

only writers in the building

10 promising, well-trained & inspiring
screenwriters worth knowing

MIDPOINT
INSTITUTE

MUSEO
NAZIONALE
DEL CINEMA
TORINO

TFL
TorinoFilmLab

BERLINALE
SERIES
MARKET

ACE
PRODUCERS.

35 YEARS
eave

A unique showcase of ten promising European writers committed to careers in the TV series industry, in the frame of Berlinale Series Market 2023.

Only Writers In The Building is a must-attend event, which features ten talented scriptwriters from different countries and backgrounds with a specific focus on their personal and professional approach to writing.

Five out of ten writers took part in the intensive training programme organised by TFL SeriesLab Talents, where they boosted their experience in drama series writing, working in a professional writers' room, under the guidance of an expert mentor.

While, MIDPOINT Institute has selected five authors from the Writers' Room workshop, an international and diverse writers' room simulation under the supervision of established and successful European/US showrunners and writers.

Moderated by pitch trainer Agathe Berman and renowned screenwriter Tony Grisoni, this event aims at an audience of producers, broadcasters, and financiers from around the world and it is the perfect occasion for writers and industry professionals to meet, build connections and get inspired in a creative matchmaking environment.

Only Writers In The Building is co-hosted by Berlinale Series Market and it is designed by TorinoFilmLab and MIDPOINT Institute, two leading European organisations specialised in audiovisual training and development. The event is realised in collaboration with ACE and EAVE.

MIDPOINT
INSTITUTE



www.midpoint-institute.eu

About MIDPOINT Institute

MIDPOINT Institute is an international audiovisual training and networking platform offering comprehensive professional support in film and series development, individual skills development, and post-production.

Working with a unique network of partners, MIDPOINT activities are directly connected to the European audiovisual market, following and responding to the current trends and needs.

The three overarching ambitions behind MIDPOINT Institute's programs are to support talents who are at the beginning of their international career, to increase the quality of feature films, short films and series production, and to provide training of skills important for adaptation in a rapidly changing industry.

Year-long services are divided into programs (regular or one-off events) dedicated to short and feature narrative films and long or short-form series.

Check out MIDPOINT Institute's program portfolio

Project-based

Feature Launch, Editing Room, Shorts, Series Launch, Smash Cut

Skills-development

Cold Open, Writers' Room, Script Consultancy Training, Development Executive Training

MIDPOINT "Only Writers in the Building" Team

- / Agathe Berman (Pitching Trainer)
- / Barbora Struss (MIDPOINT Institute CEO)
- / Alexandra Gabrizova (Program Coordinator)
- / Petra Hrubosova (Production Coordinator)





www.midpoint-institute.eu

MIDPOINT Writers' Room **The future of European series**

Skills-development program MIDPOINT Writers' Room is a non-project based training open to writers and writing producers who wish to improve their series writing skills and learn how to work in a writers' room.

Launched in 2018, the objective of the program was not only to introduce professional training of plot and television writing skills, and practical information on the structures, tools, and mechanisms of these writing processes, but also to stimulate the local industries to start considering the serialized format as a very diverse storytelling option.

MIDPOINT Writers' Room offers practical simulations, a professional experience comparatively rare to be acquired elsewhere, that replicates the atmosphere of a writers' room, and is complemented by theoretical lectures.

Essential is the engagement of skilled professionals in the roles of tutors, who bring their unique approach to the environment of the writers' room & creative process in general.

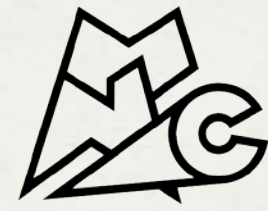
Selection of MIDPOINT Writers' Room Tutors & Collaborators

- / Gabor Krigler (Hungary)
- / Maggie Murphy (USA)
- / Katrin Merkel (Germany)
- / Ben Morris (United Kingdom)
- / Ben Harris (Germany)
- / Giacomo Durzi (Italy)



MUSEO
NAZIONALE
DEL CINEMA
TORINO

TFL
TorinoFilmLab



MUSEO
NAZIONALE
DEL CINEMA
TORINO

TFL
TorinoFilmLab

www.torinofilmlab.it

About TorinoFilmLab

Created in 2008, TorinoFilmLab is an international audiovisual laboratory that supports talented auteurs and film professionals from all over the world, through training, development, funding and networking initiatives. Along the year, TFL offers training opportunities different in terms of duration, goals, stages of development and topics. Joining TFL means to experience a pedagogical approach focused on sharing knowledge and boosting creativity, thanks to highly qualified and internationally renowned tutors.

With its headquarters in Turin, Italy, TFL is organised by the National Museum of Cinema and supported by Creative Europe – MEDIA sub-programme of the European Union, MiC – Ministero della Cultura, Regione Piemonte and Città di Torino.

Check out TFL's annual programmes:

ScriptLab and FeatureLab, the key initiatives dedicated to feature films, reach their conclusive moment at the TFL Meeting Event, co-production

market where projects are presented to selected producers, sales agents and distributors from all over the world working in independent filmmaking.

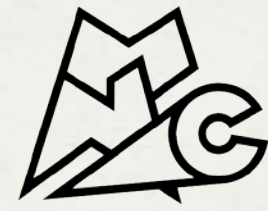
TFL also embraces seriality: SeriesLab, the programme aimed at developing innovative and marketable international TV series projects; and SeriesLab Talents, the writers' room open to 5 international professional screenwriters working on the development of a TV series project and boosting their experience in drama series writing.

The calls for applications of both programmes are open until 31st March (www.torinofilmlab.it).

TFL "Only Writers in the Building" Team

- / Tony Grisoni (Moderator)
- / Angelica Cantisani (Programmes Coordinator)
- / Alice Presbitero (Project Manager)





MUSEO
NAZIONALE
DEL CINEMA
TORINO

TFL
TorinoFilmLab

www.torinofilmlab.it

SeriesLab Talents Programme

In 2022, TFL launched the first edition of SeriesLab Talents, the intensive programme that aims at scouting and training the best emerging talents in drama writing. The ultimate goal is to give them the chance to gain experience in a professional writers' room, and to build connections with other international writers and professionals of the European TV industry.

TV Series project developed:

TITLE: The freezing point

GENRE: Black comedy drama

SYNOPSIS: Sugartown! An explosive mix of gelato and murder is about to upset the order of things in this quaint town... Magda (65) is the matriarch of the second-best gelateria in town. Her life-long rival, Vincenza (60), runs the best gelateria opposite and just happens to be the former lover of Magda's husband, Giovanni, who disappeared years ago.

Magda may be on her deathbed, but she still manages to be a pain in the ass to her daughter

Andrea (39). Andrea, who is in a passionless long-term relationship with accountant Marcus (38), manages to run the failing gelateria while caring for her mother at the same time. Having lived a life of quiet desperation, she has had enough. One day when Magda slips into the bath, Andrea lets her drown...

Magda's children come together for the funeral and, more importantly, the will: Andrea, with her secret guilt; Nino (23), a policeman who wants to start a family of his own with his older boyfriend, Oskar (50) and... Leo (38) a hedonist living it up in Berlin, in debt and in denial, stumbling in late, drunk and high, with Mia (31) –his DJ girlfriend– in a very short dress.

And then, Magda leaves everything to... Leo! This means war!

Tutors & Collaborators:

/ Tony Grisoni (Head of Studies)

/ Rory Gleeson (Story Editor)



**BERLINALE
SERIES
MARKET**



www.efm-berlinale.de

About Berlinale Series Market

The Berlinale Series Market is EFM's exclusive platform for all aspects of serialized content. An opportunity for creators, industry professionals and decision-makers to showcase their work, network, and do business in a dynamic and inclusive environment.

With a focus on international collaboration and bridging the gap between film and series, Berlinale Series Market is an exciting showcase of the latest trends and developments in the industry. From cutting-edge ideas and emerging trends, to thought-provoking discussions with industry leaders, attendees will get a first look at the most buzz-worthy new titles and explore the latest advancements in serialized content.

Come for the content, stay for the connections. We look forward to welcoming you in Berlin, from the 20th – 22nd of February. For more info, please check out our website.



About ACE Producers

ACE Producers is Europe's premier network of successful producers from Europe and beyond. ACE Producers enables profound collaborations through honest dialogue in the safe trusted space of the ACE Network and fosters valuable exchange of high-level knowledge about the independent audio-visual industry.

The ACE Network consists of more than 250 active producers from more than 45 countries who regularly unite to update their knowledge, share information and initiate collaboration in a safe space.

www.ace-producers.com



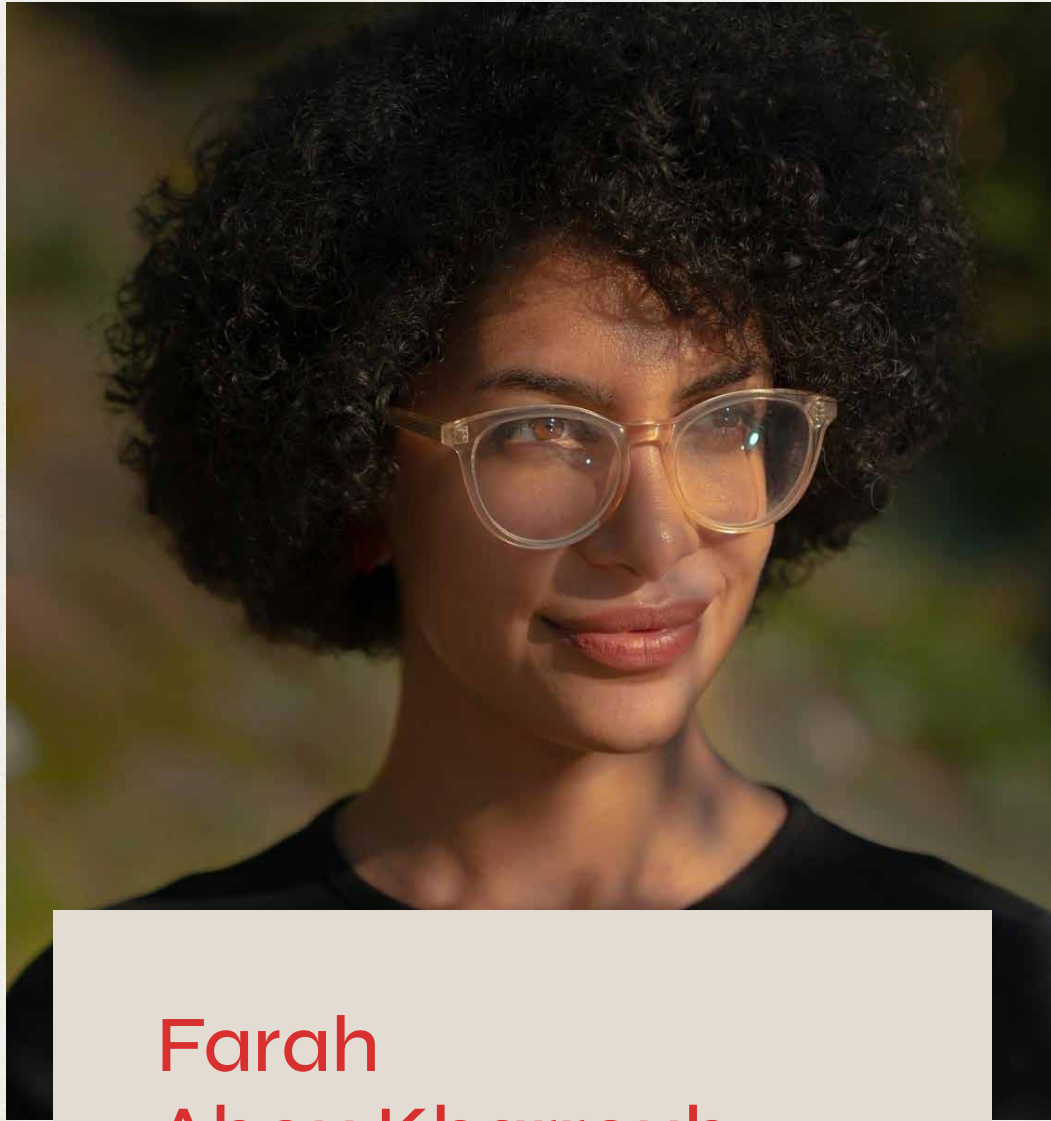
About EAVE

EAVE, European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs, is one of the leading training and development providers for producers in Europe, renowned for its EAVE Producers Workshop.

EAVE is aimed at producers (fiction, documentary and TV series), who are already working in the film and television industries who wish to expand their operation internationally by increasing their knowledge of producing and co-producing in Europe and by building up a pan European professional network.

www.eave.org

profiles



Farah Abou Kharroub

farahakphotography@gmail.com

  Czech Rep., Lebanon

BIRTH YEAR 1993

WRITES IN **English, Arabic**

PREFERRED GENRES **drama, thriller, musical**

MY MISSION AS A WRITER

I remember when I was in the 5th grade, my English teacher complained to my mother about my long essays and the fact that I don't stick to the page limit. My mother tried to explain to me that sometimes we have to stick to limits, but she got me so many papers and pens so that I could write freely at home without restrictions. I ended up writing and drawing on the walls of our apartment (with the encouragement of my father), and eventually my mother punished me until I understood what all these limits mean. I've been reading and writing since I was a kid, and I've written several short stories with my sister because we didn't know how to play with our Barbies.

Growing up, I found myself observing my surroundings and the behavior of the people around me. As a Palestinian who was born and raised in Beirut, I've been hearing so many interesting yet heartbreaking stories about the hardships that my people go through on a daily basis. Not only is writing therapeutic for me, but I also feel a great responsibility to tell to the world the stories of the people who are voiceless. I'm so grateful for having had the opportunity to become a professional writer as this profession changed me a lot. I became more sensitive and capable of understanding people without any judgment. This made me more aware of the fact that we all have our backstories, struggles, pain, happiness and dilemmas. Everything inspires me, the great and the small. I find beauty in our happiness as well as in our sadness. The gloomy days inspire me as much as the sunny days do. I wish I could tell you more but I unfortunately have to stick to the 1700 character limit.

TRAINING

- MIDPOINT Shorts (Czech Republic)
- Film prize of Robert Bosch (Germany/ Jordan)
- Sundance Rawi (Jordan)
- Sunbird Stories (USA/Palestine)

PROJECTS I'VE WORKED (AM WORKING) ON

Flight 422

KSA/UK, 2023, SERIES

Kuwait Airways Flight 422 was a Boeing 747 jumbo jet hijacked en route from Bangkok, Thailand, to Kuwait on 5 April 1988, leading to a hostage crisis that lasted 16 days and encompassed three continents.

CONTRIBUTION: Screenwriter

Sukkar

EGYPT/KSA, 2023, SERIES

It is based on the 1912 novel by Jean Webster and it is called "Daddy Long Legs". The musical tells the story of orphan Sukkar and her mysterious benefactor who agrees to send her to college, who she dubs „Daddy Long Legs“ after seeing his elongated shadow.

CONTRIBUTION: Screenwriter

MY FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



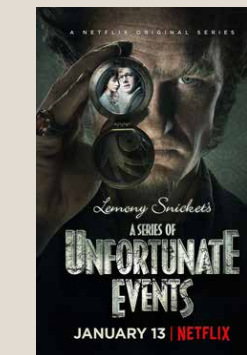
I love to write by the sea while looking at the beautiful sunsets. I'm inspired whenever I observe how the waves dance their way to the shore and how the birds fly freely in the sky.

MY FIRST MEMORY OF A SERIES



Desperate Housewives
by Marc Cherry.

SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON



A Series of Unfortunate Events
based on the book series
by Lemony Snicket.



Succession by Jesse
Armstrong.

MOTTO

لن تستطيعي أن تجدي الشمس
في غرفة مغلقة. - نسان كنفاني

you can't find the sun
in a locked room.

- Ghassan Kanafani



Jared Fryer

jaredfryer@gmail.com

Germany, United Kingdom

BIRTH YEAR 1986

WRITES IN **English, German**

PREFERRED GENRES **comedy drama, comedy, drama**

MOTTO

Life is much too important a thing to ever talk seriously about it.
- Oscar Wilde

MY MISSION AS A WRITER

It's hard to talk about my mission as a writer without feeling pretentious, but then again in my early twenties I actually owned a tobacco pipe, so I guess it's too late for that. The truth is though, I don't have a mission, at least not in the sense of some kind of noble purpose. Rather, I think creative pursuits are worthwhile per se. This is more apparent with other artistic fields - no one needs to know what a harmonica player or a basket weaver's mission is - but I guess if your job involves words, people think you might have something interesting to say about why you do what you do.

Not that I don't care about what I write. I very much do! Otherwise, I wouldn't repeatedly subject myself to the agony of staring at a blank page. But my goal in writing is nothing more or less than to create stories that people will find enjoyable and meaningful. Not meaningful in any deep, spiritual way - I mean literally stories that have some coherent meaning to viewers, that will momentarily put life into focus, that will transform the fear and confusion and mundane sadness of daily life into something that makes sense.

While I love drama, much of my work has a strong element of comedy, a form of entertainment that many see as a distraction from reality. I strongly disagree. If done well, entertainment - and especially comedy - is a distillation of reality. Because the truth about existence is that it's absurd, and the delusion that it's not so is quite a burden to bear. If I can tell stories that dispel this delusion, and in doing so lighten people's burden, then I consider that a big success.

So this is why I write. And also, I'm not good at playing the harmonica or weaving baskets.

TRAINING

- Serie Mania Writers Campus (France)
- MIDPOINT Writers' Room (Czech Republic)
- UCLA - Bachelor of Arts (USA)

PROJECTS I'VE WORKED (AM WORKING) ON

Untitled

GERMANY, DARK COMEDY-DRAMA SERIES FOR DISNEY+ DEUTSCHLAND

CONTRIBUTION: Writers' Room

Tamim

GERMANY, 2023, SERIES

A romantic comedy about a Syrian engineer that falls head over heels in love with a free-spirited German feminist who finally wants to have a „refugee“ as a boyfriend.

CONTRIBUTION: Screenplay, Episode 3

Take Two Mushrooms & Call Me in the Morning

GERMANY, IN DEVELOPMENT, SERIES

A comedy drama about an ageing electrician who becomes a psychedelic healer following a spiritual revelation from inadvertently eating magic mushrooms.

CONTRIBUTION: Screenplay & Creator

MY FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



My beloved adopted home of Berlin, a city that's just ugly enough to be interesting.

MY FIRST MEMORY OF A SERIES



Belly laughing at Seinfeld with my mom. I assumed it was an accurate depiction of single life in the city, realising only later it was about four high-functioning sociopaths.

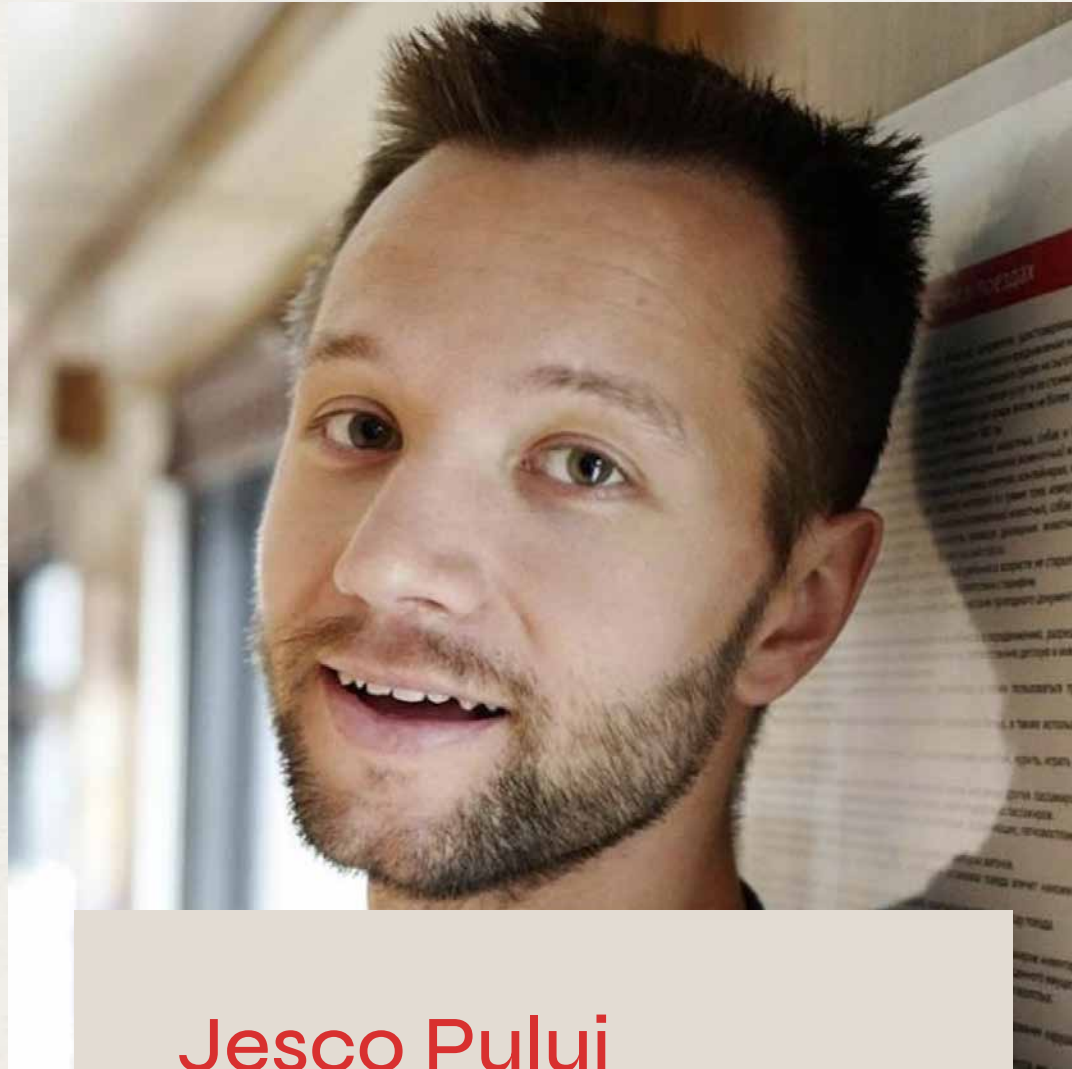
SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON



Hacks. A wonderful portrayal of the stand-up comedy world. It manages the balancing act of dealing head-on with current contentious issues without being flippant or preachy.



Transparent. One of the best shows of all time. Brutally real, unabashedly funny. To go back in time and write for such complex and singular characters would be a dream.



Jesco Puluj

mail@jescopuluj.com

 Germany

BIRTH YEAR 1986

WRITES IN **English, German**

PREFERRED GENRES **comedy, fantasy, satire**

MY MISSION AS A WRITER

My writing career started with an accident. When I was 10 years old, I noticed one day that there was a blank notebook in my school bag. I didn't know how it got there but I thought I might as well make use of it and so I started writing. After a few weeks, my first story was born. It featured a wizard who uses a flying vacuum cleaner as a means of transportation and falls in love with a dyslexic witch.

As you might guess, my writing interests have changed since then---but not entirely. In the past years, I have been heavily interested in the themes of dating, romance and relationships. So currently my mission as a writer is to create stories around these topics, allowing people to view them from different perspectives.

I do this by asking provocative questions within fantastic settings as a starting point:

What if the government regulated which couples are allowed to have children?

What if you are haunted by the ghosts of your ex-partners?

What if you are only allowed to date three people in your entire life?

It's questions like these that make me excited about writing. They are doorways to fantastic worlds and ultimately I aim to lead the reader to new insights about their own lives through my writing.

I also like to write in a variety of genres: comedy, satire and fantasy, preferably all mixed together and in all kinds of formats: feature films, tv series, poems and currently I am writing my first novel---of course, it is a love story.

TRAINING

- University of Arts Berlin B.A Media Studies (Germany)
- Raindance Film School MA Filmmaking (UK)
- HFF München International Series Workshop (Germany)
- MIDPOINT Writers' Room (Czech Republic)

PROJECTS I'VE WORKED (AM WORKING) ON

The Ministry of Romance

GERMANY, 2023, IN DEVELOPMENT, SERIES

A woman wants to have a child but the government forces her to prove if she is ready to be a mother---otherwise, she is not allowed to get pregnant.

CONTRIBUTION: Series Creator

How to be a Carioca

BRAZIL, 2021

This Disney+ miniseries takes place in Rio and portrays the difficulties foreigners face in getting accustomed to the Brazilian way of living.

CONTRIBUTION: Consulting Scriptwriter

The Odd Monk

SHOT IN 8 COUNTRIES, 2017, DOCUMENTARY

This travel documentary portrays a variety of Buddhist monks all over the world. I shot it as a one-man crew for one year.

CONTRIBUTION: Producer/Writer/Director/
Cinematographer

MY FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



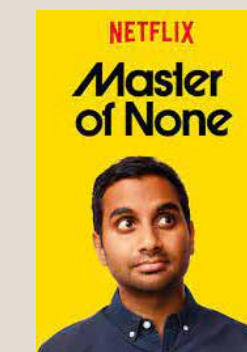
I love travelling so my favourite writing place is wherever I find a comfortable chair...

MY FIRST MEMORY OF A SERIES



My dad showed me Mr. Bean when I was a kid and I found it hilarious. It wasn't allowed to watch anything else anyway. I guess that's a good thing...

SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON



I love Master of None because of its authentic approach to dating. There are so many scenes where I thought: this could have been me!



Da Ali G Show! I love it when reality and fiction are blended together to create comedy and nobody does it better than Sasha Baron Cohen.


MOTTO

Don't just
do something
sit there



Jonny Farrelly

jonathanfarrelly@gmail.com

 Ireland

BIRTH YEAR 1983

WRITES IN **English**

PREFERRED GENRES **dramedy, thriller, sci-fi**

MOTTO

YOU CAN WRITE,
YOU CAN CHANGE
YOUR LIFE

MY MISSION AS A WRITER

I'm an existential guy and I often see the world in terms of black and white, but with infinite variables in between. And that's the way I like to tell stories. I like to explore inter-generational bias and struggles. I believe each generation fails to understand each other and their ideas tend to float to polar opposites as a result of not listening, being defensive and ego clashes. So it results in people having black and white views, but not being curious enough to examine the infinite complexities and variables in between. I think the real problem in life is that no one listens, (really listens!) to each other. We miscommunicate and fight and lose sight of each other. I want to explore these issues, but in the most entertaining way I can!

I see the potential for drama, fun, entertainment, thought, philosophy, fighting, friendship – in everything! And I want to write about it all and through the lens of... the absurdity of life!

TRAINING

- MIDPOINT Writers' Room (Czech Republic)
- TorinoFilmLab Extended (Spain)
- JETS (Germany)
- European TV Drama Lab (Germany)

PROJECTS I'VE WORKED (AM WORKING) ON

Coercive

IRELAND, 2023, RTE DEVELOPMENT, SERIES

After high-powered businesswoman Claire receives 'death threat' Tweets at a public forum, security analyst Martyn vows to help her find out who's behind these threats...

CONTRIBUTION: Writer

The Adventures of Karla Marx

IRELAND, 2023, CHANNEL DEVELOPMENT, SERIES

A monk puts a curse on Kells' dying people to Zombify and hunt the local school's spoilt students. Student outcast and Hospice volunteer, Karla Marx, must save these students, even though she loves the 'dying' and 'hates' the students...

CONTRIBUTION: Writer

The T-Shirts

GERMANY, IN DEVELOPMENT, SERIES

A man walks into Dublin Airport with an 'I Have A Bomb' t-shirt and an ultimatum. Detectives Kate Markey and James Taylor have 6 hours to figure it out...

CONTRIBUTION: Writer

MY FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



Writing is like playing chess with yourself... You versus Procrastination... You need to be prepared for that chess match every single day. EVERY SINGLE DAY.

MY FIRST MEMORY OF A SERIES



X-Men, The Cartoon... this was PROPER drama. There was character arcs, deaths, fights, friendships lost, obstacles, personal grievances.... it had it ALL!

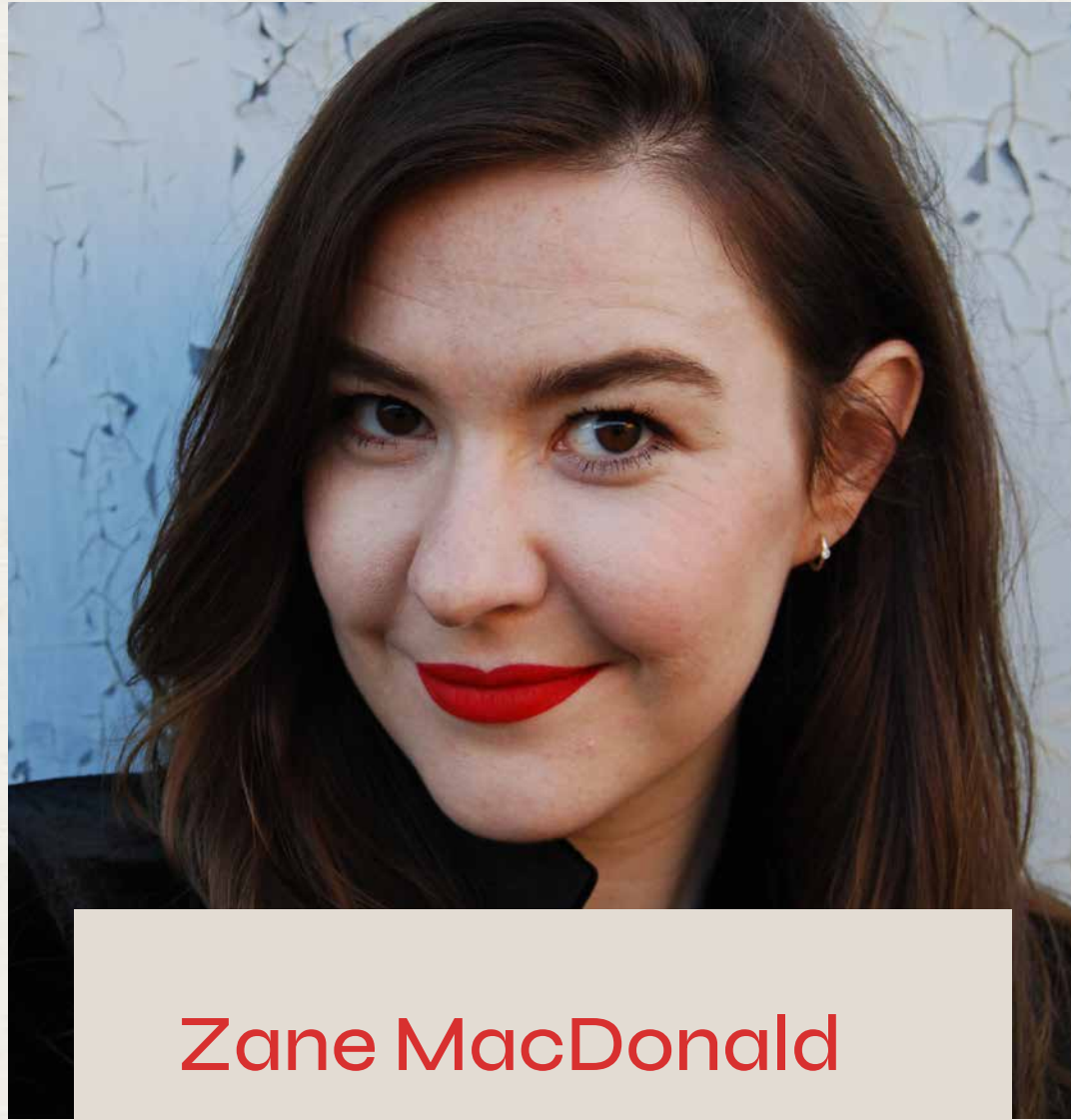
SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON



Succession. Who wouldn't want to tap into their worst selves and write characters that have everything, but yet have nothing? Now... 'FUCK OFF'!




The Sopranos. As per above... BUT also the added bit of magic that you can KILL OFF any of your main characters at any time (except Tony!)... without it seeming contrived...



Zane MacDonald

zaneamacd@gmail.com

 Latvia

BIRTH YEAR 1988

WRITES IN **English, Latvian**

PREFERRED GENRES **comedy, drama, mystery**

MOTTO

There's
always
a solution

MY MISSION AS A WRITER

The first story I ever wrote was Pippi Longstocking fanfiction at the age of five. I was perfectly convinced that one day it is going to become a bestseller and Astrid Lindgren herself will shake my hand and thank me for writing it. I have become slightly more realistic ever since, but my passion for serialised writing has not faded.

The first time I realised I want to become a filmmaker was when a friend gifted me a bag of chocolate popcorn and a pirated DVD of Dziga Vertov's "Man with a Movie Camera". Not your typical gift for a teenager. But the film blew me away like nothing I had seen before and I felt a strong calling to pursue film studies.

Another plot twist came, when I started working in production. It was absolutely intoxicating to be a young professional, travel the world, work on world class films and commercials and meet amazing people from all over the world. For nearly ten years my own writing took a backseat. I would love to blame it on being busy, but deep down I knew I needed time to mature, gain confidence and grow the courage to eventually go out there and be vulnerable again.

I have come full circle and I am at a point of merging three characters into one. There is the childish dreamer, the bright-eyed idealist and the rational and level-headed professional. Strangely enough, they finally agree on something. They all clearly see themselves in a writers' room sharing ideas, breaking down episodes, developing character arcs and channeling their observations and experiences into stories.

TRAINING

- Baltic Film and Media School, Tallinn University - BA Media/Film (Estonia)
- Screen Academy Scotland, Edinburgh Napier University - MA Screenwriting (UK)
- MIDPOINT Writers' Room (Czech Republic)
- MIDPOINT Smash Cut (Czech Republic)

PROJECTS I'VE WORKED (AM WORKING) ON

Budget Airline

LATVIA/CANADA, 2023/2024, SERIES

Richard Pinus, a naive yet ambitious dreamer with no aviation or business training, buys a bankrupt airline in one last bid to put his life on the fast-track.

CONTRIBUTION: Writer/Co-Creator

Hidden Beings

COUNTRIES TBC, 2023/2024, SERIES

A mysterious accident in the Finnish Lapland brings together a shifty Canadian insurance agent and a strange Finnish tour guide, revealing a parallel existence of hidden beings.

CONTRIBUTION: Writer/Co-Creator

MY FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



I sometimes sit in this park, write my question in a notebook and a scene plays in front of my eyes providing an answer. Call it magic.

MY FIRST MEMORY OF A SERIES



I hope to create something one day that influences people as much as The X-Files influenced little Zane.

SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON



Ozark. I enjoy shows with characters leading double lives. This allows for dark and layered scenes, which can be fun to write.



The Great. A historically inaccurate satirical black comedy with great character arcs and witty dialogue? Sign me up.



Alice von Gwinner

brieftaube@alicevongwinner.de

 Germany

BIRTH YEAR 1987

WRITES IN **English, German**

PREFERRED GENRES **magic realism, dark comedy, stories for children**

MOTTO

"When I get home I shall write a book about this place..."
Quote from 'Alice in Wonderland'

MY MISSION AS A WRITER

After growing up with countless versions of "Alice in Wonderland", it was time to create my own stories. During my studies I started as a screenwriter and director of short films, which were selected for festivals worldwide and won awards. Since 2013, I work as a freelance filmmaker and media designer, numerous workshops to further my education and network followed. My last short film (2020, produced by GFF) was supported by several grants.

In 2019 I had my first writers' room experience in a drama series workshop at the Uni. of Film and TV Munich. Besides masterclasses, four participants' ideas were selected to be developed into pitch bibles. My idea was one of them, so I experienced how great the dynamics can be when you develop a concept together with other writers.

Since then, I have been involved in several projects as a writer, which are very much characterised by teamwork. In addition to developing the story, this often involved reinventing or recombining formats: e.g. Mitmalfilm, an animation series that we successfully publish as colouring books combined with an app. For Heartucate, I developed a script set in the Arctic for a collaborative AR experience. In a team I also developed a TV animation series with shoes as main characters and a drama web series about digitalisation in the countryside, etc.

My heart beats for teamwork on the one hand and for live action, animation films and drama series on the other. After my year in the TSL-Talents Programme at the latest I know a writer's room is just the right mix of collaboration and personal initiative.

My dream would be to develop a story concept about climate activists set in a world ruled by magical realism.

TRAINING

- Media Design B.F.A. at the Bauhaus University Weimar (Germany)
- TP2 Talentpool, Training for writers, directors and producers (Germany)
- "International Series Workshop" at University of Television and Film Munich (Germany)
- TorinoFilmLab – SeriesLab Talents (Italy)

PROJECTS I'VE WORKED (AM WORKING) ON

Water Clover

GERMANY, IN DEV., DRAMA SERIES CONCEPT

After surprisingly popping up in a better version of her miserable life, EVA fights with her doppelganger to take advantage of her second chance.

CONTRIBUTION: Head Writer

Stories from the Shoe Rack

GERMANY, 2022, SERIES

If shoes could talk, of course they would babble about their adventures on our feet! – Animation series developed and produced for the "Sandman slot" in German TV.

CONTRIBUTION: Co-writer and Co-director

Master Painter

GERMANY, 2020, SERIES

Artistically gifted animals take on creative challenges – Animated short film series which gets published in the format of an innovative colouring book with app "Mitmalfilm".

CONTRIBUTION: Co-inventor of "Mitmalfilm" format, Writer of series and book

MY FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



The view from my office window in Leipzig. The sun sets daily behind a former GDR aircraft and so in its old age the plane now wings my thoughts.

MY FIRST MEMORY OF A SERIES



The first series I loved through and through was "How I Met Your Mother" by Bays & Thomas. A blast on a humorous level, always surprising and emotionally to the point.

SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON



"Russian Doll" by Natasha Lyonne. This series has such a special and unique way of finding suitable images for psychological and philosophical phenomena. So admirable!



In "Fleabag" by Waller-Bridge, the protagonist lets us look into her innermost being like no other, and speaks the truth relentlessly. So we are always on the tipping point between amazement, laughter and tears.



Carla Grauls

carla.grauls@gmail.com

 Belgium, South Africa

BIRTH YEAR 1979

WRITES IN **English**

PREFERRED GENRES **comedy, drama, sci-fi**

MOTTO

Just do it!

MY MISSION AS A WRITER

A good story well-told. I would describe this as my mission. As well as developing screen ideas, I have written for theatre, audio, short fiction and creative non-fiction.

I come from a theatre background. I studied English Literature and Drama at university. After my studies, I worked as an actor for a few years as well as behind the scenes as a casting assistant and an actor's agent. This experience pushed me to want to explore creating my own work.

I started my writing career when I moved to London and I started writing plays. I got started in small pub theatres and eventually that led to writing an audio play for Audible.

Writing for theatre is a really immediate way to know whether stories work. By sitting in rehearsals with actors and in previews with an audience, I gained an instinct and an insight into when something is engaging and when something needs to change.

My experience in playwriting allowed me to develop and deepen my scriptwriting and dramaturgy skills. I also worked as a script reader for play submissions for a new writing theatre and this further informed my writing practice.

I started to refine my screenwriting skills when I was selected for the Puglia Fellowship and the Euroscript Screen Story Competition. These experiences helped me to define my vision and the worlds I wished to explore.

I am a dual national: Belgian/ South African and currently living in London. I think moving around a lot has enriched my writing and perspective on the world. My work has been described as bold, fresh and original. I love dark comedy, sci fi, twisted tales and unexpected takes on genre.

TRAINING

- TorinoFilmLab – SeriesLab Talents (Italy)
- PugliaExperience Screenwriting Fellowship (Italy)
- BA in Drama and English Literature with a Performance Diploma (South Africa)

PROJECTS I'VE WORKED (AM WORKING) ON

The Valley

ROMANTIC COMEDY DRAMA

When a hotshot engineer first meets a bolshy eco-warrior working in a robotics facility, they are instantly at odds but soon they start questioning their whole way of life.

CONTRIBUTION: Sole Author

Faith

COMEDY DRAMA

When a man receives a life changing diagnosis, his estranged ex-con mother gathers the family together to do everything they can to keep him alive.

CONTRIBUTION: Sole Author

Life Ever After

US, 2019, AUDIO PLAY, ROMANTIC DRAMA

When Maria and Jake meet at "New Life" to "upgrade" themselves, they start to realise what it means to be more than human and face their own immortality.

CONTRIBUTION: Sole Author

MY FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



My favourite writing place is ANYWHERE. Often, I need to write where and when I can so all I need are my headphones.

MY FIRST MEMORY OF A SERIES

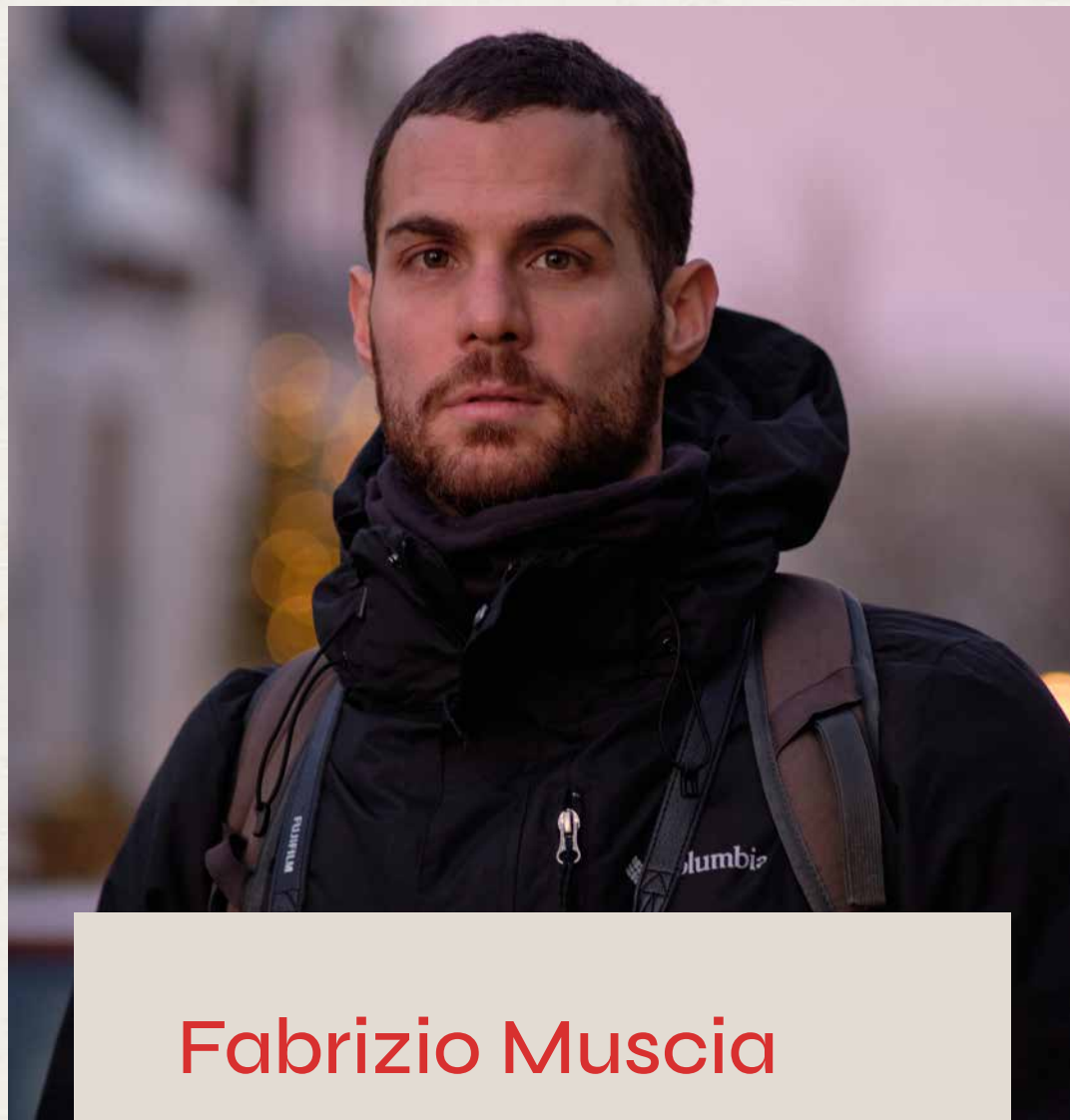


She-Ra. This is the first series I remember watching. It was an animated series about a princess with powers and a sword...and a fabulous outfit!

SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON



The White Lotus. Operatic, funny and unexpected. This series is so intricately woven - I love the intertwining narratives, the love/sex triangles and the power plays. The characters feel so true and are always utterly compelling. The White Lotus is also visually beautiful which is underscored by its dark comedy.



Fabrizio Muscia

info@fabriziomuscia.com

 Italy

BIRTH YEAR 1992

WRITES IN **English, Italian**

PREFERRED GENRES **drama, dramedy**

MOTTO

A pen is a wand,
weaving tales of magic
and wonder

MY MISSION AS A WRITER

My life took an unexpected trajectory when I was 16 and went on a high-school exchange year in the US. It was a watershed moment and I'm not sure what my life would have looked like today had I not plucked up my courage and gone for it. Instead of ending up in cities like Los Angeles or New York – that's where I thought I was heading to and how I pictured the United States – I was sent to Knoxville, Tennessee.

Throughout that pivotal year, my perspective on life changed drastically. It wasn't only because I had my first encounter with racism and I had to adopt a lifestyle nothing like mine, but because it was 2008, the year of "Yes, we can." A moment of revolutionary energy and hope. From a spoiled and naïve kid, I turned into a young man determined to bring a positive change in the world. At first, I thought I was going to do that by becoming a politician. Fortunately, after a short stint as a news reporter, I soon realized that my true calling was to be a filmmaker – the purest way for me to express myself, my own ideas and hopes about life and society.

So, I went on to study at the American Film Institute (AFI) to hone my storytelling skills. And since then, I have strived to use my cross-cultural perspective and sensibilities to tell socially relevant stories that explore marginalized and underdog characters dealing with their personal identity.

When I take my filmmaker hat off, I'm a volunteer screenwriting teacher to high-school students, a self-taught magician and pianist.

TRAINING

- TorinoFilmLab – SeriesLab Talents (Italy)
- MIDPOINT Writers' Room (Czech Republic)
- Series Mania – UGC Writers Campus (France)

PROJECTS I'VE WORKED (AM WORKING) ON

Saving Lisa

ITALY, IN DEVELOPMENT, SERIES

Under the guidance of his late grandfather, a schizophrenic painter and his ragtag gang of friends set off to "free" the Mona Lisa from the Louvre.

CONTRIBUTION: Creator / EP

And Then Darkness

ITALY, IN DEVELOPMENT, SERIES

A ten-year-old runs against his impending blindness to make his dream of becoming an astronaut come true.

CONTRIBUTION: Creator / EP

Stunner

US, 2023 (POST-PRODUCTION), SHORT

A young production assistant becomes the latest prey of a movie director.

CONTRIBUTION: Producer

MY FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



My living room with my loyal furry companion. With him by my side, I don't have to worry about anyone interrupting my creative flow – unless they want to risk getting licked to death!

MY FIRST MEMORY OF A SERIES



The O.C. was my first love affair with TV. I'm ready to admit that I sang its iconic intro "Californiaaa, here we come!" the first time I flew to Los Angeles.

SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON



Succession. I just LOVE that show and the way it makes me question my own moral compass. It also makes me grateful for my family, no matter how dysfunctional we may be.



Anything related to the Wizarding World franchise. It would be the perfect way to finally fulfill my lifelong dream of becoming a wizard.



Nach Solís

laindustriadelcinefilms@gmail.com

 Spain

BIRTH YEAR 1989

WRITES IN **Spanish, English and French**

PREFERRED GENRES **melodrama, thriller, young-adult**

MOTTO

Life is the ultimate work of art.

MY MISSION AS A WRITER

I first dreamt of telling stories when I was eight, watching the Oscar-nominated film “The Grandfather” by J.L. Garci. The film’s climax moved me so much that I said, “I want to make movies”.

However, life took me to the School of Medicine, and I became an Oncologist Doctor. But, my desire to tell stories was so strong that I applied for a scholarship so I could study for a Degree in Screenwriting at the Film Institute of Madrid. Then, I studied the Master in Fiction Series Screenwriting at the prestigious school of cinema ECAM.

After several years of working as a doctor and scriptwriter, I made my best life decision: quit my job as a doctor and follow my true passion. The result: my projects have been selected in more than 30 screenwriting calls, some of them supported by the Ibermedia Programme or Creative Europe Media. I was also a finalist in the Canneseries Talent Unlimited residency.

I have written “Historias de protegidos”, a series for the Atresplayer Premium platform, and developed another for the Latin American market. In addition, I am writing the film “The kings of Cleves”, which I developed at the Screenwriting Residency Cinehorizontes in Marseille. The screenwriter Marcia Romano supervises the project (“L'événement” - Golden Lion in Venice).

Being a screenwriter is one of the most beautiful jobs in the world because we can change people’s lives, as happened to me when I was eight years old. That’s why, as creators, we have a great responsibility. It is essential to talk about underrepresented situations, people and collective. This is a way of showing the audience a new point of view, although always searching for entertainment, emotion and reflection.

TRAINING

- Master in Fiction Series Screenwriting at ECAM - Film and Audiovisual School of Madrid (Spain)
- Degree in Film and TV Screenwriting at the Film Institute of Madrid (Spain)
- Résidence d’écriture scénaristique Cinehorizontes (France)
- TorinoFilmLab – SeriesLab Talents (Italy)

PROJECTS I’VE WORKED (AM WORKING) ON

Stories of Protected

SPAIN, 2022, SERIES, DRAMA

Spin-off starring the mythical characters from “Los protegidos”. Five episodes will link the first and second seasons of “Los Protegidos: El regreso”.

CONTRIBUTION: Screenwriter of 4 Episodes

Must Love Fishing

SPAIN, IN DEV., FEATURE FILM, MELODRAMA

When Manuel (70) has his driving licence withdrawn, he cannot get to his fishing club every day. So, Manuel puts an advert in the press offering free fishing lessons in exchange for a lift. However, the only person who answers is Carmen (25), who claims to be Elena, Manuel’s former love, who disappeared 50 years ago.

CONTRIBUTION: Screenwriter

Calamity Blond!

SPAIN, IN DEVELOPMENT, SERIES, COMEDY

Rubio, an oncology resident doctor, makes a mistake and chooses a place in an Oncology Programme in the last place he ever wanted to end up: Albacete, the land of Don Quixote.

CONTRIBUTION: Creator and screenwriter

MY FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



I love writing in my former film school (ECAM), which has huge co-working rooms. It helps me to focus and develop team projects. It’s pretty special for me because I spent many months developing my “Rigor mortis” series there.

MY FIRST MEMORY OF A SERIES



“Ana y los 7”. One of the most essential Spanish Tv series. A nightclub showgirl becomes the nanny of a wealthy widower and father of seven kids. An explosive mix of comedy, melodrama, musical and intrigue, and intrigue.

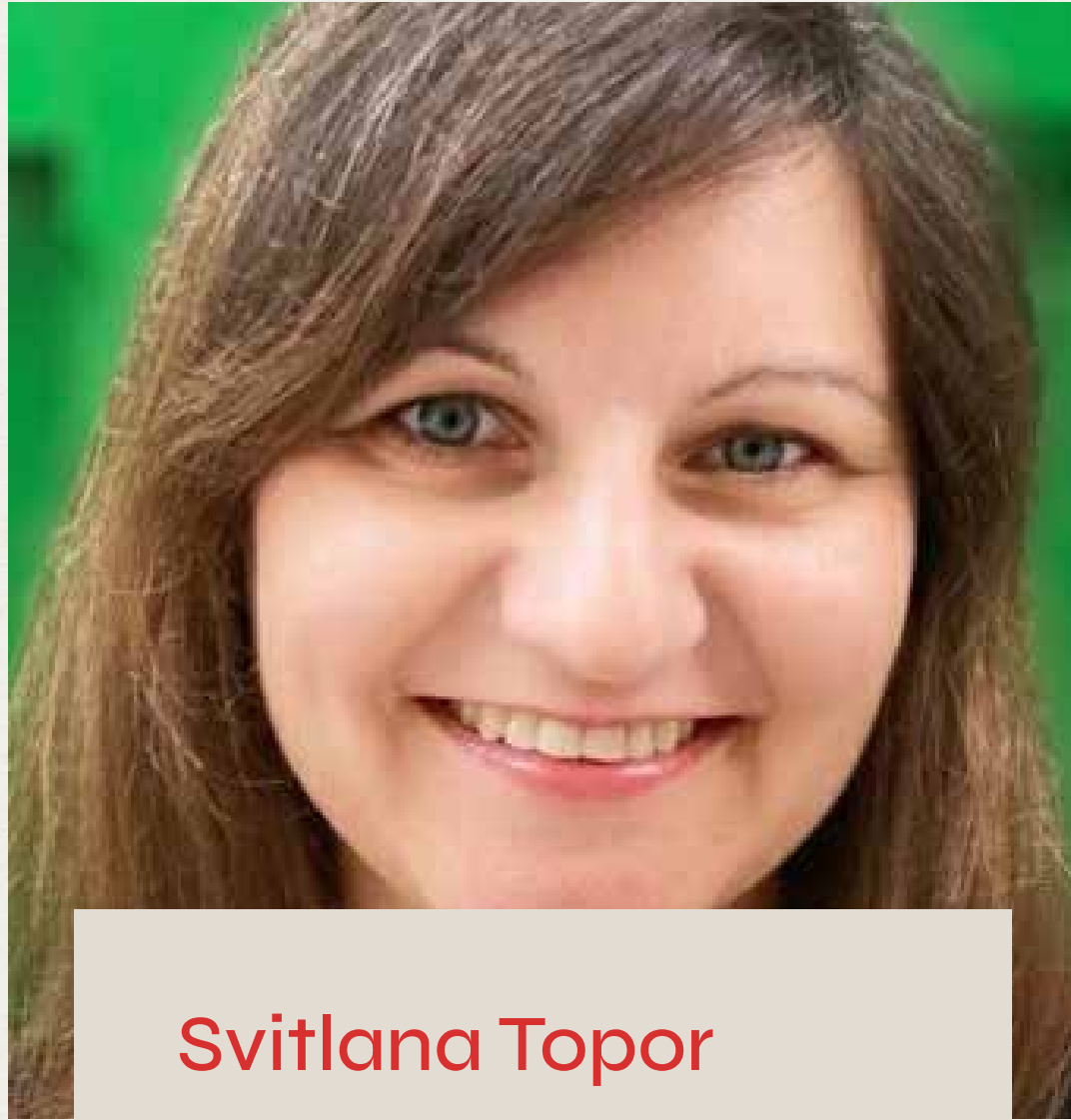
SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON



“The O.C.” 20 years ago, this teen melodrama pioneered current issues such as mental health, sexual identity, and drug abuse. It also gave us some of the most iconic images in television history.



“La Ruta” (The Route). The best Spanish series of the last ten years. The story is not a route; it’s an emotional journey that breaks your heart into a thousand pieces. I would die to work in this writer’s room!



Svitlana Topor

topor.s@gmail.com

 Poland

BIRTH YEAR 1984

WRITES IN **English, Polish**

PREFERRED GENRES **drama, comedy, alternative realities**

MOTTO

I love challenging reality using irony and a touch of magic

MY MISSION AS A WRITER

We, writers, sometimes feel like gods (or goddesses) – we bring chaos to the worlds we create, we challenge our characters (who we truly love) and we make them suffer. With a few keyboard strokes, we kill people, destroy entire cities, and bring aliens to Earth. While all that sounds very tempting, it wasn't my only motivation to become a screenwriter.

Among other benefits, there is a possibility to transform your negative experience into stories and annoying people into characters. Childhood traumas? A devastating breakup? An irritating aunt teaching you how to live your life? Even though we still suffer from the above, our stories thrive on that!

With all this in mind, who wouldn't want to be a writer?

Before becoming a screenwriter, I used to work as a film editor. My storytelling tools were cuts, pace and juxtaposition. My job was to oversee the story composition and often enough to "kill the darlings". I took this experience to writing and draw a lot from it. What a bit scared me in writing (even if I'm in my favourite writing place) is loneliness. While at Torino Film Lab, I discovered the joy of working in a group of writers and creating stories together – nothing can replace this amazing energy.

As a writer, I like to tell stories rooted in reality but told with irony and a certain distance. I want to create stories which help people to understand themselves better and let them laugh at their own weaknesses. I love to add some magic to the stories, just to remind that this world is not as predictable as it seems.

So, what is my mission as a writer? A mission sounds so grand and important. Yet, I won't answer, "Save the world". But... I would love to shake it a bit.

TRAINING

- TorinoFilmLab – SeriesLab Talents (Italy)
- MFI Script2Film Workshops (Greece)
- Wajda School (Poland)
- Kyiv National University of Theatre, Cinema and TV (Ukraine)

PROJECTS I'VE WORKED (AM WORKING) ON

No Smoking at the Border

IN DEVELOPMENT (SUPPORTED BY POLISH FILM INSTITUTE), FEATURE FILM

For Olga, a young cigarette smuggler, the destiny seems to be predefined. But the train journey through the Polish-Ukrainian border full of surreal experiences and absurdity, will help her to find her real self and break the course of destiny.

CONTRIBUTION: Writer

The Witch

IN DEVELOPMENT, FEATURE FILM

Idyllic small village. A world of beautiful hills, but also of whispers and gossips. Klara (18), a newcomer, has to face very awkward and absurd allegation. She is accused of being... a witch.

CONTRIBUTION: Writer

Soul Cage

POLAND, 2021, SHORT DOCUMENTARY

Soul Cage is a "cinematographic sonata", which explores the process of creation. The specially composed music builds the dramaturgy of the film on equal rights with the image.

CONTRIBUTION: Writer/Director

MY FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



Mediterranean sea, sounds of waves, boundless space and a lot of sun – those are ingredients for a perfect writing place.

MY FIRST MEMORY OF A SERIES



Moonlighting – I was very much engaged in this show as a kid.

SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON

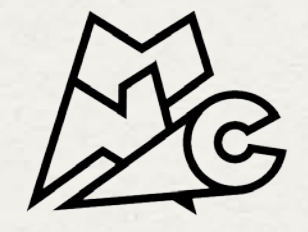


Black Mirror. It's an amazing exploration of the dystopian near-future.



The White Lotus. Satire and a black comedy set in paradise.

MIDPOINT
INSTITUTE



MUSEO
NAZIONALE
DEL CINEMA
TORINO

TFL
TorinoFilmLab



ACE
PRODUCERS.

35 YEARS
eave