

W W A

R S

A W

WARSAW



HEART  
OF EUROPE  
INTERNATIONAL  
TV FESTIVAL  
& FORUM

16-19 SEPTEMBER 2024

FORUM



Dear Guests,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you, on behalf of TVP, to the 4th Heart of Europe International TV Festival and Forum. Since its inception, our Forum has grown significantly, establishing itself as a boutique platform for pitching and a key meeting place for creators, producers, and media executives from across Central and Eastern Europe. This year, we have encountered notable challenges due to the ongoing restoration of the rule of law in Poland, which has led to a legislative deadlock and the suspension of funding for public service media. Despite these difficulties, our commitment to sustaining this vital initiative remains strong.

We are dedicated to ensuring that the Heart of Europe Forum not only endures but also continues to thrive as a space where creativity can flourish without any constraints. Our dedication to this event underscores our belief in providing an open and dynamic platform for all voices.

This year, we are proud to present a diverse range of submissions, with selected pitches to be showcased live here in Warsaw over the coming days. Our esteemed panel of judges will evaluate the entries in three categories: fiction film, series, and documentary.

The Forum's agenda includes a variety of activities, such as pitching sessions, expert panels, presentations, and numerous opportunities for networking. The Heart of Europe Forum remains an important hub for celebrating and fostering Central and Eastern European creativity, despite the setbacks we have faced.

Thank you for your support and for joining us in continuing this important tradition. Your participation helps ensure that the Heart of Europe Forum remains a vibrant and inclusive platform for creative exchange.

**The Heart of Europe Team**

### Festival & Forum Venue:

#### **Vienna House by Wyndham Mokotow Warsaw**

Postępu 4, 02-676 Warsaw, Poland

### Info Desk:

#### **Opening Hours:**

Monday	16 September	3 pm – 7 pm
Tuesday	17 September	9 am – 5 pm
Wednesday	18 September	9 am – 5 pm

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.

## CONTACT

### 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)

## MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

- 5:30 - 6:00 pm Heart of Europe 2024 Opening
- 6:00 - 6:45 pm Panel discussion: **"Binge-Worthy Public Media: Serial Storytelling in PSM"**
- 7:00 - 10:00 pm Welcome cocktail

## TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

- 10:30 - 12:00 pm **Documentary Pitching Session**
- 12:00 - 12:30 pm Coffee break
- 12:30 - 2:00 pm **Feature Film Pitching Session**
- 2:00 - 3:00 pm Networking lunch
- 3:00 - 3:45 pm Panel discussion: **"AI in the Creative World: Tackling Copyright Issues and Opportunities"**
- 3:45 - 4:30 pm Presentation: **"Dubbing a Movie with AI: A Case Study"**
- 4:30 - 4:45 pm Presentation: **"Cultural Content and Media: Meet the IMZ"**
- 7:00 - 10:00 pm Evening cocktail

## WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

- 10:30 - 11:30 am **TV Series Pitching Session – part 1**
- 11:30 - 11:45 am Coffee break
- 11:45 - 12:45 pm **TV Series Pitching Session – part 2**
- 12:45 - 1:00 pm Coffee break
- 1:00 - 1:45 pm Panel discussion: **“From Dream to Screen: Funding, Training, and Workshops for Creative Success”**
- 1:45 - 2:00 pm Presentation: **“How to Get Money When You Don’t Have Institutional Help: Crowdfunding as a Solution”**
- 2:00 - 3:00 pm Networking lunch
- 3:00 - 3:45 pm Panel discussion: **“Entertainment Spotlight: The Formats Dominating Central and Eastern Europe”**
- 3:45 - 4:15 pm Presentation: **“Public Service Broadcasters in the European Commissioning Landscape”**
- 4:15 - 4:45 pm **Best of NEM: Pitching Sessions**
- 7:00 - 8:00 pm **Heart of Europe 2024 Awards**
- 8:00 - 11:00 pm Closing cocktail

## THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

Farewells and departures - see you next year!

### Binge-Worthy Public Media: Serial Storytelling in PSM

**16.09, 6:00 - 6:45 pm**

Moderator:

**Małgorzata Dzieciniak** (TVP)

Speakers:

**Jana Semjonova** (LTV - Latvian Television),

**Jiří Vlach** (ČT - Czech Television),

**Michał Maksym** (TVP), **Sergiy Nedzelskyy**  
(Suspilne Ukraine)

### AI in the Creative World: Tackling Copyright Issues and Opportunities

**17.09, 3:00 - 3:45 pm**

Moderator:

**Sylvia Czubkowska**

(Techstorie cohost, Radio TokFM)

Speakers:

**Bartłomiej Witucki** (Safjan & Witucki),

**Marek Mardosewicz** (founder  
of AI blnk), **Michele Evangelista** (EBU)

### Dubbing a Movie with AI: A Case Study

**17.09, 3:45 - 4:30 pm**

Speaker:

**Łukasz Siódmok** (Film RÓJ S.A.)

### Cultural Content and Media: Meet the IMZ

**17.09, 4:30 - 4:45 pm**

Speaker:

**Max Beckham-Ortner** (IMZ International  
Music + Media Centre)



## From Dream to Screen: Funding, Training, and Work- shops for Creative Success

**18.09, 1:00 - 1:45 pm**

Moderator:

**Małgorzata Dzieciniak** (TVP)

Speakers:

**Barbora Struss** (CEO of Midpoint Institute), **Ilona Krupa** (Creative Europe Desk Poland), **Agnieszka Szczerbiak** (The Polish Film Institute)

## How to Get Money When You Don't Have Institutional Help: Crowdfunding as a Solution

**18.09, 1:45 - 2:00 pm**

Speaker:

**Łukasz Siódmok** (Film RÓJ S.A.)

## Entertainment Spotlight: The Formats Dominating Central and Eastern Europe

**18.09, 3:00 - 3:45 pm**

Moderator:

**Yako Molhov** (CEETV)

Speakers:

**Victoria Elmacioglu** (NATPE),  
**Marta Csizmadia** (Rabbit Films, M6  
Formats), **Deniz Tuzun** (Global Agency)

## Public Service Broadcasters in the European Commissioning Landscape

**18.09, 3:45 - 4:15 pm**

Speaker:

**Léa Hermen** (EBU)

NIKODEM ROZBICKI    ALEKSANDRA PIOTROWSKA

# UNCERTAINTY

*Mieśkiewicz*

IN LOVE

TVP

# Jury

Jury



16-19 SEPTEMBER 2024

**Maria Kivinen**

Sales Manager  
YLE

---

Maria Kivinen is responsible for the international sales of Nordic fiction series, documentaries, remakes, and kids' and youth programs, as well as music and performing arts, to various platforms including TV and VOD worldwide at Yle, the Finnish Broadcasting Company, where she has worked since 2013. Additionally, Kivinen is a RADA-trained dramaturg and actress. She graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in 2012 and, prior to her career in television, performed in numerous stage productions across the UK. In 2013, she wrote her debut play, *The Idealist*, which was produced by her company, Odd Stumble, at the Tara Arts Theatre in London and the Brighton Fringe Festival. Kivinen has extensive expertise in creatively and commercially marketing and selling Finnish stories globally and has built a strong network of clients among major TV and VOD players around the world.

**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 ten editions of NEM Dubrovnik and two 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. Presently, pickbox NOW is 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.

---

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 like *Święta inaczej*, as well as short films such as *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, I 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. Additionally, Wiktor runs screenwriting workshops both 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

---

Krzysztof Tyszowiecki has extensive experience in the Polish television and cinema industry. As a Commissioning Editor, Story Editor, and Supervising Editor, he has been instrumental in the success of several popular and award-winning TV series, including *Zatoka szpiegów* (*The Bay of Spies*), *Czas honoru* (*Time of Honour*), *Ojciec Mateusz* (*Father Matthew*), *Filip, Prokurator*, and *Performer* (which was awarded at the Berlinale 2015). He has also co-authored screenplays for various films, such as *Proceder*. A law graduate, Krzysztof also studied theatre and Latin American studies. In addition to his professional achievements, he is a retired DJ and an active basketball player.



**Krzysztof Tyszowiecki**

Editor  
TVP



**Anna Barbara Kowalska**

Editor  
TVP

---

Anna Barbara Kowalska has worked in the film industry for over 20 years. She began her career as a talent agent, collaborating with some of the biggest stars of Polish cinema, including Maciej Stuhr, Agata Buzek, Borys Szyc, and Marcin Dorociński. In 2012, she completed postgraduate studies in Film and Television Production Organization at the Lodz Film School. Since 2015, she has worked as a content editor and script reviewer in the feature development departments of TVN and TVP, contributing to various film and television productions. Her projects include the box office hit *Taxing Love*, directed by Bartek Ignaciuk, as well as critically acclaimed films such as *25 Years of Innocence*, directed by Jan Holoubek, *It Came From The Water*, directed by Xawery Żuławski, and *Doppelgänger: The Double* directed by Jan Holoubek.



**Marge Liiske**

Head of Industry  
Tallinn Black Nights Film  
Festival

---

Marge Liiske is a seasoned professional in the Estonian film industry, currently serving as the Head of Industry at the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival (PÖFF), also known as Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event. This platform fosters connections between the global audiovisual industry and the regional market, promoting partnerships across ICT, gaming, mobile technology, and venture capital sectors. Since 2014, PÖFF has been one of the 15 A-list film festivals accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF), alongside prestigious festivals such as Cannes, Karlovy Vary, San Sebastian, Locarno, Venice, Berlin, Cairo, Mar del Plata, Goa, Tokyo, and others.

Marge's previous roles include Managing Director at the Estonian Film Institute — the primary film financing body in Estonia — and Manager at MEDIA Desk Estonia, both of which positioned her at the forefront of national cinema development and integration into European networks. She has also worked as a Production Manager at a film production company and as a Project Coordinator within a cinema network.

An alumna of the European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs (EAVE), Marge Liiske also contributes to the growth of the Estonian film industry by serving on the supervisory board of the Estonian Film Institute. Additionally, Marge is a member of the European Film Academy.

---

Kristīne Simšone works at the Riga International Film Festival, where she is responsible for the co-production market, RIGA IFF SHOWCASE — a new platform for upcoming Baltic and Eastern European feature films and series. With extensive experience in the film industry, she is one of the founding members of the festival team, having worked on programming and educational initiatives. Outside her festival duties, Kristīne is an active film journalist and critic. She has served on various juries and expert panels and is one of the international voters for the Golden Globe Awards. When not working, she enjoys walks in nature with her sausage dog.



**Kristīne Simšone**

RIGA IFF SHOWCASE Curator  
Riga International Film Festival

---

Barbora Struss is the co-founder and CEO of MIDPOINT Institute, an international audiovisual training and networking organization based in Prague. MIDPOINT provides comprehensive professional support in film and series development, individual skills development, and post-production. With a background in the European film industry, Barbora has extensive experience in film sales, international public relations, and training program management. Before founding MIDPOINT, she worked in international PR for the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, led the Creative Europe MEDIA Desk CZ, and held various roles in film sales and distribution.



**Barbora Struss**

Co-Founder and CEO  
MIDPOINT Institute

---

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



**Agnieszka Barańska-Cieślak**

Creative Producer  
and Director  
TVP

---

Agnieszka Barańska-Cieślak is a Creative Producer and Director with extensive experience in various TV formats, including news, reality shows, and entertainment. She has worked internationally for Polish Public Television as a Producer, with a focus on documentary storytelling. She has also participated in numerous international documentary pitch sessions.



**Anna Bławut Mazurkiewicz**

Producer  
Aura Films, Enter Film

---

Film producer and co-founder of the Polish production companies: Aura Films (aurafilms.pl) and Enter Film (enter.film). As a producer, production manager, and consultant in the field of copyright law, she has worked on numerous documentary and feature films that have been awarded at Polish and international film festivals. Her recent documentary productions, co-created with Polish director Lidia Duda, include *Fledglings* (winner of the Prix Italia, among others) and *Forest*, as well as *Everything Needs to Live* (prior to its international premiere), co-produced with Ukrainian directors Tetiana Dorodnitsyna and Andriy Lytvynenko. In 2024, the Polish Producers Alliance, along with ATM Group and FDR Studio, awarded her the prize for Best Producer of Documentaries and Short Films. She is a lecturer at the Lodz Film School and the Wajda School. She is a member of the Polish Film Academy and the European Film Academy.



**Hicran Lefort**

Head of Sales / Sales Director  
MIP Markets

---

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.



---

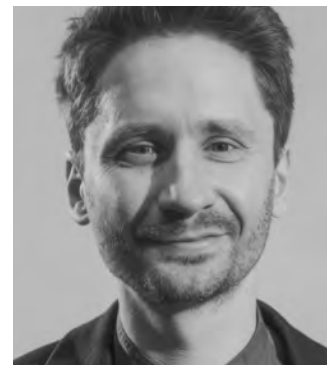
Feras Fayyad is a two-time Oscar-nominated and Emmy-winning director, producer, writer, and TED speaker. He gained international acclaim for his documentaries *Last Men in Aleppo* (2017) and *The Cave* (2019), earning over 120 awards, including the TIFF People's Choice Award and the Sundance Grand Jury Prize, alongside two Academy Award nominations for Best Documentary Feature. Fayyad is the first Syrian director to be nominated for both an Academy Award and the Directors Guild of America Award. He is a two-time Peabody Award winner, often regarded as the equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize, and has also received the Danish Academy Award, known as "The Danish Oscar." He made history as the first non-Danish director to be honored as the most talented director in Denmark. Fayyad has collaborated with leading American and European film studios and networks, including Netflix, Disney, National Geographic, ARTE, PBS, BBC, and ARD. His films have been supported by top film funds in Europe, the UK, and the U.S., such as the Sundance Film Institute, National Geographic, Danish Film Institute, and German Film Fund. He has served on the jury for prestigious film festivals like Zurich, Sundance, Sheffield, and Malmö, and has mentored emerging filmmakers through the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Fayyad has conducted masterclasses at institutions such as Columbia University, Munich Film School, and Yale Film School. He is currently directing two fiction films and working on two animations with U.S. and U.K.-based studios.

**Feras Fayyad**

Director, Editor, Screenwriter  
*Last Men in Aleppo, The Cave*

---

Karol Piekarczyk is the Artistic Director of Millennium Docs Against Gravity, the largest film festival in Poland. With an audience of over 165,000, it is one of the most popular documentary film festivals in the world. 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

PIOTR  
GŁOWACKI

ZUZANNA  
GALEWICZ

WIKTORIA  
KRUSZCZYŃSKA

MACIEJ  
PIOTROWSKI

IGOR  
PASZCZYK

BARTŁÓMIJ  
DEKLEWA



TVP

# Speakers

Speakers



16-19 SEPTEMBER 2024



---

**Małgorzata Dzieciniak**

Journalist  
TVP

Małgorzata Dzieciniak is a journalist with 17 years of experience working in television. She began her professional career in Poznań at the TVN24 newsroom and later worked as a reporter and presenter at the Poznań branch of Telewizja Polska, TVP Info, and in the *Fakty o Świecie* newsroom at TVN24 BiŚ. She is the author of numerous television reports, live segments, and has hosted public affairs programs and news services. She was also the producer of the lifestyle program *Pytanie na Śniadanie*, where she is currently working again as an editorial manager and deputy head of the program.



---

**Katarzyna Pilewska**

Journalist, Actress  
Pitching Session Host

Katarzyna Pilewska is a journalist and actress with a passion for storytelling. She currently works in radio, where she shares news, dives into radio reporting, and explores documentary theater. Since 2022, Katarzyna has also been a host for the Heart of Europe, while running workshops and training sessions on voice work. You might also catch her in various Polish TV series. She loves singing, reading, and connecting with people.

---

**Max Beckham-Ortner**

Secretary General  
IMZ International Music + Media Centre

Max Beckham-Ortner is an experienced professional with a proven track record in relationship management and cultural management. His diverse background spans the music and media sectors, non-profit organizations, and the arts. As Secretary General of the IMZ International Music + Media Centre, Max demonstrates outstanding organizational and leadership abilities, skillfully curating music film festivals and fostering sustainable networks that bridge various industries, driving the creation of valuable business opportunities.



---

**Marta Csizmadia**

Independent Sales Consultant  
Rabbit Films, M6 Formats

Marta Csizmadia has been an independent television consultant and advisor in format distribution since 2020. With two decades of experience, she is an expert in the television landscape of Central and Eastern Europe. She is currently collaborating with Rabbit Films of Finland and the French company M6 Formats, focusing on the CEE region for both companies. Previously, she held various content sales positions at Keshet International, Twofour Rights (now part of ITV Studios), Viacom (now Paramount Global Distribution), and Zodiak Rights (now Banijay Rights).





---

**Sylwia Czubkowska**

Journalist, Host of Techstorie  
TOK FM

Economic and technology journalist who has contributed to media outlets such as *Gazeta Wyborcza*, *Dziennik Gazeta Prawna*, *Przekrój*, *Newsweek*, *Pismo*, and *Forbes Women*.

She is the host of the *Techstorie* podcast on TOK FM radio. Sylwia is the creator of the magazine *Spider's Web+*, which was nominated for the Grand Press Digital award in 2022. She has been frequently nominated for prestigious journalism awards, including Grand Press, the Teresa Torańska Newsweek Award, and the Marek Król Award. She is a four-time winner of the President of the Patent Office award for articles on innovation, as well as the recipient of the Prof. Roman Czernecki Award and the Institute of Reportage's "Topic: Refugees" award. She is also the author of the book *The Chinese Hold Us Tightly*, published in 2022 by Znak Publishing.



---

**Victoria Elmacioglu**

Business Development Manager, Head Buyer Relations  
NATPE

Victoria Elmacioglu has an extensive track record in the TV industry, with more than 20 years of experience in production, development, distribution, and events. Her production company and studio facilities in Athens, Greece, have created thousands of hours of content for channels and platforms operating throughout Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), Southeast Europe (SEE), and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Since the company's acquisition of NATPE assets in January 2023, she has been working with Brunico as Head of Buyer Relations and Business Development. Victoria has played an integral role in relaunching the NATPE brand, organizing successful events in Budapest and Miami. The next event is NATPE Global '25, which will be co-located with the Realscreen Summit in Miami. Spanning the week of February 3-7, 2025, the two events will provide a vital cross-industry space for cultivating domestic and international business relationships within the most comprehensive market on the event calendar, maximizing commercial opportunities on both the finished content sales and commissioning ends of the spectrum.

---

### **Michele Evangelista**

Senior IP Counsel  
EBU

Michele Evangelista is the Senior IP Counsel at the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). Prior to his role at EBU, he served as Associate Legal Counsel at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), where he focused on international copyright and geographical indications policies. Earlier in his career, Michele worked with the External Action Service of the European Union and practiced law in Italy.

He holds a Master's in International and European Law from Radboud University in the Netherlands and a Master's in Law from Federico II University of Naples. In 2021, he completed a Diploma in Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property at the Center for Intellectual Property Studies, University of Strasbourg.



---

### **Léa Hermen**

Researcher  
EBU

Léa Hermen is a researcher at the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), the world's largest union of public-service broadcasters, based in Geneva, Switzerland. She is part of the EBU's Media Intelligence Service (MIS), a team of researchers who collect data and provide insights about EBU Members and the place of public service media in the wider audiovisual industry. Within this team, Léa is responsible for maintaining expertise on the topics of commissioning, production, and programming of TV/video content. Prior to joining the EBU in 2023, Léa worked as a Media Analyst for Glance Médiamétrie, the international insights service of France's TV and radio audience measurement company, based in Paris.





---

**Ilona Krupa**

Creative Europe Desk Poland

Within Creative Europe Desk Poland, Ilona Krupa is responsible for supporting Polish audiovisual industry professionals applying for grants under the Creative Europe MEDIA programme. She provides information on available funding schemes, delivers training and consultations, and organizes events aimed at building the capacity of Polish applicants and disseminating project results. Before joining CED Poland, she worked in the Film Production and Film Project Development Department at the Polish Film Institute.



---

**Michał Maksym**

Producer  
TVP

Michał Maksym has a background in social psychology. In 2003, he paused his newly initiated doctoral studies to embark on a career in television production. Over the years, he progressed through various roles, from 2nd Assistant Production Manager to Producer at TVP's AKFIS. The majority of his professional experience is tied to the production of television programs. Michał has been with TVP since March 2022. Initially, he worked as a Production Manager in the role of Producer until July 2024, when he transitioned to the position of Producer. Since joining TVP, Michał has been the supervising producer for the network's flagship series, *M Jak Mitość*. His credits as a producer on behalf of TVP include films such as *Under the Volcano* (TIFF 2024, Gdynia FF2024) and *Minghun* (New Horizons FF, Gdynia FF 2024) among others.



---

**Marek Mardosewicz**

Screenwriter, Playwright  
Founder  
AI blnk

Marek Mardosewicz is a screenwriter, playwright, and visual artist. A graduate of the Academy of Art in Szczecin, Theater Studies at Jagiellonian University, and the Script course at Wajda School. In his work, he explores themes of new technologies, their relationship with society, and how they impact daily life. He is the author of screenplays for short films, radio plays *Myspace* and *E-mmortal*, and the feature film *T3raz my* (the rights to which were acquired by KADR Film Studio). He is also the co-author of the feature film script *OK Boomer*, which won an award in the SCRIPT PRO 2021 competition (the script was acquired by a producer). He has twice been awarded the Artistic Scholarship of the Marshal of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship for projects related to AI. Since January 2023, he has been running AI animation studio blnk studio, which creates trailers, music videos, and feature productions, as well as handling film post-production using AI tools. Currently in development are three more series, including the animated anime series "My Magical Friend Akiranu."





---

**Yako Molhov**

VP and Founding Partner  
CEETV, TVBIZZ

Yako Molhov has over 20 years of experience in the media industry and is currently VP of Research at TVBIZZ Group. He co-founded the company in 2009 and oversees daily news and reports for its platforms, CEETV and TVBIZZ. Yako also prepares special analyses, conducts interviews with industry leaders, and edits TVBIZZ Magazine.

He graduated with an MA in Electronic Media from Sofia University in 2006, where he received cum laude honors and a scholarship for best student. His career includes roles as an editor, media analyst, and content research manager at various Bulgarian media companies, including Global Vision, Fox International Channels, and TV2/Pro.BG. Yako has served on the jury for The Golden Umbrella TV Festival and FebioFest and regularly attends major market events and conferences.



---

**Sergiy Nedzelskyy**

Executive Producer  
Suspilne Ukraine

Sergiy Nedzelskyy is an accomplished film and television producer with a diploma in Film and TV Production from the National University of Theatre, Film, and Television Arts in Kyiv. He currently serves as the Executive Producer for the Outsource and Coproduction Department at Suspilne Ukraine. Previously, Sergiy was a Development Producer at Suspilne Ukraine, where he played a key role in the production of the documentary series *The Collapse. How Ukrainians Destroyed the Evil Empire*. From 2017 to 2019, he headed the Production Department at Suspilne Ukraine and served as Deputy Head of the Ukrainian State Film Agency, focusing on international cooperation. Throughout his career, Sergiy has produced numerous feature films, series, documentaries, music videos, and commercials for both Ukrainian and international markets.

---

### **Jana Semjonova**

Program Director  
LTV

Jana Semojonova is an experienced media professional who has worked in TV for more than 20 years, in both commercial and public service media organisations. She has held various positions, starting as a news reporter and news presenter. Since 2006, she has been with LTV – Latvian Television Public Broadcaster – serving as a commissioning editor, editor-in-chief, and, since 2013, as Head of TV Programs. She is responsible for TV channels' strategic policy, content quality, and the policy of commissioning and acquisitions. Jana studied Journalism and Business Management.



---

### **Łukasz Siódmok**

Producer, CEO  
Film Rój S.A.

Łukasz Siódmok is a film producer and CEO of Film RÓJ S.A., a company he co-founded to produce the feature film *SWARM (RÓJ)* directed by Bartek Bala. With a strong background in project management and product launches, Siódmok led a successful crowdfunding campaign in 2021 that raised PLN 2 million from 300 private investors in 38 days, marking a significant innovation in Polish film financing. He is also at the forefront of integrating AI tools for dubbing and co-created an innovative self-publishing distribution model on a specialized technology platform. In 2023, Siódmok oversaw a nationwide promotional campaign in partnership with Content Spot, reaching 20 million viewers and setting a new standard for film distribution in Poland. His passion for cinema is further demonstrated by his involvement in films by acclaimed directors such as Agnieszka Holland, Władysław Pasikowski and Maciej Pieprzycza.





---

**Barbora Struss**

Co-Founder and CEO  
MIDPOINT Institute

Barbora Struss is the co-founder and CEO of MIDPOINT Institute, an international audiovisual training and networking organization based in Prague. MIDPOINT provides comprehensive professional support in film and series development, individual skills development, and post-production. With a background in the European film industry, Barbora has extensive experience in film sales, international public relations, and training program management. Before founding MIDPOINT, she worked in international PR for the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, led the Creative Europe MEDIA Desk CZ, and held various roles in film sales and distribution.



---

**Agnieszka Szczerbiak**

Production Department  
Polish Film Institute

Agnieszka Szczerbiak is a Coordinator in the Production Department at the Polish Film Institute, where she specializes in international co-productions and copyright law.

---

### Deniz Tuzun

Sales Director (Russia • CIS • Poland • North America  
• Canada • UK • Australia • New Zealand)  
Global Agency

Deniz Tuzun was raised in Warsaw, Poland, where she completed her K-12 education. She then graduated from college in New York. With over 15 years of experience in television and media, Deniz brings a wealth of expertise to her role in content sales. Her career began in production with notable companies such as Sesame Street, Embassy Row, and Optomen Productions in the USA. For the last 10 years, Deniz has specialized in content sales at Global Agency, focusing on a diverse range of series and competition formats. Her work has included successful negotiations with territories across the CIS region, English-speaking countries, and Poland.



---

### Jiří Vlach

Line Producer  
ČT

After obtaining a master's degree in producing and post-graduate studies at FAMU with a focus on web series, Jiri worked in the production department on several TV series, films, international projects, and commercials. Before joining Czech Television, he worked as an independent producer at Luxor Film Company, where he co-produced movies such as *Konfident*, featuring Maciej Stuhr in a supporting role. Jiří started his work at Czech Television in 2015, where he collaborates with creative producer Alena Müllerová on documentaries, feature films, and miniseries, including *Maria Theresia*, *Betrayer (Anatomie zrady)*, *Big Fish Man*, and also Helena Třeštíková's documentary projects like *Forman vs. Forman*, *Anny*, and *René – The Prisoner of Freedom*.





---

**Bartłomiej Witucki**

Attorney  
Safjan & Witucki

Bartłomiej Witucki is a graduate of the Faculty of Law at the University of Gdańsk and the Postgraduate Intellectual Property Law Program at the University of Warsaw. He is a lecturer on intellectual property law at the Pomeranian Bar Association and the author of numerous publications on copyright law. For over two decades, he has been involved with new technologies: initially as a creative director and head of R&D for the ASP internet project of the IT industry leader, Computerland S.A., and later as a lawyer, serving from 2003 to 2019 as the representative of BSA The Software Alliance, the world's leading software industry organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. While coordinating and overseeing BSA's anti-piracy program in Poland, he represented BSA members in contacts with government administration and the media within the scope of public policy activities. From 2016 to 2018, he was the initiator and co-organizer, in cooperation with *Dziennik Gazeta Prawna*, of a conference on cybersecurity. In 2010, he served as a consultant for the World Economy Institute at the Warsaw School of Economics, contributing to a study on the quality of IT resource management in central and local public administration, in collaboration with the Department of Electronic Economy at the Ministry of Economy.

He has participated in consultations during the legislative processes for the Act on Copyright and Related Rights and the Act on Providing Services by Electronic Means. For many years, he has also provided legal support to well-known artists in the music and film industries and has been involved in the commercialization of images as part of marketing communication efforts. He is the legal representative of the author of the "Solidarność" (Solidarity) logo and an advisor to the heirs of the author of the "Polska Walcząca" (Fighting Poland) symbol.

# Forum Selection 2024

Forum Selection  
2024



16-19 SEPTEMBER 2024

- 33** **40 Days for Love**  
Ukraine/Poland
- 34** **Big Feelings**  
Hungary
- 35** **Girl from Tallinn**  
Estonia
- 36** **Good Enough**  
Poland/Norway
- 37** **Hotel Europa**  
Poland/Ukraine
- 38** **Jailbirds Shortcut to Easy Chaos**  
Romania/Estonia
- 39** **The Gene of Doubt**  
Bulgaria
- 40** **The Prince**  
Moldova
- 41** **Time of Hopes**  
Slovakia
- 42** **We Shall Prevail**  
Poland



# 40 Days for Love

---

Producer:

**Olga Zhurzhenko,  
Oriana Kujawska**

Budget Estimate:

**1,600,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**6 x 45 min**

Presenter:

**Olga Zhurzhenko – Producer  
Oriana Kujawska – Producer**



## **Olga Zhurzhenko**

Olga Zhurzhenko is a seasoned film producer at MORE-FILM Sp. z o.o., with nearly 15 years of industry experience. She has completed prestigious European producer programs, including MID-POINT TV Launch 2021, Series Woman 2022, and EAVE 2023. Her company's current projects include the TV series

*40 Days for Love* (8x45'), supported by USAID; the animation *Returners*, funded by the Polish Film Institute; the feature film *MIDLIFE*, selected for Torino Comedy Lab; and the animation series *ZABAVIA*. As a member of the Producer's Guild of America, and the European and Ukrainian Film Academies, Olga leverages her expertise in market strategies, distribution, and outsourcing to enhance global access for filmmakers.

## **Oriana Kujawska**

Oriana Kujawska is a film producer at Endemolshine Poland, part of the Banijay Group, currently working on a film for Netflix and a series for Max. Previously, she spent several years as a development executive and producer for films and series at TVN Warner Bros. Discovery. She serves as a juror at the Emmy International Awards and as an expert assessing film projects for development at the Polish Film Institute, as well as for film and series projects at the European Commission's EACEA. Oriana is also an active member of the Polish Filmmakers Association.

## **Project Synopsis:**

Adam, a Polish grandson of the renowned Hungarian aristocrat Ferenc Varkoni, finds himself in Kyiv during the 2022 invasion, trying to reclaim his inheritance from a mysterious Ukrainian woman, Olga. She had a passionate affair with Ferenc during the Kengir Gulag uprising in 1954. As Adam and his Ukrainian partner, Rada, uncover the role Ferenc and Olga played in the 40-day uprising, their journey begins to mirror the historical love story amidst the 40-day siege of Kyiv.

---

Contact Info:

**+48787180002**

**olga.zhurzhenko@gmail.com**

# Big Feelings

---

Producer:

**Anna Sipos,  
Amadé Szombathelyi,  
Veronika Gál  
– Summer Films**

Budget Estimate:

**1,000,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**8 x 30 min**

Presenter:

**Veronika Gál – Producer**



## **Veronika Gál**

Veronika Gál is an English and Film graduate from Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. After completing her studies, she dove into the world of filmmaking, gaining hands-on experience in the industry. During a 4-year collaboration with Kornél Mundruczó, Veronika acquired invaluable insights

into film development and the US market. In 2022, she furthered her expertise by enrolling in two separate producing programs focused on live-action and animation. After several years in Hungary's international feature and series service industry, Veronika transitioned to more creative pursuits. Her first feature film, *Random*, is now in the final stages of post-production. She currently balances her time between working as a sustainability consultant, script translator and consultant, and freelance producer.

## **Project Synopsis:**

Emilia, a people-pleasing psychologist, and Oliver, a misanthropic pet shop salesman, are set up on a blind date that quickly turns disastrous. Despite their potential as a good match, their unresolved traumas keep them from connecting. As their lives unravel, they may hold the key to each other's healing. Their tumultuous relationship unfolds exclusively through scenes set in bathrooms — an unlikely backdrop for expressing big emotions.

---

Contact Info:

**+36309727793**

**galveci@gmail.com**

# Girl from Tallinn

---

Producer:

**Jevgeni Supin**

Budget Estimate:

**1,100,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**240 min**

Presenter:

**Jevgeni Supin – Producer**



## **Jevgeni Supin**

Jevgeni Supin embarked on his journey in the entertainment industry in 1998, armed with a BA in Audiovisual Media. For over a decade, he contributed to the creation of thousands of hours of globally acclaimed formats such as *Dancing with the Stars* and *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*, along with

a variety of scripted shows. In 2013, Jevgeni established himself as an independent producer, with his work spanning broadcast content, feature films, TV series, and stage plays. Noteworthy projects include *Who Shot Otto Müller?* - the first Viaplay-commissioned original series in the Baltic region, and the drama thriller *12 Summers Later*, an adaptation of the UK-Finland series *Man in Room 301*. In recent years, Jevgeni has ventured into the international arena and is currently spearheading the development of a slate of projects in co-production with partners in the Baltics, Italy, Germany, Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Finland. Beyond his production endeavors, Jevgeni led the TV Beats Forum for the past five years, a conference and co-financing market hosted by the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival.

## **Project Synopsis:**

In modern-day Kyiv, Ivan, a former criminal now living as a law-abiding citizen, meets a girl who looks exactly like the love of his life, who was murdered in Tallinn back in the turbulent '90s. Meanwhile, in Estonia, the remains of a female body are found in the woods, and Anna, an investigator, takes on the case, even though the chances of finding the killer after so many years are next to nothing. As Ivan grapples with the striking resemblance, he questions whether it's an elaborate hoax or if he's starting to go mad. But there's also a third, unsettling possibility: that ghosts might be real...

---

Contact Info:

**+37256465205**

**jevgeni@zolba.ee**

# Good Enough

---

Producer:

**Stine Blichfeldt,  
Ivar Køhn – Rubicon TV  
(Banijay Group)**

Budget Estimate:

**2,000,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**8 x 45 min**

Presenter:

**Jean-Nicolas Gilles-Hopfer  
– Creative Co-Producer**



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

Jean-Nicolas Gilles-Hopfer is a creative and art director with a background in editing and post-production. Based in Poland, Norway, and France, he is a Creative Co-Producer at Autoreverse Productions. Jean-Nicolas, alongside his wife Marta Hopfer-Gilles and writer Katarzyna Nocuń-Mszycza,

co-created the award-winning Polish podcast *Krwawa Skandynawia* (*Bloody Scandinavia*) and its sequel, *Krwawa Francja* (*Bloody France*), which ranked in the Top 10 on EmpikGo and won “Podcast of the Year 2023” in the True Crime category. He is also a co-producer on the TV series *Good Enough*, created by Marta and optioned by Rubicon (Banijay Group) in Norway. Currently, he is working on his TV series concept, *Offset*, a dystopian narrative about the climate crisis.

## **Project Synopsis:**

Pola tries to fit into the life of her Norwegian partner. While their love is strong, his teenage twin daughters, his ex-wife, and his country are not welcoming. And then there is the perimenopause that hits her out of nowhere and makes things even more complicated. Along the way they’re trying to navigate their identity crisis with passion, love, honesty, and humour. Occasionally breaking their legs (literally), fucking other people and finally coming of age.

---

Contact Info:

**+4792271592**

**marta.hopfer@gmail.com**

# Hotel Europa

---

Producer:

**Ivo Krankowski**

Budget Estimate:

**5,800,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**8 x 45-55 min**

Presenter:

**Adam Schorin**

**– Creator, Writer**

**Ivo Krankowski**

**– Co-Creator, Creative  
Producer**



## **Adam Schorin**

Adam Schorin is a writer based in Warsaw, originally from New York. He has worked as a writing assistant for Academy Award-winner Paweł Pawlikowski and collaborated with director Mariusz Wilczyński, as well as on multiple projects with actress Joanna Kulig. His short fiction has appeared in

several publications in the United States, including the national Jewish Book Council. Currently, he is writing and producing a documentary with Cannes prizewinner Michel Franco on the politics and performance of memory in Poland.

## **Ivo Krankowski**

Ivo Krankowski is a director, writer, and producer from Warsaw, now based in London. His short films have been featured at festivals worldwide. He is currently the creative producer of the Netflix series *1670*, which won Best Television Series at the Polish Film Awards and is now in production for its second season. Ivo is also the founder of the production company LaCamera Independent, through which he recently produced Alex Baczyński-Jenkins's documentary *Such Feeling*, which premiered at the New Horizons International Film Festival in 2024.

## **Project Synopsis:**

On the heels of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, several very wealthy Ukrainian families take refuge in a five-star hotel in central Warsaw. This limited series, set in the first months of the war, follows the interconnected lives of these wealthy Ukrainian families, along with the Polish and Ukrainian staff, and the journalists, politicians, and Western volunteers passing through. Against the backdrop of the war, the show explores the tensions, hypocrisies, political and class conflicts, and moments of humor as they all navigate their new reality.

---

Contact Info:

**+48570534410**

**adam.schorin@gmail.com**

# Jailbirds Shortcut to Easy Chaos

---

Producer:

**Eve Tisler**

Budget Estimate:

**5,000,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**8 x 30 min**

Presenter:

**Eve Tisler**

**– Screenwriter / Producer**

**Cristina Mihaela Iliescu**

**– Screenwriter / Director**



## **Eve Tisler**

Eve Tisler is an Estonian screenwriter and producer. She co-wrote and co-produced the award-winning short film *Grandma, Meet Mary* (2021), which premiered at PÖFF Shorts. Her other credits include the short film *Obsession* (2023, co-writer) and the web series *Kalamaja Blues* (2023, producer). Eve is an alumna

of the Eureka Series program at Series Mania Institute (2023) and is participating in the European Writers Club's Boosting Impact 2024 session. Additionally, she holds a micro-degree in Script Editing and Feedback from the Baltic Film, Media and Arts School (2024).

## **Cristina Mihaela Iliescu**

Cristina Iliescu is a seasoned Romanian film director and writer with extensive experience in the industry, having worked on over 50 movie sets. She is an alumna of several prestigious programs, including the Writers' Room Program at Midpoint Institute (2022), the Full Moon Creative Lab and Drama Room Program at Transilvania International Film Festival (2023-2024), and the Eureka Series program at Series Mania Institute (2023). Her TV series *Export Only*, which received a Netflix award in 2022, was also pitched at the Berlinale Co-Production Market (2023). Cristina is currently developing several TV series.

## **Project Synopsis:**

Gloria picks up a hitchhiker, Viki, while driving under extreme time pressure from Tallinn to Brussels. After a car accident survivor dies in their car, they attempt to dispose of the body along the way but fail repeatedly. Their plans become even more complicated when Viki needs to get to Romania to save her daughter, and Gloria realizes that her career is just dreams on steroids. By the end of their adventure, Viki finds a place she can finally call home, and Gloria becomes a rebel with a cause.

---

Contact Info:

**+37255920945**

**evetisler@gmail.com**

# The Gene of Doubt

---

Producer:  
**Krasty Lambev**

Budget Estimate:  
**1,500,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**8 x 45 min**

Presenter:  
**Zvezdomira Bozhana**  
– Co-Writer  
**Didi Maximova**  
– International Sales



## **Zvezdomira Bozhana**

Zvezdomira Bozhana is a Bulgarian actress, screenwriter, and assistant producer at Mountain Queen Pictures. She studied at the International School of Screen Acting in London and Filmmaking at New Bulgarian University in Sofia. She has written, directed, and produced short films like

*Vortex* (2020), *Where Are You?* (2021), and *Vasil Abadjiev – The Forgotten Genius* (2022), with new projects *Alone* and *All of Me* in production. Zvezdomira co-wrote the teen dystopia feature *Fly!*, a Bulgarian-Italian co-production with Mountain Queen Pictures, and is assistant producer and director on the feature film *Zvezda*, currently in post-production.

## **Didi Maximova**

Didi Maximova, from Sofia, Bulgaria, transitioned to film production in 2021 after a career in marketing and media. A former tennis player, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts with a focus on Public Relations in the U.S. She now heads content and international sales at Concept Studio, leading its creative projects and global outreach.

## **Project Synopsis:**

After the ZIMMERMANN TEST identifies the “gene of talent,” James Wright refuses to take it, sacrificing his career and joining the Anonymous Artists. His student, Neil, takes the test, becomes certified, and wins the affections of Wright’s partner, Sarah. Wright begins ghostwriting for Neil, rediscovering his passion for art but feeling a deep sense of betrayal. On his deathbed, Wright completes his masterpiece with the help of Neil and Sarah. Neil then reveals Wright’s true authorship and exposes the flaws in the test, arguing that doubt, not certainty, is the real catalyst for genuine art.

---

Contact Info:  
**zornitsa.sophia@gmail.com**  
**+359897334505**

# The Prince

---

Producer:

**Sergiu Scobioala**  
– Realitatea Media Group

Budget Estimate:

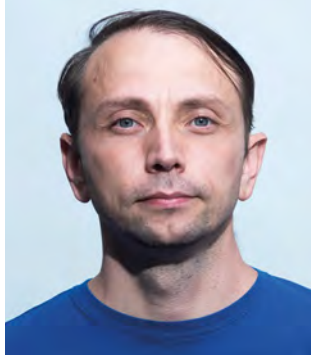
**360,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**6 x 48 min**

Presenter:

**Sergiu Scobioala**  
– Producer  
**Traian Stoianov**  
– Actor, Representative  
of Rlive TV



## Traian Stoianov

Traian Stoianov is a versatile media professional known for his work as a TV presenter, journalist, actor, and TV producer. With a rich background in the entertainment and media industries, he has successfully combined his talents to engage audiences across various platforms.

## Project Synopsis:

*The Prince* tells the story of a Congolese man named Prince, who is wrongly accused of human trafficking in Moldova. Under house arrest in his ex-wife's village, he faces prejudice from her family and a local inspector eager to prove his guilt. As Prince fights for his freedom and seeks to reconnect with his estranged son, he must navigate family tensions, mend his relationship with a disdainful brother, and uncover the truths that could clear his name.

## Sergiu Scobioala

Sergiu Scobioala is a film producer, showrunner of TV series, and the general producer at Rlive TV in Moldova. He is also a member of the cash rebate commission at the National Cinematography Center of the Republic of Moldova.

---

Contact Info:

**scobioala.s@gmail.com**  
**+37368302026**



# Time of Hopes

---

Producer:

**Zuzana Balkóová,  
Roman Genský**

Budget Estimate:

**2,250,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**5 x 52 min**

Presenter:

**Zuzana Balkóová  
– Producer  
Roman Genský – Executive  
Producer**



## **Zuzana Balkoová**

Zuzana Balkoová is a film and television producer with a background in film art and multimedia production and distribution from the Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, where she also completed her PhD studies. Since 2017, she has served as Chief Producer at STVR,

where she has overseen the production of several successful TV films and series, including *Three Golden Ducats*, *The Secret Lives*, *The Nest*, *The Confession*, *Mama*, *Buy Me a Dog*, and *Time of Hopes*, among others.

## **Roman Genský**

Roman Genský began his career in independent film projects as a production assistant after graduating from Goldsmiths, University of London. In 2015, he joined Slovak Television and Radio (formerly Radio and Television Slovakia), where he currently serves as an executive producer. He collaborates on various documentaries, films, TV series, and entertainment shows, with his most notable projects including *Jozef Mak* and *Pečie celé Slovensko* (Bake Off).

## **Project Synopsis:**

*Time of Hopes* depicts the life challenges, conflicts, and changes experienced by the third generation of the Violovský family from 1952 to 1969. The series explores how these pivotal events and decisions significantly impact their lives and relationships, influencing their quest for freedom, opportunities, and new beginnings, while also addressing the pain and loss that arise from these life events.

---

Contact Info:

**+421911172090  
interrel@rtvs.sk**

# We Shall Prevail

---

Presenter:

**Marek Mardosewicz**  
– Writer  
**Eugeniusz Pankov**  
– Writer, Director



## **Marek Mardosewicz**

Marek Mardosewicz is a screenwriter, playwright, and visual artist with a background from the Academy of Art in Szczecin, Jagiellonian University, and Wajda School. His work explores new technologies and their societal impact. He has authored screenplays for short films, radio plays *Myspace* and

*E-mmortal*, and the feature film *T3raz my* (acquired by KADR Film Studio). He also co-wrote the award-winning script for *OK Boomer* in the SCRIPT PRO 2021 competition. Marek has received the Artistic Scholarship of the Marshal of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship twice for AI-related projects. Since January 2023, he has been running *blnk studio*, an AI animation studio that creates trailers, music videos, and handles film post-production. Current projects include the animated anime series *My Magical Friend Akiranu*.

## **Eugeniusz Pankov**

Eugeniusz Pankov is a film director and screenwriter. He is a graduate of the Film and TV Direction Department at the Lodz Film School (2019). His short films have been officially selected for more than 100 Polish and international film festivals. His graduation films, both the documentary *Symbiophony* and the fiction film *Love xD*, received the highest marks. Eugeniusz also has several years of experience directing Polish TV series for networks such as Polsat, TV Puls, and TVP. He is the laureate of the Script Pro contest for a full-length fiction script (*OK Boomer*).

## **Project Synopsis:**

In the year 2035, a crisis-stricken Europe finds its saving grace in the Cyber-Communist Party, founded by tech guru Jorgen Harenson (52). Guided by Marek Julewicz (32), the Artificial Intelligence must withstand external pressures to bring prosperity to Europeans. It becomes clear that the only path to peace is through the global implementation of cyber-communism.

---

Contact Info:

**+48 508341438**

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

# THE BAY

# OF SPIES



TVP

- 45 Art of Spitting**  
Poland
- 46 On French Boulevard**  
Ukraine
- 47 Sine Morbo**  
Hungary
- 48 Taxi Driver**  
Poland
- 49 Termites Have Wings  
of Approximately the Same Length**  
Serbia
- 50 Valknut**  
Lithuania
- 51 When a Tree Falls in the Forest**  
Bulgaria

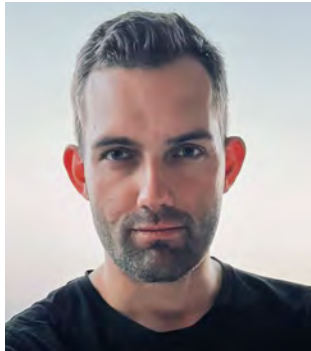
# Art of Spitting

---

Budget Estimate:  
**2,000,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**110 min**

Presenter:  
**Wiktor Bojanowski**  
– Director



## Wiktor Bojanowski

Wiktor Bojanowski defended his diploma at EICAR International Film & TV School in Paris. Director and screenwriter of the short film *Reservation* (Tehran International Short Film Festival, Near Nazareth Film Festival — award for the film, Alessandria Film Festival — award for the film). Together

with Katia Priwiezienczew, he runs the production company ParasiteFilms. Producer and second director of the film *Alpha Male* (world premiere at the International Film Festival of India - Goa, and theatrical premiere on February 25, 2022). Co-writer of the script for the nine-episode series *Marea Alta* produced by the largest Spanish-language streaming platform, Univision. He runs the smallest cinema in Warsaw — AMONDO Kino, where he organizes film series, meetings with Polish filmmakers, and discussions on cinema. Director and co-writer of the feature film *Loss of Balance* that will premiere in the main competition at the 2024 Polish Film Festival in Gdynia.

## Project Synopsis:

Julek, a Warsaw superhero has a multitude of fans, all kinds of accolades, and a beautiful girlfriend in addition to his powers. But he also has a problem — Warsaw doesn't offer him any challenges. To prove that he's still needed, he stages an accident where he intends to play the hero. However, the plan spirals out of control and becomes a curse, leading Julek into depression, forcing him to give up his powers. Everything changes when Julek abandons his suicide attempt to save Sonia, a climate activist standing on the roof of a skyscraper.

---

Contact Info:  
**+48665121121**  
**korek.bojanowski@gmail.com**

# On French Boulevard

---

Producer:

**Svitlana Petlovana, Andrii Osipov, Halyna Kryvorchuk**

Budget Estimate:

**1,500,00 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**90 min**

Presenter:

**Oleksandra Petlovana**  
 – Director, Co-Screenwriter  
**Svitlana Petlovana**  
 – Concept Creator,  
 Co-Screenwriter



## **Oleksandra Petlovana**

Oleksandra Petlovana graduated in 2021 from Kyiv National I. K. Karpenko-Karyi University of Theatre, Cinema, and Television in Kyiv, Ukraine, with a degree in Directing, Audiovisual Arts, and Production. She has directed and scripted three short films: *Unconscious Will*, *The Bird*, and

the comedy *Up and Down* (originally titled *Підняло і Гепнуло*, co-written with Svitlana Petlovana). These films have been featured in both Ukrainian and international film festivals and have participated in various charity screenings across Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Poland, Latvia, France, and more. Oleksandra is also the director and screenwriter of the upcoming short drama *Viktoriia at the Zoo*, which tells the story of a Ukrainian refugee, Viktoriia, and her son, based on true events. The film is scheduled to begin shooting in November 2024.

## **Svitlana Petlovana**

Svitlana Petlovana worked at Odesa Film Studio in Odesa, Ukraine, from 2011 to 2018, serving as a production director from 2012. Until 2020, she was the manager of Odesa Film Office. Her notable roles include executive producer of the feature films *Red* (2017, directed by Zaza Buadze) and *Traitor* (2016, directed by Mark Hammond and Valeriu Jereghi), line producer for the documentary short *Movie Up* (2018, directed by Serhii Rakhmanin), and producer and co-screenwriter of the short film *Up and Down* (2022, directed by Oleksandra Petlovana). She is also the producer of the upcoming short drama *Viktoriia at the Zoo* (2024, directed by Oleksandra Petlovana).

## **Project Synopsis:**

A young man named Zhora travels from London to Odesa at his parents' request to organize his grandmother's move to Great Britain. However, the eccentric grandmother refuses to leave her hometown and sell her large apartment on French Boulevard. Instead, she devises an ingenious plan: she fills the apartment with six young residents. Left alone with these unpredictable neighbors, Zhora must find a way to reclaim the apartment and complete his mission.

---

Contact Info:

**+380667530781**

**oleksapetlyovana@gmail.com**

# Sine Morbo

---

Producer:

**Éva Török**

Budget Estimate:

**850,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**90 min**

Presenter:

**András Kocsányi**

**– Director, Screenwriter**

**Éva Török – Producer**



## András Kocsányi

András Kocsányi is a Hungarian director and screenwriter who graduated from both SZFE and METU universities in 2020. His graduation film, *Fonica M-120*, which he co-wrote, premiered in the Cannes FF Cinefondation 2021 edition. His directorial debut, *Scruffy Co.* (Kócos Bt.), garnered several awards

at Hungarian film festivals. In his doctoral thesis, he explores film satires and the mechanics of comedy in film, reflecting his personal tendency to laugh at tragedies and cry at comedies. His notable works include *The Dying License* (writer, 2019), *Fonica M-120* (co-writer, 2020), *Suburban Tale* (co-writer, 2021), *Scruffy Co.* (director, writer, 2021), *Catfight* (writer, 2023), *Salome* (co-writer, 2024, in development), and *Captain Noise* (co-writer, 2026, funded feature film, in production).

## Éva Török

Éva Török's childhood dream was to tell stories. Having envisioned her own life in film frames since she was a little girl, she decided to become a filmmaker at the age of 10. She studied at Budapest Metropolitan University, where she earned a bachelor's degree as a filmmaker professional and a master's degree as a creative producer. In recent years, Török has worked on short films and documentaries and is currently developing several feature film scripts. She is also a production manager at Forward Productions. Passionate about seeing creative projects through from conception to realization, she enjoys teaching related to her profession.

## Project Synopsis:

In a darkly comic twist of fate, Mihály, a lonely and ordinary man, seeks to renew his work permit but finds his life upended when he is mistakenly identified as a seriously ill patient named László during a hospital examination. As a result, Mihály inherits László's hospital bed, treatment regimen, and even László's wife. The hospital's dehumanizing procedures take a toll on him, as his organs are gradually removed, transforming him into the very person he was mistaken for. When he finally manages to escape, the trauma of his ordeal leaves him longing for the very institution that mistreated him, leading him to call an ambulance to return. In his final moments of suffering, Mihály confesses that he even missed the hospital.

---

Contact Info:

**+36303144187**

**indianaandrissolo@gmail.com**

# Taxi Driver

---

Producer:

**Ryszard Kruk**

Budget Estimate:

**350,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**75 min**

Presenter:

**Ryszard Kruk**

**– Director, Screenwriter**

**Magdalena Kruk**

**– Production Manager**



## **Ryszard Kruk**

Ryszard Kruk is a director, screenwriter, cinematographer, and film producer. He is a graduate of the AMA Film Academy in film directing, a scholarship holder of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, and a member of the Polish Filmmakers Association.

His portfolio includes the

multi-award-winning documentary *Taxi Driver* (2008) and other documentaries such as *Homo musicus* (2012), *Ziggy Dust* (2015, presented at the Krakow Film Festival; won the Golden Angel at IFF Tofifest), *Republika. The Birth of a Legend* (2017, presented at IFF Camerimage), *Od Nowa* (2018), *Black Mud* (2020), and *Hahut* (2022, filmed in Spitsbergen). He has also created video murals such as *Heat or Cold* (2021) and *Copernicus* (2023). In 2021, he directed the feature etude *Cab Driver*, starring Jan Nowicki, based on his own screenplay, and in 2022, he completed the graduation etude *Exhibition*.

## **Magdalena Kruk**

Magdalena Kruk has been working with Ryszard Kruk on film productions since 2010, primarily as a production manager. Since 2018, they have jointly managed the Biały Kruk Foundation, which focuses on the development and promotion of culture and film art. She has participated in the production of several documentaries, including *Homo Musicus* (2012), *Ziggy Dust* (2015), *Republika. The Birth of a Legend* (2017), *Od Nowa* (2018), *Black Mud* (2020), and *Hahut* (2022, filmed in Spitsbergen), as well as video murals like *Heat or Cold* (2021) and *Copernicus* (2023). Additionally, she was involved in the production of short feature films *Cab Driver* (2021) and *Exhibition* (2022).

## **Project Synopsis:**

Stanisław Branicki is a 70-year-old man who has spent the last 50 years driving his taxi around the city. After the death of his wife, the love of his life, he struggles to cope with the loneliness. Staszek eventually finds himself in a hospital bed, experiencing a severe episode of catatonia brought on by depression. As he slowly begins to recover, he has a vivid dream about his final ride in his taxi and the sailors he once met. Although this encounter is not real, it profoundly impacts his life, altering his perspective and future.

---

Contact Info:

**+48502155232**

**krukfilm@gmail.com**



# Termites Have Wings of Approximately the Same Length

---

Producer:

**Svetislav Dragomirovic**  
– Grey Tree Films, Nevena  
Savic – Cinnamon Films

Budget Estimate:

**628,800 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**100 min**

Presenter:

**Svetislav Dragomirović**  
– Director, Producer  
**Nevena Savić** – Producer



## **Svetislav Dragomirovic**

Svetislav Dragomirovic is a film director and producer at his self-established company, Gray Tree Film. Since 2016, he has produced three short films and two features, including his latest, *I'm People, I Am Nobody* which premiered at DOC NYC. His focus is on art house films and creative

storytelling in its freest form. His projects range from a script based on a renowned Serbian author's book to hybrid and investigative documentaries, and intimate projects like *Termites Have Wings of Approximately the Same Length*, his latest feature supported by Film Center Serbia and currently in the financing stage. He is a Berlinale Talents and Emerging Producers program alum and co-founder of the Belgrade-based boutique production company Gray Tree Film. In addition to directing, Svetislav works as a creative producer and co-producer and is currently involved in two documentary co-productions.

## **Nevena Savic**

Nevena Savic is a Serbian film producer known for her work in both documentary and feature films. As CEO and producer at Cinnamon Films, she oversees production and post-production. Currently, she is focused on producing feature fiction films and TV series for national broadcast and international festivals. Nevena has contributed as a creative producer and co-producer to over 20 films, including *Catharsis or Afinas: Tale of the Lost World*, *18% Gray*, *Horizons*, *As Far as I Can Walk*, *Malmkrog*, *My Morning Laughter*, and *Enough for Now*, as well as *Cat's Cry* and *Tower of Strength*, which are currently in post-production. Cinnamon Films emphasizes working with emerging directors and new voices, alongside co-producing projects with established filmmakers.

## **Project Synopsis:**

Petar and Hana take a brief trip to Athens while their termite-infested home in Belgrade is being fumigated. Their strained relationship is further tested by an accident at the Acropolis. Back in Belgrade, they face personal turmoil and engage in a poignant exploration of parenthood. As they await a scheduled procedure for an unwanted pregnancy, hidden secrets begin to surface. Ultimately, they confront their emptiness and navigate their silence alongside their firstborn son, Dušan.

---

Contact Info:

**+381604011000**  
**info@greytreefilm.com**

# Valknut

---

Producer:

**Erikas Kundreckas**

Budget Estimate:

**3,500,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**124 min**

Presenter:

**Erikas Kundreckas**

**– Producer**

**Daina Klepone**

**– Scriptwriter**



## **Erikas Kundreckas**

Erikas Kundreckas is a Lithuanian producer and scriptwriter, and the founder of the production company “4ROOM” (Lietuvos idėjų forumas), which specializes in TV programs, TV series, documentaries, and feature films. With 17 years of experience in the TV and film industry and over 25 years

in the entertainment sector, he has made a significant impact. His long-term TV series *Summer of Naisiai* won the national film contest “Silver Crane” for Best TV Movie of the Year in 2008. Additionally, the TV series based on the bestseller novel *Landfill People* became the most popular show of 2024 on the VOD platform GO3. Erikas is also known for creating and producing numerous popular TV series, shows, and films.

## **Daina Klepone**

Daina Klepone, a seasoned professional with over three decades of experience in the international business world, is also a scientist and university lecturer. In Lithuania, her debut novel *Valknut* won the 2022 Fiction Competition, was one of the seven recommended reads in the 2023 “National Book of the Year” competition, and was recognized among the most cinematographic books of 2024. Daina skillfully blends her expertise and passions to offer unique insights into business and politics.

## **Project Synopsis:**

Journalist Vogel is found murdered in Berlin, wearing a necklace engraved with the Valknut symbol. The investigation links her death to imprisoned businessman Hagenow and raises suspicions about illegal migrant Nanda. Detective Hartog, Vogel’s ex, connects the case to WWII relics, the Wagner military group, and a German far-right party, unraveling a deep-seated web of corruption in both business and politics.

---

Contact Info:

**+37069825359**

**erikas@4room.lt**

# When a Tree Falls in the Forest

---

Producer:

**Kalin Kalinov, Decho Taralezhkov – Invictus**

Budget Estimate:

**1,100,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**100 min**

Presenter:

**Decho Taralezhkov  
– Writer, Producer  
Kamen Kolarov – Director**



## **Decho Taralezhkov**

Decho Taralezhkov is a screenwriter, producer, and script consultant. He is known for his collaboration with Petar Valchanov and Kristina Grozeva, co-writing and appearing in *Glory* (2016), co-writing and assistant-directing *The Father* (2019), and developing *Triumph*

(upcoming). He also wrote *Blue Birds Island* (2019) for Bulgarian National Television and contributed to the sci-fi adventure game *Elea* (2018). Taralezhkov holds a BA in Dramaturgy from the National Academy of Theater and Film Arts in Sofia and is an alumnus of 4Corners, MIDPOINT Writers' Room, Talents Sarajevo, and Berlinale Talents. Since 2021, he has been an external expert for Creative Europe MEDIA and is currently working on projects with Valchanov/Grozeva and Kamen Kolarov at Dystopia Films.

## **Kamen Kolarov**

Kamen Kolarov is a writer and director celebrated for his award-winning short films. His notable works include *Diagnosis* (2018), a 27-minute drama that won Special Mention at the Golden Rose Film Festival and Best Short Film at Sofia Film Fest on the Beach, and was selected for multiple festivals including Sofia Film Fest Jameson Short Awards and Eastern Neighbours Film Festival. *The Mysterious Giants of the Danube* (2017) is a 19-minute documentary short. *Dreams* (2014) received Special Mention at the Early Bird International Student Film Festival, and *Learning to Talk* (2013) won Best Short Film at the 8 IN OUT Festival and was selected for Sofia Film Fest Jameson Short Awards.

## **Project Synopsis:**

Disillusioned and traumatized by his career as a Bulgarian Special Forces sniper in the Middle East, 45-year-old Yussein Getov has retreated to his home village in the mountains, living as a recluse in an abandoned hunting cabin. To survive, he resorts to his only skill — illegal game hunting, which he smuggles to the newly elected mayor, Hamid Chakarov. The rest of his time is spent drinking to numb his feelings of nihilism and despair.

---

Contact Info:

**+359897818203**

**kalin.invictus@gmail.com**

- 53** **Come Back Home, Redhead**  
Poland
- 54** **Dekonstrukt**  
Poland
- 55** **English Lessons**  
Ukraine/Czech Republic/Estonia
- 56** **Flashes of Freedom**  
Ukraine
- 57** **Ghetto Classic**  
Poland
- 58** **L'Enfant Terrible**  
Estonia/Latvia/Lithuania
- 59** **Step Into the Comfort Zone**  
Ukraine

# Come Back Home, Redhead

---

Budget Estimate:  
**25 000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:  
**70 min**

Presenter:  
**Julia Smoleń**



## **Julia Smoleń**

Julia Smoleń graduated in Culture Studies and Film Theory from Jagiellonian University in Cracow and completed the DOK PRO course at Wajda School. She writes for the Mastercard OFF CAMERA film festival website and is currently studying film directing at the Krzysztof Kieślowski Film

School. Julia has directed several short, independent films, including *Run Away, Run Away*, *My Europe is Falling Apart*, and *Run and Don't Look Back*. She is currently working on her second school short feature film.

## **Project Synopsis:**

*Come Back Home, Redhead* is a coming-of-age rap journey that follows Nicola, a teenage powerlifter and amateur freestyler from a small Polish village. Two years ago, she won the Polish Championship in powerlifting with a 140 kg deadlift. - Now studying in a military class at high school, Nicola navigates a world of stereotypically masculine interests, which contrasts with her own emotional vulnerability. Coming from a family with a troubled past, she channels her feelings into writing and performing hip-hop tracks, all while aiming to achieve her ultimate goal: winning the World Cup in powerlifting.

---

Contact Info:  
**+48695995840**  
**smolen.julia@gmail.com**

# Dekonstrukt

---

Producer:

**Anna Kępińska, Piotr Śmiechowski – Telemark**

Budget Estimate:

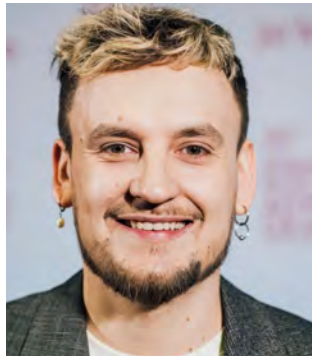
**171,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**80 min**

Presenter:

**Mateusz Góra – Director**  
**Kamil Wilk – Director**



## Mateusz Góra

Mateusz Góra is the Head of Communications and Short Competition Programmer at the Millennium Docs Against Gravity Film Festival. He graduated in Film Studies from Jagiellonian University and in Film Editing from Warsaw Film School. Mateusz has worked as an editor for *i-D*, *Vice*, and

*Kultura Liberalna* magazines, where he interviewed prominent figures in culture and art, including Tadeusz Rolke, Cocorosie, Bruce LaBruc, and Paweł Pawlikowski. His interests include documentary and queer cinema. He is also the co-director of the short documentary *A Few Things I'd Like to Tell You* which had its world premiere at MDAG 2023.

## Kamil Wilk

Kamil Wilk is a director and film editor born in Tarnów and based in Warsaw. He graduated in Film Editing from the Warsaw Film School. He specializes in postproduction for films and TV series, working on productions for Netflix, Canal+, and Viaplay. Kamil is particularly fascinated by the work of Wong Kar-wai and Pedro Almodóvar. He is the co-director of the short documentary *A Few Things I'd Like to Tell You* which had its world premiere at MDAG 2023.

## Project Synopsis:

The film explores the creation of safe spaces in an unfriendly reality and the transition into adulthood. It follows Stefa, Mac, and Karo, three non-binary young artists who founded an art and party collective called "Dekonstrukt." This initiative, run by and for transgender individuals, provides a supportive environment amidst external challenges. As the protagonists approach adulthood, face their final exams at the Academy of Fine Arts, and confront the realities of adult life, they must navigate the compromises and decisions required to shape their futures.

---

Contact Info:

**+48883433558**

**mateusz.piotr.gora@gmail.com**

# English Lessons

---

Producer:

**Svitlana Soloviova,  
Jan Syruček**

Budget Estimate:

**2,112,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**80 min**

Presenter:

**Svitlana Soloviova  
– Producer  
Jan Syruček – Producer**



## **Svitlana Soloviova**

Svitlana Soloviova studied Cultural Studies at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Since 2004, she has been active in film production. She is the founder and general producer of Svitlofor Film, a production company based in Kyiv. Soloviova has produced several short films and two feature films. The

war drama *Beshoot* was released in cinemas, on television, and online in Ukraine and internationally. The poetic drama *Oxygen Station*, a co-production between Ukraine, Czechia, and Slovakia, had its world premiere in the Official Competition at the Tallinn Black Nights IFF 2023.

## **Jan Syruček**

Jan Syruček is a New Business Producer at Beep, a leading sound post-production studio in Prague. With experience from FAMU, Chapman University, and the London Film Academy, he specializes in sourcing projects for TV, VOD series, documentaries, animation, and feature films. Alongside his role at Beep, Jan is an independent producer, co-producer, and a member of the European Film Academy. His filmography includes *Hello, Welcome* (2024), *March to May* (2024), *The Ice That Still Supports Us* (2023), *My Father's Prison* (2023), *And Then There Was Love...* (2022), *Junkie Opera* (2021), *Handcrafts* (2019), *Nightshift* (2018), and *Bo Hai* (2017).

## **Project Synopsis**

*English Lessons* is a creative documentary animation featuring six stories inspired by the real experiences of Ukrainian children affected by the Russian full-scale war. In a Zoom class, a teacher and five children share poignant memories of their homes, favorite streets, playgrounds, and joyful moments that were disrupted by the brutal invasion. Katia reminisces about her birthday in Kharkiv, Maksym recounts a near-miss on war-torn roads, Nina reflects on driving lessons in Kherson, and Zhenia seeks solace amidst the ruins of Mariupol. The story takes an intriguing turn when Margaryta's microphone is unmuted — revealing a narrative of its own.

---

Contact Info:

**+380674182277**

**svetasoloviova@gmail.com**

# Flashes of Freedom

---

Producer:

**Lukian Halkin,  
Alona Holiakova**

Budget Estimate:

**347,750 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**80 min**

Presenter:

**Lukian Halkin – Producer  
Alona Holiakova – Producer**



## Lukian Halkin

Lukian Halkin is a Ukrainian producer, film expert, and critic. He serves as Head of Co-Production and Outsource Commissioning at Suspilne Ukraine, co-founded the internet media platform Moviegram, and lectures at cinema educational events. His production credits include *A Sentimental Journey to the*

*Parajanov Planet* (dir. Taras Tomenko), *Dovzhenko Phenomenon* (dir. Igor Ivanko, in progress), *Big Russian Lies* (2024, 6-episode documentary series), and *Smouldering. The Tree of Life* (2022, dir. Nadiia Mikotajenko, screened at Cottbus IFF).

## Alona Holiakova

Alona Holiakova is a creative producer and Commissioning Editor of Co-Productions and Outsource Commissioning at Suspilne Ukraine. Her selected filmography as a commissioning editor includes *A Sentimental Journey to the Parajanov Planet* (dir. Taras Tomenko, full-length documentary), *Dovzhenko Phenomenon* (in progress, dir. Igor Ivanko, full-length documentary), *Big Russian Lies* (2024, dir. Natalia Ponomariv and Oleksandr Nazarov, 6-episode documentary series), *Carlos in Ukraine* (2023, dir. Nikita Torzhevsky, 12-episode mockumentary fiction series), and *In Search of Skovoroda* (2022, dir. Max Smetana, full-length documentary). She participated in the EURODOC 2024 program with the project *Flashes of Freedom*.

## Project Synopsis:

It took only a few months for the Soviet tanks to crush the Prague Spring. In August 1968, Jan Palach was a 20-year-old history and economics student. Vasyl Makukh, 40, had fought against the Red Army and endured ten years in GULAG camps. Ryszard Siwiec, 59, was a former Armia Krajowa member and father of five. Eliyahu Rips, 20, was a brilliant participant in an international math Olympiad. Despite their different backgrounds, they all chose the same tragic way to defy the regime – turning themselves into human torches.

---

Contact Info:

**+380669060594**

**lukiangalkin@gmail.com**



# Ghetto Classic

---

Producer:

**Katia Priwieziencew,**  
**Joanna Priwieziencew**

Budget Estimate:

**350,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**80 min**

Presenter:

**Katia Priwieziencew**  
– **Producer, Director**  
**Joanna Priwieziencew**  
– **Producer, Screenwriter**



## **Katia Priwieziencew**

Katia Priwieziencew's film *Alpha Male* had its world premiere in 2022 at the 52nd IFFI and won the award for Best Film at the Cinequest Film Festival in San Jose. The prestigious El Studio acquired the rights to her series *Marea Alta*, which premiered in the fall of 2022 on Univision. In 2024, her

project *The Bug* received a grant from the MEDIA Creative Europe program. She is the producer and screenwriter of the film *Loss of Balance* (49th Polish Film Festival in Gdynia), and the director of the film *Przepiękne!* (premiere in March 2025, produced by Serce/Warner Bros, TVN/Amazon).

## **Joanna Priwieziencew**

Joanna Priwieziencew served as the script consultant for *Alpha Male* (2022) and co-wrote *The Bug*, a drama series that received a development grant from the MEDIA Creative Europe program in 2023. She is also the co-creator and co-writer of the series *Salamandra*, currently in development for Akson Studios, Poland. A former ballet dancer, Joanna has written several internationally published pieces on dance and art education. She is the founder of the dance program in Korogocho and has been teaching James since 2019.

## **Project Synopsis:**

In a gang-ridden Kenyan slum, James, a teenager passionate about ballet, faces a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to change his destiny when he is selected for a trial scholarship at the prestigious Debbie Allen Dance Academy in Los Angeles. With the support of Joanna, his dedicated teacher and a retired ballerina, James embarks on a transformative journey to pursue his dream. Despite the promise of a five-week course that could be the key to his future, James must navigate numerous challenges, including a fractured family, corrupt bureaucracy, and severe poverty, all while preparing for what he views as "the Olympics of his life".

---

Contact Info:

**+48531552090**

**joannapriw@gmail.com**

# L'Enfant Terrible

---

Producer:

**Artur Veeber**

Budget Estimate:

**175,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**90 min**

Presenter:

**Artur Veeber – Producer**  
**Tatjana Mühlbayer**  
**– Writer, Director**



## Artur Veeber

Artur Veeber, born on August 8, 1966, in Tallinn, Estonia, is a producer, director, and scriptwriter. He graduated from the All-Union Institute of Cinematography (VGIK) in Moscow, Russia, where he studied film production from 1984 to 1988.

Veeber's notable film projects include producing

and conceiving the original idea for the 2013 film *Tangerines* (Estonia-Georgia), directed by Zaza Urushadze. The film was nominated for the Academy Award® and the Golden Globe® for Best Foreign Language Film. In 2015, he produced the feature film *House for Mermaids* (Estonia-Uzbekistan), directed by Yalkin Tuychiev. In 2022, he produced the fiction feature film *Call of God: Tribute to Kim Ki-duk* (Estonia-Kyrgyzstan-Lithuania), which was directed by Kim Ki-duk and released after his death.

## Tatjana Mühlbayer

Tatjana Mühlbayer is an Estonian-based producer, director, and scriptwriter, born on May 12, 1966, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. She studied at the All-Union Institute of Cinematography (VGIK) in Moscow and holds a Master of Fine Arts.

Tatjana co-produced and developed the Oscar- and Golden Globe-nominated feature film *Tangerines* (2013). She made her directorial debut with the documentary *Farewell Tour* (2015), which garnered international recognition at numerous film festivals and was nominated for Kyrgyzstan's National Cinema Award, "Ak Ilbirs."

In 2022, she directed and wrote the documentary *Silk Strings* and produced *Call of God*, which premiered at the Venice International Film Festival. Tatjana is currently directing and writing the documentary *L'Enfant Terrible* (2023).

## Project Synopsis:

The film investigates the chain of events leading to the mysterious and tragic death of world-renowned Korean director Kim Ki-duk at Riga Straudin Clinic. It delves into his life as one of the most controversial figures in contemporary cinema, chronicling his difficult journey from obscurity to prominence in the modern cinema elite. His biography is marked by paradoxes and tragedy: while he was endowed with extraordinary talent, his life was plagued by a series of profound and challenging trials.

---

Contact Info:

**+37255684239**

**veeberartur@gmail.com**

# Step Into the Comfort Zone

Producer:

**Olesia Lukianenko**

Budget Estimate:

**225,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**80 min**

Presenter:

**Yuriy Dvizhon – Director**

**Olesia Lukianenko**

**– Producer**



## Yuriy Dvizhon

Yuriy Dvizhon is one of Ukraine's leading queer directors, known for producing a diverse range of video content including short films, music videos, advocacy campaigns, and TV documentaries. He graduated from Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts. In 2019, Yuriy received the "Top 30

Under 30" award from the *Kyiv Post*, the oldest English-language newspaper in Ukraine, in recognition of his contributions to the development of Ukrainian society. In June 2024, Yuriy will begin production on a six-episode travel documentary exploring Ukrainian queer and drag performers. This project is fully commissioned by Radio Liberty and their VOD platform, "VotVot," with the premiere scheduled for early 2025. The documentary *Step Into the Comfort Zone* will be his first full-length film.

## Olesia Lukianenko

Olesia Lukianenko has extensive experience in producing films and series, with a focus on high-end dramas. Her recent credits include the documentary series *Media at War*, the period drama *There Will Be People*, and the crime noir-drama *Hide and Seek*. The latter is a groundbreaking Ukrainian TV series, internationally distributed by ZDFE, sold to numerous countries, and selected for prestigious events such as MIPTV Drama Buyers' Summit, Serie Series, MIA, Black Nights FF, and Göteborg FF. In 2024, Olesia left FILM.UA, where she had worked for 14 years, to pursue her career as an independent producer.

## Project Synopsis:

Two charismatic middle-aged couples from Ukraine and Kazakhstan — a gay couple and a lesbian couple — decide to defy marriage inequality in the former USSR by tying the knot in Europe. Larysa, a mother of four who fled eastern Ukraine amid the conflict, met Bako from Kazakhstan on social media. Bako is now moving to Ukraine to build a new life with Larysa. Meanwhile, Petro and Volodymyr, who have been in an open relationship for 37 years, are separated by the war, living in different countries. United by their desire for official recognition of their marriages, both couples are determined to overcome the challenges they face.

Contact Info:

**+380632718401**

**olesya.lukyanenko@gmail.com**

## **62 Making Friends with the Idea of a Father**

**Bulgaria**

## **63 Sugarland**

**Poland/Mexico**

THE  
BEST  
OF  
NEM

THE BEST OF NEM



16-19 SEPTEMBER 2024

# Making Friends with the Idea of a Father

---

Genre:

**Documentary**

Producer:

**Ralitsa Golemanova  
– Smarty Pants Shooter**

Budget Estimate:

**240,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**90 min**

Presenter:

**Nikolay Stefanov – Director**



## **Nikolay Stefanov**

Having graduated with an MA in Cinematography in 2003, Nikolay Stefanov has explored various visual styles across films, series, and TV. He debuted as a director with two mid-length documentaries in 2016 and 2018. His feature-length documentary *No Place for You in Our Town* (2022) premiered at

CPH:DOX 2022 and was showcased at over 20 film festivals, winning the Best Documentary and Best Documentary Director Awards from the Union of Bulgarian Filmmakers in 2023. Stefanov's upcoming documentary, *Making Friends with the Idea of a Father* (2024), developed through the EURODOC program, is currently in production.

## **Project Synopsis:**

*Making Friends with the Idea of a Father* follows director Nikolay Stefanov as he reopens the unsolved case of his father's 1994 murder in post-totalitarian Bulgaria. Driven by the birth of his third child, Nikolay embarks on a journey to uncover the truth behind his father's death, which occurred during a time of widespread social chaos. With state institutions still uncooperative, Nikolay's investigation hits a dead end, leading him to turn inward. He explores his troubled relationship with his father, his difficult youth marked by drug abuse, and his role as a father today. Through therapy and candid talks with his children, Nikolay seeks to reconcile with his past and improve his present relationships. Blending POV shooting, animation, and historical archives, *Making Friends with the Idea of a Father* moves from true crime to psychological thriller, offering a poignant exploration of fatherhood, sonship, and masculinity in our times.

---

Contact Info:

**+359888360806**

**ralitsa@smartypantsshooter.com**

# Sugarland

---

Genre:

**Documentary**

Producer:

**Alicja Gancarz**

Budget Estimate:

**480,000 EUR**

Estimated Runtime:

**90 min**

Presenter:

**Julia Groszek – Director**

**Ola Synowiec – Co-Creator**

**Alicja Gancarz – Producer**



## Julia Groszek

Julia Groszek is a seasoned director with a diverse portfolio in documentaries, short films, and music videos.

She trained in documentary directing and screenwriting at the prestigious Wajda School and was a participant in the Screenwriting Atelier. Julia also holds a degree in Audiovisual Communication

from the University of Malaga, Spain, and a master's in Cultural Studies. Her filmmaking career has taken her to various countries, including Poland, Romania, Jordan, Burma, Thailand, and Colombia, where she has crafted documentaries, reports, and contributed to casting. Her mid-length documentary, *Arabic Secret*, received international recognition and awards at festivals such as AegeanDocs in Greece, HumanDoc FF, and the Ismailia Film Festival in Egypt. Julia has also directed TV documentary series, and her latest short documentary, *Golden Dreams*, filmed in Zimbabwe, is currently in post-production.



## Ola Synowiec

Ola Synowiec is an accomplished journalist and writer specializing in Mexico, where she lived for nine years.

She holds master's degrees in both Literature and Latin American Studies from the University of Warsaw, deepening her expertise in the region. Demonstrating her commitment to understanding Mexico's diverse cultures,

she has also studied Tsotsil, an indigenous language of Chiapas. Ola is the author of two books on Mexico and several guides to the country. She curates the Mexico Magico Blog, a platform dedicated to exploring the nation's vibrant culture, and is actively involved in educational initiatives focused on post-colonialism and ethical storytelling.

**Alicja Gancarz**

Alicja Gancarz has over 20 years of experience in the media industry, focusing on the Internet and TV. She holds a degree in Film Studies from Jagiellonian University in Krakow and a Production degree from the Warsaw Film School. For 14 years, she was instrumental in selecting,

negotiating, and programming film and series content for thematic and premium channels at CANAL+ Poland. In recent years, she transitioned into production, overseeing projects such as the documentary series *Nuns* at CANAL+. Currently, she produces for Autograf production company, including the documentary feature *My Sunnyside* by Matylda Kawka.

**Project Synopsis:**

People in Chiapas, the poorest state in Mexico, consume the most Coca-Cola in the world - over 2 liters per person per day. Coca-Cola plays a ceremonial role during church prayers, and traditional healers even attribute healing properties to it. Business transactions often involve gifting large quantities of Coca-Cola, and politicians seeking votes are expected to offer up to 180 cases of the drink. However, Chiapas is also grappling with a diabetes epidemic. The Coca-Cola factories are depleting groundwater, leaving local residents deprived of access to drinking water. Ola, a journalist from the Polish crew, teams up with Joel, an indigenous artist from the Mexican crew, to explore why Chiapas has the highest global consumption of Coca-Cola. Throughout their journey, they reflect on the varying responses they receive from interviewees and consider whether these differences are influenced by their backgrounds and skin colors. Will they uncover why Coca-Cola has taken such a hold on the Mexican soul?

---

Contact Info:

**+48602693666**

**juliagroszek@gmail.com**



**Heart of Europe  
TV Festival & Forum is organized  
by TELEWIZJA POLSKA S.A. in liquidation**

PARTNERS







POLISH PUBLIC  
TELEVISION