



KVIFF Promises Book of Projects

2026

eurimages

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

AIR FOR ART

EURIMAGES
CO-PRODUCTION
DEVELOPMENT
AWARD



FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE

7-11 OCTOBER 2026
GUEST OF HONOUR CZECHIA

301
Meeks
Girl

Need a new story?

Book-to-Screen Day connects you directly with the stories that will define tomorrow's screens. Publishers, agents and scouts. Curated matchmaking. And first access to exciting original content waiting to become a script.

**Frankfurt, 9 October 2026. Where the next generation of content begins.
Because the best stories are found, not followed.**

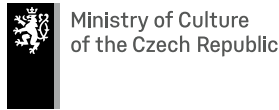
More information: buchmesse.de/en/book-to-screen

Follow us: **#fbm26**

KVIFF Industry Days are supported by

Screen Focus Sessions Partner

Media Partner of KVIFF Promises



Partners of KVIFF Central Stage

Partners of Book-to-Screen at KVIFF



Partners of KVIFF Talents



Partners



KVIFF Central Stage

Trainrider	9
The Flying Mountain	10
A Few Branches Off	11
Yugoslavia, My Fatherland	12
Tribe	13
The Stones Are Rolling to Prague	14
Cowgirl	15
Hansi	16
Lesdenzero	17
Noah	18
Screaming Girl	19

KVIFF Talents

Exposed	21
The Inhalatorium	22
Until We Leave	23
Burning Witches	24
Nera	25
K-Dream	26

Book-to-Screen at KVIFF

Playing Wolf	28
The True Way Out	29
Cupid at the Kremlin Wall	30
Aspic Bistro	31
The River Odyssey of Kora from Willow Meadow	32
Queen of Hearts	33
The Zone	34
Amadoca	35

Works in Development – Feature Launch

Confirmation	39
My 19-year-old Granny	40
They Bloom at Dawn	41
The Embrace	42
Smearhead	43
Natura	44
Northern Lights	45
Not All Houses Have a Yard	46
Reminiscence	47

Works in Development – Focus Queer

Nuusiku	49
Selamlik	50
Skeeter	51
Unholy	52

KVIFF Central Stage

Monday, July 6, 2 pm – 4 pm CET

KVIFF Central Stage is an initiative presented by the KVIFF Film Industry team in collaboration with agencies promoting films across Central Europe.

KVIFF Central Stage highlights the third and subsequent fiction features by established filmmakers from Austria, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and Ukraine. The showcase consists of 11 projects in late development, production, or post-production, looking for co-production, sales, distribution, post-production partners, or additional financing.

The selection emphasizes projects that blend arthouse and mainstream appeal, aiming for strong festival and audience potential.

KVIFF Talents 2026

Tuesday, July 7, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm CET

KVIFF Talents is a year-round initiative aimed at discovering and nurturing talented filmmakers from the Czech Republic and Slovakia, as well as promoting original approaches to audiovisual storytelling. This year, the programme presents three feature films, one animated feature film and two series projects. All selected projects are currently seeking co-production and investment partners.

The authors will also receive tailored mentoring and further support allowing them to work on their treatment. Interesting for: Producers seeking projects for co-production, funds, co-production markets, production companies.

Book-to-Screen at KVIFF

Tuesday, July 7, 11:45 am – 1 pm CET

A new project with a long-term goal to create a market for film rights to adaptations of literary works from Central and Eastern Europe, thereby strengthening cooperation between the film and book industries.

The presentation features 8 book titles with strong film potential from publishers and literary agencies that own film rights. The line-up reflects the region's diversity of countries, genres and themes, from historical epics and folk horror to children's stories and bold contemporary voices.

Book-to-Screen is presented in co-operation of Film Industry of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, Frankfurter Buchmesse, Svět knihy (Book World) and Moravian Library in Brno, with the support of the PPF Foundation.

Works in Development – Feature Launch & Focus Queer

Monday, July 6, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm CET

Works in Development – Feature Launch is a presentation of nine selected projects that have been developed within the MIDPOINT Feature Launch program, a unique training and networking platform for emerging talents from Central and Eastern Europe that is aimed at scouting the most talented filmmakers and producers of the future. It focuses on creative teams who are developing their first or second feature film. The program has been conducted in partnership with the Karlovy Vary IFF. The projects are in the development stage and are looking for further co-production partners as well as potential markets and sales opportunities. The best project of the program receives the KVIFF & MIDPOINT Development Award of 10,000 EUR.

Alongside them, four additional projects developed within MIDPOINT Focus Queer – a program supporting filmmakers exploring queer narratives – will be showcased, highlighting the importance of diversity and inclusion in contemporary storytelling.

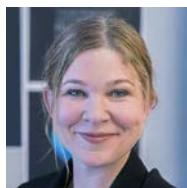
For the third time, Karlovy Vary IFF will host the Eurimages Co-production Development Award of 20,000 EUR for one of the projects in development presented within KVIFF Eastern Promises.

KVIFF Central Stage

A curated showcase of third or subsequent fiction features by established filmmakers from Central Europe. The projects, in various stages of production, combine bold directorial voices with stories designed to resonate beyond national borders.



Eurimages Co-production Development Award Jury



Gyda Velvin Myklebust

Gyda Velvin Myklebust: (b. 1975) has a University degree in Cultural Science and a Master of Fine Arts in Film from the National Film School in Norway. She is, since 2003, the Head of New Nordic Films, the Nordic film market and co-production market of the Norwegian Int. Film Festival in Haugesund. As a producer Gyda has made two feature films, *As I Fall* (Når jeg faller, Dir. Magnus Meyer

Arnesen 2018) and *The Comet* (Kometen, Dir. Bård Røssevold 2017). *As I Fall* was screened on several international film festivals, won awards and were nominated to four Amanda awards (Norway's national film award). Gyda is a member of European Film Academy and The Norwegian Film Academy.



Michel Plazanet

Michel Plazanet graduated in business and administrative affairs. After having worked long in the telecommunication sector, he joined the CNC (French national film institute) in 2005 as head of the re-

gional action department. In 2012, he was promoted deputy director of International and European affairs and has held this position ever since.



Jasmina Sijerčić

Originally from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sijercic studied Film Production at FAMU in Prague. After spending a year at Sorbonne University in Paris, she moved to France and joined the documentary production company ISKRA, where she worked as an executive producer. In 2016, she joined Bocalupo Films, where she has been producing films ever since. She regularly serves on national and regional film funding commissions in France and is an alumna of Eu-

rodoc, Emerging Producers, and Berlinale Talents. Recent filmography: *Nobody Said Anything* by Tamara Todorovic (Cannes IFF, Official short film competition 2026), *Promised Spaces* by Ivan Markovic (ACID Cannes, 2026), *Slet 1988* by Marta Popivoda (Locarno IFF 2025), *What We Ask of a Statue is That it Doesn't Move* by Daphné Hérétakis (Cannes Critic's Week 2024).

Trainrider



90 min, Germany

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.
In development.
This is the film's working title and may change.

Eyrie Entertainment GmbH
Bundeskanzlerplatz 2d
53113 Bonn
Germany
hello@eyrie.nrw

Orange Roughy Filmproduktion
Lückingstraße 22
53127 Bonn
Germany
corinnacip@gmail.com

Film synopsis

Deep in the 1990s, Karl lives under the strict control of his father after surviving cardiac arrest. Feeling trapped by illness and fear, he finds escape in the rebellious clique surrounding Jenna: skateboard rides, abandoned houses, and dangerous train surfing. But the closer Karl gets to freedom, the more he repeats his deepest trauma – confronting death to feel alive. After Jenna is badly injured, Karl realizes his struggle is not only against his father, but against his own inner darkness. As the group barricades itself inside a squatted house during a police eviction, Karl must face his fear of isolation and loss of control.

Director's biography

Sebastian Fritzsich is a photographer, artist, screenwriter, and director. His work includes serial photographic projects, 14 short films, and two feature films. He co-founded the Loge art space in Essen and curated the *Totale* series at Maschinenraum Essen. He studied cultural and theatre studies in Berlin, photography in Leipzig, and film directing at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne, graduating in 2009 with *Spuren*. His debut *Endzeit* (2013) screened at Berlinale and Busan. His second feature, *Der Wald in Mir* (2024), premiered at the Max Ophüls Festival. He lives in Cologne.

Producer's biography

Corinna C. Poetter is a freelance producer, script editor and writer for film and television, working across fiction, documentaries and factual formats. Her recent credits include the International Emmy-nominated KiKA series *Gong! Mein Spektakuläres Leben*, *Seid Einfach Wie Ihr Seid*, and the award-winning feature *Zu Weit Weg*. Current projects include *Jukli*, *Palme.Gardine.Tote Fliege* and *Hani*.

Daniel Ehrenberg is founder and managing director of Eyrie Entertainment in Bonn and Berlin. His productions include the award-winning films *Der Pfad* and *Clara*. Current projects include *Man Lebt, Weil Man Geboren Ist* and *Morgen War Krieg*, both currently in post-production.

Author's statement

Trainrider is set in the 1990s – a world of Discmans, train yards, anti-fascist stickers and basement parties, long before smartphones shaped adolescence. Yet beneath its nostalgic surface, the film reflects a generation that came later: the children of the Covid era – isolated, overwhelmed, and left alone with themselves. What interests us about *Trainrider* is not the medical story, but the emotional one: what happens to young people when they are held back too early, when silence turns into longing, anger and withdrawal. Fifteen-year-old Karl escapes the confinement of his body, his father's protection and his family's silence by diving into the worlds of skateboarding, parties and train surfing – searching not for freedom, but the feeling of being alive.

director **Sebastian Fritzsich**
scriptwriter **Jan Bredehöft, Sebastian Fritzsich**
producer **Corinna C. Poetter, Daniel Ehrenberg**
production **Orange Roughy Filmproduktion, Eyrie Entertainment**
camera **Mathias Prause**
music **Gregor Schwellenbach**
language **German**
genre **coming of age, drama**
release date **04.02.2028**
what's missing **co-production, financing and distribution partners, sales agent**



Sebastian Fritzsich
Director
+49 163 2632710
info@sebastian-fritzsich.de



Jan Bredehöft
Scriptwriter
+49 162 2940264
jbredehoeft@gmx.de



Corinna C. Poetter
Producer
+49 172 2141774
corinnacip@gmail.com



Daniel Ehrenberg
Producer
de@eyrie.nrw

The Flying Mountain / Der Fliegende Berg



130 min, Switzerland, Ireland, Austria, Nepal

In production.
This is the film's final distribution title.

tellfilm GmbH

Badenerstrasse 141
8004 Zurich
Switzerland
info@tellfilm.ch

Film synopsis

Two brothers' search for the truth takes them from the cliffs of Ireland to the mountains of Tibet, into the coldness of death and the mystery of love. Where do we come from? Where are we going? These have always been central questions of the worlds of philosophy and religion, but ultimately they remain unanswered. To find the answers, two brothers embark on a metaphysical journey from Ireland's Horse Island to the "Flying Mountain" in Kham, China. For one, it ends with a fulfilled death; for the other with the realisation that his path in life has not yet been explored.

Director's biography

Swiss director Nicolas Steiner studied at the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg, Germany. In 2009, his 16mm short *It's Me Helmut*, shot in one take, gained worldwide attention (over 260 festivals, 42 awards). His black-and-white documentary *Battle of the Queens* premiered at Berlinale 2011, followed by *Above and Below* (2015), which premiered at IFFR. The film won two German and three Swiss Film Awards. In 2021, Steiner directed and co-wrote the Netflix Original true crime series *Dig Deeper*. His first narrative feature, *You Believe in Angels, Mr. Drowak?* (2025) premiered in competition at the Shanghai IFF 2025 and was nominated in three categories at the 2026 Swiss Film Awards.

Producer's biography

Katrin Renz has been a producer and CEO of Zurich-based tellfilm since 2007. She produces national and international feature films and documentaries. Her filmography includes international co-productions such as *Ingeborg Bachmann - Journey into the Desert* by Margarethe von Trotta (in competition at the Berlinale 2023), *Blue My Mind* by Lisa Brühlmann (San Sebastián IFF 2017), *Gloria!* by Margherita Vicario (in competition at the Berlinale 2024) and *Monte Verità* by Stefan Jäger (Piazza Grande Locarno Film Festival). She is a permanent jury member of the Vienna Film Fund and a member of the European Film Academy, the Swiss Film Academy and the European Producers Club.

Author's statement

At the heart of *The Flying Mountain* is the journey of two brothers who depend on each other, yet cannot truly reach each other. Returning after their father's death, they carry rivalry, grief and unspoken love into a landscape where myth and reality cannot be separated. The Flying Mountain and the element of water become guides through a world between fact and belief, body and spirit, control and surrender. I want to make this film because it asks how we live with loss, how we face the unknown, and whether reconciliation is possible when we finally accept that not everything can be measured, conquered or explained.

scriptwriter **Nicolas Steiner**
producer **Katrin Renz, Stefan Jäger, Nicolas Steiner, David Collins, Eamon Hughes, Alexander Dumreicher-Ivanceanu, Bady Minck**
production **tellfilm GmbH**
camera **Markus Nestroy**
music **John Gürtler, Jan Miserre**
cast **Moe Dunford, Barry Ward, Thinley Lhamo**
language **English, Tibetan, Irish**
genre **drama**
release date **15.07.2027**
what's missing **additional financing, additional shooting, pre-sales, sales agent**



Nicolas Steiner
Director
forclettafilms@gmail.com



Katrin Renz
Producer
renz@tellfilm.ch

A Few Branches Off / Pořezat pár větví



90 min, Czech Republic

In development.
This is the film's working title and may change.

Bratři s. r. o.
Stamicova 1
162 00 Praha 6
Czech Republic
pavlickovae@gmail.com

Film synopsis

Pavel hoped for a peaceful weekend. In his fifties and living alone, he plans to spend a few days at his mother's house, mowing the lawn, helping out in the garden, and enjoying a family lunch. But nothing goes according to plan. His brother arrives late, his mother burns the lunch, and Blanka the neighbour wants to cut the branches hanging over the fence. Soon Pavel ends up in the hospital with an injured leg, followed by his mother after an unfortunate fall. Left alone, Pavel finds an unexpected companion in Blanka, his former girlfriend. As one mishap follows another, an old romance may get a second chance. A bittersweet comedy about a string of accidents and one great love.

Director's biography

Tomáš Pavlíček is a Czech director and screenwriter known for his distinctive blend of dry humour, emotional authenticity, and keen observation of everyday life. A graduate of FAMU in Prague, he debuted with *Totally Talking* (2014), which premiered at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival and won Best Film and Best Screenplay at Famufest. His second feature, *Bear With Us* (2018), premiered in Karlovy Vary's East of the West competition and received the Czech Film Critics' Award for Best Screenplay. Together with Jan Vejnar, he co-wrote and co-directed the acclaimed black comedy *She Came at Night* (2023), winner of multiple Czech Film Critics' Awards and Czech Lions. In 2025, he co-directed *Bugaboo* with Kateřina Karhánková, which premiered at the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival.

Producer's biography

Eva Váňová is a FAMU graduate and co-owner of the independent production company Bratři, which she runs together with Pavel Vácha. She debuted as producer with Adam Koloman Rybanský's *Somewhere Over the Chemtrails*, which premiered in the Berlinale Panorama section in 2022. In 2023, she produced *She Came at Night*, presented at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival and later awarded with multiple Czech Film Critics' Awards and Czech Lions. She is currently completing post-production on Rybanský's second feature, *Bohemian Paradise*. Her latest production, Zdeněk Tyc's *City of Fathers*, is set to premiere at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Through Bratři, she focuses on intelligent, author-driven comedies while developing new projects with emerging and established filmmakers.

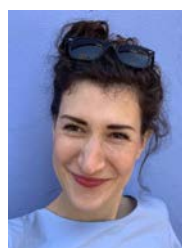
Author's statement

A Few Branches Off is a dark comedy about searching for inner laughter. I personally believe that if we can find inner laughter in dramatic and even tragic situations, we can find hope. Our main character goes through a series of tragic and also darkly funny situations. When he finally finds the dark humour – he also manages to find love and a happy ending.

director **Tomáš Pavlíček**
scriptwriter **Tomáš Pavlíček**
producer **Eva Váňová, Pavel Vácha**
production **Bratři s.r.o.**
camera **Jan Šuster**
cast **Petr Lněnička, Michael Isteník, Tatiana Dyková, Lenka Termerová**
language **Czech**
genre **comedy**
release date **09.09.2027**
what's missing **co-production**



Tomáš Pavlíček
Director
+420 732 578 416
tompavlicek@centrum.cz



Eva Váňová
Producer
+420 732 624 655
eva@produkcebratri.cz



Pavel Vácha
Producer
+420 777 896 158
pavel@produkcebratri.cz

Yugoslavia, My Fatherland / Jugoslavija, moja dežele



90 min, Slovenia, North Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.

In pre-production.

This film has a sales company attached.

Arsmedia

Stegne 5
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
info@arsmedia.si

Film synopsis

Thirty-three-year-old assistant professor Vladan Borojević lives a quiet life with his girlfriend Nadja until he discovers that his father, believed dead for nearly twenty years, is actually alive. General Nedeljko Borojević, once a Yugoslav Army general, is now accused of war crimes and hiding from The Hague tribunal. Searching for the truth, Vladan reconnects with his estranged mother Duša and travels from Slovenia to Bosnia to trace his father's last known address in Brčko. As Nadja reveals she is pregnant, Vladan becomes drawn deeper into a dangerous past where, even decades after the Yugoslav wars, people are still willing to kill to keep secrets buried.

Director's biography

Goran Vojnović's feature film *Piran – Pirano* (2010) garnered prizes for Best Editing, Best Actress and Best Screenplay at the Slovenian Film Festival in Portorož; Best Film and Best Actor at the South-East European Film Festival in Paris; and an award for intercultural dialogue at the 2013 Cottbus festival. His feature film *Chefurs Raus!* won the Vesna Award for Best Supporting Role at the Slovenian Film Festival in Portorož; Best Actor award at the festival in Cottbus; Best Director Award at the festival in Alexandria; Best Screenplay Award at the South-East European Film Festival in Paris; and the Media Award at the Pristina Film Festival. He has won two Golden Reels for +50,000 tickets sold at Slovenian box offices for his short films *City Lights* (screenwriter, 2015), *Fountain* (2017) and *Once Were Humans* (2021).

Producer's biography

Boštjan Ikovic, born in Ljubljana in 1979, studied Economics in Ljubljana and Graz before entering the film industry. A participant in Cannes Producers on the Move 2016, he has produced feature films, documentaries, TV series, and shorts. He is a member of the European Film Academy and a CEPI board member. His films include *Sarajevo Safari* (2022), *The Space Among Us* (2021), *Once Were Humans* (2020), *Sing Me a Song* (2018), *A Comedy of Tears* (2016), *Family Film* (co-production 2015), and *Chefurs Raus!* (2013). He has also produced the animated film *Julka* (2025).

Author's statement

People remember. And that is their greatest curse.

director **Goran Vojnović**
scriptwriter **Goran Vojnović, Aleksandar Popovski**
producer **Boštjan Ikovic, Miloš Ivanović**
production **Arsmedia**
camera **Milos Srdić**
cast **Matevž Sluga, Klara Kuk, Nataša Barbara Gračner**
language **Slovenian, Bosnian, Serbian**
website **arsmedia.si/en/in-production/yugoslavia-my-fatherland**
genre **drama**
release date **10.10.2028**
what's missing **co-production, distributors, music composer**



Goran Vojnović
Director



Boštjan Ikovic
Producer
+38 640 626 931
info@arsmedia.si



Miloš Ivanović
Producer
ivanovicmilos11@gmail.com

Tribe / Plemie



90 min, Poland, Albania

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.

In development.

This is the film's working title and may change.

furia film

Mariusza Zaruskiego 27B

81-577 Gdynia

Poland

karolina.galuba@furiafilm.pl

Film synopsis

After a sex scandal with a student shatters her life, Ela flees Poland in her battered Volvo with Nadia, her best friend. On the road, they pick up Basia and Viorika, sisters taking their mother's ashes to Albania, where they believe she once had a secret lover. As the four women cross Romania and the Balkans, sleeping in the car, clashing, drinking, laughing and breaking apart, their chaotic escape turns into a darkly funny, visceral journey through grief, shame, desire and female rage. Between dead mothers, failed marriages, erotic hunger and family wounds, each is pushed toward a reckoning. What begins as an escape slowly becomes a wild search for freedom, intimacy and rebirth – and the fragile making of a new tribe.

Director's biography

Olga Chajdas is an acclaimed director, whose works include television series for France TV, Netflix and HBO as well as award-winning feature films such as *Imago*, which premiered at Karlovy Vary and won the FIPRESCI award.

Producer's biography

Furia Film debuted at Berlinale with the documentary *Miss Holocaust*. Our latest film, the family road movie *Grandpa, Let's Go!* (also directed by Olga Chajdas) won the European Children's Film Association Award and is now available on Netflix.

Author's statement

Four women end up in a car together. Each of them has an individual journey to make. They start as strangers and finish as a temporary tribe that was built on openness and trust. This is a portrait of modern women – witches, travellers, lonely souls, those who have suffered trauma, those who are lost.

director **Olga Chajdas**
 scriptwriter **Olga Chajdas**
 producer **Karolina Galuba**
 production **furia film**
 camera **Tomasz Naumiuk**
 language **Polish, English**
 genre **dramedy**
 release date **31.01.2028**
 what's missing **additional financing, sales agent**



Olga Chajdas
Director



Karolina Galuba
Producer
karolina.galuba@furiafilm.pl



Malgorzata Malysa
Producer
malgorzata.malysa@furiafilm.pl

The Stones Are Rolling to Prague / Kameny se valí do Prahy



120 min, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.
In development.
This is the film's final distribution title.

Bontonfilm, a.s.
Na Poříčí 1047/26
110 00 Praha 1
Czech Republic
info@bontonfilm.cz

Film synopsis

Prague, spring 1990. The Velvet Revolution has just ended and the country is balancing between euphoria and chaos. Four friends who used to organize underground concerts of outlawed bands receive an offer from President Václav Havel they can't refuse: to organize a Rolling Stones concert in Czechoslovakia. A wild ride begins – translating the band's rider with dictionaries, sending faxes from the President's office, and scraping together the unprecedented sum of a million dollars. Incredibly, on August 18, 1990, Mick Jagger makes his entrance at Strahov Stadium and shouts: "Ahoj Praha!" A hundred thousand rock fans burst into tears of joy. A punk comedy based on a true story about fighting for freedom.

Director's biography

Tomáš Hodan (born 15 December 1980, Prague) is a Czech film director and screenwriter. He graduated from film school in Zlín (2002). As a documentary filmmaker, he has shot in many countries around the world, including Angola and Afghanistan. In 2015, he released a portrait of the world-renowned animator Karel Zeman titled *Film Adventurer Karel Zeman*. As a screenwriter, he helped create the fairy tale *The Magic Quill* (2018), the political comedy *President Blaník* (2018), and the series *Kancelář Blaník*. He crowned his feature-length directorial debut with the historical drama *The Last Race* (2022) about the tragic death of skiers Hanč and Vrbata in the Krkonoše Mountains in 1913.

Producer's biography

Jakub Kraus (born 22 August 1997) is a Czech film producer and cultural manager from Teplice. He studied at Palacký University in Olomouc and has been working as a producer for Bontonfilm Studios since 2022. As a production manager, he worked on films such as *Hádkovi*, *The Word* and *Tiny Lights*. As a creative producer, he worked on the films *Kouzlo Derby*, *Když se zhasne* and the upcoming feature *The Stones Are Rolling to Prague*.

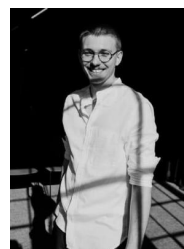
Author's statement

The Stones Are Rolling to Prague is a film about hope – about what you can achieve when you truly want something. Like organizing a concert by the greatest rock band in history under a socialist regime with no English, no car, and using a payphone. Wild and untamed, just like the post-revolution era it portrays. Scenes crash into each other, and just when our heroes seem cornered, something even crazier happens – and they pull through. Grey Prague versus Western goods; socialist bureaucracy versus band management. Loser comedy at its best – characters at the centre of something historic, despite having no business being there. Humour runs underneath, not on the surface. For older viewers, a memory; for younger ones, proof that nerve and energy can get you anywhere.

director **Tomáš Hodan**
scriptwriter **Tomáš Hodan**
producer **Jakub Kraus, Martin Palán, Tibor Búza**
production **Bontonfilm Studios**
camera **Jan Baset Střítežský**
music **Jakub Kudlác**
cast **Petr Uhlík, Jan Nedbal, Josef Trojan, Matyáš Řezníček**
language **Czech, Slovak, English**
genre **comedy**
release date **10.08.2028**
what's missing **additional financing, international distribution, international sales agent**



Tomáš Hodan
Director, Scriptwriter
+420 608 619 187
tomashodancz@gmail.com



Jakub Kraus
Producer
+420 770 174 097
jakub.kraus@bontonfilm.cz

Cowgirl



86 min, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Hungary

In post-production.

This film has a sales company attached.

This is the film's final distribution title.

nutprodukcia

Lazaretská 13
811 08 Bratislava
Slovakia
+421948050189
info@nutprodukcia.sk

nutprodukce

Píseckého 333/15
150 00 Praha 5
Czech Republic
info@nutprodukce.cz

Film synopsis

Fourteen-year-old Barbora lives with her father in the picturesque Slovak countryside. The love of her life is her horse Juno, who she competes with in western-style riding tournaments. But Barbora's naive, childlike view of the world begins to crumble when she discovers that her father, a police officer, is involved in agricultural corruption. She doesn't know it yet, but if she wants to set things right, she'll have to make a sacrifice.

Director's biography

Michal Blaško is an emerging voice in European cinema, recognized for his authentic storytelling and nuanced exploration of contemporary social issues. His bachelor's film *Atlantis, 2003* (2017) was selected for the Cinéfondation competition at the Cannes Film Festival in 2017, marking his early international breakthrough. In 2019, his feature debut *Victim* (2022) was chosen as one of the 15 most promising global projects in the Cannes L'Atelier programme and had its world premiere in the Orizzonti section at the Venice Film Festival in 2022. That same year, Blaško was selected for Berlinale Talents and presented his miniseries *Suspicion* (2022) at Berlinale Series.

Producer's biography

Tomáš Hrubý co-founded Nutprodukce in 2009, winning 11 Czech Lion Awards, including for *Burning Bush* (2013), directed by Agnieszka Holland for HBO. He produced *Wasteland* (2016), co-produced with HBO, and recent projects like *Mr and Ms Stodola* (2023), which premiered at Tallinn Black Nights, and *Free the Chickens* (2024), which premiered at Annecy. He also co-produced *Spoor* (2017), which was awarded with the Silver Bear at Berlinale. Tomáš was selected for the Producers on the Move programme and is part of ACE.

Author's statement

Growing up can sometimes make us confront the fact that reality no longer resembles a dream but entails disappointment, discoveries about ourselves and disillusionment with a world that previously could be seen as almost magical.

Barbora lives in a place that can be rough at times, but it gives her freedom, energy and joy like no other. For me she represents a much needed change, a wind that shakes the habits of this world, but one that leads her to make mistakes. It is how we cope with these mistakes that I consider formative for who we later become.

These moments can be very intense and hurtful to people who are close to us, and that is the core of *Cowgirl*.

director **Michal Blaško**
scriptwriter **Jakub Medvecký**
producer **Jakub Viktorín, Tomáš Hrubý**
production **nutprodukcia, nutprodukce**
camera **Adam Mach**
music **Ádám Balázs**
cast **Ela Kastély, Juliána Brutovská, Juraj Loj, Peter Bebjak, Milan Mikulčík**
language **Slovak**
genre **coming of age drama**
release date **15.10.2026**
what's missing **festival premiere**



Michal Blaško
Director



Tomáš Hrubý
Producer
tomas@nutprodukce.cz

Hansi



90 min, Austria

In production.
This is the film's final distribution title.

ORBROCK Filmproduktion GmbH
Schottenfeldgasse 56/23
1070 Vienna
Austria
+43 664 204 63 62
gehmacher@orbrock.com

Film synopsis

Hansi is the raw, darkly poetic, and tragicomic portrait of Hansi Orsolics, a working-class Viennese boxer whose life becomes a battleground for ambition, friendship, and the toxic legacy of masculinity. The film weaves together Hansi's rise from a humble chimney sweep to a celebrated (and controversial) boxing champion, his complex friendship with TV reporter Sigi Bergmann, and the societal contradictions of post-war Austria – a nation eager to bury its Nazi past while embracing new myths of success.

Director's biography

Sebastian Brauneis was born in 1978. He took up work in film and television, rotating in various departments. Continuing in this line of work, he directed and authored 66 episodes of the TV programmes *Broadcast Without Name*, *Welcome Austria*, *Bösterreich*, *Democracy*, *The Show* and *Elevate*. His movie debut *Zauberer* premiered in 2018 at the Max Ophüls Prize in Saarbrücken. In 2020, he finished his second feature film, *3friends2foes*, which deals with friendship and solidarity. In 2021, he premiered his third feature film, the melodrama *1 Autumn Rendez-vous* at Diagonale 21 in Graz. In 2023, his fourth feature film *The Landlady* finished production and entered the festival circuit. He is now finishing his latest feature film *AMS – Arbeit Muss Sein*.

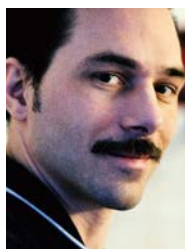
Producer's biography

Ulrich Gehmacher is a Vienna-based producer and managing director of Orbrock Filmproduktion GmbH, founded in 2000. Drawing on more than fifteen years in theatre, opera and festival production, he focuses on carefully developed, filmmaker-driven Austrian and European cinema. His films include *Life in Loops*, *Seventeen*, *Nevrland*, *80 Plus* and *Hansi*. Orbrock productions has been invited to more than fifty international festivals and received major awards including Best Documentary Film at Karlovy Vary IFF, the Max Ophüls Prize for Best Film, Austrian Film Awards, the Thomas Pluch Screenplay Prize and the Austrian Film Academy Award for Most Popular Film.

Author's statement

We still live in a society where patriarchal, misogynistic structures persist; where victim blaming remains an unreflected, dominant norm – whether practiced in the privacy of everyday life or perpetuated by mainstream media. So how, then, do we tell the story of a figure like Hansi Orsolics? What does his "cult status" say about us as a society? How do we tell his story without absolving him of responsibility? Sports and fallen heroes have always been sure to catch the public's interest. The protagonists of these dramas – stories that often oscillate elusively between performance (rules, venues, stages) and harsh reality (injuries, losses, private failures in "real" life) – are, of course, a major magnet for voyeuristic curiosity.

director **Sebastian Brauneis**
scriptwriter **Sebastian Brauneis, Helmut Emersberger**
producer **Ulrich Gehmacher**
production **ORBROCK**
camera **Roman Chalupnik**
cast **Laurence Rupp, Lukas Watzl, Margarethe Tiesel**
language **German**
genre **biopic, drama**
release date **02.07.2027**
what's missing **VOD, international distribution**



Sebastian Brauneis
Director, Scriptwriter
sebastian@brauneis.biz



Ulrich Gehmacher
Producer
gehmacher@orbrock.com

Lesdenzero



100 min, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Hungary, Romania

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.
In development.
This is the film's final distribution title.

Xova Film

Sudoměřská 893/52
130 00 Praha 3
Czech Republic
+420 607 240 966
marek@xovafilm.cz

Film synopsis

Tonda, 21, delivers food for a living and dreams of not ending up like his parents. When Kuba – his distant uncle and fixer for the wealthy Zelinka family – offers him a trial job, it feels like a door opening. He is sent to Switzerland to bring home Anička, the boss's unstable teenage daughter, for her father's wedding. At first she is just a task. But Anička offers him more than the job ever could: money and a future together, beyond Kuba's rules. Tonda skips the exit to Prague. They fall in love and live out a fantasy. For Tonda it's real. For Anička, it lasts only until her family pulls her back. Tonda follows her, kills Kuba, and is "saved" by the Zelinkas, who give him a seat inside their family but no option to leave it.

Director's biography

Cristina Groșan is a Romanian-Hungarian filmmaker working across Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Romania. She co-directed the TV mini-series *Daughter of the Nation* (2024), which premiered on Canal+ in 7 countries and was nominated for 5 Czech Lion Awards. Her film *Ordinary Failures* (2022) premiered at the Venice Film Festival, where she won the Best Director Under 40 prize. Cristina's debut film *Things Worth Weeping For* (2021) premiered at Sarajevo IFF, was screened at over 25 festivals, and was nominated for Best Screenplay at the Hungarian Film Awards. She is a member of the Association of Hungarian Film Directors and ARAS Czech Republic, and is also a lecturer at FAMU International.

Producer's biography

Marek Novák graduated from Prague's FAMU and is an alumnus of EAVE and ACE Producers. He is the CEO of Xova Film, a Prague-based production company focusing on audiovisual works with authentic creative vision. Recent productions include the Venice-awarded *Ordinary Failures* by Cristina Groșan (2022) or *After Party* by Vojtěch Strakatý, which premiered at Venice in 2024. In 2025, he premiered the documentary *The Czech Film Project* at Karlovy Vary, co-directed and produced together with Mikuláš Novotný, reflecting on contemporary Czech cinema. He is a member of the Czech Film and Television Academy, European Film Academy and the Czech Audiovisual Producers Association.

Author's statement

Lesdenzero began from a personal question about origin. Born into a Romanian-Hungarian family, I grew up between two identities: the Hungarian in Romania and the Romanian in Hungary. The experience of being accepted or rejected depending on where one comes from led me to the questions within this story. In today's Europe, where you are born still defines how far you can go. In *Lesdenzero*, a poor young man and a privileged girl become inseparable for a few days. He sees in her the path to a better future, while in him she sees a way to disappear. For her, rebellion is something her family can turn into a funny story. For him, the same rebellion can destroy his life. I am interested in the painful absurdity of this encounter.

director **Cristina Groșan**
scriptwriter **Arne Kohlweyer, Cristina Groșan**
producer **Marek Novák**
production **Xova Film**
camera **Márk Györi**
language **Czech, German**
genre **drama, road-movie**
release date **13.10.2028**
what's missing **additional financing**



Cristina Groșan
Director, Scriptwriter



Marek Novák
Producer
marek@xovafilm.cz

Noah / Noj



100 min, Ukraine, Croatia, Belgium

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.

In development.

This is the film's working title and may change.

Directory Films

Nyzhniourkivska str. 45a
 04080 Kyiv
 Ukraine
 info@directoryfilms.com

Film synopsis

To fund his mother's treatment, shy IT specialist Andrii enlists in the military, but instead of a desk job, he is sent to the frontlines. As his engineering unit fights to drive the Russian invaders back to their borders, Andrii is mentored by the hot-headed, cynical Noah and a sympathetic Balkan-war veteran Croat. In the brutal fighting, he transforms into a hardened soldier code-named Thirteen. Directly on the border, he faces an impossible choice: save the Croat or ten others. In trying to rescue everyone, he fails. Left in the world with no right answers, Thirteen absorbs his mentors' traits, becoming the man he never wanted to be.

Director's biography

Marysia Nikitiuk is an award-winning Ukrainian screenwriter and film director. Her debut feature, *When the Trees Fall*, received the Krzysztof Kieslowski Award for Best Script and premiered at Berlinale (Panorama). She co-wrote *Homeward* by Nariman Aliev, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival (Un Certain Regard). Marysia co-directed the documentary *Traces* with Alisa Kovalenko, which won the Audience Award in the Berlinale Panorama.

Producer's biography

Igor Savychenko graduated from the National University of Kyiv with a master's degree in mathematics. He started his film career as a writer after years of successful journalism, but quickly became a producer. In 2009, Igor attended the New York Film Academy's Workshop and many other subsequent workshops and training programmes. He is a member of ACE Producers, EFA, EPC, and UFA. His best-known works are *The Glass House*, *One Day in Ukraine*, *When the Trees Fall*, *The Forgotten*, *The Painted Bird*, *The Gateway*, and *Voices from Chernobyl*. Igor is one of the founders of the #Babylon13 documentary project, which has been documenting Ukraine's civil society since 2013, from the Maidan to the Russo-Ukrainian war (with over 1,000 films).

Author's statement

Noah is a start of a trilogy about Ukraine's war for independence, and is centred around two figures: Noah, a cynical sapper commander, and Thirteen, a young soldier who gradually transforms into the biblical Noah – a figure of survival, rebuilding, and moral endurance. Each part of the trilogy explores a different phase of the war and a different emotional reality. *Noah* is the first film. The story begins as a war adventure and gradually transforms into a hyper-naturalistic tragedy where the characters lose everything – their friends, lovers, and health – yet are forced to keep moving forward. This is not a story about victory, but about continuing when there is no strength left.

director **Marysia Nikitiuk**
 scriptwriter **Marysia Nikitiuk**
 producer **Igor Savychenko, Solomiya Ilnytska, Hrvoje Osvadić, Labina Mitevska, Sébastien Delloye**
 production **Directory Films**
 language **Ukrainian, English, Croatian**
 genre **action, war**
 release date **28.01.2029**
 what's missing **additional financing, co-production partners, sales agent**



Marysia Nikitiuk
 Director



Igor Savychenko
 Producer
 savychenko@directory-films.com



Hrvoje Osvadić
 Producer



Sébastien Delloye
 Producer

Screaming Girl



100 min, Ireland, Ukraine

In development.
This is the film's working title and may change.

Fore Films

Starokyivska, 26 str.
04116 Kyiv
Ukraine
+380 734190873
anna@forefilms.com

Feline Films

10-13 Thomas Street
Dublin
Ireland
annie@felinefilms.ie

Film synopsis

After the invasion of Ukraine, Sasha ends up in Dublin. She works as a cleaner, lives in a refugee centre, and has almost stopped dreaming. Everything changes when she meets Barry, a washed-up actor living on the ruins of his former career.

Through Barry, Sasha enters filmmaking and becomes obsessed with becoming a successful actress. But during the production of a TV series, the impossible happens. A costume pierced by a two-metre spear becomes magically attached to her body.

The doctors can do nothing, and the world around her calmly accepts this absurdity. The spear turns every aspect of Sasha's life into a challenge, drawing unwanted attention wherever she goes and turning even the simplest tasks into obstacles. Worse still, she has no idea how to move forward. But life must go on, even when it's painfully inconvenient.

Director's biography

Antonio Lukich holds an MA in film directing from Kyiv National I.K. Karpenko-Kary University. His debut feature *My Thoughts Are Silent* (2019) won awards at Karlovy Vary, Raindance, and Odesa IFFs. His second feature *Luxembourg, Luxembourg* premiered in Venice's Orizzonti section (2022) and screened at TIFF, Tallinn, Gothenburg, Chicago, and many other festivals. He is a Ukrainian Film Academy Award laureate, an Artist of the Year honouree from *Ukrainska Pravda*, and holds the state title of Honored Artist of Ukraine (2021). Lukich also runs the YouTube channel *My Thoughts About Cinema* (34,000+ subscribers), exploring film metaphysics, and has authored the screenwriting book *My Thoughts About Cinema: How to Translate Life Into a Screenplay?*. He is a member of the European Film Academy.

Producer's biography

ForeFilms: Founded in 2020 by Volodymyr and Anna Yatsenko, ForeFilms is a founding member of the Film Industry Association of Ukraine, producing author-driven films that have premiered at Cannes, Venice, and Toronto. Their slate spans drama, comedy, sci-fi, and historical films, with directors including Valentyn Vasyanovych, Nariman Aliev, Antonio Lukich, and Pavlo Ostrikov.

Feline Films: Established in 2018 by producer Jessie Fisk, Feline Films is a Dublin-based company making bold, thought-provoking cinema. Credits include *Wolf* (TIFF 2021, Universal), *The Wolf, the Fox, and the Leopard* (Tribeca 2025), and *How to Divorce During the War* (Sundance 2026, Best Director). Their latest, *The Last Days of Rabbit Hayes*, starring Niamh Algar, Sam Claflin, and Alisha Weir, completes in 2026.

Author's statement

Screaming Girl began with an image that stayed with me through the war: a girl carrying a spear. Not a literal figure, but a symbol of how people survive, wounded yet upright. Sasha, a Ukrainian refugee in Dublin, cannot fit into the elevator, the system, or the story others write for her. Barry, a faded Irish actor, recognises something true in her. Two misfits who help each other remember how to live. I wanted to make a film about endurance that refuses pity. Laughter is my bridge to empathy. Dublin is not a backdrop but a character: its comfort and prosperity sharpen Sasha's sense of not belonging. I reject the social problem film. The act of trying is itself an act of defiance.

director **Antonio Lukich**
scriptwriter **Antonio Lukich, Ailbhe Keogan**
producer **Volodymyr Yatsenko, Anna Yatsenko, Jessie Fisk, Annie Barclay**
production **Fore Films, Feline Films**
language **English, Ukrainian**
genre **drama**
release date **29.09.2027**
what's missing **additional financing,**
co-production, sales agent



Antonio Lukich
Director



Anna Yatsenko
Producer
anna@forefilms.com



Volodymyr Yatsenko
Producer
volodymyr@forefilms.com

KVIFF Talents

A year-round initiative supporting promising new Czech and Slovak filmmakers and their projects in early development under the patronage of KVIFF: Feature Pool focuses on debut feature films, while Creative Pool supports all types of audiovisual works, including series, experimental and hybrid formats. This year, the programme presents three feature films, one animated feature film and two series projects.



KVIFF
TALENTS

TTT
NADACE ČEZ



oneplay

K Krajské inovační centrum
Karlovarského kraje

Forbes

Exposed / Exponovaná



100 min, Czech Republic

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.
Feature film

nutprodukce
Piseckého 333/15
150 00 Praha 5
Czech Republic
info@nutprodukce.cz

Film synopsis

Laura is a budding photographer. She approaches her work, and particularly her life, with a great deal of self-destruction and anti-establishment rebellion. As a young female artist with an unconventional vision, she's unable to succeed in an environment where the rules are dictated exclusively by powerful men. Using the philosophical problem of capturing the objective truth and the backdrop of a mysterious crime thriller set in the semi-legal queer milieu of socialist Czechoslovakia, we unravel a universal story of personal dilemma and the courage to stand up for one's own version of reality. The story of a young female photographer, unfolding over 24 hours in Prague during the 1980s era of "normalisation", forms the basis for a cinematic essay on the elusiveness of objective truth.

About the authors

Klára Tasovská is a director and film editor. Her documentary essay *Midnight* (2010) garnered awards at the Visions du Réel and Ji.hlava IDFF festivals. Her feature debut *Fortress* (2012) was nominated for the 2013 LUX Prize, and her documentary *Nothing Like Before* competed at IDFA 2017. Her latest film, *I'm Not Everything I Want to Be* (2024), premiered at the Berlinale 2024 and was submitted as the Czech entry for the Oscars.

Lukáš Kokeš is a director and producer. Together with Klára Tasovská, he has directed the films *Fortress* and *Nothing Like Before*. As a producer, he has helped create the projects *Brutal Heat* (KVIFF Proxima 2023), *I'm Not Everything I Want to Be* (Berlinale Panorama 2024) and *Summer School, 2001* (KVIFF Special Screenings 2025).

Author's statement

Exposed illuminates a blind spot in the queer history of Central and Eastern Europe under communism. LGBTQ+ themes are entering the mainstream, yet authentic storytelling from behind the Iron Curtain – where sexual identity was directly intertwined with political repression – remains absent. The personal sphere was quite literally a political matter, and in today's global climate this story gains new relevance. The film builds on the tradition of European auteur cinema, shifting it into a female perspective within the context of socialist Czechoslovakia. The visual language drawn from Libuše Jarcovjáčková's raw photographs offers an aesthetic where intentional imperfection becomes meaningful – representing the feminist female gaze. Target audience: Millennials and Gen Z (16–39) open to fluid identity and alternative culture, as well as cinephiles following the arthouse scene.

Further development plan

The treatment draws on the material Klára Tasovská gathered while making her documentary *I'm Not Everything I Want to Be*, exploring the life of Czech photographer Libuše Jarcovjáčková. We are currently working on the second version of the treatment. We plan to bring on an experienced female co-writer. Documentary authenticity and believability are unique qualities of our project. The criminal dimension carries strong audience appeal, and we aim to handle genre elements with intelligence and craft.

director **Klára Tasovská**
scriptwriter **Klára Tasovská**
producer **Lukáš Kokeš**
production **nutprodukce**
genre **mysterious queer thriller**
release date **2029**
what's missing **financing, international co-producers, sales agent, script consulting**



Klára Tasovská
Director
klaratasovska@gmail.com



Lukáš Kokeš
Producer
+420 727 833 188
lukokes@gmail.com

The Inhalatorium



96 min, Czech Republic

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.
Stop-motion feature film

Divize animace

Bořivojova
13000 Praha
Czech Republic
+420 734 371 708
info@divize.art

Film synopsis

Thirteen-year-old Mara arrives at a mountain sanatorium to treat her asthma. The building, enveloped by mist and forest, cares for the body but neglects the soul. The white tiling, cold water and rhythm of the inhalers leave a quiet emptiness in the children. When her new friend Jáchym disappears and the staff refuse to speak of him, Mara sets off with her other friends to find him. Amidst the steam, breath and hum of the heating, reality begins to crumble. The children discover that even the landscape remembers its wounds, and that deep within the mountains dwells Rýbrcoul – a spirit who has transformed pain into strength. Mara must face a wholly new fear, one that will teach her to accept her own fragility and find the courage to grow up.

About the authors

Bára Anna Stejskalová is a Czech filmmaker and visual artist working in stop-motion, puppet animation and mixed media. Her work explores materiality, atmosphere and emotional transformation. Her short films *The Fishermen* (2017) and *Love Is Just a Death Away* (2020) were both shortlisted for the BAFTA Student Film Awards. Her films have been screened internationally, including at SXSW and Annecy International Animation Film Festival. Her latest underwater stop-motion musical *9 Million Colours* is currently touring festivals, while her debut feature *Inhalatorium* is in development with support from the Czech Audiovisual Fund.

Author's statement

Inhalatorium is a 96-minute stop-motion animated feature film blending poetic horror, mystery, and coming-of-age storytelling. Set in a mountain sanatorium where children with chronic illnesses return year after year, the film follows thirteen-year-old Mara as she uncovers a hidden connection between the landscape, memory, and a mysterious mountain spirit known as Rýbrcoul. The project is aimed at audiences aged 12+ and young adults, as well as viewers drawn to auteur animation and darker fairy tales. The tone and atmosphere draws inspiration from works such as *Coraline*, *Princess Mononoke*, and *Twin Peaks*.

Further development plan

Inhalatorium is currently in development, combining screenplay work, visual research, and fieldwork in Czech mountain regions and spa facilities. The project draws on personal memories and regional folklore and, as part of building an authentic world, will also involve consultations with medical professionals. The project will be presented at MIFA Annecy 2026 as part of the Czech Film Centre pitching programme. The next phase will focus on deepening the narrative, developing the film's visual language, and finding international creative and co-production partners. During development, we also plan to further advance the project through international workshops, development labs, and co-production platforms.

director **Bára Anna Stejskalová**
scriptwriter **Bára Anna Stejskalová**
producer **Jakub Rálek**
production **Divize animace**
genre **dark comedy, mystery**
release date **2030**
what's missing **creative partners, development and pre-production funding, distributor, sales agent, international co-producers, script consulting**



Bára Anna Stejskalová
Director
+420 734 371 708
baraanna@divize.art



Jakub Rálek
Producer
+420 737 125 063
jakub@divize.art

Until We Leave / Odliv



90 min, Czech Republic

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.

Feature film

One Way Ticket Films

Kaprova 42/14

110 00 Praha

Czech Republic

+420601558569

simplytereza@gmail.com

Film synopsis

Until We Leave is a feature-length drama about four thirty-something women who travel to France to visit a close friend with a terminal illness. Their trip gradually turns into a confrontation with their own lives, relationships and visions of the future. The presence of death, which isn't spoken of directly, transforms everyday crises into questions that can no longer be postponed. The film explores the dynamics of female friendship at a moment when closeness, loyalty and exhaustion collide with the awareness of mortality. It's an intimate drama with elements of an observational road movie and tragicomedy.

About the authors

Lucia Čížinská is a screenwriter, actress and graduate of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (DAMU), where she focused on authorial and collaborative creation. In her work, she explores relationships, the female experience and breaking points in everyday life. The *Until We Leave* project is her feature-length screenwriting debut.

Tereza Wiński is a producer and co-owner of One Way Ticket Films. In 2022, the feature film *Borders of Love* premiered in Karlovy Vary IFF's main competition, where it won the FIPRESCI International Film Critics Award. She was involved in the film in the role of producer. She currently has several feature films in the development phase, one of which is *Until We Leave*.

Author's statement

Until We Leave was inspired by a real trip I took with my close friends during a period when we were all struggling with fear, uncertainty and the pressure to move forward in our lives. I want to explore female friendship beyond idealized portrayals – in all its intimacy, humour, tension and emotional chaos. The film explores how friendship can give us the courage to confront fear, embrace change and take a step toward the lives we truly want to live.

Further development plan

We are at the very early stage of development and have the first version of the treatment. The author is planning to start writing the script in July and August, but she has received support for the creative development of the first version of the script from the Czech Audiovisual Fund. Once we have the first version, we would like to consult it with a female script editor to get feedback and involve her in the process. We are also planning to apply for European mini-slate development (Creative Europe Media) this year in the autumn. With the finished script, we would like to find a suitable female director for this project, and with her we will slowly start casting our female characters. Our plan is to apply for the complete development of a feature film next spring (February / March 2027) at the Czech Audiovisual Fund.

scriptwriter **Lucia Čížinská**
producer **Tereza Wiński**
production **One Way Ticket Films**
genre **dramedy**
release date **2030**

what's missing **female director, financing, international co-producers, sales agent, distribution, script consulting**



Lucia Čížinská
Scriptwriter
+420 603 902 244
lucia.cizinska@gmail.com



Tereza Wiński
Producer
+420 774 264 649
simplytereza@gmail.com

Burning Witches / Hon na čarodějnice



Czech Republic

7x30 min
Miniseries**MasterFilm**Šumavská 13
120 00 Prague 2
Czech Republic
dagmar@masterfilm.cz

Film synopsis

The Bohemian-Polish borderlands, 17th century. Noblewoman Katuše returns from abroad to save her failing family estate. Her plan? To equalise women's wages. But she clashes against her ruling father-in-law, Spytihněv, who masterfully turns a revolt of starving serfs into a battle of the sexes. He brands women who are not "perfect servants" as witches and begins sentencing them to be burned at the stake. Katuše's sister Lada, an herbal healer, becomes a prime candidate for the penalty. Katuše attempts not only to save her, but also to emancipate the people around her. Just when Katuše's efforts seem to have failed, her courage lights the spark of an unexpected uprising. Women and men alike come to see through the tyrant's lies and, instead of turning on each other, finally decide together to "torch" the system that has been devouring them.

About the authors

Martina Babišová is an actress and writer. She has appeared in several Czech and international films and series (e.g. *Lifeline*, *Shoky & Morthy*, *Carnival Row*, *Foundation*). She writes articles for various periodicals and has published the book *Crash and Rise*.

Věra Starečková holds a degree in screenwriting and dramaturgy from Prague's FAMU. She is the co-author of several short films (e.g. *Dance Like a Gypsy*, *Misophonia Orchestra*, *Bury Me!*), and a writer for the series *Highland Badge* and *What Haunts Us* (Bionaut).

Dagmar Sedláčková is a producer at MasterFilm, where she focuses on auteur films, documentaries and international co-productions. She was awarded a Czech Lion for the film *Caravan*, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival.

Author's statement

Women have been fighting toxic masculinity for centuries. Today, the rise of the manosphere has made this hatred more visible and more organised, but the mechanisms behind it are anything but new: unequal access to power, money, care, safety and social status. This is what our series addresses. Through a historical and satirical lens, we expose how these absurd power strategies survive, mutate and repeat themselves. Same shit, different century. Yet we also want to celebrate female intelligence, friendship and solidarity – the forces that can challenge toxic masculinity and defeat it, at least for a while. The target audience is viewers aged 25-45 who watch high-quality European films and seek clever humour with a distinctive directorial voice.

Further development plan

The project is currently in development. We are refining the concept, dramatic structure and narrative arc, while developing the series bible and shaping the tone, world and characters. At this stage, our focus is to sharpen the satirical engine of the series, define the rules of its historical world, and deepen the relationships between the main characters so the story can carry not only one season, but a larger series universe. In parallel, we are preparing the project for financing and international presentation, and looking for partners who can help us strengthen its creative direction and move it towards production.

scriptwriter **Martina Babišová**,
Věra Starečková
producer **Dagmar Sedláčková**
production **MasterFilm**
genre **comedy**
release date **2029**
what's missing **broadcasters, financing,**
script consulting



Martina Babišová
Scriptwriter / Actress
+420 774 393 303
martina.babis@gmail.com



Věra Starečková
Scriptwriter
+420 739 929 093
stareckova.v@gmail.com



Dagmar Sedláčková
Producer
+420 733 579 107
dagmar@masterfilm.cz

Nera



100 min, Czech Republic, Slovenia

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.
Feature film

MasterFilm

Šumavská 13
120 00 Prague 2
Czech Republic
dagmar@masterfilm.cz

Temporama

Litostrojska 17
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
info@temporama.si

Film synopsis

Tereza has just graduated from high school and has the world at her feet – until a tiny spot appears in her field of vision. The diagnosis is grim: she is going blind. She is rescued from despair by Nera, a guide dog trained to keep Tereza safe. In Nera, she finds a kindred spirit, but she soon realizes that the freedom she is regaining has its limits. Nera has been trained to suppress her natural instincts, so Tereza begins to break the rules of her training to liberate her. Gradually, she is forced to choose: accept a system that treats Nera as a tool, or disrupt their relationship, risking the safety of them both.

About the authors

Ivana Vogrinc Vidali is a director and screenwriter, currently studying directing at Prague's FAMU. She has directed the short films *On the Moon, Luna, and Their Reflection* (2018) and *Sprouting* (2023). Her films have been screened at festivals such as the Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival, K3 Film Festival and Slovenian Film Festival. Her short film *The Animal Remains* (2026) was selected for the Euro Connection industry programme at Clermont-Ferrand IFF 2024.

Darja Miková is a screenwriter, director and script consultant. She is the co-author of the series *No Big Deal* (2024), a dramedy that won awards including the Prix Italia competition (Digital Fiction category). Her short fiction directorial debut, *Braids* (2025), screened at numerous European film festivals, including the Zlín Film Festival and mo&friese Junges Kurzfilmfestival Hamburg.

Author's statement

The idea for *Nera* emerged during walks where director Ivana and her dog Lota repeatedly encountered a blind woman with her guide dog. This experience naturally built on Ivana's long-standing fascination with human-canine relationships. *Nera* is not only a story about blindness and the trauma of sight loss, but also an exploration of the multi-layered tension between freedom and responsibility, dependence and autonomy. The primary target audience is young urban viewers (aged 15–40) interested in contemporary arthouse cinema. Secondary audiences include blind and visually impaired viewers (with audio description screenings), as well as dog owners and the broader canine community.

Further development plan

Nera is currently in the treatment stage and is being developed with dramaturgical support from Barbora Námerová. In the next phase, we plan to develop the first draft of the screenplay, followed by dramaturgical consultations and participation in international screenwriting workshops. In later stages, we aim to present the project at selected festival industry platforms, secure financing, and seek additional partners. The development includes a short film (proof of concept), which will be created as Ivana's master's-degree film at FAMU. It will stem from *Nera* and serve as an opportunity to explore the perspective of a blind character and the relationship between a human and a guide dog.

scriptwriter **Ivana Vogrinc Vidali, Darja Miková**
producer **Dagmar Sedláčková**
production **MasterFilm**
Co-producer **Temporama**
genre **intimate drama**
release date **2030**
what's missing **co-production, distributor, sales agent, script consulting**



Ivana Vogrinc Vidali
Director, Scriptwriter
ivanav.vidali@gmail.com



Darja Miková
Scriptwriter
darja.mikova@gmail.com



Dagmar Sedláčková
Producer
+420 733 579 107
dagmar@masterfilm.cz

K-Dream



Czech Republic

6-8 episodes
Miniseries

Milk & Honey Pictures

Josefská 6
118 00 Prague
Czech Republic
monika@mhpics.com

Film synopsis

NIKŮ, a European obsessed with K-pop, spent years in Korea as an idol trainee. He underwent facial surgery, learnt the language, and adopted Korean mannerisms and hierarchy. But his debut never materialized. NIKŮ has grown old in a system that does not tolerate ageing. Upon returning to Europe, he founds the first K-pop idol academy in Berlin to continue his Korean dream, this time as a mentor. Twenty young men hailing from various parts of Europe enter a world where their own rules cease to apply. European individuality clashes with K-Pop discipline. Relationships are forbidden. Emotions are a weakness. Identity is an obstacle. Each of them wants their own K-Dream. The question is, how much of themselves is each one willing to sacrifice?

About the authors

Adam Sedlák is a Czech director with a distinctive style. His debut film *Domestik* (KVIFF) garnered him the Best New Director Award at Sitges. He shot *Banger* on an iPhone and won the Czech Film Critics' Award for Best Director. His series *Addicts* was created to promote drug awareness. Forbes 30 under 30 List.

Adam Mišík is a Czech singer and actor. He's gained success through his music and expressive film roles. He was nominated for a Czech Lion for the film *Banger*, and is one of the most distinctive figures of young Czech pop culture.

Monika Soukup is an executive producer and head of advertising at Milk & Honey Films. She manages international film and advertising production in Europe.

Linda Krejčí is an executive producer at Milk & Honey Films and an alumna of NYU Tisch. She brings together international production and new technologies.

Author's statement

As male creators, we are deeply interested in exploring the subject of male exploitation and the silence surrounding it. While stories about abuse and power have become more visible in recent years, violence and manipulation directed at young men often remain taboo, ignored, or misunderstood. Through *K-Dream*, we want to examine how systems built on discipline, ambition, beauty, and success can slowly strip individuals of their autonomy over their bodies and identities. We are interested not only in the darkness of these systems, but also in why young people – driven by the universal desire to be loved, seen, and exceptional – willingly enter them. The primary target audience consists of young women, queer audiences, and fans of K-pop, music, and contemporary youth dramas across Europe.

Further development plan

The project is currently in development, with work focused on the pilot script, series bible, and the definition of the narrative structure, character arcs, and the overall visual and tonal identity of the series. In the next stage, our goal is to develop the screenplay further reaching out to experienced co-screenwriters who will collaborate with Adam Sedlák and Adam Mišík to complete the script. In parallel, the project is being shaped with a clear focus on international positioning and long-term streaming potential. Following KVIFF Talents, the next step is to introduce the project at selected international industry events and markets, and to begin discussions with potential creative, production, and streaming partners. The aim is to move into packaging and financing within the next development cycle, followed by pre-production and production planning.

director **Adam Sedlák**
producer **Monika Soukup, Linda Krejčí**
production **Milk & Honey Pictures**
genre **mystery, teen drama, whodunit**
release date **2028**
what's missing **VOD, co-production, financing and distribution partners, experienced co-screenwriter, international co-producers, script consulting**



Adam Sedlák
Director,
Screenwriter
adamsed-
lak7@gmail.com



Monika Soukup
Producer
+420 723 584 928
monika@mh-
pics.com



Linda Krejčí
Producer
+1 (323) 203-8677
linda@milkan-
d-honeyfilms.com



Adam Mišík
Co-creator, Actor

Book-to-Screen at KVIFF

A selection of literary works from Central and Eastern Europe suitable for adaptations.

Book-to-Screen at KVIFF's long-term goal is to create a market for film rights to adaptations of literary works from Central and Eastern Europe, thereby strengthening the collaboration between the film and book industries in the region.

Playing Wolf / Cestou špendlíků nebo jehel



248 pages, Czech Republic

Argo

Milicova 13
130 00 Prague
Czech Republic
+420 608 069 396
veronika.chaloupkova@argo.cz

Book synopsis

Husband and wife Bohumil and Bohumila move from Prague to a remote borderland village with their mentally disabled son, hoping to save their failing marriage. In the suffocating summer heat, they try to read the village's strange social codes, dismissing early misunderstandings as their own awkwardness. But the unease deepens: lies, accidents and unsettling incidents begin to accumulate. At night, something like a large animal seems to be prowling around their cottage at the bottom of a ravine, echoing mysterious flyers about a wolfish fairytale. When they return home from an outing, they find their son missing. Three days later, the villagers appear outside their house in festive costumes. Has the bizarre rural game become a violent ritual?

Author's biography

Zuzana Říhová (b. 1981) studied Czech language and literature and comparative literature at Charles University in Prague. Since 2007, she has worked at the Institute of Czech Literature at the Czech Academy of Sciences, and from 2014 to 2017 she was Head of Czech Studies at the University of Oxford. She has published the poetry collection *I'll Let You in My House* (2016), the novella *Little Eve* (2018), and *A Year of Transformation* (2024), a book devoted to the pivotal year 1912 in the life of Franz Kafka. Her novel *Playing Wolf* (2021) has brought her significant international recognition: it was published in France by the prestigious Éditions du Seuil and in the United States by the acclaimed independent publisher Catapult, where it has been receiving enthusiastic reviews.

Publisher's profile

Argo Publishers is one of the leading Czech publishing houses, known for its strong literary profile and commitment to high-quality fiction, nonfiction, graphic novels, and children's books. Founded in 1992, Argo has introduced Czech readers to major international voices while also championing contemporary Czech literature. Argo is widely respected for its editorial standards, innovative book design, and its broad, diverse catalogue. Over the past nine years, Argo has been actively developing its foreign rights list. Its authors are regularly shortlisted for the most prestigious Czech literary awards.

Publisher's statement

Zuzana Říhová's *Playing Wolf* offers a distinct cinematic opportunity: a psychologically complex thriller rooted in Central European folklore, tailored for the growing global market of "elevated horror" and prestige genre cinema.

author **Zuzana Říhová**
publisher **Argo**
film rights **Argo**
language **Czech, English**
website **www.argo.cz**
genre **folk horror, psychological thriller**
release date **06.05.2021**
target audience **adults aged 20-45, cinephiles, dark folklore, literary fiction, psychology, slow-burn thriller**



Zuzana Říhová
Author



Gabriela Kiszova
Publisher
gabriela.kiszova@argo.cz

The True Way Out / Skutečná cesta ven



216 pages, Czech Republic

Host

Radlas 5
602 00 Brno
Czech Republic
nakladatelstvi@hostbrno.cz

Book synopsis

The book tells the true story of journalist Patrik Banga, who describes his rise from a life of deprivation in a Roma community to his prominent status in the Czech media. The narrative begins in the 1990s in Žižkov, Prague, showing a place riddled with despondency, drugs, alcohol, prostitution and street-fighting, where growing up within the local Roma community was a guarantee of one thing only – a life of more of the same. In raw, remorseless fashion, Banga describes the teenage years of a Roma boy who from an early age knows only rejection, criminalization, racism and police brutality. His search for a real way out is strewn with obstacles and losses, but his belief that everyone is an individual remains unshakeable.

Author's biography

Patrik Banga is a journalist, musician and IT entrepreneur. Since 2007, he has worked in the newsroom of the news portal iDNES.cz. He has also worked as a reporter for Czech Television's flagship evening news programme. He is one of the makers of the documentary film *The Ghetto as a System* (2012). His blog attracts over one million visitors. In 2022, he published his first book *The Real Way Out*.

Publisher's profile

At Host, one of the largest independent publishing houses in the Czech Republic, we have focused on contemporary Czech and international writing for almost thirty years. The Host brand has become a guarantee of high-quality literature in many genres. Host has received numerous awards in the Czech Republic, including the Magnesia Litera, Czech State Award for Literature, Czech Book Prize, Jiří Orten Prize, Gold Ribbon, Literary Critics' Award, etc. Our authors include Alena Mornštajnová and Kateřina Tučková, whose bestselling works have sold hundreds of thousands of copies and have been translated into numerous languages.

Publisher's statement

The book is well suited for a film adaptation because it combines a powerful true story with a compelling personal journey from poverty and social exclusion to professional success. Set in the vividly portrayed Roma community of 1990s Prague, it offers strong dramatic conflict, emotional depth, and authentic characters. Its universal themes of resilience, identity, prejudice, and overcoming obstacles make it both socially relevant and emotionally engaging for a wide audience.

author **Patrik Banga**
publisher **Host**
film rights **Host**
language **Czech, Arabic, English, German, Italian**
website **www.hostbrno.cz**
genre **autobiography, coming of age**
release date **29.09.2022**
target audience **Roma culture, memoirs, real-life stories, socially engaged stories, teenagers and adults (16–45)**



Patrik Banga
Author

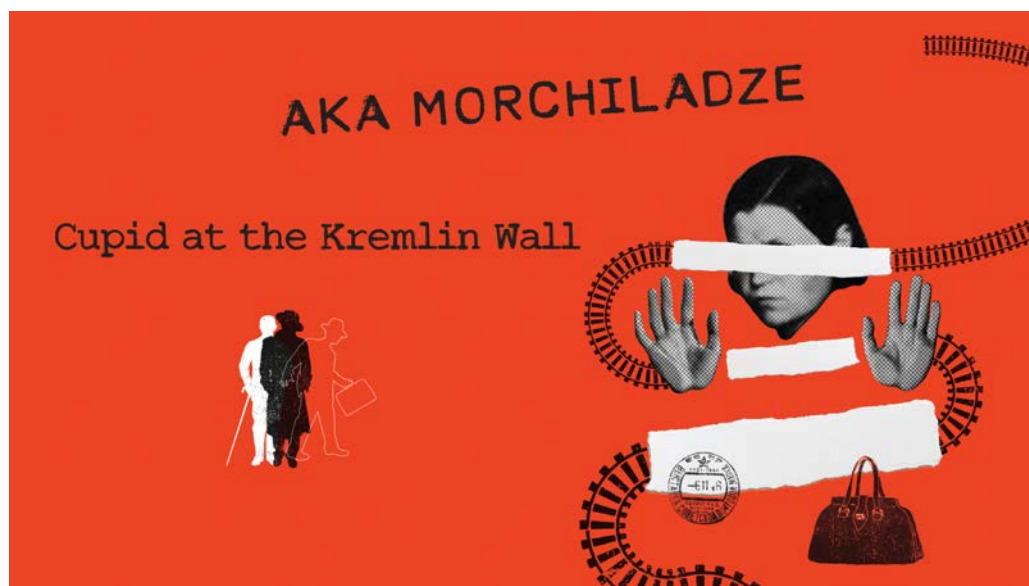


Simona Barešová
Publisher
Baresova@hostbrno.cz



Michaela Dermauw
Publisher
Dermauw@hostbrno.cz

Cupid at the Kremlin Wall / Kupidoni Kremlis Kedeltam



324 pages, Georgia

Sulakauri Publishing

150 Davit Aghmashenebeli ave.
0112 Tbilisi
Georgia
info@sulakauri.ge

Book synopsis

It is the 1930s in Soviet Georgia. A retired secret policeman disappears without a trace and is presumed to have been abducted by the Soviet police. His wife, Musya – a headstrong woman, renowned revolutionary, and women's rights advocate – decides to secretly travel to the Kremlin to discover his whereabouts. A flashback storyline reveals that she shared a special friendship with Stalin in their youth, explaining her motivation for seeking an audience with him. During her three-day train journey, Musya encounters several acquaintances, inadvertently blowing her cover. Surrounded by agents, she becomes entangled in chaotic and violent turmoil, refusing to give up.

Author's biography

Aka Morchiladze (pen name of Giorgi Akhvlediani), is arguably the most widely recognized contemporary Georgian writer. A historian by training, he has also hosted TV and on-line programmes on history and literature. Since 1999, Sulakauri Publishing has printed more than thirty of his books. Some of Morchiladze's bestselling and prize-winning novels include *Santa Esperanza*, *Obole*, *Made in Tiflis*, and *Cupid at the Kremlin Wall*. His book *Journey to Karabakh* was adapted to a film, and he has also authored several screenplays. Aka was an honorary spokesperson at the Georgia Guest of Honour opening ceremony at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2018. His works have been translated into many languages and are published in 15 countries.

Publisher's profile

Sulakauri Publishing (est. 1999) is one of Georgia's leading publishers, with a carefully curated list of Georgian and translated fiction, nonfiction, children's and young adult literature. Our main objective is to publish outstanding literature and to be innovative in our outreach. Sulakauri represents many of Georgia's prominent, award-winning authors. Our titles have been translated into more than 30 languages, with several adapted for film and television, including *Journey to Karabakh*, *Blackbird Blackbird*, *Blackberry* and *The Invisible Game*. Authors whom we represent include Aka Morchiladze, Dato Turashvili, Zaira Arsenishvili, Temur Babluani, Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili, Lasha Bugadze, Tamta Melashvili, Archil Kikodze, Zaza Burchuladze, Beka Adamashvili, and others.

Publisher's statement

Cupid at the Kremlin Wall combines a daring personal journey with the turmoil of one of history's most oppressive eras. The confined setting of the train provides a rich cinematic potential for suspense and psychological tension. Musya herself is a complex female protagonist: an ardent revolutionary forced to confront the collapse of her own ideals, making her character arc tragic and universally relatable.

author **Aka Morchiladze**

publisher **Sulakauri Publishing**

film rights **Sulakauri Publishing**

language **Georgian, Spanish**

website **rights.sulakauri.ge/**

genre **adventure, detective, historical**

drama

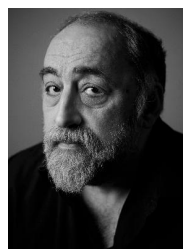
release date **01.10.2018**

target audience **adult readers, bold genre**

approach, **historical fiction**



Nuka Gambashidze
Publisher
n.gambashidze@sulakauri.ge



Aka Morchiladze
Author

Aspic Bistro / Šaltienos bistro



216 pages, Lithuania

Book Smugglers Agency

Manufakturu str. 25-12

11342 Vilnius

Lithuania

benas@booksmugglersagency.com

Book synopsis

A young man fresh out of university seeks escape from his religious upbringing, overprotective parents, and stagnant post-student life. He takes a job at Aspic Bistro, scraping meat and cartilage from bones in a harsh, absurd, Orwellian kitchen ruled by rigid hierarchies. Among exhausted outcasts, he tries to rise to head chef but fails, instead falling in love with Shachla, a teenage pig farmer. After their wedding, she transforms into a pig, beginning a further descent into a phantasmagorical world.

Author's biography

Ieva Dumbrytė (born 1991) is a Lithuanian author. She studied applied history and has worked in various fields alongside her literary practice. Her debut novel *Aspic Bistro* established her as a distinctive voice in contemporary Lithuanian literature and received the Most Creative Book of the Year 2021 award in Lithuania. She is also the recipient of the Liudas Dovydenas Literary Award (2022) and the Dausos Family Lithuanian Literary Award (2023). Dumbrytė is the author of two novels, both nationally recognised and praised by literary critics for their dark humour, social satire, and imaginative prose. She lives in Panevėžys, Lithuania.

Publisher's profile

Kitos knygos is an independent Lithuanian publishing house founded in 2004, known for publishing distinctive contemporary fiction, narrative non-fiction, social criticism, and translated literature. Its catalogue includes critically acclaimed Lithuanian and international authors, and many of its titles have received national literary awards, nominations, and wide critical recognition. Kitos knygos is recognised as one of Lithuania's leading independent publishers, with a strong reputation for bold editorial choices and culturally influential publishing.

Publisher's statement

This story is highly suited for film adaptation due to its vibrantly visual, self-contained world, where the kitchen functions as a closed system of power, ritual, and survival. Its absurd internal logic, grotesque imagery, and sudden shifts into the surreal are inherently cinematic and invite a distinctive audiovisual approach that would be difficult to replicate in any other medium. The narrative's combination of dark satire, transformation, and social critique offers strong potential for a bold European arthouse film, translating psychological and social tensions into a physical, sensory cinematic experience.

author **Ieva Dumbrytė**
 publisher **Kitos knygos**
 film rights **Book Smugglers Agency**
 language **Lithuanian**
 website **www.kitosknygos.lt**
 genre **fiction**
 release date **02.06.2021**
 target audience **black comedy, social satire, thought-provoking stories**



Ieva Dumbrytė
Author



Benas Berantas
Film Rights Holder
benas@booksmugglersagency.com

The River Odyssey of Kora from Willow Meadow / Wodyseja, czyli prawdziwa historia Kory z Wierzbowej Łąki



208 pages, Poland

Widnokrag
Matejki 14
05-501 Piaseczno
Poland
a.devillard@wydawnictwo-widnokrag.pl

Book synopsis

When a powerful wave sweeps a young beaver named Kora away from her family, she sets off on a journey to find her way back and hopefully reunite with her loved ones. At first she faces many challenges, but gradually she gathers the courage to keep going, making friends and sparking adventures wherever she goes. Kora is never sure whether she'll make it back home, and even if she does, will she feel the same as before the disaster? The book is a unique journey through the urban and suburban sprawl through the eyes, ears and nose of one of the city's humble little residents. It reveals the important role that even the littlest creatures play in the great, wide world.

Author's biography

Born in 1982 and raised in Warsaw, Adam Robiński graduated from Warsaw University in 2006. He started his career as a journalist, working for newspapers and magazines. His literary debut *Backroad Landscapes*, a collection of essays on the links between humans and nature, was published in 2017 and marked his shift to longer forms of writing. He has published a number of books, as he continues to explore how human and more-than-human worlds mix. He has received several literary awards (Conrad Festival 2018, Empik Discoveries 2019, Identitas Award), travel-writing prizes (Travelery 2019, Mountain Book of the Year 2020), nominations, and scholarships.

Publisher's profile

Founded in 2011, Widnokrag is an independent publisher driven by curiosity, empathy and courage. We create books we would love to read to our own children: wise, moving, beautifully illustrated stories that open minds and spark conversation. Our catalogue of 120+ titles brings together acclaimed international voices, outstanding Polish authors and illustrators, restored classics, and books that do not shy away from difficult themes. Award-winning in Poland (nominations, distinctions and awards – Ibbi, Polish Book Publishers Association, Good Pages Editorial Award, Warsaw Literary Award) and abroad (White Raven, BIBF Ananas, CICLA) supported by major cultural grants and committed to sustainable printing, Widnokrag combines literary beauty with social sensitivity and care for the planet.

Publisher's statement

The story is an empowering tale for young people, teaching independence, self-confidence, and shared responsibility for their surroundings. It combines an emotionally engaging adventure with a timely ecological message. Through the story of Kora, a young beaver searching for her home and family, the film is able to speak directly to children about courage, resilience, friendship, and care for the natural world. Its animal protagonist, vivid river landscapes, and journey structure offer strong visual potential for family cinema. At the same time, the story has cross-generational appeal: it can entertain children, move parents and grandparents, and create a shared experience around themes that are both intimate and universal – home, belonging, and our relationship with nature.

author **Adam Robiński**
publisher **Widnokrag**
film rights **Widnokrag**
language **Polish**
website **wydawnictwo-widnokrag.pl**
genre **children literature, fiction**
release date **01.05.2025**
target audience **children aged 8-12**



Adam Robiński
Author
arobinski@pm.me



Anna Nowacka-Devillard
Publisher, Film Rights Holder
a.devillard@wydawnictwo-widnokrag.pl



Bartek Glaza
Illustrator
bart.glaza@gmail.com

Queen of Hearts / Dama de cupa



208 pages, Moldova

Agentia Literara Livia Stoia
Garlei 58
013724 Bucharest
Romania
livia.stoia@liviastoiaagency.ro

Book synopsis

There's a gaping chasm engulfing everything in the middle of the city – and for the corrupt official Nistor Polobok, it's more than just a mysterious hole in the asphalt. With each passing day, the crack widens. It swallows houses, people, and soon half the city. In nightmares, Polobok is haunted by his past. A fortune teller reveals to him that only by asking the "Queen of Hearts" for forgiveness can he avert disaster. But who is she? His betrayed wife? One of his lovers? Or the journalist whose camera he once destroyed in a fit of rage? Surprisingly, the crucial sin has nothing to do with adultery or bribe taking, but is instead something small and insignificant.

Author's biography

Iulian Ciocan was born on 6 April 1968 in Chisinau, the capital of the Republic of Moldova. He was the presenter of a long-running Radio Free Europe broadcast about everyday life and current affairs in the Republic of Moldova. Translations of his fiction have appeared in magazines and anthologies in the United States, Germany, China, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Belgium, and Brazil. He has been a guest at the PEN World Voices Festival, New York (2011) and Amsterdam Literature Night (2016). In 2020, he was long listed for the Jean Monnet European Prize in France for *Queen of Hearts*. In April 2024, ARTE TV broadcasted a documentary about his novels published in France.

Publisher's profile

Livia Stoia Literary Agency, the rights holder of film rights for Iulian Ciocan's novels, represents a select list of acclaimed authors from Romania and the Republic of Moldova, focusing on literary fiction, narrative non-fiction, and works with strong international potential. The agency actively promotes translation, publishing, and adaptation rights worldwide, collaborating with publishers, scouts, and producers across Europe. Its catalogue includes award-winning and bestselling authors whose works have been translated into numerous languages and recognized by major literary prizes.

Publisher's statement

Queen of Hearts is a satirical and dystopian socio-political novel set in post-communist Chisinau. The story follows a corrupt municipal official whose city begins to collapse into a mysterious, ever-expanding crater, creating a powerful allegory of corruption, moral decay and social disintegration. It is a novel of a man's deeper self, confronted with his own sins and vices. It portrays the image of all post-Soviet societies, focusing on both Moldova's particularities and societies' weak spots in general, making it relatable to a wide audience, who might not be familiar with the historical events in this part of Europe but is interested in finding out more. The satirical and humorous parts are also key-points for a cinematic adaptation.

author **Iulian Ciocan**
publisher **Polirom**
film rights **Livia Stoia Literary Agency**
language **Romanian, French, Bulgarian, Dutch, Czech, German**
website **polirom.ro**
genre **fiction**
release date **01.03.2018**
target audience **historical fiction, political allegories, post-communist societies, satire**



Iulian Ciocan
Author



Livia Stoia
Film Rights Holder
livia.stoia@liviastoiaagency.ro

The Zone / Zóna



176 pages, Slovak Republic

BRAK, s.r.o.
 Vajnorská 50
 83103 Bratislava
 Slovakia
 vydavatelstvo@brak.sk

Book synopsis

A lonely comic-book artist searches for his missing friend Erik, a sociologist who disappeared while researching a strange phenomenon in the Slovak region of Gemer. His journey leads him to "the Zone" – an isolated territory where heavy metal contamination has caused hereditary depression, mutations and disturbing abilities. He discovers that a local bookseller, Welsh, is recruiting Zone inhabitants as untraceable assassins, including people who can kill with words, invisibility or pure self-hatred. Erik's own power – total mimicry – has cost him his identity after absorbing too many fictional characters. Finally, the narrator learns that he also comes from the Zone: his involuntary gift is to repel everyone around him.

Author's biography

Daniel Majling (1980) is a Slovak writer, dramatist, comics author and dramaturge at the Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava. He gained wider recognition with the cult comic book *Rudo*, awarded the Muriel Award for Best Comic Book Translation in the Czech Republic. His graphic novel *Zóna* established him as one of the leading voices of contemporary Central European comics. His prose collection *Ruzká Klazika* became a major literary success, was shortlisted for the prestigious Anasoft Litera Prize, and awarded both the Anasoft Litera Readers' Award and the René Prize in 2018. His books have been translated into Czech, Polish and Hungarian. Majling's work combines absurd humour, dark satire and strong cinematic storytelling.

Publisher's profile

BRAK is an independent Bratislava-based publishing house and part of the wider BRaK platform, which also includes the Bratislava Book Festival and activities focused on book design and illustration. Its catalogue combines original Slovak literature, translated fiction, graphic novels, comics and children's books. BRAK publishes acclaimed authors such as Daniel Majling, Marek Vadas, Mircea Cărtărescu, Adania Shibli, Italo Calvino and Dorothy Parker. Its books have received or have been shortlisted for major literary and book-design awards, including Anasoft Litera, the René Prize and The Most Beautiful Books of Slovakia. In 2026, BRAK's *Zbierka zážitkovej poézie* by Erik Šimšík received the Gold Medal in the international Best Book Design from All Over the World competition.

Publisher's statement

I believe *The Zone* could make a very funny, strange and visually memorable film. It has everything a good adaptation needs: a specific world, absurd characters, dark humour, mystery and a strong sense of place. The idea of a forgotten Slovak region producing depressed antiheroes with bizarre powers is both original and surprisingly cinematic. It could be entertaining, uncomfortable and touching at the same time – a story that makes people laugh, but also recognize something painfully true about loneliness, failure and life on the margins.

author **Daniel Majling**
 publisher **BRAK**
 film rights **BRAK, s.r.o.**
 language **Slovak**
 website **www.brak.sk**
 genre **graphic novel**
 release date **01.05.2018**
 target audience **absurdist fiction, adult & young adult readers, black comedy, genre-bending stories, literary comics, satire**



Daniel Majling
Author



František Malík
Publisher
 vydavatelstvo@brak.sk

Amadoca



832 pages, Ukraine

The Old Lion Publishing House LLC
Rynok Sq., 14
79008 Lviv
Ukraine
i.fedechko@starlev.com.ua

Book synopsis

A severely disfigured man, found among the dead in the Donbas war zone, survives but suffers from complete amnesia. At the hospital, a woman named Romana appears and claims that he is her husband, Bohdan. She takes him home and tries to restore his memory by telling him the story of his family. Through her narratives unfolds the fate of a Galician family, the tragic love story of Ulyana, a Ukrainian woman, and Pinchas, a Jewish man, during the Holocaust, as well as the story of the writer and archaeologist Viktor Petrov. Gradually, the search for one man's lost past becomes a journey through the forgotten and suppressed chapters of twentieth-century Ukrainian history, where memory emerges as both a source of salvation, a burden, and the greatest mystery of all.

Author's biography

Sofia Andrukhovych ranks among the most distinctive Ukrainian writers of the present. Her prose combines strong narratives with historical reflection and a female perspective. She has earned a great deal of attention for her novel *Felix Austria* (2025), which won the award for BBC Ukraine Book of the Year and was adapted into a film under the title *Devoted* (Viddana, 2020). Her second novel *Amadoca* was widely acclaimed and won the 2024 International Hermann Hesse Prize.

Publisher's profile

Founded in 2001 in Lviv, Ukraine as a traditional children's publisher, The Old Lion Publishing House today offers a wide range of books for readers of all ages, from infancy to adulthood, including board books, fairy tales, poetry, fiction for children and young adults, novels, atlases, and art albums. The publisher releases nearly 180 titles annually, featuring both Ukrainian authors and translated literature, with translations accounting for approximately 60% of its list. In 2023, The Old Lion Publishing House was awarded the Bologna Prize for the Best Children's Publishers of the Year (Europe) by the Bologna Children's Book Fair and international publishing peers.

Publisher's statement

Amadoca should be adapted for film because it combines an intimate human story with the vast historical trauma of Eastern Europe in a deeply cinematic way. Its fragmented structure, shifting identities, and layered timelines offer rich visual and emotional possibilities for directors and audiences alike. The novel explores memory, war, love, and the erasure of personal and national history – themes that resonate globally today. With its haunting atmosphere and psychological depth, *Amadoca* could become a powerful arthouse drama with strong international festival and streaming appeal.

author **Sophia Andrukhovych**
publisher **The Old Lion Publishing House**
film rights **The Old Lion Publishing House**
language **Ukrainian, English, Czech, Slovak, Spanish, Danish, German, Croatian, French, Swedish**
website **starlev.com.ua/about-us**
genre **novel**
release date **01.02.2020**
target audience **adult readers, historical fiction, holocaust, identity, literary epics, memory, war trauma**



Sophia Andrukhovych
Author



Ivan Fedechko
Publisher
ivan.fedechko@starlev.com.ua

Works in Development – MIDPOINT Feature Launch

First and second feature film projects developed within the MIDPOINT Feature Launch 2026 program.



MIDPOINT
INSTITUTE



KVIFF & MIDPOINT Development Award Jury



Angeliki Vergou

Angeliki Vergou is a film industry professional with over 25 years of experience at the Thessaloniki International Film Festival, where she served as Head of Agora from 2022. In her current role as Agora Advisor | International Partnerships & Development, she focuses on strategic international partnerships, co-production initiatives, and the development of the Agora's European network. Under her leadership, the Agora grew into a comprehensive industry hub for

Southeast Europe and the Mediterranean, encompassing the Cross-roads Co-production Forum, Thessaloniki Pitching Forum, Works in Progress, Film & Doc Market, XR Lab, Agora Series Talents, and numerous training and networking programmes. She is also Director of the Hellenic Film Academy, a MIDPOINT alumni in script consulting, and offers development consultations for films and documentaries.



Danijel Hočevar

Film producer and CEO of Vertigo, a Ljubljana-based production company with distinctive track record and extensive international co-production experience. Recent productions: *Skateboarding Is Not for Girls* by Dina Duma (2026, Tribeca FF – International Narrative Competition), *Shame and Money* by Visar Morina (2026, Sundance FF – Grand Jury Prize, World Cinema Dramatic Competition), *Pero* by Damjan Kozole (doc, 2023, IFF Rotterdam), *Hidden People* by Miha Hočevar (2025, Second Award, Bergamo Film Meeting), *The Happiest Man in the World* by Teona Mitevka (2022, Venice FF – Orizzonti, Grand Jury Prize at Les Arcs EFF), *Small Body* by Laura Samani (2021, Cannes Critics' Week, European Discovery – Prix FIPRESCI), *Reconciliation* by Marija Zidar (doc, 2021, CPH:DOX, IDFA), *Otac – Father* by Srđan Golubović (2020, Berlinale Panorama Audience Award), *An Episode in the Life of an Iron Picker* by Danis

Tanović (2013, Berlinale Silver Bear: Grand Jury Prize), and *Bread and Milk* by Jan Cvitković (2001, Venice FF Lion of the Future), *Half-Sister* (2019), *Nightlife* (2016, Best Director Award at Karlovy Vary IFF), *Slovenian Girl* (2009, Toronto IFF), and *Spare Parts* (2003, Berlinale Competition) all by Damjan Kozole.

In 2001, Hočevar was named one of Variety's Ten Producers to Watch. He serves on the Board of the European Film Academy and is a former President of the Association of Slovenian Film Producers. Since 2005, he has served as a tutor and mentor for several leading European training initiatives, including MIDPOINT, EAVE, the Nipkow Programme and Maia Workshops. He is also a member of the selection committee for the When East Meets West co-production market in Trieste.



Anamaria Antoci

Anamaria Antoci is an active and accomplished producer in the European market, as well as being a member of prominent industry networks such as EAVE, ACE Producers, the European Producers Club, and Inside Pictures. She founded the Bucharest-based company Tangaj Production in 2017, and is fully committed to all creative stages. She has a passion for authentic, strong arthouse films and is keen to find unique ways to engage audiences. Her achieve-

ments include producing and co-producing feature and documentary films such as *Men of Deeds* by Paul Negoescu (Sarajevo FF 2022, RO/BG), *Panopticon* by George Sikharulidze (Karlovy Vary IFF 2024, GE/FR/IT/RO), Danis Tanović's *My Late Summer* (Opening film Sarajevo FF 2024, HR/BH/RO/RS/SI) and *Things We Said Today* by Andrei Ujică (Venice FF 2024, FR/RO).

MIDPOINT Feature Launch Script Consultant Trainees



Eva Vlassopoulou

Eva Vlassopoulou is a theater director, scriptwriter, script consultant and script editor based in Athens, Greece. As a script editor, she has worked on the feature films *Animal* by Sofia Exarchou (Locarno IFF 2023 – Pardo for Best Performance, Thessaloniki IFF 2023 – Golden Alexander, LUX Audience Award Nomination 2024) as well as *Mignon/Mirage* by Sofia Georgovasilii (in post-production). As a script consultant, she has worked on *Summer Spell* by Rinio Dragasaki (in pre-production), *Black Water* by Isabella Margara

(in development), and on the short film *Flowers in her Head* by Kateřina Zisoudi (pre-production). She is currently co-writing the screenplay for the feature film *Anchored*, directed by Katerina Mavrogeorgi (in development, LAGFF Discovery Days Award 2025).

Eva is deeply committed to the collaborative development process, believing that every story has the potential to find its unique voice through thoughtful, structured support.



Lotte Laitinen

Lotte Laitinen is a Helsinki-based script consultant from Finland, holding a BA in screenwriting. Their background includes four years of work from local production companies, consulting on projects at various stages of development, financing and distribution. Lotte has also served as a content advisor for private equity fund Finnish

Impact Film Fund, providing script assessments and dramaturgical analysis for international co-productions. In parallel with consulting, Lotte serves as a script mentor for the TV Beats co-financing market at the Tallinn Black Nights FF.



Sean Greenhorn

Sean Greenhorn is a creative executive and script development specialist with extensive experience in Scottish film and television. He holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Script Development from the National Film and Television School. He spent seven years on the scripted team at Screen Scotland, the national screen agency, where he helped nurture and develop feature films, television projects, and animation from Scottish writers for the international market. He worked closely with emerging talent, supporting projects across genres and budgets, guiding them from initial con-

cept through development and helping position them for production and distribution. This included award-winning shorts such as Sean Lionadh's *Too Rough* and features such as Laura Carreira's *On Falling*. Prior to Screen Scotland, he worked at Glasgow Film Theatre and Glasgow Film Festival, rising to Programme Manager. Sean now works freelance in development, production and consultancy, and is currently establishing a new genre-focused production company in Scotland.

Confirmation / Bierzmowanie



Poland

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.

This film is the director's debut.

Rozbrat Films

rtm. Witolda Pileckiego 132/59, 02-781
Warsaw

Poland

+48 534 252 515

monika.rozbratfilms@gmail.com

Film synopsis

Filip (14), a chubby mama's boy, loves Jesus and checking out barely dressed models in magazines. Daily, he fronts his mom's Thermomix socials – fueling jokes at school. That's why he'd like someone other than mom to be his confirmation sponsor. He chooses Olek (17), a cool altar boy, who agrees if Filip helps his sister Karolina (16), who has Down syndrome, with speech therapy. Much to Filip's shock, the exercises become an excuse to fulfill Karolina's secret dream: working on a sex hotline – believing she's only desirable unseen. Her daring personality draws Filip in. They become friends, growing more and more intimate, until Filip is forced to confront not only his mother, but also unexpected rejection from Karolina. Heartbroken, he turns against the siblings. On confirmation day, Filip walks out of the church, refusing the sacrament.

Director's biography

A film director and photography enthusiast. He graduated in Cultural Studies from the University of Warsaw and in Directing from the Łódź Film School. He is the author of short fiction and documentary films screened in Poland and at numerous international film festivals. He participated in Future Frames, the EFP program for emerging directors with his short film *Fruits and Vegetables*, which also was shortlisted for the BAFTA Student Film Awards in the fiction category. He is currently participating in MIDPOINT Feature Launch, with his debut feature *Confirmation*.

Producer's biography

A graduate from the Łódź Film School, she gained experience at Polish company RE Studio, where worked on theatrically distributed feature films with both commercial and festival success, with releases on streaming platforms, and international screenings. Among them was *I'm a Killer* (dir. Maciej Pieprzycza), awarded Best Director at the Shanghai IFF and Cottbus FF. She also worked with Netflix as an associate producer of *Into the Wind*, the original Polish feature production. Since co-founding Rozbrat Films in 2017, she has produced short films and series. Her full-length feature debut as lead producer, *Glorious Summer* (dir. Helena Ganjalyan and Bartosz Szpak), premiered at SXSW in 2025 and continues its international festival run, including screenings at São Paulo IFF (Mostra) and Brooklyn FF.

Author's statement

My favorite stories blend seriousness with humor, where what feels strange and awkward becomes deeply human. That's how I experience life, and how I see *Confirmation*. Although it's a story of Filip's emancipation – from a toxic mother and a superficial religious system – the core of the narrative lies in the relationship between teenagers, who unexpectedly give each other acceptance and independence. Filip and Karolina take risks as they enter a world marked by shame and taboo. I'm fascinated by how sexuality, often considered difficult or uncomfortable, is expressed through a still-forming sense of self, making it direct and sometimes funny. In this clash between social rules and emotional honesty, I find a bittersweet tone of the film. It's a space where empathy, humor and discomfort co-exist and where our audience may recognize themselves.

director **Maciej Jankowski**
scriptwriter **Maciej Jankowski, Arkadiusz Antosz**
producer **Monika Matuszewska**
language **Polish**
genre **dramedy**
estimated budget **1.425.000 €**
release date **2028**



Maciej Jankowski
Director, Screenwriter
+48 696 474 085
ma-
ciej.jankowski696@gmail.com



Arkadiusz Antosz
Screenwriter
+48 794 718 821
antosz.a@o2.pl



Monika Matuszewska
Producer
+48 534 252 515
monika.rozbrat-
films@gmail.com

My 19-year-old Granny / Moia 19-richna Babtsia



Ukraine

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.

This film is the director's debut.

TatoFilm

European Union Avenue 88, apt.101

03 141 Kyiv

Ukraine

olena@tatofilm.com

Film synopsis

Lyuba, a lonely TikToker, who would normally hide at the back of her school choir, discovers a magical dress that transports her to 1975 Soviet Lviv – straight into a hippie community, where her grandparents have not yet fallen in love. Living between eras, Lyuba plays an unlikely matchmaker in the past and evolves into a rebel, riding a bike naked past the communist office with her boyfriend, all while clashing with her mom in the 2025. But her joy shatters when she discovers her grandpa, blackmailed by the KGB, betrayed their secret concert. As her grandparents' romance collapses, Lyuba begins to fade from existence. Desperate, she reveals her identity and bids a heartbreaking farewell to the hippie she loves. Back in 2025, at her prom, Lyuba bravely debuts on stage, singing the song of her grandparents', while her mom cheers her on.

Director's biography

Victoria Zadorska holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Theatre and Film Arts. Her directorial work includes the sports documentary, *I Want to Be Like Kharlan* (2025), produced for Ukraine's public broadcaster, and the short film *Me, Mom, and the Cosmonaut* (2026), which was awarded the Grant of the President of Ukraine. As an author, Victoria has written several fantasy books, including *Spacedad* (finalist for the BBC Children's Book of the Year 2025), *Skeletons from My Grandmother's Closet* (longlisted for the BBC Children's Book of the Year 2024). Her professional development includes participation in Gothenburg Film Residence (2023), Kino Guarimba in Italy (2024), MID-POINT Intensive Ukraine (2025). In 2026, she won the Sweet.tv feature film pitching competition with *My 19-year-old Granny*.

Producer's biography

Olena Yershova is a member of AMPAS, EFA, APSA, and EPC. Her directorial short *Demoniada* competed at Locarno IFF. Olena previously acted as the Executive Director of Molodist Kyiv IFF and the head of Antalya Film Forum. She founded TatoFilm (Ukraine/Turkey) and joined Kino Iberica (Georgia). She produced a number of features, documentaries, and shorts, earning over 250 awards. The majority of films are international co-productions. Highlights include Brighton 4th (Tribeca FF – Best Film), Anatolian Leopard (TIFF – FIPRESCI), *Motherland* (Venice Critics' Week), *Frost* (Cannes Directors' Fortnight). She is an expert for the Göteborg Film Fund. Upcoming titles include *Guria* (Cannes Atelier – seven-country co-production), *Dream Girl* (Berlinale Co-production Market, ArteKino Award), and the series *Escape from Harem* (ACE Special).

Author's statement

My 19-year-old Granny was born out of the reality of war. Through the lens of the time-travel genre, I want to explore the price of freedom and trace the cause-and-effect links of Ukrainian collective trauma – centuries-old fight against Russian tyranny. By uncovering the wounds of her grandparents, Lyuba finally comprehends her mother's pain – and ultimately her own – finding the strength to build a new future. At its core, the film is warm and poignant, blending a coming-of-age journey with a rebellious rock-and-roll heartbeat and a tender story of impossible love: its joy, and its price. As Lyuba plunges into the raw past, the electric energy of youth forces her to feel and fight like never before. Connecting three generations of women across two timelines, this story reveals what it truly costs to finally become yourself.

director **Victoria Zadorska**
 scriptwriter **Victoria Zadorska**
 producer **Olena Yershova**
 language **Ukrainian**
 genre **Time travel drama**
 estimated budget **1.000.000 EUR**
 release date **2028**



Victoria Zadorska
 Director, Scriptwriter
 +380678407066
 viktoriazadorska@gmail.com



Olena Yershova
 Producer
 +905373008702
 olena@tatofilm.com

They Bloom at Dawn / Cutot na zorata



North Macedonia

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.

This film is the director's debut.

Dream Factory Macedonia

ul. Viktor Igo 39/7

1000 Skopje

North Macedonia

ognenantov@dfm.mk

Film synopsis

After her grandfather dies, restless Rosa (21) returns to her grandparents' remote lakeside village. When she discovers she is pregnant, she chooses to remain there after the funeral, retreating from an uncertain future in the city and the strained relationship with her mother, Viktorija. Meanwhile, left alone after her husband's death, Rosa's grandmother Jana begins fighting investors determined to build a luxury resort on the lakeshore, threatening the village's way of life. While Rosa loses sleep over the unwanted pregnancy, she is gradually drawn into Jana's battle, and long-buried tensions between three generations of women begin to resurface. When Rosa's secret pregnancy is exposed, the family fractures completely, forcing all three women to confront one another and fight for the home that still binds them together.

Director's biography

Angela Dimeska is a Macedonian screenwriter and director whose work spans over fiction, documentary, and commercials. With a background in psychology and anthropology, she explores women, identity, and the emotional fractures within social structures. Her short films *Wigs* (2021) and *Boxes* (2023) were screened internationally at festivals including FEST, New Directors/New Films, In the Palace, and Alexandria ISFF. She is currently in preproduction of her third short film, *The Day the Music Died*, produced by Kontrast Film and supported by the North Macedonian Film Agency. Angela is developing her debut feature *They Bloom at Dawn*, a MIDPOINT Feature Launch title supported by CE MEDIA. She also co-organises Komshilook, an art festival in Skopje, and was a part of the HER Frame Mentorship Programme at the Manaki Brothers ICFF and Novi Sad FF.

Producer's biography

Ognen Antov is a Macedonian film producer with nearly two decades of experience making feature films, television shows, and documentaries. He founded Dream Factory Macedonia in 2007 and is also a partner at Kontrast Film. His recent credits include *Vera Dreams of the Sea*, which premiered at the Venice Film Festival, and *Our Father*, which was selected for the Toronto International Film Festival. Over the years he has produced and co-produced numerous internationally recognized projects, including award-winning documentaries and notable regional co-productions across the Balkans. Antov is the founder and President of the Macedonian Film Producers Association, which is actively working to strengthen the country's film infrastructure and international co-production ties.

Author's statement

They Bloom at Dawn is a film about women, shared silence, and learning how to love your roots. Inspired by my own experience of going back home, it explores the possibility of returning not as failure, but as a chance to reconnect. It examines how patriarchal values are passed between generations of women, shaping relationships through guilt. It is interested in the ways women become each other's harshest critics while still carrying the emotional weight of family. At its core, it is about breaking this cycle through empathy and mutual support. Set against a disappearing lakeside landscape, the film is an intimate drama rooted in realism, where moments of humour and tenderness exist within difficult circumstances. In this world, the lake itself becomes a character, reflecting both the beauty and fragility of the community around it.

director **Angela Dimeska**
 scriptwriter **Angela Dimeska**
 producer **Ognen Antov**
 language **Macedonian**
 genre **drama**
 estimated budget **800.200 EUR**
 release date **2028**



Angela Dimeska
 Director, Scriptwriter
 +38972314426
 dimeska.angela7@gmail.com



Ognen Antov
 Producer
 +38970255888
 ognenantov@gmail.com

The Embrace / Chemarea



Romania

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.

This film is the director's debut.

REDWOOD PRODUCTIONS

Penes Curcanul 20
031515 Bucharest
Romania
livia@redwood.ro

Film synopsis

Hoping to reconnect with her distant daughter Miruna (23), during a New Year's Eve celebration, Sorana (47) finds herself at the center of a moral crisis instead. After discovering two destitute children alone in a makeshift shed on her in-laws' property, she convinces her family to shelter them for the night. But the festive mood quickly turns sour when a piece of jewelry goes missing and suspicion falls on the little strangers. As the adults subject the children to a cruel lesson disguised as justice, Miruna openly challenges the elders' behavior. To protect the vulnerable – and perhaps regain her daughter's respect – Sorana must finally break the silent obedience that has governed her entire life.

Director's biography

Andra Hera studied at ESRA in Paris and returned to Romania after her graduation, working as an AD, casting director and acting trainer. In 2017, her short film *Borders* premiered at the Gent FF and continued to travel to numerous festivals worldwide, such as Trieste FF, Alcalá de Henares IFF or Durban IFF. The film was also acquired by Canal+ and was nominated for the Romanian national film awards – Gopo. Her most recent film, *The Things We Hide in Silence* (2021) is a documentary foray into an unconventional voice therapy. The film premiered at Transilvania IFF and was nominated for the Gopo awards in 2022. She is currently in post-production with her short film *Fruits*, financed by ARTE, the French CNC and the Romanian film fund.

Producer's biography

Ana Corbu is an emerging producer working under Romanian companies Redwood Productions and Dash Film. Ana holds an MA in Producing from University of West London and at the moment she focuses on developing Romanian stories with global resonance. After participating on several upcoming films in the position of a production manager – e.g. the short film *Fruits* by Andra Hera, or the four-part feature in production *The Weight of the Water*, directed by Vlad Buzăianu – she is now developing two female-lead features as development producer – *The Embrace* by Andra Hera, and *The Night Doesn't Forget*, a book-to-screen adaptation written by Silvia Dumitru and directed by Letiția Roșculeț.

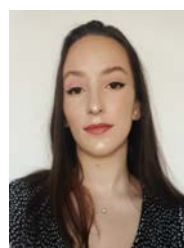
Author's statement

Sorana embodies the silence of women who have spent their lives adapting, avoiding conflict and making themselves smaller to preserve love, marriage and belonging. I am interested in the invisible cost of this compromise, accumulated over decades – until a single moment forces this woman to confront who she has become. The mother-daughter relationship lies at the heart of the film, reflecting two generations of women shaped by different ideas of freedom. While Miruna sees her mother's silence as complicity, Sorana experiences it as survival. Set over 24 hours, the story becomes a moral pressure cooker where cruelty emerges through ordinary people trying to preserve their comfort above all, while struggling to defend values and maintain appearances.

director **Andra Hera**
scriptwriter **Andra Hera**
producer **Ana Corbu**
language **Romanian**
genre **drama**
estimated budget **1.000.000 EUR**
release date **2028**



Andra Hera
Director, Scriptwriter
andrahera.ash@gmail.com



Ana Corbu
Producer
+40 731 081 999
ana@redwood.ro

Smearhead / Hlubina



Czech Republic

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.

This film is the director's debut.

Breathless Films

Rybná 683/17

Praha 1, Staré Město

Czech Republic

matej@breathlessfilms.cz

Film synopsis

In 1921, young miner Petr lives with his wife Anna at her parents' house, painfully aware they see him as unworthy of their daughter. He hopes to receive a company house and escape their pressure. After a collapse in an unexplored shaft, a psychedelic experience changes him. At his daughter's christening, Petr shocks everyone by denouncing the Church, but his subversive words fascinate Johanna, a charismatic spiritualist. Convinced Petr is mad and brings misfortune, the mining company fires him and Anna's parents secretly baptize their child. Thrown out by Anna's father, Petr follows Johanna to her villa, where he is welcomed as a mystic. Anna joins him to keep the family together, but as Johanna's circle grows into a cult, Petr's grip on reality starts to collapse. When Anna tries to save him, he returns to the mine, where it all began.

Director's biography

Marek Partyš is a Czech director and graduate of Film Studies and Journalism at Palacký University. He works primarily in commercial directing, for which he has received several major Czech awards, including ADC Czech Awards in the Film Craft category and Zlatý ohníček for Personality of Czech Creativity, as well as international recognition at Cannes Lions, D&AD, Clio, Epica Awards and Ciclope Festival. In commercial directing, he is represented in the Czech Republic, the USA, the UK, Germany and France. He has also maintained a long-term collaboration with the non-profit organisation Post Bellum, for which he directs annual narrative campaigns. *Smearhead* marks his transition from award-winning commercial work into ambitious auteur cinema.

Producer's biography

Matěj Paclík is a Czech film producer, director and founder of Breathless Films, a Prague-based company focused on emerging filmmakers, bold genre work and international co-productions. He produced Adam Martinec's debut feature *Our Lovely Pig Slaughter*, which premiered in the Crystal Globe Competition at Karlovy Vary IFF and received a Special Mention. His credits also include *Anatomy of a Czech Afternoon*, winner of the national film award Czech Lion and Czech Film Critics' Award for Best Short Film, the short film *Sugar and Salt*, premiered at San Sebastián IFF, and the documentary feature *Bedwetter*, awarded Best Camera at Ji.hlava IDFF. His ongoing psychotherapeutic training deepens his work on *Smearhead*, developed within MIDPOINT Feature Launch, especially its exploration of altered states of consciousness.

Author's statement

Smearhead explores our need to create meaning from chaos. At its centre is a triangle between Petr, Anna and Johanna. Petr experiences something in the mine that may be revelation, madness or both. Johanna gives his visions language, structure and followers. Anna tries to save the man she loves from a myth that is slowly replacing him. I am drawn to this conflict because it shows how spiritual longing, psychological fragility and social frustration can merge into something seductive and violent. The film is set in 1921, in a world still wounded by war, poverty and collapsing certainties, where people are eager to believe in a new kind of truth. Conceived as a mysterious period thriller, *Smearhead* moves between family drama and spiritual horror, asking when belief stops giving meaning and starts demanding sacrifice.

director **Marek Partyš**
 scriptwriter **Marek Partyš, Vojtěch Mašek**
 producer **Matěj Paclík**
 language **Czech, German**
 genre **mysterious thriller**
 estimated budget **2.300.000 EUR**
 release date **2029**



Marek Partyš
 Director, Scriptwriter
 +420 731 463 112
 marek.party@gmail.com



Vojtěch Mašek
 Scriptwriter
 +420 775 053 793
 mascek@seznam.cz



Matěj Paclík
 Producer
 +420 607 930 300
 matej@breathlessfilms.cz

Natura



Cyprus

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.

This film is the director's debut.

The Coffee Films

24 Gregoriou Xenopoulou str, 1061
Nicosia
Cyprus
production@thecoffeefilms.com

Film synopsis

Christos, 40, is still afraid of coming out to his mother. His controlling partner Emir leaves him, arguing this fear is holding them back. When Christos finds his mother lost in town as her dementia worsens, he realizes time is running out. Convinced coming out will win Emir back, he joins his family on holiday at a resort. But his siblings urge him to stay silent, and when his mother mocks a gay couple, Christos shuts down. Emir appears, reviving hope of reconciliation, but as intimacy becomes another test, Christos realizes nothing will ever be enough for Emir. A violent fight between Christos and his brother ends with their confused mother slapping Christos across the face. But the family eats dinner together as if nothing happened. The next morning, Christos finds his mother alone in the hotel garden, hugs her goodbye, and leaves.

Director's biography

Marios Mettis is a Cypriot director and actor with over 20 years of experience in theatre, now expanding into film directing. He directed his first short film, *Muttertändelei*, in 2019. His second short, *Tsikitiyklon the Fairy and the Man*, received several awards, including Best National Short Film at ISFFC and Best International Film at the Roosevelt Island FF. He is currently developing his first feature film, *Natura*, through MIDPOINT Feature Launch. In 2023, his direction of *Lysistrata* for the National Theatre of Cyprus became the highest-selling production in the theatre's history. He trained as an actor at the National Theatre of Greece Drama School and as a director at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London.

Producer's biography

Louis Patsias began his career in 1995, pioneering video editing, graphics, and 3D animation in Cyprus before establishing his own production company. He helped advance the local industry by adopting new technologies and practices early on, later expanding into large-scale TV commercials and earning a reputation for high-quality content. As a director and producer, he has created commercials and corporate videos for major brands such as Eurobank, Lidl, Vodafone, and state organisations, as well as documentaries and films including *The Visit*. With decades of experience and a skilled team, his productions have received recognition at local and international festivals, including ICFD and DISFF. His vision remains the continued advancement of Cyprus' media landscape.

Author's statement

Natura is about self-acceptance: the freedom of no longer asking others to authorize who you are. It follows the painful process of separating from the people whose love has shaped and limited us. Christos has spent his life adjusting who he is to remain loved, mainly by his mother. At forty, delay has already shaped his life and relationships. Instead of asking "Who could I become?" he asks "If I don't change now, is this who I will remain?" *Natura* is a story exploring the moment a parent stops being godlike to a child and becomes human. Blending naturalism with magical realism, *Natura* lets surreal elements emerge when Christos can no longer process reality. They are emotional ruptures that make visible what Christos cannot yet understand or say. The film bends realism as a way of staying closer to Christos's emotional truth.

director **Marios Mettis**
 scriptwriter **Marios Mettis**
 producer **Louis Patsias**
 language **Greek, English**
 genre **drama**
 estimated budget **1.273.000 EUR**
 release date **2029**



Marios Mettis
 Director, Scriptwriter
 +357 97655666
 mariosmettis@gmail.com



Louis Patsias
 Producer
 +357 99427492
 louis@thecoffeefilms.com

Northern Lights / Pohjolan Valot



Finland, Poland, Croatia

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.

Greenlit Productions Oy

Niuhalanraitti 11
 FI-03400 Vihti
 Finland
 merja.ritola@greenlitproductions.net

Film synopsis

A radical artist, Lesya (29), gains recognition during the anti-regime protests in Belarus with her raw political performances. When the riot police attack her show and arrest her devoted friend, a terrified Lesya flees to Helsinki. Supported by a documentarist, who soon becomes her lover, Lesya gets a show at an elite gallery. Yet the art world's praise traps her in the label of a political exile. When the Helsinki Biennial Curator rejects her attempt to break free from that image, Lesya is forced to choose between authenticity and success. Her concession backfires and ruins her career. Salvaging what's left of her life, Lesya takes a modest job in Lapland. Physical labor and the sole company of her employer, supportive yet tough, push Lesya to face the question her life was built to avoid: who is she when no one is watching?

Director's biography

Mara Tamkovich is a Polish-Belarusian screenwriter and director. She studied journalism at Warsaw University and for ten years worked as a journalist for independent Belarusian media. After graduating film directing at Warsaw Film School and Wajda School, Mara kept on focusing on socially relevant topics deeply connected to reality. Her debut feature *Under the Grey Sky* premiered at Tribeca Festival, won Best Debut Award at Polish Film Festival in Gdynia, was nominated for European Film Awards in the "European Discovery" category and is now available on HBO Max. Her films were also presented and awarded at Chicago IFF (Silver Hugo Award), Torino IFF (Scuola Holden Special Mention), Camerimage IFF and others. Mara is a member of European Film Academy, Polish Directors Guild and a board member of Belarusian Independent Film Academy.

Producer's biography

Merja Ritola is a Finnish producer and CEO of Greenlit Productions with over 25 years of experience in international film and television. Since 2000, she has worked on more than 45 productions, including *Iron Sky*, *Jade Warrior* and *Man's Job*, producing over 24 fiction and documentary films. Her credits include the Jussi Award-winning *The Seamstress*, Warsaw IFF winner *Putting Lipstick on a Pig*, European Film Awards shortlisted *The Other Side of the River* (winner of the German Film Award LOLA and Grimme Award), and *The Voice of Sokurov*. A member of the European Film Academy since 2024, she recently completed *Lex Julia*, is in post-production with *The Seal Mother*, and is developing the international co-production *Northern Lights*.

Author's statement

Northern Lights is an intense journey into the mind of a young, talented and deeply traumatized woman, who craves fame. Lesya is driven by the need to be praised and acknowledged, to matter, but that drive comes from a hidden feeling of being worthless. Success in Belarus gives her the sense of belonging, but in exile she feels as if she is simply entertaining the audience with her pain. Despite her growing resentment, Lesya can't resist the pressure to keep performing her trauma. She wants to succeed at all costs, but what she needs is to reconcile with herself and regain her own voice. Through Lesya's story we explore the issue of displacement and the painful collision between ambition and authenticity. We observe how labels can cripple and become a tool of oppression but discover a healing power that lies within vulnerability.

director **Mara Tamkovich**
 scriptwriter **Yulia Pogrebnyak**
 production **Merja Ritola**
 language **English, Finnish, Belorussian, Russian**
 genre **psychological drama**
 estimated budget **2.200.000 EUR**
 release date **2029**



Mara Tamkovich
 Director
 +48 884 990 221
 mara.tamkovich@gmail.com



Yulia Pogrebnyak
 Scriptwriter
 +358 41 318 7173
 ypogrebnyak@gmail.com



Merja Ritola
 Producer
 +358 50 593 7714
 merja.ritola@greenlitproductions.net

Not All Houses Have a Yard / Nemaju sve kuće dvorište



Serbia

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.

This film is the director's debut.

Sense Production

Knjeginje Ljubice 8

11000 Belgrade

Serbia

marija@senseproduction.rs

Film synopsis

Convinced her sleepwalking episodes could lead to accidental suicide, quirky and neurotic Milica (27) is afraid to fall asleep. She discusses this fear with her unconventional psychotherapist Bojan (47), whom she started seeing after losing her father. With her mother having a new partner, her brother in prison, and her best friend getting married, Milica feels Bojan is the only one left. Unaware that she is repressing grief, Milica tries to seduce him. Though he tries to respond professionally, the bond between them grows intense, ultimately triggering Milica to kiss him. After the kiss, Bojan panics. Worried he might lose his license, he suggests she should stop seeing him. Desperate, Milica turns to wandering the streets, finding unexpected ways to heal within a destructive world, all the while hoping that Bojan will reach out to her.

Director's biography

Isidora Veselinović is a director and casting director, with a MA in Film and TV Directing. She is known for her short films *Until Road Do Us Part* (2015) and *The One Who Brings the Rain* (2020) which was her graduation film and premiered at the Kustendorf FF. Her work as a casting director on the high-end series *Operation Sabre* was recognized at Canneseries in 2024 with the award for Best Ensemble. At the moment, she is completing her short film *Blueberries*. *Not All Houses Have a Yard* is her feature debut.

Producer's biography

Marija Stojanovic is a co-owner of Sense Production, a production company based in Belgrade. She produced the feature *Oasis* (2020) by Ivan Ikic, which premiered at Giornate degli Autori in Venice, winning the Europa Cinemas Label award. Her more recent titles *Forever Hold Your Peace* (2023), a six country co-production by Montenegrin director Ivan Marinović premiered at Tallinn Black Nights IFF and Vladimir Tagić's *Yugo Florida* (2024) at Sarajevo FF winning the Heart of Sarajevo for Best Actor. She is an EAVE alumna and member of EFA.

Author's statement

When it feels like everyone around me is moving on with their lives while I'm standing still, panic starts to creep in. I find myself longing for home – the comfort that everything will be okay. Milica never had that kind of home, and the one she did, no longer exists. Through her fractured view of reality, she restlessly wanders through her own existence, yearning for a sanctuary in a world full of rejection. When I read the novel by Katarina Mitorvić *Not All Houses Have a Yard*, I recognized a moment from my own life – wondering whether the relationship with my therapist had become too personal, or if it was all in my head. This disconnect, much like it did to Milica, distanced me from therapy, but also made me question the unexpected ways our soul finds healing – sometimes in dark, hidden places, and other times closer to home.

director **Isidora Veselinović**
 scriptwriter **Katarina Mitorvić**
 producer **Marija Stojanović**
 language **Serbian**
 genre **drama**
 estimated budget **780.500 EUR**
 release date **2029**



Isidora Veselinović
 Director
 +381 637701002
 isidora.veseli-
 novic@gmail.com



Katarina Mitorvić
 Scriptwriter
 +381 640016287
 katarinakmitro-
 vic@gmail.com



Marija Stojanović
 Producer
 +381 69645614
 marija@senseproduc-
 tion.rs

Reminiscence / Reministsentsiia



Ukraine

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.

This film is the director's debut.

Moon Man

Mala Zhytomyrska str. 11
01001 Kyiv
Ukraine
info@moonman.com.ua

Film synopsis

Three years after her brother Yan (28) vanished in the war, Sasha (25) – haunted by a vision of a ball lightning – reluctantly returns from Kyiv to her hometown. There she finds Yan's photos staged like a shrine and their mother speaking to his uniform. Unable to talk about it, Sasha wanders around town and reconnects with Slava (28), Yan's childhood friend and a veteran with quiet PTSD. Their renewed bond unlocks memories she has long suppressed. When Sasha learns of mother's plan to sell Yan's preserved apartment – a place she dares not to enter – she fights to stop it, only deepening their rift. Slava's attempted kiss shatters their connection, leaving Sasha isolated. As everything falls apart, Sasha tries to leave town but is drawn by ball lightning into Yan's apartment. She confronts her loss and opens a fragile path toward reclaiming her life.

Director's biography

Anastasia Tykha is an emerging filmmaker with a background in documentary film. Her work examines major social and political events, especially the impact of war. Her training includes a 2018 Gaude Polonia scholarship from Poland's Ministry of Culture and participation in the Doc.Pro course at the Wajda School in Warsaw; in 2019 she received the Presidential Scholarship for Young Writers and Artists of Ukraine. She co-directed the documentary *Summertime in Ukraine*, one of the highest-grossing Ukrainian theatrical documentaries in 2025. Anastasia is co-founder and program director of KINOKO, Ukraine's first film festival dedicated to the art of cinematography (founded 2018). *Reminiscence* is her feature debut, currently in development through the Midpoint Feature Launch and selected for the Göteborg Film Festival residency 2026.

Producer's biography

Darya Bassel is an experienced film producer with a long-standing career in the film industry, having contributed to numerous award-winning productions. She graduated from Ex Oriente, Eurodoc and EAVE and has mentored for Eurodoc and Baltic Sea Docs. Among her notable titles are *Butterfly Vision* (Un Certain Regard at Cannes 2022), *The Editorial Office* (Berlinale 2024; Best Script at the Ukrainian Film Academy Award), *Songs of Slow Burning Earth* (Venice FF 2024, Best Documentary nomination at the European Film Awards 2026). She co-produced *Intercepted* (Berlinale 2024; the Gotham Award and Lux Audience Award nominee) and the Oscar-nominated *A House Made of Splinters* (Sundance 2022).

Author's statement

Reminiscence grew from my reflection on childhood, memory, and coming home. Since the full-scale war in Ukraine, these questions have taken on a new scale, leading me to explore the psychological consequences of war, particularly the concept of ambiguous loss. At the heart of the film's visual universe is ball lightning, both beautiful and unsettling for the main character. It embodies unresolved grief and the invisible tension carried within her body, connecting Sasha to a childhood memory shared with Yan. As Sasha wanders through familiar spaces, subtle changes in framing, sound, and rhythm reveal how memory reshapes her experience of the present. Small sensory details, like tulle on a window, become triggers that blur the boundary between reality and inner experience. Through these shifts, the audience enters Sasha's subjective world.

director **Anastasia Tykha**
scriptwriter **Anastasia Tykha**
producer **Darya Bassel**
language **Ukrainian**
genre **drama**
estimated budget **1.074.291 EUR**
release date **2029**



Anastasia Tykha
Director, Scriptwriter
+380 95 725 14 85
anastasiyatihaya0@gmail.com



Darya Bassel
Producer
+380 93 906 13 42
d.bassel@moonman.com.ua

Works in Development – MIDPOINT Focus Queer

Feature film projects with queer narratives developed within the MIDPOINT Focus Queer 2026 program.

Nuusiku



Namibia, France

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.
This film is the director's debut.

Woooz Pictures

8A Avenue de Saint Maur
34000 Montpellier
France
jeremie@wooozpictures.com

Film synopsis

Nekomba, a 21-year-old performance artist, attempts to recreate a childhood dance she once performed with her aunt, one believed to summon physical ancestors. She hopes this act will slowly reconnect her now westernised Owambo culture to its spiritual roots. Instead, she is transported to a precolonial village, where she encounters both the beauty and shock of a way of life vastly different from her own. There, she falls in love with Nuusiku, a young woman who embodies a sense of queer freedom within her culture. But this world holds contradictions: Nuusiku has been chosen to be sacrificed as a companion to a dying king. While Nuusiku accepts her fate, Nekomba struggles to save her, forcing her to confront the violence within a past she once romanticised.

Director's biography

Laudika 'yaNdangii' Hamutenya is a Namibian filmmaker from Ohangwena whose work explores identity, masculinity, and belonging in contemporary Africa. A graduate of ADFA Cape Town and a Talents Durban 2025 alumnus, he has directed several acclaimed short films. In 2021, he wrote and directed *Lauf*, a German-language psychological thriller on guilt and domestic abuse, winning three Best Student Film awards. In 2022, he co-wrote and assistant-directed *Stray-Flower*, which premiered at the Max Ophüls Prize Film Festival in Germany. His 2024 film *Luna*, a queer romance set in Namibia, premiered at the Trans Film Festival in Stockholm. In 2026, *Emanya* earned him Best Newcomer Director and a Best Short Film nomination at the Namibia Theatre and Film Awards. He is currently developing his debut feature, *Nuusiku*.

Producer's biography

An alumnus of WEMW's Investors' Circle and EurodocMed, Jérémie Palanque holds a Master's in Film Production from Montpellier, alongside Masters' degrees in finance and management. After an initial career as CFO, he founded Woooz Pictures, dedicated to multicultural narratives and emerging voices. He has co-produced Praveen Morchhale's Indian feature *White Snow* (Mostra of Sao Paolo, IFFI Goa among others) and Razka Robby Ertanto's Indonesian feature *A Tale of Rose* (in post-production), while developing projects such as Amel Blidi's *Mimouna*, Naishe Nyamubaya's *Chimbo cheBere* (in pre-production). Across his slate, he works to position each project within major international labs, workshops and markets, including Cannes L'Atelier, Sheffield MeetMarket, Red Sea Souk, TCCF Pitching forum, MIDPOINT Institute, TIFF Film-maker Lab and Torino Film Lab.

Author's statement

Nuusiku, meaning "within the night" or "born from the night" in Oshiwambo, is a deeply personal meditation on memory, longing, and the danger of romanticising the past. As a queer Oshiwambo filmmaker raised between tradition and modernity, I am drawn to the tension between reclaiming culture and questioning it. Through Nekomba's journey, the film explores a precolonial world that is both beautiful and unsettling, where belonging and exclusion coexist. While she seeks spiritual truth, she is confronted with practices that challenge her ideals, including the sacrifice of the woman she loves. *Nuusiku* asks whether we would truly feel free in the past we glorify, and whether modern, often Western-influenced ideas, especially around queerness, have also created necessary space for us to exist. Ultimately, it is a reflection on culture as something evolving, not fixed.

director **Laudika yaNdangii Hamutenya**
 scriptwriter **Laudika yaNdangii Hamutenya**
 producer **Jérémie Palanque**
 language **oshiwambo**
 genre **action, drama, queer romance**
 estimated budget **1.326.756 EUR**
 release date **2029**



Laudika yaNdangii Hamutenya
 Director, Scriptwriter
 +264 81 714 6393
 thankylhjn@gmail.com



Jérémie Palanque
 Producer
 +33 676 966 184
 jeremie@wooozpictures.com

Selamlık



Sweden, Denmark

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.

This film is the director's debut.

Verket Produktion

Vikstensvägen 36
 12156 Johanneshov
 Sweden
 frida@verketproduktion.com

Film synopsis

In Damascus, two men hide beneath their bed, not afraid to die but afraid to die apart. After years of separation, Furat (37) now a writer exiled in Sweden travels to Córdoba to reunite with Pierre (27), the love of his life whom he left behind when fleeing the war in Syria. Furat hopes to revive the love they once shared. But Pierre arrives guarded, carrying a secret that will change everything. During this tense and intimate weekend, memories of their relationship begin to resurface: their farewell, their shared home, a beloved dog, demonstrations for freedom and the night they first met at the dawn of the Arab Spring, when love and freedom still seemed possible. As past and present close in around them, they must face the truth: their love is still alive, but they are no longer the people who once dreamed of freedom together.

Director's biography

Jerry Carlsson is a Swedish director and screenwriter with a BFA and MFA in Filmmaking from Valand Academy. His acclaimed short films, including *The Night Train*, *Successful Thawing of Mr Moro* and *Shadow Animals*, have competed in Venice, Locarno, Toronto, Tribeca, Aspen, Palm Springs and Clermont-Ferrand. His works have won both the Special Jury Prize and the Canal+ Award at Clermont-Ferrand ISFF, and Best Nordic Short at Nordisk Panorama twice. His films have been sold to Disney+, SVT, Canal+, France 3 and Criterion Channel. Jerry has participated in Berlinale Talents, Nordic Film Lab and EFP's FUTURE FRAMES at KVIFF. He recently directed two episodes of Netflix's *Young Royals* Season 3. In 2025, he won the Ingmar Bergman Script Award for his feature screenplay *Invasion*.

Producer's biography

Frida Mårtensson is a Stockholm-based producer who has worked with Swedish independent film in various capacities since 2009. She works with filmmakers across genres and formats but has a particular focus on fiction projects with a strong artistic vision and distinctive voice. Frida runs Verket Produktion together with Jerry Carlsson and Anette Sidor. Her recent credits include Sidor's short *Fuck Me* (TIFF -24) and the co-production of Konstantina Kotzamani's mid-length film *What Mary Didn't Know* (Locarno -24). She also produced Erika Wasserman's feature debut *The Year I Started Masturbating* and is currently in production with the feature *Jönssonligan & Wall Enberg*. Frida has produced Jerry Carlsson's award-winning shorts *Shadow Animals*, *The Night Train* and *Successful Thawing of Mr Moro*. She is a participant in EAVE Producers Workshop 2026.

Author's statement

Furat and Pierre exist between who they once were and who exile has turned them into. Furat lives in Sweden and Pierre in Canada, yet neither fully belongs to the lives they have built. They reunite in Spain, carrying different versions of the same loss. Córdoba holds this tension in its stones. Built by old Syrians, it is the closest living echo of a home that no longer exists as they knew it. The city mirrors displacement, beauty and loss, making it the only possible setting for this story.

The film unfolds across two timelines: a reunion in present-day Córdoba and a love story in Damascus told in reverse. The structure reflects how trauma works: we return obsessively to the last moment, then unravel what came before. As Córdoba moves toward goodbye, Damascus moves back toward the night they first met, when freedom and a future still felt possible. It is a love story told forward and backward, about what remains when love survives but the lovers do not.

director **Jerry Carlsson**
 scriptwriter **Khaled Alesmael**
 producer **Frida Mårtensson**
 language **Arabic, English, Spanish, Swedish**
 genre **drama**
 estimated budget **2.301.852 EUR**
 release date **2029**



Jerry Carlsson
 Director
 +46 703 694 630
 jerry@verketproduktion.com



Khaled Alesmael
 Screenwriter
 +44 7935 876861
 khaled@khaledalesmael.com



Frida Mårtensson
 Producer
 +46 73 583 0142
 frida@verketproduktion.com

Skeeter



Canada

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.
This film is the director's debut.

Ghoul Nexus

20 Canna Bay
SW T2W 1P1 Calgary
Canada
tnodirck@hotmail.com

Film synopsis

Davey (27), a charismatic go-go dancer, is caring for his sick roommate Joe. Joe (31) was an outspoken Gay activist but has been in and out of the hospital, suffering from several HIV complications including memory loss. After losing many friends to AIDS, Davey fears Joe is next. Seeking escape from this fate, Davey brings their chosen family together for one last weekend getaway to a remote lake cabin in the forest. The group arrives at the lake during mosquito season, triggering a buzz of paranoia amongst the local lake residents, fearing that Davey's friends will expose them to contracting HIV from a mosquito bite. In the isolation of the cabin the group tries to find some peace, but when Joe goes missing in the woods, the group need to decide where they find help, testing what lengths they will have to go to for the ones they love.

Director's biography

Dylan Mitro (1995) is a queer independent filmmaker, based in London Ontario, Canada. He studied at Toronto Metropolitan University – Image Arts: Film Studies BFA (2018). Dylan's previous directorial work includes: *I've heard a Siren Calling* (2025) supported by Canada Council for the Arts, awarded Special Mention for the LUCA Gender Inclusivity at Filmfest Dresden and screened at Queerwave Cyprus, Queer Shorts Vienna, InsideOut Film Festival, Xposed Berlin (2026). *Ripples* (2022) was awarded the Re:Focus Fund via Inside Out FF and screened at BFI Flare, Frameline FF, Out on Film FF. Dylan was a selected artist for the Martha Cooper scholarship at FRESH A.I.R Berlin (2025) and Spindle Film Foundation's Director Mentorship Program (2024). *Skeeter* is currently being developed through MIDPOINT Institute's Focus Queer program (2026).

Producer's biography

Taylor Nordick is a producer, writer and director from Alberta, Canada. His producing credits include: Shudder's *Shadow of God* (Fantaspoa), Kurtis David Harder's *Influencers* (Fantasia, Fright Fest), Avalon Fast's *Camp* (Fantastic Fest, Sitges, TIFF). His films have won multiple awards, including the Gold Audience Award, Best Screenplay and Best Cinematography at the Brooklyn Horror FF, Best Feature in the Next Wave Competition at Fantastic Fest. With writer/director Jared Moshe (*The Ballad of Lefty Brown*), they are currently in post-production on a supernatural action film and in production on a new horror-comedy by Rob Grant (*Harpoon*).

Author's statement

For *Skeeter*, the story emerged from my investigative research in Canada's 2SLGBTQIA+ archives, diving into real life accounts of what it was like to be a homosexual on the front lines of the AIDS crisis in the 1990s, and how the Gay community took care of each other and fought for survival, to still live life to the fullest. Between funerals, rallies, parties, and community organizing, I want their triumphs celebrated, and their struggles to be remembered. For *Skeeter*, I was drawn to exploring the classic horror trope structure of the 'Fate of death by a monster in the woods', to critique and flip on its head. The mosquito becomes a vessel to symbolize the connection between the buzzing of the characters' internal fears about death, with their external fear of being viewed as a threatening monster.

director **Dylan Mitro**
 scriptwriter **Dylan Mitro**
 producer **Taylor Nodrick**
 language **English**
 genre **queer horror**
 estimated budget **900.000 EUR**
 release date **2028**



Dylan Mitro
 Director, Screenwriter
 +1 2263 860 099
 mitrodylan@gmail.com



Taylor Nodrick
 Producer
 +1 4038 800 954
 tnodrick@hotmail.com

Unholy / Ute Iero Oute Osio



Greece

Eligible for Eurimages Co-production Development Award.

This film is the director's debut.

Foss Productions

10A Imathias Str. Gerakas

1534 Athens

Greece

foss.productions@fossproductions.gr

Film synopsis

Irene has spent her life saying yes to everyone. Until her father – the guy who left them ages ago to become a monk – drops off the map with her life savings. Irene's solution? She shaves her head, buys a mustache and practices her deepest "blessings, brother." Her destination? Mount Athos: the only place on Earth where women – and female animals – have been banned for over a thousand years. Her boyfriend comes along because he is terrible at saying no. Her estranged sister and her girlfriend invite themselves for the chaos. This drag fellowship begins to wreak havoc in the secluded state that echoes medieval times. Inside the labyrinthine monasteries Irene finds not just a missing dad but the absurd rulebook of patriarchy itself. To get her money and her life back, this people-pleaser must finally become the woman they never saw coming.

Director's biography

Phaedra Vokali studied Economics and Architecture Theory in Athens and holds an MA in Film from University College London. Before directing, she was editor-in-chief in CINEMA Magazine, head of programming at Athens IFF and General Director of the Hellenic Film Academy (2021–2022). As Managing Director of Marni Films (2012-2019), she produced numerous award-winning films, including *Suntan* (2016) and *Afterlov* (2016) (Rotterdam, SXSW, Locarno, LUX Prize noms). She is an EAVE Producers Workshop and Torino Film Lab alumna. In 2022, she made her directorial debut with the queer young adult film *Enomena* at the Norwegian Short FF. In 2025, she co-created *US: A Movie About Bloody Hawk* (100,000+ tickets sold in Greece/Cyprus, now streaming on Netflix). She is currently developing her first feature, *Unholy*, with the support of the Greek Film Centre.

Producer's biography

Hermione graduated from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, where she studied Journalism and Mass Media. She has worked as a consultant on film marketing and distribution on over 300 projects and films that participated in major international film festivals such as Cannes, Berlinale, Tribeca, Locarno, Karlovy Vary and IFFR. She has worked as a producer's assistant for *Dogwatch* by Gregoris Rentis (*Visions du Reel* 2021), and as an associate producer for *Tilos Weddings* by Panagiotis Evangelidis (TiDF 2022). Hermione has been a consultant for the Agora Team for the Thessaloniki IFF, since 2023. She also serves as a tutor for SAE Film School. In 2025, she founded films out there, a production company and a consulting agency that connects stories with their audiences. Hermione is an EAVE, Locarno Industry Academy, Oxbelly, and MFI alumna.

Author's statement

Unholy uses a high concept to ask: what happens when a woman stops following the rules? Mount Athos, where women have been banned for a millennium, becomes the perfect setting for Irene's rebellion. Blending comedy, drama, and mystery, the film mirrors its protagonist's journey, refusing to sit still: It steals from heist movies, then wanders into a forest where time slows down. It borrows the rhythm of a screwball comedy, then stops for a quiet confession. It turns laughter into silence and then cracks open into something tender. This is not genre-bending for its own sake. It is the only way to tell a story about a woman who has never been allowed to be her whole self. My personal history with Orthodox Christianity informs every frame, as does my belief that liberation is funnier, messier, and more sacred than any sermon.

director **Phaedra Vokali**
 scriptwriter **Phaedra Vokali**
 producer **Hermione Efstratiadou**
 language **Greek**
 genre **comedy**
 estimated budget **1.300.000 EUR**
 release date **2028**



Phaedra Vokali
 Director, Screenwriter
 +306 936 714 601
 fedravok@protonmail.com



Hermione Efstratiadou
 Producer
 +306 982 954 008
 hermione@filmsoutthere.com

Book of Projects
60th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival
July 3 – July 11 2026

Film Servis Festival Karlovy Vary, a. s.
Panská 1, 110 00 Prague 1
T +420 221 411 011, +420 221 411 022
E industry@kviff.com

© Film Servis Festival Karlovy Vary, a. s.
kviff.com