeting place for extending the film and film music professionals' network.

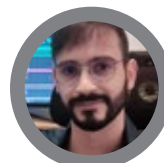
The aim is to offer a highly practical program of lectures and masterclasses to young composers to provide realistic tools for their careers. These will encourage them and help them to navigate the industry in the filmmaking process with the whole team, knowing one's intellectual and financial rights as well as how the creative process of composing for a film comes together. This year's program has been brought to life with UNESCO City of Music Tallinn, Orchestral Tools, Tallinn School of Music and Ballet, PwC Legal Estonia, Estonian Film Institute and Black Nights Film Festival.

The eight young talents will attend MMF's panels and masterclasses led by award-winning professionals and industry-leading companies and partners. From each session, the participants could gain precise practical knowledge and possible new connections to advance their careers. The sessions will be led by active industry professionals including Emmy winner John Altman, composers Sven Grünberg, Jonas Tarm and Ann Reimann, music supervisor Nis Bøgvad, director Tanel Toom, and attorney-at-law Priit Lätt.

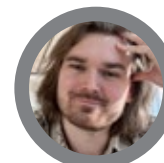
MEET THE TALENTS OF MUSIC MEETS FILM 2023



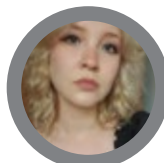
**Ahmet Sinan
Kaya**
(Estonia)



**Alessandro
Mallegni**
(Italy)



Kaspar Tambur
(Estonia)



**Katrīna Anna
Verhoustinska**
(Latvia)



Kauro Tafitšuk
(Estonia)



**Luisa Susanna
Kütson**
(Estonia)



Taago Tarkmeel
(Estonia)

Black Room

The Black Room masterclass explores the visual language of cinema and provides comprehensive training for Production Designers seeking to enhance their understanding of visual storytelling and the artistry within their craft. The primary objective of Black Room masterclass is to offer extensive knowledge and practical skills necessary to design visually impactful cinematic worlds.

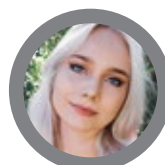
Black Room serves as a platform that unites Production Designers working in the Art Department. One of the central ideas behind Black Room is to expand the film industry network, ignite innovative concepts, and gather inspiration, thereby discovering new prospects for future projects and benefiting from the collective experiences of others.

Kave Quinn, the mentor for Black Room 2023, is a distinguished Production Designer from the United Kingdom. Her extensive portfolio as a Production Designer encompasses notable works such as *Trainspotting* (1996), *Catherine Called Birdy* (2022), *Emma* (2020), *Judy* (2019), and *Far From The Madding Crowd* (2015). The central theme for this year's masterclass is "The Big Thing about Little Things."

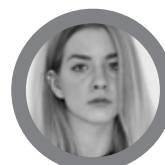
MEET THE TALENTS OF BLACK ROOM 2023



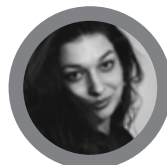
**Helena
Aleksandrova**
(Estonia)



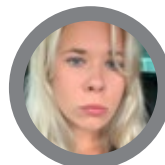
**Eliisabet
Leppoja**
(Estonia)



**Kätleen
Noormägi**
(Estonia)



Petra Mađarić
(Croatia)



Fey Piir
(Estonia)



**Sofia
Strömberg**
(Estonia)



**Paul Henrich
Daude**
(Estonia)



Sandra Sarv
(Estonia)

Frame Within a Frame

Frame Within a Frame is the newborn in Discovery Campus aims to enable cinematographers to understand the importance of mastering the workflow to focus on creativity. They delve into the relationship between lighting, filters, lenses, camera settings and colour grading to uncover the role of texture in the audience's perception of the image and drama.

- 3 days practical hands-on experience in a film studio setup, DIT workflow and colour grading session.
- A screening and special presentation on the Film *Oceans*, how cinematographic tools were developed to do underwater shooting.
- A panel discussion on the 'creative triangle' shows the roles and understanding of Actor, director and cinematographer in making cinema.
- A technical presentation on 'Everything you want to know about LED lights'

The workshop will be led by Philippe Ros, AFC (French Association of Cinematographers) and digital imaging supervisor. Philippe Ros is co-chairman of the technical committee of IMAGO (International Federation of Associations of Cinematographers).

In 2023, ARRI International, High Voltage, Tallinn University Baltic Film Media Arts, DIT Tools and Estonian Society of Cinematographers (ESC) joined forces with Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event to introduce cutting-edge cinematic technologies to Tallinn as part of the Frame Within a Frame cinematography masterclass. Aspiring cinematographers will have the opportunity to gain practical experience using the state-of-the-art ARRI ALEXA 35 camera with ARRI Signature Master Prime lenses, allowing them to explore image and texture through hands-on lighting sessions.

MEET THE TALENTS OF FRAME WITHIN A FRAME 2023



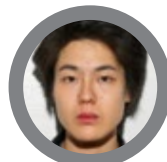
**Anna
Konovalova**
(Latvia)



Taaniel Raukas
(Estonia)



**Swapnil
Domade**
(India)



Jiali Liang
(China)



Daniel Angarita
(Colombia)



**Aleksandrs
Vasks**
(Latvia)



Aranya Sen
(India)



Varvara Karpova
(Estonia)

Orchestral Tools wishes all participants a wonderful Black Nights Film Festival 2023

Come and meet us at the Music Meets Film program!



ORCHESTRAL TOOLS

PRODNEST: HATCHING FILM FUTURES

BREAKING INTO THE INDUSTRY: MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR ASPIRING PRODUCERS

November 13

10:00-13:00, 14:30-17:30
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Vega*

November 14

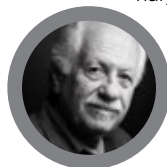
10:30-12:30, 15:30-18:00
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Kaminasaal*

November 15

10:30-12:30, 15:30-17:30
▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Kaminasaal*

Are you an emerging producer seeking to elevate your skills and understand the intricacies of the film industry? Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event presents a unique mentorship program tailored for you.

From November 13 to 15, guided by the distinguished industry veteran Katriel Schory, participants will delve into various aspects of being a creative producer. This comprehensive programme, blending plenary sessions, 1:1 mentorship, and interactive industry events, covers everything from sourcing compelling stories to mastering the development process and refining leadership strategies.



In **Katriel Schory's** workshop, engaged and proactive producers will discover how to introduce new projects to the global stage. Having provided insights into the workings of the international film industry for over 40 years, Katriel will assist participants in crafting project presentations that uniquely resonate with different funders. He will provide guidance on nurturing producer-director relationships and developing career and company strategies. Katriel's wealth of knowledge and expertise with emerging producers presents an invaluable opportunity, and he wholeheartedly welcomes questions from producers eager to explore.

GO LONG!

**INDUSTRY@TALLINN & BALTIC EVENT
AND PÖFF JOIN FORCES**

November 14

10:00-11:30 ▶ *Apollo Kino Coca-Cola Plaza, 4. Lukssaal*
Go Long! Participants' Films Screening

November 14

12:00-18:00 ▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Altair*
Go Long! roundtables and 1:1 meetings

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.

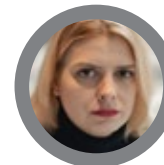
Go Long! 2023 Participants



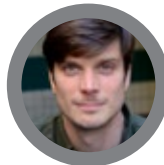
Rodney Llaverías



Élodie Dermange



Anna Wowra



Simon Vahlne



Teresa Cavina

Go Long! 2023 Mentors



Rickard Olsson



Frederik Lange



Kristel Tõldsepp



**Piret Tibbo-
Hudgins**



Noemi Schory



**Vassilis
Kroustallis**

SUSTAINABILITY

THE NEAR FUTURE RETREAT

November 15

9:30-13:30 ► *Nordic Hotel Forum, Altair*

Near Future Retreat is a unique think tank journey, designed to create meaningful connections and go beyond our day-to-day work. It's called a Retreat, as it offers much-needed pause for contemplation and listening. Without expectations or judgement, we embrace shared now and future insights and visions.

Led by **Valeria Richter, Helene Granqvist**



GREEN POLICIES

November 15

14:00-16:00 ► *Nordic Hotel Forum, Sirius*

CresCine Think Tank in Tallinn: How to benefit and implement Green Production & Sustainability for European independent industry?

Apply/Invitation only

A greening and sustainability strategy has become an essential part of the funding and production cycle for European independent industry, whether producers, festivals, or decision makers, with certification

and strategy requirements, often placed locally but also at the EU level. While the industry is certainly on its way to greener are more sustainable practices, the road ahead is full of theoretical and practical obstacles? Is it about carbon footprint? Sustainable subcontracting or service provision? Optimisation or transport? Does it really provide a cost-effective impact for small companies, festivals, and markets? Or does certification matter or not? And finally, who should take responsibility and leadership for achieving the green and sustainable goals in the industry, where there are not many success stories to be learned from?

The apply/invite only CresCine Think tank in Tallinn takes the greening and sustainability question into sharp focus in order to understand the practical needs of producers, events, festivals, and financiers/decision makers and based on that develop a handbook of practical advice, applications, and case studies to help the industry to meet its sustainability goals.

Apply at crescine.eu/tallinnsustainability2023 to have your say and help to develop a comprehensive and applicable guideline to benefit all.

CresCine, funded by Horizon Europe, aspires to become the authoritative source for insights into the European Film Industry. It integrates cutting-edge research, innovative technology, and influential industry figures to foster a vibrant, diverse film ecosystem.

The project aims to delve into, engage, and uplift European small markets over three years. It employs original research and implements the findings in seven nations: Estonia, Lithuania, Denmark, Ireland, Belgium (Flanders), Croatia, and Portugal.

FILMSKILLS

BALTICFILMSKILLS.COM

PROJECTING FORWARD: CRAFTING THE NEXT SCENE IN BALTIC FILMMAKING & EDUCATION

November 15

14:00-17:00 ► *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

In a world where the film reel is rolling towards technological advancements and novel ways of telling stories, the Baltic film industries find themselves at a crossroad, presenting new challenges not only on how we make films but also how we teach and include new talent.

In Projecting Forward, we take a look into Baltic academic and cinematic landscapes, examining roles, skills, and education in these film industries. The conference's key questions include:

- What are the skills needed for future filmmaking, and how to teach them?
- How to synchronise film schooling provision, and film industry needs?
- What kind of transversal skills are crucial in industry careers and how to assess them?
- How much specialisation and how much generalisation is needed, and where is the sweet spot between them, both in education and in subsequent successful careers in the film industry?

Projecting Forward seeks to cast a light on the symbiotic relationship between productions, set occupations, and education in three Baltic states. Join us to discuss, and script the brighter future of Baltic cinema

- 14:00-14:10 Welcome on behalf of FilmSkills project
Birgit Vilgats, Director of Tallinn University Baltic Film, Media and Arts School
- 14:10-14:35 Baltic Film Industry in a nutshell: overview of productions and international connections
Vejune Zemaityte (Baltic Film, Media and Arts School)
- 14:35-15:00 Need of Film Professionals in the Era of Post-Cinema
Dāvis Šimanis (Latvian Academy of Culture)
- 15:00-15:30 Occupation Descriptions and Educational Innovations: A FilmSkills Perspective
Rimante Daugelaite (Lithuanian Shorts), Birgit Rosenberg (Baltic Film, Media and Arts School)
- 15:30-15:50 Coffee break (FILMSKILLS 3 videos on screen)
- 15:50-16:15 Show me your works! How to Assess Crew Members' Readiness for Working on Set
Romanas Matulis (Crew United)
- 16:15-17:00 Panel Discussion: Kickstarting and Fostering a Successful Career Path in the Film Industry
Moderated by Vytautas Dambrauskas (Lithuanian Music and Theatre Academy)

FilmSkills is a joint project of Baltic Film, Media and Arts School, Latvian Academy of Culture, Lithuanian Music and Theatre Academy, Estonian Cinematographers Union and Lithuanian Shorts modernise and empower Baltic film education and professional skills.

FilmSkills project is co-financed by the European Union.

Lithuanian
Shorts

Eesti Kinoliit



LATVIAN
ACADEMY
OF CULTURE



TALLINN UNIVERSITY



Kaasrahastanud
Euroopa Liit

PANELS AND TALKS

CRESCINE THEORY & EVIDENCE TRAINING

November 14

10:00-17:30 ▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Wolf*

Are you a film producer with one or more feature projects in development? You may benefit from a novel one-day workshop using an approach proven to be effective in other sectors and adapted to a film production context by a team of film, media, and entrepreneurship researchers.



Led by **Niall O'Leary, Munster Technological University**

CREATING THE BEST: THE GALE ANNE HURD STORY IN FILM AND TV

November 15

16:00-17:00 ▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*

Gale Anne Hurd is a trailblazing figure in the entertainment industry, with a career that has left an indelible mark on both film and television. As one of the most acclaimed female executives in cinematic history, her journey is nothing short of extraordinary.

Her extensive list of credits includes global blockbusters like *Armageddon*, *The Terminator*, *T2*, and *Aliens*. She has also played a pivotal role in record-breaking television series like *Fear/The Walking Dead* and *Mankiller*, showcasing her versatility as a producer and her ability to adapt to evolving storytelling formats. Beyond the blockbusters, Hurd champions independent productions. The latest one, *The YouTube Effect*, is also screened in Tallinn.

In her presentation, Gale Anne Hurd will provide insights into her remarkable career, sharing her creative decisions as a writer, producer, and executive. Her ability to navigate the entertainment industry, dedication to storytelling, and diverse accomplishments make her a true pioneer.

In conversation with Paul Thiltges, a respected producer and distributor from Luxembourg, Hurd's discussion promises a unique perspec-

tive on film and television production, shedding light on the evolving landscape of storytelling. This is a chance to gain valuable insights from a trailblazer who has reshaped the industry, inspiring creators and industry professionals alike.

Gale Anne Hurd
Paul Thiltges



THE ROLE OF STRATEGY IN CONTENT CREATION & DISTRIBUTION

November 15

17:30-18:30 ▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*

In the swiftly evolving film landscape, a strategic vision is paramount. Ari Tan, with unparalleled experience spanning the entertainment spectrum, will illuminate "The Role of Strategy in Content Creation & Distribution." Drawing from his extensive roles, Ari will elucidate how strategy, especially for independent producers, is a pivotal determinant of success in a production or distribution venture.

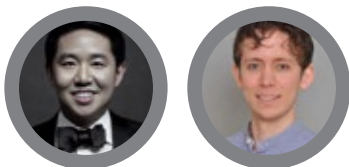
As markets transform, understanding financing and distribution becomes crucial. Ari, having led international original co-productions, offers a unique perspective on the future of international film collaboration – revealing potential collaborations, challenges, and untapped growth areas in the European and global realms.

Moreover, for smaller production capacity countries, there lies an immense opportunity in monetising niche markets. Ari's insights, rooted in his oversight of international studio operations, provide a roadmap. Furthermore, as we transition into the digital age, content distribution undergoes a metamorphosis. With Ari's guidance, producers can decode innovative channels, ensuring that their content doesn't just exist but thrives.

Ari Tan's career includes years as Vice President – Head of Strategy & Operations, International Studios & Themed Entertainment at Paramount, and Vice President – Strategy & Business Development at

MTV/VH1/Logo. He will be in conversation with Ben Dalton, Screen International.

Ari Tan
Ben Dalton



CRESCINE PRESENTATION

November 15

17:15-18:45 ▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

From Greening to Skills and Beyond: Explore the State of Small European Film Markets with CresCine.

How are small European film markets faring? Where does the European industry stand in terms of skills, especially in the realm of innovation? What are the enablers and blockers for the industry's transformation towards greening and sustainability? How can we contribute and learn from data-driven insights in financing and distribution?

CresCine is a project funded by Horizon Europe, poised to become the future benchmark for insights into the European Film Industry. It was launched at the Marché du Film earlier this year. The project's objective is to boost the competitiveness and cultural diversity of the European film industry by amalgamating research, technology, and industry power players. This three-year project aims to understand, engage, empower, and ultimately transform European small markets through original research, piloting the results in seven countries - Estonia, Lithuania, Denmark, Ireland, Belgium (Flanders), Croatia, and Portugal.

In partnership with Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event, CresCine is excited to share the first insights from the 36-month project, including the state of data-driven insights into film financing, initial findings on greening and sustainability impact, the state of Europe's industry skills, performance, and much more.

Attend the session to gain firsthand access to CresCine's insights and discover how you can contribute and benefit from this unique project.
Find more at crescine.eu.

BRIDGING THE GAP: FROM EXILE TO CREATION OF BELARUSIAN INDEPENDENT FILM ACADEMY

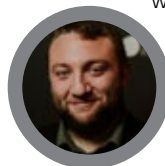
November 16

17:00-18:30 ▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*

A panel discussion on different practices of Belarusian independent filmmakers to keep the film industry alive

One year has passed since last year's Northern Lights Film Festival and PÖFF joint discussion on the Belarusian independent film industry. However, Belarusian filmmakers were focused on overcoming a feeling of displacement and trauma caused by political repressions in Belarus and war in Ukraine, they kept being resilient and productive. They were actively searching for solutions on how to survive in new circumstances, exploring different experiences in European and world film industries to come up with something innovative and long-lasting.

In this panel Belarusian filmmakers, film festival representatives, co-founders of Belarusian Independent Film Academy and other film professionals will talk about how to be heard and seen when in exile, what a handful of people can do for the whole industry and what is a healthy way of integration for Belarusian filmmakers to still keep their identity but open and expand to the world.



**Organised by PÖFF
and Northern Lights Film Festival
Moderated by Davide Abbatescianni,
Cineuropa**

ITALIAN-BALTIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD PRESENTATION

November 17

11:30-12:30 ▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*

The development award for co-productions between Italy and the Baltic States was created in November 2018 on the basis of an agreement entered into between Italy and the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania). Now in its fifth year, the success stories and future developments are presented by Edith Sepp, Dita Rietuma, and Laimonas Ubavičius, Heads of the three Baltic film funds.

CREATIVE EUROPE MEDIA PROGRAMME

Creative Europe MEDIA is European Commission's support program for the European audiovisual industry. Various supporting schemes from development to distribution are available to make the European film industry stronger and more competitive. MEDIA programme supports development of films, series and video games, but also audiovisual markets, training programmes, festivals and variety of projects related to innovation and technology.

Creative Europe MEDIA Desks are active in each member state to make the program more visible in the industry, to promote its funding options, training possibilities and give consultations, but also to facilitate collaborations and networking.

Focus on Balkan region at this year's PÖFF gives us the possibility to learn more about our Balkan colleagues, bring together filmmakers, and collaborate on the organisation level. To facilitate networking between the Baltic, Balkan and Nordic countries, we offer networking lunch for selected producers from these countries and networking coffee break to all accredited guests.

November 16

Networking lunch

13:00-14:30 ► *Nordic Hotel Forum, Nomel Fireplace*
(by invitation only)

Networking coffee break

16:30-17:00 ► *Nordic Hotel Forum II floor*
(accredited industry guests)

Networking events are hosted by Nordic, Baltic, Croatian and North Macedonian Creative Europe MEDIA Desks.



Creative
Europe
MEDIA

INNOVATION

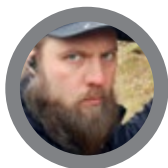
NAVIGATING NARRATIVES: A SCREENWRITER'S GUIDE TO THE GAME WORLD

November 15

11:00-13:00 ► *Nordic Hotel Forum, Sirius*

Dive into the dynamic intersection of storytelling and interactivity! This workshop explores the leap from screenwriting to game writing, unravelling commonalities and distinctions in narrative craft. From the essential elements of game writing to practical insights on approaching the industry, attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of the format, style, and tools employed in game narratives.

Mårten Rattasepp
Jaagup Irve



AI FOR MARKETING & CONTENT CREATION

November 16

13:30-16:30 ► *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*

In this hands-on workshop, we're cutting through the hype and getting straight to the good stuff: key AI tools that can help you massively with content marketing and creative projects.

We'll explore specific AI tools, how to use them and how they can help you with your work. From generating compelling text to optimising images, we'll guide you through real-world use cases and share tips you can apply immediately.

This isn't a glimpse into the future; it's a toolkit for right now. You'll leave knowing how to prompt AI effectively and how to integrate it seamlessly into your workflow.

Marju Sokman
Erman Küplü



YAMDU SOFTWARE PRESENTATION: TIRED OF DATA SILOS AND MULTIPLE WORKFLOWS IN CO-PRODUCTIONS?

November 16

14:00-14:15 ► *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

Movies, documentaries and commercials are built on teamwork. And these teams are usually freelancers travelling from one filming location to another - especially on co-productions. You could say every filmmaker is a nomad. Yamdu's newest features will help these creative nomads streamline their travel and living planning.

Florian Reimann
Petar Ćuk



THE ART OF DIGITAL: MARKETING & ANALYTICS FOR CULTURAL ENTERPRISES?

November 17

15:00-18:00 ► *Nordic Hotel Forum, Vega*

In the rapidly evolving digital landscape, the culture industry often finds itself lagging, missing out on significant opportunities. The RED workshop is designed to address this gap, providing participants with the tools and knowledge to harness the power of the digital world effectively.

Erman Küplü



INDUSTRY INNOVATION FORUM

FROM WORDS TO ACTION: EUROPE AND UKRAINE'S SOLIDARITY IN FILM & INDUSTRY 631 DAYS LATER

November 17

13:00-15:00 ▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

For 631 days, the Ukraine conflict has raged on, casting a sombre realisation of the long-term strife we now face. Amidst this adversity, how will the audiovisual, creative, and innovative sectors maintain their spirit of cooperation and solidarity? What lessons have we jointly unearthed, what unforeseen challenges have arisen, and where have we found unexpected successes in the face of our generation's most pressing tragedy?

Industry@Tallinn assembles leading figures from Europe and Ukraine's creative, innovation, and audiovisual spheres reflecting on the 631 days of unwavering commitment and collaborative growth, spotlighting key takeaways. More crucially, the event will explore policy and practical strategies to bolster Ukrainian creatives, innovators, and entrepreneurs.

Our focus also extends to the successes birthed during these challenging times. From the evolution of film funds and the inception of innovative business networks and models, to immersive experiences crafted through state-of-the-art storytelling technologies — the war in Ukraine has inspired groundbreaking financial and artistic collaborations. These endeavours have not only resulted in novel business ventures but have also touched countless souls, narrating the profound tales of the conflict through unparalleled artistic lenses.

THE EUROPEAN ENTERTAINMENT LANDSCAPE REDEFINED+: EXPLORING FILM, GAMING & INDUSTRY AT THE BOOM OF AI

In partnership with the Creative Europe MEDIA Programme

November 17

15:30-18.30 ▶ *Nordic Hotel Forum, Capella*

Amid an ongoing boom of generative AI and its “consumer explosion,” the landscape of film, media, and the audiovisual sector is profoundly transforming in Europe and globally as unique challenges and opportunities for the industry are emerging. On the upside, generative AI tools aim to give unprecedented creative opportunities for filmmakers, producers, performers, and the industry at large. Yet, on the downside, the unclear backdrop of rights, ethics, and best practices of using AI content for copyrights, financing, training, and policy hinders the implementation of the potential to benefit the ecosystem.

The Industry Innovation Forum, the flagship executive insight summit, will spearhead the region's first large-scale debate on AI's impact across the entertainment sectors.

Organised in partnership with the Creative Europe Media program, the mini-summit brings together an unprecedented selection of the world's leading AI filmmakers, content creators, and producers, AI platform visionaries and developers, Ethics and Policy Experts, acclaimed industry executives, and veterans to present, debate, and unlock the potential and pitfalls of the gen AI boom in Europe and beyond.



**Curated and moderated
by Sten-Kristian Saluveer**



Tartu Old Town
Photo: Tarmo Haud

FAM TOURS

Location Session Tartu

DISCOVER TARTU FAM TOUR

November 13

12:00-16:00 ▶ *Tartu Centre for Creative Industries*

UNLOCKING SUCCESS IN LOCATION-BASED PRODUCTIONS

November 14

11:00-16:00 ▶ *Tartu Centre for Creative Industries*
Nele Paves, EJ Richards, Jurate Pazikaite.
Moderated by Kristofer Piir

Over two days, Location Session Tartu brings together Estonian and international location & production professionals and regional film funds & public office representatives. A FAM Tour of Tartu exploring the hidden and not-so-hidden gems of this historic regional capital with an evening networking event on one day and a versatile seminar consisting of case studies, success stories and panels on the second.

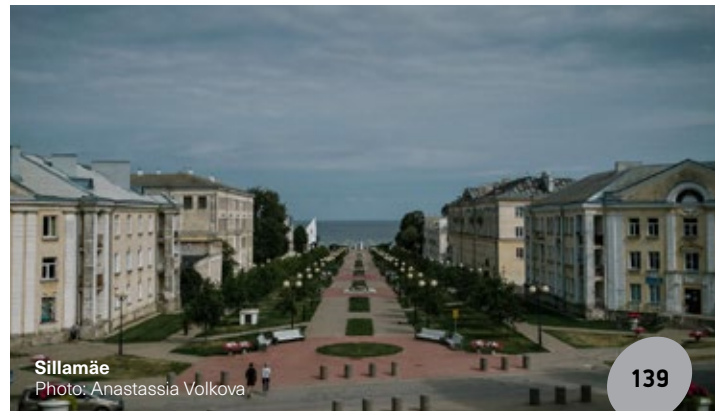
For additional information, please visit
locationsessiontartu.ee.

Travel to the Edge of the European Union and NATO

FAM TOUR BY BUS TO IDA-VIRU REGION

November 19

Explore the enigmatic Ida-Viru region in North-East Estonia, a cinematic wonderland with post-industrial vistas, serene wetlands, medieval castles, Soviet-era architecture, ghost towns, and contemporary industry. Discover captivating film locations on Nov 19th's bus trip from Tallinn, including Aidu's artificial landscape, Sillamäe, Kohtla-Järve, Viivikonna's ghost town, the Krenholm manufacture, and the majestic Hermann Castle in Narva. Embrace the allure of this paradoxically diverse region on the border with Russia, where past and present collide in a captivating tapestry of scenery and history.



Sillamäe
Photo: Anastassia Volkova



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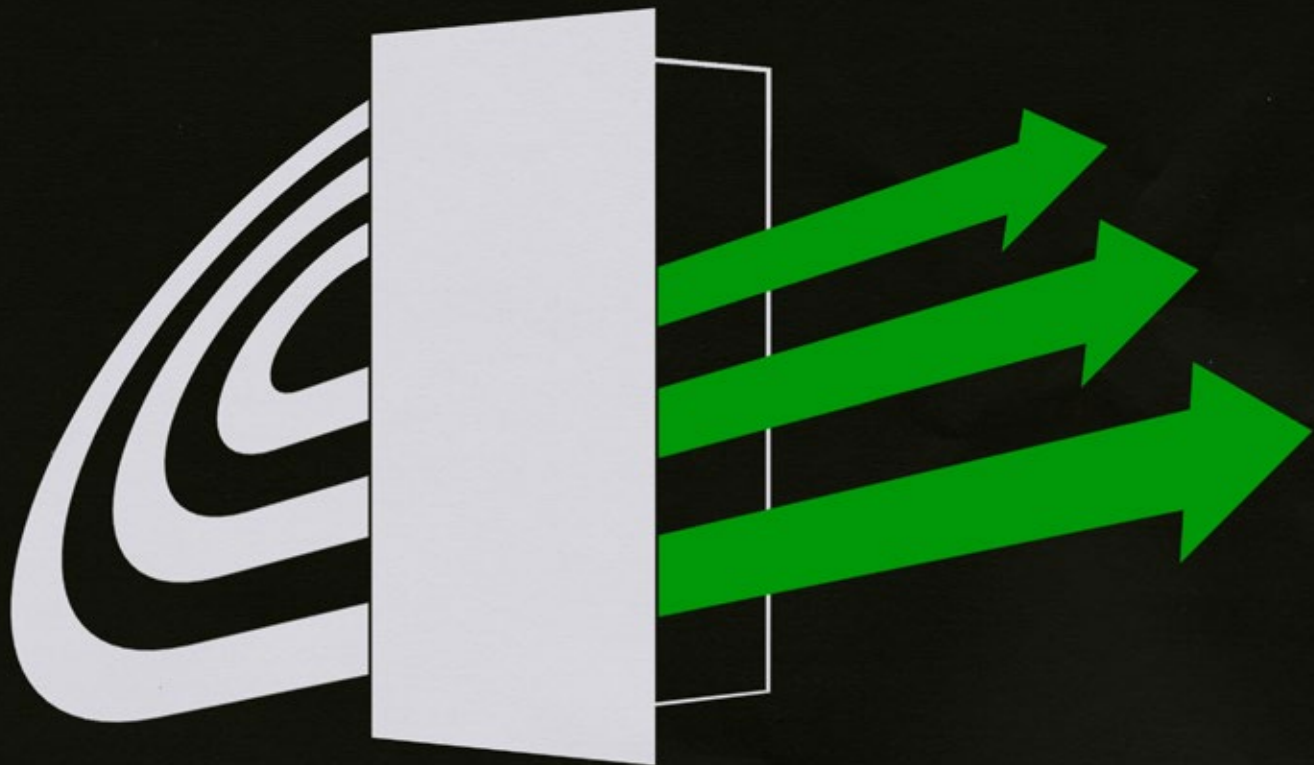
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