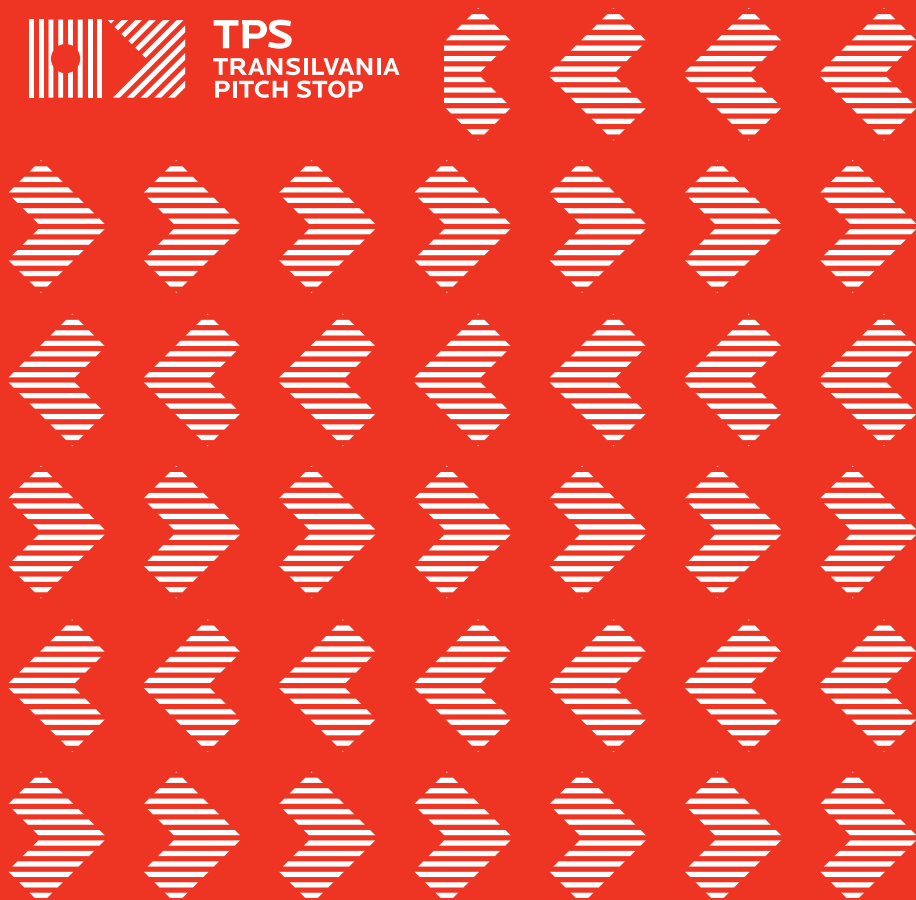




TPS
TRANSILVANIA
PITCH STOP



TRANSILVANIA PITCH STOP

BOOK OF PROJECTS 2024

 **TIFF.23**

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TRANSILVANIA PITCH STOP

Ten projects in development will be presented to industry professionals (producers, distributors, sales agents, representatives of film funds & more) at the Transilvania Pitch Stop (TPS) this year. The 11th anniversary edition of the program includes the presentation of projects in front of potential partners and financiers on the 20th of June, during Transilvania International Film Festival (June 14 – 24, Cluj-Napoca, Romania). TPS aims to discover a strong selection of projects from Romania and the countries around Romania destined for European co-production such as: Bulgaria, Greece, Georgia, Hungary, Moldova, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine. The program aims to foster cross-border cooperation especially between the Black Sea countries and the neighbouring countries eligible for the program. Over 100 projects were selected during the last editions of TPS, a lot of which were screened and awarded at major festivals around the world.

This year, five projects will benefit from a tailored script consulting provided by script editor & film consultant Christian Routh, while all projects will be coached by the renowned pitching consultant and film producer Agathe Berman prior to their presentation.

The 10 feature projects selected are:

- 1. Divorce Room (Hungary)**
- 2. Winemaker's Daughter (Moldova)**
- 3. Die, please (Romania)**
- 4. A flower is not a flower (Romania)**
- 5. Grained (Romania)**
- 6. Kid Hazard (Romania)**
- 7. Termites have wings of approximately the same length (Serbia)**
- 8. Dancing Angels (Turkey)**
- 9. My Happy Family (Turkey)**
- 10. Curtain (Ukraine)**

DIVORCE ROOM

1

Válószoba

Directed by **Otto Bánovits**
Produced by **Anna Sípós; Veronika Gál**
Hungary
Production Company: **Stranger Films**

First Film

Financing already in place / Partners already attached: 81 000 EUR
Estimated production costs: 300000 EUR
Beginning of production: 2025 September
Looking for: Cproduction partners/ Supporting partners

Representatives present at Transilvania Pitch Stop:

Otto Bánovits, Director
Anna Sípós, Producer
Veronika Gál, Producer

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Otto Bánovits



Anna Sípós



Veronika Gál

DIVORCE ROOM

The divorce room is the inner journey of a modern married couple, Nóra and András, as they explore the depths of their relationship, aided by a 500-year-old "love prison".

SYNOPSIS

András and Nóra is a struggling married couple who accidentally end up in Berethalom (Biertan), Transylvania where Nóra's ancestors are originally from. They meet the famous abbey's newly appointed young priest, Jónás, who shows them the infamous divorce room where couples who had been struggling with relationship problems for hundreds of years were locked away. They enter the room, but they suddenly realise that they cannot leave. It becomes clear to them that their "prison" has a personality of its own. The question is: Will they be able to get out and if so what is the price they have to pay for it?

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

András and Nóra enter the divorce room as He and She but leave as We.

"The past lives on in us, in our gestures, in our speech, in the way we put our hair, the time of our ancestors is hidden in our genes and goes on." Noémi Orvos-Tóth

The sooner and the more deeply we look at our past, the more we have done for our own lives and the lives of our descendants and children. Current epigenetic research has shown that we carry the traumas of past generations in our DNA, as "genetic markers", going back seven generations. This is how our bodies prepare for survival. However, it has also been shown that once this trauma is resolved in one generation, it is no longer passed on to the next.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Otto was born in Sweden but shortly after moved to Hungary. He then went on to complete his BA degree in directing at the University of the Arts London, after which he successfully enrolled to the master program at the Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts. His short films: Agape, DonkeyXote, Dark Chamber and Stifled have received numerous prestigious awards. Dark Chamber made its debut at Telluride Film festival. The film went on to win the Ghent Int. Film Festival, Uppsala Int. Film Festival, BFI and the Interfilm Berlin Film Festival, two of which (Uppsala and Berlin) put the film into the 2020 Oscar competition short list. My most recent film, Nikola before Tesla, won the Audience Award at the Cinefest Miskolc Int. Film Festival.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

Divorce room is a psycho-mystical - relationship-drama. The film both dramaturgically and production-wise is suitable for an international co-production between the two countries as it's story is deeply embedded in the two cultures and both countries are used for shooting locations. From a producer's perspective I believe that this film's format and style is adequate for a low budget debut feature film where we will not have to make significant artistic compromises. We have a group of up and coming filmmakers who are all very invested to make this film together.

PRODUCER'S BIO

Anna Sípós graduated from the university of Theatre and Film Arts, Budapest as a production manager in 2011, and before that studied aesthetics and film studies at Eötvös Lóránt University. As an independent producer, Anna produced her first feature film the Vietnamese-Hungarian: Our Blossom in collaboration with Lea György producer). Her second feature project would be the Divorce Room by director Otto Banovits. Anna has also co-produced or line-produced several shorts and worked as unit or production manager in more than twenty productions (Budapest Diaries /2023/, Wild roots /2021/, Serious things /2010/ etc. Stranger Films is a Budapest based creative production house working with new talents and young filmmakers.

WINEMAKER'S DAUGHTER

2

Fiica vinificatorului

Directed by Ivan Naniev

Produced by Sergiu Scobioala

Country: Moldova

Production Company: Shepherd Company

Second Film

Financing already in place / Partners already attached: 100 000 EUR

Estimated production costs: 360 000 EUR

Beginning of production: Summer 2025

Looking for: Co-producer for the European segments of the film. Finance & Distribution

Representatives present at Transilvania Pitch Stop

Ivan Naniev, Director

Sergiu Scobioala, Producer

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Ivan Naniev



Sergiu Scobioala

WINEMAKER'S DAUGHTER

A Parisian lawyer inherits her father's Moldovan winery, but must navigate conflicting interests and a new way of life in the picturesque countryside, a gripping drama of family and legacy.

SYNOPSIS

Catrine Vieru, a successful lawyer from Paris, has inherited her father's wine estate in Moldova. Catrine's trip to her home village not only reunites her with her father's inheritance, but also uncovers a complex scheme to take the property. With the help of her father's loyal friend Timofei, Catrine delves deeper into the truth behind her father's death and the fraudulent debts that threaten the estate. As she fights to protect her inheritance, Catrine also navigates her strained relationship with her mother, her conflicted feelings for her boyfriend, Pierre, and an unexpected love. Ultimately, Catrine must decide whether to sell the estate for profit or honor her father's legacy.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"Winemaker's Daughter" presents a vivid narrative that juxtaposes the bustling urban environment of Paris with the tranquil rural landscapes of Moldova. This film will visually and thematically explore the stark contrasts between these two worlds in terms of culture, lifestyle, and scenery. The film delves into themes of identity, belonging, and family bonds, highlighting Catrine's personal journey towards self-discovery. It examines her struggle with prejudices and her quest to understand her heritage and family legacy. Additionally, the movie will explore the traditional yet challenging world of winemaking, emphasizing the gender dynamics within this field as Catrine steps into a role typically reserved for men.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Ivan Naniev grew up in the unrecognized Transnistrian Moldavian Republic. With an early academic start, he first studied International Law. In 2008, Ivan began advising the organization "Help for Children," focusing on support for orphans in Gomel. This role deepened his resolve to make a meaningful impact on society, prompting him to explore the cinematic arts as a vehicle for social change. In 2010, Ivan established the Shepherd Company, a film studio dedicated to creating commercial movies that address significant social issues. His films reflect the human condition and aim to highlight the challenges faced by societies and marginalized groups.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

In the spotlight of Moldova's EU aspirations and its strategic geopolitical position, our film captures the essence of this momentous time. The 2023 European Presidents Summit in a winery underscored Moldova's wine traditions. Actively seeking European co-producers and distributors, we offer a unique chance to contribute to a culturally rich narrative. Beyond ROI, our film explores identity, family, tradition, and modernity against Moldova's scenic backdrop. Join us in crafting a tale that resonates globally—an exploration of legacy, belonging, and personal growth through the art of winemaking.

PRODUCTION COMPANY/ PRODUCER'S BIO

Sergiu Scobioala graduated in Journalism from the State University of Moldova and completed his studies at the First School of Television in Kyiv, Ukraine, specializing as a TV director. He is also working on his master's thesis in Institutional Communication, focusing on the illustration of war in cinematography. Sergiu spent 12 years as a producer at Jurnal TV, where he produced over 15 TV formats, including two TV series. He made his debut as a film producer in 2023 with his first feature film. "Shepherd Company" is a company whose main activity is the production of commercial feature films and TV series. The company made 2 short films, 3 feature films and 2 TV series.

DIE PLEASE

3

Muriți, vă rog!

Directed by **Ioana Mischie**

Produced by **Andra MacMasters**

Country: Romania

Production Company: **STUDIOSET Production**

Second Film

Financing already in place / Partners already attached: 524.489 EURO

Estimated production costs: 1.590.989 EURO

Beginning of production March: 2026

Looking for: We are envisioning a film shot in the English language with an international cast, so co-producers may provide access to talent pools in their own country. Can also contribute crew members, such as cinematographers, production designers, costume designers, and other key technical personnel. For our film with extensive visual effects requirements, co-producers with expertise in VFX can contribute their knowledge and resources to create stunning visual effects sequences. Partners with access to studio facilities, soundstages, and equipment can provide these resources for shooting and post-production. They may also offer production services. Also, musicians, composers, and sound engineers can contribute to the film's score and sound design, enhancing its overall quality.

Representatives present at Transilvania Pitch Stop

Ioana Mischie, Director

Andra MacMasters, Producer

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Ioana Mischie



Andra MacMasters

*In a society where everyone has become immortal,
dying has become a luxury.*

SYNOPSIS

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"Die, Please" is intended as a darkly humorous contemporary satire that portrays societal alienation taken to the extreme, at individual, community and planetary levels. It's theme is the rediscovery of the human essence despite adverse contexts. Although it is a speculative fiction, it is based on a detailed research process that investigated global trends in multiple societies around the world, social, psychological and ideological phenomena that we are facing even now. The current scenario is, paradoxically, a vision that brings together an apparently dystopian direction, but with a utopian solution. The oscillation between dystopia and utopia makes us understand that we need more balanced systems.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

IOANA MISCHIE is a Romanian-born pioneering transmedia artist (screenwriter/director) and futurist, awarded for film, VR and innovative concepts. Fulbright Grantee Alumna of USC School of Cinematic Arts and Alumna of Bucharest Theatre and Film School, she advanced the transmedia storytelling field as part of her doctoral study thesis. Her VR piece HUMAN VIOLINS premiered in the first Immersive Competition at Festival de Cannes 2024 and she is currently in post-production with her first feature film, CATANE.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

"Die, please" accurately describes the symptoms of an alienated society, but, using humor and empathy, manages to bring to the fore the optimistic alternative of humanity. A social satire in which humor is used to criticize and ironize the inequalities and inequities, it follows a trend started with award winning films like The Parasites, Triangle of Sadness or Shoplifters. From a formal point of view, it has an innovative character, a combination of live action filming with actors in chromakey and backgrounds generated in software such as Unreal Engine. We are confident that we can deliver an audiovisual product of the highest technical and conceptual quality.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

STUDIOSET Production has 14 years of experience in audiovisual production and post-production and over 60 employees. With an excellent track record in the audiovisual field, the company is in the top 3 sustainable AV companies in Romania. The titles produced by Studioset premiered at Cannes Film Festival, Venice Biennale Cinema, Clermont-Ferrand, Palm Spring, etc.

A FLOWER IS NOT A FLOWER

4

O Floare Nu Este O Floare

Directed by **Cristian Pascariu**

Produced by **Adriana Răcășan, Antra Gaile & Liga Gaisa**

Country: Romania, Latvia

Production Company: **POINT FILM, Romania, Air Productions, Latvia**

First Film

Financing already in place / Partners already attached: 440000 Eur / Air Productions - Latvia

Estimated production costs: 725000 Eur

Beginning of production: 2025

Looking for: 3rd Co-producer, International Sales

Representatives present at Transilvania Pitch Stop:

Cristian Pascariu, Director

Adriana Racasan, Producer

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Cristian Pascariu



Adriana Racasan

After spending six unbearable months in a communist Romanian orphanage where she was abandoned by her aunt, Ana, an 11-year-old girl, manages to escape and ends up in the dark sewers of Bucharest. Here, she must learn to detach herself from the toxic people around her to be truly free.

SYNOPSIS

After being abandoned by her aunt in a communist orphanage, Ana, an 11-year-old girl, must learn to survive the bitter reality of Romania in the late 80s. Ana's sensibility helps her see the disturbing backdrop with an innocent twist, but at the same time, it leads her to seek shelter with the orphanage bully, Costea. When all hope is lost, Ana runs away with Costea. They end up living in the sewers. For Ana, life underground is terrible, and things escalate when the child boss of the sewers attempts to sell her for money. Her only chance is to run away from the sewers to the seaside. With her faith crushed, she's too afraid to accept help from a seemingly friendly family, and she ends up on the beach, alone.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

After studying the brutal events in Romanian orphanages from the 80s, I've decided to build Ana's story based on the heartbreaking recollections and interviews of that time. A young child sees the world from a different point of view, and even in the most gruesome moments, she identifies glimmers of hope. I intend to create a claustrophobic camera framing that is close to the main character describing her perception of the institution. Ana is a girl who evolves and overcomes great obstacles, and in the end, she succeeds in being free from all the toxic people around her. It is a story about empowering oneself and never giving up the fight against appalling circumstances.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Cristian Pascariu (b. 1987) is a film director and screenwriter from Romania. Pascariu graduated from the Faculty of Theater and Film in Cluj-Napoca, Department of Cinematography, Photography, and Media, in 2010, and also holds an MA from the Department of Art Therapy at the National University of Theater and Cinematography "I.L. Caragiale" Bucharest. Pascariu's short films have gained international recognition, being selected by more than 70 international film festivals. In 2024, he released his first feature sports documentary about the life of tennis legend Ilie Nastase, produced by Libra Films, which will be presented in the 2024 Cannes Official Selection - Special Screenings.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

I've heard about these Romanian Institutions of horror where children were basically tortured by a cruel system, but I've never heard of a fiction film project that tackles this idea. I was a little worried that it might be overdramatic considering the subject, but reading the materials made me realize it was approached from a balanced perspective and treated with respect. I think this story, based on a crucial part of Romanian history that shocked and moved the world in the 1990s, needs to be told. It's a project that tackles a challenging subject with sensitivity, and the chance to share these children's stories motivates me deeply as I truly believe it has tremendous potential to resonate with audiences.

PRODUCTION COMPANY/ PRODUCER'S BIO

POINT FILM was founded in 2013 and aims for discovering new directors, especially from Romania and accompanying them through the process of making their first shorts and/or features. Point Film is led by director/producer Tudor Giurgiu, founder and president of the Transilvania IFF, owner of the Transilvania Film distribution company, the Romanian streaming platform TIFF UNLIMITED, and the well-established production company co-owned with Oana Bujgoi Giurgiu, Libra Film, alongside producer Adriana Racasan, a film directing graduate, who has worked on more than 40 films since 2003. Adriana won the Cannes Producers Network Prize for Promising Young Producers at the 21st Tallinn Baltic Event Co-Production Market.

GRAINED

5

Zimți

Directed by **Mihai Dragolea**

Produced by **Velvet Moraru**

Country: Romania

Production Company: **ICON Production**

First Film

Financing already in place / Partners already attached: 610 144 EUR /

Romanian Film Center, MMS Communication, Publicis

Estimated production costs: 1 539 962 EUR

Beginning of production: March 2025

Looking for: Co-producers, Distributors, Sales agents

Representatives present at Transilvania Pitch Stop:

Mihai Dragolea, Director

Dan Lupu, Delegate Producer

Ioana Moraru, Delegate Producer

Contact Details:

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Mihai Dragolea



Ioana Moraru

Romanian Eastern plains, 1946. Two women set off towards a fair to sell hand woven rugs. A hallucination, a pack of goats and the killing of a boatsman will send them on a path of no return.

SYNOPSIS

Amidst the drought of 1946 Romania, two women, Păuna and Zarinca, a speech-impaired goat-herd, try to escape what they believe to be Russian troops. Păuna kills a man to escape assault, which Zarinca witnesses. Misunderstood and falsely accused of losing the village goats, Zarinca attracts the villagers' fury. Păuna seeks advice and comfort from her deserter friend, Ilie. Her decoy fire that engulfs the village frees Zarinca. Barely escaping the mob, they flee and meet Ilie, finally revealed as imaginary. The ending shifts to modern times, thus underlining the complex man-nature bond.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Through *Grained* I intend to reinterpret the established directorial perspective of western films. The cinematography will be split into two modes of expression. The hand held camera will place us next to the characters, in an observational way of capturing reality. I will combine this with static frames. Through this particular practice I want to engage viewers in dialogue, directing attention to the surrounding nature. The viewers will be invited to understand that the fictional convention doesn't pretend to give access to a universally valid truth. The stake lies in the ability to make the viewer internalise a sample of a period story as an experience engaged in the present tense of observation.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Mihai Dragolea (b. 1989) specializes in documentary and hybrid fiction filmmaking. His films focus on alternative and peripheral humans or other types of sentient beings, on which subject he is also doing a Ph.D. Mihai's documentaries have been shown in festivals in Europe and distributed in more than 15 countries. He lectures on Documentary Practice at the Faculty of Theater and Film of Babeş-Bolyai University. Mihai is also working in the ecological and animal protection domain.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

What makes *Grained*, director Mihai Dragolea's feature fiction debut, an exciting project is the cinematic lengths at which the future film promises to go. The directorial approach aims to give the spectator the opportunity to occupy this period story as a sample of experience rooted in the familiar present, thus achieving a stimulating encounter with non-linear time, historical overlaps and heterogenous interpretation tools. This process is made possible through an attempt at revisionism: elements of the Western genre are transposed to the Romanian countryside of the first half of the 20th century, through a confrontation between the savage power of nature and human individualism in which the stakes are not victory but adaptation. Production Company/ Producer's Bio
Establishing herself as one of the first

independent female producers in post-socialist Romania, Velvet Moraru founded at the beginning of the 90's ICON Production, a Bucharest-based film company focused on the production of art-house cinema and on supporting newcomer filmmakers and projects with a strong social and political profile.

Previous work (selection)

- CERTAINTY OF PROBABILITIES, d. Raluca DURBACĂ, 2022
- POPPY FIELD, d. Eugen JEBELEANU, 2020
- CHARLESTON, d. Andrei CREȚULESCU, 2017
- SUMMER'S OVER, d. Radu POTCOAVĂ, 2016
- QUOD ERAT DEMONSTRANDUM, d. Andrei GRUZSNICZKI, 2013
- THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY NICOLAE CEAUȘESCU, d. Andrei UJICĂ, 2010
- EXAM, d. Titus MUNTEAN, 2003

KID HAZARD

6

Pericol

Directed by **Razvan Marinescu**

Produced by **Irina Enea** (first feature as a producer)

Country: Romania

Production Company: **BAKING FILMS**

First Film

Financing already in place / Partners already attached 245.000 EUR

Estimated production costs 800.000 EUR

Beginning of production May 2025

Looking for: Financing, Co-producers

Representatives present at Transilvania Pitch Stop:

Razvan Marinescu, Director

Irina Enea, Producer

Contact Details:

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Razvan Marinescu



Irina Enea

In a hilarious adventure for a camp ticket, Kid Hazard and his misfit crew discover the wild side of friendship and teamwork. A warm-hearted look at the trials and triumphs of childhood, with plenty of laughs and life lessons along the way.

SYNOPSIS

In a quest for a free summer camp ticket, ten-year-old Kid Hazard, a modern-day Tom Sawyer known for his quick wit and fear of nothing, dives headfirst into a series of hilarious escapades. As he navigates school contests and outwits local bullies, Kid Hazard transforms from a lone troublemaker into the spirited leader of a ragtag group of friends, discovering the true magic of camaraderie and the unexpected thrills of teamwork in the funniest ways imaginable. It's a comedic journey of self-discovery and riotous fun.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Kid Hazard is a novel adaptation, aimed as a feature film for children and teenagers - a comedy with SF elements that shine as the main character unleashes his rich imagination. Filled with action and suspense, incredibly funny, it highlights fundamental values: family, friendship, overcoming personal limits, teamwork, and perseverance. Each scene, each dialogue, the pranks, and the unexpected combinations of characters and situations, all provoke bursts of laughter. The very nowadays characters, the savory situations, and the candor of this cinematic project make it a reference film for a generation, a movie that will be fondly and nostalgically revisited time and again. It's a film that our children will watch together with their own kids.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

RĂZVAN MARINESCU is a director, scriptwriter, actor, and producer based in Romania, with 20 years of experience in film and television. He wrote and directed several awarded short films and is currently developing two feature scripts. His relevant knowledge both in front and behind the camera - as an actor and as a casting director - is an added value in understanding the whole process of filmmaking. Besides his artistic vision as a director, his great communication and team management skills make each of Razvan's films a flawless project.

He also directed and produced many music videos, corporate films and commercials. "Siel by Tohani" was awarded Prix du meilleur film, corporate section at the FFDVV, France 2018.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

"Kid Hazard", a tale of a clever boy nicknamed after his knack for getting into trouble, captures a blend of comedy and genuine life lessons, adventure, and sensibility, promising a memorable film for audiences all over the world, a heart-warming journey for the entire family to enjoy. At the same time, the international cinema scene is "trained" and eager for more children's movies, longing for a new, more candid "wimpy kid", a new Tom Sawyer, or a new "Matilda".

The entire script is built on the premise that a children's film should be authentic and supportive, inspiring kids to see themselves

in the stories and to creatively engage with them. And it has to be fun! Kids are happy. They are always eager to laugh and play.

PRODUCTION COMPANY/ PRODUCER'S BIO

Irina ENEA is an emerging Romanian producer. In 5 years since her debut, she managed to produce, finance and release six indie short films, with TV distribution and many festival selections and awards. Based on collaboration with both well-known directors and newcomers, her latest work includes Romanian Film Fund (CNC) winning projects: Lost and Found documentary, features Warboy (r. Marian Crisan) and The New Year that Never Came (r. Bogdan Mureşanu), and the short film 6th of September. Her style is easy to recognize by her stubbornness to find solutions and a fresh perspective on the cinema industry

BAKING FILMS: creative film production company, based in Arges and Bucharest, aiming to produce independent films, as well as audio theatre.

TERMITES HAVE WINGS OF APPROXIMATELY THE SAME LENGTH 7

Termiti imaju krila priblizno jednake duzine

Directed by **Svetislav Dragomirović**

Produced by **Nevena Savić, Svetislav Dragomirović**

Country: Serbia

Production Company: **Cinnamon Films & Gray Tree Film**

Second Film

Financing already in place / Partners already attached: Film Center Serbia: 213.300 /

Cinherent: 45.500 / Cinnamon films: 5.000 / MegaCom Film/ exYU MG: 10.000

Estimated production costs: 628.800,00 EUR

Beginning of production: 2025

Looking for: Co-producers, Financiers, Sales reps.

Representatives present at Transilvania Pitch Stop:

Svetislav Dragomirovic, Director

Contact Details:

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nevena@cinnamonfilm.com



Svetislav Dragomirovic

While fighting a termite infestation that's destroying their home, Petar and Hana must come in terms with the decision to terminate an unplanned pregnancy.

SYNOPSIS

A young married couple, Petar and Hana, escape their termite-infested home for a weekend trip in Athens. Amidst personal struggles and strained relations, they confront the prospect of parenthood. As they navigate through Athens, tensions rise, leading to profound moments of introspection and emotional turmoil. Ultimately, they confront their emptiness culminating in a poignant exploration of identity, parenthood and the complexities of modern relationships.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Plato's myth: Humans once had four arms, four legs, and two faces. Zeus split them in two as punishment for pride, destined to seek their other half. TERMITES aren't about finding completeness but how we weaken on this journey. It's a story about blinded couple amidst beauty they can't fully perceive. It's closely tied to the idea of final destruction from divine contact, where movement ceases. Despite fear, life persists amidst the chaos.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Svetislav is an director best known for his work THE LOVE CASE, OR TRAGEDY OF AN ORDINARY MAN and bachelor feature HORIZONS. With a focus on tragic portraits and characters' inner struggles, Svetislav ranges his films from personal documentaries such as I'M PEOPLE, I AM NOBODY to the feature film project THE GROUND IS BURNING about a secret service hitman during ex-YU wars. He's a

Berlinale Talents and Emerging Producers alumni. A co-founder of Gray Tree Film. He's latest project TERMITES HAVE WINGS OF APPROXIMATELY THE SAME LENGTH tells telling a story about family as nucleus of society is currently in process of financing. Svetislav's impact extends beyond directing to creative producing, leading in two feature doc co-productions.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

The TERMITES presents a compelling story and vision, with film language that could resonate strongly with an international audience, especially those fond of original and author driven films. At its essence, it's a tale of love lost or never found, intertwined with deep-seated fears and aspirations—a universally relatable theme. Set in diverse locales such as Belgrade and Athens, the narrative mirrors the lives of individuals trapped by personal decisions, past traumas, negative experiences we carry from our native families and societal pressures during their formative years. We have started financing process late 2023 and now we're in search for the partners that could help us to finance and position film on international level.

PRODUCTION COMPANY/ PRODUCER'S BIO

Nevena Savić is CEO and producer in Cinnamon Films, supervising most of the production and post-production. As an producer she's now working on feature fiction films and TV series that will be broadcasted on national TV and screened at international festivals. As a creative

producer and co-producer, she worked at more than 20 films, such as CATHARSYS OR AFINAS TALE OF THE LOST WORLD, 18% GRAY, HORIZONS, AS FAR AS I CAN WALK, MALMKROG, MY MORNING LAUGHTER and ENOUGH FOR NOW along side CAT'S CRY and TOWER OF STRENGHT currently in post-production. Cinnamon Films is a company that focus on the work with young directors and new voices, as well as co-producing films with well established directors.

DANCING ANGELS

8

Dans Eden Melekler

Directed by **Ferit Kilic**

Produced by **Diloy Gulun, Beste Yamalioglu**

Country: Turkey

Production Company: **Karma Films**

First Film

Financing already in place / Partners already attached: 523.300 Euro

Estimated production costs: 788.000 Euro

Beginning of production: Fall 2024

Looking for: Post-production support, Co-producers, Sales Agents

Representatives present at Transilvania Pitch Stop:

Ferit Kilic, Director

Diloy Gulun, Producer

Contact Details:

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Ferit Kilic



Diloy Gulun

Ali (15) who feels closest to his true self only while dancing, but lost among his dysfunctional family and the reckless school environment, gives into violence and transforms into the person whom he despises the most.

SYNOPSIS

Ali (15), after his failed attempt at suicide, is enrolled in a private school for a fresh start. Although he finds temporary refuge in dance classes against his father's disapproval, he has to deal with a bully, Tarik. The bullying intensifies. His call for help is turned down by the school. After a final dramatic event, Ali is forced by his mother to attend the school's skiing trip. At the hotel, Ali puts on his makeup and starts shooting down the kids in his dancing suit. He chases Tarik down, confronts him, and realizes the truth. Tarik is a child just like him, trying to find his way in the world.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

My mission is to explore the often-overlooked issue of bullying, a pervasive problem affecting children within the schools and their homes. Unlike conventional approaches, the narrative delves into exploring the origins of it, presenting a nuanced portrayal of both the aggressor and the victim. The film also takes a look at the struggles faced by both children and adults in a world fixated on superiority, where individuals navigate through a maze of expectations. It's a call to action, urging all parties to reflect on their roles in perpetuating or preventing this cycle of violence. In essence, I would like to depict the dichotomy between the bully and the bullied as not a black-and-white narrative but rather two sides of the same coin.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Born in Istanbul in 2005. At the age of 6, he started making stop-motion videos, editing, mixing them with music and effects. He had his first camera at 10 and started shooting short videos. When 13, he wrote and shot his first short film about bullying, directing 20 young actors with a crew of over 40 people. Since then, he has been writing his first feature script, "Dancing Angels". He graduated from the High School of Fine Arts this year, and he is taking a gap year for the production of his film.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

It is not something a producer sees every day, witnessing the birth of a script crafted by a talented teenager in response to a poignant societal reflection, a narrative that dissects our collective failure in safeguarding our children, calling us to awaken to the need for change. We are collectively impressed by his astute observations and his strength in communicating them both verbally and visually. We are aiming to finalize the script in July 2024. Auditioning the young talents has started. We shot a teaser in March to express the film's mood, secured over 60% of the production budget and are getting ready to start shooting in Fall 2024. We would like to collaborate with a coproduction partner who could help us with the post-production.

PRODUCTION COMPANY/ PRODUCER'S BIO

Following her 2001 San Sebastian FF Best Film award with *Boats Out of Watermelon Rinds*, she founded Karma Films in 2003 and has been servicing numerous feature films including *Charlie's Angels*-Elizabeth Banks, *Inferno*-Ron Howard, *Taken 2*-Olivier Megaton, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*-Mira Nair, *The International*-Tom Tykwer... In addition to producing 2018 Sundance winner *Butterflies*, she co-produced 2023 Sundance Audience Award Winner *The Persian Version*, 2022 Berlinale Panorama winner *Convenience Store*, produced *Between Two Dawns* which opened in San Sebastian FF and won Torino IFF Best Film in 2021. Her last feature *Hesitation Wound* by Selman Nacar had its world premier in Venice Film Festival Orizzonti section this year.

MY HAPPY FAMILY

Benim Mutlu Ailem

Directed by **Alkim Özmen**

Produced by **Alkim Özmen, Olena Yershova**

Country: Turkey

Production Company: **TatoFilm** (Turkey/Ukraine) **Meraklı Hayalperver** (Turkey)

First Film

Financing already in place / Partners already attached: 386.500 € / Arthouse Blockbusters (Germany)

Estimated production costs 551.500 €

Beginning of production: February 2025

Looking for: Co-production, Sales, Distribution

Representatives present at Transilvania Pitch Stop:

Alkim Ozmen, Director

Olena Yershova, Producer

Contact Details:

ozmenalkim@gmail.com



Alkim Ozmen



Olena Yershova

An 11-year-old boy secretly sets out to make a movie by capturing rare moments of joy in his abusive family as part of a school project to impress the girl he loves.

SYNOPSIS

Azat (11) wants to shoot a film to capture rare moments of joy in his abusive family as part of a school project to impress the girl he loves. Despite his mother Beren's objections he proceeds by forging her signature. Azat's grandfather, Bahadir, is the only male figure left in his life after his parent's divorce and they start working together on the film. But soon after this, Bahadir is hospitalized. Determined to finish his film, Azat calls his cast-off aunty Melike to help him with his project. Meanwhile Beren finds out what Azat did and beats him up. Azat secretly films the beating, and with a reluctant acceptance of his own loneliness, he submits the footage of beating as his finished project to be shown in the classroom.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I am driven to explore the psyche of a child subjected to domestic violence, aiming to capture their loneliness and confusion as love and violence become intertwined. In this film, I would like to delve into the feelings and coping mechanisms of children who face parental abuse. I have opted against depicting explicit violence, seeking instead to address its impact without glorifying it. I will adopt a realistic approach in this film, using cinematic tools to create an authentic portrayal. I will evoke subtle performances and employ a camera that persistently follows Azat, depicting the intricacies of his world.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

He has directed four documentaries and five short films. His short films "Story of a Job Interview" and "In Search of Dad One Night" have been screened in many festivals and received awards. He has also directed commercials for various brands. Besides directing, he has also participated in the production of over a hundred episodes of TV series and fourteen feature films as an assistant director. One of these films is "Once Upon a Time in Anatolia", which was awarded the Grand Prix by the Jury in Cannes Film Festival in 2011. He is an alumnus of Berlinale Talents and participated in the script development workshops such as Meditalents and Sources2. He is currently working on his feature film debut My Happy Family.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

Alkim directed three short fiction films that participated in international film festivals. These films showcase his ability to direct compelling stories with strong acting and a creative vision. He also worked as an assistant for prominent Turkish directors such as Yeşim Ustaoğlu and Nuri Bilge Ceylan, which can be considered the best training. 'My Happy Family' received production support from the Turkish Ministry of Culture. We plan to produce it as a co-production between Turkey and Germany and are seeking partnerships from a third country. We are already in contact with Bulgaria and Serbia and are open to working with other countries as well. We are also looking for a sales agent. The project is scheduled to start shooting in 2025.

PRODUCTION COMPANY/ PRODUCER'S BIO

Olena Yershova has produced ten feature films and three feature documentaries, receiving more than 250 awards at international film festivals. She is also a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the European Film Academy.

TatoFilm (TR/UA), founded in 2011 by Olena Yershova, has successfully produced and co-produced nine feature films and four feature documentaries, collectively winning over 250 international awards. Most of these projects were international co-productions.

Meraklı Hayalperver (TR), founded by Alkim Özmen, is a production company dedicated to producing his films. The company has produced three short films.

CURTAIN

10

Zavisa

Directed by **Valeria Sochyvets**

Produced by **Inna Lastochkina**

Country: Ukraine, Poland, France

Production Company: **Contemporary Ukrainian Cinema**

First Film

Financing already in place / Partners already attached: 10 000 euro

Co-producers: Loco Films (France), Lumisenta Film Foundation (Poland).

Estimated production costs: 845 155 eur

Beginning of production: Autumn 2025

Looking for: Co-producers (Germany, Romania, Czech Republic), funds and sales.

Representatives present at Transilvania Pitch Stop:

Valeria Sochyvets, Director

Inna Lastochkina, Producer

Contact Details:

sochyvets@gmail.com

innalasto4kina@gmail.com



Valeria Sochyvets



Inna Lastochkina

Arina, a concertmaster at the peak of her career, is fighting her addiction to a codependent relationship with her partner, the orchestra's conductor.

SYNOPSIS

Arina, a talented violinist, performs in an orchestra where her boyfriend Denys serves as the conductor. One day she informs him she's entering a violin solo competition. Arina knows from him that he has another girl. Arina is flying abroad for a music competition. During a music competition's party, girl is raped by a stranger. She hesitates to tell her partner about it. At home, she commits self-harm and tells him about rape. He gets jealous and leaves. Later, drunk, he calls Arina, demanding to see her. She rushes to him again. When they meet, he gets aggressive. Arina tries to escape and figure out her next move. Suddenly, war breaks out in Kyiv, filling the city with alarms and explosions echo nearby.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Through Arina's eyes, we see her journey toward self-growth within a co-dependent relationship. I love to explore characters in depth and show how relationships can be complicated, and how important it is to accept yourself. For a long time, I have been interested in body language, the plasticity of movement and how it serves as powerful tools to delve into themes of corporeality and sexuality. The body is the main image that moves our story forward, opening the characters through the movements and gestures. Opting for black and white visuals minimizes distractions, allowing a deeper focus on characters' emotions. Music is integral to our story, deeply intertwined with the characters' lives.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Valeria Sochyvets is a key figure in Ukrainian cinema, member of the European and Ukrainian Film Academies, Ukrainian Guild of Directors. In 2015, she established CUC company (Contemporary Ukrainian Cinema) to support and promote Ukrainian films. Valeria has also participated in Berlinale and Sarajevo Talents 2023. Valeria produced a number of films that took part in many international film festivals, such as Rotterdam IFF, San Sebastián, Sarajevo IFF, PÖFF Shorts, Clermont-Ferrand, Tampere, Molodist, Warsaw IFF etc. Currently, she is working on her debut feature film, "Curtain," which was selected for the Studio + program in Poland (Wroclaw) in 2023 and the Film Bridge program at Wajda Film School from 2023 to 2024.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

Valeria is a well-known producer in the Ukrainian film industry, has produced numerous films and directed four shorts. She actively seeks opportunities to develop her directing skills through educational and screenwriting workshops. In 2023, she participated in Berlinale and Sarajevo Talents. Since her student film "Blood" (Fribourg IFF 2016), she's always been interested in corporeality and intimate stories, which she continues to explore in her new project, "Curtain." The script is in its first draft in English, and due to the war, we're considering relocating the shooting to European countries. We want to bring in European talent for roles like production design, makeup, music composition, editing, color grading, and sound design.

PRODUCTION COMPANY/ PRODUCER'S BIO

Contemporary Ukrainian Cinema was founded in 2015 to promote young Ukrainian filmmakers. With 16 shorts, 2 documentaries, and 4 features to its name, which were premiered at festivals in Clermont-Ferrand, Rotterdam, San Sebastián, Sarajevo, Warsaw, Palm Springs and ISFF Sleepwalkers. Notable credits include LA PALISIADA by Philip Sotnychenko (nominated for Discovery - Prix FIPRESCI at EFA 2023) and BLINDFOLD by Taras Dron (Best Film of Competition 1-2 in Warsaw 2020).

Inna Lastochkina is a Ukrainian film producer whose primary focus is narrative film. Her recent projects have been featured at industry events such as Euro Connection Clermont ISFF, Connecting Cottbus, EFM, and Midpoint Shorts.

The 10 projects are competing for the awards kindly provided by our industry partners:

The Chainsaw Europe post-production Award

25.000 Eur in post-production services

The TPS Development Award

offered by Avanpost in the amount of 5.000 Eur

**The National Center of Cinematography
Republic of Moldova Award**

in the amount of 1.500 Eur

The VILLA KULT Development Award

in the amount of 500 Eur

**The Connecting Cottbus cocoLAB:
east-west emerging producers Award**

Members of the international jury who will hand out the awards:

Gabriele Brunnenmeyer (Consultant)

Viorel Chesaru (Chainsaw Europe)

Radu Stancu (deFilm)

For info about TPS, contact us: tps@tiff.ro



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