



# TRAVELLING DOCS 2023

## Share your Stories

@Baltic Sea Docs

September 6-8  
Riga, Latvia



# PARTICIPANTS

## production companies:

Anaben Films, LT  
Avanton, FI  
Bullitt Film, DK  
Consigliere, PL  
eidos productions, UA  
Flo Film, EE  
Inpetto Filmproduktion, DE  
Inselfilm, DE  
Lichtblick Filmproduktion, DE  
Mistrus Media, LV  
Riverbed, LV  
Sisyfosfilm, SE  
Smart Casual, LT  
Tandem Film, EE

## Creative Europe Desks attending:

Latvia, Lelda Ozola  
Hamburg, Britta Erich  
Berlin-Brandenburg, Susanne Schmitt  
Denmark, Lone Garde  
Finland, Kerstin Degerman  
NRW, Heike Meyer-Döring  
Sweden, Ulrika Nisell

AnaBen Films

**anaben**  
films

Lithuania

ANABEN is an independent film production company established in Lithuania. Its main focus is on feature films, shorts, and creative documentaries by aspiring and emerging authors.



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## THE SHADOWS

creative documentary

90 min

director & screenwriter Polina Kelm

est. budget 220.000 Euro

secured financing 31.887 Euro

financiers European Solidarity Fund for

Ukrainian Films, Goteborg Film Fund

shooting start August 2024



This is a film about homelessness, but not about hopelessness. The difference between them it's just one letter. But at the same time it's an abyss. This story began three years ago as an observation of the photographer Sasha Chekmenyov during his work with the homeless. It was supposed to be a film about another world that we wish to ignore. But 2022 changed everything. It isn't distant and abstract anymore, but concerns every Ukrainian. It's like some terrible endless lottery.

Our heroes are children and the elderly, women and men, and even members of the film crew who lost their homes. And it became interesting for me to explore what home is, in the metaphorical sense of the word. Why do we try to cling to it even when there is no physical object left? Why it gives us strength and takes it away when it disappears. What is actually hidden in this meaning? Our film is a scary fairy tale about finding a home and yourself.



## THE REAL STORY OF ANTHOLOGY

documentary  
90 min

directors & screenwriters:  
Arturas Jevdokimovas, Julius Ziz  
est. budget 240.000 Euro  
secured financing 20.000 Euro  
financiers Lithuanian Film Center  
shooting start 2024



After the death of Anthology Film Archives' main sponsor Andy Warhol in 1987, Jonas Mekas is struggling to cover the debts for repairs and technical maintenance of its historic building. It seems like the institution is doomed for collapse until the "Anthology Gang", as they later called themselves, arrives in NYC from Lithuania in the 1990s and helps Mekas bring the near-collapsed temple of independent cinema back for a new life with their spirit of exuberant avant-garde spontaneity.

By catching up with the Anthology Gang's original members – including Audrius and Dalius Naujokaitis (Naujo), Julius Ziz, and Eugenijus Varkulevičius (Auguste Varkalis) – in the present day and revisiting the unseen, telltale footage they captured in the 90s, the film explores the hopes, dreams, and illusions of the unsung heroes of one of the great real-life avant-garde experiments of the 20th century.

**LIFE & DEATH OF A  
CHRISTMAS TREE**

documentary  
90 min

director: Artūras Jevdokimovas  
screenwriters: Ramunė Rakauskaitė  
est. budget 279.800 Euro  
secured financing 250.800 Euro  
financiers Lithuania Film Center, West  
Danish Film fund, Lithuania national  
shooting start LOCKED PICTURE



80 percent of European Christmas trees are grown in Denmark from the seeds collected in the small Georgian region. We experience the joys and sorrows of Danish and Georgian communities and witness differences and similarities between cultures. The seeds are harvested every autumn in Georgia, and then sold to the Danish, who grow the seedlings for 7 years to sell them across Europe. The Georgian firs grow as tall as 60 meters, and in order to reach the best cones, the pickers have to climb to the very top. Sometimes they lose their balance and fall.

Avanton Productions Oy has produced artistically ambitious, creative documentaries since 2006. It specializes in personal human-interest films which explore its characters and the contemporary world with intimate touch. It wants to support artists who have a strong vision both visually and contentwise.

Avanton's films have been screened at dozens of festivals like IDFA Amsterdam, DOK Leipzig, HotDocs Toronto, Visions du Réel, Sheffield Int. Film Festival, True/False, etc.

The company's films include eg. To Sell a Summer Cottage, To Siberia with my Love, Becoming Me, A Home in Memory, Five Star Existence and co-productions eg. All that Remains to be Seen, A War Photographer and Blood Sisters.



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## **DAYS OF WONDER**

documentary

**75 min**

director & screenwriter Karin Pennanen

est. budget 320.000 Euro

secured financing 145.000 Euro

financiers YLE, AVEK, Finnish Film

Foundation, Konstsamfundet,

Finnish Cultural Foundation

shooting start November 2023



In the director's childhood, her uncle Markku lives wall to wall with her family and they spend a lot of time together. Markku is a multi-talented, highly intelligent composer and an artist. Suddenly, when Karin is 11, he moves away from the family house and disappears without explanation.

After withdrawing to his self-designed artist house on the outskirts of a small town in Finland, Markku produces an immense amount of art, storing all of it in his house, without anyone knowing. After the death of her uncle, the director finds his hidden world and starts to make a film about his life – to her surprise together with him.



Based in Copenhagen and established in 2007, Bullitt Film is driven by the urge to share and uncover creative stories that create debate and instigate change with audiences in Denmark and internationally. Recent titles include: / Love Bound by Vibe Mogensen, an intimate story about mental illness, Best Short Documentary Robert Awards 2022 / Absolute Beginners by Thora Lorentzen, a documentary series for young audiences, Prix Europa 2021 / We Could Be Heroes by Hind Bensari a story of Moroccan Paralympic athletes who are outcasts in their own country, Best International Feature Documentary Award at Hot Docs 2018.



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## BEAST. MATTER OF LIFE

documentary

80 min

director & screenwriter Max Kestner

est. budget 815.543 Euro

secured financing 750.000 Euro

financiers Danish, Swedish, British Film

Institute, TV 2 Dk, NRK, SVT,

Creative Europe, Screen Scotland

shooting start in post production



A personal investigation into what life really is. Through the globally disputed and emotional case concerning the culling of Marius the giraffe at Copenhagen Zoo, the film raises questions of what defines the human connection to other species? Why do certain lives seem to mean much more to us than others? How are the various life forms connected? What is a life?

With charm and humour, today's leading researchers discuss these questions - and they don't agree.

Co-production with Hopscotch Films/UK and Plattform Produktion/SE.

**FANTASTIC FAMILY**

hybrid documentary

**75 min**

director & screenwriter Nicoline Skotte

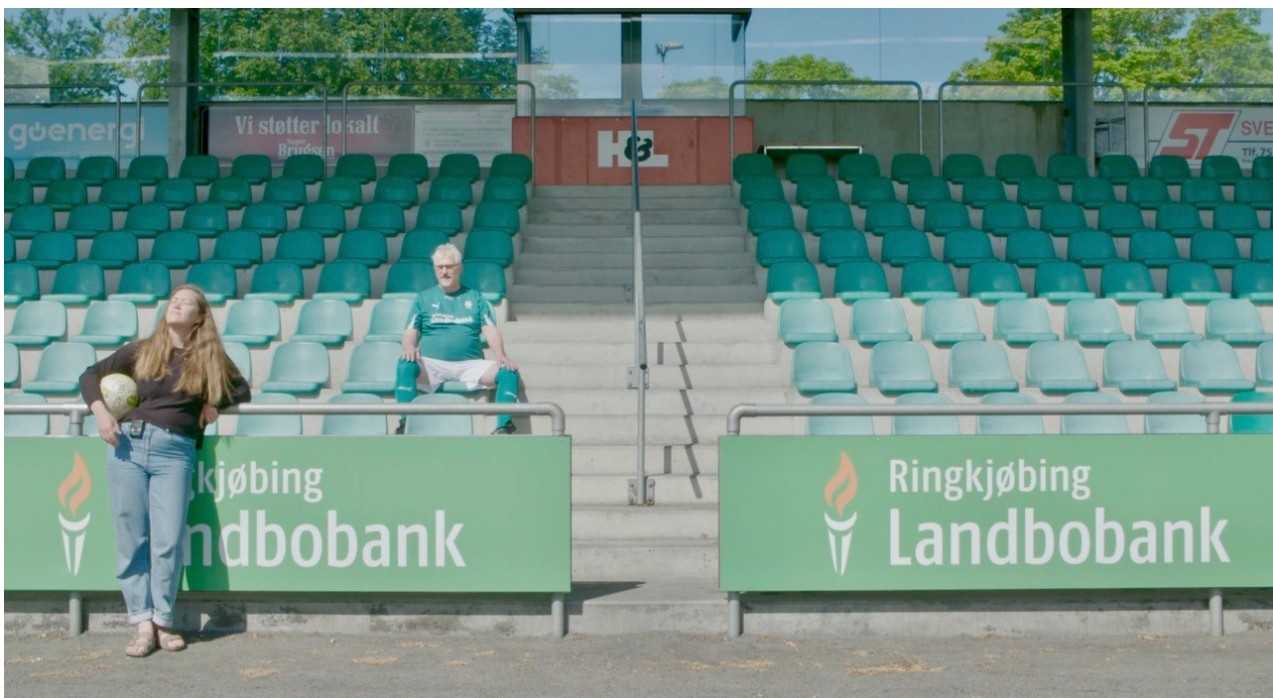
est. budget 543.771 Euro

secured financing 430.000 Euro

financiers Danish Film Institute, TV 2

Denmark, Den Vestdanske Filmpulje

shooting start Spring 2023



FANTASTIC FAMILY captures the birth and brutal decline of a family. The film examines how three family members have experienced the same violent incident differently and how it puts them all on the path to redemption.

Consigliere Film Studio was established in 2020. The team is made up of people with a variety of experiences related to the film industry from practical knowledge in legal consultancy for audiovisual entities, to experience as a director and screenwriter or film producer, to years of experience working in film promotion and distribution.

We produce diverse pictures, the common feature of which is artistic boldness combined with the ambition to talk about important issues. At the same time, we want our productions to be attractive to the wide audience. We develop film projects from concept to full development, preparing the project for actual production.

We are currently working on four feature films, and a feature-length documentary, as well as fiction and documentary series. We are the producer of, among others, the feature film "Hłaskower" about the famous Polish writer, Marek Hłasko, as well as the family saga "Toxin". The company is also a co-producer of the documentary film "War at Home" directed by Aleksander Zalewski, which premiered at the 63rd Krakow Film Festival.



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## IN SEARCH OF CONRAD

documentary

80 min

director & screenwriter Aleksander Zalewski

est. budget 317.830 Euro

secured financing 43.309 Euro

financiers Own investment, Fixa Film –  
postproduction company, Educational Film  
Production Company from Lodz (Wytwórnia  
Filmów Oświatowych w Łodzi)

shooting start found footage film –  
no shooting period



Joseph Conrad spent his entire life trying to create "anew" his identity in the Western world – first as a sailor, then English writer – because the ethos passed on to him by his parents of fighting for Poland's independence, failed badly before his eyes. The writer's intention failed – wherever he went he was ultimately always just a stranger. It did, however, give him a unique perspective on the 19th century world heading towards the catastrophe of the Great War.

Today, when the world seems to be coming full circle and revealing to us the symptoms of the possible decline of the epoch we live in, it is worth recalling his perspective. We can learn much from it about ourselves and the world around us.

This film reconstructs this journey by using a creative combination of excerpts from Conrad's letters and texts with carefully selected archives from the early 20th century. We will show the world through the writer's eyes in a completely unusual but engaging way for the viewer.



**100 YEARS AGO IN  
AMERICA**

documentary series

**6 x 45 min**

director & screenwriter Aleksander Zalewski

est. budget 357.150 Euro

secured financing none

financiers none

shooting start Spring 2024



Each episode of the series will tell the story of one city in US and the Polish community living there 100 hundred years ago in the prohibition era, as well as one or two characters - members of the Polish local mafia. The essence of the story will be a collective portrait of Polish communities in American cities.

The role of national mafias in 6 cities and their relation to the Polish community varied. The stronger the local Polish communities were internally, the better they dealt with "their own" criminals. We will talk about their histories, but also about the characteristics of specific clusters.

We will also examine the myth-making function of the biographies of Poland's leading gangsters and the impact of their legends on the further history of a particular Polish enclave.



SLLC "eidos.productions" (Kyiv) is a Ukrainian independent documentary production company. For more than 10 years, we have been recording oral history memories and testimonies in the form of short documentary essays, thus documenting important historical events. Since 2021, we have been collaborating with Ukrainian filmmakers who explore the history, memory, conflicts, and their consequences in their short films. We produced one such film for The Guardian in the first days of the full-scale invasion.

In 2023, we are expanding our activities and diving into producing creative documentaries. We are currently working on feature films:

"The Ferryman" by Pavlo Dorohoi (2025).

Logline: He had trained to become a professional kayaker, but 15-year-old Danylo had to use his skills to ferry people across the river in the shadow of a destroyed bridge.

"Grain from Ukraine" by Pavlo Dorohoi (2026)

Logline: This story is about labour and the bread that comes out of it and ensures the survival of both Ukrainian and African families.

"Unknown history" by Mykola Dondyuk (2026)

Ukrainian contemporary artist Maksym Dondiuk travels through the abandoned settlements of the Chernobyl exclusion zone in search of life before the disaster. Over the course of two years, Maksym finds and restores family photographs, memorabilia and films to create a unique archive and online museum.



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**THE FERRYMAN**

documentary

90 min

director: Pavlo Dorohoi

est. budget 185.000 Euro

secured: 10.000 Euro

financiers private

shooting start November 2023



He used to train to become a national Ukrainian kayaker on the river, but now 15 year-old Danylo is running an improvised ferry service, shuttling people and goods across the Siverskiy Donetsk river. Behind the boats hangs the remains of the river bridge, which had to be destroyed in the face of the relentless Russian onslaught.

Russian troops arrived in Staryi Saltiv in February 2022. During the subsequent occupation and aftermath, Danylo's dreams of continuing his studies at a sports academy to become a competitive kayaking athlete - were dashed, by the need to earn money for the survival of his family, in a small town cut off from the outside world and ripped apart by war.

Flo Film is mainly focused on documentary films. During past years Flo Film has done several successful full-length and short documentaries.

2022 premiered full-length documentary "Machina Faust", which was selected as the best Estonian film by Estonian film critics in the year 2022. It won the best documentary film prize at the EFTA gala (Estonian Film and TV ceremony).

At the moment Flo Film has in progress two full-length documentaries "Coaching for Ordinary People" and "Anett" about former world second tennis player Anett Kontaveit).



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## COACHING FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE

drama  
90 min

director & screenwriter: Kaupo Kruusiauk  
est. budget: 120.000 Euro  
secured: 80.000 Euro  
financiers Estonian Film Foundation,  
Estonian Cultural Endowment  
shooting start shootings are in progress



Coaching for Ordinary People is a documentary film that follows the increasing boom of career and life coaches and mentors in Estonia.

Coaching for Ordinary People focuses on people who do not usually use the services of coaches—they do not have the time or money for it, or the reasons lie in their work schedule or other aspects of life.

The aim of the film is to observe how the goals set at the beginning of coaching sessions are reached, whether the advice coaches offer is useful, and whether coaching is just a form of entertainment.

On the one hand, the film tries to come to an understanding of what coaching is and how it works. Is it in a way a cult or does it really help? On the other hand, coaching as the subject of the film is a way to get to know the expectations and problems that Estonians are facing. One of the main recurring themes is personal freedom—for example, for one of the characters this means their economic independence, while for another character it is their wish to earn 20,000 euros a month—but also personal relationships, setting personal boundaries, and making peace with the past.



For almost 40 years inpetto filmproduktion creates documentary formats. A strong focus is on music , but there are also films about architecture, portraits, or social belongings. Many coproductions in Europe and some in the US, Africa and Southamerica were realized.



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**Kristian Järvi and the Baltic  
Sea Philharmonic: "Pulling  
the child out of you" (WT)**

documentary  
60-90 min

director: Hanne Kaisik  
est. budget 350.000 Euro  
secured financing 10.000 Euro  
financiers minimum guarantee  
distribution, TV stations, funds tbc  
shooting start 2024



Kristjan Järvi got a vision: "Imagine what an orchestra can do. Then come to one of our concerts and we will blow your mind. We'll immerse you in a world of sound, light, choreography, digital art and technology. Performing free of scores and music stands, we turn the stage into a hub of irrepressible energy, fizzing with infinite creative impulses.

We're musicians from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden, united under the baton of Kristjan Järvi. We improvise, we compose, we sing, dance and play. We take audiences on unforgettable journeys. Give us your ears and eyes, open your mind and heart, and you'll never think the same about an orchestra again."

My film will show the cosmos of this young and unconventional orchestra, visiting them in their home-countries, following the "creative laboratory", where new (music+artistic) formats are experienced, showing Kristjan Järvi and his vision of performing music "without inner borders", which is also a highly actual topic in these days and even more in the baltic region.

With our films, we want to inspire and encourage people to think differently. To immerse the viewer into the worlds and lives of others. To touch the heart, and shift perspectives in order to foster a greater change. We tell personal, character driven stories which explore social and political issues across a larger scope and challenge the status quo. inselfilm produktion is a Berlin based German production company founded in 2001.

We focus on the development and production of creative documentary formats and international co-productions for theatrical release, broadcasters and online streaming platforms. Our award winning documentaries have screened at major film festivals across the world such as Semaine de la Critique du Festival de Canne, Locarno International Film Festival, Visions du Réel, DOK Leipzig Film Festival. They have been released in German and European theatres, and broadcast on such networks as ARD, ZDF, Arte, BBC, NHK and HBO to cite a few.



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## **THE SOLDIER**

cinematic archive documentary

52 / 80 min

director & screenwriter: Aleksandar Nikolic

est. budget 884.000 Euro

secured financing 135.000 Euro

financiers: Creative Europe,

Serbian Film Fund

shooting start n/a



Made entirely out of archive collected from many different conflicts, the film follows an archetypal soldier on his journey from a young recruit to a disillusioned veteran driven to the brink of insanity by the brutal logic of war. Along the way, the film explores humanity's seemingly inexplicable addiction to war.

**Carl-Ludwig Rettinger**

LICHTBLICK FILM

Holding a M.A. degree in Mass Media, Film and Theatre, Carl-Ludwig Rettinger was commissioning editor at the German Public Broadcaster ZDF for independent feature films and documentaries. 1991 he became shareholder and managing director of the film production company LICHTBLICK FILM, based in Cologne.

LICHTBLICK FILM has collaborated with filmmakers, broadcasting companies and partner firms in more than 40 countries. Awards: 2 Special Jury Awards, Cannes; 2 Fipresci Awards, Berlinale; Special Jury Prize, Visions du Réel Nyon; Best film, Semaine de la Critique Locarno; EBU Award; 5 Adolf Grimme Awards; John Schlesinger Award, Palm Springs; Hessian Film Award; Bavarian Documentary Award; 2 Israeli Film Academy Awards; Best mediumlength documentary, Hotdocs Toronto; Golden Gate Award, Prix Cyrill Collard, a. o.



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Mistrus Media, established in 2000, have strong reflections on historical and current social political themes. In recent years, the film studio has worked on complex joint productions of international films.

In 2022, in honour of Cannes' 75th anniversary Screen International selected Mistrus Media as one of the 75 independent European production companies actively engaged in 2022 in the origination, development and production of feature films, working with other co-production partners to create works for arthouse audiences and the global festival circuit.

Latest releases: feature drama "January" (2022) by Viesturs Kairišs won the Best International Narrative at the Tribeca Film Festival, Best Film, Best Director and Best Actor at Rome IFF, Best Director at Warsaw IFF, documentary by Ivars Seleckis "The Land" premiered at IDFA 2022, dark comedy "Samuel's travels" (2021), directed by Aik Karapetian premiered at the Fantastic Fest in Austin, USA.



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## **NORD EXPRESS**

documentary

**90 min**

director: Kārlis Lesiņš

screenwriters: Kārlis Lesiņš, Inese Liepiņa

est. budget 377.615 Euro

secured financing 241.120 Euro

financiers National Film Centre of Latvia,

Latvian Television and many more

shooting start 2019



For 30 years, there has been a dream to build a high - speed railway to connect the Baltic States to the rest of the Europe. Filmmaker Kārlis Lesiņš starts an investigation and goes on the road to find out why 3 years before the intended launch the construction of this 7 billion euro EU funded high-speed railway line Rail Baltica has barely started.

Traveling through all the involved countries, he meets officials, military personnel, investigative journalists, people whose land will be expropriated, employees implementing the project and potentially benefiting entrepreneurs, who open up to him with their versions of the story.

There are also lots of rumors and theories. Is it Russians, Chinese or just banality of bureaucracy that has led to this state of affairs of so little being done in 30 years?

## EMPTINESS

documentary  
120 min

director: Viesturs Kairišs  
screenwriters: Dace Dzenovska  
est. budget 331.000 Euro  
secured financing 114.000 Euro  
financiers Creative Europe, National Film  
Centre of Latvia, State Culture Capital  
foundation of Latvia  
shooting start autumn 2023



Emptiness is a documentary about how and why Itala in Italy, Kuprava in Latvia, Rachis in Romania, Blackpool in the UK, and Schnellroda in Germany are losing people, schools, services and infrastructure and how the remaining people are living in this emptiness and trying to overcome it. They either must move, reinvent themselves to reconnect to the global circuits of capital, or become self-sufficient and disconnect from the world.

There are three main themes that weave through the film: causes of emptying; life in the emptying places; and attempts to overcome emptying.

Emptiness does not mean nothingness, but radical change. Taken together, the episodes reveal the most pressing challenges faced by Europe today –deindustrialization, emigration, aging, immigration, radicalization and war. Paying attention to how people try to overcome these challenges daily, the film tries to find an answer to the question: is emptiness temporary or is it a permanent spatial coordinate in Europe's present and future.

**PATRICIA**

documentary  
70 min

directors & screenwriters:  
Inese Kļava, Dāvids Ernštreits  
est. budget 121.650 Euro  
secured financing 78.700 Euro  
financiers National Film Centre of Latvia,  
Latvian Television  
shooting start 2021



The film documents the harsh journey of Patricia Eiduka – from a promising skiing junior to a respected young woman, whose purposefulness makes her accomplishments rightly be called a phenomenon.

Besides the progress, achievements and numerous physical challenges, this is also a story about responsibility towards the family, trust in authorities, disappointment in idols and loss of her father who was her main supporter and coach. Starting the first romantic relationship and being in constant doubts whether to continue the superhuman training or leave the sports for good and study medicine. The film is a story about choices and decisions that one has to live with for the rest of her life. In case of Patricia the rates are very high as she has already fully devoted her youth to sports.



Riverbed is a full service film production company based in Riga, Latvia. Riverbed is focused on auteur-driven storytelling with a strong emphasis on powerful imagery. Its founder Andris Gauja has produced, written and directed both documentaries (including the award-winning Family Instinct, (2010, main prize at AFI-Docs (ex Silverdocs), nomination at IDFA etc.),

Meanwhile in Lucavsala (2022, best debut prize at the Latvian National Film Awards) and narrative films (Keep Smiling, Mom! (2022), Nothing Can Stop Us Now (2019, nine nominations for the Latvian National Film Prize), The Lesson (2014, Montreal, Chicago, Bergen IFF etc.).



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**BEAUTIFUL VOID**

documentary / science /  
philosophy / experimental  
80 min

director: Andris Gauja  
screenwriters: Elza Gauja, Andris Gauja  
est. budget 681.000 Euro  
secured financing 162.000 Euro  
financiers National Film Centre of Latvia  
shooting start December 2023



What is the universe made out of? Several different characters – quantum physicist Carlo Rovelli, tibetologist Robert Thurman and performance artist Marina Abramović – each reach a strikingly similar answer: in essence, the universe is radiant empty space, constantly exploding into existence. What was once seen as an exotic theory, is now becoming increasingly obvious through the latest experiments conducted at the main pillar of today's physics, CERN's Large Hadron Collider. Whenever conditions of a physical vacuum are created, new particles spontaneously appear, right out of the emptiness. Carlo Rovelli, a pioneering quantum physicist, redefines the way we see the world: even we humans, are, in fact, whirlpools of energy moving in space. If we break down the reality to a subatomic level, we find nothing solid – the particles are actually not there. Rovelli has recently found a mind blowing discovery by reading a book by Nagarjuna, an ancient Indian philosopher – it turns out Nagarjuna, by his intuition, has brought about a strikingly similar description of the world. How did he, almost a thousand years ago, realize that the physical world is essentially empty without even having a microscope?



At Sisyfos Film Production, we look for stories that help us understand the world around us, evoke empathy, and inspire change. Our team of collaborators from around the globe allow us to work across borders and reach international audiences. Whether fiction or non-fiction, feature or short, we make films that tell unique and emotional stories while connecting to universal human values – stories that speak to the heart.

Based in Stockholm, Sweden and Edinburgh, Scotland, Sisyfos is behind the internationally acclaimed films such as Motherland (DOX:Award, CPH:DOX 2023), How to Save a Dead Friend (Grand Jury Award, Doc NYC, EFA Nomination, ACID Cannes, 2022), The Scars of Ali Boulala (Tempo Documentary Award and Swedish Academy Award nomination, 2022), and Scheme Birds (Best Documentary Feature, Tribeca Film Festival, 2019).



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**BETWEEN WORLDS**

documentary

**85 & 58 min**

director & screenwriter Zara Arrehed

est. budget 494.448 Euro

secured financing 31.775 Euro

financiers Swedish Film Institute development

funding, SVT development funding,

own investment

shooting start early 2024



A young woman from the suburbs of Stockholm is caught between being secretly gay in an orthodox community and her love for family, whose life revolves around the church.

When her girlfriend demands that they either move in together or break up, she must fight to break free from traditions and demand acceptance for who she is.

**DEPOT VENTE**

documentary

**100 min**

director &amp; screenwriter Cherine Karam

est. budget 540.236 Euro

secured financing 36.047 Euro

financiers Pitching Award at Malmö Arab

Film Festival, Screen Scotland

development funding, own investment

shooting start first development shoot took

place in December 2022, continued

development shoots planned when further

funding is secured.



Nawal is the mother-figure behind Depot-Vente, a vintage shop raising spirits in a collapsing Beirut. For the Lebanese youth who need an escape, playing dress-up at Nawal's has become a game of survival. Here, tired souls and discarded clothes are mended, restored and re-loved. Four young people – Marc, Anthony, Jana and Claudia are all from Beirut and members of the community Nawal has created at her shop.

The film follows the characters' respective journeys, demonstrating first-hand the influence that Depot-Vente has over their lives and internal worlds. Despite at times being physically far away, Nawal and her shop are constantly there - providing a rare beacon of stability upon which the young people can rely, that challenges them to learn, grow and sometimes even thrive.

SMART CASUAL



SMART CASUAL

LITHUANIA

„Smart Casual“ is a film production company based in Lithuania, founded by acclaimed and experienced industry duo - producers Rūta Petronytė & Justinas Pocius.

„Smart Casual“ is not only a name, it is a way of doing things - carefully, thoroughly, and undoubtedly professional but not without occasional confetti - great by the book, incredible, when new rules have yet to be written. We call it “creative discipline” - tested and perfected for every need: from co-production to production service.

Even though extremely precise on the action in the frame and beyond, the studio does not limit itself with particular genres, lengths, geographies or topics. No matter the shape, „Smart Casual“ is all about the substance - becoming a trusted partner for both young and experienced creators, exploring relevant, new, brave and eye-opening ideas.

Importantly, smart and casual also comes with socially responsible, so every step of our practice is guided by the principles of diversity, sustainability and integrity.



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**SHIP**

hybrid documentary

90 min

director & screenwriter Gerda Paliušytė

est. budget N.N.

secured financing N.N.

financiers Lithuanian film center, Lithuanian  
National Television and Radio, own investment

shooting start July 2023



On a ship, a celebration is approaching its culmination - a performance by a contemporary street dance troupe dedicated to the legendary choreographer, the pioneer of breakdancing in Lithuania, Algirdas Stravinskas. The celebration is his birthday, where different generations of dancers, as well as dance movements, attitudes and life experiences, meet.

This gentle documentary combines archival records of performances by Stravinskas' dance troupe in Lithuania, then still part of the former Soviet Union, in the 1980s, alongside panoramas of skyscrapers with the fragile figure of the main protagonist dancing in their background, his recollections and abiding urge for beauty, in the context of his current reality in social housing. The ship at the heart of the film is comparable to a poetic model of the modern world, where the dimensions of fiction and reality intertwine, and the magic and ephemerality of collective existence are revealed. Ship celebrates everlasting creativity and passion that transcends the constraints existing in every era.

# TANDEM FILM



# ESTONIA

Ilmatar Film and Tandem Film are film production companies led by producer Maie Rosmann and co-founders director Anu Aun and producer Maario Masing. We are driven by a shared vision and values to create films that radiate beauty and goodness. Our diverse projects span genres and themes, leaving a lasting impression on audiences. Highlighting our portfolio, Walker on Water, a documentary portraying poetess Kristiina Ehin, found success this year in Estonian cinemas.

We also produced the heartwarming family film Phantom Owl Farm, which enchanted over 150,000 cinema viewers in Estonia and achieved international success at festivals and through worldwide distribution. We are currently developing the documentary Tiny, one of the first films in Europe to delve into the deeply personal and often unspoken topic of fertility challenges. We are also working on the children's feature film Kadri, which tells the story of a teenage girl's transformation from an ugly duckling to a swan in 1950s Soviet Estonia. Our mission is to produce films that deeply resonate with audiences, inspiring and uplifting them.



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## **TINY**

creative documentary

**90 min**

director & screenwriter: Mirjam Jegorov

est. budget 350.000 Euro

secured financing 20.000 Euro

financiers Estonian Film Institute, Ilmatar Film

shooting start May 2024



Tiny is a documentary that explores the sensitive and rarely explored topic of fertility challenges. The film is one of the first in Europe to focus on this issue, and it brings to light the sad statistic that one in four pregnancies ends in miscarriage. The film features intimate interviews with women from different walks of life who have faced fertility challenges. They talk about the pain of loss, the despair of failed IVF treatments, and the fear of never being able to have a child.

But they also talk about the hope, courage, and resilience that they have found. The film also features personal video diaries and an evocative audiovisual poems. These elements help to create a multi-dimensional exploration of the experiences, emotions, and healing processes of women who have faced fertility challenges. It is a story of hope, courage, and resilience. It is a reminder that we are not alone in our struggles, and that there is always light at the end of the tunnel.

# Creative Europe Desks @ Travelling Docs 2023:



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Lone Garde  
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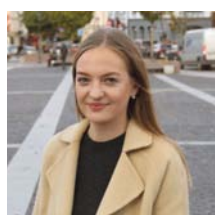


Susanne Schmitt  
CED Berlin-Brandenburg

more Creative Europe Desks @ Travelling Docs 2023,  
not in Riga, but equally involved:



Anu Ernits  
CED Estonia



Austėja Milvydaitė  
CED Lithuania



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