CINEMA HORA

FORUM 2024

Film 360° – Broaden Horizons

Brochure

MINISTERUL CULTURII AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA

CNC NATIONAL FILM CENTRE OF MOLDOVA

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Sweden Sverige

UKaid from the British people



27TH OF NOVEMBER, WEDNESDAY	DAY OF ARRIVAL
	DAY OF ARRIVAL, CHECK-IN AT JOLLY ALON HOTEL 37 MARIA CEBOTARI STREET, CHIȘINĂU
19:30 - 21:30	**WELCOME RECEPTION, JOLLY ALON RESTAURANT** 37 MARIA CEBOTARI STREET,
28TH OF NOVEMBER, THURSDAY	**DAY 1**
07:00 - 08:30	**BREAKFAST AT THE HOTEL** 37 MARIA CEBOTARI STREET, CHIȘINĂU
08:45 - 09:00	**REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS** VENUE: URBAN BUSINESS CENTER, 115/1 ȘTEFAN CEL MARE ȘI SFÎNT BOULEVARD, CHIȘINĂU
09:00 - 09:30	**GREETINGS** *- VALENTINA IUSUPHODJAEV, HEAD OF THE NATIONAL FILM CENTER OF MOLDOVA* *- NICU ȘTEFĂNUȚĂ, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT* *- MARKUS IHLAINEN, SECOND SECTRETARY EMBASSY OF SWEDEN*
9:30 - 11:30	**POLITICS, POLICIES AND SOCIETY** *MODERATOR: LILIA PAUL*
09:30	***CO-PRODUCTION – AN ADDED VALUE FOR CULTURE*** *SUSAN NEWMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EURIMAGES FUND, COUNCIL OF EUROPE*
09:45	**WHAT POLITICIANS CAN LEARN FROM FILMMAKERS**
	- GÜLSEL ÖZKAN, SCREENWRITER, PRODUCER, GERMANY
	- VOLODYMYR YATSENKO, PRODUCER, UKRAINE
	- KATRIEL SCHORY, FILM PRODUCER, CHEVALIER DE L'ORDRE DES ARTS ET DES LETTRES - FRANCE, ISRAEL
	- MAŁGORZATA MACHCZYŃSKA, LEGAL COUNSEL, UNION OF AUDIOVISUAL AUTHORS AND PRODUCERS, POLAND
10:30	**FILM AS A MEDIUM FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**
	- ANA CASTAÑOSA BIELSA, HEAD OF IMPACT DAYS AT THE INTERNATIONAL FILM FERSTIVAL AND FORUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
	- MAXIM CÎRLAN, DIRECTOR OF MOLDOX INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, MOLDOVA
11:00	**STORIES THAT MATTER**
	- JAKE TACCHI, OPEN SOURCE RESEARCHER AND PRODUCER BBC EYE INVESTIGATIONS, UNITED KINGDOM

11:30 - 11:50	**COFFEE BREAK**
11:50 - 12:50	**CLASSIC FILM AND ARCHIVES. OUR PAST BETWEEN PRESENT AND FUTURE** *MODERATOR: ION GNATIUC*
	- PAVLE SIMONOVIĆ, DIRECTOR OF THE MONTENEGRIN CINEMATHEQUE, TV DIRECTOR, MONTENEGRO
	- MIHAI FULGER, FILM CRITIC & CURATOR, ROMANIA
	- OTILIA BABĂRĂ, DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER, MOLDOVA
	- VICTOR MAXIAN, FILMMAKER, MOLDOVA
12:50 - 14:10	**LUNCH**
14:10 - 15:10	**WOMEN IN CINEMA. CHANGING NARRATIVES** *MODERATOR: ANA GURDIȘ*
	- SONJA PROSENC, DIRECTOR, SLOVENIA
	- ALEKSANDRA BOŽOVIĆ, DIRECTOR OF FILM CENTER OF MONTENEGRO, PRODUCER, MONTENEGRO
	- HELLE HANSEN, JOURNALIST, DOCUMENTARY FILM CONSULTANT, MODERATOR, DENMARK
	- MELODY GILBERT, DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER & EDUCATOR, USA
15:10 - 15:30	**COFFEE BREAK**
15:30 - 16:45	**SYNERGIES BETWEEN FILM INDUSTRY, ECONOMY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (SUCCESS STORIES)** *MODERATOR: DOINA NISTOR*
15:30	***HOW TO DEVELOP A SUSTAINABLE, HAPPY FILM SECTOR IN A SMALL NATION*** *- JAKOB HØGEL, HEAD OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, NATIONAL FILM SCHOOL, DENMARK* *- SONAM UGYEN, FILMMAKER, MEDIA ENTREPRENEUR, BHUTAN*
	LITHUANINAN TAXE REBATE *- LAIMONAS UBAVIČIUS, DIRECTOR OF THE LITHUANIAN FILM CENTER, LITHUANIA*
16:10	***WHAT FESTIVALS BRING TO A REGION***
	- THANOS STAVROPOULOS, MANAGER OF AGORA, THESSALONIKI IDFF, GREECE
	- ALEXANDRA BOGHIU, COORDINATIOR INNOVATION LAB, TIFF/TRANSILVANIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, CLUJ, ROMANIA
18:30 - 19:30	**TRAVELING FROM THE VENUE TO THE CRICOVA WINERY** PICK-UP POINT: JOLLY ALON, 37 MARIA CEBOTARI STREET, CHIȘINĂU
19:30 - 22:00	**CRICOVA WINERY — WINE TOUR, DINNER & NETWORKING**
29TH OF NOVEMBER, FRIDAY	**DAY 2**
07:00 - 08:30	**BREAKFAST THE HOTEL** 37 MARIA CEBOTARI STREET, CHIȘINĂU
10:30 - 11:00	**COFFEE BREAK**
11:00 - 12:50	**RESILIENCE THROUGH FILM. FOCUS ON UKRAINE** *MODERATOR: NATALIA ANDRONACHI*
	- VOLODYMYR YATSENKO, PRODUCER, UKRAINE *- ALEKS KOMAROVSKII, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR, ACTOR, IDEAFILMS, UKRAINE* *- ZOYA SOSHENKO, PRODUCER, UKRAINE* *- ANNA MACHUKH, CEO ODESA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, FILM ACADEMY, UKRAINE* *- OLHA BESKHMELNITSYNA, PRODUCER, UKRAINE* *- OLGA PANTELEYMONOVA, CEO AND CO-OWNER UKRAINIAN PRODUCERS HUB (UPHUB), UKRAINE* *- DENIS TARASOV, DIRECTOR, UKRAINE*
12:50 - 14:10	**LUNCH**
14:10 - 15:50	**BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE AND INSPIRATION. CINEMA & EDUCATION** *MODERATOR: DIMA STOIANOV*
14:10	**NURTURING TALENTS**

	EXPERIENCES FROM CURATION OF SMART A/V PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT FOR AND WITH YOUNG AUDIENCES *- ANNETTE BREJNER, FOUNDER AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR OF M:BRANE, SWEDEN*
	ONLINE HUB THAT BRINGS PROFESSIONALS TOGETHER *- ADAM PAPLIŃSKI, FOUNDER PITCH THE DOC, POLAND* *- KATARZYNA SZARECKA, CO-FOUNDER PITCH THE DOC, POLAND*
14:50	**NOURISHING THE AUDIENCE**
	- ALEXANDRA BOGHIU, COORDINATIOR INNOVATION LAB, TIFF/TRANSILVANIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, CLUJ, ROMANIA
	- LAILA ALONSO HUARTE, EDITORIAL CO-DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AND FORUM AND HUMAN RIGHTS GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
	- DARKO NABAKOV, DIRECTOR OF TRAVELING CINEMA FESTIVAL, MAKEDOX, NORTH MACEDONIA
15:30	**CASE STUDY: TARGETED AUDIENCES** *- MARIETTE RISSENBEEK, PRODUCER, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF BERLINALE 2019 – 2024*
15:50 - 16:10	**COFFEE BREAK**
16:10 - 17:10	**EXPLORING THE HEALING POWER OF FILM** *MODERATOR: OTILIA BABĂRĂ*
	BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN HEALTH AND FILMS *- DR. MINA EL NAGGAR, FOUNDER, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MEDFEST EGYPT, EGYPT*
	FILM IN HOSPITAL *- IRIS VERHOEVEN, DIRECTOR OF JEF YOUTH FILM ORGANISATION IN FLANDERS, BELGIUM*
	MINDFUL PHOTOGRAPHY & CINEMA: HARNESSING VISUAL ARTS FOR PATIENT WELL-BEING *- MIRONA RADU, FILM PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCHER, ROMANIA*
	CASE STUDY *- LINA VDOVÎI, SCREENWRITER, DIRECTOR TATA - OFFICIAL SELECTION TORONTO IFF 2024, ROMANIA*
17:10 - 17:25	**SUMMARY AND CLOSING KEYNOTES**
17:30 - 19:00	**INDUSTRY SCREENING — *TATA* (2024), DIR. LINA VDOVÎI** VENUE: URBAN BUSINESS CENTER 115/1 ȘTEFAN CEL MARE ȘI SFÎNT BOULEVARD, CHIȘINĂU
20:00 - 00:00	**FAREWELL DINNER & NETWORKING** VENUE: LUME NEOBISTRO 43 VLAICU PÎRCĂLAB STRREET, CHIȘINĂU
30TH OF NOVEMBER, SATURDAY	**DAY OF DEPARTURE**
USEFUL INFORMATION:	**LOGISTICS COORDINATOR:** NICOLAE EȘAN (WHATSAPP +37367474764) **GUESTS COORDINATOR:** DUMITRIȚA AFANASII (WHATSAPP: +37362101902; +40743600681) ALEXANDRA ROTARU (WHATSAPP: +37369422281)

Dear friends and esteemed guests,

On behalf of the National Center of Cinematography of Moldova, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the second edition of the CinemaHora Forum 2024. We are delighted to host you here in Chișinău, a city that, like our nation, is evolving and finding its voice on the cinematic and cultural map of Europe.

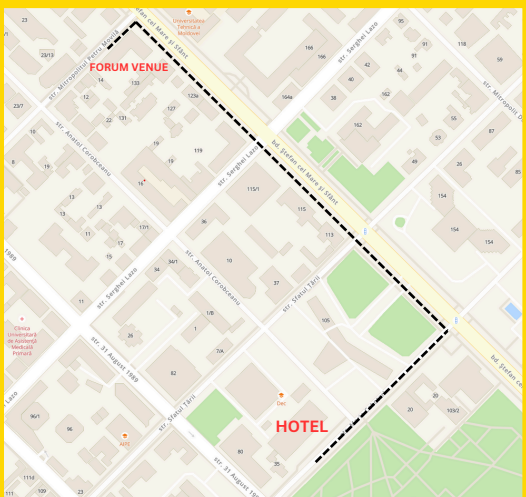
This year's theme, Film 360° - Broaden Horizons, invites us to reflect on the vital connections between cinema and the many dimensions of our lives—politics, education, economy, and even healing. Through these discussions, we aim to highlight the transformative power of film as a bridge that connects cultures, sparks dialogue, and shapes the future.

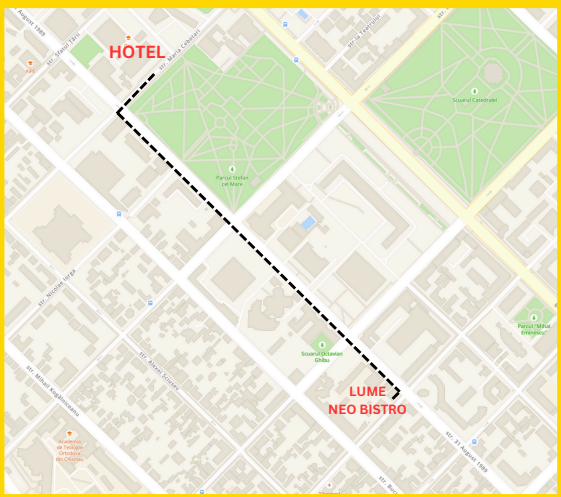
For Moldova, this forum is more than just a cinematic event. It's a symbol of our aspirations for European integration—a shared journey toward a space where art and culture transcend borders, and where collaboration strengthens our identity as part of the European family.
We are immensely grateful to our panelists, moderators, and all of you present here today for your commitment to this dialogue. Together, we are building connections that not only inspire creativity but also pave the way for a stronger, more united cinematic and cultural landscape.
Thank you for being here, and welcome to Moldova. Let us make these two days both meaningful and unforgettable!

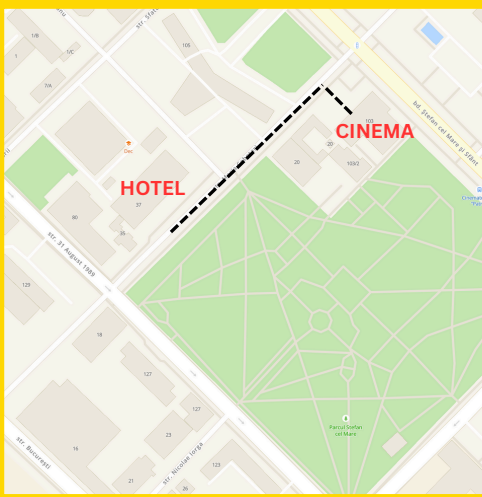
Valentina Iusuphodjaev,
Director of National Film Center of Moldova

VENUES

- **Forum Venue:** Urban Business Center, 115/1 Ștefan cel Mare Blvd, Chișinău
- **Hotel:** Jolly Alon, 37 Maria Cebotari Street, Chișinău
- **Moldox Festival Film Screenings:** Cineplex Loteanu Cinema, 103 Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt Blvd, Chișinău
- **Moldox Festival Pitch:** Artcor, 137 31 August 1989 Street, Chișinău
- **Restaurant:** Lume, 43 Vlaicu Pârcălab Street, Chișinău
- **Cricova Winery:** 124 Chișinăului Street, Cricova, Moldova







MODERATORS

CINEMA HORA FORUM 2024



LILIA PAUL
producer, writer, director



ION GNATIUC
producer



NATALIA ANDRONACHI
cultural manager



ANA GURDIȘ
filmmaker



DIMA STOIANOV
journalist, media expert, producer



DOINA NISTOR
chief of party of Future Technologies Activity (FTA), funded by USAID



OTILIA BABARA
documentary filmmaker

SPEAKERS

POLITICS, POLICIES AND SOCIETY

MODERATOR: **LILIA PAUL**

- **CO-PRODUCTION – AN ADDED VALUE FOR CULTURE**
- **WHAT POLITICIANS CAN LEARN FROM FILMMAKERS**
- **FILM AS A MEDIUM FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**
- **STORIES THAT MATTER**



SUSAN NEWMAN
executive director of the EURIMAGES Fund, Council of Europe



VOLODYMYR YATSENKO
producer, Ukraine



MAŁGORZATA MACHCZYŃSKA
legal counsel Union of Audiovisual Authors and Producer, Poland



KATRIEL SCHORY
producer,
Israel



MARK HAMMOND,
documentary & feature director & producer, USA



ANA CASTAÑOSA BIELSA
head of Impact Days at the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights of Geneva, Switzerland



JAKE TACCHI
open source researcher and producer BBC EYE investigations,
United Kingdom



MAXIM CÎRLAN
director of MOLDOX International Documentary Film Festival for Social Change, Moldova

SPEAKERS

CLASSIC FILM AND ARCHIVES. OUR PAST BETWEEN PRESENT AND FUTURE

MODERATOR: **ION GNATIUC**



PAVLE SIMONOVIĆ
director of the Montenegrin Cinematheque, Montenegro



MIHAI FULGER
film critic & curator, Romania



OTILIA BABĂRĂ
documentary filmmaker, Moldova



VICTOR MAXIAN
filmmaker, Moldova

SPEAKERS

WOMEN IN CINEMA. CHANGING NARRATIVES

MODERATOR: **ANA GURDIȘ**



SONJA PROSENC
director,
Slovenia



ALEKSANDRA BOŽOVIĆ
producer, director of Film Center of Montenegro



HELLE HANSEN

journalist, documentary film consultant, Denmark



MELODY GILBERT

documentary filmmaker & educator, USA

SPEAKERS

SYNERGIES BETWEEN FILM INDUSTRY, ECONOMY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (SUCCESS STORIES)

MODERATOR: **DOINA NISTOR**

- **HOW TO DEVELOP A SUSTAINABLE, HAPPY FILM SECTOR IN A SMALL NATION**
- **LITHUANINAN TAXE REBATE**
- **WHAT FESTIVALS BRING TO A REGION**



THANOS STAVROPOULOS
manager of Agora
Thessaloniki IDFF,
Greece



LAIMONAS UBAVIČIUS
director of the
Lithuanian Film Center



JAKOB HØGEL
head of Education &
Research at National Film
School, Denmark



SONAM UGYEN
filmmaker,
Media Entrepreneur,
Bhutan



ALEXANDRA BOGHIU
project manager
TIFF, Romania

SPEAKERS

RESILIENCE THROUGH FILM FOCUS ON UKRAINE

MODERATOR: **NATALIA ANDRONACHI**



VOLODYMYR YATSENKO
producer,
Ukraine



ALEKS KOMAROVSKII
producer, director,
actor Ideafilms, Ukraine



ZOYA SOSHENKO
producer,
Ukraine



ANNA MACHUKH
director Odessa IFF,
Film Academy Ukraine



OLHA BESKHMELNITSYNA
producer,
Ukraine



OLGA PANTELEYMONOVA
CEO & Co-Owner Ukrainian
Producers HUB



DENIS TARASOV
director,
Ukraine

SPEAKERS

BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE AND INSPIRATION. CINEMA & EDUCATION

MODERATOR: **DIMA STOIANOV**

- **NURTURING TALENTS**
  - ***HOW THE SLOVENIAN FILM CENTER BECAME THE CENTRAL BUILDING BLOCK OF FILM EDUCATION IN SLOVENIA***
  - ***EXPERIENCES FROM CURATION OF SMART A/V PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT FOR AND WITH YOUNG AUDIENCES***
  - ***ONLINE HUB THAT BRINGS PROFESSIONALS TOGETHER***
- **NOURISHING THE AUDIENCE**
- **CASE STUDY: TARGETED AUDIENCES**



NATAŠA BUČAR
managing director of the Slovenian Film Center



MARIETTE RISSENBEEK
producer, executive producer of Berlinale 2010-2019, Germany



ADAM PAPLIŃSKI
founder Pitch the Doc, Poland



KATARZYNA SZARECKA
co-founder Pitch the Doc, Poland



ANNETTE BREJNER
founder & creative director of M:Brane, Sweden



ALEXANDRA BOGHIU
project manager, TIFF, Romania



LAILA ALONSO HUARTE
editorial co-director of the IFF & Forum & Human Rights Geneva, Switzerland



DARKO NABAKOV
director of Traveling Cinema Festival, Makedox, North Macedonia

SPEAKERS

EXPLORING THE HEALING POWER OF FILM

MODERATOR: **OTILIA BABARA**

- **BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN HEALTH AND FILMS**
- **FILM IN HOSPITAL**
- **MINDFUL PHOTOGRAPHY & CINEMA: HARNESSING VISUAL ARTS FOR PATIENT WELL-BEING**
- **CASE STUDY**



LINA VDOVÎI
screenwriter, director,
Romania



DR. MINA EL NAGGAR
founder & Managing Director
of Medfest,
Egypt



MIRONA RADU
film professional & researcher,
Romania



IRIS VERHOEVEN
director of JEF Youth Film
Organisation in Flanders,
Belgium

PARTICIPANTS



Lilia Paul

Lilia Paul is a producer, director, writer and IP creator of Ukrainian and Moldovan origin, based in Germany. She focuses on animation content for kids and young adults. Her film, book and multimedia projects are produced in international cooperation spanning the continents. After graduation from University of Strasbourg, film and literature department, participation in programs of creative politics at European Parliament and training at ARTE TV channel, she gained experience in international coproduction, funding models, in fiction, animation shorts, TV series and transmedia. As producer she was selected to such festival as International Venice film festival, Annecy Animation Festival and got such awards as ECFA - European Children's Film Association for children's short film and Lumière Award from Stereopsia for VR animated film.



Dima Stoianov

Dima Stoianov is a Moldovan journalist, media expert, screenwriter and producer. In 2020 he founded Legur Films with an aim to cover the niche activities in terms of independent film production and distribution, both trying to finance his own film projects and to help emerging filmmakers to produce their films. Eventually, Legur also engaged in projects related to screenings of art cinema on a cinema distribution market that doesn't have a single art cinema theater. On the distribution and programming sides, Legur Films already established itself as an organizer of the Month of European Film every November and CineMai festival of the European art films screenings in May. In June 2024, Legur Films became the first Moldovan participant of the yearly event for distributors, cinema owners and festival programmers: Bologna Innovation Lab, organized by Europa Cinema network and Cineteca di Bologna, within the Il Cinema Ritrovato festival.



Ion Gnatiuc

An EAVE Producers Workshop, BDC Discoveries and ESoDoc alumni, Ion Gnatiuc is a documentary film producer running HaiDOC Productions - a team of Moldovan documentary filmmakers who are delving into unique and impactful social themes through ethnographic and anthropological exploration, dedicating substantial time, attention, and involvement to allow each story to unfold naturally. We focus mainly on documentary film production, working on creating films that approach social topics and reflect on modern Moldavian society – local stories that are relevant and appealing globally. In addition to our own productions, we work with selected partners and bring full production services for cinematic work – we serviced or produced for Netflix, HBO, EAVE, IMS, The Guardian, DW, ZDF, etc. Our films were selected to an extensive list of film festivals – Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival, goEast Film Festival, Transilvania International Film Festival, Helsinki International Film Festival,



Ana Gurdiș

Ana Gurdiș a Moldovan documentary director, holds degrees in journalism and cinema, graduating from film school in 2021 (Bucharest). Her debut, "OUR EVE," premiered at TIFF Romania and was showcased at Dok.Fest München, Astra, Moldox, Doku Baku. Ana is currently working on her second feature - a mirror between twin sisters in Italy and Moldova. She also explores video art, with "CAPTURES" as her third experimental work, focusing on her family story. This project has inspired her to uncover and share personal archives with audiences and raised some other film ideas based on archives.



Doina Nistor

Doina Nistor is the Chief of Party of Future Technologies Activity (FTA), funded by USAID, Sweden and UKaid, a five-year, $52.8M flagship program spurring the development of the digital, creative, and green economy in Moldova. FTA (2021-2026) works in partnership with stakeholders in the information and communication technology (ICT), engineering, light industry, creative, and digital media sectors, harnessing innovation and new technologies to drive Moldova's competitiveness and integration with global markets.



Natalia Andronachi

Natalia Andronachi has a background in philology, translation, interpreting, and cultural studies. Since 2016, she has worked with organizations such as the Goethe-Institut Bucharest, MOLDOX, and Animest as a cultural manager, specializing in cross-border projects that connect communities, artists, and cultural professionals from the Eastern Partnership countries, Germany, and Romania. She is currently pursuing further education in cognitive sciences and psychology while exploring sustainable practices in the independent cultural sector.



Otilia Babara

Otilia Babara is a documentary filmmaker from Moldova, currently based in Brussels. "Love is not an orange", her first feature documentary, had its world premiere at DokLeipzig International Film Festival in 2022. It was screened at over thirty festivals worldwide, including Vision du Reel and MoMa DocFortnight. It received the Silver Eye Award for the best East and Central European documentary, the CEI Award at Trieste Film Festival and the Best Documentary film awards at Tirana International Film Festival and Europe by Europe in Paris. Otilia holds a master's degree in documentary filmmaking from the Docnomads European Master program (Belgium, Hungary, Portugal) and is a 2013 Berlinale Talents fellow. She is drawn to those who usually go unnoticed. Her films expose big wounds hidden in small details and she's fascinated by untold stories of women.



Susan Newman-Baudais

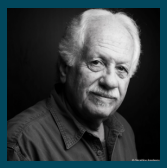
Susan Newman-Baudais is Executive Director of the Council of Europe's Eurimages fund. With experience in the UK television sector, Susan joined Eurimages as a project manager from the European Audiovisual Observatory, where she was a market researcher and analyst specialising in public funding for film as well as coordinator of the European Film Agency Research Network (EFARN). Prior to her appointment as Executive Director, Susan o



Volodymyr Yatsenko

Born in Donbas, Ukraine. 46 years old. Graduated from The Kyiv National Economic University, as an economist, then graduated from the Kyiv National I. K. Karpenko-Kary Theatre, Cinema and Television University as a producer. In 2005 opens the production company Limelite as the co-owner and general producer. During 15 years, Limelite produced more than 600 commercials and several feature films.In 2020, Vladimir decided to divide the commercials and feature films, and he opened the film production company ForeFilms as the co-owner and general producer. Vladimir Yatsenko is the Head of the Film Industry Association of Ukraine and a member of the Ukrainian Film Academy and European Film Academy. From January 2020 until 2022, Vladimir was the first Representative of Ukraine in EURIMAGES. Vladimir was a participant of KVIFF MIDPOINT Intensive 2017, EAVE Marketing Workshop 2017, MIDPOINT FEATURE LAUNCH 2018, EAVE Producers Workshop 2018, ACE Producers Workshop 30.
ccupied the role of the Head of the Co-production Programme at Eurimages.

PARTICIPANTS



Katriel Schory

Katriel Schory studied at the NYU, Film School. An active producer from 1973.
1974 – 1999: Founder and Managing Director of BELFILMS. Produced over 150 films and television programs, including feature films, documentaries, TV dramas and international co-productions. From 1999 and for more than 20 years the Executive Director of the Israel Film Fund. Authorized the support and the promotion of more than 300 full length narrative feature films, in Israel and worldwide, of which, more than 80 films were international co-productions, mainly with Europe. Among the films he authorized, many won prestigious awards, including 4 “Oscar” nominations for the American Academy; Golden & Silver “Lions” in Venice & “Bears” in Berlin.
Katriel Schory was granted the Chevalier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres – France; Berlinale Kamera for Outstanding Contribution to the Film industry; Telluride Film Festival - Special Medallion – for Outstanding achievements; The VARIETY Award for creative impact; the Fiapf – Int’l Federation of Film Producers Association Award; Jerusalem Film Festival - Lifetime achievement award; Israel Film Academy – Lifetime achievement award. Board Member of the European Film Academy 2017-2023 Juries: Venice FF, San Sebastian FF, Locarno FF, Istanbul FF, Sarajevo FF, and more.



Pavle Simonović

Pavle Simonović (1987, Podgorica, Montenegro) is film and TV director, graduated at Univesity of Montenegro,Faculty of Dramatic Arts Cetinje. He was assistant director at numerous feature films, such as: The Ascent (Posljednje poglavlje, Nemanja Bečanović, 2011), All of That (Sve to, Branislav Milatović. 2012), The Kids from Marx and Engels Street (Dječaci iz Ulice Marksa i Engelsa, Nikola Vukčević, 2014), Shelters (Zakloni, Ivan Salatić, 2014), Life is a Trumpet (Život je truba, Antonio Nuić, 2015), Gorčilo (Milan Karadžić, 2015), A Matter of Will (Biserna obala, Dušan Kasalica, 2015). In 2016, he directed his first feature film “Ispod mosta, među stijenama“ (Lowdown). His second feature fim „Sobe“(Rooms) is in phase of pre-production. As of 2024 he is director of national film archive „Montenegrin cinematheque”.



Maxim Cîrlan

A polyglot and undergraduate of Classical Languages from the University of Athens, Maxim decided to combine his humanities studies with his initial purpose of creating films. After finishing Prague Film School he shot a few shorts that got nominated for best film at international lgbtqi+ festivals.
Maxim is the president of the public association Moldox. Eager to create ties with his home country, Moldova, he founded with other Moldovan filmmakers and civil society activists - Moldox Documentary Film Festival (8th edition), a platform which unites a film festival in a small town, a film lab and even a small alumni-oriented documentary production house, aiming to create positive change through the power of documentary. The festival is hosted in a fairly small town called Cahul. Thanks to the impact of Moldox, Maxim co-founded the Queer Voices Film Festival (7th edition), the enfant terrible that fights against the Moldovan patriarchy.
Maxim is an alumni of the Torino Film Lab, Balkan Documentary Center (2016) and other European fiction and documentary film training programmes. He has co-written the award-winning documentary Timebox (distributed on HBO Go). At the moment Maxim lives between Moldova and Thessaloniki (Greece), where he received his Master’s degree in TV Series Creative Writing at the University of Thessaloniki and Western Macedonia (Greece)



Małgorzata Machczyńska.

Małgorzata Machczyńska. Legal counsel, specialist in copyright law, cultural law, media and film, representing the Polish Filmmakers Association - Union of Authors and Audiovisual Producers (SFP-ZAPA), participated in legislative work related to the implementation of European directives regarding the audiovisual market (including Directive 2019/790 on copyright and related rights in the Digital Single Market); was part of a delegation that met with Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage in February 2024 and later still stood shoulder to shoulder with filmmakers many times in efforts for royalties from the internet.



Mihai Fulger

Mihai Fulger is a Bucharest-based film critic and curator. Since 2020, he has been a researcher at the Institute of Art History (Romanian Academy), after having worked for eight years in various executive positions (including director) for the Romanian National Film Archive. He has been an active film critic since 2002, writing for various Romanian and international print and online publications. He has been a member of the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) since 2008 and the European Film Academy (EFA) since 2018. Since 2007, he has collaborated, primarily as a programmer, with various national and international film festivals. He served as a member of the critics’ jury at several major international film festivals (Belgrade, Berlin, Busan, Cluj-Napoca, Gijón, Karlovy Vary, Ljubljana, Pula, Stockholm, Warsaw, and others). He has been an editor of the quarterly magazine Film, published by the Romanian Filmmakers Union (UCIN), since its first issue in 2013. He was awarded by the Film Critics’ Association within UCIN for his first film book (The "New Wave" of Romanian Cinema, 2006) and for his writings on film (in 2020).



Ana Castañosa Bielsa

Ana Castañosa Bielsa. With a degree in Audiovisual Communications by the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), Ana has worked for 20 years in the production of documentaries for television and cinema in Spain, Florida (USA) and Switzerland. She has worked and collaborated with different international film festivals all along her career (i.e. DocsBarcelona, Miami International Film Festival or Geneva International Film Festival, among others). Since 2019, she works at the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights of Geneva (FIFDH), where she is currently the Head of their professional programme, the Impact Days, entirely dedicated to impact production and distribution.



Mark Hammond

Since attending NYU Film School, Mark Hammond has worked as a director, producer and writer of films, televisionand theater for the past 25 years. Mr. Hammond has extensive experience in putting together international co-productionsincluding broadcast documentaries; Japan: Food forthe Spirit, (1988); The Silent Invasion, (1989); Paper Clouds, (1990); Koyasan, (1991); Mini-Dragons, (1993) and In No Uncertain Terms, (1996). From 2007–2017 Mr.
Hammond worked as a director/producer for the World Health Organization as a UN contractor producing documentaries on an array of Public Health issues across Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific. In addition, he has produced a wide range of documentaries on immigration, fake medicine, and the challenges of containing and treating various tropical diseases. Commissioners have included the United Nations, the World Health Organization, USAID, the Kenan Foundation, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jacques Chirac Foundation, US Pharmacopeia et al.
Mr. Hammond also co-produced the Jamaican feature production One Love, a romantic drama starring Bob Marley's son, Ky-Mani Marley. He produced the multiple award-winning short films Driving Fish and Waves, a UK/Italian co-production starring Peter Mullen and Lorenza Indovina. He also directed Stolen Song for Sony; Johnny Was, a UK/Irish/Danish co-production starring Vinnie Jone and Samantha Mumba; and The Traitor, a 1971-set political thriller filmed in Odessa and he produced L’Amour Caché, a French-language feature starring Isabelle Huppert and Mélanie Laurent that premiered at the Toronto Film Festival. His more recent documentaries include Pharmacide, a four-partdocumentary series on counterfeit medicine; Red, Blue Deport, filmed entirely at Moria, the largest refugee camp inEurope; and Zero Zone, a feature documentary filmed on the Eastern front in Ukraine.



Jake Tacchi

Jake Tacchi is an open source researcher and producer working with BBC Eye. He was the lead investigator and producer of “Finding My Torturer”, a film exposing police violence against anti-war protesters in Russia. The film was awarded the 2023 Amnesty Media Award for Investigative Feature of the Year. Previously, Jake worked as an open source researcher for the charity Action on Armed Violence (AOAV).

PARTICIPANTS



Jakob Høgel

Head of Education and Research at the National Film School of Denmark.
Co-founder of Rough Cut Service, a consulting collective of world-class editors. Film commissioner for documentaries at West Danish Film Fund. Former Artistic Director of New Danish Screen, a succesful talent development scheme and innovation fund (2007-14). Before that founder and co-owner of Danish production company, Cosmo Doc. From 1999-2004 he was commissioning editor for Documentaries & Shorts at the Danish Film Institute. Visual anthropologist with a focus on developing film sectors and film policy. He wrote the first film law of Bhutan.



Helle Hansen

Helle Hansen is a journalist, moderator and film consultant with a large international network. Currently she holds a part time position as a film consultant for documentaries, shorts and fiction at a regional film center in Norway. She is the coordinator of the Balkan Network of film centers and is engaged in the Industry Department of MakeDox, North Macedonia and Icedocs, Iceland and a regular critic for the on-line magazine Modern Times Review. From 2016-2020 she was a film commissioner for documentaries at the Norwegian Film Institute, NFI, among films supported: The Painter and the Thief, Gunda, Self-portrait. From 2012-2016 she was a film commissioner for documentaries at the Danish Film Institute, DFI, among supported films: The Look of Silence, The Mole, Bobby Jene. Worked at DR, Danish Television for many years and directed four documentaries supported by DFI.



Laimonas Ubavičius

Laimonas Ubavičius was appointed as the CEO at the Lithuanian Film Centre (LFC) in November 2020. LFC is the main film funding body in Lithuania and carries out various financial instruments to support film industry. Starting with the individual and educational grants for the film creators, development and production support for the films and following with the support for the film distribution in Lithuania, national film promotion abroad and administration of the tax incentive for film production in Lithuania. A graduate of Lithuanian Law University (Mykolas Romeris University) (both bachelor's and master's degrees in law) Laimonas Ubavičius has worked in the media and audiovisual policy and legal fields for already 20 years. His previous work experience includes various positions in the Ministry of Culture of Lithuania (Head of Unit, Director of the Cultural Policy Department, Chancelor of the Ministry) as well as diplomatic relations experience (Attache for Media, Audiovisual and Copyright policy at the Lithuanian Perm. Rep. to the EU). During the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council in 2013 Laimonas Ubavičius was the Chair of the Audiovisual Working Party of the EU



Sonja Prosenc

Writer, director, and producer. Co-founded the Slovenian production company Monoo. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Arts in Film. All three of her directed and produced features—The Tree, History of Love, and Family Therapy—were selected as Slovenia's official Oscar candidates.
Her latest feature, Family Therapy, premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival 2024 and won an award at the Sarajevo Film Festival 2024. It also received the top national film award for Best Feature, along with six other national film awards. History of Love earned accolades at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2018 in the Crystal Globe Competition, and the Guild of Directors' Award, among others. Her debut, The Tree, was awarded the FIPRESCI Prize, Youth Jury Awards and other awards.Slamdance named her one of four globally recognized "Directors of the Future," Cineuropa featured her among eight European female directors to watch, and Eurimages included her in its Gold Album as one of the 50 most prominent European female directors of the last 20 years. Her work spans multiple genres, from drama and comedy (Paradise, 2019) to thriller (Trigrad, a series nominated in seven categories at Sarajevo Film Festival 2023). As a creator and producer in development, she co-developed Little Yugoslavia with acclaimed director Teona Mitevska, presented at Cinelink Drama at Sarajevo Film Festival 2024 and developed through the French CNC Going European Program.



Sonam Ugyen

Sonam is a visionary media entrepreneur and founder of Songyala, Bhutan's first OTT platform, which has reshaped the nation's media landscape. With over a decade at Bhutan Broadcasting Service (BBS), he produced award-winning programs and contributed to its digital transformation. Sonam's work spans documentaries, feature films, and series, showcasing his storytelling expertise. Holding a Master of Human Resource Management from Edith Cowan University, he continues to drive innovation in Bhutan's digital media space.



Thanos Stavropoulos

Thanos Stavropoulos completed his undergraduate degree in Fine Arts in 2001 and then a Master's in Video Art and Filmmaking in 2003. With a profound interest in cinema, his path led him to the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival in Greece in 2007. Over the years, he has become a core member of the programming and coordination teams for both the Thessaloniki International Film Festival (TIFF) and the Thessaloniki International Documentary Festival (TiDF).
Since 2022, Thanos took on the position of AGORA Manager within the Thessaloniki Film Festival Organization Industry section.



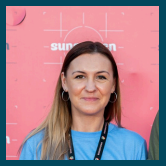
Aleksandra Božović

Producer, born in Belgrade (1979). She pursued her doctoral studies in Drama and Audiovisual Arts, at the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad, University of Novi Sad, Serbia. Since 2016, she has been living and working in Montenegro. Married and a mother of a daughter.
She began her professional career as the founder and director of two production companies, Altomedia, Belgrade (2006), and Entitet New Media, Belgrade (2009), where she executed numerous international advertising television and radio campaigns, television series, and documentary films. Over the past decade, alongside her production work, she has held managerial positions in cultural institutions in multiple countries.
Since 2021, she has served as the director of the Film Center of Montenegro. She is a member of EFAD (Association of European Film Agency Directors) since 2021 and EWA (European Women's Audiovisual Network) since 2021



Melody Gilbert

Melody Gilbert is an Emmy-nominated and Alfred I. duPont award-winning filmmaker who has directed and produced 20 documentaries (IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1745923) that have screened at noteworthy film festivals and been distributed internationally. She is also a passionate educator who teaches and encourages emerging filmmakers and visual journalism students at universities around the world, including four years on the faculty of the American University in Bulgaria and most recently five years at Northwestern State University of Louisiana. Melody is also a tutor and mentor for pitch training programs in Eastern Europe, including at the Balkan Documentary Center in Sofia and for Moldox in Moldova. Melody is also the creator of “Documentary Boot Camp,” a short-term intensive training program to help aspiring filmmakers achieve their documentary dreams. Trailers for most of Melody's films are here: www.frozenfeetfilm.com



Alexandra Boghiu

Project Manager. Working with Romanian Film Promotion since 2011 as a member of the permanent team for Transilvania Int'l Film Festival (TIFF) and project manager for various projects along the year such as the Gopo Awards – Romania's national film awards in Bucharest, Sunscreen Film & Arts Festival in Constanta and TIFF Chisinau.

PARTICIPANTS



Aleks Komarovskii

Aleks Komarovskii. Ukrainian film producer, director, actor. Founder of the Ukrainian film company IdeaFilms. Author and producer of the film "Region of Heroes". The film is a nominee of the Ukrainian film festival "Cinema for Victory" with the support of the President of Ukraine. Author and director of the romantic comedy "When will you get married?" for international film distribution, presented at the film markets as part of the Cannes, Venice and Odesa film festivals. Producer of 6 films, and as an actor he played in more than 40 projects.



Zoia Soshenko

Zoia Soshenko. Producer at FILM.UA Group (one of the largest Eastern European media groups operating in global markets and covering the full production cycle) and CEO of Play Production (a full-service production company specialising in TV content and commercials). She has experience in all key stages of production - from editor to general producer. Specialises in video production for digital and TV. Mainly documentaries, travel and reality shows. Has produced over 50 commercials of varying levels of complexity and specificity using modern technologies and innovations. Media experience: 19 years.



Anna Machukh

Anna Machukh is the Managing Director of the Odesa International Film Festival from 2020.
During 2011 – 2016, Anna worked as Marketing Director of the OIFF, in 2017 she was the OIFF Film Market Director, and from 20018 to 2020 she held the position of the Strategic Development Director of the Festival. Anna Machukh is also the co-founder and Executive Director of the Ukrainian Film Academy and co-founder of the online platform for the audiovisual sector DzygaMDB. In 2022 – 2024 Anna was a Secretary of the Ukrainian Oscar Committee.



Olha Beskhmelnytsina

Olha Beskhmelnytsina is a Ukrainian producer with more than 15 years of experience in film production. She is a co-founder of a women-led “2Brave Productions”.
Her credits include award-winning movies such as “Rules of two walls” (Special jury prize at Tribeca FF 2023) by David Gutnik, "Stop-Zemlia" by Kateryna Gornostai (Crystal Bear Generation 14+ at Berlinale 2021), "Intercepted" 2024 by Oksana Karpovych (Two special mentions award at Berlinale 2024), “Collapse. How the Ukrainians ruined the Empire of Evil” (2021 Documentary Series for Ukrainian National Channel). Alumni of Ex Oriente and Eurodoc training programs. She is the Chairwoman of the board of the Ukrainian Film Academy.



Olga Panteleymonova

Olga Panteleymonova CEO, Co-Owner and Producer, Ukrainian Producers Hub (UPHub). Member of the Ukrainian Film Academy. Member of the Board of the Ukrainian Business Council Foundation. Over 15 years of professional experience in the media and film industry. Education: Higher, degree in Law. Since 2018: CEO, Co-Owner and Producer for Ukrainian Producers Hub (UPHub). Under her management, various projects were produced, including: TV series: "The Experts" (2017), "Oriental Sweets" (2016), "The Pleasure Principle" (2019), "The Diners" (2019), "Double Stakes" (2022), “The Silence 1, 2” (2021-2023);documentary projects: "Your City's Coffee" (2022), "To Save Horsie" (2023), "SSU: Special Forces" (2023); Feature films: "The Strayed" (2017), "Just Sex. Nothing Personal" (2018), "SHTTL" (2023). Producer: documentary projects: "Iron People" (2022), "The Free" (2022), "Things Not Supposed to Be" (2022);TV-movies: "Heroes" (2022), "Dedication to Eve" (2022); TV-series: "Hear and Now" (2023), "The Train" (2023); "Emergency Aid", "The Maritime Academy" (in pre-production);Feature films: "Rocky Road to Berlin" (2022), "House with Chimaeras" (in pre-production).



Nataša Bučar

Nataša Bučar is a Managing Director of Slovenian Film Center, public agency of the Republic of Slovenia since 2016.

She has extensive experience in film industry. For several years she has been managing Ljubljana International Film Festival, the largest International Film Festival in Slovenia. At the same time she was running film distribution activities inside Cankarjev dom, an independent arthouse distribution in Slovenia. In the past she gained management experiences as the Director of the Festival of Slovenian Films, as Assistant Director of the Slovenian Film Fund and as the General Director of the Media Directorate at the slovenian Ministry of Culture.
In 2016 she worked as Marketing Expert in Kinodvor, the arthouse cinema in Ljubljana and at the end of that same year she was appointed as the Managing Director of Slovenian Film Center. She has been reappointed as the head of the main slovenian film institution for another 5 years term in December 2021. She is a member of the Board of EFAD, European Film Agency Directors Association as well as member of EFA, European Film Accademy.



Annette Brejner

Annette Brejner has founded the co-production forum m:brane (est. 2007), which focuses on challenging, edgy and bold all-platform visual content for savvy young audiences. She is also the force behind initiatives like m:brane's REALYOUNG© - documentaries for children and youth and m:brane Learning©. She now serves as the highly curated event's Creative Director. The 19th consecutive event is taking place March 11th-13th 2025 in Malmö, Sweden. m:brane is a professional networking event for global creators of audiovisual & immersive content for young audiences. Backed by research & tech advancements our program facilitates a clever backdrop for new business alliances between producers, creatives & decision makers. The annual 4-days forum in Malmö est. 2007 works as a laboratory for projects in development creating a living sustainable pipeline which shapes the future of smart youth content production & distribution worth 40 mill. € p.a.



Adam Papliński

Adam has been involved in various fields of film industry for over 30 years. During that time, documentary and feature films in which he was involved in production won over 60 prestigious awards at international festivals. Prior to launching own initiative Pitch the Doc in 2016, he coordinated international documentary training and pitching program “Dragon Forum” and was the head of educational projects of Academy of Documentary Art. He acts also as consultant, tutor and festival juror. Member of Polish Filmmakers Association and Documentary Association of Europe.



Katarzyna Szarecka

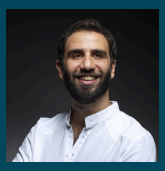
Before co-founding Pitch the Doc platform, Katarzyna has worked as a freelance consultant for cultural and audiovisual projects development, managing and financing, and cooperated with training programs as consultant and workshop trainer. She specializes in structuring of films' concepts, their development, market activity, and budgeting issues. She consults building of effective presentations of projects, ensuring clarity of communication. She is a member of Documentary Association of Europe.

PARTICIPANTS



Laila Alonso Huarte

Laila Alonso Huarte has gained extensive experience in festivals over six years, including Les Créatives where she worked between 2018 and 2021 as coordinator of the thematic hub and head of mediation. At the FIFDH, Laila has collaborated with several management teams and has held a number of programming positions. Over the past few months, Laila and her team have organized and expanded the cultural actions offered by the Festival throughout the year, in particular the new version of the educational programme, some of the partner events and the extension of the Human Rights Film Tour, an international tour of Swiss films followed by debates. In 2023, she has been appointed as co-director of the FIFDH and leads, alongside



Mina El Naggar

Mina El Naggar, a multidisciplinary artist, merges his dual passions of medicine and filmmaking to create transformative cultural experiences. In 2017, he founded MedFest Egypt, the first medically-themed touring short film festival in the MENA region, aiming to bridge the gap between health, filmmaking, and social impact. MedFest has become a pioneering platform that highlights the interrelation between cinema and health through powerful narratives. The festival also collaborates with prominent international events like the Gouna Film Festival and the Cairo International Film Festival, focusing particularly on the mental well-being of those working in the filmmaking industry.
Beyond his role as founder and managing director, Mina serves as the artistic director of the festival, shaping its creative vision. As an actor, he has appeared in a range of acclaimed TV series and films, including Rivo 1 & 2, El Ekhtiyar, El Gamaa 2, Asham, and Ezaaet Hob. Along with his artistic pursuits, Mina is a passionate mountaineer, reflecting his love for adventure and exploration. His diverse career reflects his deep commitment to storytelling in all its forms, from the screen to public health, making him a unique voice in both the medical and cinematic fields.



Catherine Banoub

Co - Founder & Executive Director of MedFest Egypt.
Catherine has been a part of Medfest Eg since its inception in 2016, driven by her belief in the importance of using arts in spreading awareness.
Bachelor degree of Management Science, Computer and information system department, 2003. A certified project manager and a Database & Record Management agent. Also accomplished The Nutrition Coaching Diploma of Precision Nutrition.



Darko Nabakov

Darko Nabakov is an actor and art historian based in Skopje, Macedonia, working in the fields of event and cultural management. He has been an integral part of the MakeDox organization for the past twelve years, contributing to film selection, festival catalog development, the visual department, and the Traveling Cinema program. Since 2019, he has served as the festival director.
Since 2020, he has also worked as an event manager at Europe House Skopje (EU Delegation communication service). In 2021 and 2022, he curated the film program at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA) Skopje. Throughout his career, Darko has organized more than 350 events, many of them focused on engaging young audiences.



Iris Verhoeven

Iris is director of JEF, the youth film organization in Flanders, Belgium. JEF deals with distribution, film education and media literacy activities in schools and leisure time and organizes a yearly youth film festival in several cities. The festival has initiated the biggest medialab in Flanders and the online platform JEF in the hospital, a project for children in hospitals and rehabilitation centers, which went international in 2018. Before she was the business director of the European Youth Film Festival (Het Jeugdfilmfestival) for almost 10 years where she was responsible for the business part and the medialab. Before the festival she worked at the University of Antwerp doing research on museums for contemporary art and the audiovisual field. Previously Iris was the director of a cultural center in Antwerp. She is a member of the board of directors of oKo (Flemish Federation of Employers in the arts sector), Sociare (sociocultural employers federation) and the experimental film festival Courtisane.
Iris studied Politics and Sociology, Comparative Cultural Sciences and Cultural Management and resided two years in Barcelona for studying Catalan language and art at UAB. In 2019 she finished the LinC leadership programme from the University of Utrecht and Antwerp Management School.



Ionuț Sociu

Ionuț Sociu (n. 1984) is a Romanian journalist and playwright based in Bucharest. He graduated at the National University of Theatre and Film in Bucharest and later on he took a postgraduate degree at Bard College Berlin, where he focused mainly on literature. He began to work as a playwright in different collaborative projects in 2015, in Romania, and since then his plays were staged in Bucharest, Timișoara, Craiova, Constanța, Novi Sad (Serbia). His body of work is varied, from reportage, profiles and interviews to plays which explore new strategies of language and multimedia



Mariette Rissenbeek

After having studied German Language and Literature in her home country (the Netherlands) Mariette Rissenbeek moved to Berlin to start working as an acquisitions manager at the independent distribution company Tobis Film. Nine years later she moved to Regina Ziegler Filmproduktion and was the creative producer on more than a dozen of theatrical and tv films as well as an additional 5 middle length films. She established her own company in Hamburg to produce HIGHWAY SOCIETY by director Mika Kaurismäki and then moved on to German Films Service and Marketing in Munich to promote German cinema internationally, first as a Deputy Director, from 2010 – 2019 as General Manager. In 2019 she moved back to Berlin to become the first female Executive producer of the Berlinale and since summer 2024 she is working as a producer and consultant for international projects.



Mirona Radu

Mirona Radu is a passionate film professional and scholar dedicated to promoting cinema as a tool for cultural expression, education, and social change. Beyond her contributions to the film industry, Mirona is an accomplished photographer with exhibitions showcased worldwide. With extensive experience in film production, festival organization, and academic research, she has contributed significantly to the Romanian film industry and its international reach.
In 2021, she founded the Film O'Clock International Festival, uniting eight countries from two continents through simultaneous screenings. Mirona also serves as the Artistic Director for the ABIFF Animation Film Festival and the Palestinian Film Festival in Bucharest. In 2023, she established "Her Future, Her Story," a pioneering mentoring program for women in filmmaking. Since 2023, she has taken on the role of selecting feature films for the European Competition at the Alexandre Trauner Art/Film Festival in Hungary.
With a diverse educational background and numerous residencies in film directing, she graduated from the Berlin Film Academy Special Master Next Wave program, specializing in festivals, distribution, and curatorship. She holds Master's degrees in Film Production from UNATC Bucharest and Creative Management in New Media from the prestigious Kieslowski Film School.
Currently, she is pursuing a doctoral degree at the National University of Theatre and Film "I.L. Caragiale" in Bucharest, researching the topic of Film as a Therapeutic Instrument.



Monika Chmielewska

Monika Chmielewska, legal counsel, specialist in copyright law. Currently cooperates with the Polish Filmmakers Association - Association of Authors and Audiovisual Producers. Previously, she worked for many years for the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

PARTICIPANTS



Ruxandra Fulger

Ruxandra Fulger is the Head of Research and Cataloguing Department at the Romanian National Film Archive, where she has worked for nine years. With an interest in film archive and film technologies, she produced, directed, shot, and edited a short documentary film – My Film Years – about the transition from analog to digital in photography and cinema, and the impact it had on a family composed of a photographer and a negative cutting editor.



Rufat Garazadeh

He has a degree in Regional Studies (Uak Studies) at the Azerbaijan University of Languages. He spearks English, Turkish and Russian. He worked as at the State Translation Center (2018-2020). He serves a Department manager of the "Audiovisual industry analysis and strategic development department" of the Cinema Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan.



Sergiu Scobioală

Sergiu Scobioala, a film and television producer, is a TV series showrunner. With over a decade of experience in journalism and TV directing, he has produced numerous TV formats, series, and documentaries aimed at broad audiences. He is currently developing The Winemaker's Daughter, a European co-production, and preparing the release of The Prince, awarded Best Pitch at the International Heart of Europe Festival.



Sevara Pan

Sevara Pan is a freelance film critic and journalist, working in the documentary field with a special focus on human rights, social justice, and activism. She writes for such industry publications as the International Documentary Association's Documentary Magazine, Modern Times Review, and Cineuropa. She is a Program Advisor at IDFA. In 2023, she served as a jury member for the EU-initiated project Support to EU Film Festivals, implemented by Cineuropa, Institut Français, and Goethe-Institut.
Website: sevarapan.com



Osnat Bukofzer

Osnat Bukofzer, with 44 years of experience in the international film industry, manages the Israeli film industry's foreign relations across global markets and festivals under the Israeli cinema project—Rabinovich Foundation, the largest Film Fund in Israel, specializing in co-productions. She has long held the role of artistic director for the Israeli stand at the Berlinale and the Israeli Pavilion in Cannes. Additionally, she serves on the board of WIFTI, leading its event and industry committee.



Orkhan Sadiqov

His first story, was published in "Kirpi" magazine in 1981. After that, he published hundred of stories, narratives and journalistic articles in the periodical press and wrote dozens of scripts for feature films and theatre plays. His works have been published in Iran, Turkey, Sweden, Bulgaria and orher countries. His novel "Seven" won a prize in Germany, while other works have been included in Oxford University textbooks and "World Prose Antology".
He served as Advisor to the Minister of Culture in Azerbaijan. Editor in Chief at "Azerbaijanfilm", director of "Gunay" newspaper and chief reviewer at ANS TV Company.
Currently, he is the Director of the Cinema Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan.



Arcadie Placintă

Producer Symbol Media
Specializing in documentaries, fiction, and short films, I have extensive experience in production and co-production. My work has garnered numerous selections at international festivals, where I have also achieved top awards. With a commitment to storytelling and a passion for cinema, I strive to create impactful films that resonate with audiences worldwide.



Victor Maxian

Victor Maxian graduated the Academy of Arts from Chisinau in 2016. While working on his diploma film he discovered the collection of photographs made by Zaharia Cusnir. Since then Victor and his team are involved in promoting Cusnir's art by making exhibitions in Romania, Poland, France, Italy, USA and Republic of Moldova. Articles about Zaharia Cusnir are written in more than 25 languages



Petya Nakova

Petya Nakova graduated in film and television directing from New Bulgarian University in 2010. She worked as a second assistant director in the third season of the TV series "Столичани в повече" (The City People). She is the author of two documentary books: "The Preacher and the Black Horse" (2012, East-West Publishing) and "The Year of Eight Chemotherapies" (2018, Janet 45 Publishing).



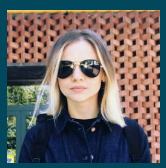
Ștefan Nahaba

Ștefan Nahaba He is an emerging producer passionate about film and new mediums of storytelling, founder of "Racketa Productions" and "Fix in post conference".



Serge Zănoagă

Film man, yet with 20+ years of experience in marcom, creative industries, and more recently a professor of film, animation, and project management.
After two decades of juggling animation, screenwriting, film & video production, project management, and developing epic strategies for brands, I discovered my true passion: teaching. Sure, I've been simmering in the ad world, trendsetting, and laughing in the face of creative industries, but nothing beats the thrill of mentoring the next generation of talents. I focus all of my Duracell-like energy on my students. And, guess what? They say I'm really good at it.



Ana Constantinova

Ana Constantinova - an award-winning Creative Director and Multimedia Artist with a Bachelor's degree in Film Production as Director of Photography, and over 15 years of experience in the entertainment industry.
Founder of LAEN Studio, a digital multimedia production company operating in Chisinau and globally through remote collaboration.

PARTICIPANTS



Corina Cihan

Corina Cihan, a graduate of the Academy of Music, Theatre, and Fine Arts in Film and TV Directing, was nominated at the 2024 Filmmakers' Gala. She is the director of several short films, including On s'embrasse? and The Fatalist. Her first degree was in Law, which she completed at the State University of Moldova (USM). After finishing high school, she lived for a time in Newcastle, UK, and Chicago, USA. Her inspiration for filmmaking arises from the tragedies and joys of everyday life.



Ruben Agadjanean

Ruben Agadjanean, Directorof Photography. Born and raisedin the family of filmmakers. Started working on film sets at the age of 16.
In 2007 graduated from the Academy of Music, Theater and Fine Arts in Chisinau. Class of-Vlad Ciurea. During 2006-2008 -worked as a cameramanat Moldova 1 company (News Department). Bachelor film –documentary film San Sanych. It has been screened at numerous international festivals such as DoKLeipzig, Cottbus Film Festival, Transilvania Film Festival, Trieste IFF and others. After graduating from the Academy of Arts,workedas a freelancer for TVand Documentaries.
During 2010-2014, lighting cameraman at PublikaTV (Program Department, Promo) In 2016 graduated from the Academy of Film and Theatrical Art of N. Mikhalkov.Specialty: Cinematography, class of AnatoliiMukasei. 2016-2021 Assistant Professor at Moldovan State University ("Videography and Editing") 2016–current time -Assistant Professor at the Academy of Arts of the Republic of Moldova. Mentor ofthe Cinematographycourse.



Cătălina Pistol

CĂTĂLINA PISTOL graduated with a BA in film directing at "Babes-Bolyai" University in Cluj-Napoca and a MA in Film Production at UNATC 'I.L. Caragiale' in Bucharest. During her studies, she gained experience mostly as executive producer for various short films, while also participating at Film+ program, Transilvania Talent Lab and CineLink Producers' Lab. Her most recent short film was officially selected in the 53rd edition of Rotterdam IFF. Currently, she is a Junior Producer at deFilm, working on the company's slate of projects in the development stage, while also producing a range of short films.



Helga Grigoryeva

Freelance producer, collaborated with a lot of russian independent film festivals. In 2020-2024 was working as an acquisition manager and head of festivals in Antipode sales company.
Since 2022 based in Germany implementing research on decolonial topic, consulting filmmakers in exile and collaborating with different festivals and institutions, such as Berlin critics week, goEast, German Films.



Iurie Gandrabura

Filmmaker and photographer. My short documentaries have been featured at festivals such as MOLDOX and Queer Voices. I have also exhibited my film photography in shows like Glory Hall at Queer Cafe in Chișinău, where I explored themes of identity and community. Recently, in November 2024, I participated in the “CarbonART 2024” workshop (KSa:K,Chișinău), where I created my first short fiction film. Alongside my artistic pursuits, I served as a lecturer-assistant at a photography workshop for women, supporting creative expression and diversity in the visual arts. In the past, my professional experience includes collaborations as a journalist for publications like Forbes Woman, PopularMechanics.ru, and Hearst Shkulev Media Holding, where I covered topics such as social issues, education, culture, and the historical legacy of feminism.



Dana Miron

In 2022 she received a master's degree in Documentary Directing from the Academy of Music, Theater and Fine Arts. Chisinau. The graduation film "Vive la femme ... to be like them!" ("Vive la femme ... în rând cu lumea!") talks about the emancipation of women in the USSR. Passionate about documentaries because I think it is one of the best tools to show reality and is an excellent medium for telling life stories. Currently works as an assistant professor at Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts in Chisinau.



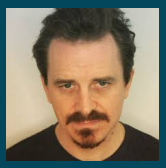
Olga Harabajiu

I started working in film production during my first year of university, actively participating in student projects and building a diverse portfolio of short films. In 2020, I gained experience as a production assistant on one of the first late-night shows in the Republic of Moldova, and later worked as a dubbing supervisor and production manager for feature films.
Currently, I am part of the YOUBESC team, specializing as a creative producer and contributing to the development of the local film industry through original and impactful projects.



Dumitru Grosei

Dumitru Grosei has been active in the film industry for more than 20 years. He graduated the Film and TV directing specialty of Caragiale National University of Theatre and Film in Bucharest. He has directed 4 short documentaries, 3 feature documentaries and 12 short fiction films, with many selections and awards at important International Film Festivals, like Premiere Plan (Angers, France), Drama Film Festival (Greece), Filmfest München (Germany), Cottbus Film Festival (Germany) and others. Currently, he is the founder and president of ALTERNATIVE CINEMA production company and the manager of the annual cinema event: Romanian Film Days in Chișinău.



Ghena Moroșanu

Ghena Moroșanu has worked in Europe and the United States as an actor, producer, director, production manager and artistic director in films, documentaries, music videos, theater plays, musicals, social videos and campaigns, advertising, etc.



Ronin Terente

He was born in Ghidighici, Moldova. He is a theatre and film actor, with a degree from the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts in Chișinău. Since 2007, he has been working as an actor, screenwriter and director of multiple local projects. He appeared in over 50 roles throughout his career.



Diana Vlas

Diana Vlas is an independent documentary director with over 10 years of experience in the film industry. She studied directing in Kiev and later pursued a master's degree in documentary filmmaking at the Academy of Arts in Chisinau. Diana is deeply passionate about using film to reveal the truth of reality, offering audiences fresh perspectives and challenging their existing perceptions. Throughout her career, she has focused on creating powerful, authentic stories that uncover new insights and spark meaningful reflection.

PARTICIPANTS



Dragoș Turea

Dragoș Turea, director, screenwriter, and producer. He studied Audiovisual Communication at the Academy of Arts and Film, Bucharest. He graduated from the Film Direction department at AMTAP Chisinau. In 2019, he released the documentary "The Soviet Garden" at the Sarajevo IFF. The documentary won the Best Film, Best Screenplay, and Special Mention for Original Music at the 2020 "Filmmakers' Gala." Since 2020, has been a member of the UCM. In 2022, Dragoș Turea was awarded the "Emil Loteanu" prize in the field of cinematography.



Galina Vasilieva

Galina Vasilieva graduated from the Faculty of Journalism at the State University of Moldova in 2007. In 2018, she completed the Intensive MBA program for media managers at the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga. From 2005 to 2016, she worked as a reporter for the Russian-speaking newspapers "Moldovan Vedomosti" and "Izvestia in Moldova," and then became an editor at the newspaper "Panorama." In 2016, she joined Newsmaker as a special correspondent and was awarded the "Golden Apple" prize by the Independent Journalism Center in the category of "Online Journalism" that same year. Later, she became the deputy editor-in-chief and then worked as the editor-in-chief at NewsMaker for six years. In 2024, she produced the short documentary film «Independence Street."



Doy-Romanța Dochițan

Doy is a visual artist and non-binary activist who uses photography, videography and documentary film to explore themes of identity, inclusion and social justice. Graduated from the College of Art „Octav Bancila", Iași. Photographer of the LGBT community in Chișinău. I am one of the directors of the Ad Hoc collective of the documentary film Shadow of War.
I am currently working with my co-director Ana Gurdiș on the documentary film Between Two Worlds.



Ion Usatîi

My name is Ion Usatîi, a film director and professor at the Academy of Music, Theatre, and Fine Arts. I teach Directing, Editing, and Film History. I have directed various productions, including films such as: CUT (2014), BETWEEN LIES AND TRUTH (2018), and THE TASTE OF THE OLIVE (2024).
The film CUT was awarded for directing and screenplay at the DEBUT Film Festival and participated in numerous international festivals such as Comedy Cluj and Ozark Shorts.



Veaceslav Cebotari

Filmmaker and producer based in Chisinau, Moldova. Veaceslav is a media industry executive with over 25 years of experience in development, financing and production. He is the author of a medium-length documentary "Moldova-Honey Land" and a mini-series of
documentary short films "Engineers create the future". Veaceslav is a producer of 2 feature films, 9 shorts and 2 feature documentaries.
Veaceslav's activity in the last two years is related to the development and production of the feature documentary project When Sky Was High. At the same time he is developing his next feature documentaries Creating Memories and The Plowman of Universe



Roman Gațcan

Roman Gațcan was born in 1989 in the beautiful village of Cocieri on the bank of the River Nistru, home of the famous Moldavan filmmaker Vlad Ioviță. Studying journalism he learned how to tell a story through the use of audiovisual, got fascinated and hooked. For the years that followed he worked as a cameraman, editor, director, writer and in 2020 this path led him to TeleFilm Chișinău Studio. In September 2021 he premiered his first documentary: "Liliana's Voice" and his next project is called "Anichka".



Ana Gherciu

Ana Gherciu is a feminist, a storyteller, a human rights defender, a solution driven person and a passionate traveler. She works in media from 2012, and for the last 8 years she works as a journalist and media manager at Moldova.org.



Michael Katrih

Owner and Founder at Laco Films, Michael Pioneered the way from small scale to big-budget productions in a matter of 3 years. with credits of series such as "Mossad 101" which was sold to Netflix, and "l'attache" for Israeli and French TV. Born in Baku, Azerbaijan, and living in Israel, while producing in Israel and Ukraine for local and international clients. Michaels vision is to bring the Hollywood Schick and scale to a post-soviet franchise, connecting the old world to the new, and opening a door to international productions both in Israel and the post-soviet
block.



Virgiliu Mărgineanu

He has 20 years of experience in producing over 50 documentary films, which participated and have been awarded in international film festivals; TV broadcasts, social / commercial spots and music videos; social and information media campaigns. President of the Union of Cinematographers from the Republic of Moldova. Senior Lecturer at the Multimedia Department, Faculty of Theatre, Film and Dance, AMTAP. Member of the Union of Film Authors and Producers from Romania. President of the International Documentary Film Festival CRONOGRAF. Director OWH Studio.



Eugeniu Popovici

Eugeniu Popovici was born in 1989 in the Republic of Moldova and graduated from the Faculty of Journalism at the State University of Moldova in 2011. Since 2010, he has been working at the National Television, contributing to the production of cultural and social-themed shows and documentaries. Since 2017, he has been a director at Telefilm Chișinău, where he has directed the following films: • "Goodbye, Olegovici" • "The Grand Theatre of Soroca" • "Flight"



Leontina Vatamanu

Leontina Vatamanu graduated the Faculty of Screenwriting and Film Critics at the Academy of Theatre and Film "I.L.Caragiale" from Bucharest. Since 1995 she activates at OWH Studio as film director and artistic director. Her filmography includes dozen of documentaries, awarded at the national and international levels. Since 2001 Leontina is the organizer and artistic director at the International Documentary Film Festival CRONOGRAF. She is a member of the Union of Filmmakers from Moldova and a member of the Union of Authors and Filmmakers from Romania.
She is the holder of the "Emil Loteanu" prize, the annual prize of the Ministry of Culture (2015) in the field of cinematography and of the National Prize in the field of cinematography (2016).



Denis Tarasov

PARTICIPANTS



Lucia Lupu

Lucia Lupu is a film director and producer from Moldova. After studying filmmaking at the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts from Chisinau, she debuted with the short fiction film "Paparuda", which was awarded at various festivals in the region. She has worked as an Executive Producer for the short films “SIGH” and “Place under the sun” (directed by Vlad Bolgarin), as well as on the production of the Moldovan-American series “Lost in Moldova”. She also directed and produced two short documentaries “Lost in Time” and “A small country with a big heart”. Lucia is working on the production of her next short fiction film “Of mothers and daughters” as a producer/director.



Vadim Tristan Belocur

Vadim Tristan (Belocur) is a film director, editor, and screenwriter. He studied Film and TV Directing and Documentary Film Directing (Magister Artium) at the Academy of Music, Theatre, and Fine Arts in Chișinău. He is also a university professor and a television editor. Vadim is a member of the Union of Filmmakers of the Republic of Moldova and received the award for "Best Documentary Film" in 2024 for his film "Republic of Freedom: An Essay.“



Eugen Marian

Eugen Marian . Director and Screenwriter. A graduate of the Moscow film school "Free Cinema" at Alexander Rodnyansky's "Non-Stop Production" lab. I served as the director and screenwriter for the film "Milk of the Birds" (80 min., 2021), which won the "Works in Progress" program at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival and received awards at "Kinotavr." I also directed and wrote the film "I Need to Tell You Something" (20 min., 2023), which won the main prize at the "Koroche" film festival. My work reflects a commitment to exploring social narratives and engaging audiences through captivating visuals.



Victoria Cușnir

Cultural journalist, film critic.
Even though filmmaking is on hiatus, I remain a journalist connected to the world of film, attentive to the current trends and dynamics of film.



Nicoleta Cocoță

She is a graduate of the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Economic Sciences at the State University of Moldova. She later completed a master's program in Human Resource Management. For nearly 10 years, alongside her main job, she has been involved in various social and cultural projects.



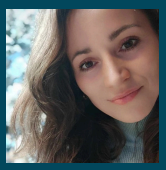
Marina Shupac

Marina Shupac is an award-winning self-shooting documentary filmmaker and producer from Moldova with 10-years experience in journalism and human rights.
A 2023 IDFA Academy alumna, she studied documentary filmmaking at the University College London on a Chevening Scholarship. Her graduation film from Kyrgyzstan “Last Chance for Justice'' (2021) was commissioned by the BBC World News and screened at various human rights platforms, such as the UN and the EU Parliament. In 2024, her project in development from Nagorno-Karabakh "Gohar goes home" was selected for the Sunny Side of the Doc grant "Europe's got talent". Coming from an ethnic minority background and born in the small town of Bessarabca, Marina is passionate about the power of stories to diminish divisions between “us” and “them” and create solidarity among people. This year Marina is co-coordinating the Moldox Lab, an initiative of the Moldox International Documentary Film Festival that connects Moldovan doc filmmakers to the international doc film industry.



Tudor Ştubei

Tudor Ştubei is a filmmaker from Moldova, working in both documentary and fiction film productions. Director and writer of a short fiction film “Stayin' Alive” (2015) and a short documentary essay “Lorem Ipsum” (2019) and a co-author to the feature documentary “Shadows of War” (2024). Participated at film festivals like Moldox, Cronograf and International Student Film Festival Classfest.



Iulia Martalog

I am Iulia Martalog from Rezina, 36 years old, passionate about film and everything related to cinema. Even though I have no studies, I had the courage to send a script to the young and professional director Adriana Vasilcov, and together we laid the foundations for a short film, which is to be released this December. The experience is so powerful, that I am sure that I will make more films.



Lina Vdovîi

Lina Vdovîi is the screenwriter for the feature documentary ACASA, MY HOME (Sundance, 2020).
Lina is an award-winning independent reporter from the Republic of Moldova, based in Romania. She is experienced in investigative and narrative journalism and new media. Her articles have been published in major national and international outlets, and her work has been nominated for the European Press Prize.
Lina began her filmmaking career producing news and documentaries for the German national television broadcaster ZDF.
Her feature-length directorial debut, the film TATA, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival 2024.



Ilinka Teodorescu

Ilinka Teodorescu graduated from The University of Toronto with an honours degree in Film Studies and Comparative Literature in 2012. Following her studies, she moved to Berlin, working in film sales at M-appeal World Sales between 2013-2017. She then relocated to Bucharest, joining the Voodoo Films team, a leading national distribution and sales company led by Cristian Mungiu, where she handled acquisitions, sales and distribution. During this time, she was also the film coordinator and co-head of industry for Les Films de Cannes à Bucarest and the American Independent Film festivals. Since 2022, she has been the International Relations representative at the Romanian Film Centre, handling promotion and the centre's involvement with Eurimages, SEE Cinema Network and EFAD.

PARTICIPANTS



Mark Law

Writer & producer of scripted, documentary and fact. ents projects and CCO at the FilmWiltshire agency. Formerly at BBC, CBS, and Travel Channel amongst others, I have worked for many of the world's most innovative content producers on some of the planet's biggest shows, including multi-Emmy-winner, The Amazing Race. Represented by SMA Talent, I have had scripted and factual projects optioned by BAFTA- and RTS-winning production companies. Before working and living in Los Angeles, I was a lit. researcher for historians and publishers and specialised in military and aviation. I also served some time as an advertising exec for the likes of Newsquest.



Rashid Aghamaliyev

Rashid is a CEO of ANIMAFILM Studio based in Czech Republic and Azerbaijan. He is also the co-founder and chairperson of the Azerbaijan Animation Association and director of the ANIMAFILM International Animation Festival. He recently produced a short animated film HADIS that was selected for the Official Selection of the Annecy International Animation Film Festival.



Gülsel Özkan

Gülsel Özkan is an internationally acclaimed artist. She lives in Germany but works worldwide.
Özkan began her film studies at the Hamburg Academy of Fine Arts in Hamburg, 1987.
Since 1989 she has been working with passion as a filmmaker, dramaturg and producer, realizing documentaries and features for German and European broadcasters worldwide.
She has written several screenplays as a screenwriter for feature films and has received several nominations.
To date, she has been responsible for more than 30 productions, including screenplays for television and cinema for the German and European markets.
Her films have received numerous national and international awards. She is also a jury member and jury president at many national and international festivals, including Türk Film Festival, Ökofilmfestival, African International Woman Film Festival in Harare, CEVE Festival in Beijing and VR Festival in Nanchang.



Lev Voloshin

Professional manager and producer with more than 8 years of experience in a diverse range of styles and animations. Has worked with a range of businesses including start-ups, animation studios, agencies from all over the globe. In 2021 he founded the company Voloshin Animation and co-founded MovoCinema in 2023. Notable works: 2D animated film “The Flat”, “Horns & Hacks,” a YouTube series for adults, "Sheep and Wolves: Pig Deal" Feature 3D animated film.



Artem Vasilyev

Artem Vasilyev is founder and general producer of the METRAFILMS group of companies founded in 1993. Artem is a member of European Film Academy, European Producers Club and the Russian Academy of Cinema Arts and Science Nika.



Vlad Bolgarin

Film director, writer, editor and producer based in Republic of Moldova. Studied Filmmaking at the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts from Chisinau. Head of VOLT Cinematography – film production and post-production services studio. Known for the short films „SIGH” and “Place under the sun” (Shanghai IFF, Sarajevo FF, Busan ISFF, Animayo); and the Moldovan-American series "Lost in Moldova" (LA Shorts, Seriencamp, Berlin Webfest). Currently is working on the development of several short films and his debut feature fiction film.

ORGANIZERS



Valentina Iusuphodjaev

Born in Moldova, Valentina Iusuphodjaev has a background of a film producer and she has made a name for herself in the film industry, working on films that have won awards at national and international film festivals and not only, such as La Limita de Jos a Cerului (The Unsaved), Afacerea Est (Eastern Business), Colecția de Arome (The Flavour Collection). During her career, Valentina has worked in various facets of the film and advertising industry as a producer, casting manager, location manager and distributor and gained a lot of experience working with international partners and teams. She has also been involved in other activities such as: pitch trainer, workshops organizer, jury member. In March 2021, Valentina was appointed as the new director of the National Film Center of Moldova. She is a member of the Filmmakers Association of the Republic of Moldova and EFA.



Alexandra Rotaru



Alexandra Gamarț



Dumitrița Afanasii



Nicolae Eșan



Valeria Goltiescu



Maria Rotari



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Dana Dubălaru

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