

European Genre Forum

Tallinn 2018

European Genre Forum is a pan-European project organised by Black Nights Film Festival from Tallinn, Imagine Film Festival from Amsterdam (biggest festival for fantastic film in the Netherlands); Fantastic Zagreb Film Festival (largest genre festival in the SEE region), and film consultancy company Screen Division from Sitges.

The main goal of this international project is to connect, educate and support young and upcoming, as well as already proven, European film talents beginning their career in the genre film industry.

The EGF annual cycle consists of three labs: Directing lab in Amsterdam (spring), Production lab in Zagreb (summer) and the final Sales and Marketing lab in Tallinn (winter) giving the participants a full range of feedback, skills and contacts by established professionals in the global genre industry to step their projects up and prepare for financing, participation in co-production markets, and naturally production as well.

The EGF Sales and Marketing Lab in Tallinn will feature extensive pitch training workshop by acclaimed pitch trainer Sibylle Kurz. Special sessions are focusing on topics connected to the sales & marketing of projects, including how to create an attractive project package, understanding monetisation, deals and dynamics of digital distribution. Working with festivals as well as sales agents is crucial for launching the film and is the topic of special sessions.

The Sales and Marketing Lab will finish with the long-awaited Final Pitch of the 8 chillingly fresh and exciting projects from the participants of EGF 2018 training cycle. EGF Final Pitch is integrated into the special pitching panel of Tallinn Industry. Come and discover the hottest new talent of European genre cinema!

European Genre Forum Coordinating Team

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EGF 2018 Sales & Marketing Lab tutors

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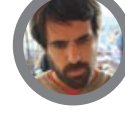
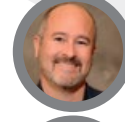
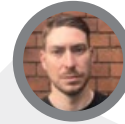
Mike Hostench

Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival,
Deputy Festival Director

Miguel Llansó

Jesus Shows You the Way to the Highway,
Director

For more information and 2018 application deadlines visit: www.europeangenerforum.com
European Genre Forum training programme is supported by the Creative Europe MEDIA programme.



BIRDS OF A FEATHER



Original Title: Pahanhautoja

Genre: Horror

Screenwriter: Ilja Rautsi

Director: Hanna Bergholm

Producer: Mika Ritalahti

Production company: Silva Mysterium Oy

Language: Finnish

Country: Finland

Budget: 2.6 M EUR

Financing in place: 43%

Partners attached: Co-producers: Hob Ab Sweden, Egil Doghouse Productions AS Norway

Synopsis

Birds of a Feather is a horror film about a 12-year old gymnast girl, Tinja, who does everything to fulfil her mother's high expectations. One day Tinja finds a strange bird's egg and starts hatching it until out bursts a bird-like creature. Tinja names the horrifying monster Alli and hides it in her closet. Like baby birds, Alli only eats Tinja's vomit, and after each feeding it gradually transforms into Tinja's doppelganger. Tinja's buried aggression and jealousy pushes Alli into increasingly violent attacks until no one is safe.

Director

Hanna Bergholm has directed several awarded short films and also a children's drama TV series for the National Broadcasting Company YLE. In 2012 Bergholm was selected in Berlinale Talent Campus. *Birds of a Feather* is her first feature film. Her latest short horror film *Puppet Master* has been screened this year at Fantasia International Film Festival, Montreal and Fantastic Fest, Austin.

Production company and producer

Mika Ritalahti is a Finnish producer. He runs Silva Mysterium together with his brother. Silva's latest film is a feature film, *Star Boys*, directed by Visa Koiso-Kanttila. *Star Boys* was in the main competition at Moscow International Film Festival 2017, and won a prize at Cape Town. Silva is currently producing a feature film *Diva of Finland* directed by Maria K. Mononen. *Diva of Finland* will be released in Finland in Spring 2019.



Hanna Bergholm



Mika Ritalahti

Contact

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FINGERNAIL



Original Title: Tsiporen
Genre: Psychological horror
Screenwriters: Itamar Sade & Yossi Aviram
Director: Boaz Armoni
Producer: Yoav Roeh
Production company: Gum Films
Language: Hebrew
Country: Israel
Budget: 500 000 EUR
Financing in place: 100 000 EUR
Partners attached: Zed films

Synopsis

Ben is raised by his father, Ruby, in a remote house in the woods. Having been told by his father that his mother was killed by monsters and that the monsters want to kill them too, he must go out to the forest to stop them. Every day, the father locks the boy in the house and vanishes for hours. One day the boy sneaks out and sees his father burying someone alive. The father explains that monsters take on human form in order to reach their house and to bury them alive is the only way to stop them because humans can't kill monsters.

The boy joins his father in hunting monsters. But the more his father tells him about the monstrous world they live in, the more he begins to doubt him. The trust between them gradually breaks down until the moment comes when the boy has no choice but to confront his father, rebel against him, and even bring him to his death.

Director

Boaz Armoni (1979) lives and works in Tel-Aviv. He studied film at the Midrasha school of arts, Beit-Berl College which he graduated with excellence. His short films have won prizes in numerous festivals around the world. He is the winner of snunit grant and America-Israel cultural foundation. His filmography includes: *Acre prison breakout*, *Letters from the war* and *Freak Out* (2015, premiered in Sitges FF) which screened successfully in Israel and was sold for distribution in USA and Europe.

Production company and producer

Yoav Roeh is a graduate of the Sam Spiegel film school and the Management of Art and Culture institutes at Tel Aviv University. He has produced more than 10 feature films, several TV-series and many documentaries, among them: *Asia* (Residence du festival Cannes, Cinemart), *The Testament* (Venice IFF, Haifa FF- Best Film), *Manpower* (Cinemart, Cannes Atelier, Palm Springs), *Off White Lies* (Berlinale, Busan), *Cupcakes*, TV-series *The Cursed*, *The Lab* (Cinema du reel, Dok Leipzig).



Boaz Armoni



Yoav Roeh

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NO MAN'S LAND



Original Title: No Man's Land
Genre: Fantasy
Screenwriter: Mel Piper
Director: Mel Piper
Producer: Jonas Koch
Production company: Tatami Films (development)
Language: English
Country: Germany
Budget: 2 000 000 EUR
Financing in place: none
Partners attached: none

Synopsis

Alchemist Lumière finds missing persons in a future barter-driven Europe. Communication between countries has ceased and territories are traversed by deadly stretches of no man's land. The physician Dr. Right agrees to treat Lumière's illness in return for her investigation into his son's disappearance. Soon she realizes that she has been delivering subjects to Right's rogue human imagination research. While the no man's land continues to expand killing life in its path, Lumière offers herself to Right as a research subject in exchange for people's safety. The rescued come together at his mansion, a last stronghold on healthy soil, where the grim surrounding transforms into whatever their imagination calls for: the seaside, meadows, a mountain range. Right counters this transformation with violence when finally Lumière steps onto the no man's land. Its matter releases all affected life and recedes into her healing body. Right in turn dissolves along with his mansion and his dystopian fantasy.

Director

Mel Piper holds a degree in Film Studies from London Metropolitan University and studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. She wrote and directed two shorts and a play, has worked in British TV and theatre and currently lives in Hamburg.

Production company

Producers **Florian Schmidt-Prange** and **Jonas Koch** of Tatami Films (*4 Könige, So Was Von Da*) have been invaluable to the film's development (Sitges Pitchbox 2018 Special Mention, Coverfly Red List Top Rated Fantasy Screenplay, WeScreenplay Diverse Voices Semifinalist). They are now producing the director's short *Shadow Players*.



Jonas Koch



Mel Piper

Contact

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SPINNERS



Original Title: Verpeji
Genre: sci-fi
Screenwriter: Reinis Ubelis, Ivars Tontegode
Director: Ivars Tontegode
Producer: Guna Stahovska
Production companies: Mojo Raiser Production, SIA KMKVP
Language: English
Country: Latvia
Budget: 1 200 000 EUR
Financing in place: 30 000 EUR
Partners attached: National Film Centre of Latvia, Culture Capital Foundation of Latvia, National Film Distribution (LV), Magic Lab (CZ)

Synopsis

Over millenniums a parasite alien race, Spinners, have created a world to grow unaware humans for food. Carleen, a rebellious Spinner never feeling she belongs anywhere, denies her family's beliefs and spends her time between humans, just to return to her safe home every night. After Spinner police raids human nightclub and uses mind damaging gas, Carleen wakes up in the middle of the city believing she is a human. She joins a group of rebels to start a fight against her own kind and falls in love with a rebel, Richard. Meanwhile, a plan to kill Carleen's family is being prepared by a Spinner warlord, Blackwell. In the end Carleen is faced with the truth - she is the enemy. Now she has to make a decision - where does she belong?

Director

The director and co-writer of the project *Spinners*, **Ivars Tontegode** is widely known for his urge to experiment and depict the inner struggle and evolution of strong personalities in a highly creative and modern manner. Based on the awarded short he directed a full-length feature *The Mushroomers* (2013, Best Director, Audience Award in Warsaw IFF). In 2017 he finished his full-length documentary *Knutifiction*. *Spinners* will be his second fiction film and first genre film.

Production company and producer

The Mojo Raiser Production was established by producer **Guna Stahovska** in end of 2011. The main activities - film and TV project development and production, development of stories, co-production. Main focus is on emotionally attaching and edgy stories in every genre. The company has produced and co-produced several fiction (as *The Lesson*) and documentary films (as *Knutifiction*), and has several projects in development: *Niina* (coproduction with Estonia, UK and tbc) and *Spinners* (beside European Genre Forum the project is in script development in ScripTeast).



Guna Stahovska



Ivars Tontegode

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THE BASE



Original Title: The Base
Genre: supernatural thriller
Screenwriter: Alex Madia Levi
Director: Alex Madia Levi
Producer: Alex Madia Levi / tbc
Production company: MEW Productions
Language: English
Country: UK/Serbia
Budget: 750 000/ 1 000 000 EUR
Financing in place: tbc
Partners attached: tbc

Synopsis

As a young girl, after having witnessed and survived the murder of her own mother, Sasha was taken away by her father to be raised away from Eastern Europe. Following the death of her grandfather she receives an inheritance and is eventually forced to go back. Suddenly her memories start coming back and even though reluctant to open that chapter of her life once again, Sasha feels compelled to investigate her mother's death, looking for the truth. With the help of unexpected allies, Sasha will end up witnessing supernatural events that will change her life forever and finally lead her to learn the truth.

Director

After a degree in Media, Alex Madia Levi worked in theatre as an assistant director. In London, he trained for cinema on several aspects of moviemaking. He got a second degree at London St Martin's and a diploma in editing and special effects. After several shorts he worked for TV as a director/producer over ten years. Eventually he concentrated on his passion: making films while working on music videos, advertising and documentaries.

Alex's filmography includes: *Murderer Either Way* (2004 premiered at Cannes FF), feature documentary *The Silent Voices of Cuba* (2005), *La Lucha* (Miami FF, Best Documentary; San Francisco, Silver Prize). In 2007 Alex directed a play at the National Theatre of La Habana, after which he wrote his first feature *Far From Fidel*. In 2010 he collaborated with the cult actor Bobby Rhodes on several projects, including a mini-web series *The Pim*, as featured in Empire.

In 2013 Alex started writing his third feature, *The Essence of Evil* and in 2016 *The Base*, a supernatural psychological thriller/horror movie with its roots in the history of Serbia's traumatic experience of Nazi raids during WWII.

Production company and producer

MEW Productions was founded by Alex Madia Levi in 2003. Over the years the productions have ranged from short films to music videos and ethnographic documentaries. THE BASE will be MEW Productions first feature film. A co-producer from one of the partner countries will be announced soon.



Alex Madia Levi

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THE DESCENDANT



Original Title: The Descendant
Genre: Paranormal Horror
Screenwriter: Colinda Bongers
Director: Colinda Bongers
Producer: Jasper de Vreede
Production company: Get Off The Road Films
Language: English/Dutch
Country: The Netherlands
Budget: 920 000 EUR
Financing in place: 300 000 EUR

Synopsis

JOANNA (33), an American woman, travels to a remote village in the Dutch countryside to find her friend who has mysteriously gone missing. As she asks around the village about her missing friend and meets the locals, she notices a lot of them are scarred or otherwise hideously deformed. To her frustration they are reluctant to answer her questions. As her annoyance with the reclusive locals grows, she is haunted by a series of strange dreams, which she cannot decipher. She becomes subject to bizarre changes of her body and starts to exhibit strange powers that in turn pique the interest of the zealous townspeople. As her conflict with the villagers deepens, she leaves no stone unturned trying to determine what is happening to her and uncover the cursed town's dark secret.

After witnessing several profane incidents involving Joanna, the fer-

vent townspeople seize and imprison her, awakening the immense powers of a witch that have lain dormant in her bloodline.

Director

Colinda Bongers started Get Off The Road Films together with **Thijs Meuwese** after graduating Audiovisual Media. In 2015 they won the Imagine pitch contest, which led them to directing their first international feature film *Molly*, a post-apocalyptic action movie which was recently released in the US. With *The Descendant* Colinda hopes to realize her dream of writing and directing a paranormal horror movie.

Production company and producer

Get Off The Road Films is a production company that is passionate to tell stories set in a reality which follows rules different to our own. **Jasper de Vreede** (LL.B Dutch Civil Law, LL.M. European Law and International Public Law) has a long history in providing legal and financial consultancy to many creatives and is on board also with *The Descendant*.



Colinda Bongers



Jasper de Vreede

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THE HIKE (WT)



Original Title: Sennentuntschi (WT)
Genre: Horror, Thriller
Screenwriter: Felix Faisst
Director: Daniel Ruebesam
Producer: Fabian Baier, Felix Faisst
Production company: The Greater Fool
Language: English
Country: Germany
Budget: 1 500 000 - 2 000 000 EUR
Financing in place: 0%
Partners attached: -

Synopsis

It's the first time that Lena, Helen, Magnus and Jonas go hiking since their friend Maya committed suicide. As a storm is coming, they find shelter in an old cabin and discover a Sennentuntschi, a doll made by herdsmen to combat their loneliness. Magnus introduces it as a replacement for Maya. But the tension rises as everyone starts having visions of Maya or strange hallucinations from time to time. When Magnus believes to see Jonas raping Maya, the situation escalates. Magnus is sure that the doll is Maya, convincing him that it's time for redemption as everyone is guilty of her suicide. Lena suspects that the evil spirit of the Sennentuntschi is only using their guilt. In a last attempt to save Magnus from his madness, she tries to destroy the doll. But now Magnus wants to kill her.

Director

Daniel Ruebesam studied directing at the Filmakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg. He has made several award-winning short films that have been screened all over the world. He finished his studies with the film *When Demons Die* which was screened at Sitges Fantastic Filmfest and was shortlisted for the Bafta Student Film Award among others.

Production company and producer

The Greater Fool is a young production company founded by alumni of the Filmakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg in Ludwigsburg. Our focus is on elevated feature films and TV series that are able to keep pace with the international competition. We follow our passion for a large variety of genres, taking advantage of the opportunity to present important topics in a more compelling and entertaining way.

Felix Faisst studied International Producing at the Filmakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg, receiving a scholarship twice. He produced numerous films which won several prizes. He graduated successfully with the film *When Demons Die* and started his own business The Greater Fool in 2017.



Daniel Ruebesam



Felix Faisst

Contact

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THE PLAGUE DOCTOR



Original Title: The Plague Doctor
Genre: Supernatural horror
Screenwriter: Ninon Schubert
Director: Michael O'Connor
Producer: Ninon Schubert
Production company: Shakedown Films
Language: English
Country: Germany
Budget: 500 000 EUR
Financing in place: -
Partners attached: -

Synopsis

A young couple move to the countryside to escape guilt and regret from their past. But the landscape has a past of its own. Scarred by the Black Death and haunted by a plague doctor, it preys on their fears and turns them into murderers.

The Plague Doctor tells an atmospheric, under-the-skin story with a minimum of characters and locations. The film will combine great performances with a highly original visual and aural style.

Director

Michael O'Connor began his filmmaking career by attending a New York University screenwriting course in Dublin, and went on to write

and direct numerous short films and trailers. He has directed and co-produced the award-winning feature *Sleeping Dogs* and is currently shooting an essay film. His love of strong drama and working with actors has also led him to branch out into stage direction – directing plays by Arthur Miller and J.B. Priestley.

Production company and producer

Writer/producer **Ninon Schubert** completed a postgraduate degree in film at the Hamburg Media School. Since then she has worked as writer, line producer and producer on numerous shorts and a feature which screened at many international festivals. She has also worked as a storyliner for a German daily TV series and as an advertising content creator. She established the production company Shakedown Films with Michael O'Connor. Shakedown Films is based in Hamburg and Dublin. Our debut feature *Sleeping Dogs* screened at over 35 international festivals, had a limited theatrical release and will soon be available on major VOD platforms. *The Plague Doctor* is the first part of a supernatural trilogy in development. Other current projects include an essay film by Michael O'Connor, and a horror short by Daniel Rossberg.



Michael O'Connor



Ninon Schubert

Contact

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European Genre Forum 2018 Tallinn Lab Schedule

Monday, November 26

- 12:00-18:00 Participants and mentors arrival
📍 *Accreditations in Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 19:00-21:00 Welcome drinks and Storytek pitching night
📍 *Storytek Hub Conference Room, Parda 6, 4th Floor*

Tuesday, November 27

- 9:30 Welcome and Introduction
with Tallinn Lab & Industry
📍 *Tallink Hotel, Helsinki*
- 9:40-13:00 **The art of pitching**
Sibylle Kurz
📍 *Tallink Hotel, Helsinki*
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
📍 *Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 14:00-17:30 **The art of pitching and projects group work**
Sibylle Kurz
📍 *Tallink Hotel, Helsinki*

Wednesday, November 28

- 9:00-10:15 **Demo pitching**
📍 *Tallink Hotel, Helsinki*
- 10:15-11:30 **Understanding digital monetization**
Mitch Mallon, Stadium Media
📍 *Tallink Hotel, Helsinki*
- 11:30-13:00 **Packaging, marketing and PR: from deliverables to digital distribution**
Michael Arnon, WOLF Consultants/
Anton Romalijskij, Kew Media
📍 *Tallink Hotel, Helsinki*
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
- 14:00-15:30 Working with sales agents TBC
📍 *Tallink Hotel, Helsinki*
- 15:30-16:30 **Film funds and first projects: the expectations and reality**

Katriel Schory, Israel Film Fund

📍 *Tallink Hotel, Helsinki*

- 16:30-17:30 **Case study: Jesus Shows You the Way to the Highway**
Miguel Llanso, director
📍 *Tallink Hotel, Helsinki*

Thursday, November 29

- 9:30-10:30 Script Pool pitching
📍 *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*
- 10:30-11:30 POWR pitching
📍 *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*
- 11:30-13:00 EGF pitching
📍 *Nordic Hotel Forum, Arcturus*
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
📍 *Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 14:15-15:30 What can festivals do for the film?
📍 *Nordic Hotel Forum, Altair*
Mike Hostench, Sitges Film Festival
- 15:30-16:30 EGF wrap
📍 *Nordic Hotel Forum*
- 18:00-21:00 Storytek Demo Day
📍 *Erinevate Tubade Klubi, Telliskivi 60-A1*

Friday, November 30

Departure or Film Forum Tallinn

