

MUSEO  
NAZIONALE  
DEL CINEMA  
TORINO

**TFL**  
TorinoFilmLab

**TORINOFILMLAB**  
A NEW WAVE OF INDEPENDENT  
CINEMA & TV

# SERIESLAB 2023

BOOK OF  
PROJECTS



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## THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CINEMA

The National Museum of Cinema stands as a prominent and internationally acclaimed institution with a rich history. Nestled within the iconic Mole Antonelliana, the symbol of Turin, the museum boasts an extensive collection of over 2,200,000 preserved works. Beyond its significant past, the museum exhibits a forward-looking perspective, evident through a myriad of initiatives hosted within the Mole Antonelliana. These include masterclasses, interactive exhibitions, and immersive experiences. The institution is committed to the preservation and rediscovery of its collections, reflected in the diverse programming at Cinema Massimo. Furthermore, for over 40 years, the Torino Film Festival has showcased a keen interest in debut and sophomore films, complemented by innovative offerings from the Environmental Film Festival and the Lovers Film Festival.

Sixteen years ago, the TorinoFilmLab was established within this framework, born out of the Museum's aspiration to provide an additional creative impetus to the entire audiovisual sector. It now encompasses a comprehensive range of activities, including training programmes, networking events, and market initiatives.

The exceptional training quality, hands-on collaborative methodology, and genuinely international atmosphere provided by TFL, coupled with tangible support, have translated numerous TFL-developed projects into both success and satisfaction.

The journey thus far fuels our aspiration to envision innovative approaches in filmmaking and series creation, fostering synergies and disseminating our acquired knowledge throughout the broader cinematic ecosystem. Importantly, we extend our gratitude to those who have supported us on this journey: MiC - Ministero della Cultura, Creative Europe - MEDIA, and TFL's extensive network of international partners.

### **Enzo Ghigo**

President  
The National Museum of Cinema

### **Domenico De Gaetano**

Director  
The National Museum of Cinema

### FUNDING MEMBERS



## TORINOFILMLAB

Quite often professionals tell us it is difficult to keep track with TFL because the programmes are constantly changing. They are right: as a lab, research is our mission, with stories and writers always at the center.

SeriesLab starts in 2017 as a European programme: it develops 9 tv series projects every year, with the aim of nurturing a European voice in tv series. In 2022 we launch a writers' room experience dedicated to emerging writers: SeriesLab Talents.

Now, after 6 years of experience, jumping into the international arena and opening up the programme to professionals from all over the world feels like an organic move.

On that note, in 2023 we partnered with Millimeter Film to bring the first workshop to Georgia. The second workshop travelled to Belgium thanks to our long-term collaboration with VAF – Flanders Audiovisual Fund. Our partnership with Berlinale Series Market makes possible the presentation of 2023 projects and talents in Berlin 2024.

A very warm thanks goes to these international partners and to Creative Europe – MEDIA Sub-programme of the European Union, that have backed the programme since the very beginning.

More novelties: we have launched the TFL SeriesLab Award: € 10,000 that support further development of one selected project.

A special thanks to TFL staff and to our brand-new Head of Studies, Eszter Angyalosy, who brings all her experience as screenwriter and story editor in the world of tv series. She has been in the very good company of our tutors Filip Kasperaszec, Anne Feinsilber, Luke Franklin, Kirsten Ittershagen and the Project Manager Alice Presbitero.

### **Mercedes Fernandez Alonso**

Managing Director  
TorinoFilmLab

**TFL**  
TorinoFilmLab

#### SUPPORTED BY



## SERIESLAB & SERIESLAB TALENTS 2023

In the last couple of years, the TV industry has gone through probably the most significant and fastest changes so far. We experienced the rise, the peak, and the decline of a new kind of TV experience: streaming. It was a very short period of "all is possible", which changed the game forever.

Now, we are living in a time of transformation. And although facing the unknown is scary, I am excited to see what the industry will look like in the following years. And I like to look back at this wild and surreal period behind us as an invaluable chance for experimentation and learning.

In a game with such huge competition, anybody who wants to make it must know what they want and how to achieve it. The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of TFL SeriesLab took on the ambitious mission of equipping the teams of nine carefully selected projects – for the first time not just from Europe but from all over the world - with the necessary tools to manage the foreseeable and confidently handle the unpredictable. We are passionate about their stories and believe all of them are ready to find their way to the hearts of the audience.

Alongside the project development, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of TFL SeriesLab Talents trained five remarkable talents with diverse international backgrounds to prove themselves as staff or head writers in any professional environment.

Now, with a final presentation at the Berlinale, we proudly send them off to explore the TV Universe by themselves, and we look forward to seeing them contribute to shaping the new era of the TV industry.

**Eszter Angyalosy**  
Head of Studies

SERIESLAB  
2023

WITH THE SUPPORT OF



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SERIESLAB  
TALENTS  
2023

WITH THE SUPPORT OF



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# SERIESLAB 2023

**9 TV SERIES PROJECTS  
BOOSTED BY TORINOFILMLAB**

# SERIESLAB 2023 PEDAGOGICAL TEAM

## HEAD OF STUDIES



**Eszter Angyalosy**  
Scriptwriter & Story  
editor • Hungary

## TUTORS



**Filip Kasperaszek**  
Scriptwriter & Story  
editor • Poland



**Anne Feinsilber**  
Screenwriter & Director  
• France



**Luke Franklin**  
Producer •  
United Kingdom

## PRODUCTION MENTORS



**Eilon Ratzkovsky**  
Producer • Israel



**Anna Zavorszky**  
Producer • Hungary

## PITCHING TRAINER



**Linda Green**  
Pitch coach •  
United Kingdom

# A Thousand and One Ways to Get What You Want

When Zadi becomes King Shahryar's mistress, she must rely on her wits and creativity to survive.



## Talkhon Hamzavi

Writer, Director & Creator •  
She/her/hers • Iran, Switzerland

Talkhon Hamzavi was born in Teheran, Iran and relocated to Switzerland with her family in 1986. She studied directing and screenwriting at the Zurich University of the Arts. Her acclaimed film *Parvaneh* received multiple awards, including a Student Academy Award and a First Steps Award, and an Oscar nomination in 2015. Talkhon has produced various films and music videos and is currently developing scripts. She also coaches at filmkids.ch, introducing young minds to filmmaking.

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## Liliane Ott

Writer, Producer & Creator •  
She/her/hers • Switzerland

Born in Zurich, Switzerland, Liliane Ott moved to Auckland, New Zealand as a teenager to study film. After returning to Switzerland, she worked in film and theatre - switching between producing, writing, and directing. She produced Kit Hung's films, *Soundless Wind Chime and Stoma*, and co-created the collective documentary *Les Nouvelles Èves*. Her company, Kalliopeia Productions, is dedicated to developing thought-provoking, high-quality productions in various formats.

[lily@kalliopeia productions.com](mailto:lily@kalliopeia productions.com)

**FORMAT**  
8 x 45'

**GENRE**  
Comedy/Drama/Historical

**AUDIENCE TARGET**  
18-55 years old

**LOCATION SHOOTING**  
TBD

**DEVELOPMENT STAGE**  
Mini-Bible, Pilot Treatment

**SEEKING**  
International co-producers, streamers, broadcasters

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**  
Kalliopeia Productions  
Zurich - Switzerland  
[www.kalliopeia productions.com](http://www.kalliopeia productions.com)  
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**MAIN PRODUCER**  
Liliane Ott

## SYNOPSIS

Persia, 550 AD. With the Roman Empire fallen and Europe nearing the Dark Ages, the Sassanid Empire endures despite droughts, conflicts and a king hiding from his people. In the capital Ctesiphon, located 32 km southeast of present-day Baghdad, Zadi — the willful and outspoken daughter of King Shahryar's chief administrator — is determined to change an unjust world for the better. Her problem? Despite her sharp intellect, her ideas are often dismissed because she is a woman. When thrust into the role of the mercurial king's new mistress, Zadi leverages her talent for storytelling to circumvent societal constraints and offer him counsel as he grapples with the challenges of ruling an increasingly unstable empire. As he becomes reliant on her insights, the balance of power shifts between them.

*A Thousand and One Ways to Get What You Want* is a modern tale inspired by the characters of *One Thousand and One Nights*, centring around Zadi and her complicated relationship with King Shahryar and the intrigues at the court, all set against a high-stakes power struggle amongst the noble families in ancient Persia.

## INTENTION

In this series, we explore the sway of stories in shaping reality in a world where perception is everything, and a well-placed story could topple almost any ruler - not entirely unlike today.

Set in pre-Islamic Persia, we refrain from falling victim to romanticised clichés. It's a fresh view of an ancient society that had many similarities to ours, especially regarding women, who had the same rights as men on paper, but would seldom call the shots at the top level. Of course, no one had any rights when it came to the will of the king, but that will certainly not stop our protagonist, Zadi, from getting what she wants. The beating heart of this show is a spicy relationship where the man has all the power in the beginning, and the woman has none, but soon the tables are turned. While the power games and politics in this world may be brutal and treacherous, we keep a light tone full of wit, attitude and a dash of anarchy.



# Estrella Del Green

Can a pregnant zillennial and an elderly diva beat the odds and grow Benidorm's largest weed empire?



## Denise Moreno

Writer, Director, Showrunner  
& Creator • She/her/hers  
• Spain, USA

Denise is a Spanish-American director and writer based between UK and Spain, with award winning short films, TV Pilots, commercials, and music videos. She was selected "top 25 emerging directors" by HBO Access in 2020. She's known for her emotive, comedic, and quirky films, and for her ability to get strong performances from actors. She has a passion for female led stories, specially in the comedy genre and often works with largely female led crews.

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## Jonathan Duncan

Producer • He/his/him • UK

Jonathan is a Producer at Common People Films. Previously he led The Precinct Studios. He is a founding member of Rogue Star, which went on to produce the short drama feature *New Skin* and feature drama *Ten Empty*. Jonathan produced the feature comedy *Ruben Guthrie*. He is currently producing *Plum*, a drama series for eOne and ABC television.

[jonny@cmnppl.com](mailto:jonny@cmnppl.com)

## SYNOPSIS

After getting fired, then dumped by her partner, Estrella moves to Benidorm, Europe's holiday mecca, for a job that ends up falling through. Broke and defeated, Estrella goes partying with hoodlums, which ends in a car crash that only Estrella survives. Remedios, an elderly bankrupt vedette, stumbles upon the scene to find a dazed Estrella and the answer to their problems — a huge stash of ganja in the trunk of the car. But to make it in the weed business they're going to have to work together. If only they didn't hate each other's guts. And moreover, Estrella discovers she's pregnant. The two rookies will recruit a crew of female outcasts and build a clientele of elderly expats who dance to Remedios' ballads, high as kites. But as Estrella's belly grows, so do their adversaries. Tensions between the two reach a fever pitch just as the rightful owners of the stolen weed and the police are closing in, fast.

## INTENTION

*Hacks* meets *Breaking Bad* in a series with Almodovar-esque female characters in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea.

Through a comedic lens, the series will defy gender expectations through its treatment of motherhood, women in positions of leadership, and a portrayal of older women rarely seen in popular media. It will explore the evolution of a relationship from reluctant business partnership to a cautious, yet moving friendship.

*Estrella del Green* will be a compelling journey into the lives of disparate outcasts as they run an illegal business in Spain's most outlandish resort town. The colourful universe of our series dances to the beat of reggaeton and 70's romantic ballads, all against the backdrop of Benidorm's decadent skyscrapers and its eccentric populus. Bonded by the green gold they find, will our misfits finally find the family they never had and become Benidorm's greatest weed empresses?

## FORMAT

8 x 30'

## GENRE

Dramedy/Thriller

## AUDIENCE TARGET

18+ years old

## LOCATION SHOOTING

Benidorm, Spain

## DEVELOPMENT STAGE

Pilot treatment, Bible

## SEEKING

Broadcasters, streamers, spanish co-producers, european development funding

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

Common People Films  
London – UK  
[www.cmnppl.com](http://www.cmnppl.com)  
[tony@cmnppl.com](mailto:tony@cmnppl.com)  
+44 02039510999

## MAIN PRODUCER

Tony Roberts

# Evil Eye

When a girl disappears, policewoman Zuhail discovers a serial killer is on the loose, but to catch him, she must risk losing her family.



## Geo Doba

Creator & Showrunner  
• She/her/hers • Romania

Geo Doba is a Writer-Director-Producer and a graduate of Serial Eyes, where she won the Big Light Writers' Apprenticeship Award. Geo writes crime, drama, and comedy in English and recently worked in writers' rooms in London. Her directing and producing portfolios include several web series, short films, and music videos. She wrote for a late-night show and published short stories in comic book anthologies. Geo is also Vice-president of the Serial Eyes alumni association and serves as a tutor on the writers' room programme TIFF *Full Moon*. She is represented by The Artists Partnership agency.

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## Gabi Suci-Pădurețu

Producer & Showrunner  
• She/her/hers • Romania

Gabi Suci is a Romanian producer with over 12 years of experience. She has a BA in Directing, an MA in Production, and a PhD in Film & Media focused on co-productions. She is a lecturer at UNATC and the vice dean of the Film Faculty. Her latest endeavours focus on supporting the debuts of female directors, in any genre and format. In 2021, Gabi, together with director Alina Grigore, won the first Romanian Golden Shell award at the San Sebastian Film Festival for the debut feature *Blue Moon*.

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## SYNOPSIS

When teenager Alina goes missing, Zuhail, 32, a Romanian policewoman of Turkish origins takes a personal interest in the case, despite being discouraged by her colleague, Mathias, 39. Zuhail just passed the Detective exam, but her parents still think she has an admin job, and look forward to marrying her off to Azad, a businessman they chose for her. To forget the pressures she has at home, Zuhail focuses on her job. When she discovers Alina was sexually abused as a child, she convinces Mathias to travel with her to a remote village to investigate this further.

The lead doesn't pan out, but driving back through Dobrogea's wilderness, Zuhail and Mathias discover a mummified foot. It's not Alina's though. The foot belongs to a sex worker who disappeared years ago. As the possibility of a serial killer arises, Zuhail fears for Alina's safety. Then, Alina calls 911... Will Zuhail rescue her? Will she catch the serial killer? Who has the murderous, evil eye in this god-forsaken part of the world?

## INTENTION

This series talks about the evil around us and its effect on women. How does evil thrive in our society? How can one remain a good person in an evil world?

Society's prejudices and indifference help perpetuate evil, leading to exploitation, oppression, and violence. Internalised misogyny and toxic masculinity are two other thematic strands in our series. Both emerge from the belief that men must exert masculinity and power, while women must adopt femininity and compliance.

The unseen chains of inequality and poverty, personified by Alina, the missing girl, and the victims of the serial killer, blend with cultural pressures, painting the bigger picture of the challenges women still face today. Zuhail embodies the dichotomy of the modern and the traditional woman. Both wrestle inside her, as she's trying to be a good policewoman, and a good woman like society dictates. But what happens when women don't conform to society's rules? What is the price a good woman pays when she turns "bad"?

# Kolmanskop

What price must you pay for the sins of your forefathers when the Spirits of the past come knocking?



**Judith Rose Gyabaah**  
Writer & Creator

- She/her/hers
- Germany

Judith studied screenwriting at Film University Babelsberg. Her short *I Was Never Really Here* won several prizes and was nominated for the German Short Film Awards. With *Kolmanskop*, she won the Pretty Original award at the SerienCamp Conference 2023. Her work focuses on socio-political topics through the lens of genre.

[judith.gyabaah@gmx.de](mailto:judith.gyabaah@gmx.de)



**Sven Angene**  
Writer & Creator

- He/his/him
- Germany

After his master's degree in history and theory, Sven studied screenwriting in Babelsberg. His graduation screenplay *Father's Days* was nominated at the First Steps Awards 2023. *Kolmanskop* won the Pretty Original Award at the SerienCamp Conference 2023. In his stories, he focusses on the effect of social inequality.

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**Natalie Hölzel**  
Producer

- She/her/hers
- Germany

Natalie realised over 50 TV infotainment productions and worked on several feature films for *Rat Pack*, *Pantaleon* and others. During her studies at HFF Munich she has produced numerous successful short and feature films. In 2016, she founded the film production company Elfenholz Film with her sister, where she works as a creative producer.

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## SYNOPSIS

Maryam's (30, Black) life takes a dramatic turn when she travels to Namibia with her fiancé Oliver (35, white) to attend his father's funeral, and meet his German-Namibian family for the first time. Despite being warmly accepted by his mother, Maryam feels that something is off: on the horizon, the Spirits of the past have awakened, and they want blood.

When Maryam starts digging into Oliver's father's death and the strange events happening around the farm, she meets the vengeful Spirits and barely escapes their wrath.

But her investigations lead her to the land her fiancé inherited – a land that holds terrible yet lucrative mysteries. Soon, she finds herself trapped between two worlds that both hold claim on the land – and must realise that her fiancé is not who she thought he was. Now she must prevail against both the Spirits and her in-laws, to pay for the crimes of the colonial past and still save the one she loves – even if he is guilty.

## INTENTION

Namibia is home to 20,000 Germans, many of them descendants of the former colonisers. They keep German culture alive in a schizophrenic setting: Oktoberfest under the desert sun. Giant flourishing farms - the desert only begins behind the fences that separate them from the Nama and Herero communities. The German colonial crimes in Namibia, including Concentration Camps and genocide, have not been properly addressed. But they have a huge impact today: much of the land remains in white hands.

We address the colonial horrors and their impact through a mystery thriller: the Spirits of the past are real and seeking revenge. We dig up the sins of the Germans and counter them with demands for the return of land. To do justice to the complexity of the subject, we are setting up a writer's room with Black Namibian writers.

The Afro-German perspective, carrying the heritage of both the oppressor and the oppressed, as well as the Black Namibian perspective on colonialism are the unique points of view at the center of our story.

## FORMAT

Mini-series: 6 x 50'

## GENRE

Mystery/Thriller

## AUDIENCE TARGET

For fans of *Get Out*, *Lovecraft Country*, *Them*, *Atlantique*, *Candyman*

## LOCATION SHOOTING

Namibia, Germany

## DEVELOPMENT STAGE

Early development

## SEEKING

Co-producers, financiers, streamers, broadcasters

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

Elfenholz Film GmbH  
Munich – Germany  
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## MAIN PRODUCERS

Natalie Hölzel  
Sandra Hölzel

# Project Alpha

During the 80s, two teenagers convince scientists at a top US-university of their psychic powers.



## Stephan Littger

Writer, Director & Creator  
• He/his/him • Germany, USA

A Cologne native, Stephan holds a BA from Sciences Po and an MA in philosophy and psychology from Oxford. His writer/director credits include *Toxic Oranges\** and his debut feature *Her Composition*, as well as various shorts and music videos. Apart from *Project Alpha*, he's developing a feature adaptation of Daniel Kehlmann's novella *Der fernste Ort* (starring Jonas Nay) as well as an edgy new take on the legendary myth of *Dr. Mabuse* set at the height of pre-war Nazi Germany.

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## Lidia Damatto

Writer, Producer & Creator  
• She/her/hers • Brazil

Studied Film at FAAP, Screenwriting at UCLA and Audience Engagement at DFFB. Took part of the workshops Berlinale Talents & Locarno Industry Academy. Produced several short films and worked in development in US production companies. Also worked with international sales at FiGa Films and later managed international affairs for O2 Films. Currently co-founded international sales/production label MoreThan and acts as a mentor for the Berlinale/EFM programme Toolbox, IFFR Pro and other labs & festivals.

[lidia@morethan-films.com](mailto:lidia@morethan-films.com)

## SYNOPSIS

1979. The CIA is invested in psychic warfare and future president Reagan relies on his personal astrologer's guidance on whether to run for office. Amidst this supernatural craze, professor Phillips of Washington University in St. Louis is offered a major parapsychology grant. Intrigued by quantum physics' link to consciousness, he chooses to investigate bending metal with mind powers alone.

To prevent cheating, he accepts the advice of skeptic James Randi. An escape artist turned debunker of supernatural claims, Randi suspects Phillips will end up dismissing his help and recruits teenage magicians Steve Shaw and Mike Edwards to apply. Cover name: Project Alpha.

Selected as Phillips' only subjects, the boys soon perform astonishing psychic feats and become celebrities in the parapsychological world. But the deception takes a toll, especially on Steve, who feels increasingly conflicted about his allegiance to Randi, demanding he not only betray his new friend Phillips' trust, but the core of his own beliefs.

## INTENTION

Part mystery drama, part coming-of-age story, our limited series bends genres to weave a narrative around one of the most memorable hoaxes in recent history.

Using the fun and distinctive 80s aesthetics we grew up with, the series dips audiences headfirst into the real hype around the supernatural at the time. Watching the drama unfold alongside its mesmerising characters, viewers experience how an alternative reality can unknowingly emerge from seemingly innocent attitudes and biases we hold. And how these biases can be exploited by those who seek to manipulate us. Living in a world of "alternative truths" 40 years on, this seems more relevant than ever.

On another level, the story is thus also about trust and how we as humans need and crave this connection to one another. So much that we will occasionally forgo our better judgments to achieve it. By finally bringing this incredible story to the screen, we want to enchant audiences worldwide while also poking the bear about an explosive topic of our time.

## FORMAT

Limited series: 6 x 45'/55'

## GENRE

True story/Mystery/  
Coming-of-age

## AUDIENCE TARGET

25-55 years old

## LOCATION SHOOTING

TBD

## DEVELOPMENT STAGE

Pilot script, Series deck

## SEEKING

Development funding,  
production partners,  
broadcasters, streamers,  
international sales agents

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

MoreThan Films  
São Paulo – Brazil  
[www.morethan-films.com](http://www.morethan-films.com)  
[lidia@morethan-films.com](mailto:lidia@morethan-films.com)  
+55 11972930629

## MAIN PRODUCER

Lidia Damatto

# Rent-a-Mama

Nuhad (60), a traditional Lebanese supermom, decides to become a mother-for-hire to liberal GenZers.



RENT A  
MAMA



**Dania Bdeir**  
Creator, Writer  
& Director • She/  
her/hers • Lebanon,  
Canada

Lebanese-Canadian filmmaker Dania Bdeir gained acclaim for NYU thesis film *In White* and award-winning short *Warsha*, shortlisted for the 2023 Academy Awards. A Screen Daily Arab Star of Tomorrow, Bdeir is developing her first feature, *Pigeon Wars*, which was selected for the Sundance Screenwriters Lab. She is managed by Anonymous Content.

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**Despina Ladi**  
Writer  
• She/her/hers  
• Greece

Despina Ladi is an award-winning Greek screenwriter and journalist based in London. She has collaborated with screenwriter Tony Grisoni on various projects, including Paolo Sorrentino's *The Young Pope* (HBO & SKY). She is a graduate of the London Film School, a Berlinale Talents, MFI Script 2 Film and Sundance Collab alumna, and a BAFTA Connect Member.

[despinaladi@gmail.com](mailto:despinaladi@gmail.com)



**Sahar Yousefi**  
Producer  
• She/her/hers  
• Canada

After working at the National Film Board of Canada, Sahar went on to independently produce and finance projects funded by the Sundance Institute, DFI, Telefilm, IDFA Bertha Fund, BFI, AFAC, and others. She is an alumna of the Berlinale Toolbox Lab, Hot Docs Lab, RIDM Talent Lab, ACE Mentorship Programme, EAVE, and TorinoFilmLab SeriesLab.

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## FORMAT

10 x 45' (serialised returning series)

## GENRE

Dramedy

## AUDIENCE TARGET

18-65 years old

## LOCATION SHOOTING

New York City (flexible)

## DEVELOPMENT STAGE

Early development, Pilot outline, Pitch deck

## SEEKING

Co-producers, broadcasters, financing

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

Nava Projects  
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## MAIN PRODUCER

Sahar Yousefi

## SYNOPSIS

Nuhad (Lebanese, 60) is a very traditional supermom with a big heart and a big fear of change. She lives in her immigrant bubble in NYC and prides herself on her excellent cooking, creative home remedies and outstanding meddling skills.

The main target of her maternal smothering is her middle daughter Tala (30), a struggling artist who still lives at home. When their continuous clashes escalate to a critical confrontation, Tala decides to finally move out. With her husband Farid (70) busy at work, her son Ziad (35) in California and her youngest daughter Sarah (20) studying in Boston, Nuhad finds herself alone in her empty nest.

When her grandson (12) introduces her to RENT-A-BLANK, an app where people can offer any service for rent, Nuhad's venture begins: RENT-A-MAMA.

Chaos ensues as the comedic encounters with her liberal genZ clients will challenge her conservative mentality but eventually open her eyes to her own life, leading her on a journey of transformation and self-discovery.

## INTENTION

*Rent-a-Mama* is inspired by my aunt in Beirut who never coloured outside the lines and only defined herself by her role as a mother and housewife. By throwing her into a hyper-progressive environment, away from everything she knows, I wanted to imagine her coming into her own and discovering the truest version of herself.

With Nuhad, a middle-aged Arab, full-bodied woman as the protagonist, and her experiences, struggles and desires at the center of the story, *Rent-a-Mama* brings about a much-needed change in the TV landscape. It also gives a platform to a diverse, open-minded yet misunderstood youth, creating an important bridge between two opposing worlds, fostering empathy and understanding between generations.

The inherent comedy comes through these interactions, but the story will always be rooted in Nuhad's emotional journey of emancipation and the evolution of her strained mother/daughter relationship with Tala.

# Sabena

1969: a Belgian village girl and a Japanese aristocrat escape a fated life by becoming stewardesses.



**Katrien De Groef**  
Writer & Creator •  
She/her/hers • Belgium

Katrien is a screenwriter, book author and a former Human-Interest journalist. Her curiosity as an ex-journalist drives her to create fascinating arenas, often inspired by historical events that are still relevant today. Remembering the countless interesting people, she had the chance to meet as a journalist, she makes it a top priority that every character in her series is authentic and intriguing. Her biggest personal project – besides *Sabena* – is the film *Paula*, which she wrote and will co-direct.

[tin@fred-tin.be](mailto:tin@fred-tin.be)



**Frederik Sonck**  
Director & Creator •  
He/his/him • Belgium

Frederik graduated as a director in 2007 and immediately dived into the profession, directing TV serials (for broadcasters VRT and VTM), movies (for the Belgian & Dutch market), documentaries and music videos. At this stage in his career, he focusses on creating and directing high-end compelling fiction, set in grand arenas that appeal to the imagination. Stories that are relevant, with a unique and dynamic visual flair and that can captivate a large commercial audience. *Sabena* ticks all the boxes.

[fred@fred-tin.be](mailto:fred@fred-tin.be)

## SYNOPSIS

1969: Sabena, the Belgian airline, launches its new Brussels-Tokyo line. The golden sixties are the decade of modernity, of a growing middle class and of cultures meeting for the first time. Belgians are traveling abroad en masse, and the world is coming to them. Youth cultures spread around the world and clash with conservative traditions.

The world also opens up for Belgian village girl Helena. Her father, who was a pilot at Sabena, dies. At his funeral, Helena meets his Sabena colleagues and gets intrigued by the world her father knew so well, but that she and her mother were never part of. Helena wants to break out of the village and discover this fascinating big world. About 10,000 kilometers further in Tokyo City, Yayoi hears that Sabena is looking for Japanese flight attendants. This could be her escape from the rich but strict aristocratic life her parents have planned for her. What if East, West, South and North meet on the plane?

## INTENTION

As a former journalist and experienced director, we want to tell stories that are relevant, entertain, make you laugh and move you. We love extraordinary arenas and one of a kind characters that are at the same time struggling, just like us. Not a forced search for diversity, but telling true international stories. Such as in the sixties when Sabena recruited Japanese stewardesses for its Tokyo line.

How do Belgians experience the encounter with new cultures, and how does Yayoi experience the drop in a world that welcomes her, but at the same time asks whether she can eat with a knife and fork? Does this new world bring freedom for Helena and for Yayoi? But what is freedom, really? And do people long for different kinds of freedom depending on their social class, their culture, their gender, their age?

Drama, satire, and situational humour go hand in hand. Positions are constantly switching in this world where nothing is the same as before, even though some would prefer it to be.

**FORMAT**  
8 x 45'

**GENRE**  
Drama/Comedy

**AUDIENCE TARGET**  
18-65 years old

**LOCATION SHOOTING**  
Belgium, Japan,  
internationally

**DEVELOPMENT STAGE**  
Bible, Development  
of Pilot

**SEEKING**  
Streamers, International  
co-producers, Japanese  
co-producer

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**  
A TEAM PRODUCTIONS BV  
Vilvoorde – Belgium  
[www.ateamproductions.be](http://www.ateamproductions.be)  
[yves@ateamproductions.be](mailto:yves@ateamproductions.be)  
+32 497324705

**MAIN PRODUCER**  
Yves Van de Paer

# The Best Time of My Life

To escape bullying, a young outsider befriends a notorious teen criminal and is compelled to prove his loyalty by engaging in a series of escalating crimes.



**Thomas Moritz Helm**  
Writer, Director & Creator  
• He/his/him • Germany

Thomas Moritz Helm is a writer-director from Germany. His passion for actors and visual storytelling took him from the stage (Thalia Theater Hamburg, Burgtheater Vienna) to the filmset. First as a grip and DOP, then as a writer-director. He studied acting at the William Esper Studio in New York and cinematography and directing at the Filmuniversity Konrad Wolf in Postdam-Babelsberg.

**thom.helm@gmail.com**

His graduation film *A Brief Moment of Joy* was shown at numerous festivals and nominated for the German Short Film Award. The micro-budget feature *Before We Grow Old* premiered at the 69<sup>th</sup> Berlinale and was released theatrically in 2019. He is currently developing several feature films and a comedy series.

## SYNOPSIS

A small German town in the 90s. Florian, our main protagonist is a delicate boy, relentlessly bullied for his otherness. His pillar of strength is Charlotte, a model student, yearning for adventure. The two are secret friends and occasional sex buddies. Although far from perfect, the situation is in balance. Until they meet Saheed, a charismatic refugee, notorious for dealing drugs. For Florian, he soon becomes an inseparable friend who protects him from his bullies.

But when Charlotte and Saheed fall in love, an explosive triangular relationship emerges. Florian sacrifices his intimate bond with Charlotte and engages in crimes to show loyalty to his protector. Charlotte is ostracised from her community for dating a refugee. And Saheed faces legal trouble, after Florian incites him to avenge his bullies.

Things go from bad to worse, when Charlotte suffers a drug induced stroke and is left paralysed. Frustration and anger over this deeply unjust reality mounts, the sky darkens, and things take a tragic turn, leaving us to wonder: can the wrong decisions be the right choice?

## INTENTION

This is a personal story. For decades I was too afraid to revisit the memories of my tumultuous youth. To this day I am haunted by the torment I endured, but also by the shame of what I did, trying to escape it. One of my old friends passing and the other one's deportation to Afghanistan, compelled me to overcome my fears and finally revisit our story.

Centered around the tale of an unlikely friendship, which transcends culture, gender and class, the series sets out to explore how far we are willing to go, to secure what we need the most. By confronting the young characters with existential problems and dilemmas, I want to challenge the common categories of right and wrong and advocate for a broad grey area.

Set in a rough and realistic world, reminiscent of Nan Goldin's unapologetic photography, the characters laugh, cry, and scream to the tunes of Hip Hop's golden age. A show for young adults and for the teenager in all of us.

## FORMAT

6 x 45'

## GENRE

Teen drama/Period

## AUDIENCE TARGET

18-50 years old

## LOCATION SHOOTING

Germany

## DEVELOPMENT STAGE

Mini-bible, Pilot outline

## SEEKING

Producers, Broadcasters, Streamers

## CONTACTS

thom.helm@gmail.com  
+49 1772728143

# The Promoter

The controversial rise & fall of promoter Clio, as she navigates the gritty world of German boxing.

THE PROMOTER



## Elisa Mishto

Writer, Director & Creator  
• She/her/hers • Italy

Elisa Mishto is a film director and screenwriter, originally from Italy, living in Berlin. She studied film at Goldsmith College in London, Semiotics and Media in Bologna, Italy and at Humboldt University, Berlin. Her films have premiered at Rome IFF, Munich IFF, Tallinn Black Nights, Gothenburg FF, IDFA and Palm Springs IFF, among others. When Elisa is not working on a film project, she runs Festsaal Kreuzberg Boxing, an alternative boxing promotion company, or writes song lyrics.

[info@anacondinofilm.com](mailto:info@anacondinofilm.com)



## Hana Geißendörfer

Producer • She/her/hers  
• Germany, UK

Hana Geißendörfer graduated with a BSc in Economics from Bristol University and an MFA in Film Directing from the International Film School of Paris (EICAR). She is an Alumni of the TorinoFilmLab Pitch&Script, Berlinale Talents & IFS International Producing programmes. Since 2015 she has been working as a producer in Film and TV, founding her production company Geißendörfer Pictures (GP) in 2019, where she produces fictional formats for the small and big screen. GP's first series production was the 8-part mystery drama *Souls* for Sky.

[info@gpictures.film](mailto:info@gpictures.film)

### ORIGINAL TITLE

*Die Promoterin*

**FORMAT**  
6 x 45'/60'

**GENRE**  
Character driven crime drama

**AUDIENCE TARGET**  
18-70 years old

**LOCATION SHOOTING**  
Berlin, Germany

**DEVELOPMENT STAGE**  
Pilot script, Series outline, Pitch deck

**SEEKING**  
Streaming partners,  
Broadcasting partners,  
Financing partners, Distributors

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**  
Geißendörfer Pictures GmbH  
Munich, Berlin,  
Cologne - Germany  
[www.gpictures.film](http://www.gpictures.film)  
[info@gpictures.film](mailto:info@gpictures.film)  
+49 89998298460

**MAIN PRODUCER**  
Hana Geißendörfer

### SYNOPSIS

When her trainer and mentor is nearly beaten to death, boxer Clio must promise to look after his boxing promotion and gym only to discover that the business is swamped in debt. In an attempt to save the only place she calls home, Clio strikes a deal with the heiress of a criminal clan, which leads her to be in the exact place she promised herself never to be: financially dependent and with a bunch of boxers to take care of. As Clio navigates the intricate and decaying world of German boxing and illegal gambling, she will go through a journey of self-discovery where alliances are formed and broken, friends are lost and found, and success is reached and destroyed.

A powerful drama and detailed character study, at the heart of *The Promoter* lies an unapologetic account of Germany's identity crisis and the personal and social tensions that inevitably follow. Provocative, raw, and physical, the series is not afraid of dark humour whilst mixing elements of neo-noir and social drama.

### INTENTION

I have two passions in life: filmmaking and boxing. I started boxing after moving to Berlin and went on training and fighting for 8 years. I then set up a promotion and have spent years inside the German boxing scene. The story and setting of this series are inspired by my personal experience.

A boxing promoter negotiates contracts with boxers, managers, and officials, whilst organising and paying for the event. It's a high-stakes, testosterone, and adrenaline-fuelled job where deceit and threats are common. Every event is nerve-wracking.

Being the only woman put me in a very tricky position and I was forced to learn an all-new set of skills that helped me not only in boxing but also in life. I had to walk a fine line between masculinity and femininity, loyalty and manipulation, personal freedom, and responsibility. I can't say it was a pleasant experience. I failed more times than I succeeded. But I'm glad I did it. And it's the kind of journey I would like to tell through *The Promoter*.



A large, expressive yellow brushstroke graphic in the top-left corner, with a soft, feathered edge that blends into the black background. The stroke starts as a solid yellow shape and then breaks apart into smaller, splattered yellow spots.

SERIESLAB TALENTS  
2023



## SERIESLAB TALENTS 2023 PEDAGOGICAL TEAM

### HEAD OF STUDIES



**Eszter Angyalosy**  
Scriptwriter & Story  
editor • Hungary

### MENTOR



**Kirsten Ittershagen**  
Writer Producer  
• Germany

### PITCHING TRAINER



**Linda Green**  
Pitch coach •  
United Kingdom



# Fanny Nussbaumer

Scriptwriter • She/her/hers  
• Switzerland

[fannynussbaumer@mail.ch](mailto:fannynussbaumer@mail.ch)

Fanny Nussbaumer, born in 1992, grew up in a Swiss village near the Rhine Falls. Alongside school and an apprenticeship as a florist, she was always drawn to the stage. Fanny wrote her first play at the age of fourteen and has since developed over ten plays with her independent drama group Szenario. After completing her diploma in scriptwriting at SAL Zurich in 2017, Fanny also began writing for film and television. She worked as a writer's assistant on the late-night show *Deville* on Swiss broadcaster SRF, where she learned how to write funny under pressure. In 2020, she successfully completed the Drehbuchwerkstatt Munich and won the Script Talent Award with her final screenplay *13cm*. The film is now called *The Little Difference*, a queer-feminist romcom that Fanny is currently developing with the film production company Catpics AG in Switzerland. Over the past two years, Fanny has also worked in two different writers' rooms. Both comedy series will be published this year.

## PERSONAL PRESENTATION

In the last years, I have had the opportunity to train and hone my writing craft thanks to workshops like the TFL SeriesLab Talent and working on series projects in Germany and Switzerland. Especially when it comes to serial storytelling and working in a writers' room, which is the direction I am increasingly moving in. For this, I am aiming for more international collaboration. In my writing I am mostly focused on versatile characters that have not been seen in this way before, but in which one recognises oneself. Always involved: humour. I love good comedy, whether in dark human tragedies or in fine everyday life.

## PROJECTS I'VE WORKED ON (I AM WORKING ON)

### Mindblow

Switzerland / 2024 / Series

CONTRIBUTION  
Staff-writer

What if you could exchange messages with yourself twenty years ago and change your reality?

### Pumpen

Germany / 2024 / Series

CONTRIBUTION  
Staff-writer

Two siblings inherit their mother's gym and have to deal with trainers, clients and a pile of debt.

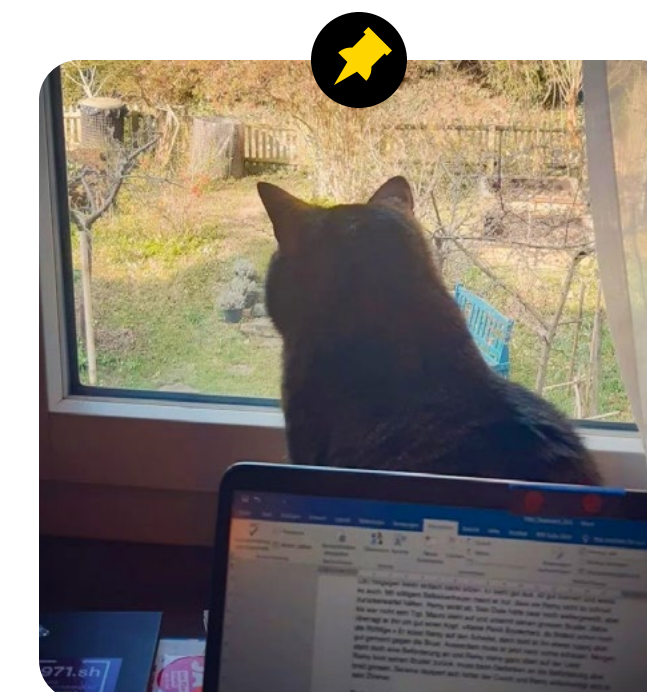
### P-26

Switzerland / 2024  
/ In development

CONTRIBUTION  
Headwriter

Between well-tended garden and armed bunker - the double life of the Swiss secret army P-26.

## FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



When it comes to writing space, I'm like a cat. Anything can be a suitable spot, but the best ones come with a view.

## TV SERIES THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

### Severance

Work-life balance? As a writer that is a really hard one, but having seen this smart and funny series, I can deal with it much better.

### Ted Lasso

In every sad and difficult situation in my life, I try to summon my inner Ted to always find the positive and fun side of it – which is always there.

## TV SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON

### The Good Place

A brilliant comedy series for life after death! It is absurdly supernatural and yet deeply human.

### Killing Eve

Two complex women chasing each other around the world and falling in love – I am in.



# Giulio Fabroni

Scriptwriter  
(occasionally director)

• He/his/him • Italy

[giuliofabroni@gmail.com](mailto:giuliofabroni@gmail.com)

Giulio Fabroni, born in 1998, writes and sometimes directs stories for screens of all sizes. After graduating in Film at Scuola Holden in 2019, he attended the preparatory course for Screenwriting at Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Rome and was granted a scholarship for the Master in Serial Screenwriting held by Rai Fiction. In 2019, Giulio's feature film project *Hominarius* was a finalist at Venice's Biennale College Cinema. 2021 marked the release of the RaiPlay series *Nudes*: Giulio penned the final three episodes and returned to the writers' room for a second season in 2023. In 2022 and 2023 Giulio was in the WR for three international animated shows, joined the permanent WR at Marco Belardi's company Bamboo, and debuted as a scriptwriter on *Un posto al sole*, one of Europe's longest-running soap operas. Giulio lives, works and thrives in Rome with Francesca Tozzi and Veronica Penserini. Together they have been developing original projects for producers such as Fabula, Casanova, Lucky Red, The Apartment.

### PERSONAL PRESENTATION

I applied for TFL SeriesLab Talents during my quarter-life crisis, which made me aim for international horizons: after years of skill-building in Italy, I finally feel ready to take on the world! I have the most fun when working in groups, and I love to test my curiosity by exploring different countries, cultures... and cuisines. Fun fact! I am also a published author: my children's books are among my proudest achievements, and my first novel (about a kid who wants to crash a Beatles concert) is scheduled for 2024. I live the world through fear and joy. Creating stories helps me understand my fears, and drives me into sharing the joy with as many people I can.

### PROJECTS I'VE WORKED ON (I AM WORKING ON)

#### *Nudes*

Italy / 2021-2024 / Series

CONTRIBUTION  
Writer

Three stories of teenagers dealing with revenge porn.

#### *Punto e basta*

In development / Series

CONTRIBUTION  
Writer

13-year-old Punto needs to convince the world that he is a f\*\*\*ing boy, not a girl. Got it?

#### *Hominarius*

Italy / In development / Feature film

CONTRIBUTION  
Writer & Director

Lucio is a werewolf, Magda secretly wants to be bitten. Alone in the mountains, they fall in love.

### FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



No caption needed...

### TV SERIES THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

#### *Hannibal*

To watch it, I disobeyed my parents for the first time.

#### *Gilmore Girls*

To watch it, I stayed home for months of film school instead of making friends. I don't regret it.

### TV SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON

#### *The Haunting*

Mike Flanagan's adaptation has scarred me deeply. Plus, I feel a great ghost story in me.

#### *Spider-Man: Freshman Year*

It hasn't even come out yet, but it's what I've always wanted to do!



# Jade Edwards

Scriptwriter & Director •  
She/her/hers • Ireland & UK  
[jade@jadecourtneyedwards.com](mailto:jade@jadecourtneyedwards.com)

Jade Edwards is a graduate of Columbia University's Screenwriting / Directing M.F.A. Program. She started her film career as a creative executive for Pandemic Film, co-producing their debut feature film starring Jeremy Irons. She has worked on projects with SMUGGLER, Sony Screen Gems, Nu Image, SHFT, Deltree, Dynamic Television, and Apple TV+. Her work has been selected for Cine Qua Non's Script Revision Lab, CineStory TV Lab, Stowe Story Labs, Dynamic Television Fellowship, TorinoFilmLab's SeriesLab Talents. Her pilot script, *Head First*, was the winner of Showtime's Tony Cox 30-minute Episodic Competition. Her short films have screened at a multitude of festivals including Florida FF, Hollyshorts, London Independent, among others, and she was nominated for a National Youth Film Award. She is a current fellow of the BAFTA Newcomer Talent initiative.

### PERSONAL PRESENTATION

Jade is an Irish/English writer-director hailing from London. She is drawn to narratives surrounding moral ambiguity and injustice. Her work is often centered on women who find themselves in impossible situations. She is currently in development with her debut feature film.

### PROJECTS I'VE WORKED ON (I AM WORKING ON)

#### *The Downpour*

USA / 2020 / Short / Drama

CONTRIBUTION  
Scriptwriter & Director

A couple faces a difficult decision when their car breaks down in rural America.

#### *Cicada*

In development / Feature / Mystery, thriller

CONTRIBUTION  
Scriptwriter

A journalist investigates the disappearance of Libyan refugees around the coast of Monaco.

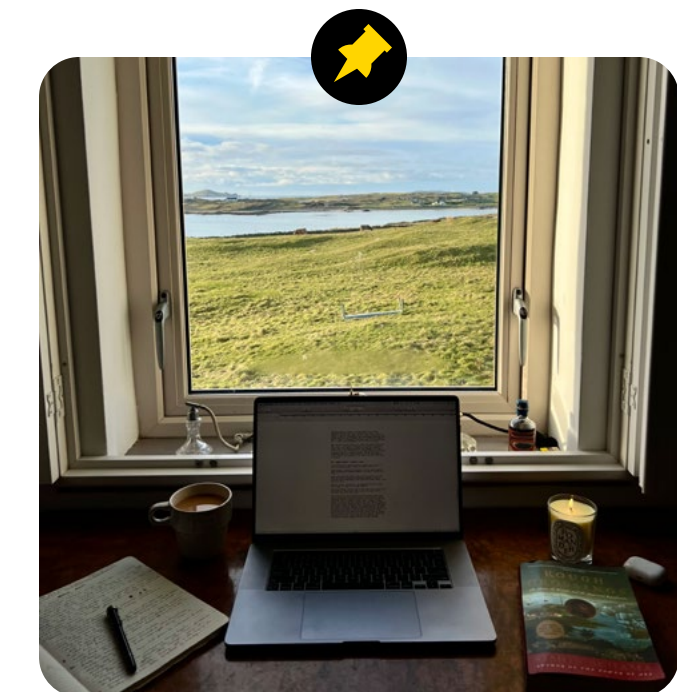
#### *Killink Cara*

In development / Feature / Psychological horror

CONTRIBUTION  
Scriptwriter & Director

A woman suffering a phantom pregnancy becomes convinced a malevolent force is eating her alive.

### FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



A room with a view + hot cup of tea

### TV SERIES THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

#### *Twin Peaks*

Four words: Sherilyn Fenn David Lynch

#### *Station Eleven*

A poetic gut-punch, this show highlights society's fragility and champions art and human connections as essential for survival.

### TV SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON

#### *Succession*

Whip smart one-liners, and unlikeable characters. What's not to like?

#### *Anything by Sharon Horgan*

She is the most dynamic, hilarious creator and I've adored everything she's produced.



# Nuno Baltazar

Scriptwriter & Director  
• He/his/him • Portugal  
[nunobaltazar@icloud.com](mailto:nunobaltazar@icloud.com)

Nuno is a Portuguese writer and director, born and raised in sunny Lisboa. He has participated in several prestigious writing residencies and programmes, including La Résidence du Festival de Cannes (France), the Locarno Filmmakers Academy (Switzerland), the Series Mania Institute Eureka Series (France) and the TorinoFilmLab SeriesLab Talents (Italy). Nuno is a versatile filmmaker, having worked as a writer, director, producer, cinematographer and editor. He has successfully completed three award-winning short films and co-written two Portuguese TV series, one of which won the SPA Award for Best TV Show. Nuno is preparing a new short film, developing his first feature film and working on several projects for TV as a creator, writer and director. Nuno is a proud supporter of Sporting Clube de Portugal.

### PERSONAL PRESENTATION

When I was 9, I told my parents I wanted to be a filmmaker. In Portugal, this is like saying you hate football or grilled sardines; practically sacrilegious. We're known for our brave sailors and their impressive feats, stunning seaside views and delicious cuisine, soul-stirring "fado" songs and fabulous tax perks, not exactly for churning out blockbuster films. Fortunately, I'm not just a cinephile; I'm also a sardine-loving football fanatic - a unique combination that has spared me from parental disapproval. Like my ancestors, I'm eager to expand my horizons. I see myself as a filmmaker-explorer, thrilled by the unknown and ready to sprinkle my cinematic Portuguese flair across the world.

### PROJECTS I'VE WORKED ON (I AM WORKING ON)

#### **Panic Day**

Denmark, Germany, Portugal / In development / TV Series

CONTRIBUTION  
Co-creator,  
Writer & Director

Four determined journalism interns compete for space on the page at a notorious scandal-ridden tabloid.

#### **The Bridge**

Portugal, France / In development / TV Series

CONTRIBUTION  
Writer & Director

A truck blockade at Lisbon's main bridge sets off events that change Portuguese history forever.

#### **Monster**

Portugal, Egypt / 2024 / In pre-production / Short film

CONTRIBUTION  
Writer & Director

12-year-old Alex sees a friend being attacked, but a secret keeps him from exposing the aggressors.

### TV SERIES THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

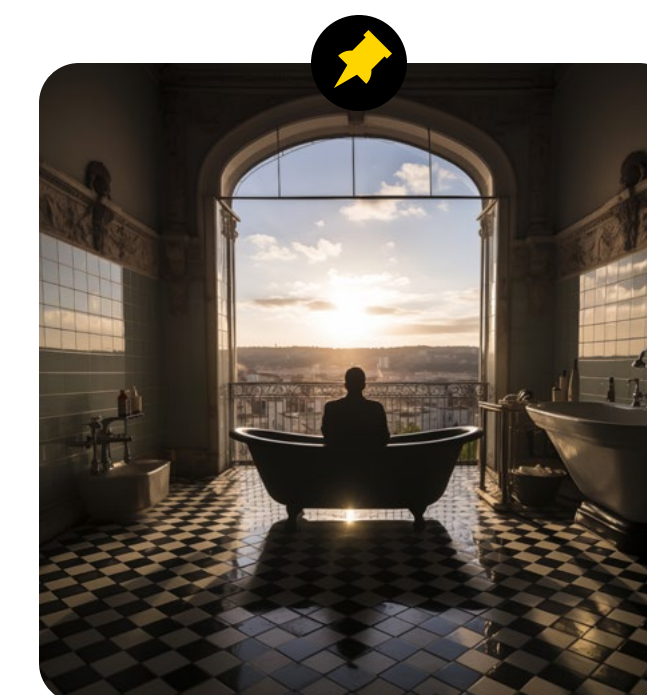
#### **Twin Peaks**

"Every day, once a day, give yourself a present". Words to live by.

#### **The Sopranos**

"I'm like King Midas in reverse. Everything I touch turns to shit". Just masterful.

### FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



A bathtub with a view. If a bathtub was good enough for Dalton Trumbo, it's good enough for me.

### TV SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON

#### **Black Mirror**

A series about people being assholes because of technology is just right up my alley.

#### **Industry**

Come for the sex and drugs, stay for the soapiness and drama. My dream job right there.



# Zero Pilnik

Scriptwriter & Actor

- They/them/their
- Brazil & Germany

[zeropilnik@gmail.com](mailto:zeropilnik@gmail.com)

Zero Pilnik is an actor, writer, and Drag King from São Paulo, based in Berlin. A graduate of CalArts' acting programme with a minor in creative writing, Zero received fellowships from Akademie der Künste, LABA Berlin, and the 2017 Tim Disney Prize for Excellence in Storytelling Arts. They've authored several stage and screenplays, including *Matter* (2022, short film), *Gasoline Queen* (musical, 2022), and *27 Club* (solo show, 2021). As the 2021 literary resident at Goyki3 Art Inkubator, Zero wrote the pilot of *Brutes*, a dystopian queer Western. The series was nominated for the Pretty Original Award at the 2023 SerienCamp Conference, and Zero pitched it live for the first time. They were also a finalist of the 2023 Berlin TV Series Festival, pitching the dramedy *Silver Future*, based on their experiences in Berlin's Drag scene. In 2023 Zero traveled to Brazil on a scholarship from Berlin's Senate Department for Culture and Europe to develop *Treif*, a series about their Jewish immigrant family.

### PERSONAL PRESENTATION

I'm a jack of all trades when it comes to TV – everything from historical dramas to romcom and reality shows interest me. As a writer, I adore subverting these genres by playing with common tropes in unexpected ways and infusing the mainstream with more stories about Global South migrants and queer people. I want to write universally relatable characters who aren't just coming out or dying in a tragic way. Having come out a while ago and not planning any tragic exits, I yearn for televised content about my communities that is also deep, funny, and heartwarming. Being part of TFL SeriesLab Talents has shown me that my diverse background, humour, and eclectic taste are all assets in the writers' room.

### PROJECTS I'VE WORKED ON (I AM WORKING ON)

#### *Brutes*

Germany / Under option / Series / Western drama

CONTRIBUTION  
Creator & Head writer

Two female adventurers, hunting the same cowboy, must either unite to survive or kill each other.

#### *Silver Future*

Germany / In development / Series / Dramedy

CONTRIBUTION  
Creator

A group of Drag Kings learn to navigate their 20s at a queer bar in a soon-to-be-gentrified corner of Berlin.

#### *Treif*

Brazil / In development / Anthology series / Comedy

CONTRIBUTION  
Creator

In Brazil, a Serbian Jew and a Polish couple begin a forbidden affair and a secret condom business.

### FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



São Francisco Xavier – Brazil  
Where there's no phone service, just birds and cicadas. Along with my dogs, I go on my own imaginary writing residencies, coming up with the best ideas after a waterfall bath.

### TV SERIES THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

#### *Fleabag*

Its edgy humour, cheeky sex jokes, and characters breaking the 4<sup>th</sup> wall made me shift from playwriting and theater acting to a career in TV.

#### *Pushing Daisies*

A Film Noir love story with elements from every genre, bursting with vibrant colours and weird characters. It broke all the rules gloriously.

### TV SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON

#### *Killing Eve*

I would die (no pun intended) to write witty dialogue for the juiciest "will-they-won't-they" TV duo.

#### *Our Flag Means Death*

A light-hearted, historically inaccurate comedy about (mostly queer) pirates? Sign me up.

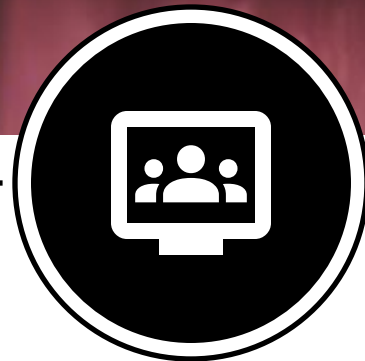


# Nowhere Hotel



## WORKSHOP 1 – BATUMI, GEORGIA – FOCUS ON CONCEPT

The team assembled - project is revealed  
First experiences in leading and being led in a writers room  
Characters, arena, and serial engine explored



## ONLINE SESSION 1

Prior assignment: episodic story ideas worked out in pairs  
Receiving and giving feedback  
Episodes assigned to writers



## WORKSHOP 2 – LEUVEN, BELGIUM – FOCUS ON STORY

The next steps toward becoming effective head and staff writers  
Plotting of episodes – led by the assigned writer  
Intro to production aspects of TV series



## ONLINE SESSION 2

Prior assignment: individual work on episode outline  
Receiving and giving feedback  
Writers prepped for episode writing



## WORKSHOP 3 – BERLIN, GERMANY – FOCUS ON SCRIPT

Discussing scripts in group  
Rewrite individually  
Summarizing skills and tools gained through the process  
Preparation for the final talent showcase

### MENTOR'S STATEMENT

In the TFL SeriesLab Talents programme we worked on the TV series *Nowhere Hotel*, a musical dramedy about two women stuck in a transit hotel and their lives. We created this idea only for educational purposes so that the writers can focus on the training rather than on a selling pitch. During the writers' room simulation sessions, the five talents experienced to work as staff writer as well as head writer with all the challenges that come with it. As staff writer they learned to come up with ideas for the head writer who runs the room, to develop a story they are hired for, to receive feedback on their plotting and writing skills and to work in a team. In the head writer role, they experienced to make decisions, to give feedback and lead a room of different characters while inspiring them and asking the right questions to work towards a common vision of the show. Through this journey the talents learned how to serve ideas and also trained their original writer's voice to develop a TV series.

**Kirsten Ittershagen**  
SeriesLab Talents Mentor

### SYNOPSIS

Recently deserted by her husband, Ada, a tough-as-nails middle-aged hotelier, faces the daunting challenge of keeping her family business, the Nowhere Hotel, afloat amidst intense competition from a nearby chain hotel. The situation takes a dramatic turn when Gisela, a look-alike and diehard fangirl of the recently deceased popstar Candy, becomes stranded at the Nowhere Hotel after selling her family home to finance the move to Candy's opulent wellness retreat. Seeing an opportunity – and a bag of cash – Ada hatches a bold scheme to transform Gisela into the doppelgänger of Candy, establishing the Nowhere Hotel as her permanent stage, and stealing Gisela's money to pay off the hotel's debts. Amid Ada's own marital struggles, an unexpected bond forms between the two women. Now, Ada is confronted with a crucial decision: whether to disclose the truth to Gisela, confront the realities of her failed marriage, and authentically salvage the Nowhere Hotel, or to just let it go.



# STAFF

## THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CINEMA

### President

Enzo Ghigo

### Director

Domenico De Gaetano

### Management Committee

Gabriele Molinari, Elisa Giordano,  
Alessandro Bollo, Paolo Del Brocco

### General Coordinator

Daniele Tinti

### Head of Communication (ad interim)

Domenico De Gaetano

### Head of Press Office

Veronica Geraci

### Head of Administration

Giulia Fiorio Belletti

### Administration Office

Andrea Merlo

### Office Coordinator

Marco Petrilli

## TORINOFILMLAB

### Managing Director

Mercedes Fernandez Alonso

### Head of Operations

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# DO YOU LIKE CINEMA?

You like cinema that much that you are **currently working on something?**

YES NO

Cool. Are you in the mood for a **long-term commitment?**

YES NO

We have three options for you:

**SCRIPTLAB**  
**FEATURELAB**  
**RED SEA LODGE**

PLUS a brand new programme called **COMEDYLAB**

Last but not least.

What's **TFL Italia?**  
Wrapping up the year?  
**TFL Meeting Event**

YES NO

Or not yet? Boost your career with the training opportunities of TFL such as...

**SCRIPTLAB STORY EDITING**  
&  
**SERIESLAB STORY EDITING**

Nice. We look for someone like you for our annual programmes. Is your current project a **feature film?**

YES NO

Are you still **in the middle** of the process?

YES NO

Sure? You might change your mind after having watched the upcoming

**TFL FILMS & SERIES**

We feel you. But we do have exactly what you need:

**TFL NEXT**  
&  
**TFL EXTENDED**

Is it a TV series, right? Check out **SERIESLAB**

Need a hand with the final touches? Hint: \$\$ Check

**TFL FUNDS**

Getting into production with a greener approach?

**GREEN FILM LAB**



**TFL**  
TorinoFilmLab

**TORINOFILMLAB**  
**A NEW WAVE OF INDEPENDENT**  
**CINEMA & TV**

Year-round international labs supporting audiovisual talents from all over the world, through **training, development, production & distribution funding** activities.

# SERIESLAB 2024

## SeriesLab

The long-term **TFL programme, linking scriptwriting process and TV industry**, is seeking scriptwriters, writer-directors, and producers worldwide who are working on **projects in early development stages**. Nine creative teams selected will undergo a 6-month development path culminating in a final session in Turin, at the TFL Meeting Event in November, where the teams will pitch their stories and compete for a grant of €10,000.

## SeriesLab Story Editing

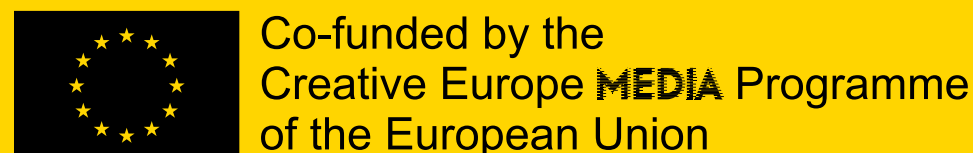
A spin-off *Lab* **targeting audiovisual professionals interested in being trained as story editors**. It provides an insight into the development process of a fiction TV series matching 3 selected participants with the SeriesLab teams to work on 3 projects each under the guidance of a story editing tutor with a wide international experience. Last stop the presentation at the TFL Meeting Event in Turin.

**BOTH CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024**

Get in touch.  
**Tell us your story.**

[www.torinofilmlab.it](http://www.torinofilmlab.it)

SUPPORTED BY



# TFL

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