

W W A

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30 SEPTEMBER  
– 3 OCTOBER 2025  
WARSAW



HEART  
OF EUROPE  
INTERNATIONAL  
TV FESTIVAL  
& FORUM

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FORUM





Dear Guests,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you, on behalf of TVP, to the 5th Heart of Europe International TV Festival and Forum. This fifth edition is a small jubilee for us, and one we are especially proud to celebrate together. Over the past years, the Forum has steadily grown into a meeting point where ideas and partnerships take shape, bringing together creators, producers, and media professionals from across Central and Eastern Europe.

What makes this year particularly exciting is the record number of submissions we have received – and just as remarkable, their overall quality. The talent, ambition, and imagination on display have truly exceeded our expectations, reminding us how much potential this region holds.

In the coming days, you will experience live pitching sessions, panel discussions, presentations, and plenty of opportunities to connect with colleagues and collaborators. The selected projects will be presented here in Warsaw before our distinguished jury, competing in the categories of fiction film, fiction series, and documentary.

We are grateful for your presence as we mark this milestone year. Together, you help ensure that the Heart of Europe Forum continues to flourish as a place where creativity finds its voice and where stories travel beyond borders.

**Tomasz Sygut**  
**Director General**  
**Telewizja Polska S.A. in liquidation**

**Festival & Forum Venue:**

**Vienna House by Wyndham Mokotow Warsaw**  
Postępu 4, 02-676 Warsaw, Poland

**Info Desk:****Opening Hours:**

Tuesday	30 September	15:00-20:00
Wednesday	1 October	09:00-17:00
Thursday	2 October	09:00-17:00

The Info Desk is located in the lobby of the Vienna House by Wyndham Mokotow Warsaw.

Please pick up your accreditation badges at the Info Desk during the specified hours.

## THE HEART OF EUROPE TEAM

### Festival:

**Karolina Socha-Kalinowska**  
(karolina.socha-kalinowska@tvp.pl)

**Aleksandra Jacków**  
(aleksandra.jackow@tvp.pl)

### Forum:

**Marta Kamińska**  
(marta.kaminska@tvp.pl)

**Aleksandra Prokopiuk**  
(aleksandra.prokopiuk@tvp.pl)

### Pitching Sessions:

**Katarzyna Pilewska**  
+48 602 735 999

### Social Media:

**Michalina Jasieniecka**  
(michalina.jasieniecka@tvp.pl)

### Technical Support:

**Patryk Piekarz**  
(patryk.piekarz@tvp.pl)

**TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER**

- 17:00 - 17:30 **Heart of Europe 2025 Opening** – featuring a live performance by the Gold Quartet Warsaw
- 17:30 - 18:15 Panel Discussion: **Chasing Audiences: Public Broadcasters in the Age of Digital Shift**
- 18:15 - 22:00 Welcome Cocktail

**WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER**

- 10:00 - 11:00 **Documentary Pitching Session** – part I
- 11:00 - 11:15 Coffee Break
- 11:15 - 12:15 **Documentary Pitching Session** – part II
- 12:15 - 12:30 Coffee Break
- 12:30 - 13:30 **Fiction Film Pitching Session** – part I
- 13:30 - 14:30 Networking Lunch
- 14:30 - 15:30 **Fiction Film Pitching Session** – part II
- 15:30 - 16:15 Panel Discussion co-organized by Creative Europe Desk Poland: **Co-Producing in Europe. Insights from Creative Europe MEDIA Projects**
- 16:15 - 16:45 **From Breakout Hit to Season 2: *Processes* Showcase - with a screening of Episode 1**
- 20:00 - 24:00 Heart of Warsaw: a relaxed city-centre party at **KINO AMONDO** – Warsaw's smallest indie cinema

## THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER

- 10:00 - 11:00 **Fiction Series Pitching Session – part I**
- 11:00 - 11:15 Coffee Break
- 11:15 - 12:15 **Fiction Series Pitching Session – part II**
- 12:15 - 12:30 Coffee Break
- 12:30 - 13:15 Panel Discussion: **Making the Cut: What Film Festivals Want**
- 13:15 - 13:30 Quick Chat: **Berlin Calling: Pitch Your Performing Arts Documentary with IMZ - International Music + Media Centre**
- 13:30 - 14:30 Networking Lunch
- 14:30 - 14:45 Presentation: **Killing Stereotypes about Central and Eastern Europe**
- 14:45 - 15:00 Quick Chat: **MIDPOINT Institute News in Focus**
- 15:00 - 16:00 Pitch Highlights: **Best Projects from NEM Zagreb & Media Play**
- 18:00 - 19:00 **Heart of Europe 2025 Awards**
- 19:00 - 23:00 Closing Cocktail

## FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER

Farewells and departures - see you next year!

## ■ Chasing Audiences: Public Broadcasters in the Age of Digital Shift

**30.09. 17:30-18:15**

Moderator:

**Kateryna Udut** (Founding Partner, Between Media Agency)

Speakers:

**Adam Balažovič** (Game Designer, Czech Television),

**Victoria Murovana** (Head of Digital, Suspilne Ukraine)

## ■ Co-Producing in Europe. Insights from Creative Europe MEDIA Projects

(co-organized by Creative Europe Desk Poland)

**1.10. 15:30-16:15**

Moderator:

**Anna Huth** (Call Expert, Creative Europe MEDIA; Founder & CEO, team4set)

Speakers:

**Daria Maślona** (Producer, Silver Frame),

**Mariusz Włodarski** (Producer, Lava Films)

## ■ From Breakout Hit to Season 2: *Processes Showcase*

(with a screening of award winning Episode 1)

**1.10. 16:15 - 16:45**

Speakers:

**Egor Efimov** (Producer),

**Andrei Kashperski** (Director, Writer),

**Mikhail Zui** (Writer)

## **Making the Cut: What Film Festivals Want**

**2.10. 12:30 - 13:15**

Moderator:

**Ola Salwa** (Journalist, Head of Gdynia Industry)

Speakers:

**Sam Flancher** (Programmer, Chicago International Film Festival),

**Karol Piekarczyk** (Artistic Director, MDAG), **Mita Suri** (Film Programme Manage, Sheffield DocFest)

## **Berlin Calling: Pitch Your Performing Arts Documentary with IMZ - International Music + Media Centre**

**2.10. 13:15 - 13:30**

Moderator:

**Sascha Fahrbach** (Journalist, TVP World)

Speaker:

**Max Beckham - Ortner** (Secretary General, IMZ)

## **Killing Stereotypes about Central and Eastern Europe**

**2.10. 14:30 - 14:45**

Speaker:

**Kamila Zlatušková** (Founder & CEO, Serial Killer)

## **MIDPOINT Institute News in Focus**

**2.10. 14:45 - 15:00**

Moderator:

**Sascha Fahrbach** (Journalist, TVP World)

Speaker:

**Alexandra Gabrižová** (Program Coordinator, MIDPOINT Institute)



# Jury

Jury





### **Katarzyna Franus**

Story Editor, Creative  
Producer  
TVP

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Katarzyna Franus is a writer, storyteller, published author, script doctor, and script consultant. In her role as story editor (creative producer) at Telewizja Polska (TVP), she supports screenwriters in their creative process from initial concept to final draft. She focuses on acquiring and developing high-concept series and compelling stories that resonate with target audiences and meet their needs. A self-described quality enthusiast, passionate about bringing the most valuable and unique scripted content to TVP's viewers, she is always eager to challenge the status quo and find new and better ways of doing things. In her previous roles, she developed successful audio series at two audio streamers: Empik Go and Storytel. She graduated from the University of Silesia, University of Warsaw, Institute of Literary Studies at the Polish Academy of Sciences, Collegium Civitas, and SWPS University.

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### **Alexandra Gabrižová**

Program Coordinator  
MIDPOINT Institute

Alexandra Gabrižová is a Program Coordinator at MIDPOINT Institute, overseeing series programmes that offer both project development and skill-building opportunities for writers, directors, and producers. She co-founded Disco Sailing, an agency supporting the festival distribution of Slovak films and helping them reach the right international markets. Alexandra also works occasionally as a journalist and curator, with a strong focus on short films. A graduate of Audiovisual Studies at the Film and Television Faculty, Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, she served as Head of the Festival Department from 2016 to 2021. Since 2020, she has been leading the Festival Strategies course at Film and Television Faculty VSMU.

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### **Ivan Ljubičić**

Managing Director  
Mediavision, NEM Dubrovnik,  
NEM Zagreb, Pickbox NOW  
and Pickbox TV

Ivan Ljubičić is responsible for developing business strategies and managing sales, marketing, finance, and personnel across three companies and multiple projects, including Pickbox NOW, Pickbox TV, NEM Dubrovnik, and NEM Zagreb. Through his work with the marketing and TV industry agency Mediavision, Ivan has played a key role in the development, programming, and organization of NEM events. Since 2012, he has been involved in all twelve editions of NEM Dubrovnik and four editions of NEM Zagreb, in addition to working with clients from various other industries. Ivan's most significant project began in 2013 with the launch of Pickbox NOW, the first SVoD service in the Adria region. Pickbox NOW is now accessible through desktop, mobile, tablet, and Smart TV applications, as well as through telecom operators in Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Bulgaria. In 2019, the Pickbox TV channel was introduced and is now available in these seven countries. Additionally, Ivan manages Mediatranslations, a leading CEE company specializing in subtitling in and out of 30 languages.

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Wiktor Piątkowski is a writer, producer, and showrunner. He created and co-wrote HBO's first original series produced in Poland, *Wataha*, and has worked on four Netflix original feature films, including *Squared Love*. He also developed the first Polish Viaplay series, *Murderesses*, and the Canal+/Polsat co-production *Sortownia*. A sitcom he co-created and co-wrote, *Just Push Abuba*, premiered on ZDF in 2018. His producer credits include feature films such as *Święta inaczej*, short films like *Reset*, and documentaries including *Over the Mountains* and *Trzej przyjaciele z boiska*. Wiktor graduated from the Polish National Film School in Łódź and is an alumnus of several prestigious programs, including Serial Eyes, European TV Drama Series Lab, European Showrunner Training, Canneseries Writers Club, Racconti, The Owl, and Berlinale Talents. He is a member of SEAN, the Polish Filmmakers Association (SFP), and the Polish Screenwriters' Association. In addition, he runs screenwriting workshops in Poland and internationally, holds a PhD in TV marketing, and manages Bahama Films, an independent production company based in Warsaw.



**Wiktor Piątkowski**

Screenwriter, Producer,  
Showrunner  
Owner of Bahama Films

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Kamila Zlatušková is an independent producer, screenwriter, and director; founder and CEO of the Television Institute and Serial Killer – the first TV and web series festival in Central and Eastern Europe. She graduated from the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts (Dramaturgy and Screenwriting, Ph.D.) and studied Broadcasting/Film Studies at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln on a Paul Robitschek scholarship. She worked as a commissioning editor and creative producer at Czech Television, leading a multi-genre group that produced award-winning programs and international co-productions. As an author and director, she created the acclaimed documentary series *Nestlings (Ptáčata)*, which followed socially excluded children over ten years. She also served as Vice-Dean for International Relations at FAMU and is now an assistant professor. In 2017, she founded Telepunk, and in 2018 launched Serial Killer, a major international platform for CEE TV. Together with investor Jiří Hlavenka, she created the Television Institute to nurture new talent. Forbes regularly lists her among the most influential women in the Czech Republic. In her spare time, she is a sauna master and recently published the book *Mother on the Tracks*, about traveling across Europe with children by train.



**Kamila Zlatušková**

Founder & CEO  
Serial Killer

**Alessia Durante**

FeatureLab Project Manager  
TorinoFilmLab

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Alessia Durante is a film industry professional born near Lecce and now based in Turin. She moved to the city in 2018 to pursue a Master's degree in Cinema and Media at the University of Turin, after living, working, and studying in Florence, Bologna, and London. Passionate about exploring the cinema industry from multiple angles, Alessia has gained experience in film criticism, on-set production, and, most notably, film festivals. Her career includes collaborations with international events such as the Torino Film Festival, Lovers Film Festival, and Venezia Classici. She has also taught seminars on the History of Cinema, including for students in the University of Turin's prison programme. Alessia joined TorinoFilmLab in 2021, bringing her diverse experience to a role spanning organisational management, training, and talent development. She currently runs the TFL FeatureLab and serves as project manager for TFL Extended programmes.

**Sam Flancher**

Programmer  
Chicago International Film  
Festival

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Sam Flancher is a film programmer with over a decade of international film festival experience. He began working as a year-round programmer for Cinema/Chicago and the Chicago International Film Festival in 2014. He led the short film program from 2016-2020, and from 2021 onwards has been a part of the international feature film programming staff. In addition to the Festival, Flancher programs for Cinema/Chicago's annual Summer Screenings series and a variety of other year-round programs. He is a regular attendee of international film festivals and markets, including the Cannes Marché du Film, the European Film Market at the Berlinale, IndieLisboa, and the Jeonju International Film Festival. He is a regular guest speaker at DePaul University, Columbia College Chicago, Loyola University, and Northwestern University.

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Jakub Nguyen Duc is a Film & TV Producer at Telewizja Polska (TVP), where he develops and oversees scripted series. His recent credits include the family comedy *Pan Mama* and the thriller drama *Drelich*, alongside several new projects currently in script development.

Active in the production industry since 2010, he has worked across advertising, branded content, and television. He gained experience at agencies such as DDB Warsaw, producing campaigns for global brands, and later at CANAL+ Polska as a Creative Producer, responsible for the creative supervision and positioning of film and series promotion.

As a producer, he combines creative development with professional production management, focusing on budget efficiency and high production value. His goal is to deliver stories that merge artistic quality with the potential to reach broad audiences and achieve strong commercial success.



**Jakub Nguyen Duc**

Producer  
TVP

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Joanna Żydowicz-Barciś is the Deputy Director for VIP Guests and the Music Videos Competition Coordinator at EnergaCamerimage, the largest film festival in Poland. EnergaCamerimage is one of the most renowned international film festivals in the world, focusing on cinematographers and their work. Joanna has been working in the film industry and with film festivals for over 10 years. She graduated from the Polish National Film School in Łódź and Jagiellonian University. Previously, she worked in the production department on films such as *11 Minutes* directed by Jerzy Skolimowski, *Volta* directed by Juliusz Machulski, and the last film by Andrzej Wajda, *Afterimage*, among others. In 2020, she officially joined the EnergaCamerimage team, where she is responsible for inviting and coordinating the visits of distinguished guests at the festival.



**Joanna Żydowicz-Barciś**

Deputy Director of VIP  
Relations and Film  
Production  
EnergaCamerimage

**Magda Cichecka**

Producer

TVP

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Magda Cichecka is a film and television producer and production manager with many years of experience in the audiovisual industry. She graduated from the Warsaw Film School, the Krzysztof Kieślowski Film School at the University of Silesia, and the Film and Television Production Department at the Leon Schiller Polish National Film, Television and Theatre School in Łódź. For the past year and a half, she has overseen Polish and international documentary co-productions at Polish Television (TVP), including *Dziecko z pyłu* (*Child of Dust*), *Pan Olbrychski* (*Mr. Olbrychski*), and *My Sunnyside*. In her work, she values originality, creativity, and bold artistic vision.

**Hicran Lefort**

Head of Sales

MIP Markets

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Hicran Lefort is the Head of Sales / Sales Director for MIP Markets, overseeing key regions including CIS, DACH, CEE, Oceania, Italy, and the Baltics. Since joining RX Global in 2011, the world's leading exhibition and conference organizer with over 400 events across 43 industry sectors in 22 countries, she has driven significant sales growth in television and digital content within her territories. Hicran's expertise has contributed to substantial visibility, including 3 million views on social networks. She holds an Executive MBA and is fluent in Turkish, English, and French.

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Karol Piekarczyk is the Artistic Director of Millennium Docs Against Gravity, the largest film festival in Poland. With an audience of over 180,000, it is also the second most attended documentary festival in Europe. He has been working with documentary films and film festivals for over 15 years. He graduated from the University of Glasgow with a Master's Degree, with distinction, in Film & TV Studies and Sociology. Previously, he worked with the WATCH DOCS festival in Warsaw and served as the Artistic Director of the Document Festival in Glasgow. Currently, in addition to his role as Artistic Director at Millennium Docs Against Gravity, he also oversees film distribution, having been responsible for releasing over 35 documentary films in cinemas in recent years. He has served on juries and as a consultant on numerous documentary productions. He is also a member of the European Film Academy.



**Karol Piekarczyk**

Artistic Director  
Millennium Docs Against  
Gravity

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Mita Suri supervises the delivery of the Film Programme for the Sheffield DocFest festival. She runs the annual Youth Jury programme and traineeships, and is responsible for external relations, including filmmakers, national film institutes, and distributors, managing the submissions process, and programming DocFest's year-round activity outside of the festival.



**Mita Suri**

Film Programme Manager  
Sheffield DocFest



# DREULICH

# Speakers

Speakers





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**SASCHA FAHRBACH**

TV Anchor, Journalist  
TVP

Sascha Fahrbach is a journalist, TV anchor, and communications strategist with over a decade of international experience spanning media, cybersecurity, and corporate communications. He has reported across Europe as a correspondent and anchor for TVP World, conducting more than 1,000 interviews with political figures, business leaders, and experts. Alongside his journalism, Sascha spent over six years in the cybersecurity sector, leading communications and PR initiatives that boosted brand visibility and engagement. He is also an experienced international host, having moderated high-profile conferences across Central and Eastern Europe as well as film and cultural events. Although raised in the United States, Sascha has lived and worked in eight countries and feels particularly at home in Poland, where he is now based. Fluent in English and German, he brings a global outlook and a passion for connecting people and ideas through clear and engaging storytelling.



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**KATARZYNA PILEWSKA**

Journalist, Actress  
Pitching Session Host

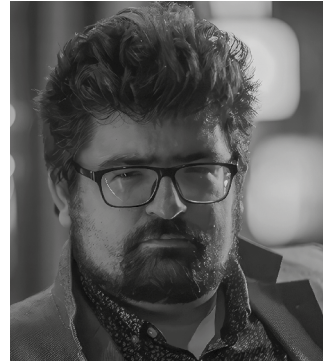
Katarzyna Pilewska is a journalist and actress who has collaborated with the Heart of Europe Festival for four years. She works across news, radio reporting, and podcast hosting, with a strong focus on social issues, particularly those affecting women and young adults. A specialist in voice training and a singer herself, she brings her skills to both teaching and performance. Katarzyna also enjoys public speaking – whether at festivals or, more recently, officiating humanist ceremonies. Outside of work, she is passionate about diving and folk music.

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**ADAM BALAŽOVIČ**

Game Designer  
CT Czech Television

Adam Balažovič is a digital media specialist and game designer at Česká televize, where he develops innovative interactive experiences that enhance traditional broadcasting. Starting his career as a stand-up comedian and scriptwriter (Comedy Club, Prima Comedy Central), Adam skillfully combines storytelling, humor, and user interactivity, pushing the boundaries of digital engagement in public television. At the 2025 Heart of Europe International TV Festival he is serving as the Chair of the Digital & Entertainment Jury.



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**MAX BECKHAM-ORTNER**

Secretary General  
IMZ International Music + Media Centre

Max Beckham-Ortner is a highly skilled professional with a strong track record in project management, public relations, relationship management, international business development, and cultural management. His experience spans a variety of industries, including music and media, non-profit organizations, entertainment, and the arts. As Secretary General at the IMZ International Music + Media Centre, he demonstrates exceptional organizational and leadership skills, excelling in building sustainable networks, connecting different industries, and creating valuable business opportunities.





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**EGOR EFIMOV**

Producer

*Processes*

Egor Efimov is a Belarusian-born producer based in Warsaw. He graduated from the Belarusian Academy of Arts and the Warsaw Film School, and completed a professional residency at the Łódź Film School. He is an alumnus of the EAVE Change training for emerging co-producers. With over 12 years of professional experience, he started as a cinematographer and has gradually shifted his focus to producing. His current work centers on projects from and about Poland, Ukraine, and Belarus, with a strong emphasis on human rights, freedom of expression, and regional storytelling.



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**SAM FLANCHER**

Programmer

Chicago International Film Festival

Sam Flancher is a film programmer with over a decade of international film festival experience. He began working as a year-round programmer for Cinema/Chicago and the Chicago International Film Festival in 2014. He led the short film program from 2016-2020, and from 2021 onwards has been a part of the international feature film programming staff. In addition to the Festival, Flancher programs for Cinema/Chicago's annual Summer Screenings series and a variety of other year-round programs. He is a regular attendee of international film festivals and markets, including the Cannes Marché du Film, the European Film Market at the Berlinale, IndieLisboa, and the Jeonju International Film Festival. He is a regular guest speaker at DePaul University, Columbia College Chicago, Loyola University, and Northwestern University.

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## ALEXANDRA GABRIŽOVÁ

Program Coordinator  
MIDPOINT Institute

Alexandra Gabrižová is a Program Coordinator at MIDPOINT Institute, overseeing series programmes that offer both project development and skill-building opportunities for writers, directors, and producers. She co-founded Disco Sailing, an agency supporting the festival distribution of Slovak films and helping them reach the right international markets. Alexandra also works occasionally as a journalist and curator, with a strong focus on short films. A graduate of Audiovisual Studies at the Film and Television Faculty, Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, she served as Head of the Festival Department from 2016 to 2021. Since 2020, she has been leading the Festival Strategies course at Film and Television Faculty VSMU.



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## ANNA HUTH

Call Expert  
Creative Europe MEDIA

Anna Huth is an expert on Creative Europe MEDIA calls and, since 2021, has led film:lab, Poland's largest training programme for emerging film professionals. She works closely with international partners and has presented at events such as Marché du Film and EFM. Anna also runs team4set, a digital platform supporting crew collaboration, and actively develops initiatives that help young filmmakers break into the industry.






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### ANDREI KASHPERSKI

Director & Writer

*Processes*

Andrei Kashperski (b. 1995, Brest, Belarus) is a director and writer. He began making short films on his phone at the age of twelve and later studied film directing at the Belarusian Academy of Arts. In 2020, he became director and showrunner of *ChinChinChanel*, a parody of Belarusian state propaganda, and also directed the musical *ChinChins in Wonderland*. The following year, he and his team moved to Ukraine to work on a satirical series, a project interrupted by the outbreak of war. Since 2022, he has been directing *Processes* for Belsat TV, exploring absurd situations in Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia. In 2024, he began developing a comedy-horror film about Belarusian trials, *Judgment of the Dead*, and completed a short prequel.




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### DARIA MAŚLONA

Producer

Silver Frame

Daria Maślona is a producer, production manager, and co-owner of two Polish production companies: SILVER FRAME and PLAN ZET. She studied Political Science at Jagiellonian University in Krakow and graduated from the Wajda Film School in Warsaw. Since 2009, she has worked for Silesia Film, the Off Camera Film Festival, and Polish television stations as a production coordinator and production manager. In 2013, she moved from Krakow to Warsaw and founded her own production company, SILVER FRAME. In 2018, she produced her first feature film as a co-producer (*Atak paniki*, dir. Paweł Maślona) and her first documentary (*Okupacja 1968*, dir. Magdalena Szymków, Marie Elisa Scheidt, Stephan Komandarev, Linda Dombrovsky; an international co-production with Peter Kerekes). One of her most acclaimed documentary projects, nominated for the Polish Film Award Orły, is *Escape to the Silver Globe* (dir. Kuba Mikurda), which premiered in 2021. In 2024, her productions *Trust Me* (dir. Joanna Ratajczak) and *Potop. Postscriptum* (dir. Łukasz Czajka) premiered. Daria completed the international EURO:DOC producing course and collaborates with leading Polish broadcasters and streamers, including TVP, Canal+, HBO, and Netflix. She is also an expert for the Polish Film Institute.

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**VICTORIA MUROVANA**

Head of Digital  
Suspilne Ukraine

Victoria Murovana, Head of Digital at Suspilne Ukraine, has over 15 years of hands-on experience in digital media, focusing on audience engagement and organizational transformation. Victoria has a proven track record of launching successful digital platforms and navigating crisis communications, with expertise that spans media production, brand development, and digital transformation in the public service sector.



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**KAROL PIEKARCZYK**

Artistic Director  
Millennium Docs Against Gravity

Karol Piekarczyk is the Artistic Director of Millennium Docs Against Gravity, the largest film festival in Poland. With an audience of over 180,000, it is also the second most attended documentary festival in Europe. He has been working with documentary films and film festivals for over 15 years. He graduated from the University of Glasgow with a Master's Degree, with distinction, in Film & TV Studies and Sociology. Previously, he worked with the WATCH DOCS festival in Warsaw and served as the Artistic Director of the Document Festival in Glasgow. Currently, in addition to his role as Artistic Director at Millennium Docs Against Gravity, he also oversees film distribution, having been responsible for releasing over 35 documentary films in cinemas in recent years. He has served on juries and as a consultant on numerous documentary productions. He is also a member of the European Film Academy.





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**OLA SALWA**

Journalist

Ola Salwa is a journalist and film critic with over twenty years of experience. She is Head of Gdynia Industry, the industry event of the Polish Film Festival in Gdynia. She is a member of FIPRESCI and the European Film Academy.



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**MITA SURI**Film Programme Manager  
Sheffield DocFest

Mita Suri supervises the delivery of the Film Programme for the Sheffield DocFest festival. She runs the annual Youth Jury programme and traineeships, and is responsible for external relations, including filmmakers, national film institutes, and distributors, managing the submissions process, and programming DocFest's year-round activity outside of the festival.



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**KATERYNA UDUT**Founding Partner  
Between Media Agency

Kateryna Udut has 15 years of experience in the media, specializing in international markets, communications, and B2B projects for the content and creative sectors in Ukraine and abroad. In 2025 she co-founded Between Media, a boutique agency supporting media, creative businesses, and cultural initiatives in their local and international growth. Previously, she headed Media Resources Management (Film.UA Group) and from 2017 to 2024 led Kyiv Media Week, one of the leading industry forums in the CEE region. Her portfolio includes PITCH UA (nationwide competition for socially important content), Ukraine Content Club (uniting top Ukrainian media companies at key global markets), Small World Big Ideas international format competition, and Content Budapest (co-organizer of the first C21 Media CEE event), among others. Kateryna is an active participant in major European content markets and industry events, occasionally contributing as a speaker and moderator.

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## MARIUSZ WŁODARSKI

Producer  
Lava Films

Mariusz Włodarski holds a degree in International Relations and is a graduate of the Łódź Film School. He honed his craft working on international co-productions at Opus Film before founding Lava Films in 2010. The company's first feature, *The Here After* (dir. Magnus von Horn), premiered in the Directors' Fortnight section at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival, during which Mariusz was selected as a Producer on the Move representing Poland. Continuing his collaboration with von Horn, he produced *Sweat*, which was part of the Official Selection at Cannes 2020. His credits also include *The Harvesters* (*Un Certain Regard*, Cannes 2018) and *The Taste of Pho* (San Sebastián 2019). In 2020, both *Never Gonna Snow Again* (dir. Małgorzata Szumowska & Michał Englert) and *Apples* (dir. Christos Nikou) premiered at the Venice Film Festival and went on to become Poland's and Greece's respective Oscar submissions for 2021. His production *The Girl with the Needle* (dir. Magnus von Horn) was nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Non-English Language Film and chosen as Denmark's entry for the 2025 Academy Awards in the Best International Feature category. The film won 11 awards at the Gdynia Polish Film Festival, including the Silver Lions, 11 Polish Film Awards (Orty), and 2 European Film Awards. Mariusz is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Polish Producers Guild, EAVE, the European Film Academy, the Polish Film Academy, and ACE Producers. He also lectures at the Łódź Film School. Among his most recent productions are *A Portrait in Sepia* (dir. Kei Ishikawa), which premiered at Cannes, as well as *Ugly Sister* and *The Things You Kill*, both of which debuted at Sundance. *The Things You Kill* was selected as Canada's official submission for the 2026 Academy Awards in the Best International Feature category.






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### KAMILA ZLATUŠKOVÁ

Founder & CEO  
Serial Killer

Kamila Zlatušková is an independent producer, screenwriter, and director; founder and CEO of the Television Institute and Serial Killer – the first TV and web series festival in Central and Eastern Europe. She graduated from the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts (Dramaturgy and Screenwriting, Ph.D.) and studied Broadcasting/Film Studies at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln on a Paul Robitschek scholarship. She worked as a commissioning editor and creative producer at Czech Television, leading a multi-genre group that produced award-winning programs and international co-productions. As an author and director, she created the acclaimed documentary series *Nestlings (Ptáčata)*, which followed socially excluded children over ten years. She also served as Vice-Dean for International Relations at FAMU and is now an assistant professor. In 2017, she founded Telepunk, and in 2018 launched Serial Killer, a major international platform for CEE TV. Together with investor Jiří Hlavenka, she created the Television Institute to nurture new talent. Forbes regularly lists her among the most influential women in the Czech Republic. In her spare time, she is a sauna master and recently published the book *Mother on the Tracks*, about traveling across Europe with children by train.




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### MIKHAIL ZUI

Writer  
*Processes*

Mikhail Zui (b. 1981, Minsk, Belarus) is a writer, actor, and musician. He graduated from the Belarusian Academy of Arts in 2002 with a degree in drama theatre and film acting and went on to perform at the Yanka Kupala National Theatre until 2020. Since 2020, he has been a member of the independent theatre group Kupalaucy and a key actor and screenwriter for the satirical YouTube channel ChinChinChannel. He is also the showrunner and screenwriter of the anthology series *Processes* and co-author of the plays *Radziva Prudok and I*. Beyond theatre and film, Mikhail is a songwriter and musician, performing with the bands ili-ili, Zui, and Detidetye.

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# Burning Witches

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Production Country:  
**Czech Republic**

Producer:  
**Dagmar Sedláčková  
- MASTERFILM**

Budget Estimate:  
**880 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**8 x 30 min**

Presenter:  
**Martina Babišová -  
Showrunner, Screenwriter**



## **Martina Babišová**

Martina Babišová was born in Ostrava, Czech Republic. She graduated in journalism from Palacký University and completed a master's degree in Media Arts at Aalto University in Helsinki, as well as training at the Bow Street Academy of Screen Acting in Dublin. Martina worked for many years as a journalist

for outlets including *Hospodářské noviny*, *Lidové noviny*, and *VICE UK*. In 2023, she published her first book, *Sundat se jak Fénix*. In recent years, she has focused on screenwriting and has appeared in several Czech and international films and TV series, including *Minuta věčnosti*, *Shoky a Morthy*, *Holka od vedle*, *Carnival Row*, *Foundation*, and *Interview With The Vampire*. Martina loves taking trips with her partner Kryštof and their son Oskar, swimming in the sea, and all things witches.

## **Project Synopsis:**

Duchess Katuše returns from her unsuccessful re-Catholicization trip to Poland to her dying estate in Ziębice on the Czech-Polish border, determined to make positive change. But she soon discovers that her husband has chosen a very different solution to the crisis: a full-scale witch hunt. Alongside her besties Lada and Mirostawa, they find themselves at the centre of the hunt. Still, they fight to end the persecution and to create a fairer world for women and minorities. Will they survive?

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Contact Info:  
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# Don't Tell Mum

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Production Country:  
**Poland**

Budget Estimate:  
**2 400 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**14 x 42 min**

Presenter:  
**Marek Mardosewicz**  
- Screenwriter;  
**Eugeniusz Pankov**  
- Director, Screenwriter



## **Marek Mardosewicz**

Marek Mardosewicz is a screenwriter, playwright, and visual artist. He graduated from the Academy of Art in Szczecin, Theatre Studies at the Jagiellonian University, and the Script Course at the Wajda School. He co-authored the award-winning screenplay *OK Boomer* at SCRIPT PRO 2021 and was a finalist

at SCRIPT WARS 2022 with *Rebrand*. He also runs the AI animation studio *blnk*.

## **Eugeniusz Pankov**

Eugeniusz Pankov is a film director and screenwriter, and a graduate of the Film Directing Department at the Łódź Film School. His short films have been showcased at more than 100 festivals in Poland and abroad. He also has experience directing television series, mainly for TV Puls, Polsat, and TVP 2. In 2021, he received the ZAiKS Association Award as part of SCRIPT PRO.

## **Project Synopsis:**

At her 65th birthday, Helena shocks her three adult children by announcing she's selling the family villa and moving to Spain with Maciek, her son's former classmate who's 26 years younger. Convinced their mother is being scammed, the siblings conspire to break up the relationship. But when their sabotage succeeds, Helena's heartbreak forces them to confront an uncomfortable truth: her love was real, and they've stolen her chance at happiness.

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Contact Info:  
**[mmardosewicz@gmail.com](mailto:mmardosewicz@gmail.com)**

# Little Europe

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Production Country:  
**Ukraine**

Producer:  
**Anastasiia Sheinhiuz,  
Varvara Boiko-Pavlyk**

Budget Estimate:  
**1 620 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**10 x 25 min**

Presenter:  
**Varvara Boiko-Pavlyk  
- Producer;  
Eugen Tunik - Showrunner,  
Author**



## **Varvara Boiko-Pavlyk**

Varvara Boiko-Pavlyk is Head of Co-Production and Partners Engagement at Starlight Media, Ukraine's largest media group. She leads international co-productions, oversees IP scouting and development, and drives strategic partnerships across scripted and documentary projects. Her credits include

the award-winning series *In Her Car* (Gaumont/Starlight), broadcast in 12 European countries. She is focused on bringing Ukrainian IP to global audiences and building long-term collaborations with international partners.

## **Eugen Tunik**

Eugen Tunik is a Ukrainian TV and film producer, director, and screenwriter with over 14 years of experience in television, creating non-scripted shows, drama series, and documentaries. His series *Early Birds* was named the best Ukrainian TV series of the decade and was the first to openly address LGBTQ+ teenagers, self-identification, and family relations. After Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, he created *In Her Car*, a drama about a psychologist who turns her car into a moving space of confession during the war. Co-produced with Gaumont, France TV, ZDF, and others, the series won Best Non-English Language Series at C21 in 2024. Tunik is now developing new projects, including feature films, dramas, documentaries, and an international co-production, while preparing to release his first full-length fiction film in Ukraine next year.

## **Project Synopsis:**

When the EU selects one Ukrainian town to join as a bold experiment, Kobyliaky becomes the unlikely test case. Eurocommissioner Christian has one year to instill European discipline in its free-spirited locals – but the town's magical thinking, rural democracy, and sly humor may flip the script. A satirical look at identity, reform, and what it truly means to be European.

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Contact Info:  
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# Muma Padurii

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Production Country:  
**Serbia**

Producer:  
**Nedeljko Bajic**

Budget Estimate:  
**3 200 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**10 x 52 min**

Presenter:  
**Jelena Bajić Jocić**  
**- Creator, Director;**  
**Nedeljko Bajić - Producer**



## Jelena Bajić Jocić

Jelena Bajić Jocić is a film and TV director and producer. She studied at the University of the Arts London and Huron University, and in 2005 co-founded Contrast Studios. Over the past two decades, she has built a distinguished career in creating, directing, and producing acclaimed projects that have shaped

Serbian television and cinema. As producer and executive producer, she worked on *Fiddling While Rome Burns*, *Ravna Gora*, *Air Bridge*, *Heroes of Halyard*, and *Serbian Medieval Heroes*. As creator, showrunner, and director, she developed popular television series for the ex-Yu market, including *The ABCs of Our Life* and *Dogs Bark but the Caravan Moves On*, as well as the feature film *Ice* (2012), which won multiple awards at international festivals. She lives in Belgrade with her husband, cinematographer Predrag Jocić, and their two children.

## Nedeljko Bajić

Nedeljko Bajić is a prominent Serbian film and TV producer and actor. After high school, he studied economics in London before returning to Serbia, where he co-founded Contrast Studios, now one of the leading film and television production companies in the region. As CEO of production, Nedeljko has produced numerous acclaimed and award-winning films and TV projects, including the feature films *Heroes of Halyard* and *Ice*, as well as the TV series *Air Bridge*, *The ABCs of Our Life*, *Surviving Belgrade*, *Dogs Bark but the Caravan Moves On*, *Fiddling While Rome Burns*, and *Ravna Gora*. He also produced the documentary-fiction series *Serbian Medieval Heroes*. He lives and works in Belgrade with his wife and two children.

## Project Synopsis:

Savita, a Romanian girl, is kidnapped. Jakov, a prominent surgeon, leads a quiet life with his wife Olga and their rebellious teenage daughter, Anya. After receiving an invitation to a hunting weekend, Jakov inadvertently becomes entangled in a human trafficking ring when he helps Savita escape. In retaliation, his daughter is kidnapped to pressure him into returning Savita to the traffickers. Now he must find her at all costs. Ironically, Savita becomes Jakov's only way to save his own daughter.

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Contact Info:  
**nedeljko@contraststudios.rs**

# Persona

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Production Country:  
**Czech Republic**

Budget Estimate:  
**545 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**6 x 30 min**

Presenter:  
**Petr Protivánek**  
**- Screenwriter**



## **Petr Protivánek**

Petr Protivánek is a Czech aspiring actor, director, and screenwriter. As an actor, he has mainly appeared in short films produced by FAMU International, some co-produced with New York University. His most notable role to date was a guest appearance in the German series *Messiah Superstar*.

In 2024, he made his directorial debut with the documentary *Continuum*, which was screened at the Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival. As a writer, he develops scripts across various formats. His current series project won first place at the Czech film festival *České vize* and is now seeking international recognition.

## **Project Synopsis:**

David works at SYNTHRON, a technology company. Suddenly, he loses control of his digital life – someone is acting in his name and reshaping his reality. He discovers he is a test subject for his colleague's sophisticated live AI, PERSONA+. At a conference, he warns about the loss of identity in the digital age.

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Contact Info:  
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# South Stream

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Production Country:

**Bulgaria / Serbia / Greece  
/ The Netherlands**

Producer:

**Krasty Lambev**

Budget Estimate:

**2 400 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**6 x 50 min**

Presenter:

**Marko Popović - Screenwriter;  
Didi Maximova  
- Development Producer**



## Marko Popović

Marko Popović is a screenwriter and director who studied Screenwriting and Dramaturgy at the Belgrade Faculty of Dramatic Arts and completed the Directing Programme at the New York Film Academy. He co-created and co-produced the mini-series *The Call* (RTS, 2023), which premiered

at the Sarajevo Film Festival and won a silver award at the 2024 Heart of Europe festival in Warsaw. He is the creator of the limited series *The Only Way Out* (Superstar TV, 2021) and head writer of *Secrets of the Grapevine* (2021–2024). His thriller *One False Move* (2016) was adapted into the series *Restless* (2023). He is currently developing *Occam's Razor* (RTS, 2025) and *South Stream* (2026).

## Didi Maximova

Didi Maximova is a media professional from Sofia, Bulgaria, with a background spanning sports, education, and media. A former tennis player, she studied on a full athletic scholarship in the United States, graduating with honours in Public Relations from Long Island University, New York. She began her career in marketing and communications before moving into media at Publicis Groupe, where she rose to Senior Digital Media Planner. She later joined Concept Studio, a leading Bulgarian film and TV production company, as Head of Content and International Sales. Didi is also Director of Operations at MEDIA PLAY, an international industry event that supports collaboration, visibility, and growth of creative work from smaller CEE territories.

## Project Synopsis:

Martin and Simona, a Bulgarian couple, enjoy a vacation on the island of Crete when Simona suddenly disappears. That same night the bodyguard of the Serbian Minister of Energy is murdered on the island and Simona becomes the prime suspect. Desperate to find her, Martin, an ex-con, taps into his underground connections back home. Soon, Greek police inspector Amalia uncovers a link between the murder and the corruption scheme surrounding a controversial EU proposal to dig gas near Crete's shore.

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Contact Info:

**org@conceptstudio.tv**

# The Last Divorce of Communism

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Production Country:  
**Latvia / Bulgaria**

Producer:  
**Aija Berzina**

Budget Estimate:  
**1 665 712 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**6 x 52 min**

Presenter:  
**Teodora Markova – Creator,  
Showrunner, Co-writer,  
Co-director;  
Stanislavs Tokalovs  
– Creator, Showrunner,  
Co-writer, Co-director**



## Teodora Markova

Teodora Markova is a film and television writer recognised with several screenwriting awards. Her credits include *Under Cover*, nominated at Monte Carlo, and *Father's Day*, selected for Série Series Fontainebleau and the Venice IFF – Gap Financing Market. She has written four feature

films, with *Bubblegum* earning two screenplay awards. Her latest series, *Soviet Jeans* – co-written with Stanislavs Tokalovs – won the Audience Award at Series Mania 2024 and was selected for the Berlinale Series Market. Her directorial debut, *The Inspector's Debt*, is set to go into production in late 2026.

## Stanislavs Tokalovs

Stanislavs Tokalovs is a Riga-based filmmaker specialising in directing, writing, and showrunning. He has extensive experience in feature films, series, and documentaries. His most recent project, the eight-episode comedy-drama miniseries *Soviet Jeans*, won the Audience Award and Best Actor Award at Series Mania and was showcased at international festivals including the Berlinale Series Market and Serial Killer. The series has been sold in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, and across Central and Eastern Europe. His latest documentary, *Everything Will Be Alright*, premiered at the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival. Collectively, his recent works have received 17 nominations at the Latvian National Film Awards.

## Project Synopsis:

Mikelis and Inese, an ordinary couple in 1988 Soviet Riga, stage a sham divorce to outsmart the USSR's housing policy and keep their apartment. But Galina, a principled Housing Commission employee, is determined to expose their scheme and claim the flat. Watched by informants and neighbors, they struggle to keep their secret love alive, tempted by a newfound taste of freedom. Over three years, their relationship slowly unravels against the backdrop of Latvia's awakening.

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Contact Info:  
**aija@tasse.lv**

# We Are Still Here

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Production Country:  
**Poland**

Producer:  
**Piotr Śmiechowski**

Budget Estimate:  
**4 000 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**8 x 30 min**

Presenter:  
**Ola Hulbój**  
- Screenwriter, Director;  
**Piotr Śmiechowski**  
- Producer



## Ola Hulbój

Ola Hulbój is a screenwriter, director, and script consultant. She studied Screenwriting at the Łódź Film School and Directing at the Wajda School. She co-wrote season 3 of the series *1670* and is developing projects for TVP and Netflix with Paweł Demirski. Her award-winning shorts include *A Dead Marriage*

and *The Last Film Before the End of the World*. She received Best Directing at Papaya Young Directors and the Grand Prix at Opolskie Lamy. Her project *We Are Still Here* won NoDrama at Script Fiesta 2024 and was selected for Midpoint 2025. She has also developed premium series for Opus TV and Akson Studio for various VOD platforms.

## Piotr Śmiechowski

Piotr Śmiechowski is a producer and production manager and a graduate of Film and TV Production Organisation at the Łódź Film School. Between 2018 and 2020, he worked on numerous short films and audiovisual projects (music videos, commercials, PSAs, TV series). Since 2020, he has been with Telemark, contributing to the feature *A Film for Aliens* (dir. Piotr Stasik) and premium drama series including *High Water* (dir. Jan Holoubek), *Project UFO* (dir. Kasper Bajon), and *Heweliusz* (dir. Jan Holoubek). As executive producer, he worked on the award-winning short *A Cappella* (dir. Marcin Kluczykowski). He produced the documentary feature *December* and is currently developing new projects for Telemark.

## Project Synopsis:

Tola, an Uber driver numb since witnessing her mother's death, joins a support group for accidental killers. There, she meets Błażej, a postman with a deadly past, and begins to suspect he might be her mother's killer. She pushes him to help her find the truth, unaware he plans to kill her. As Tola reconnects with her emotions and finds unexpected love, buried secrets surface – and Błażej must choose between revenge and redemption.

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Contact Info:  
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# You'll Need This

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Production Country:  
**Poland**

Producer:  
**Zuzanna Siwiec**  
**(Creative Producer)**

Budget Estimate:  
**2 880 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**8 x 30 min**

Presenter:  
**Agata Burdajewicz**  
**- Screenwriter;**  
**Agnieszka Kalińska**  
**- Director**



## **Agata Burdajewicz**

Agata Burdajewicz is a screenwriter and graduate of the Screenwriting Programme at the Łódź Film School. Her short films have been presented at festivals in Poland and abroad, and she draws inspiration for her writing from graffiti, online subcultures, and conversations

overheard on public transport.

## **Agnieszka Kalińska**

Agnieszka Kalińska is a director and graduate of the Directing programme at the Łódź Film School. She has made short fiction and documentary films that have screened at festivals in Poland and internationally, including the 46th Polish Film Festival in Gdynia, the Krakow Film Festival, and the New Horizons Shortlist. She is currently working on her debut feature film.

## **Project Synopsis:**

Ada, 27, is addicted to nasal drops. She can't work, sleep, or breathe without them. After a car crash and fainting in a client meeting, she checks into rehab – her last chance to save her job. Surrounded by "real" addicts, Ada hides her stay and secretly works remotely. But the center's dynamics pull her in. Through new relationships and conflicts, she confronts her trauma and questions how "normal" she really is.

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Contact Info:  
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# DVNA

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Production Country:  
**Hungary**

Producer:  
**Claudia Sümeghy**

Budget Estimate:  
**5 132 221 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**120 min**

Presenter:  
**Claudia Sümeghy**  
- Producer;  
**Tamas Yvan Topolánszky**  
- Writer-Director, Producer



## Claudia Sümeghy

Claudia Sümeghy is an economist and film producer, and co-owner of the Budapest-based film production and distribution company JUN011 alongside Tamás Yvan Topolánszky. Her first feature film, *CURTIZ*, won the Best Film Award at the 42nd Montreal World Film Festival and is now

available worldwide on Netflix. Her latest feature, *I Accidentally Wrote a Book*, won Best Children's Film at the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival and drew 160,000 admissions in Hungary within ten weeks. Claudia is an alumna of the EAVE Producers Workshop and Producers on the Move. As a volunteer, she is active in promoting sustainable filmmaking and gender balance in the industry.

## Tamás Yvan Topolánszky

Tamás Yvan Topolánszky is an award-winning Hungarian director, writer, and producer. He graduated from the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design, where his diploma "moodfilm" served as the teaser for *DVNA*, which has garnered over 800,000 views on YouTube. His debut feature, *CURTIZ* (2018), won the Grand Prix des Amériques (Best First Feature Film) at the Montreal World Film Festival and Best Director at the Riviera International Film Festival, and was released worldwide as a Netflix Original. He also produced *Heights and Depths* (2022) and *I Accidentally Wrote a Book* (2025), the first Hungarian film to receive the Eurimages Co-Production Development Award. His latest project, the short film *Never Give Up!*, sees him as writer, director, and producer and is currently in post-production.

## Project Synopsis:

Erika, 39, an amnesiac woman, wakes up alone in a deserted Budapest, where the Danube has disappeared. She joins a group of scavengers to search for her lost daughter in a collapsing world. In a parallel storyline, Róbert, 49, a tech billionaire, returns to Budapest to investigate the Danube's pollution. Their lives intersect across past and present, revealing that Erika's reality may be a punishment orchestrated by someone she once trusted.

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Contact Info:  
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# First Ukrainian Spaceman

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Production Country:  
**Ukraine / France**

Producer:  
**Bertrand Normand;  
Orest Borko - Bo Cinema**

Budget Estimate:  
**4 000 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**100 min**

Presenter:  
**Eugene Koshin**  
- Author, Director;  
**Bertrand Normand**  
- Coproducer



## Eugene Koshin

Eugene Koshin is a Ukrainian director, writer, and 1st assistant director currently based in the UK. With a background in film and literary theory and over a decade of international industry experience, he has built an award-winning portfolio including the shorts *Star David*, *We'll Never Get*

*Lost Together Again*, and *Dog Thieves*, screened at more than 100 festivals, as well as the TV movie *Kremlin Code Red* and the series *True Mystery*. He has also worked as an actor in theatre and film, and as a freelance journalist. In 2009, he founded Ukraine's Sweded Films Movement – a festival of DIY remakes of famous films – and went on to organize 13 editions. He is a member of the Ukrainian Film Academy.

## Bertrand Normand

Bertrand Normand is a filmmaker and producer, and a graduate of ESCP Europe Business School and Vancouver Film School. In 2016 he co-founded Les Films du Jour Prochain, producing short narrative films (*The Photographer*, *The Taste of Ginger* by Jean-Robert Thomann, *Merchandise* and *Iskra* by Adrian Replanski) as well as documentaries (*The Rocking Baritone*, *The World of Lovecraft* by Marc Charley). These works have been broadcast on television, released theatrically, and screened at numerous festivals. Bertrand is now expanding into feature films, with projects underway in France, Taiwan and Ukraine.

## Project Synopsis:

In the '90s Ukraine, awkward 13-year-old Anton dreams of space travel. After finding a rocket-shaped slide in an abandoned Soviet fairground, he teams up with his friend Pavlik, quirky homeless engineer Valentine, and his crush, the strong-willed gymnast Katya, to build and launch a real rocket. Yet, his mother's wish to emigrate, so Anton can join the Vienna Boys' Choir, looms over his cosmic ambitions.

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Contact Info:  
**contact@lesfilmsdujourprochain.fr**

# Komputer

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Production Country:  
**Poland / Lithuania**

Producer:  
**Julia Jendrysik**

Budget Estimate:  
**1 800 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**100 min**

Presenter:  
**Julia Jendrysik - Producer**



## **Julia Jendrysik**

Julia Jendrysik is a graduate of the National Film and Television School in London. Shortly after completing her studies, she began working on both feature films and television series in the UK. In 2024, together with her long-time business partner Anna Majek, she launched the Warsaw-based production

company Rizz Films. The company has already collaborated on service projects with international partners such as Smuggler Entertainment (New York, Los Angeles, London) and HBO West Coast. Among its current projects in development are the psychological thriller *Komputer*, set in Poland in 1969, and *A Heart Once Stubborn is Like a Dynamite* - both of which have received development funding from the Polish Film Institute.

## **Project Synopsis:**

Warsaw, 1969. Adam, 34, works on a pioneering computer with a proto-chatbot. The growing pressure from his boss, the disturbing interest of the Russians, and his fear of becoming a father lead Adam to seek help from the device, which begins to manifest progressive intelligence and influence his life.

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Contact Info:  
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# Naked Coast

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Production Country:  
**Poland**

Producer:  
**Natalia Bednarska - Wonder Woman Production**

Budget Estimate:  
**2 000 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**120 min**

Presenter:  
**Michał Krzywicki**  
- Director;  
**Dagmara Brodziak**  
- Creative Producer



## Michał Krzywicki

Michał Krzywicki is a director, screenwriter and actor.

A graduate of the Acting Department at the Warsaw Film School, he also trained in Los Angeles. His debut short *Diversion End* received the Young Jury Award at the Młodzi i Film Festival. His feature *The Day I Found a Girl in the Trash* was shown at Warsaw,

Raindance, Cinequest (Best Sci-Fi), and Camerimage, and won the Grand Prize at Rome's Fantafestival. In 2025, his thriller *The Adversary* premiered in Polish cinemas. He is currently developing *Naked Coast*, supported by the European Genre Forum, US in Progress, and the Polish Film Institute, as well as being a Script Wars finalist.

## Dagmara Brodziak

Dagmara Brodziak is a director, screenwriter, actress, performer, and creative producer. She graduated from the Acting Department of the Warsaw Film School and trained in workshops in Los Angeles with Paul Haggis, Baz Luhrmann, and Al Pacino. She co-wrote and produced the neo-noir thriller *Diversion End* (2016), which won the Young Jury's Amber Award at the Young and Film Festival, and wrote and produced the sci-fi drama *The Day I Found a Girl in the Trash* (2021), awarded at Cinequest (USA) and FantaFestival in Rome. In 2024, she starred in the road movie *Camper*, earning the Amber Award for Acting Discovery of the Year. She is preparing her directorial debut, *Why God Doesn't Play With Time*, a poetic metaphysical romance, and, with Michał Krzywicki, is developing the project *Naked Coast*. Her work explores inner transformations, memory, and the boundary between the visible and invisible.

## Project Synopsis:

In the isolated town of Elmet, ruled by the enigmatic Father Nathan, teenagers Uma and Ringo struggle under strict control and haunting secrets. When a wounded stranger disrupts their fragile world, Uma and Ringo embark on separate journeys – she toward the mythical Naked Coast, he into violent New Warsaw. Torn between loyalty and freedom, both confront the painful truths of their origins and the high cost of escape in a dystopian coming-of-age tale.

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Contact Info:  
**krivecreator@gmail.com**

# Now and After

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Production Country:

**Czech Republic / Slovakia**

Producer:

**Adéla Konečná, Peter Poch**

Budget Estimate:

**1 174 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**100 min**

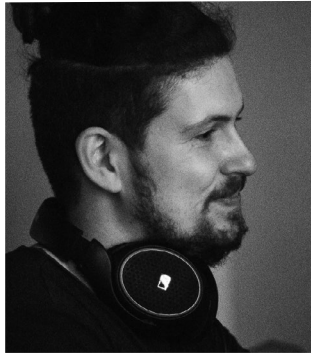
Presenter:

**Vojtěch Konečný**

**- Director, Co-writer;**

**Adéla Konečná**

**- Producer**



## Vojtěch Konečný

Vojtěch Konečný is a Czech writer-director. He is one of the founders of the production company nukleon frame where he also works as a producer. He is currently finishing his MA Film Directing course at FAMU. He graduated from University of the Arts London, where he focused on directing and

screenwriting. Vojtěch has participated in mentoring programs with Béla Tarr and he was an AD trainee on the film set of director Thomas Vinterberg. He was a student juror at international film festivals such as the 75th Venice IFF (Giornate degli Autori), the 24th Ji.hlava IDFF or the 9th Be2Can IFF. His short film *Rose in the Dark* premiered at the 30th Energa-CAMERIMAGE IFF and his short movie *It Can Be Any Day* was the finalist for Magnesia Award at the film awards Czech Lions for Best Student Film of 2023.

## Adéla Konečná

Adéla Konečná is a graduate of the Production Department at FAMU, Prague, and the European Production and Distribution workshop at La Fémis, Paris. She has produced several short films, co-produced a feature-length documentary debut, and is currently developing new projects with nukleon frame in Prague and Bratislava. She has participated in international workshops and platforms including Audiovisual Talent Week (Barcelona), PITCH\_IT, and Vienna Shorts Talent Days, and contributed to the first edition of the Central and Eastern Europe co-production platform at BEAST IFF in Porto.

## Project Synopsis:

*Now and After* takes place in a small fictional Moravian town in the Czech Republic, inspired by the first mass shooting in the country, which occurred in a restaurant in Uherský Brod in 2015. The film follows six main characters—a pair of policemen, a mentally ill woman, a special child, and a couple running a family restaurant—whose lives collide during a violent tragedy that changes them forever. Their stories unfold through three interconnected storylines and a parallel montage, showing key moments: NOW on February 29 of the tragedy, AFTER one year later, and again on February 29, four years later.

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Contact Info:

**vojtech@nukleonframe.cz**

# Point Zero

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Production Country:  
**Ukraine / Croatia**

Producer:  
**Ela Gavrilă, Lyza Anderson**

Budget Estimate:  
**1 500 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**90 min**

Presenter:  
**Ela Gavrilă - Producer;  
Lyza Anderson - Producer**



## **Ela Gavrilă**

Ela Gavrilă is a Romanian-American film producer based in Bucharest, holding an MFA in Film Production. She develops international films bridging Eastern European narratives with a transatlantic perspective. Her debut short *Genre INC* was shortlisted at Flickers' RIFF (USA). She line-pro-

duced *Universe 25* (Slamdance 2025), co-produced *Zoners* starring Christopher Lambert (2026), and is currently working on *Day Six* (UK/Spain) and *Refractions* (Romanian CNC winner 2025). Ela has co-produced over 15 shorts screened at festivals including Sarajevo, Angers, Transilvania IFF, and Berlin Commercial.

## **Lyza Anderson**

Lyza Anderson, born in Ukraine and based in London, is a film producer focused on international projects. She produced the documentary *Rolling Rescue*, worked on *Depravity* (Paramount, 2024), and completed *Tidepools* (4Film, Croatia). Lyza previously contributed to expanding Ukraine's international film presence and currently works with Artist International Group while pursuing an MA in Creative Business at NFTS, London.

## **Project Synopsis:**

*Point Zero* is a gritty indie drama set in a war-torn Eastern European village, where 14-year-old Luka struggles to survive and save his dying mother. Drawn into a mercenary crew's raid, he discovers a covert torture camp hidden in a ruined hospital. Captured and brutalized, Luka must choose between survival and helping others. A raw, character-driven film about war's toll on children and the power of quiet resistance.

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Contact Info:  
**elagavrila0@gmail.com**

# Sophie

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Production Country:

**Czech Republic / Denmark  
/ Germany**

Producer:

**Sean Patterson - Sizzle Real**

Budget Estimate:

**368 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**90 min**

Presenter:

**Vasco Maria Basto Viana  
- Director, Co-Writer;  
Nora Kopp - Co-Writer**



## Vasco Maria Basto Viana

Vasco Maria Basto Viana is a Portuguese writer and director, born in Porto in 1992 and based in Copenhagen. He studied Fine Arts and Contemporary Art in Porto and completed postgraduate directing studies in Barcelona and a master's in film directing at FAMU, Prague. Vasco has directed over fifteen

short films, music videos, and stage productions, including award-winning shorts *Departures*, *Fantasma*, and *Split Leap*. He co-founded Sizzle Real in 2022 and Grand Acting Studio in 2020, including pro bono work with Ukrainian refugees. He completed the MIDPOINT Series Development Program in 2023 and is currently developing *Monochopsia*, *Odeceixe United*, and *Northern Lights* for international distribution.

## Nora Kopp

Born in Germany and based in Copenhagen, Nora Kopp is an actor and screenwriter whose work bridges cultures and disciplines. She trained at the Copenhagen International School of Performing Arts and made her debut as a playwright with *MetaMorphoses*, a sold-out contemporary adaptation of Ovid's transformation tales. She is currently co-writing her debut feature, *Sophie*, a Nordic-European co-production that has already gained international recognition through artist residencies in Finland.

## Project Synopsis:

Sophie, numb to love, travels from Sweden to Copenhagen to reconnect with her old friend Morten. She joins him on a chaotic pub crawl, entertains a failed fling with his co-worker, and spirals into a night of emotional unraveling. A near-dangerous encounter with a stranger pushes her to the edge. When Morten also betrays her trust, Sophie flees at dawn – heartbroken but resolved to reclaim her life. A raw coming-of-age thriller about confronting inner demons.

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Contact Info:

**info@sizzlereal.com**

# The Swimming Pool

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Production Country:

**Poland**

Producer:

**Jean-Nicolas Gilles-Hopfer**

Budget Estimate:

**800 000 EUR  
to 1 500 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**105 min**

Presenter:

**Marta Hopfer-Gilles**

**- Writer;**

**Jean-Nicolas Gilles-Hopfer**

**- Creative Producer**



## **Marta Hopfer-Gilles**

Marta Hopfer-Gilles is a Polish author, producer, screen-writer, script doctor, and creative leader based in Oslo. For almost 20 years she has worked as a communication professional in the television and entertainment industry in Poland, Norway, and other European markets.

In 2021 she published

her first book *Oslo – miasto, które oddycha*, produced and co-authored the true crime podcast *Krwawa Skandynawia* and its sequel *Krwawa Francja* (Empik Go 2022–2024), and completed a TV series script during the international mentorship programme *The Writers Lab*. She has been supported as a writer-in-residence by Art Omi NY in 2024 and was selected for the Banijay Bootcamp 2025 mentorship programme to further develop her screenplay. Her TV series concept *Good Enough* received a Special Mention at Heart of Europe 2024.

## **Jean-Nicolas Gilles-Hopfer**

Jean-Nicolas Gilles-Hopfer is a French producer, art director, creative director, and public speaker who divides his time between Poland, Norway, and France. With a background in editing and post-production, he has worked on a wide range of commercial and artistic projects. As a producer at Autoreverse Productions, he co-created, together with his wife Marta Hopfer-Gilles, the Polish podcast *Krwawa Skandynawia* and its sequel *Krwawa Francja*. Their work reached the Top 10 on the Empik Go platform and received the “Podcast of the Year” award in the True Crime category. He is also co-producer of *Good Enough*, a TV series optioned by Rubicon (Banijay Group), which earned a Special Mention at the Heart of Europe TV Festival 2024.

## **Project Synopsis:**

A Polish couple in their 60s visits their daughter in France for a family gathering. During the trip, long-suppressed marital tensions explode when their villa’s pool cracks during an earthquake. The crisis forces each family member to confront their fears about aging, unfulfilled dreams, and family obligations, culminating in a moment of liberation and unexpected connection.

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Contact Info:

**marta.hopfer@gmail.com**

# Unfettered

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Production Country:

**Georgia / Greece / Finland  
/ Germany**

Producer:

**Asia Datnova**

Budget Estimate:

**2 200 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**120 min**

Presenter:

**Anna Heinämaa  
- Screenwriter**



## **Anna Heinämaa**

Anna Heinämaa is an award-winning screenwriter, playwright and novelist who writes for both adults and young people. She created the original script for *The Fencer*, which made the Oscar- shortlist for Best Foreign Language Film in 2015 and was nominated for the Golden Globe Award

the same year. Her next film *One Last Deal* (2018) premiered at Toronto Film Festival in the prestigious Contemporary World Cinema lineup. Both films were distributed worldwide and screened in numerous festivals around the world. Heinämaa's latest work is a warm-hearted comedy *The Second Act*, which she co-wrote with writer-actress Vera Kiiskinen. The film premiered in February 2023, starring Lena Olin and Rolf Lassgård. Heinämaa, who has been awarded the State Literary Prize for one of her young people's novels, lives in the center of Helsinki. Half of the year she spends on a small island off the coast of Finland, renovating an old house and tending to her garden. She is also a keen épée fencer.

## **Project Synopsis:**

During a trip to a film festival in Paphos, 23-year-old Tilda is kidnapped by a taxi driver, drugged, and taken to a brothel. Realising there is practically no way out, she fights for and eventually achieves the privileged position of porn studio director. Since violence sells best, demand for it escalates and Tilda gradually becomes a useful cog in the machine of sexual slavery... until she is faced with an impossible request: to film a child.

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Contact Info:

**adatnova@gmail.com**

# You Are Not Alone

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Production Country:  
**Ukraine**

Producer:  
**Olena Shatseva**

Budget Estimate:  
**450 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**90 min**

Presenter:  
**Olena Shatseva**  
**- Screenwriter, Producer**



## **Olena Shatseva**

Olena Shatseva is a Ukrainian screenwriter and producer, and the founder of Brave Side Films (2025). She is a member of the Ukrainian Guild of Screenwriters.

In 2024, she won the Netflix & EAVE grant for the development of her original feature script

*You Are Not Alone*,

a coming-of-age drama about adolescence and identity amid turbulent times. She is also the author of the original TV series project *Obolon Sky* (2023), which won the PITCH.UA+ "Stories of Ukrainian Strength" competition (USAID, TCA, Ministry of Culture of Ukraine). Shatseva wrote the TV series *Dream Catcher* (2021–2022, 1+1 Ukraine), and her short film *My Friend Alpaca* (2021) received 11 international awards.

## **Project Synopsis:**

After his mother's death during the invasion, 17-year-old Max is left without support and must move in with his father, whose "perfect" family proves to be an illusion. Feeling like an outsider, he finds purpose in a volunteer hub, a friendship with Eva, and learning to pilot drones. Through these experiences, Max reevaluates his values, discovers his true calling, and abandons the pursuit of a glamorous life, choosing a path where he is no longer alone.

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Contact Info:  
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# PROFILER II

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# 60 Days in Humility

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Production Country:  
**Poland**

Producer:  
**Monika Błachnio - Studio  
Filmowe Kalejdoskop**

Budget Estimate:  
**125 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**50 min**

Presenter:  
**Ewa Żukowska - Director;  
Monika Błachnio - Producer**



## **Ewa Żukowska**

Ewa Żukowska is a graduate of the National Film School in Łódź and the Department of Polish Philology at the University of Białystok. She is a creative producer, production manager, and photographer who has been active in the film and television industry for over two decades. Ewa has

collaborated on numerous documentary projects for both Polish and international audiences. *60 Days of Humility* is a deeply personal and visually driven film, born out of her need to give voice to inner experiences and to share a unique perspective on the world she encountered.

## **Monika Błachnio**

Monika Błachnio is a production manager and executive producer at Studio Filmowe Kalejdoskop. She graduated in Film and New Media Studies from the Jagiellonian University. She has contributed to numerous documentary and feature film productions. Her executive producer portfolio includes the TV plays *Romeo & Julia* directed by Kasia Klimkiewicz and *Lato w Nohant* directed by Kinga Dębska.

## **Project Synopsis:**

In December 2021, I set off on a two-month sea journey to Antarctica to prepare a film about Henryk Arctowski. What began as a technical trip became a personal and spiritual experience. The film depicts daily life on a research ship and follows a woman torn between duty and freedom. In the rhythm of the ocean, far from the world, she reaches a state beyond words – an inner awakening where thought dissolves and something deeper takes its place.

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Contact Info:  
**e.a.zukowska@gmail.com**

# Becoming Christine Granville

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Production Country:  
**Poland**

Producer:  
**Justyna Kluczewska**  
- **Zespół Filmowy Raban**

Budget Estimate:  
**465 116 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**80 min**

Presenter:  
**Sylwia Rosak - Director;**  
**Justyna Kluczewska**  
- **Producer**



## **Sylwia Rosak**

Sylwia Rosak is a Polish director and screenwriter, born in 1992. She holds a master's degree in directing from the Krzysztof Kieślowski Film School and is a recipient of the Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage scholarship. She has collaborated with Oscar-nominated filmmakers

Bartosz Konopka and Aneta Kopacz, and her short films have screened at international festivals. In 2019 she received the HBO Award at the Krakow Film Festival's "Doc Lab Poland — Doc To Start" competition for her project Lili. Since 2021, she has directed two television series for major Polish broadcasters (*Przyjaciółki* for Polsat and *Barwy Szczęścia* for TVP). Her documentary debut Lili premiered at the 39th Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

## **Justyna Kluczewska**

Justyna Kluczewska is a graduate of Warsaw University (Anthropology) and the Krzysztof Kieślowski Film School (Film and Television Production Organization). She has also completed the "Accelerator III" course organised by the Polish Producers Alliance and the IMPAKT workshop run by the W. Slesicki Film Foundation. Involved in the audiovisual industry since childhood, she has gained experience across TV programmes, advertising, feature films, and series. She is currently a partner at Raban, where she continues to develop her skills as a producer.

## **Project Synopsis:**

Fascinated by Krystyna Skarbek, the director sets out to recreate the scene of her death as a way of answering the question: who was Krystyna Skarbek really? The actress cast in the role begins her preparations, which soon evolve into a personal investigation. Through her journey, we uncover the story of a woman who dedicated her life to becoming Christine Granville — the finest agent of British intelligence and the inspiration for the character of James Bond.

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Contact Info:  
**jkuczewska@raban.tv**

# Community

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Production Country:  
**Poland / Iceland**

Producer:  
**Antonina Haber**  
- Creative Producer

Budget Estimate:  
**250 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**71 min**

Presenter:  
**Szymon Radzio - Director;**  
**Antonina Haber**  
- Creative Producer



## Szymon Radzio

Szymon Radzio is a Polish director and screenwriter, currently pursuing his master's degree at the Polish National Film School in Łódź. A member of the Polish Filmmakers Association, he has participated in the Young Talents programme at the Young Horizons International Film Festival

2024, the Script Pitching Academy, Scriptmarket.Pro Youth Exchange Programmes, and DOC LAB POLAND. He is also a recipient of a screenwriting scholarship from the Villa Decius Institute for Culture and the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation. Alongside filmmaking, he works as a specialist at the Mazovia Warsaw Film Commission. His films include the feature documentary *Community* (2027) and the short films *Perseidae* (2025), *A Few Blocks Away* (2021), and *Róźyczka* (2021).

## Antonina Haber

Antonina Haber is a graduate of the Łódź Film School. She has worked as a production manager for short films, assistant to theatre and film directors, and participant in film:lab workshops and training run by the Association of Art-house Cinemas. She gained professional experience in organising film festivals as well as working as a PR and marketing coordinator. She is currently employed in the feature department of TVN Warner Bros. Discovery, overseeing series produced for the HBO Max platform.

## Project Synopsis:

Réttir is the traditional sheep herding that marks the end of the Icelandic summer. In 2024, for the first time in history, Iceland's human population has exceeded the number of sheep. Globalisation sweeping across the island is changing the rhythm of life that has endured for centuries, with many Icelanders now working as tourist farmers. Lárus, an 88-year-old farmer and the story's narrator, recalls the old days when there was nothing – only sand carried by the wind.

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Contact Info:  
**szymekyee@gmail.com**

# Cooperative

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Production Country:  
**Ukraine**

Producer:  
**Tetiana Hrebenik**

Budget Estimate:  
**200 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**70 min**

Presenter:  
**Tetiana Hrebenik**  
**- Producer;**  
**Roman Blazhan - Director,**  
**Executive Producer**



## **Tetiana Hrebenik**

Tetiana Hrebenik began her career as an investigative journalist before moving into editing, creative writing, and producing non-scripted projects. In 2021, she became Head of Non-Scripted Production at ICTV, one of Ukraine's top three TV channels, delivering both entertainment and

investigative formats. She is now Chief Creative Producer at StarLight Doc, developing, producing, and promoting documentaries worldwide, and also serves as Creative Producer of the pop-documentary festival Doc Kyiv Fest.

## **Roman Blazhan**

Roman Blazhan is a Kyiv-based documentary director and producer, founder of Minimal Movie. Originally from Donetsk, he changed his career path after the Russian-Ukrainian war in 2014, turning to film as his passion. Since then, he has directed and produced award-winning shorts and feature documentaries that explore Ukrainian identity, architecture, and society. His works include *Enter Through The Balcony* (2019), *The Basement* (2024, co-produced with ARTE France), and *Generation Ukraine* (2023).

## **Project Synopsis:**

*Cooperative* follows the residents of a decaying 1970s garage cooperative in Kyiv, where 600 units have become homes for a diverse and eclectic community. As developers target the building for demolition, tensions rise between the old and new management, threatening the community's cohesion. Through humour and resilience, the film portrays how ordinary people come together to defend their shared space.

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Contact Info:  
**hutman.a@slm.ua**

# Good Night, Princesses

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Production Country:  
**Poland**

Producer:  
**Barbara Welbel-Vaknin,  
Karolina Śmigiel**

Budget Estimate:  
**340 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**72 min**

Presenter:  
**Iga Łapińska - Director;  
Barbara Welbel-Vaknin  
- Creative Producer**



## Iga Łapińska

Iga Łapińska is a screenwriter and director. Until the age of fifteen, she lived in Chlebiotki, a small village in eastern Poland, which she portrayed in her interactive documentary *The School, a World* (co-produced by the Łódź Film School, premiered at IDFA 2023). She created and directed the six-part

web documentary *A Short Course in Roma Culture* (ZPR Media, 2020) and has authored numerous TV programmes about cinema, including *Private History of Cinema*, *100 Cult Movies*, *Ticket to the Cinema*, *I'm Just Watching* and *8 1/2 Films* for the Polish film channel Stopklatka TV.

## Barbara Welbel-Vaknin

Barbara Welbel-Vaknin is a production manager, television editor, journalist, film critic, and producer. She graduated in Polish Philology from the University of Warsaw and completed postgraduate management studies for creators and cultural animators. Since 2010, she has worked with Telewizja Kino Polska (now Canal+) as senior editor, creative associate, and content selector. Her credits include *Girls' Stories* by Aga Borzym (Millennium Docs Against Gravity, IDFA) and *Letters from Wolf Street* by Arjun Talwar (Berlinale Panorama). She is currently producing Iga Łapińska's *Goodnight, Princesses* and scripting the documentary *Love Letters* (MX35), and recently participated in the MatchMe! program at the Locarno Film Festival.

## Project Synopsis:

A personal yet universal journey into the past, recorded in the collective subconscious of Poles and on VHS tapes. A story about everyday life in Poland during the political transition, about the experience of being a child, a teenager, a woman, a daughter. And about a relentless yet fascinating transformation that cannot be stopped.

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Contact Info:  
**iga.lapinska@interia.pl**

# How to Get a Whale's Tooth

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Production Country:  
**Poland**

Budget Estimate:  
**100 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**90 min**

Presenter:  
**Ignacy Ziarkiewicz - Director**



## **Ignacy Ziarkiewicz**

Ignacy Ziarkiewicz is a Gdańsk-born director, screenwriter, and quest designer. He graduated in Film and Audiovisual Culture Studies from the University of Gdańsk. After presenting his film *How to Get a Whale's Tooth* at Millenium Docs Against Gravity Industry 2025, he received the Let's

Doc Award for Best Project at the 6th Forum of Documentaries for Young Audiences. One of his commercials was screened at the closing gala of the OFF Camera Festival 2021 in Kraków. He is currently also working on the storyline of a video game at ZAKAZANE studio.

## **Project Synopsis:**

Krystyna Maciejewska, the director's grandmother, was an explorer and marine biologist throughout her life. Sadly, she passed away when he was nine years old. Now he wants to understand where her courage came from. He begins by asking his family about her, then searches for traces of her bravery in her old apartment. Next, he delves into her scientific work and the world of marine animals. Finally, he retraces her steps by embarking on the same expedition she once undertook, hoping to find courage there.

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Contact Info:  
**ibziarkiewicz@gmail.com**

# Kesaria: Beyond the Law

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Production Country:

**Georgia / Ukraine / Poland**

Producer:

**Dmytro Bokuliev,  
Oleksandr Mokhnatko**

Budget Estimate:

**225 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**52 min**

Presenter:

**Tetiana Dorodnitsyna  
- Director;  
Oleksandr Mokhnatko  
- Producer**



## **Tetiana Dorodnitsyna**

Tetiana Dorodnitsyna is a Ukrainian film director and editor whose work bridges digital media and independent cinema. She has collaborated with TV channels and film studios while building an internationally recognized body of work. Between 2019–2024,

she edited *Reserved Askania* (Winner, Pelicam Film Festival; Student Jury Award, Docudays UA) and *Roses. Cabaret* (Matrosov Award, Docudays UA; Winner, BRUKIVKA IFF), establishing herself as a distinctive nonfiction voice. She later co-directed *Everything Needs to Live* (Audience Award, Krakow FF; Rights Now! Award, Docudays UA; Best Director, ArtDocFest; Winner, GoEast FF). In 2024, she received the Gaude Polonia scholarship in Poland. Her films continue to screen at festivals and retrospectives worldwide.

## **Oleksandr Mokhnatko**

Oleksandr Mokhnatko is a Warsaw-based designer and director of photography with 27+ years in media, film, and presentation. He specializes in documentaries, overseeing projects from development through delivery. His credits include the 24-episode *The Holodomor 1932–1933* (Ministry of Culture of Ukraine), *Big War* (StarMedia, Babich-Design), *Linden Foods – Past, Present, Future*, and the 52-episode TV series *Seeking Perfection: World Martial Arts*. A longtime partner of the Molodist International Film Festival, he has led its technical operations. His expertise spans creative strategy, workflow, budgeting, team leadership, and broadcaster collaboration, always focused on precise, audience-centered storytelling.

## **Project Synopsis:**

*Kesaria: Beyond the Law* tells the story of Kesaria Abramidze, a trans woman in Georgia, following her gender transition, fight for visibility, and brutal murder. Opening with police footage of her killer, the film contrasts her vibrant public presence with her tragic end. Through social media posts and testimonies, it examines systemic inequality, partner violence, and the state's moral failure.

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Contact Info:

**dorodnitsyna@gmail.com**

# Ruinsurrection

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Production Country:  
**Poland**

Producer:  
**Anna Gawlita, Marta Szymanowska - Kijora Film**

Budget Estimate:  
**355 300 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**75 min**

Presenter:  
**Anna Gawlita - Producer;  
Łukasz Czajka - Director**



## Anna Gawlita

Anna Gawlita is a producer and production manager of documentary films, collaborating with directors such as Tomasz Wolski, Piotr Stasik, and Aleksandra Maciuszek. Their works have received recognition at festivals including Visions du Réel, Ji.hlava IDFF, Krakow Film Festival, Palm

Springs, and the Margaret Mead Film Festival in New York, among many others. She has been awarded Best Producer at both Era New Horizons IFF and Krakow Film Festival, and is a member of the European Film Academy. An alumna of Berlinale Talents, ACE Mentoring, ACE Training Days, Eurodoc, Ji.hlava Emerging Producers, and Ekran+ at the Wajda School, she was also named a "Producer to Watch" by MIPCOM/DOC/TV. Anna is currently pursuing a PhD at the Lodz Film School.

## Łukasz Czajka

Łukasz Czajka is a film director, screenwriter, experienced television journalist, and video game designer. He holds degrees in Political Science and Cultural Studies and is an alumnus of the DOK PRO Documentary Directing and Screenwriting programmes at the renowned Andrzej Wajda School. His feature-length documentary debut, *Of Animals and Men* (2019), premiered in cinemas in Poland and the United States, earning awards at numerous film festivals. In 2021, he completed *Bloodless Revolution: A Brief History of the Internet in Poland*. His most recent film, *The Deluge. Postscriptum*, pays homage to legendary Polish director Jerzy Hoffmann, offering a behind-the-scenes look at his Oscar-nominated historical epic *The Deluge* (1974).

## Project Synopsis:

The film portrays the rebuilding of Warsaw as a symbol of rebirth and collective effort using archival materials, classic films, and contemporary images. This is a story of determination and hope from those who returned to the destroyed city and took on the challenge of rebuilding it. The film pays tribute to architects, urban planners, and ordinary citizens who believed that life must triumph over destruction. The film also seeks to spark reflection on the resilience of cities torn apart by war.

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Contact Info:  
**ala@kijorafilm.com**

# Served

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Production Country:  
**Poland**

Producer:  
**Marta Krzeptowska**  
- ORKA Film

Budget Estimate:  
**1 500 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**8 x 45 min**

Presenter:  
**Marta Krzeptowska**  
- **Producer;**  
**Witold Szablowski**  
- **Writer, Director**



## Marta Krzeptowska

Marta Krzeptowska is a film producer and Head of International Development at ORKA Production Studio, focusing on international co-productions and premium projects. Her recent work includes *Beautiful Evening*, *Beautiful Day* (Croatia's Oscar submission, 2024) and the French-Polish

co-production *Que ma volonté soit faite* (Quinzaine des Cinéastes, Cannes 2025). She has over ten years' experience producing documentaries and factual programs for BBC, Canal+, Discovery, and A&E Network. Marta is a member of the European Producers Club and President of the Polish Postproduction Association, where she helps shape new technology regulations in the region.

## Witold Szablowski

Witold Szablowski is a writer, screenwriter, and documentary filmmaker whose books have been published in thirty countries. He has written about Turkey, Russia, and dictatorships, and interviewed figures from Barack Obama's grandmother to the chefs of Saddam Hussein, Muammar Gaddafi, and Vladimir Putin. His book *How to Feed a Dictator* was acquired by Channing Tatum's production company, with Szablowski as screenwriter and co-producer of the film adaptation (premiere February 2026). His directorial debut *Cuba: A Revolution in the Kitchen* (2020), about Fidel Castro's chef, was nominated for Prix Europa. In 2021, he published *What's Cooking in the Kremlin*, tracing the chefs from the last tsar to Putin and their role in sustaining dictatorships

## Project Synopsis:

The documentary series *Served* uncovers the secret world of personal chefs who cooked for the powerful – from Princess Diana and Michael Jackson to dictators, popes, and presidents. Hosted by journalist Witold Szablowski, the series blends culinary history with political intrigue, revealing how meals have shaped world events. Combining the elegance of *Chef's Table* with the tension of a political thriller, it offers a gripping journey through history's most intimate kitchens.

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Contact Info:  
**m.krzeptowska@dorkafilm.pl**

# Stay Toxic

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Production Country:  
**Poland**

Producer:  
**Red Noses**

Budget Estimate:  
**190 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**90 min**

Presenter:  
**Paweł Olearczyk - Director**



## **Paweł Olearczyk**

Paweł Olearczyk is a Polish writer, director, and actor whose work spans literature, web series, and film. From 2014–2021 he created the award-winning comedy web series *The Last Word*, which has reached millions of viewers online and at festivals. In 2020 he wrote, directed, and produced

*Dream Store*, a short film in the style of magical realism, honoured at festivals in Poland, Brazil, Mexico, and South Korea. In 2025 he completed a new short film, *Elves Don't Eat Rice*. His creative projects continue to be presented internationally at festivals and screenings.

## **Project Synopsis:**

Natalia, 19, raised without a mother, stands on the threshold of adulthood, fighting for herself and her dream of becoming an actress. The film is an intimate portrait of a young woman who, despite a difficult past, family responsibilities, and fear of change, is determined to find her own path. Over the course of a year filled with emotions, relationships, and challenges, we witness her growth and first steps into adulthood. Will she manage to realise her dream without losing herself along the way?

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# PITCH HIGHLIGHTS

PITCH HIGHLIGHTS



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# The Adventures of a Turbo-Folk Princess

## THE BEST OF MEDIA PLAY

Production Country:  
**North Macedonia**

Genre:  
**Series - Musical, Dramedy**

Producer:  
**Pece Taleski**  
**- OXO Production**

Budget Estimate:  
**2 000 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**10 x 30 min**

Presenter:  
**Sanya Arsovska**  
**- Creative Producer;**  
**Pece Taleski - Producer**



### Sanya Arsovska

Sanya Arsovska is an actress and creative producer, employed at the Drama Theater Skopje. Since 2021, she has worked with OXO Production on projects such as 5+ Family and Petko Shetko, both popular children's programmes. She is also developing several TV series, including *The Pallaveevi*

*Sisters, Las Veles, and Adventures of a Turbo Folk Princess* by Andrey Volkashin and Peter Vulchev. The latter won the Cinelink Award for Development at the Sarajevo Film Festival (2023) and the top development prize from the Council of Europe at Conecta Fiction & Entertainment in Spain (2024).

### Pece Taleski

Pece Taleski is the founder and executive producer of OXO, active in television and film production since the early 1990s. He created and produced some of North Macedonia's most popular TV shows, including *Five Plus* (2007–2021), a children's programme later adapted into a bilingual series, and *Prespav* (2016–2021), the country's first sitcom and its most successful TV production of the last 20 years. Over the past decade, Taleski has also worked as producer, co-producer, and executive producer on more than 20 short films, animations, and documentaries. Highlights include Tamara Kotevska's *Solo Mode* (2021), which premiered at the Sarajevo Film Festival, the short documentary *We Are All Going to Die* (2020), and the award-winning animated films *Piglet Who Wanted to Be a Bird* (2014) and *The Man Who Stole the Sun* (2014). He is now focusing on developing regional TV and film projects and is a co-founder of *GLEY*, North Macedonia's first commercial streaming service.

### Project Synopsis:

Vaska, a small-town Macedonian girl with a golden voice, is trapped between stage fright and her mother's belief that only marriage can secure her future. Engaged to a charming businessman – secretly a gangster – her world shatters when she accidentally poisons him. Fleeing, she meets turbo-folk legend Kuraima, who offers her a shot at the Balkavision contest. With the help of Ebony, a fiery stripper-prostitute posing as a professional dancer, and a crew of misfits, Vaska embarks on a wild Balkan adventure – dodging danger, chasing dreams, and battling her deepest fears.

Contact Info:  
**sanya.arsovska@oxo.org.mk**

# The Forbidden Aunt

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## THE BEST OF MEDIA PLAY

Production Country:  
**Serbia**

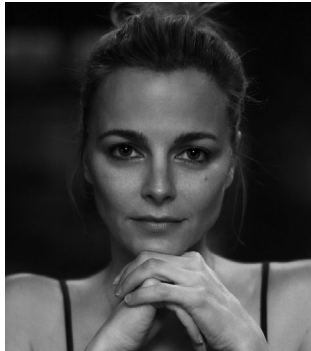
Genre:  
**Documentary Soap Opera**

Producer:  
**Bojana Novaković, Sonja Božić, Milan Stojanović**  
**- SENSE PRODUCTION**

Budget Estimate:  
**202 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**82 min**

Presenter:  
**Bojana Novaković**  
**- Writer, Producer**



## Bojana Novaković

Bojana Novaković is an award-winning actress, writer, and community organiser. She was most recently seen as Clara in the Hulu/Warner Brothers Australia series *Love Me*, a role that earned her two AACTA nominations. Her television credits include CBS's *Instinct*, Showtime's *Shameless*, HBO's *Westworld*,

ABC's *Operation Buffalo*, *Marking Time* (for which she won an AFI Award), and *Chicago PD*. Her feature film work includes *Birds of Prey*, *I*, *Tonya*, *Beyond Skyline*, *Generation Um*, *Devil*, *Edge of Darkness*, *The Little Death*, *Burning Man*, and *Blackrock*, among others. Beyond her screen work, Bojana is a committed community organiser and currently coordinates Mars sa Drine ([www.marssadrine.org](http://www.marssadrine.org)), a Serbian movement opposing Rio Tinto's proposed mining project, for which she has received several environmental awards. Her theatre experience spans acting, directing, producing, and writing, with credits including *Macbeth* and *Romeo and Juliet*. She has received multiple Helpmann and Green Room Award nominations in Australia. Bojana was also the co-founder and director of Ride on Theatre in Australia, where she produced and starred in over 13 productions.

## Project Synopsis:

In a world overflowing with soap operas, one Serbian family proves that reality can be darker and far more gripping than fiction. After a breakup, actress-turned-filmmaker Bojana Novakovic returns from Hollywood to rural Serbia to reconnect with her eccentric Aunt Gordana. Instead of finding peace, she is pulled into a storm of secrets that exposes four generations of hidden trauma. Gordana – once a rebellious hairdresser, mother, alcoholic, and party queen – seemed to embody survival. But behind her vibrant façade lay neglect, addiction, and the buried pain of childhood abuse. What began as Bojana's attempt to tell a story of redemption transforms into a raw exploration of generational wounds and resilience. *The Forbidden Aunt* is a gripping portrait of women bound by trauma, addiction, and the search for healing.

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Contact Info:  
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# Forest Glade

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## THE BEST OF MEDIA PLAY

Production Country:  
**Ukraine / Germany / France**

Genre:  
**Creative Documentary**

Producer:  
**Loránd Balázs Imre**  
**- filmDOUGH Productions**

Budget Estimate:  
**350 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**90 min**  
**(TV version planned: 52 min)**

Presenter:  
**Loránd Balázs Imre**  
**- Producer**



## Loránd Balázs

Loránd Balázs Imre is a Berlin-based producer, cinematographer, and co-founder of filmDOUGH Productions. He works across creative documentary and commercial content, with a background in journalism and corporate communication. A graduate of the filmArche film school

in Berlin, he has participated in numerous international labs including EsoDoc, Doc Society's Democracy Story Lab, Balkan Watchers, and dok.incubator. He is a 2025 Emerging Producers fellow. His producer credits include *I'm People*, *I Am Nobody* (DOCNYC, DokuFest), *Ghetto Balboa and Ultra* (SpeakEasy Project), and the long-running *Leave/Stay* documentary series (Erasmus Euro Media Award). After starting out in Hungary, he moved to Berlin and built a cross-border production profile with a focus on politically and socially engaged storytelling. He is a grantee of DocSociety, Fritt Ord, and the Czech Film Fund, and works regularly as a DoP and story consultant. His latest project, *80 Angry Journalists*, is a deeply personal account of media resistance in Hungary.

## Project Synopsis:

At a forest-edge rehabilitation center near Kyiv, Ukrainian soldiers have only three weeks to confront invisible wounds before returning to war. Observed by the watchful voice of the building itself, *The Forest Glade* explores the fragile rituals of healing in a country where peace is a distant echo.

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# Mileva: Frau Einstein

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## THE BEST OF NEM

Production Country:  
**Serbia**

Genre:  
**Fiction Film / Drama / Biopic**

Budget Estimate:  
**2 000 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**105 min**

Presenter:  
**Selena Stanković  
- Screenwriter**



## Selena Stanković

Selena Stanković is a screenwriter born and raised in Belgrade, Serbia. She earned her MA in Screenwriting from California State University, Los Angeles (2010), and attended Robert McKee's seminar in London (2013). Her master's thesis screenplay reached the quarterfinals or higher

in several prestigious U.S. screenwriting competitions, including the Nicholl Fellowship, Final Draft's Big Break, the BlueCat Screenplay Competition, and the Cinequest Film Festival. Since returning to Belgrade in 2011, Selena has worked as a copywriter, occasionally as a script reader/doctor, and has been developing her first book. She writes in both English and Serbian.

## Project Synopsis:

In 1901, Mileva Marić returns to her family home in Titel to give birth to Albert Einstein's illegitimate daughter, whom she must leave behind. She and Albert later marry, raising two sons while living modestly in Zurich. Though Mileva contributes to his work, the papers appear under his name alone. As Albert's fame grows, their marriage unravels. He begins an affair, imposes harsh conditions on Mileva, and eventually seeks divorce. Struggling with breakdown and isolation, Mileva finds renewed strength through the women's movement in Belgrade and resolves to fight for her children and her dignity. She unofficially completes the exam she once abandoned, resists Albert's attempts at reconciliation, and secures custody of her sons along with a divorce settlement tied to his future Nobel Prize.

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Contact Info:  
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# OlymPiano – 100 Years Chopin Competition

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Production Country:  
**Poland / Germany**

Genre:  
**Documentary**

Producer:  
**Lily Küntzle**

Budget Estimate:  
**200 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**90 min / 52 min**

Presenter:  
**Lily Küntzle - Producer**



## Lily Küntzle

Lily Küntzle knows how to take on new challenges and apply her knowledge professionally: with a background in musicology and several years of work experience in festival organization, she has quickly risen to the position of producer at sounding images, supervising

the renowned series *Magic Moments of Music*, among others. As a digital native and an everyday user of social media, Lily brings her expertise on digital distribution, digital audiences, and media presentations and delivery channels into her everyday work. Working at sounding images, an established production company focusing on documentaries all around music and culture, Lily has gained and extended a profound knowledge of classical film and documentary making on a high level.

## Project Synopsis:

Frédéric Chopin symbolised Poland's longing for freedom and national identity. The Chopin Piano Competition, founded in 1927, reflects 100 years of political change. Banned by Nazis, redefined under communism, and reimagined post-1989, the competition mirrors Poland's history. The film uses rare archival footage and intimate interviews to show how the event, beyond music, reveals societal and geopolitical shifts.

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# The Right Question

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## THE BEST OF NEM

Production Country:  
**Serbia**

Genre:  
**Entertainment Format  
/ Quiz Show**

Producer:  
**Djordje Stanković**

Budget Estimate:  
**30 000 EUR per episode**

Estimated Runtime:  
**weekly prime time 50 min  
episodes**

Presenter:  
**Djordje Stanković  
- Screenwriter, Producer**



## Djordje Stanković

Djordje Stanković graduated from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade, Serbia (2020) and earned a Master's degree in Film and TV Production (2022). He won second place at NEM Zagreb's pitch competition with the entertainment format *Escape Life!* (2023). He works as a screenwriter

for Prva TV (Serbia) on numerous entertainment projects, focusing on unscripted formats. He is also the creator and screenwriter of the quiz show *Hat-Trick* for Arena Sport (Serbia). Additionally, he was among the Top 5 alternate finalists at the MIPFORMATS competition (Cannes, 2022).

## Project Synopsis:

In this quiz show, contestants are given an answer and must come up with the correct question for it. How do they know if they've got it right? A jury of three quiz experts – well-known participants, question writers, or hosts – decide whether the question meets all the necessary criteria. The competitor who proves best at inventing questions across multiple rounds wins the episode.

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Contact Info:  
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# Sub Balkans

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## THE BEST OF MEDIA PLAY

Production Country:  
**Moldova / Romania**

Genre:  
**Documentary / Music  
/ Road Movie**

Producer:  
**Sergiu Scobioala  
– Realitatea Film**

Budget Estimate:  
**240 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**90 min**

Presenter:  
**Max T. Ciorbă - Director;  
Sergiu Scobioala – Producer**



### Max T. Ciorbă

Max T. Ciorbă is a Moldovan documentary filmmaker. He has directed several creative documentaries in Moldova and Romania, focusing on themes of identity, memory, and sound. He currently teaches documentary film directing at the Academy of Arts in Chişinău and is a PhD candidate in film

studies. Sub Balkans is his second feature documentary, continuing his exploration of cultural storytelling through immersive, observational cinema.

### Sergiu Scobioala

Sergiu Scobioala is a Moldovan creative producer and founder of Realitatea Film. With a background in journalism and television directing, he has worked across formats ranging from TV series to feature films and international co-productions.

### Project Synopsis:

Sub Balkans is a documentary that follows Romanian artist Bean on a transformative journey across the Balkans in search of musical inspiration. Blending observational storytelling with a cinematic approach, the series explores the traditional folk music, instruments, and cultural identities of eight Balkan countries. Through deep artistic collaborations with local musicians, the project documents the creation of an original music album that unites ancient rhythms with modern sounds, revealing the shared heritage and creative power of the region.

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Contact Info:  
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# Underneath the Waves

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## THE BEST OF NEM

Production Country:  
**Hungary**

Genre:  
**Documentary**

Producer:  
**Timea Huszár**

Budget Estimate:  
**100 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**75 min**

Presenter:  
**Timea Huszár - Producer**



## Timea Huszár

Timea Huszár is a producer working across short films, documentaries, and feature films. She began her career in international service productions as a personal assistant to producers and has over 10 years of experience in film production and production services.

## Project Synopsis:

Upon digging herself out of a mass grave, Angéla Lakatos becomes the matriarch of the only Roma family to survive the extermination of her city's community during the Holocaust. Her story, told through her descendants who grapple with inherited trauma, intertwines with an amateur historian's efforts to shed light on the nearly forgotten grave site. Through their struggles, *Underneath the Waves* traces the echoes of this killing into the modern day.

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