

FEST Forward

# WHO IS WHO



**MEDIA Desk Serbia**  
Creative Europe Desk Serbia

# Ahmet Boyacioglu

Festival Programmer, Director, Producer  
Turkey



Ahmet Boyacioglu (1953) Festival Programmer, Director and Producer. He graduated from Ankara University with a degree in medicine and worked 20 years as a general surgeon. He served on the executive committee of the Ankara Film Festival from 1988 to 1995. Since 1995 he has been the artistic director of the Festival on Wheels, as well as chairing the Ankara Cinema Association. Between 2005 and 2007, he took on the role of Turkey's national representative for Eurimages. In 2009, he co-produced the feature film *Tales from Kars*, which premiered in Rotterdam. He wrote and directed his first feature *Black and White* in 2010, which won the Special Award of the Jury at the Mannheim-Heidelberg Film Festival, among other awards. He is the co-producer of *Inside* (2012), *Nausea* (2015) and *Ember* (2016), all directed by Zeki Demirkubuz. He directed his second feature 'The Smell of Money' in 2018. He is a member of the European Film Academy. He was in charge of the Turkish Film Stands at the Berlin and Cannes Film Festivals from 2007 to 2017.

# Alexander Ris

Producer

Germany



## NEUE MEDIOPOLIS FILMPRODUKTION

Neue Mediopolis Filmproduktion is Leipzig based company interested in co-productions for international theatrical release, feature as well as documentary films.

# Alexia Muiños Ruiz

Deputy director / web editor  
Spain



## EUROPEAN WOMEN'S AUDIOVISUAL NETWORK

Born in La Coruña, Master Degree in Environmental Chemistry and studied at the Conservatory of Music before leaving for Barcelona where she extended her education by graduating in Film Studies. She completed her training in New York City. For the past years, she has been working in several facets of the Film / Advertising Industry as director/actor and founded her production company in 2015. Her debut feature film is *Noche Transfigurada*. Currently working on the film "Las Truchas cantan en verano" (Trout singing in the Summer). As deputy director, Alexia is in charge of the management of the EWA Network web platform, the member community as well as EWA Networks social media.

# Alice Ormières

CEO / Producer

France



## SURPRISE ALLEY

After leaving ACE, where she worked for almost five years, Alice Ormières set up her own production company, Surprise Alley, in 2013. Based in Paris, Surprise Alley produces feature films, exploring new narrative and aesthetic perspectives with directors of various cultural and artistic backgrounds. Alice Ormières teamed up with Titus Kreyenberg (Unafilm, Germany) and Miroslav Mogorović (Art & Popcorn, Serbia) in order to widen the European scope of the company. Through its European identity Surprise Alley has the chance to enhance the financing possibilities of international projects by being able to access at least two key co-financing countries, France and Germany, right from the beginning.

# Antonio Laforgia

Festival and Theatrical distribution  
Italy



## BERTA FILM WORLD SALES

Antonio Laforgia is a Sociology graduate with a Master Degree in Documentary Filmmaking. He has been working in the documentary industry since 2011 as a film director, script consultant, executive producer and sales agent. He works in the Acquisition and Sales Department of Berta Film where he is also in charge of Festival and Theatrical distribution. He loves to expose himself to contagious stories, mind-boggling story-tellers and farseeing programmers. Recent titles acquired: Life is but a Dream, Kentannos. May you live to be 100!, Last Italian.

# Bernd Buder

Artistic Director  
Germany



## FILM FESTIVAL COTTBUS

The Film Festival Cottbus, founded in 1991, is one of the leading international film festival for East Central and Eastern European Cinema. Taking place in Cottbus, 120 km South-East of Berlin, it annually presents approx. 180 films in four competitive and several sidebar sections. The programme offers a wide range of artistic approach from experimental cinema to national blockbusters. The festival is added by its co-production market connecting Cottbus.

# Bojan Labovič

Head of Board  
Slovenia



## SLOVENIAN FILM CENTER

Bojan Labovič studied Documentary Film and Screenwriting in the FAMU (cz) and graduated in 1990. He is the author of a series of documentary and live – action documentary films, TV series, TV programmes, and various stage productions. Since 2016 he is a President of the Board of Slovenian Film Center, public agency.

# Brigitta Manthey

Funding Consultant  
Germany



## MEDIENBOARD BERLIN – BRANDENBURG GMBH

The Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg is the body responsible for Film Funding and Media Business Development in the states of Berlin and Brandenburg. It is also the first address for professionals active in the film and media industries in Germany's capital region. The Medienboard funds German and international film projects in all categories. Brigitta Manthey is advisor for film funding at the Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg. She is responsible for the evaluation of national & international film projects and point of contact for film professionals from the Eastern and Central European countries.

# Carine Chichkowsky

Producer

France



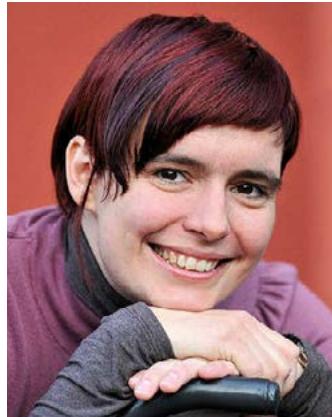
## SURVIVANCE

Carine Chichkowsky and Guillaume Morel founded Survivance in 2010. The two were bound by a common desire for «another» cinema, one that does not respond in an overwhelming way to what the market would like to sell to us, but that speaks to those who wish to see it. The word 'survivance' denotes things that « appear in spite of everything » as the philosopher George Didi-Huberman would say. From its foundation, Survivance has two main activities : producing documentaries and fiction art-house films and distributing rare films on DVD and in theaters. Among some of the recent titles which premiered at the Berlinale, Locarno, Toronto, Rotterdam and key documentary festivals, *The Other Side of Everything* by Mila Turajlić won the IDFA Award for Best Feature-Length Documentary in 2017.

# Dana Budisavljević

Producer

Croatia



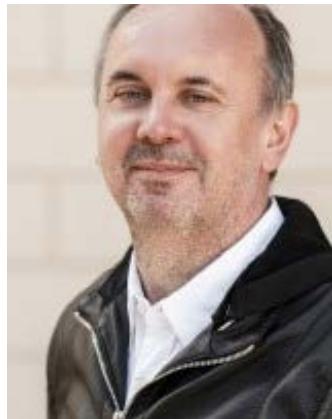
## HULAHOP PRODUCTION

Dana Budisavljević is a Zagreb-based producer and director. She is the author of several award-winning documentaries: Family Meals (Hulahop, 2012; Audience Award at ZagrebDox 2012 and Best Hope Award at Dokufest Prizren 2012), Straight A's (Factum, 2004; Grand Prix at Days of Croatian Film 2005 and four more awards at international festivals).

In 2006, she founded Hulahop Production Company together with Olinka Vištica. From 2007 to 2011 she produced and occasionally directed youth TV show I Am Changing the World. She is one of the organizers of Animafest and, together with Olinka, she develops and produces Hulahop's feature and documentary projects.

# Danijel Hočevac

Director of Vertigo production company  
Slovenia



## VERTIGO

Born 1965 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Danijel has produced or co-produced more than 40 feature films, incl. the award-winning films *When the Day Had No Name* (2017, Berlinale: Panorama Special) by Teona Mitevska, *Nightlife* (2016, Karlovy Vary IFF's Best Director Award), *Slovenian Girl* (2009, Toronto IFF) and *Spare Parts* (2003, Berlinale Competition), all three directed by Damjan Kozole, *An Episode in the Life of an Iron Picker* (2013, 2 Berlinale Silver Bears) by Danis Tanović, *Circles* (2013, Sundance FF World Cinema Competition's Jury Prize) by Srdan Golubović and *Bread and Milk* (2001, Venice FF's Lion of the Future Award) by Jan Cvitković.

Since 2005, he's actively involved as tutor with several European training initiatives such as MIDPOINT (Head of Studies of MIDPOINT's Feature Launch) and EAVE (Group Leader between 2009-13).

# Debora Desio

Producer

Italy



## A \_ LAB COMPANY

Debora Desio is a producer, she is a CEO of A\_LAB Srl. A\_LAB is a company based in Trieste, specialized in production for Cinema, Tv and new technologies for audiovisual contents. Debora Desio is graduated in Marketing and Euro-planning. She has 25 years of experiences, then 15 in Tv production and programming and the last ten years in Cinema and the new frontiers of communication, where new technologies dictate new way to communicate.

# Denis Vaslin

Producer

The Netherlands



## VOLYA FILMS

Born and raised in France, Denis Vaslin has a background in distribution and production, before moving to the Netherlands in 2000. After four years working as line producer (a.o. for the Tulse Luper Suitcases by Peter Greenaway), he started Volya films. He is a member of the European film academy. He is also member of the Produire au sud pedagogical team from the 3 continents festival in Nantes/France. In 2011, he created Mandra films in France.

Volya films – established in 2004 – is a Rotterdam based company producing author fiction films and creative documentaries, mainly as international co-productions. Their films tell unexpected stories with an original style and approach. Volya films is a member of the Eave, Eurodoc, and Ace networks and is a member of documentary producers Netherlands and film producers Netherlands.

# Francesco Giai Via

Festival programmer  
Italy



## TORINO FILM LAB

Francesco Giai Via is a festival programmer and film critic based in Torino, Italy. He's program advisor of the Venice Film Festival and selection member and scout of the Venice Production Bridge. Since 2017 he's the artistic director of Annecy Cinéma Italien, the most relevant international event focused on Italian cinema. He's Festival Director of the Carbonia Film Festival in Sardinia. Since 2015 he works with the TorinoFilmLab, the renowned development and training institution. He holds seminars on film festival management and programming for various Italian universities and institutions.

# Gabriele Brunnenmayer

Project advisor

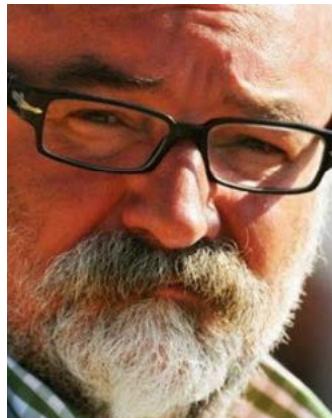
Germany



Having worked as a journalist, Gabriele Brunnenmayer was in charge of the MEDIA Antenna Berlin-Brandenburg, acting as an artistic adviser for the MEDIA training initiative Moonstone International as well as an artistic director for Connecting Cottbus till the end of 2010. From 2013 till December 2014 she was the head of studies for the MEDIA supported training program Maia Workshops. Since 2005 she is working for the Kuratorium Junger Deutscher Film as a free lanced project and script advisor. Since 2013 she is acting as the conference coordinator for the IDM Film Conference Incontri in Italy. Furthermore, Gabriele is working as consultant for script development, packaging and project presentation for single projects as well as for First Films First, Midpoint, Berlinale and Sarajevo Talents, Baltic Pitching Forum, Euro Connection, Sam Spiegel School and others.

# Gorjan Tozija

Director of Macedonian Film Agency  
Republic of Macedonia



## MACEDONIAN FILM AGENCY

Born in 1954, Gorjan Tozija is currently a freelance film producer. He graduated from the Department of Art History and Archeology at the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje in 1981. From 1979 to 1993 he worked for Jadran Film in Zagreb. In 1993 he became head of the state production company Vardar Film. He was a former State Secretary in the Ministry of Culture and advisor in the President Branko Crvenkovski's cabinet from 2004 to 2007. He was the head of the Film Professionals Association (DFRM) from 2010 to 2013. During his career he has worked on more than 50 film and TV projects.

# Jana Karaivanova

Executive Director of Bulgarian National  
Film Center  
Bulgaria



## BULGARIAN NATIONAL FILM CENTER

Jana Karaivanova is a Bulgarian actress and producer. In the 1980-ies and 1990-ies she is an actress of the troupe of the National Theatre "Ivan Vazov", with 17 feature films in her biography. Since 1994, she lives in New York and Sofia. She is a founder of the Foundation for Bulgarian-American cultural exchange. In 2000 Jana Karaivanova creates Festival of Bulgarian Cinema in New York. In 2010 she creates a Festival of Independent American Cinema in Sofia - the So Independent.

# Jonathan English

Producer

UK



## BALKANIC MEDIA

BALKANIC MEDIA is a production company based in Belgrade, Serbia. It specializes in bespoke production for select international clients. Balkanic also develops and produces feature films and television series. Founded by producer, Jonathan English, who brings twenty years of international production experience. Jonathan is a US/UK dual citizen and resident of Belgrade for three years.

# Jožko Rutar

Producer  
Slovenia



## CEE ANIMATION

CEE Animation is an umbrella of regional activities for promotion and development of the animation and its talents in more than 20 countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The objective of CEE Animation is to raise the competencies of professionals and give them equal access to financing and the markets as their Western peers, by fostering co-production and sustainable business models.

CEE Animation Workshop (CEE AW) is a new regional training initiative for animation. We train 12 teams of producers and authors with projects and 6 participants without project per year. It is divided in three, 6-day modules. First module is dedicated to content development, second to production and financing and third to accessing the market. The third module is organized alongside the CEE (previously known as Visegrad) Animation Forum, an established pitching and access to market platform, inviting decision-makers for animation. The workshop accepts TV series, Features, Shorts and new digital formats.

# Konstantina Stavrianou

Managing Director

Greece



## GRAAL PRODUCTION

Konstantina Stavrianou co-founded Graal, a production company and a post-production facility in 1999. Since 2003 she has been working in the film industry on short & feature films as well as documentaries. She oversees the co-production sectors for both Greek and international productions and is Graal's co-managing director. In 2003, the company entered international co-production and has continued with a wide selection of projects. It has a significant track record, with its films selected for Cannes, Venice, Berlinale and other international festivals. The company has co-produced 55 films to date and has a portfolio of approximately 400 titles. She is currently producing two feature films as well as co-producing four international projects. Since 2014, attends workshops as post-production consultant and is a member of the selection committee of the Berlinale co-pro series and Torino Film Lab. She is a Berlinale talents alumna and member of the EAVE network.

# Laura Briand

Executive Producer, EWA representative  
France



## LES FILMS D'ICI

Laura Briand has been producing for more than 14 years at Les Films d'Ici. The company has expanded over the last thirty years by staying faithful to writers and directors and true to the principle of unearthing and accompanying new talent in France and beyond. Its catalogue contains over 800 films: major feature length documentaries, drama, one hour documentaries, animation, interactive projects across all production and distribution formats, with a strong presence on international markets and film festivals. Artistic work is at the heart of decisions and the film-making process.

# Maartje Alders

Program Manager  
The Netherlands



## FIRST CUT LAB

Maartje Alders (1983) is a producer and photographer from The Netherlands. She worked as project manager for NISI MASA – the European network of young cinema for four years. She collaborated with TorinoFilmLab on the organization and selection of FeatureLab. She worked for 3 years as independent producer in Egypt. Her first feature documentary, MOTHER OF THE UNBORN, won multiple awards, at IDFA and FIPRESCI. She is part of the team of First Cut Lab since 2017. as program manager.

# Meinolf Zurhorst

Consultant and Producer  
Germany



After studying history of art, film and television and anthropology work as a film critic-and author of almost 20 books about cinema and actors. In the Eighties co-founder of a production company which produced special interest programs for German TV. In the late Eighties co-founder of second company for post- and film-production. Co-writer, do director and producer of several documentaries about German cinema and TV. 1992 commissioning editor in the cinema department of ARTE in Strasbourg, 1994 head of this department. 2000 move to German broadcaster ZDF to direct their ARTE film department (ZDF is one of ARTE's shareholder and acquires and co-produces movies and series for the French-German cultural channel). Since 2017 also head of fiction ZDF/arte until end February 2019.

Member of juries in Guadalajara, Sarajevo, Sao Paulo, Thessaloniki, Tallinn, Istanbul and other festivals. Tutor and expert at Mediterranean Film Business School, EAVE, EAVE programs "Ties that bind" (Busan, Udine) and "Interchange" (Dubai), ACE-Ateliers du Cinéma Européen, ifs – International Film School Cologne, Bela Tarr's Film Factory and ScriptEast, Poland.

# Michel Plazanet

Deputy Director of International and  
European affairs  
France



## CENTRE NATIONAL DU CINEMA ET L'IMAGE ANIMEE - CNC

Michel Plazanet graduated in business and administrative affairs. He worked 10 years in the telecommunications sector, first in different branches of France Telecom group, then in the French regulation agency (ARCEP). In 2001, he left for the Direction du développement des médias (within the Prime minister offices) to be in charge of public support to community radios and regional TV channels. Four years later, he joined the CNC (French national film centre) as head of the regional action department. In February 2012, he was promoted deputy director of International and European affairs. Not to mention cinema, he is fond of theatre, literature, jazz music and above all of his seven-year old daughter.

# Nataša Bučar

Managing director  
Slovenia



## SLOVENIAN FILM CENTER

Nataša Bučar has been managing LIFFE, the largest International Film Festival in Slovenia for many years. She gained management experiences as the Director of the Festival of Slovenian Films, as Assistant Director of the Slovenian Film Fund and as General Director of the Media Directorate at the Slovenian Ministry of Culture. In 2016 she was appointed as the Managing Director of Slovenian Film Center, the only institution for financing film in Slovenia.

# Paul Thiltges

Producer

Luxembourg



## PAUL THILTGES DISTRIBUTIONS

Paul Thiltges Distributions is a Luxembourg based film production and world sales company founded in 1993 by Paul Thiltges and jointly run with Adrien Chef. The company's film catalogue reflects the diversity of its professional network by including engaged documentaries and fiction such as the work of Michael Glawogger, Hicham Lasri or Ari Folman, while simultaneously working on rather entertaining fiction as with Frederic Jardin or Sylvie Testud. In the meantime PTD also commits to animated fiction aimed to children, co-producing stories such as *Kirikou & the Sorceress* by Michel Ocelot or *The Blue Arrow* and *A Greyhound of a Girl* by Enzo D'Alò. These projects have, among others, earned Paul Thiltges Distributions numerous nominations and awards at prestigious film festivals around the world like Locarno, Cannes, San Francisco or Annecy, consolidating its solid reputation in the international film industry.

# Romain Roll

Directing Manager at BIF Market (BIFFF)  
Belgium



## BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL GENRE FILM MARKET

Romain Roll is the Directing Manager of the BIF Market (the only film market dedicated to genre films in Europe) which takes place during the Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFFF). The 3rd edition of the market will take place in April 2019 during the 37th BIFFF. The BIF Market is not just specialized in buying/selling genre films, but also encourages Work in Progress and genre TV Series around the world. Romain Roll is involved in the fantastic film industry since nearly 30 years.

# Roshanak Behesht Nedjad

Founder, Managing director, Producer  
Germany



## IN GOOD COMPANY

Roshanak started her first company in 1999, with Helge Albers. Under the label Flying Moon they produced 30 films, with over 40 awards. 2012 she co-founded LudInc, producing Serious Games for children, winning 2016 the German Computer Game Award for Best Serious Game. 2015 she started yet another enterprise, IGC Films with a focus on smart entertainment – be it films or games. Roshanak is a member of the German & European Film Academy, and an EAVE group leader.

# Sari Volanen

Commissioning editor  
Finland



## YLE (FINNISH BROADCASTING COMPANY)

Sari Volanen is a commissioning editor for short and documentary films at YLE (Finnish Broadcasting company).

She started her career in television over 30 years ago. Currently she works at YLE's Co-production department producing films mainly with Finnish independent film makers and producers. She is in charge of the short and doc film strand called New Cinema on YLE Teema channel. Along with studies of film in Finland, she has participated EAVE -training in 1999, Eurodoc 2006 and Sources2 - Documentary Mentor training 2008. She has a master's degree in art.

# Satu Elo

Programme Manager Europe of EAVE  
Luxembourg

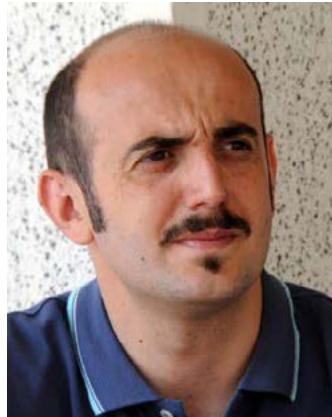


## E A V E

Satu Elo works since 2010 as the Programme Manager Europe of EAVE – European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs, based in Luxembourg. She is responsible for the organization of EAVE Producers Workshop, EAVE Marketing Workshop and EAVE+, among others. During 2004 – 2010 she worked at the Finnish Film Foundation as part of the team responsible for the international promotion of Finnish films, and during 1998 – 2004 she was in charge of the executive management and part of the programming team of Espoo Ciné International Film Festival in Finland.

# Sehad Čekić

Director of Film Center of Montenegro  
Montenegro



## FILM CENTER OF MONTENEGRO

Film Centre of Montenegro, established at the end of 2016, is modelled on the successful practices in the region, and its main activities consist of managing the film fund and lending support to new film productions, the promotion of Montenegrin cinema and its potential for international productions, as well as a series of activities regarding film festivals, improving professional capacities and training programs.

Film Centre is proactive agency focusing on projects and activities that will improve the environment for the development and promotion of Montenegrin cinema.

# Susan Newman - Baudais

Project Manager

EU



## EURIMAGES

Susan Newman-Baudais is a project manager at the Council of Europe's Eurimages fund. A business studies graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, Susan has extensive experience in the UK television sector, as a producer and director for on-air promotions at ITV broadcaster Granada and subsequently as a presentation editor at Channel 4 Television. She has also worked as a special effects producer in London and in the post-production sector in France. She joined Eurimages from the European Audiovisual Observatory, where she was a market researcher and analyst specializing in public funding for film as well as coordinator of the European Film Agency Research Network (EFARN). At Eurimages, Susan has special responsibility for first feature films.

Eurimages is the Council of Europe's cultural fund for film. Established in 1989, the Fund supports co-production, distribution and exhibition of feature films, as well as awarding prizes for project development and works-in-progress at major film markets. The Fund's activities are financed by contributions from its 38 member states and policy and funding decisions are taken by the representatives of these states sitting on the Eurimages Board of Management. Day-to-day activities are managed by a Secretariat based in Strasbourg, France.

# Titus Kreyenberg

CEO / Producer

Germany



## UNAFILM

Titus Kreyenberg was an executive producer for film and television for many years before he founded his own production company Unafilm in 2004. The company's films compete in internationally acknowledged film festivals around the world - Berlinale, Cannes, Toronto, San Sebastian and Karlovy Vary among them. The German-Swiss coproduction Colours in the Dark with Bruno Ganz was a major success in German cinemas, the German-Turkish coproduction Our Grand Despair by Seyfi Teoman premiered in competition at the Berlinale 2011. Heli by Amat Escalante was selected to the official competition in Cannes 2013 to win the award for Best Director. In 2014 Unafilm was present in Cannes' Official Selection with its coproduction The Bridges of Sarajevo. Last year, I Am Not A Witch premiered in Director's Fortnight. This year Unafilm is present with four films at the Berlinale.

# Tomáš Potočný

Programme manager

Czech Republic



## DOK. INCUBATOR

Tomáš is a film director and editor and currently a programme manager of dok.incubator workshop. Dok.incubator is an international documentary rough-cut workshop, focused on the editing, distribution and marketing strategy. Creative teams (director, editor, producer) are individually tutored for 6 months by top editors, producers, marketing experts and distributors from Europe and USA.

Tomáš graduated in Documentary Film Directing at FAMU and cooperates with many other institutions e.g. Czech Television, NGO People in Need or One World Film Festival. As an editor, he has worked on fiction film "Mamma Gógó" which was selected as the Icelandic entry for Oscars. His documentary "Tears of Steel" received a Special Mention from the Jury at Jihlava IDFF.