

LINE UP 2020/III

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media luna
new films

Media Luna New Films represents directors and producers with a handwriting signature on their work. We focus on international productions by talents, who demand to emerge through their original approach and their unique style.

Media Luna offers a broad spectrum of feature length films and television movies, touching all genres. With our line-up, we intend to shed light on various pieces of the Earth and of human life, showing fascinating diversities or unexpected similarities. The company's strategy is based on building long lasting relationships with producers and directors, in providing individual marketing strategies to each film for an effective and sensible placement in the international market. Therefore, you will find in Media Luna's catalogue films from a large number of countries and without boundaries.

Ida Martins, founder of the Media Luna brand name (1991), has been distributing independent films worldwide for almost 30 years. She has her background in journalism (as Editor of Children and Youth Magazines), advertising (7 years in the creation department) and in marketing, creating and organizing advertising agencies and developing several "direct-marketing" projects.

Memberships and Affiliations:

IFTA - Independent Film & Television Alliance

VDFE - German Film Exporters Association

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UPCOMING



Story of intrigue and fanaticism, in a city in which professed faith mixes well with corruption and fraud.

Directed and written by
Tito Jara H.

Starring
**Andrés Crespo,
Carlos Valencia,
Emilia Ceballos**
Producers
**Tito Jara H.,
Magda Garcés**
Production Company
**Atefilms,
Hotel B Filmes,
El Medano
Producciones.**

93' | Colour | Audio 5.1 | Shot
on Anamorphic

***Ecuador, Colombia,
España 2021/Spanish OV***

EL REZADOR

A cynical swindler uses a girl who they say has visions of the Virgin Mary and whom many consider miraculous, for his economic benefit. Together with the parents of the "Blessed one", they will generate a business so large and lucrative that inevitably it will get out of their hands.



■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Tito Jara H.

He is a director, screenwriter of the feature film *A Tus Espaldas*, one of the most popular films in Ecuadorian cinematography. It had theatrical releases in Ecuador, Venezuela and Spain. It has been programmed in dozens of international film festivals like the International Film Festival of La Habana and Trieste.



■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Andrés Crespo

He won awards for best actor at the Guadalajara and Cartagena Film Festival. He has participated in around ten feature films, including *Pescador* by Sebastián Cordero. It is part of the Netflix series *Narcos*, *Frontera Verde* by Ciro Guerra and stars in *Camionero* selected "Cannesseries".

Carlos Valencia

He played the leading role of a criminal named Ángel, in the film *Ratas, Ratones y Rateros* by Sebastián Cordero, (premiered at the Venice Film Festival and nominated for the Goya award as best foreign film) for which he won the Colón award. Silver Award for Best Actor at the Huelva Film Festival.



Emilia Ceballos

Colombian actress with experience in film, theatre, TV and cinema. Outstanding work as *Los Fierros* by Director Pablo González, *Volar* from Director Javier Pinto, other work as *Lost Time*.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In beautiful Quito downtown you can find many petty scammers that offer their miraculous healing services. How dangerous and immoral are their activities? I felt that this context is wonderful to place a crime that while it is being explained, creates a thread that joins corruption and power at all levels.

NEW



Directed and written by
Rodrigo Fiallega

Starring
**Martijn Kuiper,
Andres Almeida,
Iazua Larios**

Producers
**Gabriela Maldonado
Miquelerena,
Rodrigo Fiallega,
Alejandro de Icaza**
Production Company
Tangram Films.

90' | Colour | Audio 5.1 | Shot
on Alexa mini

A deeply emotional tale about the destructive power of revenge,
Martijn Kuiper's outstanding performance won him the Best Actor
Award at the Morelia International Film Festival.

Mexico 2020
Spanish OV

RICOCHET

Quiet loner Martijn leads a hermit's life on the outskirts of the city after his son was murdered at the local festival. Estranged from his wife and diagnosed with a terminal disease, he seems to live in a past that's irretrievably gone – until the day when he finds out that his son's murderer will be released from jail, setting him up for a trail of revenge that is beyond redemption.



■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Rodrigo Fiallega

He studied Philosophy and Audiovisual Communication. He began his career at advertising film and began to experiment with photography, VFX and animation. In Barcelona he graduated with a Cinema Studies Ph.D. Nowadays he continues working as director and VFX artist. Some of his works (short films, animations, videoclips, etc.) have been selected in numerous festival around the world.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Martijn Kuiper

Martijn discovered his vocation for acting at the age of 27 in Madrid. There, he played RICHARD THE THIRD gaining outstanding ovations. Sr. Ávila, Ingobernable and Falsa Identidad have consolidated his TV and film career in Mexico.

Andres Almeida

He began his career with a small role in the film *De noche vienes, Esmeralda* by Jaime Humberto Hermosillo. After his participation in some short films, the actor returned to participate in another successful film: *Cuarón's Y tu mamá también*. Since then he has participated in more than 50 films.

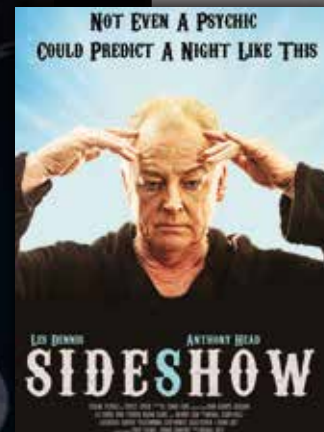
■ lazua Larios

lazua was nominated as a revelation in the Diosas de Plata awards, winner of the Best Interpretation award of the festival Átalo in Madrid. Known for her participation in *Apocalypso*, *The king of the Guardian*, *Walls speak* & *The death Of Winnetou*, an international success.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

With the film I wanted to highlight one of those powers that the cinema has with the interpretations, images, sounds, with which we tell you much more than we planned. Here we can show a very particular part of Mexico as an excuse. We choose this path to talk about what makes us human.

NEW



Directed and written by
Adam Oldroyd

Starring
**Les Dennis,
April Pearson,
Nathan Clarke &
Anthony Head**
Producers
Michael Riley
Production Company
**Perfect Sphere /
Sterling Pictures &
Cymru Films**

94' | Colour | Audio 5.1
Shot in HD

Adam Oldroyd's thriller features popular UK actors Les Dennis and Buffy's Anthony Head on a wild and crazy ride through the best of British thriller tradition.

**United Kingdom 2020
English OV**

SIDESHOW

After breaking into the home of a washed-up psychic, two criminals get much more than they bargained for, because *'The All-Seeing Stupendo'* is a genuine master of the dark mystic arts – at least that's what it says on his poster and he's sticking to it.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Adam Oldroyd

Adam is a writer, producer & director whose diverse theatre, film & TV credits cover wildlife, comedy, drama and children's programming; including BAFTA, EMMY & RTS nominated & award-winning shows. *Sideshow* is his feature film debut.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Les Dennis

One of the UK's most recognizable and popular entertainers, Les has focused his recent career on serious acting, building up an impressive list of leading stage credits on tour and in the West End.

Anthony Head

Anthony is well known for his high profile roles as Rupert Giles in *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*, Uther Pendragon in *Merlin* and as the Prime Minister in *Little Britain*.

April Pearson

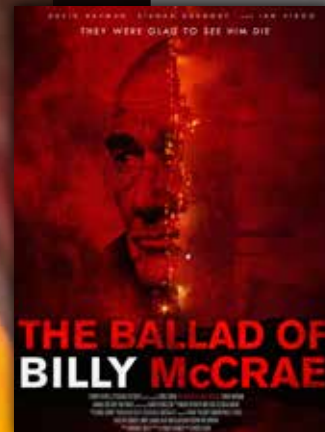
April is best known for her performance as Michelle Richardson in the British drama *Skins*. April appeared in the first two series of the successful E4 show.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Black comedy is as British as tea and scones, cricket and moaning about the weather. It's part of our DNA and the darker the better. Growing up in the U.K. in the 70's & 80's I've always been aware of the pathos and tragedy that underpin the great British comedies – from the jolly crucifixions of 'The Life Of Brian', to the sardonic quips of the doomed soldiers in 'Blackadder Goes Forth', British film and TV has always confronted the darker side of our existence with a well-honed, humorous insult.



NEW



Directed by
Chris Crow

Written by
Philip Palmer
Starring
David Hayman,
Sianad Gregory,
Ian Virgo
Producers
Michael Riley
Production Company
Cymru Films
Sterling Pictures

91' | Colour | Audio 5.1 |
Shot on HD Red

A bold and beautiful murder ballad set against the backdrop of industrial South Wales.

United Kingdom 2020
English OV

THE BALLAD OF BILLY MCCRAE

Chris Blythe returns to his home town in Wales after losing a fortune in Canada. He falls in love with Elen, a volatile and charismatic woman. But Elen's father Billy is a dangerous man and Chris finds himself torn between love and hate...



■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Chris Crow

Chris is a BAFTA nominated Welsh writer/director who has directed five feature films to date; *Devil's Bridge*, *Panic Button*, *The Darkest Day* and, prior to *The Ballad of Billy McCrae*, *The Lighthouse*. Chris has developed a reputation as an exciting director delivering rich character-driven storytelling with a highly visual style.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

David Hayman

One of the UK's best known faces, David is a Scottish actor and director known for his diverse film and television appearances including in over 100 movies. Hayman's break came when he was cast as convict-turned-sculptor Jimmy Boyle in the biopic *A Sense of Freedom*. He is best recognized for his roles as Pavel in *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* and as Malcolm in *Sid and Nancy*.

Sianad Gregory

Born and raised in South Wales, Sianad studied dance and musical theatre and worked for some of the biggest names in the dance world and for recording artists such as Kylie Minogue, Nicole Scherzinger and Olly Murs.

Ian Virgo

Acting from the age of eight, Ian's big break came with Ridley Scott's *Black Hawk Down*. He has recently finished filming *Just Noise* with Oscar nominated director Davide Ferrario. His many credits include *The Raven*, *Spooks*, *Caught In The Act*, *Clubbed*, and *Rise of the Footsoldier*.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

For me the film is part thriller, part melodrama, part tragedy and part Western, but is very much a film about real people and the ugly and cruel trappings of the human condition. I aimed to craft a fly on the wall Jacobean tragedy for a post-brexit Tory Britain; there's a cruelty to this world, a selfishness, and we watch people infected by all this unravel and turn on each other to gain something that will never be as fulfilling as they imagine.

NEW



Directed by
Antonio Hens
Antonio Álamo
Starring
Eloína Marcos
Rocío Marín
Carmen Vique
Jesús Castro
Written by
Antonio Álamo
Producers
Antonio Hens
Production Company
MALAS COMPAÑÍAS
PC SL

Original Title: Mi Gran
Despedida | 82' | Shot on 4,6
KRAW | Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1

Antonio Hens' and Antonio Álamo's next collaboration with Media Luna is a vibrant and touching romantic dramedy.

Spain 2020
Spanish OV



MY GRAND FAREWELL

Sara is about to get married. Friends and relatives gather to throw her one last big party, and over the course of an unforgettable day, Sara will find herself facing the truth about her relationship. While everyone around her seems to be harboring unspeakable secrets and impossible desires, a string of disasters turns friends into foes, lovers into enemies and a joyful celebration into a whirlwind of chaos. And at the end of the night, Sara may be about to lose her future ... or finally win back freedom.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Antonio Hens and Antonio Álamo

Antonio Hens and Antonio Álamo are both filmmakers from Cordoba. While Hens has directed films like Media Luna's *The Last Match* and *Oh! Mammy Blue* to critical acclaim, Álamo has been equally successful publishing five novels and directing his successful short film *Naturaleza*.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Eloína Marcos

Born in Sevilla, Andalucía, Spain. She is an actress, known for *El Príncipe*, *Víctor Ros*, and *Mi Gran Despedida*.

Rocío Marín

Film and television actress, known for *Wir Sind Champions*, *Mi Gran Despedida* and *Vergüenza*.

Carmen Vique

Recognized actress for *Mi Gran Despedida*, *Flaman* and *El pueblo*.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

My Grand Farewell is a women's ensemble comedy. The theme of the film is, of course, love, but we always take the feminine point of view and always focus on the climax: the breakup, that moment when everything is at a point of breaking and blowing up.

NEW



Directed and written by
Anders Lennberg

Starring
**Niclas Gillis,
Moa Garpendal,
Natacha Guyon**

Producers
**Anders Lennberg,
Therese Anselmsson,
Johanna Ljungberg,
Gustaf Söderberg**
Production Company
Pool Productions

Original Title: Pool | 87' | Shot
on RED | Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1

Pool is based upon the novel by the same name, by Swedish
cult-author Per Hagman

Sweden, France 2020
English/French/Swedish

POOL

24 year old Johan spends his days in Nice on the French Riviera, supported by an aging ex-actress. Days go by between her house, the beaches and the apartment of his friend Kurt. A life in leisure and luxury. But memories of Johan's teenage years are haunting him. A strong sense of threat is growing stronger and stronger. Desire and fear are acted out by the controlled but helpless people in this seemingly perfect and glamorous world.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Anders Lennberg

After film-studies at Stockholm University, Stockholm Film School, UCLA and the American Film Institute, Anders Lennberg got his start in music-videos and commercials. That lead to a 10 year career in television directing series. Lennberg moved into screen-writing in the 2000's and eventually directing four feature films.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Niclas Gillis

The up-and-coming lead actor had a supporting role in *The Ape* which was in competition at Venice Film Festival.

Moa Garpendal

He co-starred in the role of Harriet Wagner in David Fincher's adaption of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*.

Natacha Guyon

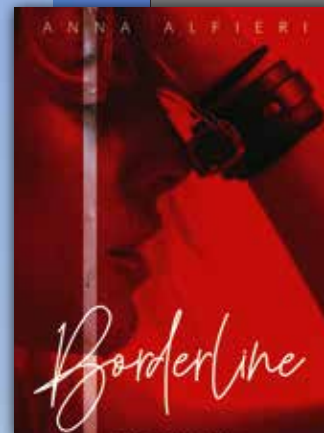
This established French actress made her debut in *Mona et Moi* in 1981 co-starring Denis Lavant.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I wanted to do a portrait of the French Riviera in the film. Just as Taxi Driver is as much about New York City as it is about Robert Di Nero's character, in Pool the south of France is a character in itself. I wanted to do a modern film with contemporary, timeless characters, while still paying homage to the great French films of the 1960's like Plein Soleil and Jean-Luc Godards Le Mépris.



NEW



**What if what you thought was going to kill you was in fact saving you?
A true story of overcoming.**

Directed and written by
Anna Alfieri

Starring
**Anna Alfieri,
Agathe Ferre,
Faye Sewell**
Producers
Anna Alfieri
Production Company
Oliver Pictures Ltd

Original Title: *Borderline* | 110'
Shot on Canon C300-II, 2K
Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1

**UK/Italy 2020
English/French OV**

BORDERLINE

Craving the girl she was never able to replace and seeking inspiration in her absence, or presence, or rather fantasy, a tormented writer embarks on a stormy journey of love, passion and potentially perdition.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Anna Alfieri

was born in Bergamo, Italy. At 19, she dropped out of university and moved to Milan to study method acting. A couple of years later she went to London where she attended Richmond Drama School and several film-acting courses. Over a period of 8 years, Anna took part in over 30 film and theatre productions, climaxing with the production of her own film.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Anna Alfieri

Besides writing, producing, directing and editing *Borderline*, Anna decided to play the main character who is based on parts of her own story, herself.

Agathe Ferre

Agathe is a French actress currently living in London where she appeared in some music videos, a TV documentary and several short films before being cast as the second lead in *Borderline*.

Faye Sewell

Faye trained in both Ireland and Los Angeles before moving to London to work in a variety of genres from horror films to dramas and comedies, including the award-winning LGBTQ drama *Cat Skin*, comedy series *Relationsh*t* and thriller *Chasing Shadows*.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

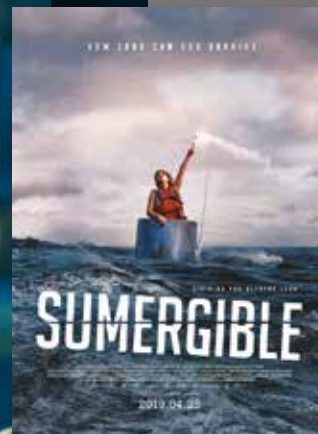
What to say, making this film has been like undergoing heart surgery for me. It's saved me and killed me at the same time, as it would do to any director as emotionally attached to something they are creating. I guess when you set out to exploit your pain for creative purposes you must be ready to deal with the consequences, for better or worse.



NEW



The first studio film shot fully in Ecuador, this claustrophobic thriller stars *Terminator*'s Natalia Reyes and *Narcos*' José Restrepo.



Directed by
Alfredo León León

Starring
**José Restrepo, Leynar
Gómez, Natalia Reyes**
Producers

**Arturo Yépez Z.,
Sebastián Cordero,
Juan Pablo Solano,
Simón Beltrán**
Production Companies
**Boom en Cuadro
Producciones, Carnaval
Cine, Proyección Films**

Original Title: Sumergible
80' | shot on Sony F44, FS7

**Ecuador 2020
Spanish OV**

SUBMERSIBLE

A handmade narco sub is on the verge of sinking and losing its precious cargo. The three crew members are forced to open the forbidden cabin where they find a special gift for the buyer. The boat, barely big enough for them to begin with, becomes a steaming powder keg of fears, desires and greed.



■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Alfredo León León

Alfredo has a post graduate degree on scriptwriting from and an BA in Film and Video. He premiered his first feature film, the critically acclaimed and award-studded *Open Wound*, a historic drama, in 2013. *Submersible* is his second feature film project as writer and director.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Natalia Reyes

Is a Colombian actress known for her stunning role in Sony's hit series *Lady, La Vendedora de Rosas*, also for her work on *Cumbia Ninja* (2013) and *Just Moved In* (2012). Her next big project is *Terminator: Dark Fate*.

Carlos Valencia

Was born in Manta, Ecuador as Carlos Alberto Valencia. He is an actor, known for *Ratas, ratones, rateros* (1999), *Tierra de Serpientes* (2016) and *Highway Society* (2000).

José Restrepo

Is an actor known for *Malcriados* (2016), *2091* (2016) and *Narcos* (2015).

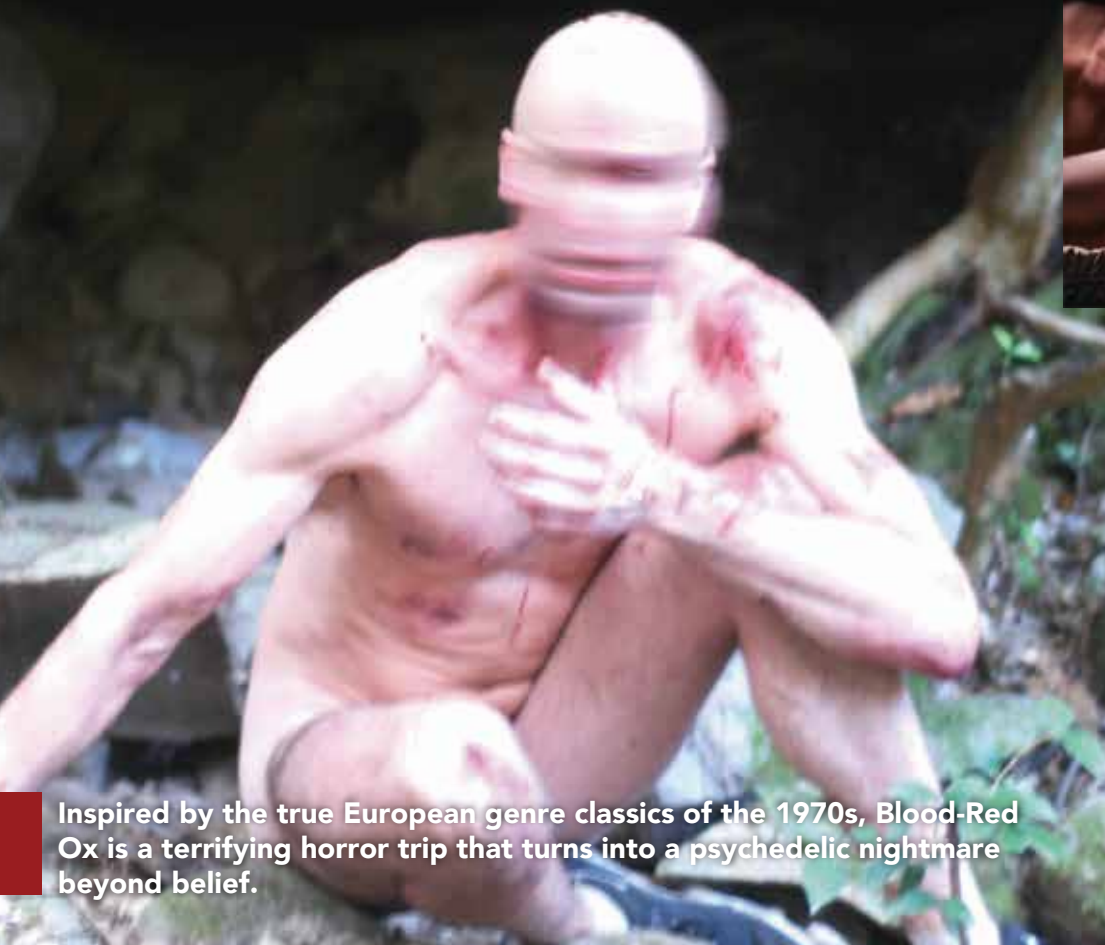
Leynar Gómez

Known for *Narcos*, and *Vers la bataille*.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

A small, confined and claustrophobic place. A fragile fiberglass structure, low ceiling chambers, poorly lit; the constant trembling and the unstable feeling of being underwater. A drug sub is not designed to be luxurious or friendly with its crew. The audience will feel the heat, the smell, the poor sanitary conditions and the extreme confinement, reinforcing the suspense and mystery around these four characters.

NEW



Inspired by the true European genre classics of the 1970s, **Blood-Red Ox** is a terrifying horror trip that turns into a psychedelic nightmare beyond belief.

Directed by
Rodrigo Bellott
Starring
**Mazin Akar,
Kaolin Bass,
Andrea Camponovo**
Written by
Nate Atkins
Rodrigo Bellott
Producers
**Rodrigo A. Orozco,
Rodrigo Bellott,
Kaolin Bass**
Production Company
Narrative Engineer

Original Title: Blood-Red Ox
94' | Shot on RED, 2K | Aspect
Ratio: 1,85:1

USA/Bolivia 2020
English/Spanish OV

BLOOD-RED OX

Amir and Amat are invited to a trip into the South American rain forest, but the pleasant visit to Bolivia quickly takes a bizarre turn as Amat starts having strange visions and loses his mind over the ghostly presence of a giant blood red ox. Amir must save his boyfriend from paranoia but he will quickly realize he can't trust nothing and nobody - as he might be losing his mind too.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Rodrigo Bellot

is known as one of Bolivia's most prominent visual artists. In 2001, he helmed his breakout hit, *Sexual Dependency*, which won the Fipresci Award in Locarno and became Bolivia's first official selection competing for Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards. In 2007, *Variety* named Bellot as one of the Top Ten Latin American talents to watch. He later produced his first American horror film, *We Are What We Are*, which premiered at the Director's Fortnight section at the Cannes Film Festival.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Mazin Akar

Mazin Akar is an American actor of Lebanese descent who is known for guest starring on the TV shows *Homeland* and Netflix' *Jessica Jones*.

Kaolin Bass

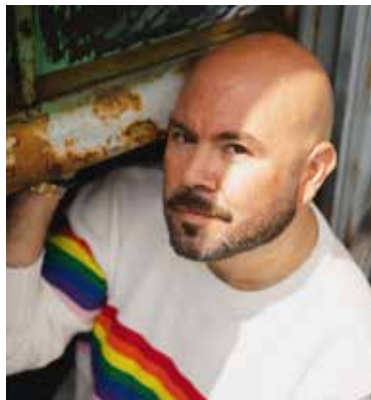
Kaolin was an Executive Producer on Rodrigo Bellot's previous film *Tu Me Manques* and also worked as an actor in TV shows.

Andrea Camponovo

She is a Bolivian actress and producer who became known in the films *Even the Rain* and *Eugenia* (which she also produced).

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

BLOOD RED OX is my attempt to fall in love with storytelling and cinema, inspired by the work of Ingmar Bergman and the early horror films of the 60's and 70's, especially Roman Polanski and Dario Argento. It is a film that attempts to play with the essence of the genre while touching contemporary environmental themes and social issues around mental health.



NEW



Based on the true story of the Alto Hospicio's serial murders where fourteen teenage girls were raped and brutally killed by a psychopath who operated in total impunity for four years.



Directed and written by
Álvaro Muñoz

Starring
**Catalina Saavedra,
Daniel Candia,
Karin Mayorinca,
Vilma Verdejo,
Claudio Troncoso**

Writer
Omar Saavedra
Producers
**Eduardo Salinas,
Teresa Salinas**
Production Companies
Yestay Producciones

Original Title: Diablada
90' | Aspect ratio: 1.9:1

Chile, Venezuela 2020
Spanish OV

DIABLADA

A group of girls from a humble little town in the middle of the desert, disappears systematically without the police or the authorities taking action on the matter. Families, desperate, seek help, but are faced with bureaucracy, discrimination and total abandonment.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Álvaro Muñoz

graduated in 2005 from the Arcos Art and Communication Professional Institute. He directed several award-winning short films and is a professor of multimedia graphic design and digital video post-production at the Arcos Professional Institute. *Diablada* is his debut film.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

It inspired me making a film about the crimes that took place in Alto Hospicio, because various social, political and cultural elements of our Chilean identity were intertwined in a horrifying crime. A marginal Chile reveals the abuse of power exercised by different levels of government, the banality of institutions in its most incompetent and profane version.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Catalina Saavedra

This seasoned actress started her career at the age of 10 and is mainly known for the movies *The Maid* (2009) and *Old Cats* (2010). Her roles have won her over a dozen awards.

Daniel Candia

Is a Chilean actor known for *To Kill A Man* (2014), *Hidden in the Woods* (2012) and *The Oak's Shadows* (2011).



NEW



Directed and Written by
Sabrina Mertens

Starring
**Miriam Schieweck,
Freya Kreutzkam,
Zelda Espenschied**
Producers
**Sabrina Mertens,
Vera Paulmann**
Production Company
**Filmakademie
Baden-Württemberg**

Original Title:
Fellwechselzeit | 81'
Aspect Ratio: 1,85:1

The critically praised feature debut of Sabrina Mertens premiered in competition at the 2020 Max Ophüls Festival and the International Film Festival Rotterdam.

**Germany 2020
German OV**

TIME OF MOULTING

Germany in the 1970ies. Stephanie is an intelligent and lively child, leading an isolated life with her mentally unstable mother and her mistrusting father. The passing years only bring aging, but no future. Unspoken thoughts lurk underneath the surface of everyday life. So Stephanie retreats into a dark world of barbaric fantasies, nourished by the traces of the past. One day, however, Stephanie's secret invades the family's reality...

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Sabrina Mertens

works in documentary, experimental and fictional films as well as video art. She studies Directing at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg since 2015. *Time of Moulting* is her first feature film.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Freya Kreutzkam

Up until now, Freya has been working mainly in short films and for television. *Time of Moulting* is her big screen debut.

Zelda Espenschied

For Zelda, still at a young age, this was her first acting experience.

Miriam Schieweck

Despite her role being a very demanding one, Miriam Schieweck mustered the courage to play adult Stephanie with an intensity that belies her non-professional background.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Atmospheres of oppression and the banality of the horrible. Diffuse feelings of how the past shapes the future, traumas that are believed to have been repressed influence the life of the next generation. The standstill lies like a leaden blanket on the soul and the human psyche takes an escape route into inner abyss. To be devoured and disappeared - who would wish that? Three people trapped together and within themselves and the question of what chance a child has, whose parents are incapable of being parents, in a society where family origin determines one's fate in life?



NEW



Directed by
Majid Barzegar

Starring
**Nazanin Ahmadi, Alireza
Sani Far, Mazdak
Mirabedini**

Written by
**Majid Barzegar,
Arman Khansarian**
Producers

**Majid Barzegar,
Amir Endalah**
Production Company
**Rainy Pictures,
The Other End Inc.**

Original Title: ABR
BARANASH GEREFTEH
104' | Aspect ratio: 2.39:1

Barzegar's work strays away from social dramas exclusive to Iranian society, exploring universal topics with a very personal approach instead.

**Iran 2020
Farsi OV**

THE RAIN FALLS WHERE IT WILL

Sara works as an experienced and respected nurse in one of the busiest hospitals in Tehran where she quietly takes away the lives of her patients who have lost all hope in recovery. All seems to go well for her, until she is asked to take care of a private patient in his villa by the sea.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Majid Barzegar

Majid Barzegar is a leading figure of Iranian arthouse cinema who has worked as a writer, producer, and director. Throughout his career, he has received countless nominations, awards, and been selected for competition at Berlinale, Rotterdam, San Sebastian, among many others.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Nazanin Ahmadi

Nazanin Ahmadi is an Iranian actress and, besides having acted in short films, is known for her starring role in the drama *Disappearance*.

Alireza Sani Far

Alireza is an Iranian actor who has been in many films over the last 10 years. He also writes for TV.

Mazdak Mirabedini

Mazdak is an Iranian multitalent who, besides having acted in several films, directed, wrote and starred in his own theatrical drama *Footwork*.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Suicide is often perceived as cowardly or selfish. But those who choose to finish their lives with a dignified ending are worthy of respect for their courage and self-sacrifice. In recent years, medical ethics have posed meaningful questions about patients lacking symptoms of life. By keeping them alive, are we prolonging life or death?



NEW



Directed by
Johannes Maria Schmit

Starring
**Tucké Royale,
Monika Zimmering,
Jalda Reblin**

Written by
Tucké Royale
Producers

Fabian Altenried
Production Company
Schuldenberg Films

Original Title: Neubau | 82'
Aspect Ratio: 1,85:1

Neubau was the big winner of the 2020 Max Ophüls Festival. It won the Award for best feature film and the Award for exceptional relevance to society.

Germany 2020
German OV

NEUBAU

In the Brandenburg province, Markus is torn between his love for his grandmothers in need of care - one of them suffering from dementia - and his longing for urban self-determination in Berlin. Most of the time, left alone with his worries, he daydreams of a crowd of dazzling demons which act as harbingers of an urban elective family. When Vietnamese technician Duc enters his life, things become more complicated, as Markus has to decide if he should stay or go...

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Johannes Maria Schmit

works as a freelance director for German and Swedish theatres and is part of the performance duo *White on White*. The naturalistic drama *Neubau* is his feature film debut.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Tucké Royale

Tucké Royale is an actor, musician, director and writer. He lives in Berlin and is working mostly for the stage and in experimental arts. *Neubau* is his feature debut as a writer and actor.

Monika Zimmering

Monika Zimmering is making her acting debut in the role of Sabine.

Jalda Rebling

Jalda Rebling is an actress who is known for her work on East German TV in the 1980s. With her role in *Neubau*, she is returning to acting after a break of almost 35 years.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This film is the attempt of translation without generalization, seeking to visualize the world of a very special character without involving a conflicting norm as a means of comparison. We tried to work around the genre of a coming of age drama, showing people from the countryside in concrete relations and in their everyday life. Inspired by the timelessness of the landscape within the film, turning points are not dramatized in an edgy way but carried gently from hill to hill.



NEW



Directed and written by
Melanie Waelde

Starring
**Marie Tragousti,
Sammy Scheuritzel,
Michelangelo Fortuzzi**

Producers
Anja Wedell
Production Company
Czar Film GmbH

Original Title: Nackte Tiere
83' | Aspect Ratio 1.2:1
Dolby 5.1 | Shot on Sony
Alpha 7 S2

This touching drama will have its World Premiere in Berlinale's Encounters Competition.

**Germany 2020
German OV**

NAKED ANIMALS

Katja, Sascha, Benni, Laila and Schöller – they seek each other, they run away from each other. They kiss, they brawl. They love each other. A kaleidoscope of violence, love and loneliness where intimacy and pain go hand in hand.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Melanie Waelde

was born in Dachau in 1992. From 2013 until 2017 she studied screenwriting at the "Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin" (dffb). Since graduating she has been working as a freelance author and filmmaker. Her short films have been screened at numerous festivals. *Naked Animals* is her feature film debut.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Marie Tragousti

gathered first acting experience by participating in plays at the Youth Club of the Schaubühne Berlin. *Naked Animals* marks her feature film debut.

Sammy Scheuritzel

is an aspiring young actor who has been in quite a few known productions such as *Alone in Berlin* and *Dark*.

Michelangelo Fortuzzi

is a well-known young actor who belongs to the cast of *Druck*, the German version of the Norwegian Web-Series *Skam* and will play in the upcoming Amazon series *Wir Kinder vom Bahnhof Zoo*.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Naked Animals is a film that works like an emotion - like a memory and a vision of the future. As the characters and their relations move, so does the picture. Their whole world is as narrow as the aspect ratio. A film that exists in the place where it hurts most. The place where the heart beats. The place where we are vulnerable and, at the same time, try not to be.



World Premiere at
Berlinale Encounters
Competition



NEW



Directed and written by
Marco Gadge

Starring
**Sabrina Amali,
Nellie Thalbach,
Michel Diercks**
Producers
Mike Brandin
Production Company
In One Media

Original Title: Julia muss
sterben | 96' | Shot on Arri
Alexa, 2K | Aspect Ratio:
2,35:1

Director Marco Gadge's feature debut, *Juliet Must Die* had its world premiere in the competition section of the 2020 Max Ophüls Preis Festival.

Germany 2020
German OV

JULIET MUST DIE

Young actress Lya wants to be the one to finally step into the spotlight today - even if her family doesn't approve. But somehow, between finding new friends, making some enemies and chasing her dream on stage, a seemingly normal audition day at the actor's school spirals completely out of control...

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Marco Gadge

realized several short film projects that were successful at over 150 film festivals worldwide and won several awards. *Juliet must die* is his first feature film. He regularly directs various television productions.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Sabrina Amali

Sabrina is a German actress who was featured prominently in many TV productions. She is mostly known for her role as Djamila on the hit series *Four Blocks*.

Nellie Thalbach

Nellie comes from one of the great German acting dynasties – her mother Anna and her grandmother Katharina Thalbach are among Germany's most acknowledged actresses. Nellie mostly acts on stage and in several TV productions.

Michel Diercks

Michel became widely known with his starring role in Till Kleinert's widely lauded psycho-horror *Der Samurai* and works in TV as well as for the big screen.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

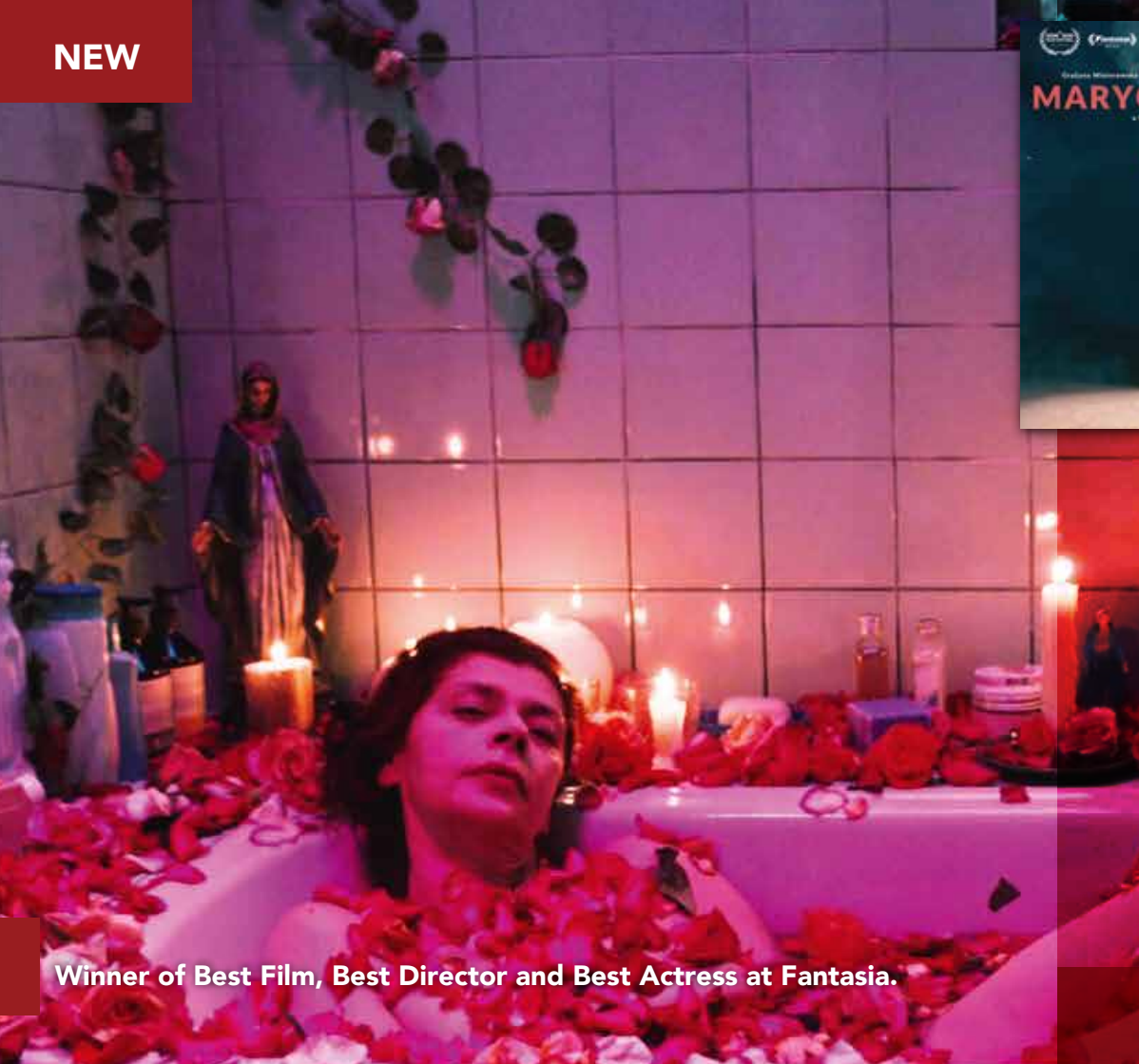
How is it possible that an arabic young woman gets lost in a drama school? Just by accident. Nobody would think that a headscarf would turn up in such a temple of art. The culture clash is inevitable. So every audition is kind of a soul striptease for the applicants. But timidly she drops her veil and opens herself to the others and the world. In those restless times, we need new approaches and empathy. The problems of time inevitably lie ahead of us. How we treat them and which solutions we chose, is up to us.



Max Ophüls Preis
Competition



NEW



Directed and written by
Daria Woszek

Starring
**Grażyna Misorowska,
Helena Sujecka,
Sylwester Piechura,
Janusz Chabior**

Written by
**Sylwester Piechura,
Daria Woszek, Aleksan-
dra Świerk**

Producers
**Marcin Lech,
Dagmara Molga**
Production Company
**Jutrzenka Studio &
All Muses**

Original Title: Maryjki | 80'

Winner of Best Film, Best Director and Best Actress at Fantasia.

**Poland 2020
Polish OV**

MARYGOROUND

Mary is a lonely, small-town, grocery store worker, living a carefree life. On the eve of her 50th birthday, Mary's life soon begins to take on a totally unexpected turn for the better – becoming an awesome revelation.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Daria Woszek

graduated from the Jagiellonian University, followed by studies in theatre and film directing at the Krzysztof Kieslowski Faculty of the University of Silesia. *Marygoround* is her first feature film.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Grażyna Misiorska

Is a well-known Polish stage actress. She is mainly connected with Jan Kochanowski's Theatre in Opole, where she has played almost 100 roles. She was working with the best Polish directors, like Agnieszka Holland or Maja Kleczewska. *Marygoround* is her silver-screen debut.

Janusz Chabior

A stage and film actress, she has already performed in many theatrical and film projects directed by well-acclaimed Polish and international authors, i.a. in a Russian-Polish-Serbian co-production *Dovlatov* by Aleksiej German Jr. She is connected with Ad Spectatores Theatre.

Barbara Kurzaj

Is a well-know Polish actor. He stands out due to his interesting physical look. Currently, he is mainly attached to TR Warsaw Theatre. In 2010 he was awarded with *Golden Lions* at Gdynia Film Festival for his role in *Made in Poland* by Przemysław Wojcieszek.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

It was very interesting to find out that for my mother and my female friends alike, life started at age 50. Only after freeing themselves from the roles traditionally assigned to them, they were able to finally find true selves. Marygoround is about experimenting and searching to find one's own way of life. It's about the struggle to start giving your life the shape you want it to have.



World Premiere at SXSW



NEW



Directed by
Noelia Quintero Herencia

Starring
**Avril Alcántara,
Amauris Perez,
Hony Estrella**

Writer
**Noelia Quintero,
Rita Indiana**

Producers
Rafael Elías Muñoz
Production Company
Lantica Media

Original Title: Papi | 88'
Colour | Aspect Ratio
2.39:1 | Audio 5.1 | Shot on
RED 6K

Based on the best-selling novel by Rita Indiana, this captivating coming-of-age drama marks Noelia Quintero Herencia's directorial debut.

***Dominican Republic 2019
Spanish OV***

PAPI

Sonia is a precocious 8-year-old girl with a vibrant imagination. Her flashbacks and surreal flights of fancy help her to navigate through a life as the daughter of Papi, a drug dealer who returns from New York to become the biggest crime lord in the city.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Noelia Quintero Herencia

Is a filmmaker, researcher and professor at the Faculty of Communications at the University of Puerto Rico. She has worked in television, creating the TV series *Prohibido Olvidar* as well as documentaries and music videos. *Papi* is her first feature film.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Avril Alcántara

For this amazing and promising newcomer, *Papi* marks her feature film debut.

Amauris Perez

Amauris is a Dominican actor known for *Patricia: The Return from the Dream* and *Colored Like the Night*. He has also worked as a director of short films.

Hony Estrella

This up-and-coming actress and producer is known for *Todos los hombres son iguales* and *Once Upon a Fish*.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

PAPI explores the emotional detachment of a westernized Dominican elite through the imagination of an 8-year-old girl, who waits and waits for a father who is always returning but never arrives. The film's childlike and hallucinogenic world possesses the dramatic and sexual tension of the romantic ballad, where the Caribbean middle class assimilates American popular culture.



NEW



Directed and written by
Eché Janga

Starring
**Tibor Lukacs,
Daniel van Wijk,
Marieke Groenendijk**
Written by

**Oscar van Woensel,
Wouter Laumans**

Producers
**Pieter Kuijpers,
Sander van Meurs,
Iris Otten**
Production Company
Pupkin

Original Title: Hallali | 93'

A dark crime dramedy with a realist touch from the production company behind Netflix's Ares.

**Netherlands 2020
Dutch OV**

HALLALI

Liberal politician Gerben Kooistra becomes deputy Mayor of a small village. He is assigned to stay low profile while solving a 'private problem'. Soon he discovers that the seemingly boring border-village is a hub for drug smugglers, led by hardened criminal Toontje van Wanrooy.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Eché Janga

debut feature *Helium* was nominated for four Gold Calf awards at the Dutch Film Festival, winning two. *Hallali* is Eché's second feature.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Tibor Lukacs

Is a well-known stage and screen actor. He has been working as both a dramatic and comedic actor ever since. He has starred in diverse projects like the tv drama series *Swingers*, or the romantic comedy film *Hartenstraat*. He won the Musical Award for his work in *Snorro*, a comical satire based on the stories of Zorro.

Bart Slegers

A Dutch actor, he is mainly active in the theater but often plays roles in television series and films. He is best known to the audience for his roles in *Sedes & Belli*, *Flikken* and *Gluckauf*. Since 2012, he has been a permanent ensemble member at International Theatre Amsterdam.

Daniel van Wijk

Is a young and upcoming actor from The Netherlands. Previously he starred in *Sonny Boy*.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The madness in which the lead character ends up, is a state in which I have been myself at some point. Not literally, rather mentally. I do not want to be weighty about this film, but the fact that sometimes your instinct kicks in under great pressure or stress has been the inspiration for this film. The culture and world that we have been creating is an elaboration of the animal that exists in all of us. This is the underlying thought and philosophy of this film.





This atmospheric and thrilling drama was directed by BAFTA award winner Catherine Linstrum and stars 1917 lead *George MacKay*.

Directed by
Catherine Linstrum

Starring
Emilia Jones,
Sienna Guillory,
George MacKay

Writer
Catherine Linstrum,
David-John Newman
Producer
Stella Nwimo
Production Company
Yellow Nuclear Ltd

92' | Colour | Aspect
Ratio 2.39:1 | Audio 5.1 |
Shot on Arri Alexa

United Kingdom 2019
English OV

NUCLEAR

Brutalised by her own brother, a traumatised young girl, Emma, and her mother are on the run. Finding refuge in an isolated retreat, where a nuclear power station looms, Emma begins to break away from the protection of her mother and is forced to navigate a hostile world alone. A tense and haunting tale of a toxic family with a dangerous past.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Catherine Linstrum

Catherine began her career working for the BBC television as a documentary director and wrote the screenplay for *Dreaming of Joseph Lees*, directed by Eric Styles. *Nuclear* is her feature film debut.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Emilia Jones

Nominated for a BAFTA Award for her leading role in *Horrible Histories*, she was born in London and began acting when she was 8 years old. Her credits include *High-Rise*, *Brimstone* and *Ghostland*.

Sienna Guillory

A former model, she is best known for her portrayal of Jill Valentine in the action-horror film series *Resident Evil*. She also starred in the epic fantasy blockbuster *Eragon* and Ben Wheatley's dystopian adaptation of J.G. Ballard's sci fi extravaganza *High-Rise*.

George MacKay

One of 2014's Berlinale Shooting Stars, George rose to fame with roles in *Sunshine on Leith* and *Pride*. He recently played the lead in Sam Mendes' award winning drama *1917* and in TIFF premiered epic western *True History of the Kelly Gang*.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Nuclear explores characters and themes that have intrigued me for a long time, with its intense emotional story playing out in a world where reality and unreality collide. It is an emotional psychological drama with supernatural elements, it has a twisting narrative, where our characters transition - from this life to the next, from childhood to adulthood, from revenge to redemption.



World Premiere at
Warsaw IFF





Skin Walker mixes gothic images, supernatural terror and psychological drama into a tribute to the great European horror movies of the 1970s.



Directed and written by
Christian Neuman

Starring
Udo Kier,
Jefferson Hall,
Amber Anderson,
Sophie Mousel
Producers
Jesus Gonzalez-Elvira,
Alex Tate
Production Companies
Calach Films,
Caviar Films

Original Title: Skin Walker
86' | shot on Arri Alexa

Luxembourg/Belgium 2019
English OV

SKIN WALKER

Regine is a fragile young woman trying to build a new life – safer and happier than the one she had as a child. Escaping her trauma is not so easy however, and when her grandmother is brutally murdered, Regine must return to the village she once left and revisit the gruesome horrors of her past to protect herself and her family.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Christian Neuman

is a Luxembourg born artist and filmmaker. He is best known for his work in the fashion industry as the creative director behind several brands and campaigns in. Trained at London Film School, his shorts and fashion films have screened at festivals worldwide. *Skin Walker* is his feature film debut.

■ CAST INFORMATION

Amber Anderson

She is a British actress, known for the film *Your Highness* (2011) and the TV series *BlackMirror*. She will play Jane Fairfax in the 2020 movie adaptation of Jane Austen's *Emma*.

Jefferson Hall

The British actor starred in the successful theatrical reboot of *Halloween* (2018) and also is no stranger to the small screen with roles in TV saga *Vikings* and HBO's worldwide fantasy phenomenon *Game of Thrones*.

Udo Kier

Udo is a German actor who has appeared in over 200 films such as *Downsizing* (2017), *Iron Sky* (2012) and *Dogville* (2003) and collaborated with acclaimed filmmakers like Lars von Trier and Gus van Sant.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

My intention was to create a film that deals with the protagonist's descent into madness. I was interested in creating a specific atmosphere, close to a gothic melodramatic tale. To some degree I am giving up on linear storytelling, with the hope of the film being experienced by gliding through time in a dreamlike and surreal state.



World Premiere at
Cairo IFF, BIFFF





Directed and written by
Benjamin Bond

Starring
Lucie Bourdeu,
Jonathan Ajayi,
Tia Bannon,
Tom Sweet,
Ariyon Bakare
Producers
Iona Sweeney
Production Companies
Starcross
Entertainment,
Cove Pictures

Original Title: The Drifters
91' | shot on Arri Alexa

A romantic road thriller, *The Drifters* is colorful British retro pop at its best, proudly flashing back to Godard and the golden days of the Nouvelle Vague.

United Kingdom 2019
English OV

THE DRIFTERS

In a post-Brexit United Kingdom. Koffee, an African migrant, and Fanny, a French waitress, are two lost souls who attempt to find home in one another and escape the labels that inevitably leave them homeless. A sun-drenched romantic drama about identity.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Benjamin Bond

is a writer and director focused on creating dynamic independent feature films with an international outlook and individual edge. Previously Ben wrote *Killing Bono* which was picked up by Paramount Pictures and BAFTA nominated comedy series *Skins* for Channel 4. Ben has directed many well-known commercials. *The Drifters* is his feature film debut.

■ CAST INFORMATION

Lucie Bourdeu

A young and promising French actress, she starred in the movie *Kings for a Day* (2017) and the TV series *En Famille*.

Jonathan Ajayi

Jonathan is an actor known for *Gone (After Lysistrata)* (2018), and *Hallelujah* (2017).

Ariyon Bakare

He is a British actor, writer and director known for his roles in the TV series *Good Omens* and the movies *Rogue One* (2016) and *Life* (2017). He is starring in the much anticipated TV series *His Dark Materials*.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The film is largely shot on the beaches I grew up on and has a sunny 'daylight' vibe. I wanted to make the sort of romantic film you don't see so much these days and the cool soundtrack and primary colors reflect that. It's a relationship movie on every level, between the young lovers, also between the film-makers and the audience, and finally between the UK and everyone else. The Drifters is my love letter from Britain to the rest of the world on the eve of Brexit. I think of it as a European movie.



World Premiere at
Sao Paulo IFF





A moving drama starring Lisa Hagmeister, known for Berlinale Silver Bear winner and German Academy Award entry *System Crasher*.

Directed and written by
Daniel Bertram

Starring
**Lisa Hagmeister,
Alicia Valencia Pollex,
Günther Harder**

Producer
Daniel Bertram
Production Company
Daniel Bertram

Original Title: Bis die Welt
einen Rand bekommt | 84'
shot on Red One and
Sony PMW F5

**Germany 2019
German OV**

UNTIL THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

The five-year-old Flo cannot understand the condition her father is in. Her mother explains: "He is with us but also far away at the same time". This description sparks the child's creativity, as she begins to imagine her father embarking on a journey far away, into the vastness of space.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Daniel Bertram

He was chosen to direct the Anti-Racism-Spot for the FIFA World-Cup 2006 at the age of 20 with players from Germany, the USA and Albania. His social spots were broadcast in over 70 countries. *Until the Edge of the World* is his first feature.

■ CAST INFORMATION

Lisa Hagmeister

Born in Berlin in 1979, she performed in Theatre as well as on the successful German series *Tatort*, for which she won a German Television Award. She recently starred in a leading role in *System Crasher*, which won her the Silver Bear at the Berlinale.

Alicia Valencia Pollex

For this promising German child actress *Until the Edge of the World* marks the first film role.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I wanted to make a film in which the audience becomes a silent observer of a world dominated by grief and loss. My vision was a film in which we immerse ourselves in the inner thoughts of the characters, to a metaphorical, visual and acoustic dimension where we slowly begin to realize on whose mind we are.



World Premiere at
Oldenburg FF





Oldenburg FF Spirit of Cinema Award winner, The Steed is a heart touching story between a boy and his horse.



**Directed and written by
Erdenebileg Ganbold**

**Starring
Ariunbold.E,
Tserendagva.P,
Mendbayar.D**

**Producers
Trevor Doyle,
Alexa Khan,
Ganchimeg.G,
Naranbat.B,
Delgertsetseg.B.**

**Production Companies
Ajnai Corporation,
Three Flames Pictures,
Nomadia Pictures,
Belgute Pictures**

**Original Title: Khiimori
98' | shot in 4K**

**Mongolia 2019
Mongolian OV**

THE STEED

After being cruelly separated, a Mongolian boy and his horse brave the unforgiving Mongolian wilds during the Russian revolution to be reunited.



■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Erdenebileg Ganbold

"Ebi" has been performing with the Mongolian National Theater since 1999. He is the winner of three Mongolian Academy Awards: Best Picture and Best Director for his film *Father* and Best Producer for *Trapped Abroad 2*.

■ CAST INFORMATION

Young actor **Ariunbold.E** plays the lead in *The Steed* and is accompanied by Mongolian actors **Tserendagva.P** and **Mendbayar.D**, as well as an international cast from Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan.



■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Mongolians cannot be imagined without their horses. The Mongolian Empire encompassed two thirds of the known world because of this sacred bond between horse and man. The film shows the bond between a horse and its homeland while showing the communion between steed and rider that is so central to the nomadic way of life. In the end a boy and a horse will teach us the true meaning of family and that a Homeland starts with a handful of soil.



Oldenburg IFF Spirit of Cinema Award, Best Feature at San Diego FF, Palm Springs IFF.



Directed and written by
Francesco Ghiaccio

Starring
**Valeria Solarino,
Vinicio Marchioni,
Margherita de Francisco**
Writers

**Marco D'Amore
Francesco Ghiaccio**

Producers
**Marco Cohen,
Marco D'Amore,
Fabrizio Donvito,
Benedetto Habib**
Production Companies

**Indiana Production,
La Piccola Società with
Vision Distribution**

Original Title: *Dolcissime*
90' | shot on Arri Alexa

An empowering film about self-acceptance, making friends and overcoming the hardships of growing up.

**Italy 2019
Italian OV**

THE SWEETIES

Mariagrazia, Chiara and Letizia are 16 and not very confident about their bodies. Most of the times, they would just like to be invisible. But when a video showing them in their swimsuits surfaces online, their worst nightmare becomes reality. Now they have two choices: They either disappear forever or they dive headfirst into a mad mission - and become champions of synchronized swimming.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Francesco Ghiaccio

Francesco Ghiaccio graduated in dramaturgy at the Paolo Grassi School in Milan. His plays have been staged in the most important national festivals and theaters. With Marco D'Amore, he founded La Piccola Società, a film and theatre production company. He debuted as a film director in 2007 with the short *Gabiano con un Sola B*. In 2015, he directed his first feature film *Un Posto Sicuro* based on the book written with Marco D'Amore.

■ CAST INFORMATION

Valeria Solarino

The actress was born on November 4, 1979 in El Morro/Venezuela and is well known for films like *The Sea Purple* (2009), *Valzer* (2007) and *La Febbre* (2005).

Vinicio Marchioni

He was born on August 10, 1975 in Rome/Italy. He is an actor and director and appeared in Woody Allen's *To Rome with Love* (2012) and *Cronofobia*.

Giulia Barbuto Costa Da Cruz, Alice Manfredi, Margherita De Francisco, Giulia Fiorellino - the four protagonists of the movie - are all up-and-coming Italian actresses. *The Sweeties* is the debut film for Giulia, Alice, and Giulia. Margherita starred in the 2013 Italian comedy *Welcome, Mr President!*

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

It's hard to look within yourself with sincerity, we need some kind of encouragement. The same is for the protagonists of this story: they will need love, rage, dreams, and fears before reaching that final taste of achievement. You are how you feel about yourself, not how you see yourself, the mirror is always lying.



Giffoni FF





**The touching drama had its World Premiere in Toronto
IFF's Discovery section.**

Directed and written by
Hisham Saqr

Starring
**Basma,
Passant Shawky,
Mohamed Sarhan,
Lobna Asal,
Rafal Khalil**

Producers
**Mohamed Hefzy,
Hisham Saqr**
Production Companies
**White Feather
Productions,
Film Clinic**

Original Title: Bi 'Elem El
Wossoul | 95' | shot on
Sony A7 Mark 2

Egypt 2019
Arabic OV

CERTIFIED MAIL

Since her husband went to prison, Hala has to face alone the struggles of parenthood and her mental health. Her strength has to come from within as society does not help nor forgive a depressed woman - especially if she's a mother.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Hisham Saqr

was born in Cairo and has more than ten years of experience as an editor in the Egyptian film industry. Saqr has worked with a number of acclaimed Egyptian directors. *Certified Mail* is his first feature film.

■ CAST INFORMATION

Basma

The Egyptian actress, also appearing in Media Luna's *Sheikh Jackson*, first garnered the attention of a Western audience with a recurring role in FX drama show *Tyrant*.

Passant Shawky

Is an actress known for the movies *Qabeel* (2019), *Kalabsh 2* (2018), and *Diamond Dust* (2018) as well as several Egyptian TV productions.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I made a film about the idea of loss and how one can surprisingly find the inner strength to deal with it. It is about how a normal person who is emotionally fragile copes with incomprehensible emotions such as anxiety and depression that lead to suicidal thoughts. I wanted my subject to be a woman with a young child who is under special scrutiny in society. Her complex emotions and how she finds a way to cope with them is what I am examining in my film.



Toronto IFF, Sao Paulo IFF, Goa IFF, CineMed Montpellier





Not the typical Boy-Meets-Gun film. Coen brothers meet Michel Gondry.

Directed by
Joost van Hezik
Starring
**Eelco Smits,
Victor Ijzens,
Mara van Vlijmen**
Writer
Willem Bosch
Producers
**Pieter Kuijpers,
Sander van Meurs,
Iris Otten
Layla Meijman**
Production Company
Pupkin
Original Title: Boy Meets
Gun | 84' | Shot on
Arri Alexa

**Netherlands 2019
Dutch OV**

BOY MEETS GUN

When the bored out evolutionary biology professor Maarten Moreau gets caught up in a robbery, he accidentally gets hold of the murder weapon. Seized by a renewed appetite for life, Maarten decides to keep the gun. A true romance blossoms between the boy and the gun, not without consequences.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Joost van Hezik

Joost (1982) has a background as a theatre director. Over the years he repositioned himself in film, directing the absurdist drama series *TreurTeeVee* and the short film *The Funeral of the Shy*. *Boy Meets Gun* marks his first feature length film.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Eelco Smits

An acclaimed Dutch theatre actor working for ITA with world famous director Ivo van Hove. He received the prestigious Paul Steenbergen-penning. *Boy Meets Gun* is his first lead role in a film.

Victor Ijdens

Is a fresh new face on the Dutch film scene. He starred in the short film *Radio Voorwaarts* before moving on to his first feature film *Boy Meets Gun*.

Mara van Vlijmen

Is a Dutch actress best known for her role in the successful Dutch series of children's films *Mister Twister*. She has also portrayed Dutch Queen Beatrix.

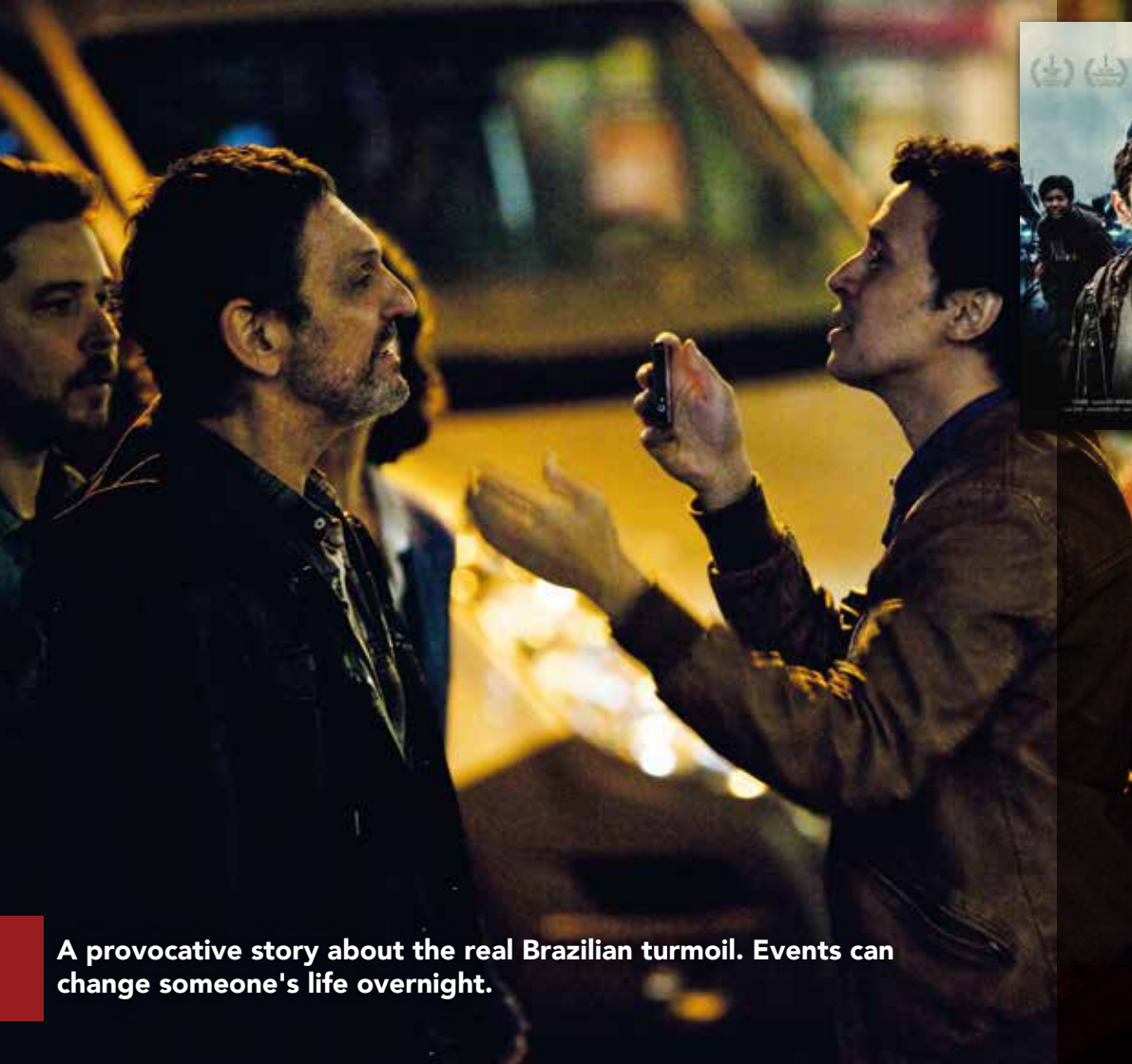
■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I think we all long for personal change, in one way or another. I know I do anyway. Eat better, exercise more, meditate, fulfill my dreams, focus more on my career, or less, just be a better person in general! And this belief in endless personal evolution seems to have risen to an unquestionable and almost holy status nowadays. With this film, I wanted to question this belief. Because what are we changing into? And is that really better? Maarten finds a gun, which acts as a magic wand that turns him into a stronger person. But is that good? Can the road towards becoming someone else, someone better, actually lead us to darker places?



Busan IFF,
Sao Paulo IFF,
Cairo IFF





A provocative story about the real Brazilian turmoil. Events can change someone's life overnight.



Directed by
Iberê Carvalho

Starring
**Paulo Miklos, Thaíde,
Bruno Torres**

Writers
**Iberê Carvalho,
Pablo Stoll**

Producers
**Máira Carvalho, Rodrigo
Sarti Werthein, Rune
Tavares, Iberê Carvalho**

Production Companies
**Quartinho,
Pavirada, Acere**

Original Title: O Homem
Cordial | 90' | shot on
Alexa Amira 4K

Brazil 2019
Portuguese OV



THE FRIENDLY MAN

After a video gone viral, a successful rockstar is trapped in a controversy that involves the death of a police officer. From being awed to being despised by everyone, he embarks on a journey through the night of Sao Paulo, where he will have to face his own demons and the current political turmoil.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Iberê Carvalho

The Friendly Man (O Homem Cordial) will be the second feature film for award-winning Brazilian filmmaker Iberê Carvalho. His first film, *The Last Drive-In Theater* (O Último Cine Drive-in), was named best Brazilian film of 2015 by the newspaper Folha de São Paulo.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Paulo Miklos

Is one of Brazil's greatest rock stars, best known for his former work as front man of rock band "Titãs". He has also been successful as an actor, starring in films such as *The Invader* (O Invasor).

Thaíde

Is a Brazilian rapper from São Paulo who has been rapping professionally since 1988. Recently he has also worked as a TV presenter and an actor, starring in films such as *Two Rabbits*.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I must say that when this film was being written and shot none of us would imagine that Brazil would elect a far-right candidate as president. It is in this Brazil that the story takes place. The emergence of a wave of hatred and intolerance with strong traces of fascism is shown from the point of view of a white, sixty-year-old, heterosexual, rich man that, from his privileged social status, finds himself impotent, without knowing how to react to this reality that presents itself.



Gramado FF,
Sao Paulo IFF,
Cairo IFF,
Tallinn PÖFF



Directed by
Steven Oritt

Starring
**Zuzanna Surowy,
Michalina Olszańska,
Eryk Lubos**

Writer
David Himmelstein
Producers
**Steven Oritt,
Justyna Pawlak**
Production Companies
**James Lucy
Productions**

Original Title: My Name
is Sara | 111' | Shot on
Anamorphic Digital

**Based on the real experiences of Sara, a young Holocaust survivor,
this captivating drama was award winner at several festivals.**

**USA 2019
English, Polish OV**

MY NAME IS SARA

During World War II, after a grueling escape to the Ukrainian countryside, Sara steals her Christian best friend's identity and finds refuge in a small village, where she is taken in by a farmer and his young wife.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Steven Oritt

Steven began directing music videos and commercials. He then moved into documentaries with his feature-length debut *American Native*, earning 3 best director/documentary awards on the international film festival circuit, before launching his own production company.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Zuzanna Surowy

Zuzanna was discovered during an open casting call across 6 cities in Poland where she was chosen from over 650 other amateur actresses. *My Name is Sara* marks her first acting role.

Michalina Olszanska

This rising young actress won Best Actress Awards at Minsk IFF and the Czech Film Critics' Awards for her role in *I, Olga Hepnarová* (Berlinale 2016). She also starred in *The Lure* (Sundance 2016) and Netflix' *1983*.

Eryk Lubos

Eryk was named Best Actor at the 2012 Karlovy Vary Film Festival and is a recipient of the Zbigniew Cybulski prize for Best Polish Actor of the Young Generation.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This is a deeply personal story that was first shared with me in 2014 by the woman who survived it. Her name was Sara Góralnik and for over 50 years, she hid the truth from her own family. Her memories were the basis for my film and while some elements were invented, most were not. I feel extremely grateful to be able to share Sara's story with the world.



Giffoni CGS Award,
Sao Paulo IFF,
Tofifest, Goa IFFI





Directed and written by
Mehrdad Taheri

Starring
Kida Khodr Ramadan,
Simon Licht,
Mehrdad Taheri
Producers
Mehrdad Taheri
Production Company
Round 12 Film

Original Title: Dünnes Blut
93' | shot on Sony F55

Action and suspense on the gritty streets of Berlin, starring Kida Khodr Ramadan (*Four Blocks, Unknown Identity*) and Burak Yigit (*Victoria*).

Germany 2019
German OV

THIN BLOOD

To escape a long prison sentence, small-time crook Gabriel strikes a deal with his prosecutors – to infiltrate the dangerous Arab clan of his former boss, Murat Kaplan, and provide crucial information to smash their drug cartel. But a plan gone wrong and a cold-blooded murder quickly escalate the situation – and all of a sudden, Gabriel finds himself in the merciless crossfire of a war that no one can win...

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Mehrdad Taheri

was born in 1983 in Teheran, the son of an Iranian business man. In early 2016, Taheri founded the Round 12 film production company and shot his feature film debut *Thin Blood*.

■ CAST BIOGRAPHY

Kida Khodr Ramadan

Born in Lebanon in 1976, Kida Kohdr Ramadan pursued his acting career in Germany. He rose to fame in the internationally acknowledged TV drama series *Four Blocks* and also appeared in the crime thrillers *Only God Can Judge Me* (2017) and *Unknown Identity*.

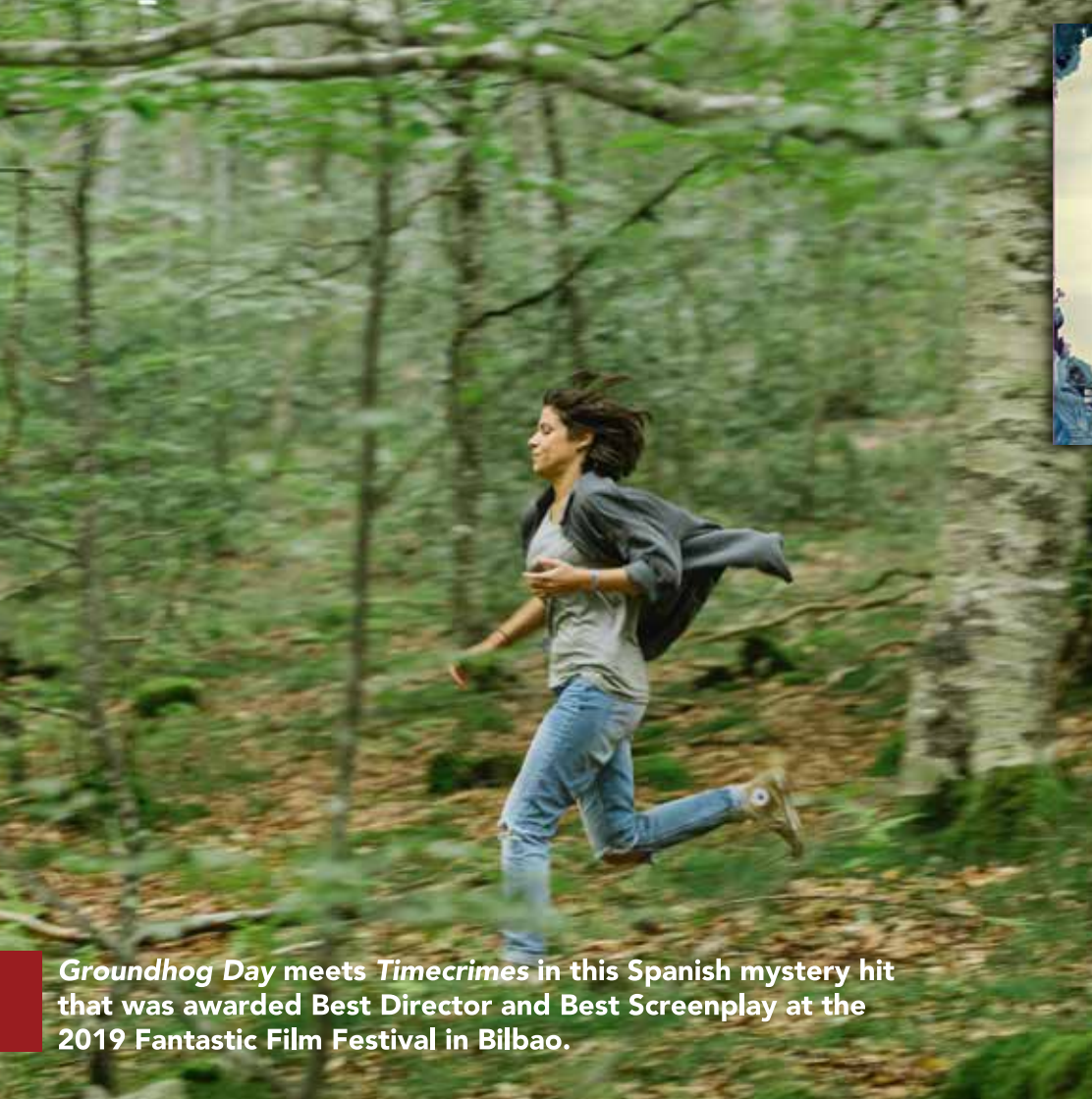
Simon Licht

Simon is a German actor who appeared in *13 Minutes* (2017), crime series *Tatort* and TV comedy show *Dr. Klein*.

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The film is about dependency, loss of control and trying to make the right decisions to become independent. There's an appeal in the thought that it's not important if you lead a life adapted to social standards or walk your path as an outcast. As long as you stay true to yourself and make your own choices, you are a free man. "Man is born free and everywhere is in chains." (Jean-Jacques Rousseau).





***Groundhog Day* meets *Timecrimes* in this Spanish mystery hit that was awarded Best Director and Best Screenplay at the 2019 Fantastic Film Festival in Bilbao.**

Directed and written by
Jon Mikel Caballero

Starring
**Iria del Río,
Adam Quintero,
Nadia de Santiago, Adrián
Expósito**

Producers
**Jon Mikel Caballero,
Belén Estevas-Guilman,
Pedro de la Escalera**
Production Companies
**Montreux Entertainment,
Trepamuros Producciones**

Original Title: El increíble
finde menguante | 93'
shot on RED Epic Dragon
& Scarlet Dragon

**Spain 2019
Spanish OV**

THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING WKND

Alba and her friends just wanted to enjoy a little weekend getaway in a cabin in the woods. But when her boyfriend Pablo abruptly breaks up with her upon arrival, Alba is mysteriously forced to relive the exact same day over and over again – until she learns that each repetition is shorter than the last. Because it's not a loop. It's a countdown. And time is running out.

■ DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Jon Mikel Caballero

Having previously stunned audiences with short films *Hibernation* (2012) and *Cenizo* (2016), winning no fewer than 55 awards on the festival circuit, Spanish writer-director Jon Mikel Caballero makes his long-awaited feature debut with *The Incredible Shrinking WKND*.

■ CAST INFORMATION

Iria del Río

Mostly known for acting in *The Misfit Club* (2014), Nadia also appeared in the TV series *Velvet* and Netflix' *Cable Girls*.

Luis Tosar

He is one of the most well-known and celebrated actors in Spain, winning multiple awards with credits such as *Celda 211* and *Take My Eyes*.

Nadia de Santiago

Nadia is a well-known Spanish actress, appearing in movies like *Captain Alatriste* (2006) and *522. A Cat, A Chinese Guy & My Father* (2019).

■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I wanted to use the timeloop subgenre in a different way. For me it is a perfect metaphor for the farewell to youth. You can think life is repetitive as a loop, but suddenly you discover that each time is a little bit shorter. This is the journey of Alba. And I think it is very universal for our entire generation of thirties.



Malaga, Fantasia,
Leeds IFF,
Bilbao Fantastic,
Lund Fantastic





RAVENING

by Bhaskar Hazarika

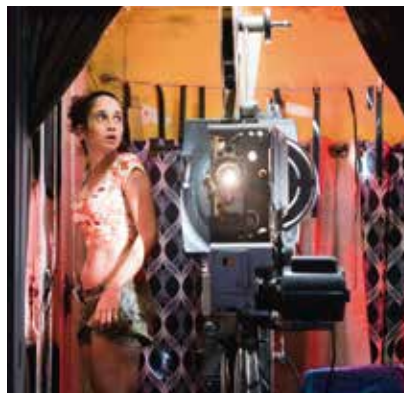
with Lima Das, Arghadeep Barua

Married Niri shares a forbidden passion with Sumon, who introduces her to a world of fresh, wild delicacies. But as their unconsummated desire mounts, the two are pushed inexorably towards transgression and taboo.

Drama / Food | India 2019 | Assamese OV



Tribeca



THE PROJECTIONIST

by José María Cabral

with Félix Germán, Cindy Galán

A projectionist confined to live his existence passionately in love with a woman he knows only through projected film reels. One night the reels get burned and he embarks on a trip searching for the real identity of his mysterious beloved.

Drama | Dominican Republic 2019 |
Spanish OV



Miami, NY Latino, Tallinn



522. A CAT, A CHINESE GUY AND MY FATHER

by Paco R. Baños

Starring Natalia de Molina, Alberto Jo Lee, Manolo Solo

George is agoraphobic and can't go beyond 522 steps from home. One day, her cat forces her to embark on a trip from Spain to native Portugal. Along the way, George's whole world starts to widen.

Drama, Road-trip | Spain, Portugal
2019 | Spanish OV



Malaga, Warsaw



CAVIAR

by Elena Tikhonova
with Margarita Breitzkreiz, Darya Nosik, Sabrina Reiter, Georg Friedrich

Only a crazy oligarch could think of building a lavish Florence-style palace on a central bridge in the heart of Vienna. But his interpreter Nadia together with her best friend and her nanny have a just as crazy sabotage plan. Who will succeed?


Comedy | Austria 2019 | German OV
 Max Ophüls Preis, Moscow



MOSH

by Juan Antonio Bisonó
with Rebeca Dalmasi, Omar Augusto Luis, Damian Alcazar

Mosh, a sixteen year old dancer lives in the slums with her mother and her cousin Geronimo, an aspiring rapper. As her mother's health worsens and Geronimo gets in trouble with dangerous people, an unexpected visit changes the family's fortunes.

Drama | Dominican Republic 2019 | Spanish OV
 Cairo



PERSECUTED

by Yesid Leon
with María Gaviria, Roberto Escobar, Geraldine Zivic

Mariana develops a paranoid disorder after witnessing the murder of two people. She now decides to take care of the victims' little girl. In a race against time, Mariana has to protect her and herself from the assassins, overcoming her fears.

Thriller | Colombia 2018 | Spanish OV



MY FOOLISH HEART

by Rolf van Eijk
with Steve Wall, Gijs Naber,
Raymond Thiry

Amsterdam, 1988. Detective Lucas is in charge of the investigation on the mysterious death of music legend Chet Baker. While penetrating the mind of the infamous trumpeter, Lucas needs to face his own demons and shadows.

*Drama/Neo-Noir | Netherlands 2018
English, Dutch OV*



Netherlands Film Festival,
Geneva, Punta del Este,
Shangai



BEING IMPOSSIBLE

by Patricia Ortega
Starring Lucía Bedoya, Belkis
Avilladares, María Elena Duque

A young woman discovers she underwent several surgeries to alter her intersexual body as a baby. She has to find herself outside gender binaries.

*Drama, LGBTQ | Venezuela 2018
Spanish OV*



Valladolid, Habana, SXSW,
Guadalajara, Amsterdam LGBT



LIKEMEBACK

by Leonardo Guerra Seràgnoli
with Angela Fontana, Denise
Tantucci, Blu Yoshimi

Just out of high school, Lavinia, Carla and Danila leave for a yachting holiday. Accompanied only by a skipper, the three of them sail along the Croatian coast at the start of a new stage in their lives. Free and laid-back, they are unaware that sharing everything on social media is about to turn their holiday into a brutal rite of passage.

Drama Italy, Croatia 2019 Italian OV



Locarno, Lleiden,
Cine Global Dominicano



THE CAKE GENERAL

by Filip Hammar & Fredrik Wikingsson

with Helena Bergström,
Mikael Persbrandt

In 1985, the small town of Köping is named the most boring town in Sweden by a popular television show. Resident Hasse P. refuses to allow his new home to become the subject of a national joke and sets off on a mission to drum up some attention-grabbing excitement. A man who struggles with his financial status, Hasse decides to make the world's largest sandwich cake.

Comedy | Sweden 2018 | Swedish OV



Seattle, Valladolid, Haugesund, Hamburg,
Scandinavian LA, Febiofest



ZEN IN THE ICE RIFT

by Margherita Ferri

Starring Eleonora Conti, Susanna Acchiardi, Fabrizia Sacchi
Maia, called ZEN, a rowdy yet solitary 16-year-old tomboy living in a small village on top of the Italian Apennines, is the only girl of the local ice-hockey team and she is constantly bullied by her teammates for her masculine attitude. When the bewildered girlfriend of the team captain runs away from home and hides in Maia's family lodge, they both embark on a journey of self-discovery exploring their inner desires and their identity.

Drama | Italy 2018 | Italian OV



Venice, Mardi Gras, JEF FF, Frameline



TIMELESS BEAUTY

by Deyan Parouchev

with Liu Xiaoqing, Yazemeenah Rossi, Philippe Dumas

In the heart of the always controversial and standardized fashion industry, a new trend seeks to fight back the ideas of beauty imposed on us by a society obsessed with youth. Senior and atypical models are now shaking up the catwalk. Throughout the world, they tell their stories and dreams.

Documentary | China, France 2018 | English, French OV



Tallinn, Sofia, Seattle



I HATE NEW YORK

by Gustavo Sánchez

with Amanda Lepore, Chloe Dzubilo, Sophia Lamar, T De Long

New York City. Over a decade, the director delves into the private world of four of the Big Apple's most famous underground artists and trans activists: Amanda Lepore, Chloe Dzubilo, Sophia Lamar and T De Long. The result is an intimate portrait of these icons: little by little, their testimonies reveal fragments of a past – sometimes dramatic, always fascinating and simply extraordinary – that formed their identities and transformed their lives. Their words, fears and hopes take the audience from an outsider's point of view to becoming emotionally invested in their destiny.

Documentary | Spain 2018 | English, Spanish OV



San Sebastian, Raindance, Seminci
Valladolid, Thessaloniki



KANTOR

by Jan Hryniak

with Borys Szyc, Agnieszka The fascinating life of Polish artist Tadeusz Kantor, starting from his childhood, through education in high school in Tarnow, graduation from the Academy of Fine Arts and his activity in the Krakow artistic community, international successes in the Sixties, Seventies and Eighties, until his death in the early Nineties. Set against a backdrop of the most dramatic moments in the history of the twentieth century – war, love, madness, international career and his absolute and uncompromising devotion to art.

Drama | Poland 2020 | Polish OV



BAGHDAD PERFUME

by Roua Alazzawi

Iter Baghdad (Baghdad Perfume in Arabic) is an Iraqi woman in her 30s. She lives a quiet life with her beloved husband Rauf and their little son Ahmed. The family enjoys a peaceful and happy life until the deteriorating situation in their city becomes unbearable. In despair, Iter makes what she feels is the only choice that will save her child: leaving Iraq.

**Drama | Jordan, Iraq, UAE 2020
Arabic OV**

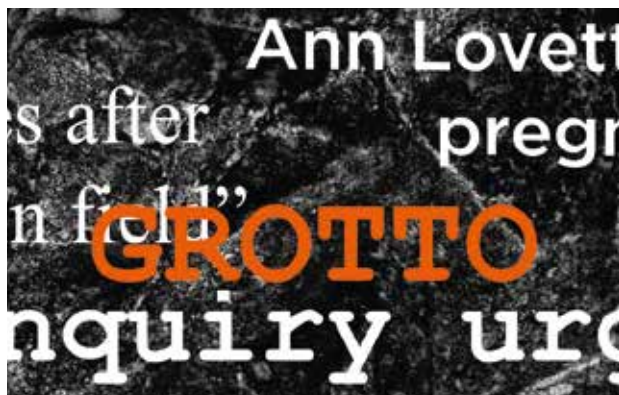


DOMINICANAS

by Carlos Lamarche

"Forget Brazil, the models that everyone is talking about today are from the Dominican Republic." - Vogue Dominican women from humble origins and not fitting into their home country's traditional standard of beauty, are often the subjects of derision and bullying. Their perseverance and extreme internal strength brought them onto an international stage and despite the racism, poverty and prejudice have become, ironically, the most prominent and famous ambassadors of their homeland today.

Documentary | Dominican Republic 2020 | Spanish OV



13 HOURS

by Ciaran Creagh

It's 1984 and Ann, a fifteen-year-old full term pregnant teenager, awoke to realize that she was going to have this baby. Ending up in the Grotto of her local church, Ann gave birth to a stillborn boy. Some two hours later, Ann too would be dead. Grotto will shine a light into the last thirteen hours of her life, a child alone abandoned by society. Based on a true story that shook the world.



PERU

by Patricio Salinas Salazar

Starring Mónica Lairanas, Alfredo Castro

Maria takes up the challenge and make a better life for her and her children. The path will be filled with loneliness and struggles that could make her fall apart but Maria's love for her children will become her most powerful drive in her dark journey to, ultimately, find peace and happiness.

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